

NEW YORK



a trip organized by

THE ART DEPARTMENTS OF FEMSS, LDSS, SHDHS, and SMDCVI



The Statue of Liberty given to the American people by the French in 1884

PLANNING FOR THE TRIP

Now that it is getting close to the time to leave for New York you may want a bit of **information about the city** and some suggestions about what to bring to get the most out of your trip. A good place to begin is a suggestion or two about money and what clothing to bring.

MONEY

How much money you bring is really up to you, but I would suggest **\$50.00, (American) per day as an absolute minimum.** Remember that you will be buying all your meals. Breakfast and lunch are usually inexpensive, (a

diner special for breakfast and fast food for lunch), but you may want to set aside more for supper and you will also want to shop for souvenirs and other items.

I would recommend getting some American money in cash **before** we leave, perhaps half of what you intend to spend. It can be purchased from the bank any time, and you will get a better exchange rate here than in the U.S.

There are several options for how you bring the rest of your money. Your **bank card** will work in almost any ATM bank machine. There is of course a service charge every time you do this. The main advantage is of course the convenience, but if you do this, take extra care with where you keep your bank card.

A **credit card** is of course an option but you should also have American cash on hand for taking taxis and small incidental expenses.

Another option is to buy **traveller's cheques** in advance in **American funds.** They are not as convenient as your bank card and many places will not cash them.

They would not be my first recommendation but if you decide to use them keep your traveller's cheques with you and the numbers for the cheques in a separate location so they can be replaced if anything happens to them.

WHAT TO PACK

We are going for 5 days and 4 nights so you will need enough clothing for that amount of time. In addition you are sharing rooms so make sure you bring **appropriate nightwear**.

A **small collapsible umbrella** is a good idea, and an essential is **comfortable walking shoes**. Chances are you will walk more in those 4 days than you have in the last 4 weeks.

We will be going out to the theatre four times so you may want to bring **something other than jeans for those occasions**.

You **must** have **proof of Canadian citizenship**, with a current **passport on your person** for the border crossing. **Do not pack your passport in your luggage!**

You have insurance that is included in your trip costs but you may wish to purchase more comprehensive **traveller's medical insurance** policy.



A view of Central Park

SAFETY

New York is the biggest city in the United States, and large American cities can have their problems.

Manhattan is the safest city in the US with a population over 1 million people... but having said that it still wise to follow some common sense **"don't rules"**.

Don't display wads of money or flashy jewellery. **Don't** open your wallet in public. **Don't** keep your wallet in your back pocket unless it's buttoned. **Don't** wear your purse slung over your shoulder.

Don't take the subway very late at night or very early in the morning by yourself. **Don't** walk down empty streets or empty subway stations. **Don't** go on your own anywhere... always travel with at a small group. **Don't** leave any possessions on the floor or on the back of the door in a public washroom. **Don't** ever be afraid to cross the street or shout for help if someone is bothering you.

Don't ever give out personal information or let strangers know specifics about where you are staying or let any stranger into your room... **period**. Don't leave your room unlocked when you go out !

Finally **don't** let these rules scare you, they are simple common sense rules to ensure your visit to New York is a good one.



The Empire State building and the Chrysler building are just two of the famous pieces of architecture in Manhattan

FREE TIME AND SHOPPING

You will be **supervised** during your trip to New York, not because we want to ruin your fun but for some of the reasons pointed out in the safety section. That doesn't mean that there won't be time set aside for you to do things on your own, which for many includes shopping.

Manhattan doesn't really have any malls, but it is without question one of the best cities in the world for shopping. When you are given time to shop on

your own you must always go in a small group- **never by yourself**, and someone in the group should have a **watch** and **cell phone**. You will always be given clear instructions about a meeting time and place when you go on your own and you will be expected to keep to these arrangements!

ATTRACTIONS

We are scheduled to see some of the most interesting **museums** and **landmarks** in Manhattan. In particular you will get to really know some of the areas of lower Manhattan on a scavenger hunt. Take full advantage of that time given to see what you can of each site.

