



Central Park

Let an All Tickets Step-On Tour Guide introduce you to New York City's Central Park, one of the most famous urban parks in the world. Over 25 million people visit the park annually. Spread out over 800 acres, the park is renowned for its exquisite landscaping that includes fountains, statuary, a lake, a zoo, and even a castle! Beautiful in all seasons, the park has much to offer.

History

Between 1821 and 1855 New York City quadrupled in population. This increase made it clear that New York needed a park, a cause that was championed by the editor of the *Evening Post*, William Cullen Bryant. Bryant along with landscape gardener Andrew Jackson Browning pressed officials to set aside land for a large public park before development consumed all available open spaces.

The cost for the land alone was five million dollars. After approval by the legislature, the Central Park Commission held a landscape design contest, and in 1857, the winning design was chosen, that of "Greenward Plan" by Calvert Vaux and Frederick Law Olmsted. Olmsted understood the significance of his mission stating that the park was of "great importance as the first real Park made in this century—a democratic development of the highest significance..." America was less than 100 years old when the park was approved, and it was struggling greatly with the issue of slavery that might split the country apart.

Twenty years after the design competition had been announced most of the Central Park landscapes were completed. During its construction more than ten million loads of material, including soil and rocks, were carted in and out by horse-drawn carts. Over four million forms of

plant life representing about 1,500 species were brought into the park for planting.

But once the park was complete it went unattended and fell into decline. During the turn of the century, Central Park faced numerous challenges relating to its use and maintenance. Motorcars were being used more and more and the general public was playing games such as baseball—neither of these developments had been anticipated when the park was being designed.

In 1934 Mayor Fiorello La Guardia successfully addressed the issues related to the maintenance of the park. New York's five park departments were unified and placed under the direction of Robert Moses who immediately set about cleaning up the Park. Since that time, Central Park has undergone numerous changes. In the 1960s, the park was designated as a performance venue. From 1980 on, the Central Park Conservancy oversaw a massive upgrading and cleanup effort. Today, Central Park is seen as an amazingly rich and diverse resource for the entire city and its visitors.

The park is located between West 110th Street and West 56th Street. On the east, it is bordered by Fifth Avenue and on the west by Eighth Avenue.

Sites & Things To Do

You may want to start your day early in Central Park as you go on a nature walk. Depending on the season, you can also enjoy birding, boating, ice skating, bicycling or rock climbing. Inline skating, jogging, running and other forms of aerobic exercise also are common in the park.

Many people now take a pedicab through Central Park. In essence, these devices are rickshaws attached to a cycle. You also can ride in a carriage pulled by carriage horses. This can be a fun family event or a great romantic touch to an evening.

In the summer, you can enjoy *Shakespeare in the Park* as the Public Theatre and the New York Shakespeare festival produce a quality rendition of one of the English playwright's works. These shows are free. The Metropolitan Opera and the New York Philharmonic each present two performances on the Great Lawn during the summer months.

Final Word

Whether you seek solitude or plan to enjoy some aspect of Central Park with a group of people, all will be struck by the beauty of the park in each and every season. The historical insights and information provided by your Step-On Tour Guide are certain to make your Central Park visit even more meaningful and enjoyable.



Chinatown in Manhattan

Explore Manhattan's Chinatown accompanied by an All Tickets Step-On Tour Guide. This Chinese community represents one of the highest concentrations of Chinese in the Western hemisphere.

Enjoy the colorful neighborhood, indulge in authentic ethnic foods, engage in a shopping spree and enjoy Chinese-American culture, all under the tutelage of your knowledgeable guide.

History

The first documented Chinese immigrant to settle in New York was Ah Ken, who came to the U.S. in 1858. The Cantonese businessman founded a successful cigar store that was located on Park Row. By 1870, there were 200 Chinese in Manhattan. The Chinatown population jumped to 2,000 in 1882 when acts were passed restricting the participation of the West Coast Chinese in various skilled and unskilled endeavors. This precipitated a shift in population from the West to the East.

By the turn of the century, 7,000 Chinese lived in Chinatown, many coming from the West Coast of the U. S. to escape discrimination. Most were to find employment in restaurants and hand laundries. Chinese Tongs sprang up among the immigrant population and dominated the Chinatown culture. Different Tongs occupied specific geographic areas, ensuring that Chinese families were protected. Fierce rivalries among the Tongs in New York often resulted in vicious battles against one another.

During the 20th century, Chinatown thrived although there was little immigration from China to the U.S. With the passing of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 more Chinese were able to emigrate to America. Over the next 50 years, Chinatown saw a huge influx of immigrants and it became a robust community.

Because Chinatown is located close to Ground Zero, tourism in the area dropped off after the 9/11 attacks. However, with the rebuilding of the area, tourism has increased in the past few years. Presently, Chinatown is in flux once again with the construction of luxury housing. People from other cultures are starting to settle around the fringes, and while this has added an element of diversity, it also has driven up property prices.

