

New York City Guide



This booklet gives you information about Manhattan in general followed by information on most of the places that we visit



A guide to New York Neighbourhoods

Midtown Manhattan

The current city centre is located from 42nd Street to Central Park, with the main corporate power centre southeast of Central Park.

Although stocks and bonds continue to change hands on Wall Street, the true centre of corporate power in America has moved to Midtown East.

In this area you'll find the Citibank's, the Madison Avenue advertising agencies, the multinational law firms, the Trump Towers, the Bloomingdales department stores and deluxe shops such as Gucci.

You'll have a hard time finding truly budget restaurants and hotels in this area.

Lower Manhattan

What New Yorkers still call downtown or Lower Manhattan refers to the downtown of the 19th century in the Wall Street area at the southern tip of Manhattan Island. This area has been undergoing revitalization, especially with older commercial buildings being converted into deluxe condos.

When the Dutch ruled Manhattan, Wall Street was indeed a wall used to protect the colonists from the indigenous peoples.

South of Washington Square in Greenwich Village, you'll find the old downtown, the Wall Street area, the site of what remains of the World Trade Centre complex, a growing Chinatown due to robust immigration, Little Italy, the trendy SOHO (South of Houston), TriBeCa (Triangle Below Canal), and NOHO (North of Houston) areas, where many of the "in" clubs and restaurants are, and large areas of public housing and abandoned warehouses and factories.

Outside of Wall Street and the busiest tourist areas, such as central Chinatown, the southern area of Manhattan requires extra caution.

Greenwich Village

Around Washington Square at the south end of Fifth Avenue, the Greenwich Village area contains the large student population of New York University and many restaurants and music venues. This is an exciting area of New York City.

The West Village tends toward gay commercial and residential. This area also attracts others who love to live among the historic buildings, yet close to major employment areas.

The East Village around Second Avenue and Eighth Street seems leftover from the late 1960s—it seems colourfully dysfunctional. This area is famed for budget restaurants. If you're a vegetarian, this is the motherland.

Just south of Washington Square, you'll find the traditional Greenwich Village entertainment area, including historic music clubs like the Bitter End. The classroom and administration buildings of New York University are also here.

The square itself is a must visit on a nice weekend day or holiday.

Union Square

New Yorkers love the Union Square area at Broadway and East 14th Street, but this fun and lively area is often overlooked by tourists.

The hip student and media crowd here knows a good thing. There's sidewalk dining in season.

This food will also appeal to non vegetarians.



Thirty-fourth Street

Going up island, within several blocks of Broadway and 34th Street, you reach what was the city centre in the 1930's and 1940's.

When the Empire State Building popped up here during the Great Depression, this area truly became downtown New York.

Also here, you'll find the underground Penn Station (Amtrak, New Jersey Transit, NYC subway, and Long Island suburban trains), Madison Square Garden (on top of a portion of Penn Station), and the humongous Macy's Department Store.

Penn Station lies below street level.

The destruction of the former Penn Station in the 1960's was perhaps the perhaps the most ill-advised urban project since Tokyo tore down Frank Lloyd Wright's Imperial Hotel.

This area has declined somewhat in recent years, as the commercial centre of New York has continued to move north. However, it remains a great area to find good, but less expensive hotels.

West of Broadway, between Penn Station and Times Square, lies the old Garment District. Its production has largely moved offshore or to the southern U.S.

Times Square and Midtown

The action begins again at 42nd Street.

Times Square, which has become more wholesome during the last few years, sits where Broadway, Seventh Avenue, and 42nd Street meet. This is a major public transportation hub.

Not everyone loves how Times Square has changed. A Disney theatre in Times Square? Unthinkable, but it's there. The Lion King awaits.

Regardless, Times Square remains a must for every visitor.

The Port Authority Bus Terminal (Greyhound, Trailways, New Jersey Transit, Shortline, Peter Pan, etc.) looks out at 42nd and Eighth Avenue.

Majestic Grand Central Station sits at 42nd and Lexington Avenue, just east of Times Square. Be sure to see the restoration of its lobby, including its wonderful celestial ceiling.

The United Nations building lies just north of the east end of 42nd Street along the East River.

The Hudson River flows along the west side of Manhattan, and its branch, the East River, travels along the east side, until they meet at the southern tip of Manhattan Island.

New York City names

Across the river from the United Nations building toward the south is the New York City borough of Brooklyn. This is also the governmental jurisdiction of Kings County, Brooklyn's name prior to the American Revolution.

The borough of Queens sits directly across the river and to the north. This is both the New York City borough of Queens and the New York County of Queens, also, of course, a name left over from British rule.

While on the topic of New York City names, New Amsterdam became New York City, when the British took control, but the New York City neighbourhood of Harlaam became just Harlem.

Western Long Island, outside of New York City, a major suburban area, remained Dutch: Nassau County.

The descendants of the first Dutch settlers of New York have included many famous Americans, including

- President Theodore Roosevelt,
- President Franklin Delano Roosevelt,



- John D. Rockefeller, the founder of the Standard Oil Company and once the richest man in the U.S.,
 - Cornelius Vanderbilt, who assembled (from smaller railroads) the New York Central Railroad, once the premier railway between New York City and Chicago.
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Theatre district

At and just to the north of Times Square extending down various side streets, you'll find the Broadway theatre district.

During the day, a kiosk in the centre of Times Square sells *half price tickets* to various evening shows and afternoon performances.

Some are failed new shows soon to close, but many are *outstanding* shows near the end of long runs. A few are the most popular shows that have had group cancellations.

Off-Broadway theatre refers to less elaborate productions often held in less expensive venues elsewhere in the city. Some of these shows become so popular that they move to larger Broadway theatres. Others would turn off any mainstream audience.

Central Park South

If your budget permits, the area just south of Central Park makes a fine hotel location.

Not only are you adjacent to Manhattan's "lung," Central Park, you're within walking distance of all of Midtown.

Upper West Side

Not so surprisingly, you'll find "Upper West Side" west of Central Park.

Predominately residential, the Upper West Side attracts a hipper crowd than the far more staid and wealthier Upper East Side, on the other side of the park.

Here live many young working people and Columbia and other university students, who enjoy the large number of lower cost ethnic restaurants in the neighbourhood along Amsterdam, Columbus, and Broadway. You'll find many fun places to hang out at in the evening.

Here, also, live many famous New Yorkers, as did the late John Lennon. This is the area depicted in the television show "Seinfeld."

The main attraction in this area is the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, America's premier ballet, opera, and symphonic music venue, as well as a centre for theatre and film. The Lincoln Center includes New York's famed Julliard School, the New York Philharmonic, the Metropolitan Opera, the New York City Ballet, and other cultural icons.

The Upper West Side also has the American Museum of Natural History, which includes the outstanding Hayden Planetarium in its Rose Center for Earth and Space.

Upper East Side


Not to be outgunned by the culture on the westside, the Upper East Side has icons of its own, such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum of Modern Art.

You'll also mingle with the residents of one of the richest neighbourhoods in the world.

Hotels here tend to be expensive.

Harlem

Fronting Central Park on its north, predominately of African or Hispanic descent Harlem has really improved in recent years.



Harlem's location was too good to remain so depressed. The area is also considered much safer now.

Other neighbourhoods

For the most part, with few exceptions, a first time visitor should save the other boroughs (counties within the City of New York)—the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn, and thinly populated Staten Island for later visits.

The main action is in Manhattan, the star of New York's five boroughs.

Note, however, that Brooklyn, if it was not part of New York City, would itself be the fourth largest city in the U.S., a place with much to offer visitors.