Some of the museums are too big to see entirely so if you're not sure what you should see, ask your teacher for suggestions.

You will see several Broadway and off-Broadway performances. You can get basic information about each show at <http://www.broadway.com>.

I strongly recommend doing some research about New York before you go. There are many great guidebooks available. One that I highly recommend is the **DK Eyewitness Travel: New York**. This guide can be purchased at any Chapters or Indigo Books.

GETTING AROUND

The following excerpts are from Gerry Frank's "*Where to Find It, Buy It, Eat It In New York*", and should help you understand Manhattan better.

Most people use New York, New York City, "the city," and Manhattan synonymously.

New York City actually includes five separate boroughs: **Manhattan**, **Staten Island**, the **Bronx**, **Queens**, and **Brooklyn**. Of those five boroughs, only the Bronx is attached to the mainland; **Manhattan** and the other three are **islands**.

A LITTLE HISTORY

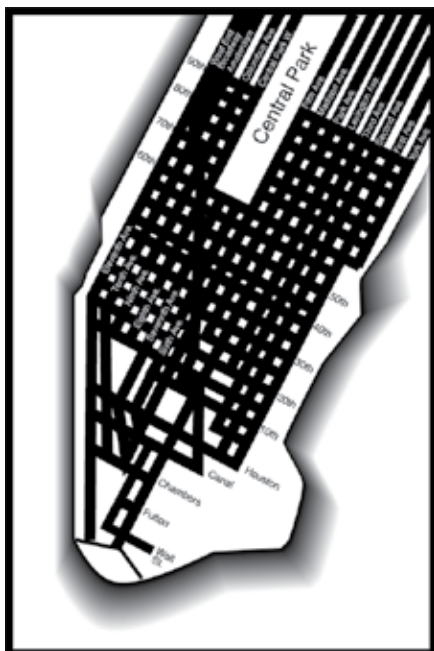
Algonquin Indians and members of other tribes were the first known residents of this area. Italian explorer Giovanni da Verrazano (for whom the Verrazano Narrows Bridge, between Brooklyn and Staten Island, is named) sailed into New York Harbor in 1524 and "discovered" Manhattan for his French patron, King Francis I. In 1609, Dutch East India Company trader Henry Hudson sailed into the harbor and up the river that now bears his name. The first permanent European settlement in Manhattan, a Dutch trading post called Nieuw Amsterdam, was established in 1625 at the very southern tip of the island, where Battery Park is today.

The story you've probably already heard is true in a sense: the island was "bought" by the Dutch West India Company a year later from local Indians with beads, cloth, and other goods worth roughly \$24.

It was renamed New York in 1664 after the British gained control of the still tiny settlement. It's hard to imagine today, but such areas as midtown and even Greenwich Village were way out in the country for another 150 years. Wall Street is so named because a wall of logs was erected there in the middle of the 17th century to protect the farms in lower Manhattan from the wilderness beyond. New York's population—only 60,000 as late as 1800—remained concentrated on the southern tip of the island, while most of Manhattan Island was used for country estates and farmland.

THE RANDALL PLAN

For those trying to find their way around Manhattan, the **Randall Plan** is helpful. The streets below Houston (pronounced House-ton), particularly those below Canal Street, are laid out like the Dutch farm trails they once were. Even those that are relatively straight were not built for 20th-century traffic: the world-famous Wall Street, for example, is narrower than the typical driveway.



the park, although down there it's a little east of where Fifth Avenue would be. That east-west distinction is all-important, as most addresses in New York have two identically numbered versions: 125 East 52nd Street and 125 West 52nd Street, for example, are two distinct locations several blocks apart.



The Manhattan skyline at night

Thanks to the Randall Plan however, everything north of 14th Street is about as simple as a major city can be. Other than Broadway, the streets and avenues are laid out in a north-south, east-west grid. All of the east-west streets are numbered, getting higher in number as you travel north.

