

New York Snap Guide

TO / FROM THE AIRPORT

New York Airport Service

212/875-8200, nyairportservice.com

Shuttle bus between Manhattan (Grand Central Terminal, Port Authority, and Penn Station) and LaGuardia is \$12 one way, \$21 round trip; JFK is \$15/\$27. Departs approximately every 30 minutes. There's also a shuttle link between JFK and LaGuardia 7:30 A.M.–8 P.M., \$13 each way.

Newark Liberty Airport Express Bus Service (Olympia Trails), olympiabus.com

Shuttle bus transportation from Newark is \$13 one way, \$22 round trip. Departs every 30 minutes for stops at Penn Station, Grand Central, and Port Authority.

AirTrain

panynj.gov/airtrain

Follow signs at JFK and Newark for connections into the city. Trains run every 10 minutes. Fare to/from JFK is \$5, which must be purchased on a MetroCard. Trains stop at connecting subway stations, so add another \$2 for subway fare. If coming from JFK, use the MetroCard machine at the train-subway transfer. Rides to/from Newark are free to/from the Newark Rail Link Station, where you get NJ Transit, which takes you to/from Penn Station for \$11.55. Trains leave every 30 minutes.

GETTING AROUND

Subway & Bus

mta.nyc.ny.us

\$2 flat fare; MetroCards available at subway station kiosks. A daily "Fun Pass" is \$7; a seven-day pass is \$21. Ask for map at booth. Single-use free transfer available if going from bus to bus, bus to subway, or subway to bus. Ask for transfer ticket from bus driver if using change instead of MetroCard.

Taxis

Initial fare: \$2.50; 40¢ each 1/5 mile or for each 90 seconds stopped in traffic. Add 50¢ for rides after 8 P.M.; add \$1 Mon.–Fri. from 4 P.M.–8 P.M. Taxis take up to four passengers.

Pedicabs

Average rate: \$1 per minute; operate evenings and weekends. Licensed "peddlers" only.

Staten Island Ferry

718/390-5253, siferry.com

Free; 25-minute ride between Whitehall St. in Lower Manhattan and St. George Terminal on Staten Island. Awesome views of N.Y. Harbor, the skyline, and Lady Liberty.

New York Water Taxi

212/742-1969, newyorkwatertaxi.com

A double-decker, high-speed catamaran that makes 10 stops in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens, including Chelsea Piers, Christopher St., and South St. Seaport. \$5 for single rides, \$20 for two-day hop-on/hop-off ticket.

WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND TOWN

Free on the Street *The Village Voice* or *New York Press*
At Newsstands *Time Out New York*, timeoutny.com
New York Magazine, nymetro.com
The New Yorker, newyorker.com

TOURS

Big Onion Walking Tours

212/439-1090, bigonion.com

Lively, informed historic- and ethnic-themed tours led by guides with advanced degrees in history. Check online calendar or call for meeting spots. Adults \$15, seniors \$12, and students \$10. No reservations required; schedule subject to change in case of inclement weather.

Municipal Art Society of NY Tours

212/935-3960, mas.org/events/tours.cfm

Expert in-depth exploration of city architecture. Weekday walking tours \$12; weekend walking/bus combo tour \$15. Free tours of Grand Central Terminal only depart Wed. at 12:30 P.M. from the information booth in the Main Concourse.

Nosh Walks

212/222-2243, noshwalks.com

Taste your way from Odessa to Bombay. Most tours are \$20 and do not include the cost of food. Sat.–Sun. only.

Radical Walking Tours

718/492-0069, radicalwalkingtours.org

See NYC through the eyes of anarchists, revolutionaries, and good old-fashioned hell-raisers. Summer schedule suspended; call for upcoming tours. \$10 per tour.

Gray Line New York

800/669-0051, graylinenewyork.com

Fare is \$49 for a two-day hop-on/hop-off tour by double-decker bus. Makes 42 stops in all. All tickets must be purchased online, by phone, or at the official start location, 777 8th Ave. at W. 47th St.

Pioneer Sailings From South Street Seaport Museum

212/748-8786, southstseaport.org

Schooner sailing tours of N.Y. Harbor beat the popular but noisy Circle Line any day. \$30. Daily sailings May–Sept.; call for times.

NUMBERS TO KNOW

Movies Moviefone, 212/777-FILM, moviefone.com

Theater Telecharge, 212/239-6200, telecharge.com

Sports & concert tickets Ticketmaster, 212/307-7171, ticketmaster.com

Directory information 411

Emergencies Police and Fire Departments, 911

Complaints, non-emergencies NYC citizen service line, 311

Mayor's Office for People With Disabilities 212/788-2830

Sleep

Budget Travel

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FINANCIAL DISTRICT / TRIBECA

Cosmopolitan Hotel

95 W. Broadway, 888/895-9400, cosmohotel.com

Offers 120 smartly decorated, squeaky-clean rooms in an area of town sorely lacking in affordable, nonbusiness hotels. Service reviews are mixed, but who cares when you roll out of bed into the city's hottest hangouts? Doubles from \$119.

WEST VILLAGE

Abingdon Guest House

13 Eighth Ave., 212/243-5384, abingdonguesthouse.com

Comprised of two homey 1850s town houses, this colorfully painted spot has either private or en suite bathrooms, and many rooms have nonworking fireplaces. Light sleepers should avoid rooms facing Eighth Ave. Check-in is at Brewbar Café, the coffeehouse downstairs. Doubles from \$159.

EAST VILLAGE

Second Home on Second Avenue

221 Second Ave., 212/677-3161, secondhome.citysearch.com

Don't be put off by the shabby facade of this 1900s town house—fun, even tastefully, appointed accommodations with soundproof windows lie inside. Choose from themed rooms—tribal, modern, Caribbean, and Peruvian. (The owner's from Peru.) Second-floor yoga classes are \$20. Doubles from \$90.

UNION SQUARE / GRAMERCY

Hotel 17

225 E. 17th St., 212/475-2845, hotel17ny.com

Friendly service and its location on leafy (and quiet) Stuyvesant Square Park sets this hotel apart. Perhaps you'll recognize the rooms from Woody Allen's silly film *Manhattan Murder Mystery*. Doubles from \$79.

CHELSEA

The Chelsea Lodge

318 W. 20th St., 800/373-1116, chelsealodge.com

This renovated European-style hotel in the heart of Chelsea has 22 rooms filled with American antiques and eclectic accents. One warning: Rooms have sinks and showers, but no WCs. Book far in advance. From \$95.

MIDTOWN EAST

The Pickwick Arms

230 E. 51st St., 800/742-5945, pickwickarms.com

This beloved Midtown standby just got a face-lift and earns consistently high marks for its professional service, rates, and location. Pack light—rooms are small and some have shared baths, but you can always get some air on the rooftop garden. Doubles from \$149.

MIDTOWN WEST

Ameritania

230 W. 54th St., 888/664-6835, nychotels.com

Chic, comfortable, and quite possibly the best hotel value in Gotham. Extra niceties include Belgian linens, on-demand movies, and a hopping lobby bar. Doubles from \$165.

MIDTOWN WEST

Hotel QT

125 W. 45th St., 212/354-2323, hotelqt.com

Steps from Times Square, the latest property from hotelier wunderkind André Balazs. Attractively minimalist rooms with flat-screen TVs. And its lobby bar has a swimming pool—really! From \$150.

UPPER EAST SIDE

Bentley Hotel

500 E. 62nd St., 212/644-6000, nychotels.com

A sister property to the Ameritania, this modern hotel is decked out in neutral tones, and delivers stylish comfort. Its library, rooftop restaurant with good skyline views, and proximity to Bloominies are big pluses. Doubles from \$165.

UPPER WEST SIDE

Country Inn the City

270 W. 77th St., 212/580-4183, countryinthecity.com

No, you're not in the Cotswolds, but this English-inspired inn might transport you. Country antiques, four-poster beds, and hunting-lodge accents sing with Old World charm. Downsides are no credit cards and its three-day minimum stay. Reservations only. Doubles from \$150.

UPPER WEST SIDE

Jazz on the Park

36 W. 106th St., 212/932-1600, jazzonthepark.com

A funky hostel-inn run by a hands-on international crew who put on summer BBQs. Linens, lockers, and laundry facilities provided. Dorm rooms from \$25/night, private rooms from \$75.