Note, too, that the Bronx has one of the best botanical gardens in the world.

A guide to understanding the Manhattan street system

Broadway

On Manhattan, you are either east or west of Broadway, New York City's main street.

Broadway—one of the most well-known streets in the world—cuts a diagonal on the west side of Midtown. South of Greenwich Village, it runs along the east side of Manhattan.

Avenues and streets

Avenues generally run north and south. For the most part, streets run east and west.

Avenues tend to be wider, which also helps you know your direction.

The main avenues in the Midtown area starting from east to west are:

First Avenue | Second Avenue | Third Avenue | Lexington Avenue | Park Avenue | Madison Avenue | Fifth Avenue | Avenue of the Americas (frequently called by its old name Sixth Avenue) | Seventh Avenue | Eighth Avenue

If you're walking on an avenue, you'll know you are either heading north or south.

If the side streets increase in number as you walk (for example, 42nd Street, 43rd Street, 44th Street), you'll know you're heading north. If not—you've guessed it—you're going south.

From the Greenwich Village area, streets increase in numbers all the way to the northern tip of Manhattan.

Exceptions to street pattern

New York streets are a bit like the English language. There are always exceptions, such as

- Fifty-ninth Street becomes Central Park South as it follows the southern boundary of Central Park, an elegant location.
- Eighth Avenue becomes Central Park West along the western border of Central Park,
- Ninth Avenue becomes Columbus west of Central Park,



- Tenth Avenue becomes Amsterdam Avenue (an important commercial street) west of Central Park
- Eleventh Avenue becomes West End Avenue west of the park

The latter four are all important streets on the Upper West Side. Donald Trump has a huge development going on along West End Avenue.



St Patricks Cathedral

History

The Cathedral of St. Patrick (commonly called St. Patrick's Cathedral) is a decorated Neo-Gothic-style Roman Catholic cathedral church. It is the seat of the archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York, and a parish church, located on the east side of Fifth Avenue between 50th and 51st Streets in midtown Manhattan, directly across the street from Rockefeller Center.

Facts

It can accommodate 2,200 people.

The site of the church takes up a whole city block, bounded by East 51st Street to the north, Madison Avenue to the east, East 50th Street to the south, and Fifth Avenue to the west.

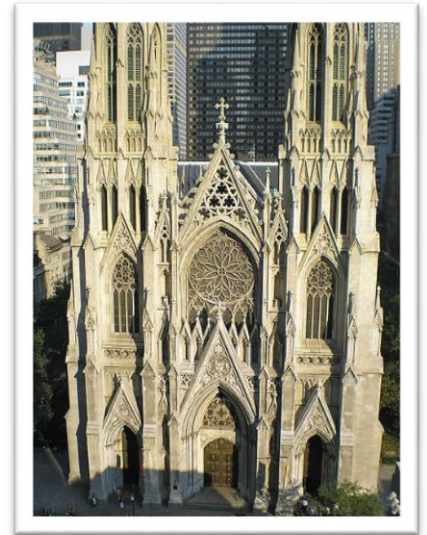
The spires rise 330 feet (100 m) from street level.

The windows were made by artists in Chartres, France; Birmingham, England; and Boston, Massachusetts. The great rose window is one of Charles Connick's major works.

TV and Movies

The cathedral appeared in the 2002 movie Spider-Man, when Spider-Man saves Mary Jane Watson and leaves her on one of the Rockefeller Center roof gardens across the street.

In the ABC television series Ugly Betty, the cathedral was used as the venue for the wedding of Wilhelmina Slater to Bradford Meade.



Waldorf Astoria

History

The Waldorf-Astoria is a luxury hotel in New York. The Waldorf Astoria New York is a member of Hilton's Luxury and Lifestyle Brands.



An Astor family feud contributed to the events which led to the construction of the original Waldorf-Astoria on Fifth Avenue.

It started as two hotels: one owned by William Waldorf Astor, whose 13-story Waldorf Hotel was opened in 1893 and the other owned by his cousin, John Jacob Astor IV, called the Astoria Hotel and opened four years later in 1897, four stories higher.

The Waldorf Astoria is historically significant for transforming the contemporary hotel, then a facility for transients, into a social center of the city as well as a prestigious destination for visitors and a part of popular culture. The Waldorf Astoria was influential in advancing the status of women, who were admitted singly without escorts.

Facts

Waldorf-Astoria was the first hotel to serve room service, making a huge impact for the future of the hotel industry. Luxury was the brand they sought after.

Its name is ultimately derived from Walldorf in Germany and the prominent German-American Astor family, that originated there.

In 1955, Marilyn Monroe stayed at the hotel for several months.

During her childhood, Paris Hilton lived with her family in the hotel.

During the 1950s and early 1960s, former U.S. president Herbert Hoover and retired U.S. General Douglas MacArthur lived in suites on different floors of the hotel.

Gangsters Frank Costello, Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel and Charles "Lucky" Luciano (room 39c) once lived in the Waldorf=Astoria.

Waldorf salad — a salad made with apples, walnuts, celery, grapes, and mayonnaise or a mayonnaise-based dressing — was first created in 1896 at the Waldorf in New York.

TV and Movies

In the 1988 movie *Coming To America*, the king of Zamunda and his family stayed at the Waldorf-Astoria in the final New York based scene in the movie.



In the 1992 movie *Scent of a Woman*, Lt. Col. Frank Slade (Al Pacino) and his traveling companion Charles Simms (Chris O'Donnell) stayed at the Waldorf Astoria.

The 2002 film *Maid in Manhattan* takes place at the Waldorf Astoria, but the hotel is renamed The Beresford Hotel in the movie.

Russian tennis star Maria Sharapova exits out of the hotel in the 2006 Nike commercial *Pretty*.

In the 2009 film remake of *The Taking of Pelham 123*, Garber (played by Denzel Washington) follows the train hijackers through the emergency exit underneath the

Waldorf Astoria in his attempt to pursue these men before they escape with the hostage money.

Rockefeller Center / Top of the Rock



History

Rockefeller Center was named after John D. Rockefeller, Jr., who leased the space from Columbia University in 1928 and developed it from 1930. Rockefeller initially planned a syndicate to build an opera house for the Metropolitan Opera on the site, but changed his mind after the stock market crash of 1929. Rockefeller stated "It was clear that there were only two courses open to me. One was to abandon the entire development. The other to go forward with it in the definite knowledge that I myself would have to build it and finance it alone." He

took on the enormous project as the sole financier, on a 27-year lease.

Facts

Rockefeller Center (or Rockefeller Plaza) is a complex of 19 commercial buildings covering 22 acres (89,000 m²) between 48th and 51st streets. Built by the Rockefeller family, it is located in the center of Midtown Manhattan, spanning the area between Fifth Avenue and Sixth Avenue.

This is almost a district in itself, but the highlights are the ice rink in the winter and the "Top of the Rock" observation area.

TV and Movies

The Rockefeller Christmas tree makes an appearance in *Home Alone 2*. One of Kevin's main concerns about going to Florida is the lack of Christmas Trees. In the movie *Elf*, on Buddy's first date with Jovie (Zooey Deschanel) he shows her the biggest Christmas Trees he's found in New York. At that point Jovie realises he's not seen the one in Rockefeller Plaza.



Statue of Liberty

History

The **Statue of Liberty** was dedicated on October 28, 1886 to the United States from the people of France. It is a robed female figure representing Libertas, the Roman goddess of freedom, who bears a torch and a *'tabula ansata'* (a tablet evoking the law) upon which is inscribed the date of the American Declaration of Independence. A broken chain lies at her feet. The statue has become an icon of freedom and of the United States.