EAST SIDE, WEST SIDE

The city is divided into east and west sides by Fifth Avenue. It starts just north of Washington Square Park at about 8th Street in Greenwich Village. Broadway acts as the dividing line south of



NEIGHBOURHOODS

It may be hard to think of it this way, because of its sheer size, (over 10 million), but New York is really a collection of small neighbourhoods. Some are more famous than others, but each one has a history and flavour all its own. You will get to experience many of them during the scavenger hunt. The following descriptions, which are taken from Gerry Frank's *"Where to Find It, Buy It, Eat It In New York"*, should give you a general idea of about each of the neighbourhoods.

WASHINGTON HEIGHTS

Home to General George Washington's forces during the Revolutionary War, this neighbourhood covers all of Manhattan north of about West 151st Street. The area at the very tip of Manhattan across the Harlem River from the Riverdale section of the Bronx is known as Inwood. Racially and ethnically mixed, this neighbourhood includes both middle-class and quite poor areas. **The Cloisters, Fort Tryon**, Inwood Hill and Highbridge parks, Yeshiva University, Dyckman House, Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital, the Hispanic Society of America, and the Museum of the American Indian are all in Washington Heights, as is the entrance to the George Washington Bridge.

HARLEM

There are actually two Harlems: East Harlem (also called Spanish Harlem) and Harlem proper. East Harlem begins at about East 96th Street and runs to the northern tip of the island's east side. The population of this area is almost entirely Latino, and Spanish is spoken more frequently than English here. **El Museo del Barrio** is on the southwestern edge of East Harlem, while **La Marqueta**, one of the best places in the city to buy fresh fruit and vegetables, is a little further north.

The population of Harlem is almost entirely African-American, and the historic neighbourhood is known around the world as a centre of African-American music, politics, and culture. As does Washington Heights, Harlem includes both middle-class and poorer areas. You'll find the Schomburg Centre for Research in Black Culture, Abyssinian Baptist Church, and the Studio Museum of Harlem here.

MORNINGSIDE HEIGHTS

This relatively small but vibrant area runs between Morningside Drive and the Hudson River from West 110th Street north to West 124th Street. The area is dominated by three large and well-known institutions: Columbia University, Riverside Church, and the **Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine**. **Grant's Tomb** is also here, in Riverside Park directly across the street from Riverside Church at West 122nd Street.

UPPER WEST SIDE

A primarily residential area extending west of Central Park to the Hudson River from West 59th Street all the way up to 110th Street, the Upper West Side is home to such famous apartment buildings as the **Dakota** and the **Ansonia**. The neighbourhood is

racially and ethnically mixed, and its residents pride themselves on their reputation for being politically progressive and tending toward the Bohemian (although by SoHo or East Village standards, Upper West Siders are decidedly conventional). **Lincoln Centre** dominates cultural life in the southern part of the neighbourhood. The fabulous food store **Zabar's** and the **American Museum of Natural History** are the landmark institutions farther north. Columbus Avenue, Amsterdam Avenue, and Broadway are lined with shops, while Central Park West, West End Avenue, and Riverside Drive are almost exclusively residential. The most elegant living sections of the Upper West Side are on Central Park West and the cross streets in the high 60s, the 70s, and the low 80s; on the other hand, you definitely don't want to spend time wandering around Columbus and Amsterdam avenues above West 96th Street.

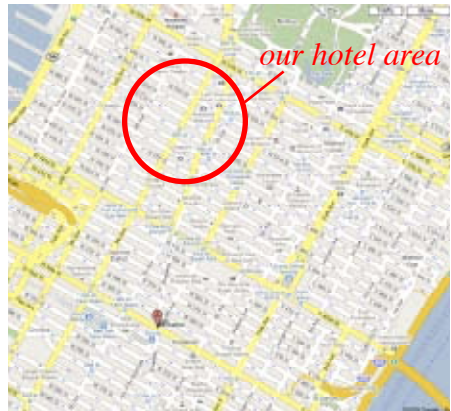
UPPER EAST SIDE

Although it's best known for its **art museums**, **galleries** and **upscale boutiques**, the Upper East Side is also a prestigious residential neighbourhood. It covers the area east of Central Park from Fifth Avenue to the East River between East 59th Street and East 96th