Chinatown is bordered by Worth Street on the south and Grand Street on the north. On the east, Allen Street acts as the point of termination, and the western section of Chinatown ends at Lafayette Street.

Sites & Things To Do

Mott Street has an incredible concentration of Chinese restaurants, grocery markets and teashops. These are authentic as they focus on selling their products to local residents. The cuisine is predominantly Cantonese. If you're looking for the real thing, this is the place to go.

The oldest Catholic Church in New York City is in Chinatown on 25 Mott Street. The Church of Transfiguration was built as a Zion Protestant Episcopal church in 1815, and after being sold to the Catholic Church in 1853, it became associated with that faith.

The Museum of Chinese in America, which serves to preserve Chinese-American culture and to educate the public, can be found at 211-215 Centre Street. The only park in Chinatown, the recently upgraded Columbus Park, is a perfect setting to relax and watch people.

Final Word

The community in Chinatown offers an authentic ethnic experience in Chinese culture. Your All Tickets Step-On Tour Guide guide will introduce you to the food, flavors, people, language and overall general culture making you feel as if, perhaps, you are in another country. Be sure to check it out during Chinese New Year. The festivities, food and drink are all first rate.



East Village

The East Village sits north of the Lower East Side and east of Greenwich Village. Often seen as an artist's area, it is filled with galleries, small theatres and studios. Various neighborhoods exist within the East Village, among them the Bowery and Alphabet City. Many of the Beats from the 1950s who were associated with Greenwich Village were actually residents of the East Village. Your All Tickets Step-On Guide will provide you with an insight as to the area's profound impact on the visual and performing arts.

History

Originally the area was a farm owned by Dutch Governor-General Wouter van Twiller. In 1651, Petrus Stuyvesant was given the deed to the land, which his family was to hold for seven generations. In the early 19th century, expensive townhouses were in vogue in the East Village, but by the middle of the century, the area became a magnet for immigrants. Irish and German natives first came to the East Village from 1900–1930. Poles and Ukrainians also eventually settled into the region.

The immigrants created a thriving culture in the area that included shops, clubs, sports associations, churches and more. There was a massive amount of building—homes and apartment buildings were crammed into the East Village.

In the 1960s an influx of hippies, artists and musicians redefined the area. That was when it was dubbed the “East Village.” These new residents helped establish the idea of the East Village as the home of a true bohemian culture.

Some of the most creative artists of the time used East Village as their venue. Andy Warhol created multimedia shows in the ballroom at St. Mark's Place, and in the former Yiddish Theatre, promoter Bill Graham opened Fillmore East, dubbed the “Church of Rock and Roll.” The 1960s also saw major

contributions in various forms of art and theatre. Some of America's most important playwrights, such as Sam Shepard and Lanford Wilson, started their careers Off-Off Broadway. In the 1960s, groundbreaking artists such as Kiki Smith, Peter Halley and Jeff Koons first made their marks in the East Village.

In recent years, the art scene has declined, but it certainly is not dead. There are galleries, small theatres and concert venues galore. But that unbridled energy that defined the spirit and work of the 60s and early 70s is gone.

The East Village's borders are 2nd Avenue, 1st Avenue, The Bowery and St. Mark's Place.

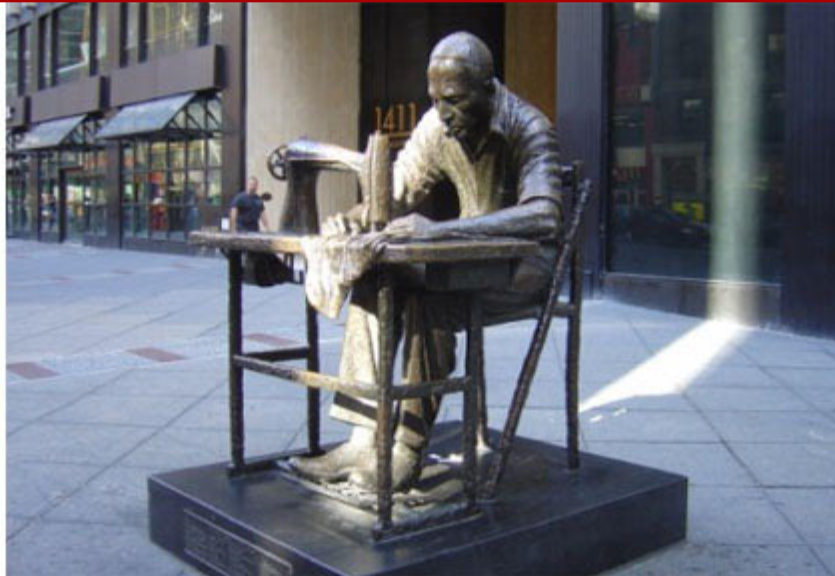
Sites & Things To Do

Some of the fine East Village theatre and performance companies include *La MaMa E.T.C.*, *The Ontological Hysterical Theatre*, *Danspace* and *Amato Opera*. The long-running show *Stomp* calls the East Village home. You can hear poetry readings at various venues including the Bowery Poetry Club, and there are plenty of showcases for music.