S SPLURGE Hotel on Rivington

107 Rivington St., 212/475-2600, hotelonrivington.com

The brainchild of *Surface* magazine and a United Nations of industrial and interior designers, this ultrafab hotel is the first high-rise (and hotel you'd actually want to stay in) on the Lower East Side, which means 360-degree views from every glass-walled room. Guests coo about the deep egg-shaped Japanese-style soaking tubs. Doubles from \$255.

TIP

Hoofing it in NYC It takes the average person one minute to walk one "short" (north-south) block, and two minutes to walk one "long block" (east-west) in Manhattan. Do the math.

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SEE American Family Immigration History Center

Inside the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, 212/561-4500, ellislandrecords.org

Find out how deep your family roots grow, and search the manifests of ships that brought more than 22 million immigrants to Ellis Island between 1892 and 1924. Open daily, 9 A.M.–5:30 P.M.; \$5 for half-hour genealogical searches. Ferry from Battery Park, \$10.

SEE Skyscraper Museum

39 Battery Pl., on the ground floor of the Ritz-Carlton Battery Park Hotel, 212/968-1961, skyscraper.org

Fittingly, this museum's new space was designed by one of the forefathers of modern architecture, the firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. Take a virtual tour of Lower Manhattan on the museum's website, and learn everything you ever wanted to know about tall buildings. Open Wed.–Sun., noon–6 P.M.; \$5 for adults, free for kids under 12. Pop into the Ritz-Carlton's **Rise** bar afterward for drinks and stellar harbor views.

SEE Tribute Visitors' Center (opening fall 2005)

120 Liberty St., 911wvfa.org, projectrebirth.org

The official visitors' center for Ground Zero. The multimillion-dollar, 6,000-square-foot space will feature guided tours, multimedia kiosks, and a range of exhibits related to the terrorist attacks and their victims.

EAT Alfanoose

8 Maiden Ln., 212/528-4669, alfanoose.com

An impeccable no-frills Lebanese-Syrian joint that has, quite possibly, the best falafel in town. The spicy veggie moussaka and kibbeh (made with Swiss chard and mint) are nothing to sniff at either. Be forewarned: The shop has literally three stools. Closed Sun.

EAT Bridge Café

279 Water St., 212/227-3344, bridgecafe.citysearch.com

This red clapboard building is not only the city's oldest drinking establishment (open since 1794), but it also houses an excellent restaurant. Soak up the history (and beer) while you nibble on corn-and-red-onion fritters or crispy fried oysters.

EAT Niko Niko

80 Wall St., 212/232-0152, nikonikony.com

Forget the California rolls: It's all about the over-rice (*don*) dishes. For less than \$5, you get a heaping plate of rice with your choice of delicious toppings, such as teriyaki-glazed eel, succulent pork, and Korean *bibim bop*. Closed Sat. and Sun.

\$ SPLURGE Bayard's

1 Hanover Sq., 212/514-9454, bayards.com

Seasonal cuisine from lauded French-trained chefs is served amid Old World luxe inside the 1851 India House (formerly the New York Cotton Exchange). Even with a stellar wine list, it remains under the radar. Closed Sun.

Downloaded free from BudgetTravelOnline.com

DRINK Ulysses'

58 Stone St., 212/482-0400, ulyssesbarnyc.com

A stylish, book-themed boîte where you can take your pick of quiet corners to enjoy a pint or two—except after 5 P.M. on Thursday nights, when the bar is packed wall-to-wall with suited traders.

SHOP Bowne & Co. Stationers

211 Water St., 212/748-8651

A charming gas-lit stationer that has been in the printing business since 1775. Its specialty is custom letterpress work, but you can also pick up old-fashioned notecards and postcards printed on Victorian presses. Closed Mon.

SHOP Century 21

22 Cortlandt St., 212/227-9092, c21stores.com/nyc.asp

A retail shrine for designer wear at 25–75 percent off. Ralph Lauren and Marc Jacobs make regular appearances on the racks. Look for jaw-dropping deals on luxury linens, housewares, and cosmetics, too.

“I can't even enjoy a blade of grass unless I know there's a subway handy.”

—Frank O'Hara

SAMPLE SALE TIPS

- Sign up for mailing lists to get invitations to private presales. We like DailyCandy.com's list.
- Sample sales are held in season: Sales on fall and winter merchandise, for example, are generally held from September through November, so you can walk out wearing your finds.
- Cash is the preferred method of payment.
- Get there early for the best selection, and avoid shopping during lunch hours.
- Try things on if you can. Sometimes a strange fit is the reason the garment is on sale. Dress for easy access with slip-on shoes and no-fuss wear.
- Most sales are final, so be sure to inspect the merchandise closely!

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SEE African Burial Ground

290 Broadway at Duane St., 212/491-2200, nypl.org/research/sc/afb/shell.html

The largest known intact colonial African cemetery in the U.S. Uncovered just over a decade ago, it spans five city blocks. Construction workers, and then archaeologists, dug up everything from decorated coffin remnants to copper cuff links to infant skeletons.

SEE The Lobby of the Woolworth Building

233 Broadway, between Barclay St. and Park Pl.

It was the tallest building in the world until 1929, but don't limit your gawking to the facade. Pop inside and check out the ornate reliefs in the lobby (open regular business hours), one of which depicts Frank Woolworth counting his store's fortune in nickels and dimes. He paid for his grand "Cathedral of Commerce" in cash. For more history, walk north and over to the triangle at Baxter St. and Park Row to see Foley Square—formerly the site of **Five Points**, the corrupt, hardscrabble 19th-century neighborhood that inspired Martin Scorsese's film *Gangs of New York*.

SEE R 20th Century

82 Franklin St., 212/343-7979, r20thcentury.com

A pioneering showroom for mid-century modern furniture and homewares. Can't afford an original Eames chair? Browse and pretend that you can.

EAT Casse-Croûte Tribeca Café

73 W. Broadway, 212/693-2212

The name means "breaking of bread." French-accented sandwiches on crusty baguettes, and more. If you're hoofing it around the neighborhood, call in your order to this *très* tiny, *très* Provençal food shop ahead of time, so you don't have to wait in line.

EAT Pakistan Tea House

176 Church St., 212/240-9800

An ultrabusy spot that's best experienced after hours. Go for a late-night nosh (it's open till 4 A.M.), and order a combo plate of chicken masala and rice with spice-flecked spinach, lentils, or cauliflower. There's a generous selection of vegetable entrées, too.

EAT VietCafé

345 Greenwich St., 212/431-5888, viet-cafe.com

Wonderful native Vietnamese cuisine served under silk lanterns in a glossy feng shui dining room. Dishes, such as rice crepes, lemongrass beef burgers, and banana flan, start at around \$5.

§ SPLURGE Landmarc

179 W. Broadway, 212/343-3883, landmarc-restaurant.com

The star of the Italian-influenced American menu is the hanger steak. Also try the goat cheese profiteroles. There's little markup on the wine, so you can get some rare half and full bottles almost at cost. Warning: Be prepared to wait, unless you're in a party of six or more, in which case you can make a reservation and go to the head of the line.

DRINK James Duane

185 Duane St., 212/925-5558

Named after the first post-American Revolution mayor of NYC and owned, curiously, by a history-obsessed Rome transplant. The walls are lined with portraits of dead U.S. presidents. There's a full bar (and food, too), but the thoughtful selection of beer and wine is the real standout. Closed Sun.

DRINK Puffy's Tavern

81 Hudson St., 212/227-3912, puffystavern.com

A totally unpretentious and well-loved neighborhood bar.

SHOP LoftWorks

100 Lafayette St., 212/343-8088, loftworksnyc.com

Fashionistas short on funds will want to check out this massive three-tiered designer-clothing store. Discounts, even on such sniffy labels as Prada, can reach as high as 80 percent. The staff's friendly to boot.

SHOP Pearl Paint

308 Canal St., 212/431-7932, pearlpaint.com

Every arts and crafts supply under the Gotham sun, and at smart prices, too.

PLAY The Flea Theater

41 White St., 212/226-2407, theflea.org

An award-winning performance space founded by director Jim Simpson, husband of Sigourney Weaver. The venue is intimate and the shows consistently engaging and provocative. The theater's mission? To create "a joyful hell in a small space."

PLAY Pussycat Lounge

96 Greenwich St., 212/349-4800, pussycatloungenyc.com

Leave the scantily clad ladies on level one and venture to the second floor for the real fun—great music and a beautiful crowd. The Saturday dance parties are especially hot. Warning: There's no cover, but some thimble-size drinks can be pricey.

