

# New York City



What is typically referred to as “The City” by many people the world over, New York City has just about anything and everything that you could ever want. New York City offers everything from fashion on 5th Avenue to art galleries in SoHo and hit Broadway shows around Times Square. New York City is at the center of culture, news, entertainment, finance and more. Below are some basic facts and advice for anyone considering moving to the NYC.

## HOT SPOTS IN NEW YORK CITY

**Fifth Avenue**• If you are in the mood for shopping, there is no place more exciting than Fifth Avenue. With top stores such as Saks Fifth Avenue, Cartier, and Tiffany’s, you can spend the entire day walking past elaborate window displays or taking the time to go inside and visit the stores’ multi-floored interiors. Most of the stores begin around Rockefeller Center (mid-40s) and extend up to Central Park (mid-60s). If you venture one block east, there are more upscale stores on Madison Avenue.

**Times Square/ Broadway**• The virtual center of NYC lies in Times Square. Times Square is the home of the New Years Celebrations, MTV studios, Virgin Records and NASDAQ. Close by in every direction, theaters line the streets showing famous plays such as Wicked, Phantom of the Opera, The Lion King, and Mama Mia! Duffy’s Square (aka TKTS), located in Times Square, offers 50% off tickets, but you have to check that day to find out what plays are offering discounted tickets.

**SoHo**• The streets in SoHo are always crowded with shoppers and art lovers. SoHo offers stores from Prada to little boutique shops interspersed with some of the most renowned art galleries. SoHo=South of Houston Street extending to Canal, between Broadway and 6th Avenue.

**East Village**• Bars, Bars, Bars. Whatever type of bar you desire, the East Village has at least 10 of them. It is a very popular hangout for post-college graduates as well as current NYU students. There are also a lot of good restaurants and bistros that offer cheap eats for those on a budget. On a nice day, check out Washington Square Park to see some fun street performances.

**West Village/ Chelsea**• If you are in the mood for a quaint café during the day and a lively night life, this area of the city is for you. It is the center of gay culture, appealing to all for its unique and welcoming establishments. Both areas have many great restaurants and border the Meat Packing District.

**Meat Packing District**• Over the past couple years, the Meat Packing District has evolved into the social triangle of New York in a small area, you can find some of the more popular nightlife establishments. Just be cautious: if you are going out for quantity of drinks, this is not the place to go for your wallet’s sake.

**Central Park**• If you are looking for a place to escape the hustle and bustle of the city, a stroll in Central Park can make you feel as if you have been transported out of the city. Many people can be found lying out on the grass enjoying the sun, taking a horse-drawn carriage ride, or taking a walk along many of the paths. In the summer, try to make it to a free showing of Shakespeare in the Park.

**Madison Square Garden**• Home to the NY Knicks basketball team and also a venue for many famous musicians, Madison Square Garden has something going on almost every day of the year.



# TRANSPORTATION

New York City has many transportation options for those who live in Manhattan, surrounding boroughs, or the greater metropolitan area (New Jersey and Connecticut).

**Subways**• The underground transportation system is definitely the most used and most convenient way to get around the city. The subway system runs all night. Manhattan has many express and local trains that run from east to west and north to south that will get you close to any destination that you desire. Subway lines extend to the other boroughs Queens, Brooklyn and the Bronx; however, they don't cover as wide of an area. Kiosks and teller booths at most subway stations vend Metrocards, which you will need to ride the subway. Many people choose to buy monthly Metrocards, which cost \$70. A one-way ride on the subway costs \$2; this will get you a ride to anywhere the subway system goes, transfers included.

**City Buses**• City buses run all over the city. Many of the buses run cross-town, meaning that they run east to west and vice versa, but there are also buses that will take you all the way to the NY airports (i.e., the M60 bus takes you to LaGuardia Airport). Cash or Metrocards are accepted on these buses. A one-way bus ride costs \$2.

**Trains**• Trains run frequently into the city, providing a convenient means of transportation for commuters in New Jersey and New York. Metro North (origins North and East of NYC) trains pick up and drop off at Grand Central Station (42nd Street between Lexington & Vanderbilt Avenue). New

Jersey Transit Trains (origins in New Jersey) and Long Island Railroad trains (origins in Long Island) pick up and drop off at Penn Station (34th Street & 7th Avenue).

**Buses**• Many commuters from New Jersey use buses to get to and from NYC. Bus service extends all the way through northern and central New Jersey. Different companies provide the service (NJ Transit, DeCamp, Coach, etc.), so you should check their Web sites to see which services your area. Buying a monthly bus passes will save you money. Prices vary based on your distance to the city.

**PATH Trains**• In addition to the subway systems in NYC, there is an additional underground system that connects New Jersey and New York. PATH trains originate in Newark, NJ, and Hoboken, NJ, and bring you as far as 33rd Street in Midtown or the Financial District downtown. Although the PATH trains make limited stops, they can be very useful for those living right over the river in New Jersey. A one-way trip is \$1.75. These trains run all night, but run at a limited service after 11 p.m.

**Chinatown Bus**• Many people, especially poor college students, know the Chinatown buses well. The Chinatown bus costs between \$20 and \$30, which will buy you a roundtrip ticket to Boston, Philadelphia, or Washington D.C. The buses can get pretty packed, so you will need a reservation. Many of the buses have online websites.