The Ukrainian Museum has an array of folk art, fine art and historical information. The intriguing Sculpture for Living is located near the world-class Public Theatre and historic Cooper Union.

Final Word

The East Village, although not as vital as it was decades ago, is still a charming place to visit. There's plenty of cutting edge art, music and theatre on-hand. Catch a bite to eat, wander past and through various art galleries and take in a show. You can do all of this away from the intensity of Times Square and Broadway. It's a bit more relaxed in the East Village.



Garment District

The Garment District in New York City is a frenzy of creativity, individuality and high fashion. Although less than one-square mile in area, this region, which earned the name Garment District in the early part of the 20th century, contains a large majority of New York's thriving fashion industry. Let an All Tickets Step-On Guide introduce you this renowned fashion capital of the world.

History

The manner in which New York first became the center of America's garment industry was not through design but in the creation of clothes for Southern slaves. The shops in New York earned a reputation for making rugged clothes cheaply. The clothing makers in New York also created uniforms for the military and clothing for specialty professions, much of which was custom-made.

During the 19th century, most Americans made their own clothes. However, as early as the 1820s, there were various manufacturers sewing made-to-wear apparel. The invention of the sewing machine in 1850 revolutionized clothes-making and gave rise to an industry for mass production of garments.

Through the late 19th and into the middle 20th centuries, America became known as a maker of quality clothing. After World War II in the 1960s and 1970s, other countries took over the business of making clothes and the Garment District became the purview of designers and distributors.

The Garment District runs from 34th Street to 42nd Street and lies between Fifth and Ninth Avenues.

Sites & Things To Do

Although manufacturing facilities are long gone, the Garment District plays host to some of the most

important designers in the world and to an array of the finest sample shops around. Although these facilities are often closed to the public, there are special tours that can help individuals gain access to shops that say “wholesalers only!” In this way, fashion enthusiasts can get samples of the latest designs, materials and fabrics, perfumes, accessories and more.

The Garment District also includes its own version of the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The Fashion Walk of Fame on Seventh Avenue is imbedded in parts of this thoroughfare’s sidewalks. Numerous plaques focus on the most important designers who have contributed to the industry. Each plaque is devoted to a specific designer and it includes a bio and a definitive design sketch by the honoree. Halston, Norma Kamli, Bill Blass and many more are highlighted.

Final Word

New York City’s Garment District was once the clothing making capital of the country. Although that aspect of the industry is a mere memory, some of the most prominent designers still call the Garment District their professional home. There are trendy restaurants, plenty of shops and a whole lot of models. If you’re into fashion, then this is your Nirvana.



Greenwich Village

From the early part of the 20th century, Greenwich Village in Manhattan has been home to independent and unique art and artists. Today, innumerable art galleries, various performance spaces and clubs designed for artists and performers of all sorts populate the neighborhood. As you tour the area, your All Tickets Step-On Guide will provide you with background as to the evolution of the Village and the historical contributions of its occupants.

History

In the late 16th century, early settlers grew tobacco in this location. Native Americans called the area around what is presently known as Gansevoort Street “sapokanikan,” meaning “tobacco field.” By 1712 this region of Manhattan was being referred to as “Grin'wich.” At this time, most of the land was controlled by just a few landowners.

In the 1780s the city purchased eight acres of land to be used as a potter's field and public gallows; later, the area was transformed into into a military parade ground and pedestrian walkway. Today, this is the site of Washington Square Park and the marble Washington Square Arch designed by Stanford White in 1892.

In 1822, families moved into the area to escape the yellow fever and cholera epidemics in other parts of New York City. The 1830s saw a big building boom hit Greenwich Village as hundreds of Federal-style rowhouses were constructed to house middle-class merchants and tradesmen. Beautiful red brick townhouses built in the Greek Revival style were built around the borders of the park and became home to many of New York's affluent citizens. As one tours the Village today, some of these buildings still may be seen.

Greenwich Village was to change dramatically with the immigration of the 19th century. The more affluent residents moved north to Fifth Avenue and Central Park and were replaced by immigrant groups and Bohemianism. Large factories, including the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory, were to drastically alter the neighborhood.

In the early 20th century through to the 1960s, the “Village” attracted individuals with alternative lifestyles and radical political views. In the 1920s, residents included reporter and political activist Jack Reed and playwright Eugene O’Neill. The 1950s saw members of the Beat Generation occupy the area. The Off-Off Broadway movement was born in Greenwich Village in the late 1950s.

In recent years, residents and preservationist groups have worked to preserve the architecture, the history and the neighborhoods of the Village from encroaching development.

The Village is bounded by West 14th Street on the north and West Houston Street on the South. Broadway runs along the eastern perimeter and the Hudson River is on the West.

Sites & Things To Do

Be sure to visit Washington Square Park and the famous chess area, which is part of the mythology of the popular park. You’ll see hundreds of people competing against one another, and many of the players are excellent.