PLAY Trapeze School New York

Hudson River Park below Canal St., between Piers 34 and 26, 917/797-1872, newyork.trapezeschool.com

At this outdoor facility you can face your fears and learn how to fly high like a circus performer. Or just stop by to watch. Experts guide you through every swing, and the company has an excellent safety record. Classes from \$47.

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SEE Mott and Mulberry Streets

These touristy “main streets” are worth mentioning because they serve as good bases for orienting yourself and exploring Chinatown and Little Italy. **Mott** is lined with Chinese (mostly Cantonese) restaurants, but nearby Pell, Bayard, and Doyers Streets are home to more authentic local grocers, tea salons, and lunch counters serving spicy Szechuan and Hunan food, but also lesser-known Fukien, Suzhou, and Zhuzhou flavors. **Mulberry** brims with kitsch and mediocre, overpriced restaurants, but its side streets are where you’ll find wine bars and one-of-a-kind designer boutiques.

SEE Museum of Chinese in the Americas

70 Mulberry St., 212/619-4785, moca-nyc.org

The experiences of Chinese immigrants are well documented in this fascinating second-floor museum. Photographs, memorabilia, and Asian-American art are all on display. Closed Mon. Adults \$3, students and seniors \$1; group tours of historic Chinatown \$12. Call three weeks in advance to book the tour.

EAT Nha Trang

87 Baxter St., north of Bayard St., 212/233-5948

A neighborhood favorite that dishes out Vietnamese food by the heaping plateful. Toothsome marinated pork chops with vermicelli and garlicky sautéed greens are winners. It’s so authentic that there’s even a “Don’t stand on the toilet” sign in the bathroom.

EAT Peking Duck House

28 Mott St., near Chatham Sq., 212/227-1810

A modern spot where it’s all about the crispy fried duck, which, on occasion, is ceremoniously carved tableside. Try it moo-shu style, wrapped in rice pancakes.

EAT Shanghai Cuisine

89 Bayard St., at Mulberry St., 212/732-8988

Don’t be tempted to order anything but the crab-pork soup dumplings—the combination of flavors is like none other. (A couple of baskets makes a meal.) Warning: The tiki drinks pack a punch.

EAT Vincent’s Restaurant

119 Mott St., at Hester St., 212/226-8133

A popular cafeteria specializing in southern Italian seafood dishes. Warning: It sometimes goes heavy on the spicy *pepperoncini* in its red sauce stewed with *frutti de mare* (mussels, calamari, etc.).

DRINK Asia Roma

40 Mulberry St., 212/385-1133

The name, drink list, and lounge decor reflect the unlikely melding of cultures in the surrounding blocks. Think ginseng martinis and good Italian wines.

DRINK Double Happiness

173 Mott St., at Broome St., 212/941-1282

A former speakeasy and mob-run gay bar that’s now a sultry basement lounge. It’s still hidden (there’s no sign) but not impossible to find. People love it for its private nooks and Asian-accented cocktails.

DRINK Mulberry Street Bar

176½ Mulberry St., at Broome St., 212/226-9345

A Little Italy dive bar that looks like a cross between Tony Soprano’s office and the set of *Moonstruck*—simultaneously spare and charming, with all kinds of characters from the neighborhood.

DRINK Tea & Tea

51 Mott St., at Bayard St., 212/766-9889

Duck in here for a traditional Chinese bubble tea with tapioca pearls (made from sweet potato, cassava root, and brown sugar). Some don’t like the chewy “pearl” balls; others crave nothing but. You’ll try anything at least once, right?

SHOP Chinatown Optical

40 Mott St., 212/267-1260

The place for affordable designer eyeglass frames—Gucci, Armani, Calvin Klein, and more. There’s also an optometrist on staff who will give you an eye test and update your prescription for \$10. New glasses can be ready within two hours, so go around the corner for dim sum while you wait.

SHOP J&L Game Trading

28 Elizabeth St., 212/233-3399

Possibly the best-stocked video game store in NYC. It sells “Halo” and “Half Life II,” but gamers will also want to check out the fine selection of international titles.

SHOP SPLURGE Sinotique

19a Mott St., 212/587-2393

A tasteful narrow shop selling Chinese antiques, such as scrolls, carved wooden furniture, and centuries-old ceramics. The friendly owners know their stuff.

PLAY Princess Lounge

59 Bayard St., 212/233-1818

A hopping karaoke bar that updates its songbook with *Billboard*-ranked tunes, including hip-hop and reggae songs. You’ll have to fight for the mic on Fri. and Sat. No cover.

PLAY Noca

310 Spring St., 646/613-8520

A new DJ bar that’s earned a fast following for its diverse mix masters and sounds. Couches are big, and music is low enough so that you can actually have a conversation. Don’t be put off by the velvet ropes (on weekends only)—the doormen are there to welcome you, not size you up.

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SEE Cast-Iron Buildings

Cheap, quick to assemble, and able to have any design motif affixed to their facades (Baroque, Renaissance, etc.), SoHo's cast-iron buildings—which for decades hid sweatshops—reached their construction peak in the late 1800s. **Broadway** and **Greene Streets** are lined with them—two of the best examples are the 1904 **Little Singer Building** (561 Broadway) and the 1857 **Haughwout Building** (488–492 Broadway).

SEE Moss

146 Greene St., 212/204-7100, mossonline.com
It's fun to browse this upscale temple to modern industrial design. The gallery-cum-boutique reserves extra space for Italian furniture and lighting, but you'll also find jewelry, toys, and books. Its "bling-bling" products include a gold lemon squeezer designed by Philippe Starck.

“One belongs to New York instantly.”

—Tom Wolfe

EAT L'Ecole

462 Broadway, 212/219-3300, frenchculinary.com
Do your part for education and sample the student creations at the French Culinary Institute. Dishes are thoughtfully executed, and the restaurant is run like a tight ship. Lunch is \$20.05 for three delectable courses; dinner is \$31.50 for five. Reservations recommended. Closed Sun.

EAT Mooncake Foods

28 Watts St., 212/219-8888
Pan-Asian eats, almost all of which are priced under \$10. Try the edamame soup, spicy hoisin fish taco, or Shanghai-style short ribs. Cash only.

EAT Palacinka

28 Grand St., 212/625-0362
A friendly, low-key *crêperie* serving savory (buckwheat galettes with ham, eggs, and Gruyère cheese) as well as s w e e t — t h i n k bananas, chestnut cream, and layers of Nutella. Cash only.

SPURGE The Kitchen Club

30 Prince St., 212/274-0025, thekitchenclub.com
A small, convivial spot where Japanese-European influences mingle to make one of the city's most unusual menus. The owner's French bulldog, Chibi, often roams the dining room, which is adjacent to the sake bar.

DRINK Merc Bar

151 Mercer St., 212/966-2727, mercbar.com
A well-aged cocktail lounge that still musters a hip vibe. Facade doors are flung wide open in nice weather, making it an especially cool spot to sip Cosmos in summer.

DRINK Ñ

33 Crosby St., 212/219-8856
Sangria, sherry, and potent mixed drinks are poured nightly in this sliver of a Spanish hideaway. It serves good tapas, too.

SHOP Housing Works Used Books Café

126 Crosby St., 212/334-3324, housingworks.org
A rambling used-book store that gets a steady stream of terrific, hard-to-find titles. There's a homey café, and proceeds go to AIDS charity. Hole up here on a rainy day.

SHOP INA

21 Prince St., 212/334-9048, inany.com
A Nolita consignment shop with a dependable selection of seasonal castaways of high-end women's clothing. Browsing is like rifling through your most stylish friend's closet. There's a SoHo location (101 Thompson St., 212/941-4757) and a men's branch, too (262 Mott St., 212/334-2210).

SHOP MoMA Design Store

81 Spring St., 646/613-1367, momastore.org
Aalto glassware, Mabolo totes, and Andy Warhol Pop Boxes are all for sale here. The store brims with gift ideas and with so many innovative items for the home, you'll want to redecorate. There's a reason the Museum of Modern Art has influenced our lives since 1929.

SHOP Pearl River Mart

477 Broadway, 212/431-4770, pearlriver.com
A multilevel Chinese emporium that sells everything—from embroidered slippers to kids' chopsticks, paper lanterns to money cats. New Yorkers love it.

PLAY Café Noir

32 Grand St., 212/431-7910
Listen to DJs spin Afrobeat and Latin music for the price of a caipirinha (or any other drink) at this breezy North African bar and restaurant.

