

# As a tourist what is the best area of New York to stay in?

 [quora.com/As-a-tourist-what-is-the-best-area-of-New-York-to-stay-in](https://www.quora.com/As-a-tourist-what-is-the-best-area-of-New-York-to-stay-in)



I'm assuming you're a typical tourist and they usually only mean Manhattan, even though the city is officially the five boroughs (Manhattan, Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island). There's plenty of areas to stay in outside of Manhattan, even though that's where the most "touristy" sites are. I recommend not limiting yourself to just Manhattan (like most tourists do), as every borough has a different flavor and you enjoy the city more that way. There's pros and cons to each area, so I'll list them. Keep in mind that areas are subjective, and there's no concrete definition to where they start/end (they even overlap).

## Midtown Manhattan:

This is defined as the Times Square/Herald Square/Empire State Building area from W 50th St to about W 30th St. It's the most popular area with tourists because it basically has all the "must see"s.

Pros - You're in the middle of all the popular tourist attractions.

Cons - Super expensive, you run into a lot of tourist traffic. Hotel rooms here are easily over \$200/night. Food/restaurants are expensive and they (typically) suck.

## East/West Village:

This area is actually one of my favorite areas of Manhattan because it's unpretentious and un-glamorous, but gives you a nice taste of New York City as well as being one of cheaper alternatives in Manhattan. It also has a big gay community (and even home to famous places like Big Gay Ice Cream and the Pyramid Club). This area runs from around 10th Street down to Houston St.

Pros - Has a lot of nice bars (to drink and hang out, not to dance), good street art, good indy music scene.

Cons - Very grungy and grimy looking (I actually like this part), you may experience some trouble with rif-rafs/drunks, but nothing serious.

## Upper East/West Side:

Generally running from 50th Street to 90th Street. It's basically a very residential area full of rich people and a few specialty boutiques.

Pros - Quiet, clean and nice looking.

Cons - Far away from all the "action," expensive.

## Harlem:

Running from slightly upward of 100th St to the 150's (in Manhattan). Don't discount this

area because it's rich in history and can be a pleasant surprise while being a cheap alternative. With the express subways on 125th Street, you can probably reach Midtown in 10-20 minutes.

Pros - Lots of attractions/sights to see there, relatively cheap, street art is nice.

Cons - Looks run down (a bit ghetto, but it's relatively safe anyway).

Lower Manhattan:

Running from Houston St to the southern tip of Manhattan (which is where the ferries to Staten Island/Liberty Island are). This includes Chinatown, Financial District (NY Stock Exchange), South Street Seaport, World Trade Center and more, and you'll see many corporations do their business here.

Pros - A lot of sights/attractions, many skyscrapers (if that's your thing), good bar/dancing/dining options but only around Houston St. give or take a few streets north/south.

Cons - Expensive, very cramped especially in the Financial District (I still feel like I'm entering a dwarf village, because the size of the roads and everything get so narrow you can't help but notice).

Of course, there's also Queens, Brooklyn, and the Bronx. I'd avoid the South Bronx completely (Yankee Stadium is nice to visit, but get out of there after the game ends and the crowds are gone) and areas of Brooklyn like Ocean Hill / Brownsville, East New York, Bed - Stuy (now called Clinton Hill thanks to rich gentrifiers), Flatbush. Staten Island is not a bad area, but the problem is that it's very isolated from the rest of the city and is actually closer to New Jersey (the state over). There's not that much to see there either. Aside from the "avoid" areas I mentioned, you won't have a problem being safe.

The best thing you can do is not look or act like a tourist. Of course, you won't be able to help that if this is your first time visiting a big city, but like they say "fake it until you make it." Of course, that doesn't mean you have to be rude. One of the ways to make sure the city will eat you alive is to piss off the locals.

My recommendations on where to stay: East/West Village, Harlem, Astoria (Queens), Long Island City (Queens), Jackson Heights (Queens)

## Related Questions [More Answers Below](#)



As a tourist, first and foremost, you should want to avoid other tourists, and tourist areas. That is, be a traveler, not a tourist. So rule #1 is stay as far from Times Square as physically possible. If you MUST see Times Square, get in, take a picture, and get out, as fast as possible. Don't buy anything, don't eat anything, and, if possible, don't touch

anything (you actually can get a good meal in the adjacent Theater District, but do your homework and stay away from all the chains and iconic tourist traps (keep it to places like Becco, and away from places like Carmine's, or heaven for...