The Martin Lawrence Galleries on Broadway between Prince and Houston Streets is a highly respected institution that displays works by Picasso, Chagall, Warhol and others. Taking a walk along Bleecker and Christopher Streets, scouting out the galleries, shops and eateries, is a pleasant and interesting experience. On Mercer Street you’ll find the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Annex where you can take some time to rock on.

Final Word

Greenwich Village is a great place to spend a day. Bookstores, art galleries and historic sites are plentiful along with numerous Off-Off Broadway venues that offer quality work. You may even run into some of the more famous residents such as Philip Seymour Hoffman, Edward Norton, Uma Thurman or Julianne Moore.



Harlem

Over the years, Harlem has gone through various transformations from an area considered to undesirable due to poverty and high crime rates to a place where new trends in art, drama and music have been developed and where the stylish meet. Your All Tickets Step-On Guide will introduce you to the Harlem that was and the Harlem that is today—an area on the upswing that embraces its history and celebrates its culture.

History

The Dutch settled what they called New Harlem in 1637. Originally occupied by the Lenape tribe, it was said that the Native Americans "sold" the land called Manhatta to the Dutch with the idea of sharing the territory. The Dutch, however, considered themselves the sole owners, and, as a result, conflicts arose.

In 1664, the British conquered New Netherland, renaming it New York. In the late 17th century, Harlem was seen as a small town north of New York whose economy was based on agriculture.

In the early 19th century, the area was still farmland controlled by a few wealthy families. Large estates dotted the region. But in the mid-19th century, with the area's soil depleted, the farmland and large estates were being sold off. Elevated railroads came to the region in the 1880s, and Harlem, which had been in decline, received an economic boost. The community developed rapidly and the rich quickly took up residence as polo grounds and theatres were added to the environs.

But once again, Harlem fell into decline due partly to the fact that the subway that was supposed to connect Harlem to the lower regions of Manhattan was delayed. From 1917 through 1930, the area, which attracted many immigrant Jews, was known as Jewish Harlem. After that, with an influx of Italians, it became Italian Harlem and after that, Spanish Harlem.

When it fell on hard times in the early 20th century, Central Harlem saw a large influx of African-Americans. For more than 50 years, Harlem was in decline but in the 1990s, with the creation of the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone, Harlem began making a comeback. That comeback, which has created new opportunities for growth and a huge increase in property values, continues today.

Harlem's southern border is difficult to define as it runs unevenly across the island. Central Harlem is north of 110th Street and Spanish Harlem is north of 96th Street on the East Side. On the west, Harlem is north of the Upper West Side. Other boundaries include the East River on the east and the Hudson River between 155th Street on the west.

Sites & Things To Do

In the 1920s, the Harlem Renaissance was in full gear as jazz, important dramas and poetry, and popular performers all came into their own. This amazing time is celebrated today through various landmarks such as Duke Ellington Circle and the Cotton Club. A trip to Harlem is not complete unless you tour the historic and groundbreaking Apollo Theatre. Visit the Studio Museum of Harlem, which is a contemporary art museum devoted to the works of African-Americans.

Final Word

Harlem has been extremely influential in the development of music, theatre and other art forms. It has often been on the cutting edge of creativity in America. With a rich history and strong connection to its past, the area offers plenty of entertainment and educational opportunities.



Lower East Side

If you're looking for bright lights, the rich and famous or major museums and performance venues, then the Lower East Side is not the place to go. But if you're searching for local talent, individually owned and operated unique restaurants and an area steeped in immigrant history, then the Lower East Side is your destination. The tour led by your All Tickets Step-On Tour Guide will provide an insight into the cultural evolution and history of this ever-changing working-class neighborhood.

History

Prior to the American Revolution, James Delancey established a prominent farm that survives in name today as Delancey Street. For much of the early 19th century, parts of the Lower East Side were composed of various farms. One section, Corlaer's Hook, was separated from more populated areas by rough hills that were difficult to traverse.

During this time, the population of the Lower East Side slowly started to increase bringing craftspeople, workshops and businesses to the area. In addition, less desirable elements, including prostitutes, became established and active.

In the mid to late 19th century and after, the Lower East Side was known as an area where new immigrants settled. Over the course of various decades, these groups included Italians, Jews, Irish, Poles, Ukrainians and Germans.

The region and its neighborhoods have had a very strong connection to Jewish heritage and culture. There still is an Orthodox Jewish community on the Lower East Side along with various shops and businesses associated with that culture and religion.

A very strong and influential Yiddish Theatre helped spawn the careers of many theatre artists, including

Irving Berlin, Eddie Cantor and John Garfield. Today, immigrants, primarily from Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and other Latin countries, make up a major part of the area's population.

Today, visitors can tour the Lower East Side Tenement Museum for a glimpse of the conditions in which early immigrants lived.

The area is bordered by Chinatown to the south and west, the East Village to the north and NoLiTa (North of Little Italy) on the east.

