Food

New York City (NYC) has so many places to eat that you could eat at a new restaurant every day for 21 years and not run out of new places to try. More importantly, unlike most college towns, NYC has restaurants from a magnitude of cultures that offer dishes authentic to that culture that have not been Americanized. You can find Mexican, Spanish, Japanese, Greek, Mediterranean, French, Philippine, Pakistani, Chinese, Ethiopian, Jamaican, Taiwanese, and many other cuisines. This makes NYC any foodies dream location to visit. NYC also offers a plethora of dining experiences for any budget that do not sacrifice taste. Do not be afraid to stop at a food truck or a restaurant the size of a walk-in closet, because in NYC you cannot judge the quality of food by the location it is served. So, whether you are looking for a cheap eat or a royalty-grade dining experience, you can find a restaurant with five-star food. Here are a few restaurants that come highly recommended.

Shake Shack

Shake Shack is a NYC classic. They have great simple burgers and fries and are a cheap-eat. Plus, while you are eating your burger, you can enjoy Madison Square Park.

11 Madison Avenue # 1

New York, NY 10010

40.741587, -73.986989

Roberta's

What is NYC without pizza? Roberta’s is known for their brick-oven pizza, but they also have other items on the menu. Plus, they deliver!

261 Moore Street

Brooklyn, NY 11206

40.705070, -73.933602

Red Rooster

Red Rooster has modern décor and is a great place to have fun. Eat, drink, dance, and enjoy yourself!

310 Malcolm X Boulevard

New York, NY 10027

40.808109, -73.944769

Smorgasburg

Smorgasburg should be every foodies destination. The street is filled with food vendors on Saturday from 10-5 with plenty of cheap-eat options. Why pick one restaurant? Eat a little bit of everything till you can’t eat anymore. They are sure to have something you will like.

90 Kent Ave

Brooklyn, NY 11211

40.721494, -73.962122

Peter Luger Steak House

Although they try, no stake house in NYC compares to Peter Luger Steak House. It is pricey, but every bite will be cherished. Dine here to enjoy the best steak in NYC.

178 Broadway

Brooklyn, NY 11211

40.709839, -73.962494

Dessert

I hope you have a sweet tooth! Even if don’t, you must try one of the exceptional desserts available in NYC. Because of the cultural diversity, NYC hosts many unique bakeries and dessert shops. After you eat dinner, stop by one of the dessert specialty shops to have your mind blown. You can find puddings, cakes, pies, doughnuts, smoothies, cookies, cupcakes, muffins, ice-cream, frozen yogurt, tartes, candies, crepes, baklava, cannoli, rice pudding, crème brulee, flan, and more. You haven’t truly had these desserts until you’ve tried the ones made by those who have mastered the art. I have had the best flan of my life in NYC in a small Spanish restaurant and I will never eat flan anywhere else again. Here are a few dessert shops to mark on your map.

[Buenos Aires](https://foursquare.com/v/buenos-aires/49cd02b2f964a520a9591fe3)

513 E 6th St (btwn Avenue A & B),

New York, NY 10009

40.725220, -73.983147

Be prepared to never eat flan anywhere else again. Buenos Aires is a great place to have lunch, but make sure you save room for a dessert… or two!

Dun-Well Doughnuts

222 Montrose Avenue

Brooklyn, NY 11206

40.707372, -73.940263

Doughnuts are so simple, who knew they could taste so good! Grab breakfast at Dun-Well Doughnuts and enjoy a coffee and the best doughnuts ever. Plus, the doughnuts are vegan!

Momofuku Milk Bar

382 Metropolitan Avenue

Brooklyn, NY 11211

40.714012, -73.955383

Momofuku Milk Bar is truly a unique experience. You must try their cereal milk, it tastes better than milk leftover from a bowl of cereal, and you don’t have to eat the cereal. Their crack pie and compost cookie are also a must have.

Ovenly

31 Greenpoint Avenue

Brooklyn, NY 11222

40.729868, -73.959575

Ovenly is delicious and gluten-free. This is a great dessert shop for those with dietary restriction, and those without. At Ovenly, you don’t have to sacrifice taste.

Marthas Country Bakery

70-30 Austin Street

Flushing, NY 11375

40.720332, -73.845950

Marthas Country Bakery is always packed and a long train ride from the Bronx, but defiantly worth the wait. They are famous for their Tiramisu and Berry Napoleon Pie. They offer an assortment of cakes, pies, and cookies. Takeout is always an option.