Facts

She's the icon of New York and you'll find her just off the southern edge of Manhattan Island. You can pay for a trip to her Island from Battery Park, although you can't go up to the top of the statue unless you have secured a "crown ticket" from the Statue Cruises website in advance.

TV & Movies

It is destroyed in the science-fiction films *Independence Day*, *The Day After Tomorrow*, and *Cloverfield*. The climactic scenes of this comic book action movie *X-Men* take place on the top of Liberty's head.



Ellis Island

History

Just off the southern tip of Manhattan, this island and its grand buildings were the gateway to a new life in the USA for immigrants arriving between 1892 and 1954. It's now the national immigration museum after being restored in the late 1980s. Many original features remain so you get a real taste of what it would have been like to arrive as an immigrant.

TV and Movies

Ellis island has been a source of inspiration or subject for the arts including film, literature and music.

In the film *X-Men*, a UN summit held on the island is targeted by Magneto, a former immigrant who attempts to artificially mutate all the delegates present. In the 2005 feature film romantic comedy, *Hitch*, starring Will Smith, his and Eva Mendes' characters take a jet ski to the island and explore the building.



Wall Street

History

There are varying accounts about how the Dutch-named "de Waal Straat" got its name. A generally accepted version is that the name of the street name was derived from an earthen wall on the northern boundary of the New Amsterdam settlement, perhaps to protect against English colonial encroachment or incursions by native Americans.

In October 1929, a celebrated Yale economist named Irving Fisher reassured worried investors that their "money was safe" on Wall Street. A few days later, stock values plummeted. The stock market crash of 1929 ushered in the Great Depression in which a quarter of



working people were unemployed, with soup kitchens, mass foreclosures of farms, and falling prices.

During this era, development of the financial district stagnated, and Wall Street "paid a heavy price" and "became something of a backwater in American life." During the New Deal years as well as the forties, there was much less focus on Wall Street and finance. From 1946-1947, stocks could not be purchased "on margin", meaning that an investor had to pay 100% of a stock's cost without taking on any loans.

Facts

Wall Street refers to the financial district of New York City, named after and centered on the eight-block-long street running from Broadway to South Street on the East River in lower Manhattan. Over time, the term has become a metonym for the financial markets of the US as a whole, or signifying New York-based financial interests. It is the home of the New York Stock Exchange.

TV and Movies

The film *Die Hard with a Vengeance* has a plot involving thieves breaking into the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and stealing most of the gold bullion stored underground by driving dump trucks through a nearby Wall Street subway station.



On January 26, 2000, the band Rage Against The Machine filmed the music video for "Sleep Now in the Fire" on Wall Street, which was directed by Michael Moore.

The 1987 film *Wall Street* and its 2010 sequel exemplify many popular conceptions of Wall Street, being a tale of shady corporate dealings and insider trading.

In the film *National Treasure* a clue to finding the Templar Treasure leads the main characters to Wall Street's Trinity Church.

Bret Easton Ellis's novel *American Psycho* follows the day-to-day life of Wall Street investment banker and serial killer Patrick Bateman.



Staten Island Ferry

History

In the 18th century, ferry service between Staten Island and the city of New York was conducted by private individuals with "periaugers", shallow-draft, two-masted sailboats used for local traffic in New York harbor.

Facts

The Staten Island Ferry provides 20 million people a year (60,000 passengers a day not including weekend days) with ferry service

between St. George on Staten Island and Whitehall Street in lower Manhattan.



The Staten Island Ferry is run by the City of New York for one reason: To transport Staten Islanders to and from Manhattan. Yet, the 5 mile, 25 minute ride also provides a majestic view of New York Harbor and a no-

hassle, even romantic, boat ride, for free!

From the deck of the ferry you will have a perfect view of The Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. You'll see the skyscrapers and bridges of Lower Manhattan receding as you pull away and coming into focus again as you return.

A typical weekday schedule involves the use of five boats to transport approximately 60,000 passengers daily (109 daily trips). During the day, between rush hours, boats are regularly fueled and maintenance work is performed. Terminals are cleaned around the clock and routine terminal maintenance is performed on the day shift. On weekends, three boats are used (75 trips each Saturday and 68 trips each Sunday). Over 35,000 trips are made annually.

TV and Movies

The ferry appears regularly in television shows about New York City such as *Sex and the City* and in the opening credits of both *Late Night* and *Late Show with David Letterman*.

"The Dark Knight" (2008) featured replicas of the Spirit of America ferries re-named the "Gotham City Ferry", the city where the movie takes place.

Not Afraid (2009), a music video from Hip-hop rapper/singer Eminem rapping from the outside of the ferry going to New Jersey.

In "Semi-Detached", an episode of *Law & Order: Criminal Intent*, a radio DJ (played by Fisher Stevens) commits suicide by jumping off the deck of the ferry.

The *Law & Order* episode "The Dead Wives Club" also takes place on the ferry when a murder takes place on the boat at the same time the crash occurs.

American Gangster (2008) features a shot of the Staten Island Ferry.

Madison Square Garden

History

On February 11, 1968, the current Madison Square Garden opened after the Pennsylvania Railroad tore down the above-ground portions of Pennsylvania Station and continued railway traffic underneath. The new structure was one of the first of its kind to be built above the platforms of an active railroad station.

The current Garden is the hub of Madison Square Garden Center in the office and entertainment complex commonly known as Penn Plaza.

Facts

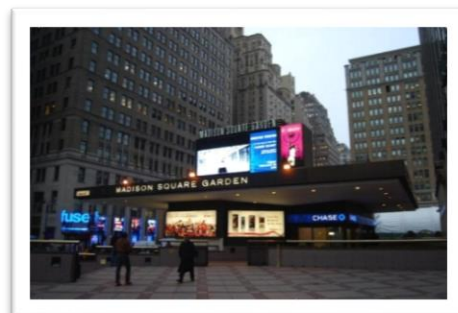
The present Garden hosts approximately 320 events a year. It is the home of the New York Rangers of the NHL, the New York Knicks of the NBA, and the New York Liberty of the WNBA, which are, like the arena itself, owned by Madison Square Garden.

Other regular events include the the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show.

Many of boxing's biggest fights were held at Madison Square Garden, including the first Joe Frazier – Muhammad Ali bout.

Many large popular-music concerts in New York City take place in Madison Square Garden. Particularly famous ones include George Harrison's Concert for Bangladesh, The Concert for New York City following the September 11 attacks and John Lennon's final concert appearance before his murder in 1980.

The Garden usually hosts a concert each year on New Year's Eve, with the Knicks and Rangers usually playing on the road. The Police played their final show of their reunion tour at the Garden in 2008. To this day, Elton John currently holds the all-time record for greatest number of appearances at The Garden with 62 shows and Billy Joel set his own record in 2006 during his 12 performance run, achieving the title "Longest Run of a Single Artist."



TV and Movies

In the movie *Rocky III*, the rematch between Clubber Lang and Rocky Balboa is in the Garden.



The American sitcom *Friends* has used shots of Madison Square Garden several times. In the episode *The One with George Stephanopoulos*, Chandler, Joey, and Ross go to see a Rangers game, in *The One with the Late Thanksgiving*, Joey and Ross are late to Thanksgiving dinner because they go to see a Rangers game and in *The One Where Rachel's Sister Baby-Sits Mike* proposes to Phoebe on the big screen during a Knicks game.