Sites & Things To Do

The Lower East Side is well worth exploring. This area does not offer big performance venues or major museums, but it certainly does provide some extremely interesting choices for those who are looking for unique experiences. Since 2009, the Lower East Side has become an art gallery hotspot with over 25 new galleries opening up. As an example, FusionArt Museum on Stanton Street is the only visual art gallery in New York focusing on multidisciplinary art forms. There's also The New Museum of Contemporary Art located at the corner of Bowery and Prince Street.

Plenty of quaint local restaurants, delis and ethnic food establishments are to be found here. The Lower East Side also provides opportunities for those who want to be part of the area's nightlife. Hear alternative bands at various clubs such as the Bowery Ballroom on Delancey Street and the Mercury Lounge on East Houston. Orchard, Essex and Ludlow Streets between Rivington and Stanton Streets are very busy at night.

Final Word

The Lower East Side of Manhattan slowly has developed into a robust neighborhood that is ethnically diverse and variegated in its entertainment options. If you're looking for a neighborhood with a feeling of community, then spend some time on the Lower East Side.



Times Square

Include Times Square on your itinerary and your All Tickets Step-On Tour Guide will show you an area of Manhattan where all of the various energies that make up this great city come together to create an amazing *mélange* of humanity. You'll see bold and big commercial ads, billions of lights that pierce through the darkness making night into light and more ultra-tech media than you've ever imagined. It is the place where you can see the entire world within a few blocks.

History

Before the American Revolution, Times Square was a horse breeding enterprise and farmland owned by John Morin Scott, who was to become a general in the New York State militia. Then in the early 19th century, Times Square was transformed as capitalism took hold when John Jacob Astor acquired the area.

As the southern parts of the Island of Manhattan started to run out of land, Astor sold the land to the north, which was Times Square, in small parcels to hotels, businessmen and others. Ultimately, as more of Manhattan became populated to the north, Times Square became the center of a range of commerce.

1904 was a watershed year for the area. It was when Times Square was given its present name and when the decision was made to build New York's subway and have it run to the area. Also, this was when the first advertisement that was electrified appeared in New York.

As the population of New York grew rapidly in the early to mid-20th century, theatres, music halls, restaurants, nightspots and other establishments catering to public entertainment sprang up.

On December 31, 1907, the first ball signaling the start of a new year was dropped. From 1904 to 1906, the ball was replaced by a fireworks display only to be discontinued because of the fear of fire. New York resumed the dropping of the ball, and, with the exception of the blackout restriction period during World

War II, continued the tradition to the present day.

Although Times Square had established itself as a Mecca for the arts, entertainment and a grand nightlife, it's reputation declined with the Great Depression in the 1930s. By the 1960s, it was known for dope peddling, prostitution and pornography. But from 1994 to 2002, Mayor Rudy Giuliani led a very successful effort to clean up and revitalize the area.

Wishing to decrease traffic congestion in this very busy area, Mayor Michael Bloomberg closed part of the Times Square to traffic in 2009 and transformed it into pedestrian plazas with seating. As a result of both mayors' initiatives, today Times Square is replete with theatres, shops, restaurants and various attractions—a great place for the entire family.

Times Square is located at the juncture of Broadway and Seventh Avenue and then extends to West 47th and West 42nd.

Sites & Things To Do

Times Square, with its constant hustle and bustle, streams of vehicles and human traffic, and numerous entertainment venues is a must see for all. If you are interested in finding a book on theatre or a specific play, visit the Drama Book Shop at 250 West 40th St. It has one of the best collections of plays under one roof in the entire country and the staff is extremely knowledgeable and helpful. Just north of #1 Times Square is the statue to the man who is credited with virtually creating the Broadway theatre—George M. Cohan.

Oddities such as the “Naked Cowboy” who is really not naked, are a part of the Times Square experience. The underwear-clothed, singing and guitar-strumming cowboy has become a fixture on the Great White Way. *Good Morning America* is broadcast live from their Studio in Times Square and the illuminated signage lights up the night with a splendor that cannot be imagined.

Final Word

There is no lack of things to do in Times Square. You can visit *Ripley's Believe It or Not, New York* or the *Madame Tussauds Wax Museum*. Fast food, family restaurants and delis are all available. There are various souvenir shops around and of course the Broadway theatre is everywhere! Times Square offers limitless possibilities for all visitors.



TriBeCa

A tour of New York's neighborhoods definitely should include Tribeca. Located in Lower Manhattan, "TriBeCa" stands for "Triangle Below Canal Street." Your All Ticket Step-On Tour Guide can introduce you to a neighborhood that has evolved into a popular, upscale community for celebrities, writers, artists, athletes and successful, young businesspeople.

History

Tribeca was one of the first areas in Manhattan to be settled after the original city was established. In the late 18th century, the area was transformed into a residential section and in the middle of the 19th century it became a commercial area. The expansion of the subway system into that section of the city in 1918 helped to increase accessibility and business interests continued to grow in Tribeca.