Museums

Some of the greatest museums in the world are in NYC. NYC is the home of 83 museums including the Brooklyn Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum, the 9/11 Memorial Preview Site, the Museum of the City of New York, the New York Transit Museum, the Children's Museum Of Manhattan, and Ripley's Believe it or Not! Times Square. The Metropolitan Museum of Art is the largest art museum in the US and the Museum of Modern Art is recognized as one of the largest museums of modern art in the world. There are museums of art, culture, plants and animals, American history, world history, space, military equipment, literature, and more. There are hours of art to appreciate, years of culture to learn about, and fun for all ages and interest. Find the museum right for you. Here is a summary of some of the most interesting museums in NYC.

Museum of Natural History

Central Park West at 79th Street

New York, NY 10024

40.781318, -73.973999

The Museum of Natural History is a great place to learn about humans, plants, and animals. It is one of the biggest museums in the world. You could spend the whole day walking through just one section of the museum. One of the most interesting segments is dedicated to space with a meteor on display and a planetarium.

Metropolitan Museum of Art

1000 5th Ave

New York, NY 10028

40.779437, -73.963251

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, also known as the Met, contains art from Egypt, Europe, America, Africa, Asia, India, Islam, and other countries. It houses drawings, painting, instruments, photographs, sculptures, carvings, and everything in-between. The Met also displays modern art, gardens, and libraries. There is something for everyone to enjoy.

Museum of Sex

233 5th Ave

New York, NY 10016

40.744102, -73.987406

The Museum of Sex is a great place to learn about the sex, past and current. The museum takes you through the history of condoms, sex toys, pornographic literature and pornographic video. It also displays sex inspired art pieces. The museum is tastefully done, thoroughly educational, and definitely entertaining.

The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA)

11 W 53rd St

New York, NY 10019

40.761429, -73.977638

The MoMA displays a large collection of modern and contemporary art. There are drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, videos, and more on display. This is a great place to be inspired and discuss art with like-minded art lovers.

Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum

Pier 86, W 46th St & 12th Ave

New York, NY 10036

40.764547, -73.999613

The Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum is a military museum at Pier 86. Some of the popular exhibits include an aircraft career, a submarine, a space shuttle, and a supersonic reconnaissance plane. This is the only museum in NY displaying a spacecraft.

Drinks

Every bar in NYC is a unique experience, each having its own atmosphere and character. There are lounges, sports bars, night clubs, dive bars, Irish pubs, college bars, cigar bars, and everything in between. If you live outside NYC, expect drink prices to be a bit higher than those at your local bar. There are many nightclubs and lounges in NYC that celebrities like Leonardo DiCaprio, Jay-Z, Justin Beiber, Robin Thicke, Macklemore, Chris Brown, Adam Lampert, Neil Patrick Harris, Lady Gaga, and Justin Timberlake are often seen. These nightclubs and lounges include The Darby, 1 Oak, Acenue, Finale, Boom Boom Room, Goldbar, and Provocateur Café. Many of the bars like these are invitation only, so let’s talk more about bars you’re more likely to party at.

Franklin Park

618 St Johns Pl

Brooklyn, NY 11238

40.672294, -73.957823

Franklin Park is fun a bar with plenty of things to do. There is indoor and outdoor seating, DJs, open mic, videos games, and trivia. They are also connected to Dutch Boy Burger so you can get food delivered to you in the bar.

Brooklyn Brewery

79 N 11th St

Brooklyn, NY 11249

40.721730, -73.957170

Brooklyn Brewery brews the popular Brooklyn Lager which is served in many bars across NYC. The brewery also offers tours. Come enjoy a Brooklyn Lager from the source.

Comedy Cellar

117 Macdougal St

New York, NY 10012

40.730218, -74.000586

Comedy Cellar is one of the most entertaining places to grab a drink. It is one of the best standup comedy locations. Tickets are reasonably priced and there is a two-drink minimum. You will see popular comedians like Louis C.K. Dave Chappelle, Chris Rock and Ray Romano.

Output

74 Wythe Avenue

Brooklyn, NY 11249

40.722311, -73.957844

Output is one of the best night clubs in NYC with a high-quality sound system and roof-top dancing. The club hosts internal DJs and live music. The club fills up quick, so get there early.

The Cobra Club

6 Wyckoff Ave

Brooklyn, NY 11237

40.706697, -73.923510

The Cobra Club is another great bar to have fun. If you didn’t like yoga before, this club offers yoga classes with a free momosa! For entertainment, they also have a karaoke stage.