A scene in the romantic comedy *Hitch* takes place at Madison Square Garden during a Knicks basketball game.

In Adam Sandler's *Little Nicky* the Harlem Globetrotters play at the Garden.

The Garden was the location of the teen sensations' films *The Jonas Brothers* and *Justin Bieber*.

In early 2011 Lady Gaga filmed a 'fly on the wall' documentary for HBO following her life and featured a performance at MSG of her *Monster Ball Tour*.

Grand Central Terminal

History

Grand Central Depot brought the trains of the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad, the New York and Harlem Railroad, and the New York and New Haven Railroad together in one large station. The station was designed by John B. Snook and opened in October 1871.

Between 1899 and 1900, the original building was essentially demolished. It was expanded from three to six stories with an entirely new facade, on plans by railroad architect Bradford Gilbert. The train shed was kept. The tracks that previously continued south of 42nd Street were removed and the train yard reconfigured in an effort to reduce congestion and turnaround time for trains. The reconstructed building was renamed Grand Central Station.

Between 1903 and 1913, the entire building was torn down in phases and replaced by the current Grand Central Terminal. The new terminal opened on February 2, 1913.

Facts

Grand Central and its neighborhood fell on hard times during the financial collapse of its host railroads and the near bankruptcy of New York City itself.

In 1975, Donald Trump bought the Commodore Hotel to the east of the terminal for \$10 million and then worked out a deal to transform it into one of the first Grand Hyatt hotels. Trump agreed to renovate the exterior of the terminal.

The complementary masonry from the Commodore was covered with a mirror-glass "slipcover" facade - the masonry still exists underneath. In the same deal, Trump optioned Penn Central's rail yards on the Hudson River between 59th and 72nd Streets that eventually became Trump Place, the biggest private development in New York City.

The Grand Hyatt opened in 1980 and the neighborhood



immediately began a transformation. Trump sold his interest in the hotel for \$142 million, establishing him as a big-time player in New York real estate.

TV and Movies

Grand Central Terminal has been used in numerous film and TV productions over the years. Some films that have been filmed at Grand Central Terminal include:

Arthur | The Bone Collector | Conspiracy Theory | Gossip Girl | I Am Legend | Loser | Men In Black | Men In Black II | One Fine Day | Superman: The Movie | Step Up 3 | The Taking of Pelham 123 | Unbreakable

Guggenheim Museum

History

The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (often referred to as "The Guggenheim") is a well-known museum located on the Upper East Side of Manhattan.

Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, it is one of the 20th century's most important architectural landmarks.

Facts

The museum opened on October 21, 1959, and was the second museum opened by the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation.

From 2005 to 2008 it underwent an extensive renovation.

TV and Movies

The building has become a cultural icon and can be seen widely throughout popular culture. It is featured in Men in Black, Ugly Betty and prominently in The International, where a major shootout occurs in the museum. (In fact, a life-size replica of the museum was built for this scene.)



Belvedere Castle

History

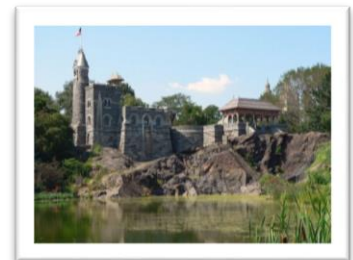
This was built as a Victorian folly in 1869. Its turret is the highest point in the park.

Belvedere means 'beautiful view' or 'panoramic view' in Italian and the castle provides impressive views across Central Park and New York City. It was designed as an additional feature of Central Park.

Facts

The Observatory contains family-friendly displays that demonstrate the process by which naturalists observe their world and share their scientific discoveries about it. The displays, which include telescopes, microscopes, skeletons and feathers, are designed to expose children to fundamentals of the scientific method in natural observation. The precipice of the castle has become one of New York's most popular birdwatching sites.

Free family and community programs hosted at Belvedere Castle include stargazing, astronomy talks, storytimes and the "Spooks at Belvedere" haunted castle event every Halloween.



Strawberry Fields

History

The Central Park memorial was designed by Bruce Kelly, the chief landscape architect for the Central Park Conservancy. Strawberry Fields was dedicated on what would have been Lennon's 45th birthday, 9 October 1985, by New York Mayor Ed Koch and Lennon's widow Yoko Ono.



The entrance to the memorial is located directly across from the Dakota Apartments, where Lennon had lived for the later part of his life, and where he was murdered.

Yoko Ono who still lives in The Dakota, contributed over a million dollars for the landscaping and for the upkeep endowment.

Facts

The memorial is often covered with flowers, candles in glasses, and other belongings left behind by Lennon fans. On Lennon's birthday (October 9) and on the anniversary of his death (December 8), people gather to sing songs and pay tribute, staying late into what is often a cold night.

Impromptu memorial gatherings for other musicians, including Jerry Garcia and George Harrison, have occurred at the memorial. Many times, particularly in the summer and on the anniversaries of the other Beatles' birthdays, gatherings take place at the site. In the days following the September 11, 2001 attacks, candlelight vigils were held at the Imagine

Circle to remember those killed.



Dakota Building

History

The Dakota, constructed from October 25, 1880 to October 27, 1884, is a co-op apartment building located on the northwest corner of 72nd Street and Central Park West in the Upper West Side of Manhattan. The building is most widely known as the location of the murder of musician John Lennon.

The architectural firm of Henry Janeway Hardenbergh was commissioned to create the design for Edward Clark, head of the Singer Sewing Machine Company. The firm also designed the Plaza Hotel.

Its layout and floor plan betray a strong influence of French architectural trends in housing design that had become known in New York in the 1870s.

According to often repeated stories, the Dakota was so named because at the time it was built, the Upper West Side of Manhattan was sparsely inhabited and considered as remote as the Dakota Territory.

Facts

The Dakota is square, built around a central courtyard. The arched main entrance is a porte cochère large enough for the horse-drawn carriages that once entered and allowed passengers to disembark sheltered from the weather.

The principal rooms, such as parlors or the master bedroom, face the street, while the dining room, kitchen, and other auxiliary rooms are oriented toward the courtyard. Apartments thus are aired from two sides, which was a relative novelty in Manhattan at the time.



Some of the drawing rooms are 49 ft (15 m) long, and many of the ceilings are 14 ft (4.3 m) high; the floors are inlaid with mahogany, oak, and cherry (although in the apartment of Clark, the building's founder, famously, some floors were inlaid with sterling silver).

Originally, the Dakota had sixty-five apartments with four to twenty rooms, no two being alike. These apartments are accessed by staircases and elevators placed in the four corners of the courtyard.

The Dakota property also contained a garden, private croquet lawns, and a tennis court behind the building between 72nd and 73rd Streets.

TV and Movies

In the film *Rosemary's Baby*, the Dakota is used for exterior shots of the apartment building where the couple lives.

In the film *Cruel Intentions*, the Dakota is used for the exterior shots of the apartment building where Kathryn and Sebastian live.

Well known residents of the Dakota building have included:

Roberta Flack | Judy Garland | John Lennon [Lennon owned five apartments in The Dakota] | Sean Lennon | Yoko Ono

Columbus Circle

History

Columbus Circle, named for Christopher Columbus, is a major landmark and point of attraction in Manhattan. It is the point from which all official distances from New York City are measured.

The name is also used for the neighbourhood a few blocks around the circle in each direction.

Completed in 1905 and renovated a century later, the circle was designed by William P. Eno, a businessman who pioneered many early innovations in road safety and traffic control.