### Continue Reading



Lots of good detailed answers already and a few mentioning Jersey City as well. Thought I'd elaborate on the 'where in Jersey city' bit. If you're on a budget, want to stay in a safe and quiet neighborhood but still be mins away from the city, staying at Newport, Jersey City would be a great option.

Here's why :

~The 24/7 PATH train service will get you to downtown(WTC) and midtown(33rd street) in 7 to 13 mins <http://www.panynj.gov/path/maps-...>

~So if you're near the station, door to door, it will be 10 mins to WTC, 10 mins to Greenwich Village, 20 mins to Herald Square, 30 mins to Times Square, 40 mins to Central Park, 20 mins to the statue of liberty NJ ferry station

~Both the WTC and 33rd street stations are transportation hubs with several NY subway lines that can take you to all parts of the city in mins

~Picture perfect Hudson River and Manhattan skyline views since it's at the waterfront

~One of the safest neighborhoods in the Greater NY city area

~Posh multicultural community with lots of options to eat and shop nearby

<http://newportnj.com/>

~Easily accessible from the airports via uber pool as well as public transportation

While the hotels in the area are Courtyard, The Westin and Double Tree by Hilton, you'll also find some amazing airbnb options in the luxury high rise waterfront apartments for half the price.

Enjoy your trip to the Big Apple!!!

14.9k views · [View 7 Upvoters](#)



Without a doubt, the best place to stay in New York City as a new tourist is in the middle of everything. Times Square is the heart from which all veins flow to the extremities of the five boroughs and beyond. But brace yourself for maneuvering the teeming masses everywhere.

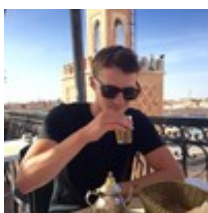
If you've been to New York once before, then I would suggest venturing away from Times Square. Maybe try the Upper West Side or downtown in TriBeCa. These neighborhoods are a little trickier as home base to explore from, but still reasonably accessible to all the city has to offer.

Travel sites may suggest staying outside of Manhattan, such as in trendy Brooklyn or nearby Jersey City. Unless you've visited us at least twice before or have wilderness survival skills, don't. The last thing you want is to get stuck in Williamsburg on the weekend because the L train, the only way out, isn't running.

2.9k views · [View 2 Upvoters](#)

## Related Questions [More Answers Below](#)

- [Where's the quietest safest neighborhood in New York City?](#)
- [Which are the most dangerous neighbourhoods in Manhattan?](#)
- [Should I not walk through Central Park at night?](#)
- [What is the most dangerous stretch of road in New York City?](#)
- [Is it very dangerous to take the subway in New York City?](#)



[Ben Granas](#), lived in New York City

[Updated Jun 9, 2017](#)

I lived in NYC for 7 years and spent time in almost every neighborhood in the city. Deciding where to stay entirely depends on what kind of trip you are looking for: would you rather stay within walking distance of the most popular tourist sites? Do you want to experience the city like a local? Do you want to be as far away from the other tourists as possible?

Below are the most popular areas to stay. You can see a further breakdown of the best areas to stay and choose your perfect area based on your interests at [TripHappy](#). (disclaimer: I am a founder at TripHappy).

□

If you want to be in the thick of the action near the tourist sites, stay in the **Theater District [A]**, **Herald Square [B]**, or **Midtown East [H]**. These neighborhoods are all within walking distance to Times Square, the Empire State building, and Central Park. There's no shortage of restaurants, shopping and things to do, but know that you will be experiencing the city as a tourist, as most locals don't spend too much time in these areas after work is over.

If you are looking for a more local experience, **Chelsea [D]**, **East Village [E]**, **West Village [F]**, **the Lower East Side [I]**, and **Williamsburg [J]** are the best areas to stay. Each of these neighborhoods has a completely different vibe, from the more artsy and rough

East Side to the more tony, upscale West Village/Chelsea. If you really want to get away from tourists, consider venturing across the East River to Williamsburg.

A cross between a more local feel but still close to tourist sites would be the **Financial District [C]** and the **Upper West Side [G]**. Both of these areas still feel local but are close to popular sites like the 9/11 Museum and Central Park.

My personal recommendation would be to stay in the East Village or West Village. Both these areas are packed with great bars and restaurants and you can really get a feel for what it is like to live in NYC here.