PLAY HERE Arts Center

145 Sixth Ave., at Spring St., 212/647-0202, here.org
Obie Award-winning collaborative arts center prides itself on provocative productions that lean heavily on high-tech bells and whistles. Late-night shows are especially fun, and weird.

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SEE **Guss' Lower East Side Pickles**

85-87 Orchard St., 917/701-4000

Homemade pickles sold straight from massive barrels of vinegary brine have been making people pucker since 1920. To get a glimpse of this true Lower East Side institution, you might have to stand in line. Closed Sat.

SEE **Lower East Side Tenement Museum**

90 Orchard St., near Broome St., 212/431-0233, tenement.org

Don't miss this museum! NYC's rich immigrant history is brought to life in an 1863 tenement building. Guided tours show how a Jewish family lived in the 1870s and how a Sicilian-Catholic family lived in the 1930s. The quarters were shockingly cramped (e.g., two toilets for every four families). Adults \$13, students and seniors \$11. Additional walking tours of the Lower East Side leave Sat. and Sun. at 1 P.M. and 3 P.M. Call to reserve space in advance.

EAT **Falai**

68 Clinton St., 212/253-1960, falainyc.com

A bright white Italian restaurant where the only color is on the plate. The food is all *fatto in casa*, or made in-house; the Florentine owner (formerly the pastry chef at Le Cirque) is a purist and makes all his own pasta (and even chocolate) by hand. Desserts, such as profiteroles with Marsala mousse and chocolate sauce, are marvels.

EAT **Freemans**

Freeman Alley, off Rivington St., between the Bowery and Chrystie St., 212/420-0012, freemansrestaurant.com

An unpretentious, taxidermy-filled American restaurant that emits a strong whiff of yesteryear—old-fashioned cocktails and appetizers like “devils on horseback” (bacon-wrapped prunes stuffed with Stilton cheese). The bartenders are first-rate.

EAT **Il Laboratorio del Gelato**

95 Orchard St., at Broome St., 212/343-9922, laboratoriodelgelato.com

Over 75 varieties of delicious gelato and sorbet. It scoops all the standards but also has some off-beat flavors, too, including black sesame, honey lavender, and green fig. And there really is a “lab,” where ice-creamologists wear white coats.

EAT **Teany**

90 Rivington St., 212/475-9190, teany.com

A delightful, airy café owned by Grammy Award-winning musician Moby. It sells over 90 kinds of tea from around the world, and mostly veggie snacks. Window boxes add extra charm, and even the bathroom is inviting.

\$ SPLURGE **Sammy's Roumanian Steakhouse**

157 Chrystie St., at Delancey St., 212/673-0330

Think chilled vodka, he-man steaks, and schmaltzy performers singing songs from *Fiddler on the Roof*. Don't leave without ordering an egg cream—you'll get a carton of milk, a jar of Fox's U-bet chocolate syrup, and an old-fashioned bottle of seltzer brought right to your table. Good Jewish fun!

DRINK **East Side Company**

49 Essex St., 212/614-7408

You feel like you're about to be shot out of a cannon at this tight tunnel of a bar, but the intimate surroundings work to great effect. The pressed-tin ceiling, cozy leather booths, raw bar, and perfect classic cocktails conspire to create a sophisticated, romantic place to rendezvous. Closed Mon.

DRINK **The Whiskey Ward**

121 Essex St., near Rivington St., 212/477-2998, thewhiskeyward.com

A modern-day saloon with a heady list of scotches and single-malt bourbons.

SHOP **Bluestockings Books**

172 Allen St., 212/777-6028, bluestockings.com

Stacks of empowering titles devoted to revolutionary plights, radical philosophies, and controversial topics du jour. Its volunteer employees are bookish rebels with a cause.

SHOP **Jutta Neumann**

158 Allen St., 212/982-7048, juttaneumann-newyork.com

Hands-on boutique sells a rainbow of leather accessories and useful items, from handbags to key chains. Everything is crafted on-site, and the prices are nice. Closed Sun.

PLAY **Landmark's Sunshine Cinema**

143 E. Houston St., 212/358-7709, landmarktheatres.com

A plush art-house movie theater that's housed in a former Yiddish vaudeville theater.

PLAY **The Slipper Room**

167 Orchard St., at Stanton St., 212/253-7246, slipperroom.com

Homespun va-va-voom burlesque. Showgirls (and showboys) shake their tail feathers on a Victorian, jewel-box stage. Other acts include the “Drag King Squad” and gothic belly dancing. Cover price: free to \$10.

PLAY **The Delancey Lounge**

168 Delancey St., 212/254-9920

Some of the country's hottest (and greenest) rock bands are fighting for billing at this triple-tiered club that's regularly frequented by music execs and celebs on the down low. The rooftop lounge is a treat in summer (BBQ, anyone?).

New York Snap Guide

EAT ChikaLicious

203 E. 10th St., 212/995-9511, chikalicious.com

Sugar-infused tasting menus with dishes like mascarpone semifreddo, espresso granita, and coconut panna cotta with basil sorbet, wine pairings, and petits fours are yours at this ultramodern 400-square-foot dessert bar.

EAT Crif Dogs

113 St. Marks Pl., 212/614-2728

Hot dogs deep fried for your indulgent pleasure.

EAT Jewel Bako Makimono

101 Second Ave., 212/253-7848

Refined Japanese food—tartares, creative makis, and new takes on miso soup—at reasonable prices from culinary wunderkinds Jack and Grace Lamb. There are only 20 seats in all—that’s more than their 12-seat formal dining room around the corner at the very precious **Jack’s Luxury Oyster Bar**.

EAT Mercadito

179 Ave. B, 212/529-6490

A bustling, convivial restaurant that’s entirely devoted to authentic Mexican food—tender pork tacos, spicy chorizo, and made-to-order guacamole. Slurp a margarita on the back patio.

EAT Miss Williamsburg Portavia

228 E. 10th St., 212/228-5355, miss-williamsburg.com

A feel-good Brooklyn import (the original is in a renovated diner at 206 Kent Ave., 718/963-0802) that churns out grandma-style Italian cooking. The menu includes rich pastas and desserts layered with bold flavors, such as cheese fondue lasagna with pesto and panna cotta draped in berries.

DRINK International Bar

120½ First Ave., 212/777-9244

An awesome (and scruffy) granddad bar, where the drinks are simple, the decor nonexistent, and a killer jukebox is packed with Devo, Run-D.M.C., and the Buzzcocks. Want confirmation of its cool factor? The Coen brothers have been known to belly up to the bar.

DRINK Angel’s Share

8 Stuyvesant St., 2nd Fl., 212/777-5415

Masterful bartenders tend this once-little-known Japanese lounge. It’s no longer a secret, so hit it on off-hours, or go early. Try the mint julep. Note: It won’t seat groups larger than four.

DRINK Bar Veloce

175 Second Ave., 212/260-3200, barveloce.com

A popular neutral-toned Italian wine bar with high, narrow tables, blond woods, and smart spotlighting. Its appeal has only increased since it was the site of a freak incident in 2002—a crazy wielding guns and a sword was tackled to the ground by two female patrons. No one was seriously hurt, so drink up!

SHOP Gomynyc

443 E. Sixth St., 212/979-0388, gomynyc.com

Recycling is brought to new creative heights at this green boutique where everything from clothes to furniture is made from sustainable materials. Items such as bike-chain bracelets and “pot holder” rugs are surprisingly chic.

SHOP Kiehl’s

109 Third Ave., 212/677-3171, kiehls.com

154-year-old pharmacy with a no-frills aesthetic sells its own label of beauty products. Its lip balm, grapefruit body lotion, and other all-natural products have garnered a devoted following. Ask for some free samples.

SHOP East Ninth Street

Between Ave. A and Second Ave.

One of the first enclaves of do-it-yourself designers who thumbed their noses at the fashion and design industries, embarked on the fast track, and opened their own boutiques.

PLAY Rififi/Cinema Classics

332 E. 11th St., 212/677-1027, cinemaclassics.com

A bar/screening room that’s part college lounge, part underground arts venue. It pays homage to celluloid greatness and shows old cult horror and sci-fi films on Mon. nights. Other nights are devoted to music (Fri. & Sat.), burlesque (Thurs. & Sun.), and stand-up comedy (Wed.). Cover price: free to \$5.