Street. Fifth Avenue (also known as **Museum Mile**) is dominated by such famous institutions as the **Metropolitan, Guggenheim, Frick**, and **Cooper-Hewitt** museums. It is also home to a large number of expensive apartment buildings, former mansions, and foreign consulates. You'll find the **Whitney Museum** and lots of galleries and upscale boutiques on Madison Avenue. Park Avenue and most of the cross streets are home to residential buildings. From Lexington Avenue east to the river above East 75th Street, (an area sometimes called Yorkville), rents go down a bit. You'll find Gracie Mansion, the mayor's residence, in Carl Schurz Park overlooking the river at about East 88th Street; Bloomingdale's is a major retail force in the southern end of the Upper East Side.

MIDTOWN

Squarely in the middle of the island south of Central Park, midtown is **one of the busiest places on earth on a weekday and almost deserted on Sunday** - except during the Christmas season. The area extends from 59th Street to 42nd Street between Seventh Avenue and Third Avenue. **Fifth Avenue** is the heart of midtown and **one of the world's most famous shopping areas**. **Tiffany's,**



A closer view of Midtown where we are going to be staying

F.A.O. Schwarz, Lord & Taylor, Saks Fifth Avenue, Bergdorf Goodman, and all sorts of other upscale stores are located here, as are a number of bookstores. **St. Patrick's Cathedral** and several other churches are also on Fifth Avenue, **St. Bartholomew's** is on Park Avenue, and the stately **Central Synagogue** is on Lexington Avenue. Landmark buildings like the **Citicorp Center, Trump Tower, Rockefeller Center,** and the **Chrysler Building** dominate the skyline here. **Carnegie Hall** and **Radio City Music Hall** reside on the western edge of midtown, and **Grand Central Station** and the **New York Public Library** are located on its southern end. **Our hotel is in this area.**



Rockefeller Center

CLINTON

This is the area once known as Hell's Kitchen. It stretches south from West 59th Street to West 34th Street between Eighth Avenue and the Hudson River, but there just isn't much to see or do here except catch a bus at the **Port Authority Bus Terminal** or visit the **Jacob Javits Convention Center** and the piers along the river.

MURRAY HILL

Covering the area between East 42nd Street south to East 34th Street, Murray Hill begins at

Park Avenue and runs to the East River. This area is almost entirely residential; you'll find the nicest part around Park Avenue in the upper 30s. The only real attraction for a visitor here is the **Pierpont Morgan Library**.

CHELSEA

Another largely residential neighbourhood, Chelsea extends from West 34th Street down to West 14th Street from Sixth Avenue west to the Hudson River. **Madison Square Garden, Penn Station**, and the city's main post office can all be found in the northeast corner of Chelsea. It's surprisingly quiet and relatively clean in the southwestern part of this neighbourhood, and southern Chelsea is known for its interesting and increasingly upscale shops and galleries. **Barney's**, a clothing store that both men and women in New York swear by, is probably the best known.

FLATIRON DISTRICT

Named for the historic **Flatiron Building** at the intersection of Broadway and Fifth Avenue at 23rd Street, this area was known in the late 19th century as Ladies' Mile for its elegant department stores. They've all long since moved or gone out of business. It runs between Park Avenue South

and Sixth Avenue from 23rd Street south to 14th Street.

This part of Fifth Avenue has undergone a bit of a resurgence lately, (which is not to say it's particularly elegant), and is now home to some good stores and small shops. The Church of the Transfiguration (affectionately known as "the Little Church Around the Corner"), the Marble Collegiate Church, and the **Empire State Building** are all just north of here.

