

NEW YORK CITY

FALL & WINTER GUIDE 2009/2010



The best places to eat, sleep and play
in New York City this fall and winter

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INTRODUCTION



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You'll find reviews for more than 450,000 hotels, 90,000 attractions and 560,000 restaurants on TripAdvisor.com. Learn from other travelers what to expect before you make your plans.



PACKING TIPS

1. "Bring an **umbrella**, maybe a light **raincoat** and **light jacket** or **sweater** in case you're in air conditioning and chill easily. You can always buy extra items in N.Y. if needed. The most important thing is having **comfy shoes!**"—TripAdvisor Member
2. "I highly doubt you need a **dressy outfit** for each day. Pack one and wear it more than once. You'll want to be comfortable in the heat, so pack **shorts**, **Capris**, **cotton shirts** and maybe a **pair of jeans** and a **pair of dressy slacks.**"—TripAdvisor Member
3. "If you want to be able to get into the bars and/or clubs without any problems, it's a good idea to have a proper **photo ID**. Your passport will do if that's all you have. Better safe than sorry!"—TripAdvisor Member, New York

Inside

NEW YORK CITY

When the British conquered the city in 1664, they named it after the Duke of York. When the defeated British cleared out in 1783, New York became the capital of the newly formed United States. It remained so until 1790, though some would argue that New York City is still America's "real" capital. The most populated city in North America, the Big Apple's eight million residents are spread out over five boroughs — the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island and Manhattan.

New York is a city of excess and extremes—the summers are hot and humid, winters are gray and frigid. The city that never sleeps truly has something for everyone and is even *everything* to some.

Top VIEWS



NEW YORK CITY'S BEST VIEWS

"Closed for 20 years, the top of Rockefeller Center, now called **Top of the Rock**, was reopened to the public in November 2005. Everything in it is top-notch, including the elevator ride. The view from the multi-level observation decks is breathtaking."—TripAdvisor Member, Milton, Mass.

Top of the Rock, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, 212 698 2000

"Walking the **Brooklyn Bridge** gives you the best view of the city. It not only provides a beautiful view of the skyline of NYC but also of the Statue of Liberty and the Manhattan Bridge. The view at night is spectacular and very romantic."—TripAdvisor Member, Arlington, Va.

Brooklyn Bridge, City Hall Park, Manhattan to Brooklyn Heights

See Manhattan from the outside by taking a **Circle Line Cruise**. "We saw some fantastic views of mid- and downtown as well as Jersey City and Hoboken, then went over to the Statue of Liberty. When we went under the Brooklyn Bridge and looked toward downtown, the view was breathtaking. We went up to the U.N. building and got views of the Chrysler and Empire State buildings."—TripAdvisor Member, Meath, Ireland.

Circle Line Cruise, Pier 83, W. 42nd St. and 12th Ave., 212 563 3200

Where to PLAY

TOP 10 Attractions

1. Real New York Tours, 917 572 7017
2. Scott's Pizza Tours, 53 Spring St., 212 209 3370
3. Ground Zero Museum Workshop, 420 W. 14th St., 212 209 3370
4. Top of the Rock, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, 212 698 2000
5. Gotham Walking Tours, 646 645 5782
6. Wicked, Gershwin Theater, 222 W. 51st St., 212 586 6510
7. New York Fun Tours, 212 924 9712
8. Ahoy New York Tours & Tasting, 518 332 4386
9. Bike the Big Apple, 201 837 1133
10. The Lion King, Minskoff Theatre, 1515 Broadway, 212 869 0550



FAMILIES

Take your kids to the **Children's Museum of Manhattan** where the whole family can explore "five floors of exhibits and ever-changing programs that inspire children and parents alike."—TripAdvisor Member

Children's Museum of Manhattan, 212 W. 83rd St., 212 721 1234

The **New York Aquarium** is "worth the trip to Brooklyn. There are lots of animals to see, great displays of fish and other underwater creatures. The jelly fish were especially impressive. The aquarium is right on Coney Island, so you can take a stroll along the boardwalk and see the ocean while you're there!"—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto, Ontario

New York Aquarium, Surf Avenue & West 8th Street, Brooklyn, 718 265 3474

Palatial toy store **FAO Schwarz** is full of fun, particularly when "the employees are putting on a great show on the floor piano, a la Tom Hanks in *Big*."—TripAdvisor Member, Louisville, Ky.