## RENTING

**Advice**• If you do use a Realtor, try to stay away from paying a percentage versus the one month's rent for realtor fees; it is usually a lot more expensive as a percentage. In general, it is preferable that you do not go to a broker. This will make it a little bit more work for you to find a place, but you will save a lot of money. Many of the high-rise apartment buildings have their own rental offices. Also, try searching in newspapers (the Village Voice is a good one), and look for postings in coffee shops in the neighborhoods where you want to live. If you don't mind a roommate, you can try Craig's List (see links below), a comprehensive listing of people searching for roommates who already have apartments or are looking for a roommate to go in on an apartment together. If you do choose to go this route, it is best to contact as many potential roommates as possible. The more people and apartments you get to see, the more you increase your chances at finding a desirable living situation. Turnover for housing in New York is fairly quick (sometimes only one month before moving). However, that doesn't mean you should wait too long if you want to find the best apartment to meet your needs. Typically, allow yourself 6-8 weeks before you need to be in the city.

**Realtor's Fee**• Typically realtors will charge one month's rent and there is also an application fee, in the range of \$200-\$250. Sometimes they charge based on a percentage of the first year's total rent (10-20%).

**Other fees**• There may be a fee if your Realtor decides to do a credit check on you (\$50 a person). Additionally, there may be a fee for looking at apartments at some of the Realtors. You should check with the Realtor before accompanying him or her in the city to view apartments.

**Renter's Insurance**• Renter's insurance usually costs between \$180-\$225 a year.

# AREAS IN AND AROUND NEW YORK CITY

## Midtown East/ Murray Hill

**Who lives there:** Young professionals & students

**Average price of apts:** Studio \$1500, 1BR \$1900, 2BR \$2500, 3BR \$3600

**Realtors:** Kerling Realty

**Pros:** Close to many offices and Grand Central Station

**Cons:** Not a very lively area on the weekends

## Upper East Side

**Who lives there:** Young professionals and wealthy families

**Average price of apts:** Studio \$1200, 1BR \$1600, 2BR \$2600, 3BR \$4000

**Realtors:** CitiHabitat, Feathered Nest

**Pros:** Quiet and safe area, easy to find parking

**Cons:** Crowded subways, subdued nightlife

## East Village

**Who lives there:** Young professionals, students

**Average price of apts:** Studio \$1700, 1BR \$2000, 2BR \$2400

**Pros:** Lots of bars and restaurants

**Cons:** Very crowded, hard to find parking

## Battery Park/ Financial District

**Who lives there:** Young professionals, families, couples

**Average price of apts:** Studio \$2000, 1BR \$2800, 2BR \$3000

**Pros:** Proximity to many Wall Street firms, get more for your buck, on the water, quiet

**Cons:** Quieter after 6pm, not a lot of restaurants, bars, shopping etc.

## Brooklyn

**Who lives there:** Young families and couples

**Average price of apts:** 1BR \$1300, 2BR \$1700

**Pros:** Near lots of subways, shops, restaurants, gardens, parks

**Cons:** Some unsafe sections, not within walking distance of Manhattan

## Hoboken

**Who lives there:** Young professionals, 20-somethings

**Average price of apts:** 1 BR \$1200, 2BR \$1700

**Pros:** A community in itself, lots of bars and restaurants

**Cons:** Outside of NYC, transportation to and from the city at night is limited

## Theatre District/ Hells Kitchen

**Who lives there:** Young professionals

**Average price of apts:** 2BR \$2000, 3BR \$3500

**Realtors:** Manhattan Apartments

**Pros:** Close to major subway stops (Times Square), good restaurants and bars, Broadway shows close by

**Cons:** Very crowded and touristy area

## Upper West Side

**Who lives there:** Young professionals, singles, families

**Average price of apts:** Studio \$1100, 1BR \$1800, 2BR \$2500

**Pros:** Lots of good restaurants

**Cons:** Crowded, relatively far from many areas of Manhattan

## West Village/Chelsea

**Who lives there:** Wealthy families, young professionals

**Average price of apts:** Studio \$2000, 1BR \$2500, 2BR \$3000

**Pros:** Very diverse and trendy, quaint, but fun nightlife

**Cons:** Expensive

## Tribeca

**Who lives there:** Young professionals, young families

**Average price of apts:** Studio \$2000, 1BR \$3000, 2BR \$3000

**Pros:** Close to many subways and SoHo, great restaurants, decent bars

**Cons:** Not a nightlife destination for most, expensive

## Queens

**Who lives there:** Families, couples, some young professionals

**Average price of apts:** 1BR \$1100, 2BR \$1400

**Pros:** Close to Midtown

**Cons:** Quiet, lots of families which makes it a not so popular neighborhood for night life

## USEFUL NEW YORK CITY LINKS

- <http://www.uvanyc.org/> - U.Va. Club of New York (Metro)
- <http://newyork.citysearch.com> - Information on bars, restaurants, clubs in New York City
- <http://www.njtransit.com> - Information on buses and trains for NJ commuters
- <http://www.mta.nyc.ny.us> - Information on subways and city buses within NYC
- <http://newyork.craigslist.org> - Listings for apartments and roommate postings
- <http://www.playbill.com> - Information on Broadway show performances, times & locations
- <http://www.menupages.com> - Menu information for many popular restaurants and bars around NYC

\*City Sheets were created by members of the McIntire Young Alumni Council (MYAC). MYAC and the Alumni Association are working together to keep them updated with the most current information. The information on these sheets is based on online research, information from tourism offices and local newspapers, and, most significantly, from the authors' personal experiences. All costs, fares, and rental prices are approximate estimates for 2009.