PLAY Amato Opera Theatre

319 Bowery, 212/228-8200, amato.org

Grand opera in a tiny theater. Anthony and Sally Amato have been turning their passion for arias into a reality since 1948, providing a professional space for young singers to stretch their vocal chords and strut their stuff. (Many have gone on to sing opera on great stages around the world.) You can see a phenomenal production like *La Bohème* for a fraction of what you’d pay uptown. Adults \$30, students and seniors \$25.

PLAY Joe’s Pub

Public Theater, 425 Lafayette St., 212/539-8770, joespub.com

Named for the theater’s late founder, Joseph Papp. It has perhaps the most exciting roster of singers, musicians, comedians, and assorted off-beat acts anywhere in the city. Expect star-spottings. Shows nightly. From \$7.

New York Snap Guide

SEE The Meatpacking District

West of Ninth Ave., between Gansevoort and W. 14th Sts. A cobbled, historic, working neighborhood that's disappearing as fast as you can say "Gucci." It's one of the buzziest parts of town, which makes it a fun, if expensive, playground. *BT's* advice: Go see this slice of New York life before it disappears forever, and then support the neighborhood businesses by treating yourself to *steak frites* at **Florent**, (69 Gansevoort St., 212/989-5779).

SEE Sheridan Square

Seventh Ave. at Christopher and W. Fourth Sts. Named for the Civil War's General Sheridan but known as the epicenter of NYC's gay community—the **Stonewall Inn**, site of the historic 1969 riots for gay rights, is adjacent (212/463-0950). Nearby, **The Duplex** piano bar (61 Christopher St., 212/255-5438) is always a good time. (Joan Rivers performs her catty comedy here.) Neighborhood lesbians like the colorfully festooned **Cubbyhole** (281 W. 12th St., at W. 4th St., 212/243-9041).

EAT Chez Brigitte

77 Greenwich Ave., near W. 11th St., 212/929-6736
A trapped-in-time 11-person counter that serves French comfort food. Its Provençal omelet hits the spot any time of day, and the beef bourguignon is also *très bon*.

EAT 'ino

21 Bedford St., near Sixth Ave., 212/989-5769, cafeino.com
A pocket-sized café that spotlights Italian snacks such as *bruschetta* (little slices of bread with savory toppings). High-concept flavor combinations include asparagus, parmesan, and truffle oil. It recently spawned a larger outpost on the Lower East Side—**inoteca** (98 Rivington St., 212/614-0473).

Extra Virgin

EAT 259 W. Fourth St., 212/691-9359, extravirginrestaurant.com
A stylish, decently priced newbie that serves marvelous Mediterranean dishes including to-die-for Caesar salad, roasted monkfish, and tarte Tatin. It's open for brunch, too.

EAT Lassi

28 Greenwich Ave., 212/675-2688
Authentic North Indian snacks and smoothies (*lassis*) made from low-fat yogurt—sample the rose or lemon blossom. Traditional paratha bread comes stuffed with daikon, goat meat, cheese, and other ingredients.

EAT Milk and Cookies

19 Commerce St., 212/243-1640
Stop here for snickerdoodles, oatmeal-cranberry cookies, and nutter butters like you've never had, and wash 'em all down with a chilled glass of organic milk. Feeling creative? Choose your own "mix-in," and in 10 minutes a mini-batch of your very own made-to-order cookies will emerge warm from the oven.

\$\$\$ SPLURGE Wallsé

344 W. 11th St., 212/352-2300, wallse.com
Austrian cuisine executed with a light, sophisticated touch. Wiener schnitzel that doesn't feel like a punch in the stomach, delicate sauces infused with Riesling—you get the idea. Its martini made with pepper vodka and tomato water is a revelation—like a cocktail plucked from the vine.

DRINK Jack's

138 W. 10th St., 212/929-0821, cupajack.com
Coffee-freak Jack Mazzola takes his java seriously—home brews are full-bodied and low on acid. His great-aunt Rosie's chocolate-chip cookies are a must.

DRINK Employees Only

510 Hudson St., 212/242-3021
Expertly mixed classic cocktails (try a Manhattan) amid sultry art deco decor. The only thing out of place is the tarot-card reader in the window.

DRINK Von

3 Bleecker St., 212/473-3039, vonnyc.com
A well-worn, well-loved, well-stocked bar that pours fine wines by the glass and carries many beers from Europe—a goodly amount from brew capital Belgium.

DRINK Highline

835 Washington St., 212/243-3339, nychighline.com
Head straight to the basement lounge of this space-age Thai restaurant, where ginger mojitos flow freely. If you get hungry, order the steak with lemongrass-cumin mole.

SHOP Partners & Crime

44 Greenwich Ave., 212/243-0440, crimepays.com
An impressive independent bookshop where crime is a passion. There's an authoritative selection of mysteries and crime novels, from Agatha Christie to Claire Matturro. The first Saturday night of every month, Cranston & Spade Theater Co. performs classic 1940s radio scripts at 6 P.M. and 8 P.M. \$5.

SHOP MXYPLYZYK

125 Greenwich Ave., 212/989-4300, mxyplyzyk.com
A clever housewares and gift shop whose name was inspired by a character from a Superman comic.

SHOP C.O. Bigelow Chemists

414 Sixth Ave., 212/533-2700, cobigelowchemists.com
The oldest apothecary in the U.S.—it's been filling prescriptions since 1838. An amazing selection of homeopathic and European health and beauty products.

PLAY Arthur's Tavern

57 Grove St., 212/675-6879, arthurstavernnyc.com
A small, laid-back music club that's hosted terrific talent nightly for over 50 years. Jazz starts at 7 P.M., blues at 10 P.M. No cover.

New York Snap Guide

SEE **Barbara Gladstone Gallery**

515 W. 24th St., 212/206-9300, gladstonegallery.com

Chelsea is the center of contemporary art in the U.S., and this gallery is at the forefront. Expect any media, from photographs to installations, to be on view in this massive exhibition space. Other names to look out for: **Greene Naftali** (526 W. 26th St., Ste. 822), and **Virgil de Voldère** (526 W. 26th St., Ste. 416).

SEE **RMA (Rubin Museum of Art)**

150 W. 17th St., 212/620-5000, rmanyc.org

An impressive new 70,000-square-foot museum dedicated exclusively to Himalayan art. Born out of the private collection of Shelley and Donald Rubin, it brims with authoritative passion—key paintings, sculptures, and textiles feature mostly Tibetan Buddhist, Bon, and Hindu imagery. There's also a café and a store selling books and Himalayan crafts such as yeti dolls. \$7 adults, \$5 students and seniors.

EAT **Craft Bar**

900 Broadway, 212/461-4300

The cheaper sibling of Craft, run by an award-winning chef who's rekindled many a romance with hard-to-find seasonal ingredients such as ramps, morel mushrooms, and white peaches. You get your choice of fish, meat, or pasta from the pared-down main menu, but you can make a meal of the Mediterranean-influenced appetizers, which include a mustardy frisée salad and fried sage leaves stuffed with sausage.

EAT **La Nacional**

239 W. 14th St., 212/243-9308

Expats from the Iberian Peninsula have been visiting the Spanish Benevolent Society since 1868 (Federico García Lorca, Luis Buñuel, et al.), and enjoying its authentic Spanish food—the *tortilla española* (potato omelet), made-to-order *croquetas* (croquettes), grilled calamari, and white sangria are especially good. There's no sign, so enter under the stoop, walk down the hall, and go through the unmarked door. If you happen by on a Thurs., head upstairs and ogle the weekly tango party.

EAT **Nooch**

143 Eighth Ave., 212/691-8600

A style-conscious noodle bar that serves dishes mostly from Japan and Thailand. Designer Karim Rashid's chartreuse accents and curvy furniture give it a cheery veneer.

EAT **Pop Burger**

58-60 Ninth Ave., 212/414-8686

Fast-food chic reaches new heights at this hip burger 'n' fries counter. Shakes are so thick your spoon will stand upright. After dark, the back lounge buzzes with pool players.

DRINK **Enoteca i Trulli**

122 E. 27th St., 212/481-7372, itrulli.com

Serious oenophiles and newbie wine drinkers alike will feel right at home at this Apulian wine bar and trattoria. The waitstaff will tell you all you need to know, whether you order a glass or a flight of three two-ounce pours.

DRINK **Maritime Hotel**

363 W. 16th St., at Ninth Ave., 212/242-4300, themaritimehotel.com

Not your average hotel bar. Its retro nautical-themed lobby with fireplace and massive outdoor terrace are both comfortable (i.e., loads of space) and make good perches for people-watching. There are even more bar stools downstairs at Matsuri, a handsome Japanese resto-bar.