In the 1960s, Tribeca declined commercially and a decade later it was comprised of abandoned buildings. With real estate values relatively low, the area began to attract artists, actors, producers and others involved in the arts and entertainment. As the area transformed into a growing residential neighborhood, many companies in the entertainment field set up their offices in Tribeca. It's now a thriving residential community.

Canal Street, Broadway, West Street and Chambers Street enclose the area.

Sites & Things To Do

The famous Tribeca Film Festival, which was started in response to the 9/11 attacks, is held from late April to early May. This major event attracts film makers from all over the world and results in thousands of screenings of hundreds of films each year. Open to the general public, the range of works includes

documentaries, independents, shorts, features and family friendly films. There are also numerous panel discussions that feature actors, writers, producers and others.

While in the area, you may want to take the extremely interesting Tribeca Open Artists Studio Tour. Started in 1996, the tour is an annual event that takes visitors through the studios of various working artists. It offers insights into some of the most creative and influential people in the region.

The architecture in the area is diverse. The former AT&T Long Distance Building at 32 Avenue of the Americas is a striking example of Art Deco design. A row of neo-Renaissance White Buildings at 73 Worth Street dates back to 1865.

Final Word

The Tribeca area is well worth investigating. Numerous annual artistic offerings, upscale restaurants and relaxing natural settings are there for visitors to enjoy. In a very short time, Tribeca has become a preferred place to live and work for artists...it has also become one of the most expensive places to live in Manhattan. When the film festival is in session, it is a star-studded community.



Upper East Side

Affluent, powerful and trendy—terms that are descriptive of the Upper East Side. Your All Tickets Step-on Guide will introduce you to four and five story Brownstones, upscale apartment buildings and some of Manhattan’s most prestigious cultural institutions found in this area. A sampling of former and present residents includes Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Lady Gaga, Woody Allen, Spike Lee, Martin Scorsese and Madonna.

History

Prior to the arrival of European settlers, this region of Manhattan was occupied by the Lenape, who were thought to have established fishing camps along the river banks. In the mid-19th century, the railroad traversed the region, which was still primarily farmland. In the latter part of the century Boston Post Road, which cut through the Upper East Side, was dotted with various taverns.

By the turn of the century the Upper East Side included exceptionally well-appointed mansions and townhouses located on large tracts of land. In 1901, the Duke Mansion was built at the corner of 82nd Street. The Frick Mansion at 70th Street was added in 1913. In 1914, the Vanderbilt family built its mansion at the corner of 86th Street and 5th Avenue joining other mansions on what was known as Fifth Avenue's Gold Coast. A row of luxury townhouses was constructed on the block bounded by 57th and 58th Streets and Fifth and Madison Avenues.

Along with the Vanderbilts, this area attracted other exceptionally powerful, rich families, including the Roosevelts, Kennedys and Rockefellers. Its concentration of wealth gave rise to the name the "Silk Stocking" District. Today, it still is one of the most affluent neighborhoods in New York City. Since 1942, Gracie Mansion, the last of the numerous upper-class residences built along the East River, has served as the mayor’s official home. Bequeathed to the City of New York, some of the original mansions now house

important art collections open to the public.

This area of Manhattan is confined on the south by 59th Street and the north by 96th Street. Central Avenue borders it on the west and the East River flows by its eastern border.

Sites & Things To Do

Along a section of Fifth Avenue, fronted by Central Park, you'll find Museum Row, a string of some of the most prestigious institutions in the world, including the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, the Whitney Museum of American Art and Metropolitan Museum of Art. Other important attractions include the Jewish Museum of New York, the Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum and the Frick Collection. For the lover of fine art, the Upper East Side is a paradise.

Final Word

The Upper East Side is one of the most expensive places to live in American. The cost per square foot of real estate tops \$1,800. A walk through this area of Manhattan often will result in a celebrity sighting or two. This well-heeled area offers some of the finest cultural experiences you can find in New York City.



Upper West Side

Not only is the Upper West Side a stylish residential area, it is home to several major must-see attractions. Your All Tickets Step-On Guide is sure to include the magnificent Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts as well as the American Museum of Natural History and the Rose Center for Earth and Space on your tour. The Upper West Side has evolved into an affluent area with many of its residents working in the commercial sectors of Midtown and Lower Manhattan.

History

Unlike lower Manhattan, there's little evidence of the Lenape tribes in this area. High bluffs, wetlands and stream-filled valleys may have curbed their ability to utilize the area. Rather, history suggests it was the Dutch who first settled the area. By the mid 18th century the region was populated by various farms and country homes owned by a multitude of well-off Manhattan families.

By the 19th century, Bloomingdale Road was host to some of the Upper West Side's finest and most prestigious homes. Part way through the century, however, the region took a downward turn and became home to a lower class. The river front hosted commercial concerns, including shipping, manufacturing and transportation companies. The 1850s and 1860s saw many homeless and squatters move into the Upper West Side, as their original environs were taken over by the development of Central Park.