Lodging

When picking where to stay the night in NYC, cost, safety, and location are all important considerations. Cost varies widely, from $50 for an Airbnb room or motel to thousands of dollars for a luxury suite. Cost usually drops significantly in less neighbors and locations far from Manhattan. When looking for a room for the cheapest price, Airbnb is usually the safer option. Motels selling for $50 a night are most likely not clean or in a dangerous neighborhood. Now let’s consider location. Staying in a cheap location that is far from your destination may not fit into your schedule or be cost effective. It can take more than an hour and half using public transportation to travel across NYC. Also, a taxi may not be faster depending on the traffic and will cost a lot more money. Airbnb is also a great way to stay in a location like Time Square on a low budget. Let’s look at some of the top-rated places to stay the night in NYC that are in safe locations and near some of the top tourist attractions.

Airbnb

Apartment

Near Union Square

40.733355, -73.987944

Airbnb is a cheap way to stay in a safe clean location in NYC. For example, a woman is renting a one-occupant room in her apartment. It is $50 a night and includes breakfast and a private room with a bed, couch, TV, internet, wireless internet, and access to the kitchen. Plus, her customers gave her a 4.5/5-star rating. The apartment is close to Union Square, public transportation, and grocery stores.

The NoMad Hotel

1170 Broadway   
New York 10001

40.744959, -73.988558

The NoMad Hotel is a historic hotel with modern décor located in Midtown. In the lobby, you can find a bar with great cocktails on the menu and an eatery serving dishes such as roasted chicken served with black truffle, foie gras and brioche.

The New York EDITION

5 Madison Ave

New York, NY 10010

40.741387, -73.987488

The New York EDITION is a modern and cozy hotel across the street from Madison Square Park. The hotel offers in-room spa services and a cozy bar with a fireplace and faux fur blankets. You will never want to leave the hotel.

The Ludlow

180 Ludlow St   
New York 10002

40.721830, -73.987348

The Ludlow is a hotel in the Lower East Side, surrounded by luxury stores and restaurants. The hotel offers a private terrace and a view of One World Trade. The Ludlow also offers 24-hour room service, a garden, and a French restaurant on site.

The Standard East Village

25 Cooper Sq   
New York 10003

40.727957, -73.990812

The Standard East Village is a great hotel to unwind and put your feet up. They are known for their relaxed atmosphere. They offer a full bar and an outdoor area with heated yurts.

Navigation

When visiting NYC, hands down, you will be relying on public transportation. It would be a miracle if you found street parking in NYC anywhere near your destination, so leave your car wherever you are staying or plan on paying between $15 and $65 to park in a garage. Keep the following tips in mind when navigating.

The public transportation system is a safe, convenient, and cheap way to get around the city. Besides a helicopter, it is the quickest form of transportation during rush-hour traffic. It is only $2.75 a ride, with one free train or bus transfer. There are train stations every few blocks; and during the day, the wait time for the next train is only a few minutes. With so many train stations, you typically won’t have to walk more than 10 minutes to get to the nearest one. My biggest tip for navigating public transportation is to read the signs that are located just about everywhere. There are signs on the street, above the sub-way entrances, and sub-way platforms. Also, don’t be afraid to ask people for directions. There are sub-way maps at every platform that show each train’s route. At the train stations where the train routes intersect, you can transfer trains. Look for your destination on the map, and see which train, or trains, gets you from your current location to your destination.

Taxis are another way to navigate NYC, but are way more expensive. There is an initial fee of $2.50, plus $2.30 in surcharges depending on the time of travel, plus $.50 per 1/5 mile or $.50 per 60 seconds depending on the speed of traffic, plus tolls, and a tip. That comes to about $25 with tip to travel five miles in clear traffic and without tolls, but count on having a lot of traffic. Taxis do have a few benefits. A taxi may be faster if there is not a lot of traffic or if your public transportation route requires two to four transfers. Also, they are more convenient because you do not have to walk to a train station. But, you must decide if the steep price is worth not having to walk just a few blocks.