GRAMERCY PARK

This aging but still pleasant neighbourhood was once the city's most elegant residential area. It covers the area between Park Avenue South to Second Avenue from East 34th Street south to East 14th Street. The small area east of Gramercy Park is known as Stuyvesant. The Flatiron district and the Gramercy Park area meet at **Union Square**, a lively area that serves as the dividing line between them and Greenwich Village. Theodore Roosevelt's birthplace is on the western edge of this neighbourhood, and Stuyvesant Park occupies both sides of Second Avenue between East 15th and East 17th streets.

EAST VILLAGE

Probably the *city's funkiest neighbourhood*, the East Village lies roughly between Avenue B and Broadway from East 14th Street south to East Houston Street. Stay away from Alphabet City, (the avenues that begin in the eastern part of the East Village with lettered names) and Tompkins Square, but a walk along the main streets in the western part of the East Village can be lots of fun. The Ukrainian Museum, **St. Mark's in the Bowery**, and Grace Church are all in the northern part of the East Village.

GREENWICH VILLAGE

Long known for its artists, writers, and well-heeled eccentrics, this remains *one of the city's most vibrant centres of culture and an extremely nice neighbourhood as well*. It covers the area from Broadway west to the Hudson River from West 14th Street south to West Houston Street. The section from Seventh Avenue west to the river is sometimes called the West Village. The beautiful **Jefferson Market Library**, the **Forbes Magazine Galleries**, **New York University**, and lots of *interesting shops and clubs* are located here, as is the always lively **Washington Square Park**, with its famed *arch*.

SOHO

Short for **SO**uth of **HO**uston, SoHo is a very trendy neighbourhood known for its **galleries, lofts,** and **hip cafes**. It begins on West Houston and runs south to Canal Street between Broadway and Sixth Avenue. The neighbourhood is most alive on weekends and in the evening. Almost everything down here stays open later than similar establishments in the rest of the city. You'll find the **Alternative Museum**, the **Museum for African Art**, the **New Museum of Contemporary Art**, and the **Guggenheim SoHo** on the same block of Broadway between Houston and Prince streets. The commercial galleries are concentrated on and around West Broadway (a separate street four blocks east of Broadway) between Houston and Broome streets.

TRIBECA

An acronym that is shorthand for **TRI**angle **BE**low **CA**nal, TriBeCa used to be a rather dull and dirty commercial district but now is both residential and every bit as chic as SoHo. It covers the area from Canal Street south to Chambers Street from Broadway west to the Hudson River. Although it doesn't look as upscale as you might expect, look for emerging (and emerged) **artists, commer-**

cial galleries, converted loft apartments, a couple of movie stars (**Robert DeNiro** has built a film production studio here), and some good restaurants.

CHINATOWN

Home to the **largest Chinese-American community in the United States**, this is one of those neighbourhoods with boundaries nobody can agree how to define. I'll use the Chinatown Tourism Council's definition: from Grand Street south to Worth Street between Broadway and Alien Street. Its busiest streets are Mott and Pell. Chinatown's population of well over 100,000 includes immigrants from all over the world, but its character is most definitely Chinese.

LITTLE ITALY

No longer home to many Italian immigrants, this area is nonetheless the emotional heart of the entire region's Italian-American population, and many return for weddings, funerals, holidays, and other special occasions. Mulberry Street, (also called Via San Genaro), between Canal and Prince streets is the center of Little Italy and is known for its **restaurants** and **frequent festivals**.

LOWER EAST SIDE

Many people use the Lower East Side as a geographic umbrella for Chinatown, Little Italy, and the Bowery, but it is a distinct neighbourhood where generations of Eastern European and other immigrants first settled in overcrowded **tenements** and worked in sweatshops so their children could have better lives. It is one of the city's most **amazing discount shopping districts**, particularly on Sunday. Because many of the area's businesses are run by observant Jews, Friday afternoon and Saturday are not the times to shop here. Canal and Orchard streets are the area's heart, but it extends broadly from East Houston south to Canal and from the Sara D. Roosevelt Parkway east to Ludlow Street. The area is a bit run-down, but it's still well worth a visit.