\$ SPLURGE **The Inn at Irving Place**

56 Irving Pl., 212/533-4466, innatirving.com, cibarlounge.com

Traditional five-course tea service with all the trimmings: finger sandwiches, scones, jams, and clotted cream amid Victorian lucre (the Inn may be one of the most precious—and fabulous—properties in the city). By reservation only. Price \$35. Downstairs is the swanky **Cibar Lounge** for those who want something stronger.

SHOP **Greenmarket Farmers Market Union Square**

A picnicker's dream. Contrary to popular belief, New Yorkers do appreciate Mother Nature, and this market is proof. The food is mostly grown within 150 miles of the city and picked the day before. You can find produce, blooms, and organic meats (smoked turkey!), plus yarn, cider donuts, and other handmade goodies. Mon., Wed., Fri., and Sat., 8 A.M.–6 P.M.

SHOP **Print Icon**

7 W. 18th St., 212/255-4489, printicon.com

Cut paper, letterpress stationery, holiday cards, and more. Buy a card for \$3 at this well-loved, 20-year-old store, and take home a work of art. Paper has never looked so good.

PLAY **Roller-skating at the Roxy**

515 W. 18th St., 212/645-5157, roxynyc.com

Strap on skates, and sway to the Bee Gees at this Wed.-night blast-from-the-past event. Aside from taking you on a nostalgia trip, this long-lasting megaclub also hosts some raging dance parties on Fri. and Sat. Admission: \$18.

PLAY **Satalla**

37 W. 26th St., 212/576-1155, satalla.com

A groovy 200-seat venue catering to world-music lovers. It gets top-name talent from around the globe—Africa, Latin America, and beyond. Shows, held most nights of the week, are at 7:30 P.M. and 10 P.M., with extra midnight performances on weekends and family shows on Sunday afternoons. The mission of its founder was to “foster an awareness of the world's cultures” through music. Average ticket price: \$18.

New York Snap Guide

SEE Ceiling at Grand Central Terminal

42nd St. and Park Ave., grandcentralterminal.com

A successful recent renovation project (and serious scrub down) gave this 1913 landmark building with Beaux-Arts façade a much-needed face lift. Now you can actually see the magnificent mural of the October night sky—complete with more than 500 recessed star-lights outlining the zodiac constellations—on the vaulted, pale blue ceiling in the main hall. Inquire at the information booth about **free tours**. Duck downstairs to the new dining concourse for a bite, or for a seafood-laden lunch at the counter at the historic (but noisy) **Grand Central Oyster Bar** (212/490-6650).

SEE Museum of Modern Art

11 W. 53 St., 212/708-9400, moma.org

Updated in every way, The Modern is now truly modern—more urban, ample, and visitor friendly. Architect Yoshio Taniguchi's vision (and the \$425 million renovation) produced a soaring atrium and floor-to-ceiling windows that allow the city in. The ever-expanding art collections, though seemingly exhibited randomly, sing in their new spaces. The sculpture garden is also bigger, and better, than ever. Closed Tuesday. \$20, but it's free on Friday evenings from 4 P.M. to 8 P.M.

EAT Bread & Olive

24 W. 45th St., 212/764-1588, breadandolive.com

A cheery, if narrow, Middle Eastern joint serving superb traditional little dishes (hummus, etc.), as well as succulent chicken shawarma, and unusual home-baked Lebanese breads such as *keshek*, which is sprinkled with dried goat cheese and sesame seeds.

EAT Delegates Dining Room at the United Nations

E. 46th St., at the East River, 212/963-7625, aramark-un.com

Reasonably priced, vast international buffet catering to homesick delegates. The patter of foreign tongues, the scenic views of the East River, and the prospect of rubbing elbows with Kofi also make this a great off-beat lunch spot. Mon.-Fri. only.

EAT Fluff

751 Ninth Ave., 646/289-3025

Hostess®-style, but preservative-free, dessert snacks called Fluff Balls and Fluffy Q's—think SnoBalls and Suzy Q's—are the main attraction, but other feel-goodies, such as pressed cheese sandwiches, are also offered. Open late on weekends.

EAT Tea Box Café at Takashimaya

693 Fifth Ave., 212/350-0179

A Japanese teahouse hidden in the basement of this famed Tokyo department store is a perfect place to rest weary feet. It serves over 40 kinds of tea; sample one with a generous bento-box lunch, or try the finger sandwiches and cookies.

EAT Tony Luke's Old Style Philly Cheese Steak Sandwiches

576 Ninth Ave., 212/967-3055, tonylukesnyc.com

The real deal from the City of Brotherly Love. One bite of the authentic Cheez Whiz-laced steak sandwich, and you'll swoon. Other Philly faves, like the roast pork and broccoli rabe sandwich, are just as good.

DRINK Campbell Apartment

15 Vanderbilt Ave., inside Grand Central off the SW balcony at 43rd St., 212/953-0409, hospitalityholidays.com

Walled off for decades, this former opulent office of tycoon John W. Campbell has been restored to its earlier baronial splendor—an immaculate replica of a 13th-century Florentine palace room. It's terribly civilized, and drinks aren't as expensive as you might think. Helpful hints: Avoid the after-work crowd, and don't wear sneakers—the hostess won't let you in if you do!

DRINK Jimmy's Corner

140 W. 44th St., 212/221-9510

Midtown's best dive bar is a knockout winner of a watering hole—boxer motif, rockin' jukebox, and all.

SHOP Diamond District

W. 47th St., between Fifth and Sixth Aves., diamonddistrict.org

On this busy block you can save thousands of dollars on engagement and diamond right-hand rings, and other sparkly baubles. Some 2,600 diamond businesses populate the district, most of which have booths in the 25 jewelry "exchanges." One respectable name is **AllureDiamond, Inc.** (1 W. 47th St., 212/575-1885). Visit the website for other vendors that abide by the Jewelry Buyer's Bill of Rights. Do research before you go. Sometimes there are bigger discounts if you pay in cash.

Clearview's Ziegfeld Theater

PLAY 141 W. 54th St., 212/777-3456 #602

Gotham's last remaining grand movie palace. The massive art deco style theater has 1,162 velvet-covered seats, gilded molding, and an old-fashioned balcony. There's no better spot to take in a blockbuster. For more classic cinematic fun, check out the **free outdoor film series at Bryant Park**, running Mon. nights at sunset throughout the summer.

Playwrights Horizons

PLAY 416 W. 42nd St., 212/564-1234, playwrightshorizons.org

A writer's theater with a special emphasis on new works from contemporary American playwrights. Don't expect elaborate costuming or theme songs by Elton John: here, it's all about good stories and vibrant, haunting characters. The likes of Morgan Freeman, Dianne Wiest, and Kevin Spacey have graced the stage since its opening in 1971.

New York Snap Guide

SEE Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum

2 E. 91st St. at Fifth Ave., 212/849-8400, ndm.si.edu

The only museum in the U.S. dedicated solely to both historic and contemporary design. Run by the Smithsonian, it's housed in industrialist Andrew Carnegie's handsome 1901 mansion. Curiously, the museum is often overlooked, which makes it blessedly free of crowds. In good weather, the garden is magnificent, so snag a seat on the terrace or find an outdoor table to call your own. Adults \$10, students and seniors \$7. Closed Mon.

SEE Beard Papa

2167 Broadway, 212/799-3770

A sleek Japanese pastry shop selling baked cream puffs with rich vanilla custard filling that have been known to cause stampedes.

EAT Gumbo Café

950 Columbus Ave., 212/222-2378

Great New Orleans basics like stuffed muffuletta sandwiches, smoky jambalaya and red beans, and buttery pecan tarts. The gumbo, made from chef/owner Dexter Stewart's family recipe, is the star—it's been savored for decades in the Big Easy. B.Y.O.B.

EAT Nougatine

1 Central Park West, in the Trump International Hotel & Tower, 212/299-3900, jean-georges.com

The adjacent, more casual café (with outdoor terrace) at acclaimed chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten's self-named restaurant. A three-course \$20 prix-fixe lunch is offered on weekdays (\$24 for two courses in the formal dining room). The French-Asian menu sings with choices, and the desserts are edible jewels.

EAT Sassy's Sliders

1530 Third Ave., at E. 86th St., 212/828-6900, sassysliders.com

Forget White Castle—these bite-size burgers are much better (i.e., not as greasy but just as flavorful). Available in turkey, beef, and veggie. All go perfectly with the golden hand-cut fries.