The monument at the center of Columbus Circle, created by Italian sculptor Gaetano Russo, was erected as part of New York's 1892 commemoration of the 400th anniversary of Columbus' landing in the Americas. The monument consists of a marble statue of Columbus atop a 70-foot (21 m) granite rostral column decorated with bronze reliefs representing Columbus' ships: the *Niña*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa Maria*. Its pedestal features an angel holding a globe.



Facts

Renovations to the circle completed in 2005 included new water fountains by WET, of Fountains of Bellagio fame; wooden benches; and plantings encircling the monument.

The inner circle measures approximately 36,000 square feet (3,300 m²), and the outer circle is approximately 148,000 square feet (13,700 m²).

TV and Movies

Columbus Circle appears in a number of films, including *It Could Happen to You*, *The Devil Wears Prada*, *Eyes of Laura Mars*, *Home Alone 2: Lost in New York*, *Taxi Driver*, *Die Hard with a Vengeance*, *Enchanted*, *I Am Legend*, *Cloverfield*, *The Other Guys* and the end credits of *The Odd Couple* (TV series).

Columbus Circle also appeared in the movie *Ghostbusters* as the site where the Stay Puft Marshmallow Man begins his trip towards 55 Central Park West, and is used as the somewhat serendipitous dominant location in the movie *August Rush*.

Columbus Circle is also the location of English indie rock band Kaiser Chiefs' music video, "Love's Not a Competition (But I'm Winning)". It was featured on the band's second studio album, *Yours Truly, Angry Mob*.

Macy's

History

Macy moved to New York City in 1858 and established a new store named "R.H Macy Dry Goods" on Sixth Avenue between 13th and 14th Streets.



As the business grew, Macy's expanded into neighbouring buildings, opening more and more departments, and used publicity devices such as a store Santa Claus, themed exhibits, and illuminated window displays to draw in customers. It also offered a money back guarantee, although it only accepted cash into the 1950s. The store also produced its own made-to-measure clothing for both men and women, assembled in an on-site factory.

In 1902, the flagship store moved uptown to Herald Square at 34th Street and Broadway, so far north of the other main dry goods emporia that it had to offer a steam wagonette to transport customers from 14th Street to 34th Street. Although the Herald Square store initially consisted of just one building, it expanded, eventually occupying almost the entire block.

Facts

Isidor Straus, the longtime co-owner of Macy's, was one of the most well-known casualties on the infamous sinking of the Titanic in 1912. Although Straus and his wife Ida had a chance to get on one of the lifeboats, Isidor refused, saying that he wouldn't go ahead of the younger men, and Ida, not wanting to leave her husband behind, stayed with him on the ship. The moment was immortalized in the 1958 film *A Night to Remember*, and was later used in both the 1997 film and the Broadway musical.

On the company's first day of business on October 28, 1858 sales totalled US\$11.08, equal to \$279.82 today. From the very beginning, Macy's logo has included a star in one form or another, which comes from a tattoo that Macy got as a teenager when he worked on a Nantucket whaling ship.

TV and Movies

The classic Christmas film *Miracle on 34th Street* (1947) is set in Macy's 34th Street flagship store. Subsequent remakes of the film for television (1955, 1959, and 1973) are also set in Macy's. However, a 1994 remake of the film was set in the fictional "Cole's" department store after Macy's refused to have its name used in the remake of the original film.



The U.S. version of the music video "Heard 'Em Say" by Kanye West and Adam Levine (lead singer of Maroon 5) was filmed inside Macy's Herald Square. The video features West and homeless children playing inside a closed Macy's at night, when Levine, as a store manager, lets them in.

The pop punk band, Green Day has a song called "Macy's Day Parade" on their album, *Warning*.

In the 1976 musical drama *Bugsy Malone*, Bugsy, talking about his boxing past says, "This jaw has more glass in it than Macys."

Greenwich Village

History

It officially became a village in 1712 and is first referred to as Grin'wich in 1713 Common Council records. Its site on the block bounded by Perry and Charles Streets, Bleecker and West 4th Streets, can still be recognized by its mid-19th century rowhouses inserted into a neighborhood still retaining many houses of the 1830–37 boom.

Facts

Greenwich Village, often simply called "the Village", is a largely residential neighborhood on the west side of Lower Manhattan. A large majority of the district is home to upper middle class families. Greenwich Village, however, was known in the late 19th to mid 20th centuries as an artists' haven, the bohemian capital, and the East Coast birthplace of the Beat movement.

In this residential district of New York, you'll find a real village feel with tree-lined streets packed with lovely townhouses and sweeping stairways. Some highlights in "The Village" include the Magnolia Bakery with its infamous cupcakes and the fictional home of Sex & The City's Carrie Bradshaw.

TV and Movies

Dozens of cultural and popular icons got their start in the Village's nightclub, theater, and coffeehouse scene during the 1950s, 1960s, and early 1970s, notably besides Bob Dylan, there were Jimi Hendrix, Barbra Streisand, Simon & Garfunkel, Joni Mitchell and Nina Simone among many others.



The cover photo for The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan of Dylan and his then-girlfriend Suze Rotolo was taken on Jones Street near West 4th Street in Greenwich Village, near their apartment.

The NBC Sitcom The Cosby Show (1984–92) made several references to the Village during its run, and the townhouse used for exterior shots is on St. Luke's Place.

The NBC sitcom Friends (1994–2004) is set in the Village. Central Perk was apparently on Mercer or Houston Street, down the block from the Angelika Film Center and Phoebe lived at 5 Morton Street. The building in the exterior shot of Chandler, Joey, Rachel, and Monica's apartment building is at the corner of Grove and Bedford Streets in the West Village. One of the show's working titles was Once Upon a Time in the West Village.

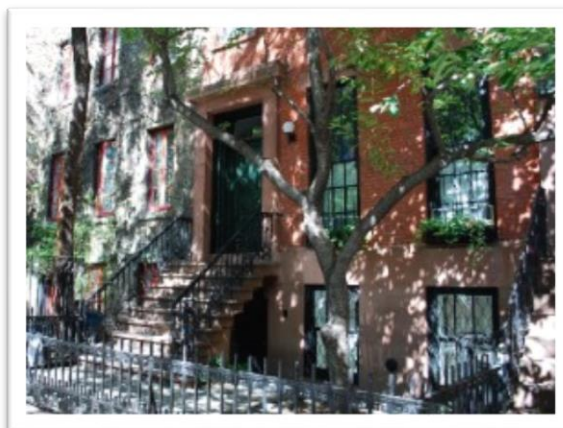
On Sex and the City (1998–2004), exterior shots of Carrie Bradshaw's apartment building are of 66 Perry Street, even though her address is given as on the Upper East Side.

Magnolia Bakery

History

Magnolia bakery opened in July 1996, at 401 Bleecker Street, with Allysa Torey and Jennifer Appel as co-owners.

They offered four kinds of bread along with both cinnamon rolls and whole wheat maple walnut rolls during the first week of operation. Making bread proved to be impractical due to time and space constraints.



Southern-raised Kathryn stayed on, however, to bake cakes and pastries, helping Allysa with icing cakes and testing recipes with her late at night. The cupcakes were Allysa's brainchild that resulted because when they would make 6" coconut cakes there was extra batter going to waste. Thus, the cupcakes were born in early fall of 1996. They were originally only vanilla cake, with vanilla buttercream icing tinted pink, baked in the afternoons and iced at night when the bakery was officially closed. There would be many people (mostly guys heading to Christopher Street) walking by late at night and when Allysa would tell them the bakery was closed, they would beg for just a cupcake. She obliged. Thus the craze began.