FAO Schwarz, 767 Fifth Ave., 212 644 9400



ROMANCE

"We just had to do the **horse-drawn carriage ride** and got to see the main attractions in the southwest corner: ice rink, dairy, zoo, etc. Had a really nice, chatty guide. I think the park is amazing and such a luxury in a city like New York."—TripAdvisor Member, United Kingdom

Manhattan Carriage Company, Various locations, Central Park, 212 664 1149

Drink champagne at dusk on the **Metropolitan Museum of Art** rooftop, overlooking Central Park, and then go downstairs to experience the "flickering world that is discovered as darkness unfolds within the Met, revealing its many wonders to visitors in a manner not soon to be forgotten."—TripAdvisor Member, New York

Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1000 Fifth Ave., 212 535 7710

Hold hands and stroll through the tree-lined **Greenwich Village**, then people watch from inside a cafe. "It is very rare that one feels part of those pictures and articles we read about. A stylish, classical yet continental feel is a great contrast to the metropolitan hustle and bustle of New York's over-crowded streets."—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

Greenwich Village, below 14th St. and west of Broadway

Where to PLAY



BUDGET

See the Statue of Liberty from the **Staten Island Ferry**. "It made me smile and I had a big stupid grin on my face the whole way. I loved being amongst all the tourists hanging over the side taking pictures. Everyone seemed so excited to be there."—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto, Ontario

Staten Island Ferry, Battery Park, 718 727 2508

The **Sony Wonder Technology Lab**, where you can play with all of tomorrow's technology today, is "the best kept secret in NYC. Totally free fun!"—TripAdvisor Member, Sumter, S.C.

Sony Wonder Technology Lab, 56th St. & Madison Ave., 212 833 8100

Tourists and locals alike rummage through the **Century 21** department store. "It's the best place to get designer labels for discount prices."—TripAdvisor Member, Guelph, Ontario

Century 21, 22 Cortlandt St., 212 227 9092

TripAdvisor members have posted more than 2,000,000 photos on the site. The good, the bad and the very candid. It's almost like being there!



ADVENTURE

Lessons, guided trails and pony rides are available at **Kensington Stables** in Brooklyn's Prospect Park. "FYI: You'll actually cross one or two real N.Y. city streets on horseback to go from the stables to the parks."—TripAdvisor Member, Queens, N.Y.

Kensington Stables, 51 Caton Place, Brooklyn, 718 972 4588

Ride the Cyclone, explore the boardwalk, "or pet the manta rays in the aquarium at **Coney Island**, a hive of happy people enjoying a day by the ocean. The Cyclone still scares the life out of most people. Try it if you dare!"—TripAdvisor Member, Montrose, Scotland

Coney Island, Surf Avenue, Brooklyn, 718 372 5159

"Carve out a couple of hours and take a stroll across the **Brooklyn Bridge**. My personal recommendation? You can't give up the opportunity to walk the **Brooklyn Heights Promenade** and see fantastic views of the bridge and NYC skyline. You can always hop back on a train on the Brooklyn side."—TripAdvisor Member, New York City

Brooklyn Bridge and Brooklyn Heights Promenade, Brooklyn



EDUCATIONAL/HISTORICAL

Frank Lloyd Wright designed the **Guggenheim**, which houses modern and contemporary art. "The building itself is a work of art. If you only get a chance to pop inside and view the rotunda, do so. It's quite impressive."—TripAdvisor Member, Orlando, Fla.