In the late 19th century, the New York subway was extended uptown, connecting the area to various other parts of Manhattan. The result was an increase in construction and an influx of residents with more stable financial situations.

In the 1900s, the Upper West Side saw a growth in its African-American population. Unfortunately, the

area was extremely worn down by the 1960s as tenements rose up and property values fell. Then in the 1960s various projects, including the Lincoln Towers apartments and the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, helped to totally revitalize this depressed area, making it a preferred place to live.

The Upper West Side is bordered on the west by the Hudson River and on the east by Central Park. The southern part of the Upper West Side terminates at 58th Street, while its northern boundary is Morningside Heights at 125th Street.

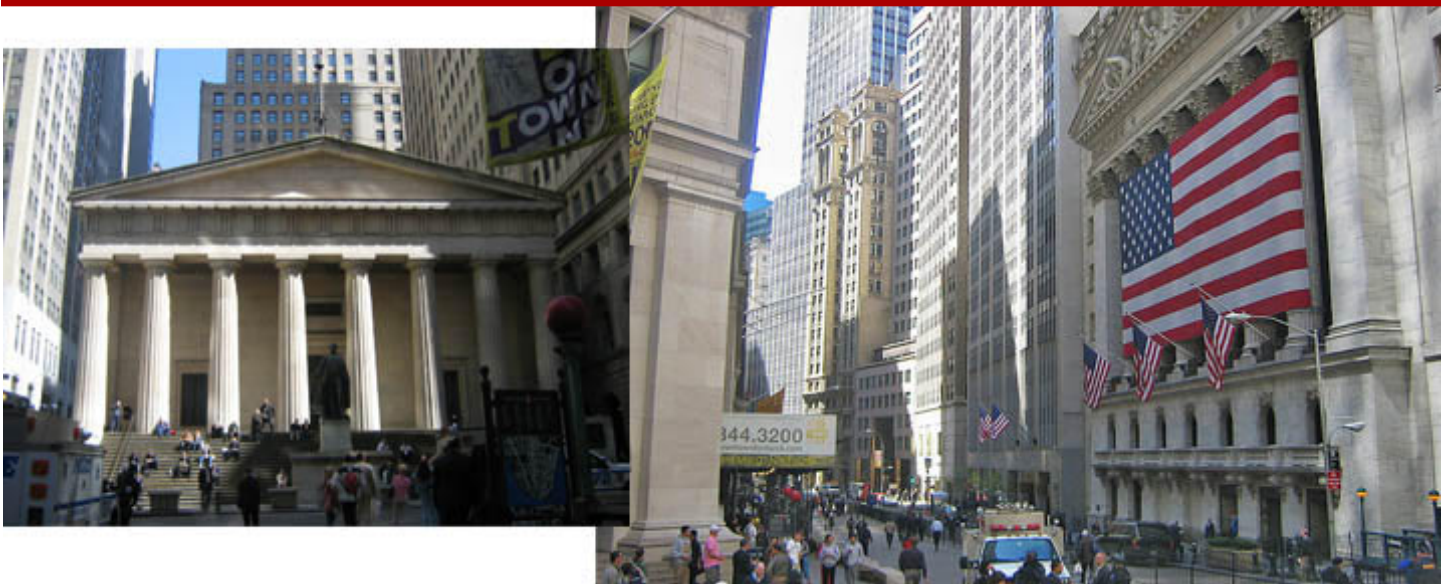
Sites & Things To Do

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts is home for a series of performance venues, among them the Metropolitan Opera House, Avery Fisher Hall, Alice Tully Hall and the Vivian Beaumont Theater. Within Lincoln Center there are a dozen prestigious arts organizations that call this center home including the Julliard School, the New York Philharmonic, the Metropolitan Opera, Jazz at Lincoln Center and the New York City Ballet. Lincoln Center also houses one of the most extensive theater collections in the U.S. at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Also on the Upper West Side you'll discover the family-friendly Children's Museum of Manhattan and the esteemed American Museum of Natural History, which includes the Hayden Planetarium, the most technologically advanced planetarium in the world.

Final Word

Although not as affluent as the Upper East Side, the Upper West Side is a fantastic place to visit. You'll find some great restaurants, including authentic delis and those serving fine cuisine. Visit the famous Tavern on the Green, now a Central Park Visitor Center and Gift Shop. Tour Lincoln Center, explore the Hayden Planetarium and have some nosh. Great fun!



Wall Street

There are many fabled neighborhoods and sections of Manhattan but perhaps none so renowned and reviled as Wall Street. Not just the financial district of New York City, Wall Street is the economic epicenter of the United States. Your All Tickets Step-On Guide will escort you through the canyons of this financial center where many a powerbroker has found fortune on the trading floor...or witnessed the dissipation of wealth as the market swung from bull to bear.