Magnolia Bakery was originally envisioned as just a nice little neighborhood bakery that would be open from about 8am-6pm. That plan changed quickly due to demand.

Facts

An uptown shop opened at 200 Columbus Avenue, on the corner of West 69th Street on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, in January 2008.

A location also exists near Rockefeller center at 1240 Avenue of the Americas, and yet another in the dining concourse of Grand Central Station, which opened in February of 2010.

The bakery is credited with starting a 1990s "cupcake craze".

TV and Movies

The bakery was featured on *Sex and the City* and in *The Devil Wears Prada*, in which the character Andy says at one point that she needs to get to the bakery to pick something up for her boyfriend.

The sitcom *Spin City* also has Charlie Sheen's character bringing Magnolia Cupcakes to Heather Locklear's character. It was also briefly mentioned in the third season of *Veronica Mars*, the title character affectionately mentioning a picture of her father "stuffing cupcakes in [his] face at Magnolia Bakery."

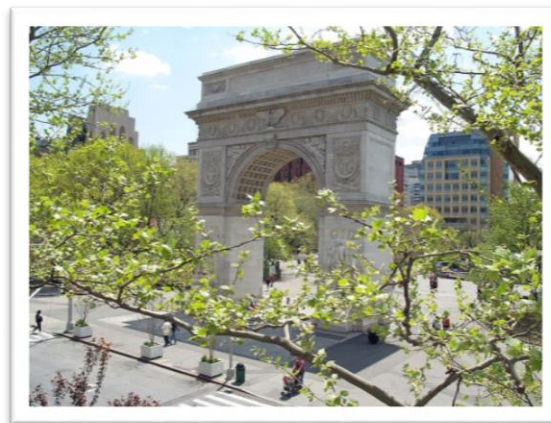
Washington Square Park

History

In 1826 the City bought the land and it was turned into the Washington Military Parade Ground. Military parade grounds were public spaces specified by the City where volunteer militia companies responsible for the nation's defence would train.

The streets surrounding the square became one of the city's most desirable residential areas in the 1830s. The protected row of Greek Revival style houses on the north side of the park remain from that time.

In 1889, to celebrate the centennial of George Washington's inauguration as president of the United States, a large plaster and wood Memorial Arch was erected over Fifth Avenue just north of the park. The temporary plaster and wood arch was so popular that in 1892 a permanent marble arch, designed by the New York architect Stanford White, was erected, standing 77 feet (23 m). White modelled the arch after the 1806 Arc de Triomphe in Paris. In 1918 two statues of George Washington were added to the north side.



The first fountain was completed in 1852. The fountain was replaced in 1872.

Facts

Washington Square Park is one of the best-known of New York City's 1,900 public parks. At 9.75 acres (39,500 m²), it is a landmark in the Manhattan neighborhood of Greenwich Village, as well as a meeting place and center for cultural activity.



It is operated by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation.

The park's fountain area has long been one of the city's popular spots for residents and tourists. Most of the buildings surrounding the park now belong to New York University, but many have at one time served as homes and studios for artists. Some of the buildings have been built by NYU, others have been converted from their former uses into academic and residential buildings.

TV and Movies

The park appears in the 1989 film *When Harry Met Sally*; Sally drops Harry off in front of the arch upon arrival in New York.

During the 1990s, Washington Square Park hosted the location for many skateboarders. It was popularized in the skateboarding world by pros such as Steve Rodriguez, founder-owner of 5boro Skateboards, and Harold Hunter.

The main character of the 2007 film *I Am Legend*, played by Will Smith, has his home and laboratory on the Square.

On September 27, 2007, Democratic Presidential Candidate Barack Obama held a rally at Washington Square. 20,000 people registered for the event, and the crowds overflowed past security gates set up as a cordon. The *New York Times* described the rally "as one of the largest campaign events of the year."

The Washington Square Arch is featured in many episodes of the New York based TV series *Friends*.

Chelsea Market

History

Chelsea Market is an enclosed urban food court, shopping mall, office building and television production facility located in the Chelsea neighborhood of the borough of Manhattan.

Built in the former National Biscuit Company factory complex where the Oreo cookie was invented and produced, the 22-building complex fills two entire blocks bounded by Ninth and Eleventh Avenues and 15th and 16th Streets, with a connecting bridge over Tenth Avenue.

Facts

In addition to the retail concourse in the structure east of 10th Avenue, it also provides standard office space for tenants, including media and broadcasting companies such as Food Network and EMI Music Publishing. Also, more recently, Google has moved into some of the second and fourth floors.



Retail facilities were introduced in April 1997. Anchor stores include the Chelsea Market Baskets, Manhattan Fruit Exchange, 202 by Nicole

Farhi, Amy's Bread, and a restaurant, called Buddakan. There is also the Fat Witch Bakery, Ruth's Bakery, Eleni's Bakery, The Lobster Place, Frank's Meat, and Chelsea Thai.

The developers of Chelsea Market have encouraged a symbiotic relationship among their tenants with the vendors supplying the restaurateurs with fresh ingredients, such as seafood, vegetables, fruit and meats.

The presence of television companies in the same building also brings media attention to the site and the businesses that are found there. The site also allows businesses to combine their manufacturing and retail assets under one roof.

The High Line

History

The High Line was originally constructed in the 1930s, to lift dangerous freight trains off Manhattan's streets. Section 1 of the High Line is open as a public park, owned by the City of New York and operated under the jurisdiction of the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. Friends of the High Line is the conservancy charged with raising private funds for the park and overseeing its maintenance and operations, pursuant to an agreement with the Parks Department.

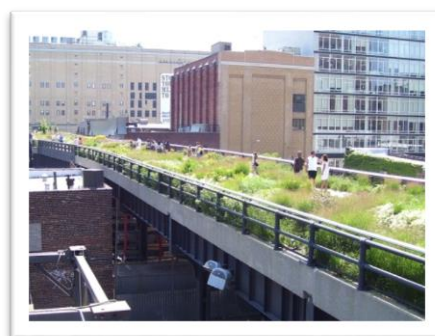
Facts

When all sections are complete, the High Line will be a mile-and-a-half-long elevated park, running through the West Side neighborhoods of the Meatpacking District, West Chelsea and Clinton/Hell's Kitchen. It features an integrated landscape, designed by landscape architects James Corner Field Operations, with architects Diller Scofidio + Renfro, combining meandering concrete pathways with naturalistic plantings. Fixed and movable seating, lighting, and special features are also included in the park.

TV and Movies

Some chase scenes in the 2007 movie *I am Legend* were filmed under the High Line and in the Meatpacking District.

The High Line appears in a scene in the second season of *Louie* (2011) as the site of one of the title character's dates.



Hotel Chelsea

History

Built between 1883 and 1885 and opened for initial occupation in 1884, the twelve-story red-brick building that is now the Hotel Chelsea was one of the city's first private apartment cooperatives. It has a grand staircase, which extends upward twelve floors. Generally, this staircase is only accessible to registered guests, although the hotel does offer monthly tours to others.

At the time of its construction, the building was the tallest in New York, and its surrounding neighborhood constituted the center of New York's theater district. However, within a few years the combination of economic stresses and the relocation of the theaters bankrupted the Chelsea cooperative. In 1905, the building reopened as a hotel. After the hotel went bankrupt, it was purchased in 1939 by Joseph Gross, Julius Krauss, and David Bard, and these partners managed the hotel together until the early 1970s.