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, 1071 Fifth Ave., 212 423 3500

Displaying recreated apartments from periods in the area's history, the **Lower East Side Tenement Museum** "is like a time machine. The second you walk into the dimly lit hall, you are transported back to another time."—TripAdvisor Member, Concord, N.H.

Lower East Side Tenement Museum, 108 Orchard St., 212 982 8420

Advance tickets are required for the city's "biggest little museum," the **Ground Zero Museum Workshop**. "This one-room museum is a must-see when visiting New York. There is so much to take in. The images and artifacts capture powerful moments, moments which should never be forgotten."—TripAdvisor Member, Birmingham, U.K.

Ground Zero Museum Workshop, 420 W. 14th St., Second floor, 212 209 3370

"The building itself is a work of art."



RELAXATION

The Cloisters, a branch of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, is a "wonderful way to get out of concrete, busy New York and see another side to it! It was very pleasant to walk around the peaceful cloisters, chapels and gift shop without the hustle and bustle of crowds."—TripAdvisor Member, Dublin, Ireland

The Cloisters, 99 Margaret Corbin Dr., Fort Tryon Park, 212 923 3700

"It was a life long dream of mine to stroll through **Central Park**. I had my dream come true, and it was more than I had expected. We just walked and watched and walked some more. Whether you visit with children, lovers, mates or simply on your own, I highly recommend taking a picnic or a book and spending some time enjoying the world going by."—TripAdvisor Member, Brisbane, Australia

Central Park, 59th to 110th streets, 212 310 6600

"The **Metamorphosis Spa** was the icing on the cake for an already good trip. Initial greeting, aroma and atmosphere were conducive to serene relaxation. My wife truly enjoyed her deep tissue massage—'one of the best ever!'"—TripAdvisor Member, New York City

Metamorphosis Spa, 127 E. 56th St., 5th Floor, 212 751 6051

WHERE to eat



FAMILIES

Keep the kids amused with the novelty at **Churrascaria Plataforma**, “an all-you-can-eat affair. The waiters come around with giant skewers of meat and slice off whatever you want onto a plate. It’s really fun!”—TripAdvisor Member, New York City

Churrascaria Plataforma, 316 W. 49th St., 212 245 0505

“I was born and raised in rural Tennessee and I know how barbecue is supposed to taste. I must admit, shhhh, don’t tell anyone I said it, but NYC has the best barbecue I have ever eaten! We were absolutely floored when we discovered **Virgil’s Real BBQ**.”—TripAdvisor Member, Tennessee

Virgil’s Real BBQ, 152 W. 44th St., 212 921 9494

“Be prepared for lines, because this is the BEST pizza. The meatball pizza is the best. The meatballs are perfectly seasoned and sliced to fit on top. Go to **John’s** for dinner, then walk a couple of blocks to get dessert at the Magnolia bakery.”—TripAdvisor Member, Illinois

John’s of Bleeker Street, 278 Bleeker St., 212 243 1680

TOP 10 Restaurants

1. Per Se, Time Warner Building, 10 Columbus Circle, 212 823 9335
2. Le Bernardin, 155 W. 51st St., 212 554 1515
3. Trattoria Trecolori, 254 W. 47th St., 212 997 4540
4. Jean Georges, 1 Central Park W., 212 299 3900
5. Gramercy Tavern, 42 E. 20th St., 212 477 0777
6. Daniel, 60 E. 65th St., 212 288 0033
7. Del Frisco’s Double Eagle Steak House, 1221 6th Ave., 212 575 5129
8. Babbo, 110 Waverly Pl., 212 777 0303
9. Sushi Yasuda, 204 E. 43rd St., 212 972 1001
10. Candle 79, 154 E. 79th St., 212 537 7179

ROMANCE

There’s nothing that says New York quite like The **Gramercy Tavern**. This favorite is “simply one of the most delicious places that you can eat in New York. It’s outstanding.”—TripAdvisor Member, New York City