History

In 1676, the Dutch first settled what would be known as Wall Street. The biggest financial deals in those days had to do with farming as various agriculturally-based businesses developed. Back then, the area was known as New Amsterdam and a specific thoroughfare was named “de Waal Straat.” The name may have come from a street that was edged by a wall made from earth. In any case, after 1690, the new settlement, which had been surrendered to England, was renamed New York.

In the 17th century, a stockade was built to protect against attacks by Native Americans and, over the years, it was upgraded and expanded. In the late 17th century Wall Street was designed to follow the original outline of the stockade.

By the late 18th century, securities were being traded under a buttonwood tree. This meeting-place offered a specific venue where men could make their deals. The men trading under the buttonwood tree entered into the Buttonwood Agreement in 1792. This marked the inception of what would become known as the New York Stock Exchange.

Wall Street played a prominent role in the history of the United States. Federal Hall was the site of the swearing in of the nation’s first president, George Washington, and it was the initial seat of the

government. But from the 19th century to the present it has been known for one thing—the center of high finance.

Known to many is the *Charging Bull* sculpture by Arturo Di Modica. Representing a prosperous or bull market economy, the artist on his own decided to install the sculpture in front of the New York Stock Exchange in 1989. The city impounded the sculpture. Reacting to public outcry, the Parks Commission moved the *Charging Bull* to its current location in the small public park of Bowling Green just two blocks south of Wall Street.

Located in lower Manhattan, Wall Street can be found between Broadway and South Street on the East River.

Sites & Things To Do

There are numerous landmark buildings in the Wall Street area. Primary among them is Federal Hall, which served as the original site for our government. Other important buildings include the Bankers Trust Company at 14 Wall Street and Trump Towers at 40 Wall Street. Of course, there's the New York Stock Exchange located at the corner of Broad Street. However, since 9/11 all public visits and tours of the NYSE have ceased.

Visit Trinity Church, the only building in the area not to have suffered structural damage from the explosions of 9/11. Have your picture taken next to the huge Wall Street *Charging Bull*. Take advantage of some of the fine places to eat. Make sure you go to the area on a weekday when things are happening. That way you'll be sure to get the full flavor of the premiere street of finance for our country and the world.

Final Word

Wall Street has seen innumerable bull and bear markets and many depressions, recessions and recoveries. This storied area is known for its high pressure situations where millions upon millions of dollars can be on the line, for its 18-hour workdays, and for attracting people with blind ambition. It is the ultimate power spot in Manhattan.



Washington Heights

During the American Revolution, Fort Washington was built on the highest point of Manhattan. This area, later named Washington Heights, is located on a high ridge in Upper Manhattan 265 feet above sea level, making it the island's highest natural elevation. An All Tickets Step-On Tour Guide can help you explore the historical significance of the area and take you back in time with a tour of the medieval Cloisters Museum and Gardens.

History

The Battle of Fort Washington ended badly for the colonists as 130 colonial soldiers were either killed or wounded. Two thousand seven hundred were taken prisoner, many of whom would die after being confined on unsanitary prison ships in New York Harbor. After the battle, which ended on November 16, 1776, the British renamed the site Fort Mifflin in honor of the Hessian General who led the attack and took the fort.

Begun in 1927 and dedicated in 1931, the George Washington Bridge was built to span the Hudson River, connecting Fort Washington/Washington Heights to Fort Lee, New Jersey.

In 1938, The Cloisters Museum and Gardens opened as a branch of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Located in Fort Tryon Park in Washington Heights, the museum was devoted to the art and architecture of medieval Europe. Portions of the building were purchased in Europe and transported to the United States. In part, the structure was assembled from architectural elements dating from the twelfth through the fifteenth centuries.

From 1900 through 1960 various immigrant groups called Washington Heights their home. Around the turn of the century, Irish immigrants settled in the area; 30 to 40 years later Jewish immigrants fleeing

from Nazi Germany came to the heights. The 1950s and 1960s saw immigrant Greeks settle in the area. By the 1980s, most of the immigrants were Dominican.

From the 1980 through to around 2000, drug trafficking and gangs took over much of the area. But urban renewal projects helped to change the atmosphere and environment of Washington Heights, creating a safer and more prosperous neighborhood that continues to welcome primarily immigrants from Latin countries.

Washington Heights is bordered on the south by Hamilton Heights at 155th Street and ends north a tad below Dyckman Street.

Sites & Things To Do

The Cloisters is located in Fort Tryon Park in Washington Heights. This museum, which is a branch of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, is devoted to the art and architecture from the medieval period. It is a must see for many who travel to Manhattan.

After going to the Cloisters, you may want to treat yourself to some authentic Dominican food at El Malecon Restaurant. Don't forget to visit Fort Tyron Park, which offers over 66 beautiful acres. There are wonderful views, lush gardens and plenty of places to picnic in this expertly landscaped park.

Final Word

Washington Heights is an ethnic community that offers visitors the chance to sample authentic ethnic food and drink. It also has deep connections to the early history of our country. There is a true mix of things to do in this neighborhood that combines an urban setting with suburban elements.