In May 2011, the hotel has been sold to real estate developer Joseph Chetrit for \$80 Million US Dollars. The New York Times has reported that as of August 1st, 2011 the storied hotel will no longer take reservations from guests.

Facts

The Hotel Chelsea, also known as the Chelsea Hotel, or simply the Chelsea, is a historic New York City hotel and landmark, known primarily for its history of notable residents.

Located at 222 West 23rd Street, between Seventh and Eighth Avenues, in the Manhattan neighborhood of Chelsea, the 250-unit hotel has been the home of numerous writers, musicians, artists, and actors, including Bob Dylan, Janis Joplin, Patti Smith, Leonard Cohen and Iggy Pop. Though the Hotel Chelsea no longer accepts new long-term residencies, the building is still home to many residents who lived there before the change of policy.

TV and Movies

The hotel has been a home to actors and film directors such as Stanley Kubrick, Ethan Hawke, Dennis Hopper, Eddie Izzard, Uma Thurman, Elliot Gould and Jane Fonda.

It is known as the place where the writer Dylan Thomas was staying when he died of pneumonia on November 9, 1953, and where Nancy Spungen, girlfriend of Sid Vicious of the Sex Pistols, was found stabbed to death on October 12, 1978.

Much of Hotel Chelsea's history has been colored by the musicians who have resided or visited there. Some of the most prominent names include Patti Smith, Iggy Pop, Henri Chopin, Édith Piaf, Joni Mitchell, Bob Dylan, Alice Cooper, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, Sid Vicious, and Leonard Cohen.

Madonna lived at the Chelsea in the early eighties, returning in 1992 to shoot photographs for her book, *Sex*, in room 822. The Libertines and The Fuse (UK), have spent time at The Chelsea. British pop band La Roux shot at the second version of the music video for their song "In for the Kill" at the Chelsea.

Times Square

History

Before and after the American Revolution, the area belonged to John Morin Scott, a general of the New York militia where he served under George Washington. Scott's manor house was at what is now 43rd Street, surrounded by countryside used for farming and breeding horses. In the first half of the 19th century it became one of the prized possessions of John Jacob Astor, who made a second fortune selling off lots to hotels and other real estate concerns as the city rapidly spread uptown.

In 1904, New York Times publisher Adolph S. Ochs moved the newspaper's operations to a new skyscraper on 42nd Street at Longacre Square. Ochs persuaded Mayor George B. McClellan, Jr. to construct a subway station there, and the area was renamed "Times Square" on April 8, 1904. Just three weeks later, the first electrified advertisement appeared on the side of a bank at the corner of 46th Street and Broadway.



Celebrities such as Irving Berlin, Fred Astaire, and Charlie Chaplin were closely associated with Times Square in the 1910s and 1920s. During this period, the area was nicknamed The Tenderloin because it was supposedly the most desirable location in Manhattan. However, it was during this period that the area was besieged by crime and corruption, in the form of gambling and prostitution; one case that garnered huge attention was the arrest and subsequent execution of police officer Charles Becker.



The general atmosphere changed with the onset of the Great Depression in the 1930s. Times Square acquired a reputation as a dangerous neighborhood in the following decades. From the 1960s to the early 1990s, the seediness of the area, especially due its go-go bars, sex shops, and adult theaters, became an infamous symbol of the city's decline.

In the 1980s, a commercial building boom began in the western parts of the Midtown as part of a long-term development plan developed under Mayor Ed Koch and David Dinkins. In the mid-1990s, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani (1994–2002) led an effort to "clean up" the area, increasing security, closing pornographic theaters, pressuring drug dealers and "squeegee men" to relocate, and opening more tourist-friendly attractions and upscale establishments.

Facts

Times Square is a major commercial intersection in the borough of Manhattan in New York City, at the junction of Broadway and Seventh Avenue and stretching from West 42nd to West 47th Streets. The extended Times Square area, also called the Theatre District, consists of the blocks between Sixth and Eighth Avenues from east to west, and West 40th and West 53rd Streets from south to north, making up the western part of the commercial area of Midtown Manhattan.

TV and Movies

An immediately recognizable setting, Times Square has been frequently attacked and destroyed in a number of movies, including *Knowing*, when a solar flare destroys New York City, *Deep Impact*, when a tsunami created from a meteor impact destroys New York City, Stephen King's *The Stand*, where the intersection is overcome by total anarchy, and *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen*. Films have also employed the opposite tactic, depicting the typically bustling area as eerily still, such as in *Vanilla Sky*, as well as the post-apocalyptic *I Am Legend*, in which Will Smith and his dog go hunting for deer in the deserted urban canyon.

Empire State Building

Facts

The site of the Empire State Building was first developed as the John Thompson Farm in the late 18th century. At the time, a stream ran across the site, emptying into Sunfish Pond, located a block away. In the late 19th century the block was occupied by the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.



The building was designed from the top down.

Excavation of the site began on January 21, 1930, and construction on the building itself started symbolically on March 17. The project involved 3,400 workers, mostly immigrants from Europe. According to official accounts, five workers died during the construction.

The construction was part of an intense competition in New York for the title of "world's tallest building". Two other projects fighting for the title, 40 Wall Street and the Chrysler Building, were still under construction when work began on the Empire State Building. Each held the title for less than a year, as the Empire State Building surpassed them upon its completion, just 410 days after construction commenced.

Facts

The Empire State Building rises to 381 at the 102nd floor, and including the 62 m pinnacle, its full height reaches 443.09 m.

The building has 85 stories of commercial and office space



representing 200,500 m².

It has an indoor and outdoor observation deck on the 86th floor.

The Empire State Building was the first building to have more than 100 floors. It has 6,500 windows and 73 elevators, and there are 1,860 steps from street level to the 102nd floor.

The building houses 1,000 businesses and has its own zip code, 10118.

As of 2007, approximately 21,000 employees work in the building each day, making the Empire State Building the second-largest single office complex in America, after the Pentagon.

The building was completed in one year and 45 days.

Its original 64 elevators are located in a central core.

It takes less than one minute by elevator to get to the 80th floor where visitors can take another elevator or stairs to the 86th floor, where an observation deck is located.

TV and Movies



Perhaps the most famous popular culture representation of the building is in the 1933 film *King Kong*, in which the title character, a giant ape, climbs to the top to escape his captors but falls to his death after being attacked by airplanes.

The 1993 film *Sleepless in Seattle*, a romantic comedy partially inspired by *An Affair to Remember*, climaxes with a scene at the Empire State observatory.

The film *Independence Day* features the Empire State Building as the focal point for the aliens' attack on New York City. The building is destroyed in an extraordinary explosion by the aliens'

primary weapon, which proceeds to destroy the entire city.

In the film *The Day After Tomorrow*, the Empire State Building can be seen freezing over during a superstorm that creates another ice age.

In the 2003 film *Elf*, Buddy the Elf's father works for a children's book publishing company located in the Empire State Building.

New York Public Library

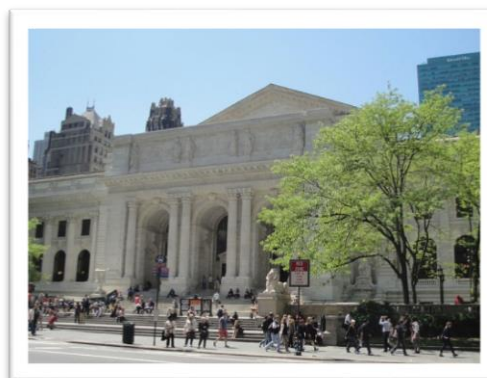
History

Although New York City already had plenty of libraries in the 19th century, almost all of them were privately funded and many charged admission or usage fees. Meanwhile, other American cities, notably Boston, had led the way in providing public libraries that were open to the general masses, and *The New York Times* editorialized that besides educating the citizens, having a public library should be a matter of civic pride.