FIVE-STAR STREET FOOD

- Veggie South Indian crepes from **N.Y. Dosas**, (W. Fourth and Sullivan Sts., on Washington Square Park)
- Wieners with all the fixins at **Dawgs on Park**, (178 E. Seventh St., South side of Tompkins Square Park)
- Burgers and frozen custard at **Shake Shack**, (Southeast corner of Madison Park)
- Red Texas-style chili at **Daisy May's BBQ**, (on Sixth Ave., across from Radio City Music Hall)
- Spicy jerk chicken from **Tony Williams' Cart**, (W. 42nd St., between Eighth and Ninth Aves.)
- Curry creations from **Kwik Meal Cart**, (Southeast corner of W. 45th St. and Sixth Ave.)
- Falafel from **Moishe's Cart**, (Southeast corner of W. 46th St. and Sixth Ave.)

DRINK The Metropolitan Museum of Art

1000 Fifth Ave., 212/535-7710, metmuseum.org

For a bird's-eye view of Central Park and a surefire way to ratchet up a romance, sip wine on the Cantor Roof Garden (open in warm weather only), or nurse a bottle on the Great Hall Balcony, where you can hear free live chamber music on Fri. and Sat., 5–8:30 P.M. \$15 suggested donation.

SHOP Dylan's Candy Bar

1011 Third Ave., 646/735-0078, dylanscandybar.com

Ralph Lauren's daughter, Dylan, sells over 5,000 candies at her super-sized shrine to sugar, located across the street from Bloomies. Custom ice creams, such as "Candy Bar Blast," and an old-fashioned soda fountain with peppermint-stripe stools make visits extra sweet.

SHOP Zabar's

2245 Broadway, at W. 80 St., 212/787-2000, zabars.com

A beloved gourmet-food store known for its Jewish edibles—smoked fish, *babkas*, and an array of creamy bagel schmears. Go upstairs for some of the city's best bargains on kitchenware.

PLAY Sonic Vision

Hayden Planetarium, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at W. 79th St., 212/769-5200, amnh.org

A regular museum music event, the "digitally animated alternative music show" features songs mixed by Moby and trippy graphics cast on the overhead planetarium screen. \$15; Fri. and Sat., 7:30–10:30 P.M.

PLAY Rowboats in Central Park

Loeb Boathouse, E. 74th St., 212/517-2233, nycgovparks.org

From Mar.-Oct. when the weather permits, families, lovebirds, and groups of friends take to the lake in rowboats to laze and splash around, and spot wildlife. (Over 750 kinds of birds have been seen to date.) \$10 for the first hour; \$2.50 every 15 minutes thereafter. Note: A \$30 cash deposit is required to rent. 10 A.M.–5 P.M. Boats must be returned by 6:30 P.M.

PLAY Sit In on a Sotheby's Auction

1334 York Ave., sothebys.com

From Old Masters to the personal collection of Gianni Versace, you never know what might come up for sale. Private treasures are often on display, so sit back and watch the bidding begin. The excitement is contagious. Free Mon.–Fri. during the day.

§ SPLURGE Cabaret at Café Sabarsky

1048 Fifth Ave., 212/288-0665, neuegalerie.org

One of the best cabarets in the city, and the setting is dreamy—an elegant fin de siècle *kaffeehaus* on the ground floor of a 1914 mansion, once home to the Vanderbilts, now the Neue Galerie. See performances ranging from traditional German *cabarett* to contemporary acts, while enjoying buttery apple strudel. Cabaret and dinner from \$90. Thursday only. Note: The cabaret goes on hiatus in the summer, but the café and gallery (adults \$10, students and seniors \$7) are open year-round.

New York Snap Guide

SEE Strivers Row

W. 138th and 139th Sts., between Powell and Douglass Blvds. Blending Georgian and neo-Italian styles, these two rows of 1890s brownstones became the enclave for Harlem's movers and shakers in the 1920s and '30s. Famed architectural firm McKim, Mead & White built the turn-of-the-century houses from no. 203 to no. 267 on W. 139th St.

SEE Studio Museum in Harlem

144 W. 125th St., near Seventh Ave., 212/864-4500, studiomuseum.org

Shows works, including cutting-edge multimedia installations, by contemporary African and African-American artists. There's a great gift shop. Closed Mon. and Tues.

EAT Dinosaur BAR-B-QUE

646 W. 131st St., 212/694-1777, dinosaurbarbque.com

At this friendly biker bar-meets-BBQ joint, order the fried green tomatoes, ribs, and "big ass" pork plates; add your own graffiti to the bathroom; and ask to see the impressive smoker in the back.

EAT Miss Maude's Spoonbread Too

547 Lenox Ave., between 137th and 138th Sts., 212/690-3100, spoonbreadinc.com

Former fashion model Norma Jean Darden relives her childhood in the South here, churning out family recipes like Uncle CL's Fall-Off-the-Bone Short Ribs, fried chicken, and of course, spoonbread.

EAT Panino Sportivo Roma

1231 Amsterdam Ave., at W. 120th St., 212/662-2066, paninosportivo.com

Expertly grilled Italian sandwiches. There are some 58 on the menu, some are served with peppery arugula, ripe tomatoes, and hot peppers. The "Ronaldo," made with buffalo mozzarella and Parma prosciutto, is a big seller. Soccer fans also love the stylish burgundy and gold eatery for its TVs tuned to European "football" games.

DRINK Ding Dong Lounge

929 Columbus Ave., 212/663-2600, dingdonglounge.com

Relive the rebellious years of the 1970s and '80s at this cool, classed-up punk bar. There's a nightly DJ who spins the Dead Kennedys and other bands from the angry days of yore.

DRINK Showman's Cafe

375 W. 125th St., near Morningside Ave., 212/864-8941

A well-maintained jazz/blues and R&B bar that's been a Harlem fave since 1942. Live music starts at 8:30 P.M. on weekdays and 9:30 P.M. on weekends. There's no cover, but from 8 P.M. on there's a two-drink minimum per person per show.

SHOP The Brownstone

2032 Fifth Ave., near 125th St., 212/996-7980, thebrownstone2032.com

Women love this beauty salon/café/jewelry store/clothing boutique featuring pieces by dozens of independent clothing designers. It's a terrific example of Harlem's revitalization and second renaissance.

SHOP Nubian Heritage/Madawa/Nicholas

2037-2033 Fifth Ave., at 125th St., 212/427-8999, nubianheritage.com

A friendly spot with all manner of African tchotchkes.

SHOP Malcolm Shabazz Harlem Market

52 W. 116th St., near Malcolm X Blvd., 212/987-8131

You'll feel like a globe-trotter in sub-Saharan Africa as you browse the many traditional crafts, textiles, clothing, and carved woodwork at this covered market. Open seven days a week, from 10 A.M.–8 P.M., and Saturday is "giveaway day."

“New York is a city
where everyone
mutinies but
no one deserts.”

—Harry Hershfield

PLAY Amateur Night at the Apollo Theater

253 W. 125th St., near Frederick Douglass Blvd. 212/531-5300, apollotheater.com

Every Wednesday at 7.30 P.M., the recently renovated Apollo erupts in jeers and cheers as undiscovered singers belt it out. Ella Fitzgerald and James Brown got their starts here. Who knows who you might hear? Tickets from \$18. Call 212/531-5337 for info on its one-hour backstage tours.

PLAY Professional African Hair Braiding Center

315 W. 125th St., near St. Nicholas Ave., 212/280-7521

A popular salon that's always buzzing. Transform yourself into a goddess (or god) with a braid spiral that lasts for weeks; \$10 per plait. Cornrows from \$30. Cash only.

New York Snap Guide

BRONX

SEE Arthur Avenue

Bordered by Fordham Rd., Third Ave., Southern Blvd., and Tremont Ave., arthuravenuebronx.com

The “Belmont” neighborhood is home to NYC’s real Little Italy, and Arthur Ave. is its main street. Check out the covered Retail Market and begin a tasting tour of gelato, cured meats, and other authentic flavors from the Old Country. While you’re in the area, skip over to the nearby (and vast) **New York Botanical Garden**.

EAT Mario’s

2342 Arthur Ave., at 184th St., 718/584-1188

For the quintessential Arthur Ave. experience, duck in here for real red sauce dishes from southern Italy. It hasn’t changed a lick since the 1950s.