Shopping

NYC is one best places to shop because of its diversity in stores. It is home to hundreds of stores with a store for every style. You can find small gift shops and popular chain stores like Uniqlo, Old Navy, H&M, Express, Zara, LOFT, Victoria’s Secret, Banana Republic, Gap, American Eagle Outfitters, Nordstrom Rack, American Apparel, and Urban Outfitters. There are also a lot of designer stores such as Tiffany & Co., Armani, Chanel, Louis Vuitton, Dolce & Gabbana, Kate Spade, and Prada. NYC has shopping malls and shopping districts, which are blocks lined with stores. Here are some of the best shopping districts and malls in NYC.

**Union Square**

**The Flatiron District**

**Manhattan**

40.734639, -73.991496

Union square has a great location in Manhattan to shop at chain stores. You will find Whole Foods, Forever 21, DSW, Nordstrom Rack, Barnes & Noble, Academy Records, Banana Republic, Victoria’s Secret, and Kenneth Cole.

**The Shops at Columbus Circle**

10 Columbus Circle

New York, NY 10019

40.768429, -73.983217

The Shops at Columbus Circle mall has some of the nicest and most expensive stores. While shopping, you also have a great view of central park. Coach, Diesel, H&M, J. Crew, Michael Kors, and Swarovski are some of the stores you will find here.

**SoHo**

**Lower Manhattan**

**40.723425, -73.998115**

**SoHo is known for being one of the most fashionable neighborhoods in NYC. SoHo is in Lower Manhattan and has cobblestone streets and loft apartments. Some of the stores at SoHo are J. Crew, Old Navy, Club Monaco, Bebe, Victoria's Secret, H&M, Bloomingdale’s, Prada, and Uniqlo.**

**Herald Square**

**The Garment District**

**Midtown**

**40.750863, -73.989067**

**Herald Square & the Garment District is known for being the home of Macy’s, but there are many more stores. Aerospatiale, Express, American Eagle, Gap, H&M, Foot Locker, Sephora, Uniqlo, Uniqlo, Urban Outfitters, Zara, and Lush are some of the many stores found in this shopping district.**

**Fifth Avenue & 57th Street**

**40.762980, -73.973994**

**Fifth Avenue & 57th Street is a luxury shopping district. It is home to many designer stores such as Tiffany & Co., Louis Vuitton, Chanel Dior, Versace, and Cartier. Come prepared to spend a small fortune.**

Sightseeing

There are so many amazing things to see in NYC. Some of the most famous buildings and landmarks are the Statue of Liberty, Empire State Building, One World Trade Center, Madison Square Garden, Rockefeller Center, and Time Square. NYC was home of the world’s tallest building for many years. There are multiple sightseeing tours available by bus, boat, and helicopter, but you don’t need to take a tour to see everything. Many of these sights can’t be missed if you are traveling around NYC, so keep your eyes peeled. Here is a list of places you must see before you leave NYC.

Central Park

New York, NY 10024

40.782848, -73.965361

Central Park is an urban park in the middle of NYC. It was designated a National Historic Landmark. Central Park offers carriage horse tours, restaurants, running races, carousel, and free classical music concerts.

Empire State Building

350 5th Ave

New York, NY 10118

40.748454, -73.985687

Empire State Building was the world's tallest building for 40 years. It is currently the fifth-tallest building in the United States. It was designated a national landmark.

Statue of Liberty

New York, NY 10004

40.689245, -74.044516

The Statue of Liberty is on Liberty Island. It was a gift from France to the United States in 1886. The statue symbolizes freedom and has greeted many immigrants as they came to NYC.

Rockefeller Center  
45 Rockefeller Plaza

New York, NY 10111

40.758761, -73.978690

Rockefeller Center is a large complex that is famous for its Christmas tree lighting. It was designated a National Historic Landmark.

Grand Central Terminal

89 E 42nd St

New York, NY 10017

40.752763, -73.977224

Grand Central Terminal is known for its spectacular main concourse. The terminal is a large rapid transit railroad terminal in Manhattan.

Radio City Music Hall

1260 6th Ave

New York, NY 10020

40.759996, -73.979993

Radio City Music Hall is an entertainment venue and is in Rockefeller Center. It is famous for being the home of the Rockettes.

Chinatown

New York, NY

40.715840, -73.997535

Chinatown in Manhattan was given its name because of its high ethnic concentrating of Chinese people. It is the largest concentration of Chinese people in the Western Hemisphere. There are many great restaurants and shops to visit.

Little Italy

New York, NY 10013

40.718960, -73.998371

Chinatown in Manhattan was given its name because of its high ethnic concentrating of Itanian people. Many important members of the Italian Mafia lived in Little Italy. There are only a few restaurants and shops left to visit.