Gramercy Tavern, 42 E. 20th St., 212 477 0777

At the **River Café**, “the view over to Manhattan and the Brooklyn Bridge was just unbelievable. I won’t go into the food details, but the quality went way beyond anything I’ve eaten in the States and even to some extent in Europe. What impressed us most is that we were not hurried in any way.”—TripAdvisor Member, Germany

The River Café, 1 Water St., Brooklyn, 718 522 5200

Gascogne in Chelsea offers fine French cuisine in a romantic garden setting. “Their garden made me feel as if I were in Paris.”—TripAdvisor Member, Montreaux, Switzerland

Gascogne, 158 Eighth Ave., 212 675 6564

BUDGET

Cheap and cheerful is on the menu at **Cafe Habana**. “Certainly not the type of place that provides a romantic setting, but they did offer an excellent meal.”—TripAdvisor Member, Montclair, N.J.

Cafe Habana, 17 Prince St., 212 625 2001

For an American classic, it has to be **Crif Dogs**. “A huge variety of hot dogs! Customize them, too! Melted cheese, sour pickles, bacon, onions, chili, coleslaw, fried egg, everything imaginable!”—TripAdvisor Member, New York City

Crif Dogs, 113 St. Marks Place, 212 614 2728

“I love **Clinton Street Baking Company’s** commitment to all things real—real whipped cream, sprinkles, coffee, desserts and real good service. I know they’re famous for brunch, but my fave time to visit is around 9 p.m. when the jazz is playing.”—TripAdvisor Member, New York City

Clinton Street Baking Company, 4 Clinton St., 646 602 6263

HOW TO GET AROUND



Walk the city—Since “all of Manhattan north of 14th St. is laid out in an easy-to-navigate grid, walking is often the simplest way of traversing short to moderate distances.”—TripAdvisor Member, Boston, Mass.

In-line skates—Grab a map of the waterfront and “skate virtually the entire circumference of Manhattan Island, a popular route.”—TripAdvisor Member, New York, N.Y.

Grayline Bus Tours—“There are 48-hour all-loop, hop-on/hop-off passes, as well as nighttime tours, and they show you more than Manhattan. You’ll see the entire city plus Brooklyn.”—TripAdvisor Member, Canada

WHERE to eat



HEALTH-CONSCIOUS

Raw food has an avid following at **Pure Food and Wine**. "All I can say is 'Wow!' It was truly amazing. The ambiance is very relaxed and calm."—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

Pure Food and Wine, 54 Irving Place, 212 477 1010

Angelica Kitchen is "the great mothership of vegetarian restaurants in the U.S., this is serious vegetarian food. So clean and pure you could eat here every day and only be the better for it."—TripAdvisor Member, Albuquerque, N.M.

Angelica Kitchen, 300 E. 12th St., 212 228 2909

"I make a point of eating at **Hangawi** every time I am in New York. The service is impeccable, and the food is unbelievable! The stone bowl rice dishes are particularly delicious."—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto, Ontario

Hangawi, 12 E. 32nd St., 212 213 0077

HIDDEN GEMS

For authentic Mexican cuisine, make your way to the hidden vault dining room of **La Esquina**. "It's located inside a taqueria that says 'Corner Deli.' You walk in, go through the door that says 'No Admittance.'"—TripAdvisor Member, New York City

La Esquina, 106 Kenmare St., 646 613 7100

"Hidden in a driveway next to a repair shop," **Fette Sau**, a BBQ-by-the-pound restaurant, is "a lot of fun, with its shared picnic tables and cheap beer. You'll walk out smelling like smoked meat, so don't wear your favorite outfit!"—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto, Ontario

Fette Sau, 354 Metropolitan Ave., Brooklyn, 718 963 3404

Tucked away in the Parker Meridien is the **Burger Joint**. "Impossible to find a joint with a \$10 burger at this elegant location. Then we saw that kitschy, beautiful neon light hidden behind the curtains and—what an experience! Great burgers, such nice staff."—TripAdvisor Member, Galicia, Spain