PLAY Gotham Girls Roller Derby

Skate Key, 220th E. 138 St., gothamgirlsrollerderby.com

Check out NYC’s all-female roller league and get ready to rumble. It’s fun, vicious entertainment. The she-skaters, with names like Baby Ruthless, fight like pros. Doors open at 7:30 P.M., bouts start at 8:30 P.M. Open-skate after-party. Check the schedule online. \$12.

ESCAPE

You don’t have to leave Gotham to escape the city. Here are two places where you can relax, rejuvenate, and leave the hustle and bustle behind.

Russian & Turkish Baths

268 E. 10th St., 212/674-9250, russianturkishbaths.com

The sauna, sizzling steam room, and icy plunge pool at the “Tenth Street Baths” have been providing hangover remedies and keeping New Yorkers healthy since 1892—it’s the place for an old-fashioned *shvitz*, or sweat. Massages from \$35 (30 minutes). Mon., Tues., Thur., Fri., 11 A.M.–10 P.M. (coed); Wed., 9 A.M.–2 P.M. (women only), 2–10 P.M. (coed); Sat., 7:30 A.M.–10 P.M. (coed); Sun., 7:30 A.M.–2 P.M. (men only), 2–10 P.M. (coed); \$25 for a one-day admission.

Juvenex Spa

25 W. 32nd St., 5th Fl., 646/733-1330, juvenexspa.com

Rejuvenation remedies from around the globe are administered at this fab 24/7 Koreatown spa, open to women seven days a week. Coed hours begin nightly at 9 P.M. 90-minute access to the diamond-shaped glass steam room with Chinese herbal infusions, a detox sauna made of yellow clay, and baths saturated with sake or ginseng and lemon is \$65.

QUEENS

SEE Isamu Noguchi Garden Museum (Long Island City)

9-01 33rd Ave., at Vernon Blvd., 718/204-7088, noguchi.org

A gem of a museum dedicated solely to the Modernist Japanese-American sculptor. Its prolific collection includes landscape projects made with R. Buckminster Fuller, dance sets for Martha Graham, and organic 3-D works in granite and basalt. Contemplate the universe in its enclosed Zen garden. Closed Mon. and Tues. Admission: \$5.

SEE P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center (Long Island City)

22-25 Jackson Ave., at 46th Ave., 718/784.2084, ps1.org

An under-the-radar MoMA partner that shows a wide range of contemporary art in its galleries, housed in a converted public school. Shows often smack of controversy. It’s worth the trip. Open Thurs.–Mon. 12–6 P.M. Suggested admission: \$5.

“New York is a diamond iceberg floating in river water.”

—*Truman Capote*

EAT Elias’s Corner (Astoria)

24-02 31 St., at 24th Ave., 718/932-1510

Don’t wait for a menu at this lively Greek taverna, because you’ll never get one. Instead, hop up and take your pick from the glass case full of daily catches (or just ask for the lamb chops). Also order the yogurty *tsatsiki* and *skorthalia* (potatoes with garlic) dips, and the tender marinated and grilled octopus. Cash only.

DRINK Bohemian Hall & Beer Garden (Astoria)

29-19 24th Ave., 718/274-4925, bohemianhall.com

A charmingly dusty (and authentic) Czech social club. You don’t have to be a member to sample pilsners, such as Staropramen, Czechvar, Kozel, and Radegast. There’s no better place than its massive garden for lolling away a summer afternoon. Closed Tues.

DRINK Cafe Bar (Astoria)

32-90 36th St. at 34th Ave., 718/204-5273

A comfortable, funky lounge with stained-glass windows and a light largely vegetarian menu that’s popular with hipsters as well as local Greeks. It pours ouzo drinks at its sidewalk tables in the summer.

New York Snap Guide

SEE Lower Manhattan's Skyline (Brooklyn Heights)

Take the A/C to High St., or the 2/3 to Clark St., and head west. For stellar views of the bottom half of the Big Apple, walk across the Brooklyn Bridge or along the Brooklyn Promenade, a 1/3-mile-long boardwalk that runs from the edge of the East River up by leafy, brownstone-packed Brooklyn Heights.

SEE Smith St. (Carroll Gardens) and Fifth Ave. (Park Slope)

Stroll these arteries and check out the borough's hottest boutiques, bars, and restaurants.

EAT 360 (Red Hook)

360 Van Brunt St., at Wolcott St., 718/246-0360

A French-blooded eatery and labor of culinary love. Dishes on its jaw-droppingly affordable three-course prix-fixe menu change daily, and there's an unusual selection of organic wines. Take a cab (\$12 from Lower Manhattan). Reservations highly recommended. Cash only.

EAT Applewood (Park Slope)

501 11th St., between Seventh and Eighth Aves.
718/768-2044, applewoodny.com

The husband-wife team here creates an inviting atmosphere, and offers a wholesome, hormone-free menu of seasonal ingredients—which means you won't feel quite as bad stuffing yourself silly on good American eats. Closed Mon.

EAT Frankies 457 Spuntino (Carroll Gardens)

457 Court St., between Fourth Pl. and Luquer St.
718/403-0033, frankies457.com

Hands-down, one of the best new additions to Brooklyn's exploding dining scene. Pick from a grab-bag menu of hearty, Italian snacks, including crostini, cured meats, roasted veggies, artisanal cheeses, and Roman-style pecorino bread.

EAT Zipe Zape (Williamsburg)

152 Metropolitan Ave., near Berry St. 718/599-3027

Nibble on some traditional tapas dishes or tasting menus of 5 or 10 at this friendly corner resto-bar straight from the Iberian Peninsula. In case you're wondering, it's named after a Spanish cartoon character. Closed Mon.

DRINK Barcade (Williamsburg)

388 Union Ave., 718/302-6464, between Bowers and Ainslie,
barcadebrooklyn.com

Take a nostalgia trip to this Billburg bar, where Ms. Pacman likes to toss 'em back with the Super Mario Brothers. There are some 30 original arcade games in all, and an expertly curated selection of microbrews. Here, the fun comes cheap—25¢, to be exact.

DRINK Brooklyn Social (Carroll Gardens)

335 Smith St., near 2nd Pl., 718/858-7758

This former Italian social club channels the Big Band and Rat Pack eras with verve. Well-dressed bartenders shake and stir drinks such as the Society Riposto—the club's namesake, made with vodka, tangerine, and rosemary.

SHOP ABC Carpet & Home Warehouse (DUMBO)

20 Jay St., near Plymouth St., 718/643-7400, abchome.com

Discounts from this legendary temple to good taste can reach as much as 75 percent during warehouse sales, but even on a regular day expect prices to be slashed in half. The selection of furniture, linens, and rugs is dizzying, and the store ships! Call 718/842-8772 for info on its Bronx location.

SHOP Soula (Boerum Hill)

185 Smith St., near Warren St., 718/834-8423, soulashoes.com

Sneaker snobs (John Varvatos for Converse, anyone?) will love this place. It also sells loafers and summer slides, and for a good deal less than what you'd pay on "the Island." The store's owner is a former shoe buyer for Barney's—need we say more? Closed Mon.

PLAY Deno's Wonder Wheel and The Cyclone (Coney Island)

wonderwheel.com, astroland.com, Take D, F, N, or Q train to Stillwell Ave., the last stop

The Wonder Wheel (\$5 per ride)—85 years old and once the world's tallest Ferris Wheel—and the 78-year-old, wood-frame Cyclone roller-coaster (\$5 per ride) are Coney Island institutions. Both rides, which undergo strict inspections, make even the bravest thrill-seekers scream—that's why people love 'em! Open Apr.–Oct. Check online for complete schedule.

ESCAPE

North Fork Wineries

northfork.com

This branch of outer Long Island, known for its golden beaches and 25-plus wineries, couldn't be more different from its snooty South Fork neighbor the Hamptons. Take a **Vintage Tour** (631/765-4689; vintagetours.com); from \$58 per person, including lunch with wine) and bunk at the **Red Barn B&B** (631/722-3695; redbarnbandb.com); rates from \$125). Drive to Orient Point for scenic ocean views.

Located 85 miles from Manhattan, driving time (without traffic delays) is under two hours. Take the LIE (495) to Riverhead and Rt. 25 beyond; daily car rentals in M a n h a t t a n from \$69. Or, hop the LIRR to Greenport (\$14.50 each-way off-peak) and arrange for tours to pick you up there. For a list of wineries and their hours, contact **Long Island Wine Country** (631/369-5887; liwines.com).