Madison Square Garden  
4 Pennsylvania Plaza

New York, NY 10001

40.750533, -73.993487

Madison Square Garden is an indoor arena that is used for professional basketball, professional hockey, concerts, and other entertainment. Elton John, Frank Sentara, U2, Jethro Tull, Metallica, John Lennon, Guns N’ Roses, Grateful Dead, Green Day, Queen, Led Zeppelin, Elvis Presley, Whitney Houston, Bon Jovi, Billy Joel, Paul McCartney, Michael Jackson, Rolling Stones, AC/DC, Madonna, and George Harrison have all performed at Madison Square Garden.

One World Trade Center  
285 Fulton St

New York, NY 10007

40.712747, -74.013385

One World Trade Center is a skyscraper built on Ground Zeor. It is ranked the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere.

Brooklyn Bridge

New York, NY 10038

40.699676, -73.995694

The Brooklyn Bridge is a famous bridge that connects Manhattan and Brooklyn. The bridge was the world’s first steel-wire suspension bridge.

Yankee Stadium  
1 E 161st St

Bronx, NY 10451

40.829630, -73.926191

This Yankee Stadium is home of the New York Yankees, a Major-League Baseball team. This stadium replaced the original Yankee Stadium in 2009. The original stadium was built in 1923.

Staten Island Ferry

4 Whitehall St

New York, NY 10004

40.701026, -74.013063

The Staten Island Ferry is a passenger ferry that travels between Manhattan and Staten Island. You can get a great view of the Statue of Liberty while on the ferry ride.

Time Square

Manhattan, NY 10036

40.758907, -73.985147

Time Square is famous for being the location of the News Year’s Eve ball drop. The tradition began in 1907. Time Square look amazing at night because of all of the lights.

Chrysler Building

405 Lexington Ave

New York, NY 10174

40.751641, -73.975497

The Chrysler Building is a famous piece of architecture. It was once the world’s tallest building, until it was beat by the Empire State Building.

Activities

There is so much to in NYC that you can’t possibly fit it all into one trip. NYC has the biggest and the best of everything from concerts, to theater productions, comedy shows, professional sports, shopping, eating, drinking, art museums, cultural museums, tours, cruises, zoos, hotels, and architecture. Shopping, eating, sightseeing, clubbing, and museums were already discussed. If these activities aren’t exciting enough for you, here are a few more things to do.

Bronx Zoo

2300 Southern Boulevard Bronx

New York 10460

40.850583, -73.877004

The Bronx Zoo it 256 acres of amazing animals from around the world. It is almost impossible to see everything in one day. Some of their popular animals include tigers, gorillas, reptiles, and an indoor rainforest habitat. The zoo is a great way to spend the day outdoors, learn, and see animals from around the world.

Coney Island

Brooklyn, NY

40.575787, -73.970966

Coney Island is a neighborhood full of entertainment. Coney Island has a beach, boardwalk, aquarium, two amusement parks, restaurants, and bars. The two amusements parks are Luna Park and Deno’s Wonder Wheel. There are kids rides and exciting roller coasters. The beach has plenty of room to lay in the sand or to enjoy a cooling swim. The aquarium has an aqua-theater and is a home for sea cliffs, sharks, rays, turtles, and other animals.

Circle Line

Pier 83, W 42nd St

New York, NY 10036

40.762832, -74.001665

Circle Line is a relaxing cruise around Manhattan. It is a great way to see the Statue of Liberty, Manhattan skyline, and Brooklyn Bridge. You can enjoy a three-hour tour or a shorter hour and a half tour.

The New York Pass

Bar Building, 36 W 44th St #1407

New York, NY 10036

40.755332, -73.981910

When one isn’t enough, do The New York Pass. It is a one-time fee that allows discounted or free admission to many attractions in NYC and is well worth the money if use it. It allows free admission to these great attractions: Empire State Building Observation Deck, Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island Immigration Museum, Big Bus Tours - Hop-on Hop-off Tours, Top of the Rock, Museum of Sex, Grand Central Terminal Audio Tour, 9/11 Memorial & Museum, and New York Transit Museum.

New York Helicopter Inc

6 E River Bikeway

New York, NY 10004

40.701509, -74.009139

See NYC from a bird’s eye view. They offer multiple levels of helicopter tours and charter services. They take you to see The Statue of Liberty, New York Harbor, Chrysler Building, Empire State Buildings, Central Park, and much more.