Burger Joint, Le Parker Meridien, 118 W. 57th St., 212 245 5000

SPECIAL EVENTS



Discover Brooklyn's latest talents in the realms of music, film, dance, new media and visual arts at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's **Next Wave Festival**, showcasing works from emerging artists in a wide variety of media. (September 15 – December 18)

Next Wave Festival, Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), 30 Lafayette Ave., Fort Green, Brooklyn, 718 636 4100, <http://www.bam.org>

Celebrate the European discovery of America with fabulous food, live entertainment and the annual **Columbus Day Parade**. (October 10)

Columbus Day Parade, Fifth Avenue from 44th Street to 79th Street

Moving beyond the usual ghosts and goblins, the **Village Halloween Parade** features immense papier-mâché puppets, dancers, stilt-walkers, jugglers and any assortment of weirdos. This year's theme is "Terra Incognita (Uncharted Territories)!" (October 31)

Village Halloween Parade, 6th Avenue from Spring to 21st streets, <http://www.halloween-nyc.com>

Laugh out loud to renowned comedians including Ricky Gervais, Bill Maher, Tracy Morgan and 150 other funny men and women at the **New York Comedy Festival**. (November 4 – 8)

New York Comedy Festival, Various Venues, <http://www.nycomedyfestival.com>

Stake out a spot in Herald Square early in the morning to watch the **Macy's Thanksgiving Parade**. (November 27)

Macy's Thanksgiving Parade, Herald Square, 151 W 34th St., 212 695 4400

Get your Christmas shopping done and let the kids wander through a magical village featuring shimmering lights, sweet treats, an enchanted forest, a holiday movie theater and, of course, the big red-suited man himself at **Macy's Santaland**. (December)

Macy's Santaland, Macy's, Herald Square, 151 W. 34th St., 212 695 4400

Join a **Wild Holiday Party** with the animals at the Central Park Zoo, where every weekend throughout December, you can see the polar bears, snow monkeys and other residents open holiday gifts, from "fishsicles" to an edible tree. (Weekends during December)

Wild Holiday Party, Central Park Zoo, 830 5th Ave., 212 439 6500, <http://www.centralparkzoo.com>

Watch the **Ball drop in Times Square**, or join the NYC Road Runners for the **Emerald Nuts Midnight Run** and costume parade through Central Park on **New Year's Eve**. (December 31)

New Year's Eve Times Square, Times Square, 212 768 1560, <http://www.timessquarenyc.org>

Midnight Run, Central Park Bandstand, 212 860 4455, <http://www.nyrr.org>

Where to STAY



FAMILIES

Courtyard by Marriott receives “top marks from us. Compliments for the very friendly staff at the reception desk, concierge and breakfast buffet. Kids loved it; we loved it. We will be back!”—TripAdvisor Member, Paris, France

Courtyard by Marriott New York Manhattan/Midtown East, 866 Third Ave., 212 644 1300

“The location of the **Residence Inn** was excellent, situated near Times Square but amazingly quiet for New York. We were given a room with a fabulous view of the Empire State Building. Our kids were so impressed!”—TripAdvisor Member, Northern Ireland

Residence Inn by Marriott Times Square, 1033 Sixth Ave., 212 768 0007

Affinia 50 is a “well-kept secret. Perhaps I shouldn’t be telling the world how good this hotel is? The rooms are great but the major selling point here is the friendly staff. This is one of the friendliest hotels we’ve ever stayed at.”—TripAdvisor Member, Manchester, U.K.

Affinia 50, 155 E. 50th St., 212 751 5710

“...absolute perfection”



Have questions about New York City? Get insider advice from local experts in our forums. The majority of questions are answered within 24 hours.

