

Known as the culture center and financial capital of the world, New York City is the most populous city in the US with so much to do and experience. As the city that never sleeps, it offers 24/7 public transportation. In a city known for its diversity, there is much one can do to experience the unique cultural blend that the city has to offer. Exchange visitors can easily fill up their after-work and weekend schedule with fulfilling experiences.

Introduction

New York City

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What to wear?

The weather in NYC can vary wildly depending on the time of the year. Temperatures can be as low as 26 degrees Fahrenheit during the winter, while going as high as 85 degrees Fahrenheit during the summer, on average.

- Late fall and winter: Bitterly cold with snow fall typically occurring between late December and early March
- Spring and summer: Warm and humid
- Summer and early fall: Tropical storms and hurricanes from the south can make their way to NYC

New York City weather is quite varied by season. Spring and summer tend to be hot and humid so light clothes (e.g., t-shirts and shorts) work well. Winters can be cold with mushy road conditions, especially when it snows. Exchange visitors who intern in NYC during the wintertime are suggested to bring extra winter gear (e.g., jackets, scarves, boots). For other times, wear clothes such as long-sleeve shirts, sweaters, and long pants.

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Where to live?

While Manhattan is where the majority of New Yorkers work, most choose to live and commute from other places for lower cost of living.

Residents of the outer boroughs (Brooklyn, Queens, Bronx) can take the subway or (Staten Island) the ferry. Long Islanders can use the LIRR for commuting, while New Jersey residents rely on the PATH train and upstate New Yorkers can use MetroNorth to travel and work in the city.

Exchange visitors who choose to reside in Manhattan should budget at least \$3,000 per month for rent. If you live in the outer boroughs, allocate at least \$1,500 per month for rent. For less expensive options, consider sub-leasing, sharing an apartment with others, or outlying areas. Examples of neighborhoods outside of Manhattan include the following.

- Astoria & Long Island City (Queens, NY): Right across the river from Manhattan, these are up and coming neighborhoods that are seeing lots of development in the coming decades. Initially a Greek area, it is now a melting pot of cultures. Note: Long Island City is not the same as Long Island.
- Flushing & Brooklyn Chinatown Areas (Queens/Brooklyn, NY): With a large East Asian population, these neighborhoods are densely populated and accessible to the rest of the city. Not only do they have vast public transit options, but they also feature many stores that cater to the local East Asian culture.
- Williamsburg & Bushwick (Brooklyn, NY): These neighborhoods are centers of arts and culture in NYC. The night life in both is unlike anywhere else in the city, with bars and related establishments being open well into the night. You will also find an abundance of creative expression, from art galleries to street performances.
- Forest Hills & Rego Park (Queens, NY): Being located closer to Manhattan than Flushing, this area features numerous large shopping centers (QCM, Rego Center). With countless restaurants and outdoor eateries, the food options in this area are endless. The population is mixed, with young and old families alike choosing to reside here.
- Jersey City & Hoboken (NJ): Many young professionals have chosen to make this area their home. With new high-rise buildings popping up, prospective residents will have a great view of Manhattan. Keep in mind, however, that prices here can be higher than Brooklyn and Queens.

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How to get around?

As the busiest city in the nation, New York City has a plethora of public transportation options. Alongside featuring the busiest and only 24-hour transit system in the state, it is also a major hub to nearby coastal cities.

New York City's public transportation system is run by the Metropolitan Transportation Agency (MTA). Within the city, one can navigate the five boroughs easily without the use of a personal vehicle. In addition to walking, one can ride with the bikeshare service Citibike.

Most buses and subways use MetroCard or OMNY (tap to pay), with a standard fare of \$2.75 (note: this does not apply to interborough express buses, which charge \$6.75, and regional rail like the LIRR and MetroNorth). Keep in mind that MetroCard is being phased out in favor of OMNY, thus we recommend using tap to pay if you ride the MTA.

- Download the LIRR or MetroNorth Taintime official apps for LI or Upstate NY schedules
- Download the unofficial Citymapper or Transit apps for NYC transit realtime updates
- MTA: Subway/Bus (\$2.75) - Click [HERE](#)
- Citi Bike: A privately owned public bicycle sharing system serving the NYC - Click [HERE](#)

Many people live around the city, e.g., New Jersey, Upstate New York, and Long Island, and commute to NYC to work. From/to NYC and NJ, take a PATH or NJTransit train or NJ bus at **Port Authority Bus Terminals** located from 40th to 42nd Streets, between Eighth and Ninth Avenues. From/to NYC and Connecticut and Upstate New York, take **Metro-North Railroad** at the **Grand Central Terminal** on 347 Madison Ave (east side of Manhattan). From/to NYC and Long Island, take a **LIRR** from **Penn Station**.