85k views · [View 19 Upvoters](#) · [View Sharers](#)



[Robert Lopez](#), lives in New York City

[Updated May 19, 2016](#) · 1.1k3.5m

This is a seriously subjective question. One person said Times Square, to me that's like throwing me in the lowest level of hell. Of course it depends on what you want to visit, how you vacation, where you want to go while here, etc etc. Personally I love Chinatown, the thought of waking up in the middle of that area and being able to sample all the foods each morning would be amazing. But some people think Chinatown is hellish, and although it is very very crowded as well, it's not mostly filled with tourists who walk too slow and only look up.

30.3k views · [View 9 Upvoters](#) · Answer requested by [Anthony Hughes](#)



[Howard Freeman](#), lives in New York City

[Answered Aug 9, 2015](#) · 56125.3k

Most tourists have these criteria: affordability; quality/value in accommodations; safe neighborhood; access to shops and sites; restaurants; near major public transportation; not far from airport/train station; and, lastly, parking (if they drive in). And many tourists want to feel like they're staying in "the real New York" and "where the action is."

The Upper West Side of Manhattan, particularly between 72nd and 86th Streets, satisfies most if not all these criteria.

30.1k views · [View 5 Upvoters](#)



Yuxiao Xu, Student at UC Berkeley, Scuba Diver

Answered Mar 9, 2016

I assume you are asking about the city, not the state? I did visit NYC a couple of times, but never have I lived there.

For a tourist, midtown is definitely the best place to stay. Check out all those hotels over there and you will know how popular it is as a tourist place. :D Midtown has all the access to skyscrapers, central park, Ktown, Times Sq. etc. Oh... the Lady M shop by Bryant Park... it's soooooo good!

Whatever you want to see and experience in NYC, you are at most a subway away. Plus it is a relatively safe area.

Bon voyage!

14.9k views



Anonymous

Answered May 31, 2016

My favorite spot in Manhattan is the Finance District and here's why:

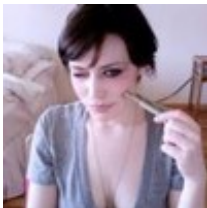
For similar hotel prices to staying in New Jersey, you can stay at the numerous hotels in the finance district.

It is an easy cab ride to anywhere most tourists would want to go ( Times Square, Hell's Kitchen, Chelsea, etc)

It neighbors Battery Park (statue of liberty anyone?) And Brooklyn Bridge.

All in all, it's always worked out to be such a low key but well placed location that I will always stay there if I got to NYC. Enjoy.

11.9k views · [View 1 Upvoter](#)



If cost is no factor in your decision, stay in lower Manhattan. Doing touristy things can be tiring! It's a luxury at the end of a long day to have your accommodations be closer to your activities and easier on a visitor to navigate back to. If you look at the nightly rate of a nice hotel in lower Manhattan and can only afford half that cost, stay in a nice hotel in Williamsburg in Brooklyn instead of a similarly priced hotel near Times Square. Just my 2 cents.



It depends on what you are looking for !

All the areas have their own specificities.

- **Midtown** : This is the iconic New York that so many visitors imagine before they visit - spectacular skyscrapers like the Chrysler Building and Empire State Building, iconic public buildings like Grand Central Terminal and the New York Public Library, and the non-stop hustle and bustle of the city streets. Fifth Avenue is a shopper's paradise where you can find every kind of store imaginable, with fashion brands ranging from the affordable to the ultra-fancy.
- **Greenwich /West Village** : You'll find students, stre...

[Continue Reading](#)





Downtown Brooklyn area call DOMBO( under Brooklyn and Manhattan Bridge) which is very historical especially coffeehouses . One of them recently come into life name is Brooklyn Roasting Company which is disciple of John Arbuckle who invented Roasted Coffee beginning of the century which was National Brand name ARIOSA. John Arbuckle who died mysteriously year of 1912. John Arbuckle was wear long beard today's DOMBO hipster follow the his long beard footsteps and honoring him. Brooklyn Roasting Company hipster hub makes delicious coffee along side with coffee related beverages .

9.5k views



I have stayed in New York for quite some time around 3 years for my business purpose. I loved every bit of the city and the neighbourhoods are very lively here.

If you are looking for a more local experience, I think **Chelsea, East Village**<sup>[1]</sup>, **the Lower East Side**<sup>[2]</sup> are the best options. I stayed in Chelsea neighbourhood in the borough of Manhattan where Hudson River and West Street are very much part of this area.

□

Though each neighbourhood has distinct character and vibe, I loved staying in **Chelsea** as it has a diverse and *dynamic community, cutting-edge art galleries and huge green park space...*

[Continue Reading](#)



✓