DOWNTOWN

This area is a little hard to define except to say its centred around **City Hall**. Very roughly speaking, it runs between Chambers Street south to Fulton Street and from West Broadway east to Pearl Street. Lots of mom and pop stores and major chains are sited here, and its streets are always busy, also located here is the beautiful **St. Paul's Chapel**, the **Woolworth Building**, the entrance to the **Brooklyn Bridge's pedestrian walkway** and **City Hall**.

LOWER MANHATTAN

This is the southern tip of the city, extending from **Battery Park** in the south through **Wall Street** and other older parts of the **Financial District** in the north. Things are very compact and tall down here. The streets are narrow and the buildings tower. The boat to the **Statue of Liberty** and **Ellis Island** leaves from near **Castle Clinton National Monument** in **Battery Park**, and the **Staten Island Ferry's** terminal sits nearby at the foot of Whitehall Street. Look for **Trinity Church**, the **Federal Hall National Monument**, **Fraunces Tavern Museum**, and the **New York Stock Exchange** down here.

BATTERY PARK CITY

A relatively new residential area built entirely on landfill, this collection of high-rise apartment buildings is on the western side of Manhattan's southern tip, starting a little bit north of Battery Park itself. The neighbourhood lies adjacent to the World Financial Center (and the World Financial Center in itself adjacent to the World Trade Center), where a lot of its residents work.

OTHER DISTRICTS

FINANCIAL DISTRICT

Probably better known as **Wall Street**, the financial district does include Wall Street but covers lots of other streets, too. The older part of the district sits between Broadway and Water Street from Maiden Lane south to Exchange Place. The **New York Stock Exchange**, the **Federal Reserve Bank** of New York, the **Fraunces Tavern Museum**, **Trinity Church**, **Federal Hall National Memorial**, and all sorts of financial institutions are located here. The newer part of the financial district is adjacent to the northwest corner of the original district, including the former **World Trade Center site**. It extends from Church Street east to the Hudson River between Vesey and Albany streets.

GARMENT DISTRICT

This district, also known as Seventh Avenue or Fashion Avenue, is dedicated to just one thing: the wholesale dressing of American women. It's located between Broadway and Seventh Avenue from West 39th south to West 35th Street. Fashion models, clothing racks, and trucks filled with fabric jam the streets, especially in the summer. Make sure to look for

stores selling such garment district overflow as fabrics, beads, and trimmings throughout this area and a bit north of it as well.

MUSEUM MILE

Beginning at East 70th Street and running north for almost 40 blocks along Fifth Avenue, Museum Mile is actually closer to two miles. Whatever you call it, it's the most stunning concentration, of **museums** anywhere in the world. The highlights, from south to north, are the **Frick**, the **Metropolitan**, the **Guggenheim**, the **National Academy of Design**, the **Cooper-Hewitt**, the **Jewish Museum**, the **International Center for Photography**, the **Museum of the City of New York**, and **El Museo del Barrio**. In warm weather you'll find all sorts of outdoor vendors selling books, crafts, T-shirts and other items on the west Fifth Avenue, immediately south of the **Metropolitan** in the high and mid 70s.

THEATRE DISTRICT

Broadway is on Broadway. Right? Wrong -at least for the most part. The theatre district is between West 44th and West 51st streets. Disney has bought up the lower end of this area and added theatres.

NEW YORK

NOTES

WEDNESDAY

Midtown Discovery Walk

Central Park

Radio City Music Hall

Wicked at the Gershwin Theater

THURSDAY

Manhattan/ Brooklyn Tour

Metropolitan Museum and the Upper East Side

Blue Man Group or Stomp in the East Village

NEW YORK

NOTES

FRIDAY

Workshops at Art Student's League, Pearl Studios and Julliard

The MoMA in MidTown

Phantom of the Opera or Lion King on Broadway

SATURDAY

Scavenger Hunt in SoHo and Greenwich Village

Fuerzabruta at the Daryl Roth Theater in Union Square

Top of the Rock