- Metro North: Take a train from Grand Central to upstate NY and Connecticut - Click [HERE](#)
- LIRR: A commuter rail system to/from Manhattan/Brooklyn and Long Island - Click [HERE](#)
- PATH: A rapid transit system in the northeastern New Jersey cities - Click [HERE](#)
- Staten Island Ferry: A free ferry to/from Staten Island and Lower Manhattan - Click [HERE](#)

New York City is known for its yellow taxi cabs, which can be seen in large numbers throughout the city. Other options include **Uber**, **Lyft**, and car service. To nearby coastal cities such as Boston, DC, and Philadelphia to which one can easily access using interstate buses or Amtrak trains. For commute and sightseeing, New York Water Taxi offers both. There are also discount intercity shuttle buses that run among the three main Chinatowns in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Flushing, Queens.

- Yellowcab: Flat rate to Manhattan of about \$50 - Click [HERE](#)
- New York Water Taxi: Fast vessels along the East River and Hudson River - Click [HERE](#)
- Interstate bus: A ride to DC is around \$18-30, to Boston is around \$30, and to Toronto is around \$90 - Check out **Greyhound**, **Megabus**, **Flixbus**, and **Peter Pan**
- Interstate train: Check out **Amtrak** for service along between DC, NYC and Boston
- Budget car service: 24/7, from Flushing to JFK costs about \$28+, e.g., [HERE](#)
- Chinatown vans: \$5 Flushing/Brooklyn, \$4 Flushing/Manhattan, \$3 Brooklyn/Manhattan

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What attractions to see?

New York City, known for its walkability, has a myriad of attractions that can be easily accessed on foot, several of which are listed below.

- Statue of Liberty: Click [HERE](#)
- Empire State Building: A 102-story Art Deco skyscraper – Click [HERE](#)
- One World Observatory: 360 degree views of NYC – Click [HERE](#)
- United Nations: Center of foreign diplomacy; \$15 for valid student ID – Click [HERE](#)
- National Museum of the American Indian: In both NY and DC – Click [HERE](#)
- Metropolitan Museum of Art: \$30 for adults; \$22 for seniors; \$17 for students. – Click [HERE](#)
- MoMA: Admission is free just for New Yorkers – Click [HERE](#)
- 9/11 Memorial: Free Admission on Mondays from 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – Click [HERE](#)
- Museum of Natural History: Pay what you wish for NY, NJ, CT residents – Click [HERE](#)
- Guggenheim: Discounts with valid passes; free for CUNY students/staff – Click [HERE](#)
- Central Park, Brooklyn Botanical Garden, Queens Botanical Garden, the Bronx Zoo

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What events to go?

Listed below are some major upcoming events that we would recommend you check out:

- Shakespeare in the Park through August in Central Park
- New York Film Festival – Click [HERE](#)
- Broadway WeekSM in Jan and Sept for 2-for-1 tickets – Click [HERE](#)
- SummerStage in Central Park from May through October
- Museum Mile Festival: Upper East Side block party in June
- NYC Restaurant Week® two-course prix-fixe lunches and three-course dinners
- St. Patrick's Day Parade: Runs along Fifth Avenue between 44th and 79th Streets
- TD Five Boro Bike Tour in May along the 40-mile ride – Click [HERE](#)
- Pride Week culminating with the famous march down Fifth Avenue in June – Click [HERE](#)
- Tribeca Film Festival: 100+ films plus free outdoor “drive-in” screenings – Click [HERE](#)
- NY Philharmonic Concerts in the Parks: Annual weeklong tour of the City's parks
- Macy's Fourth of July Fireworks: Fireworks light up the skyline
- Nathan's Famous Fourth of July Hot Dog Eating Contest at Coney Island, Brooklyn
- Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival: Sporting and multicultural event in August – Click [HERE](#)
- US Open Tennis: An iconic event in American sports through September – Click [HERE](#)
- Feast of San Gennaro: Parades, entertainment, Italian food and a cannoli-eating contest
- New York International Auto Show – Click [HERE](#)
- New York Fashion Week in fall/winter – Click [HERE](#)
- Radio City Christmas Spectacular most famous holiday production through early January
- Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade - Marching bands, notable performers, and more
- Rockefeller Center Tree Lighting: The first Wednesday after Thanksgiving
- Times Square New Year's Eve: Performances and countdown to midnight

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