ROMANCE

“**The Michelangelo** was absolute perfection. This is a beautiful hotel, from the gorgeous lobby to the large and nicely decorated rooms to the delicious complimentary breakfast (biscotti and Italian coffee, yummy!). Few match the high standards set by this Italian haven.”—TripAdvisor Member, Boston, Mass.

The Michelangelo, 152 W. 51st Street, 212 765 0505

The **Hotel Elysee** is “an excellent hotel and a lovely place to stay. Helpful people at the front desk. Lovely room with classical ambiance. Bathroom was tiny but beautifully equipped and finished. Gorgeous lounge/ breakfast/cocktails area and library. A real find in a top area.”—TripAdvisor Member, Auckland, New Zealand

Hotel Elysee, 60 E. 54th St., 212 753 1066

There is a decidedly literary theme at **The Library Hotel**, where rooms are “lined with books of all shapes, sizes and subjects. It’s a lovely place to stay if you want to be right in the middle of bustling Manhattan.”—TripAdvisor Member, Tequesta, Fla.

The Library Hotel, 299 Madison Ave. at 41st St., 212 983 4500

BUDGET

“If you don’t want to stay in a Manhattan super hotel, this is the place for you! We stayed at the **East Village Bed & Coffee** for three nights and enjoyed the unconventional and easy-going atmosphere.”—TripAdvisor Member, Birmingham, U.K.

East Village Bed & Coffee, 110 Ave. C, 212 533 4175

“We were looking for an affordable hotel with some character, and that’s exactly what we got. Or rather, we got affordable and with lots of character” at the **Harlem Flophouse**.—TripAdvisor Member, Madrid, Spain

Harlem Flophouse, 242 West 123rd St., 212 662 0678

Located in Harlem, **Efuru Guest House** is “cheap, spotless and homey—what a find!”—TripAdvisor Member, Kildare, Ireland

Efuru Guest House, 106 West 120th St., 212 961 9855

“What a find!”

LUXURY

A world-class city should offer world-class luxury. The striking **Sofitel New York** has “the biggest hotel rooms for the price and it even has full-size baths and showers. The French flair was romantic, and the rooms are checked twice each day.”—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto, Ontario

Sofitel New York, 45 W. 44th St., 212 354 8844

“My expectations of the **New York Palace** were high, and they were surpassed. We are planning next year’s trip already and it will be at the Palace. When you’ve stayed at the best you just won’t settle for less!”—TripAdvisor Member, Dublin, Ireland

New York Palace Hotel, 455 Madison Ave., 212 888 7000

“**Inn New York City** offers a graceful, elegant and sophisticated ambiance. Experiencing the carefree convenience of being in a hotel, while feeling as though one is relaxing in one’s own pied à terre, is exceptional.”—TripAdvisor Member, Los Angeles, Calif.

Inn New York City, 266 W. 71st St., 212 580 1900

Where to **STAY**



HIDDEN GEMS

The **Casablanca Hotel** is “exceptional. The reception, the decor, the ambiance, the service—all is impeccable. We will definitely return to this charming hotel.”—TripAdvisor Member, Brussels, Belgium

Casablanca Hotel, 147 W. 43rd St., 212 869 1212

“When can we come back here?”

“From the moment we walked into **A Greenwich Village Habitué**, we thought, ‘What a find! When can we come back here?’ As long-term New Yorkers, the owners are kind, informative and helpful—but did not impose themselves whatsoever. It was the myriad of little and thoughtful touches that we really appreciated.”—TripAdvisor Member, Queensland, Australia

A Greenwich Village Habitué, Greenwich Village, 212 243 6495
(Note: Five-night stay required)

“On past visits, we stayed in Times Square for convenience. This time, we decided to try a B&B and found **Mount Morris House**. This friendly alternative was ten times nicer than some old hotel with tiny rooms.”—TripAdvisor Member, New Mexico

Mount Morris House, 12 Mount Morris Park West, 917 478 6214

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