While usage of the materials was free of charge, admission tickets still needed by potential users. Its primary audience was intended to be bibliophiles and scholars.

The newly established library consolidated with *The New York Free Circulating Library*, one of the more successful smaller private libraries, in February 1901, and the philanthropist Andrew Carnegie also donated \$5.2 million to construct branch libraries, with the requirement that they be maintained by the City of New York.

On May 23, 1911, the main branch of the New York Public Library was officially opened in a ceremony presided over by President William Howard Taft. The following day, the public was



invited. The New York Public Library instantly became one of the nation's largest libraries and a vital part of the intellectual life of America.

Two famous stone lions guarding the entrance were sculpted by Edward Clark Potter. They were originally named Leo Astor and Leo Lenox, in honor of the library's founders. These names were transformed into Lady Astor and Lord Lenox (although both lions are male). In the 1930s they were nicknamed "Patience" and "Fortitude" by Mayor Fiorello La Guardia. He chose these names because he felt that the citizens of New York would need to possess these qualities to see themselves through the Great Depression. Patience is on the south side (the left as one faces the main entrance) and Fortitude on the north.

Facts

It's free to go inside and despite the movie "The Day After Tomorrow" it remains fully intact! The solid marble architecture is grand, and there are free tours available too. Strangely, you hardly see any books in the library, but if you look at the building from the adjacent Bryant Park, the narrow windows that you see are where most of the books are kept. There are also storage areas under the park itself. The library is on 42nd Street at the junction 5th Avenue.

TV and Movies

The NYPL has frequently appeared in feature films. It serves as the backdrop for a central plot development in the 2002 film *Spider-Man* and a major location in the 2004 apocalyptic science fiction film *The Day After Tomorrow*.

It is also featured prominently in the 1984 film *Ghostbusters* with three of the titular protagonists encountering the ghost of a librarian named Eleanor Twitty, who becomes violent when approached.

Other films in which the library appears include *Breakfast at Tiffany's* (1961), *The Thomas Crown Affair* (1999) and *Sex and the City* (2008).

Chrysler Building

History

In 1928, there was an intense competition in New York City to build the world's tallest skyscraper. Despite a frantic pace (the building was built at an average rate of four floors per week), no workers died during the construction of this skyscraper.

When the building first opened, it contained a public viewing gallery on the 71st floor, which was closed to the public in 1945. Above the 71st floor, the stories of the building are designed mostly for exterior appearance, functioning mainly as landings for the stairway to the spire. Television station WCBS-TV (Channel 2) originally transmitted from the top of the Chrysler in the 1940s and early 1950s, before moving to the Empire State Building. There are currently no commercial broadcast stations located at the Chrysler Building.



Facts

Standing at 319 m, it was the world's tallest building for 11 months before it was surpassed by the Empire State Building in 1931. After the destruction of the World Trade Center, it was again the second-tallest building in New York City until December 2007, when the spire was raised on the 365.8-m Bank of America Tower, pushing the Chrysler Building into third position. In addition, The New York Times Building, which opened in 2007, is exactly level with the Chrysler Building in height.

The Chrysler Building is a classic example of Art Deco architecture and



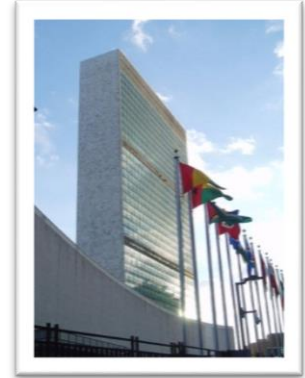
considered by many contemporary architects to be one of the finest buildings in New York City. It was the headquarters of the Chrysler Corporation from 1930 until the mid-1950s, but, although the building was built and designed specifically for the car manufacturer, the corporation did not pay for the construction of it and never owned it, as Walter P. Chrysler decided to pay for it himself, so that his children could inherit it.

The United Nations

History

Because of the widespread recognition that humankind could not afford a Third World War, the United Nations was established to replace the flawed League of Nations in 1945 in order to maintain international peace and promote cooperation in solving international economic, social and humanitarian problems.

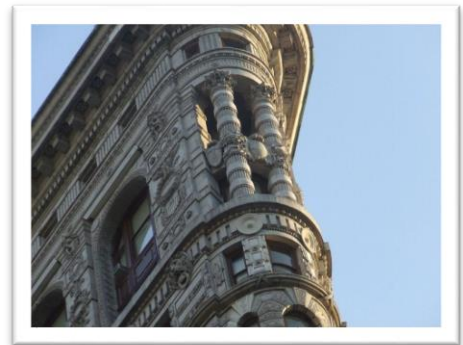
The UN officially came into existence on 24 October 1945 upon ratification of the Charter by the five permanent members of the Security Council—France, the Republic of China, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States—and by a majority of the other 46 signatories. The first meetings of the General Assembly, with 51 nations represented, and the Security Council, took place in Westminster Central Hall in London in January 1946.



Flatiron Building

History

The site on which the Flatiron Building would stand was bought in 1857 by Amos Eno. Eno tore down the four-story St. Germaine Hotel on the south end of the lot, and replaced it with a seven-story apartment building, the Cumberland. On the remainder of the lot he built four three-story buildings for commercial use. This left four stories of the Cumberland's northern face exposed, which Eno rented it out to advertisers, including the New York Times, who installed a sign made up of electric lights. Eno later put a canvas screen on the wall, and projected images onto it from a magic lantern on top of one of his smaller buildings,



presenting advertisements and interesting pictures alternately. Both the Times and the New York Tribune began using the screen for news bulletins, and on election nights tens of thousands of people would gather in Madison Square, waiting for the latest results.

When construction on the building began, locals took an immediate interest, placing bets on how far the debris would spread when the wind knocked it down. But thanks to the steel bracing designed by engineer Corydon Purdy, which enabled the building to withstand four times the amount of windforce it could be expected to ever feel, there was no possibility that the wind would knock over the Flatiron Building. Nevertheless, the wind was a factor in the public attention the building received.

Facts

The Flatiron Building, or Fuller Building, as it was originally called, is located at 175 Fifth Avenue in the borough of Manhattan, New York City and is considered to be a groundbreaking skyscraper.

Upon completion in 1902 it was one of the tallest buildings in the city and the only skyscraper north of 14th Street. The building sits on a



triangular island block formed by Fifth Avenue, Broadway and East 22nd Street, with 23rd Street grazing the triangle's northern (uptown) peak. It anchors the south (downtown) end of Madison Square, and the north (uptown) end of the Ladies' Mile Historic District.

The neighborhood around the building is called the Flatiron District after its signature building, which has become an icon of New York City.

TV and Movies

Today, the Flatiron Building is frequently used on television commercials and documentaries as an easily recognizable symbol of the city, shown, for instance, in the opening credits of *The Late Show With David Letterman* or in scenes of New York City that are shown during scene transitions in the TV sitcom *Friends*.

In the 1998 film *Godzilla*, the Flatiron Building is accidentally destroyed by the US Army while in pursuit of *Godzilla*, and it depicted as the headquarters of the *Daily Bugle*, for which Peter Parker is a freelance photographer, in the *Spider-man* movies. It is also the home of the fictional company *Damage Control* in the *Marvel Universe* comics.

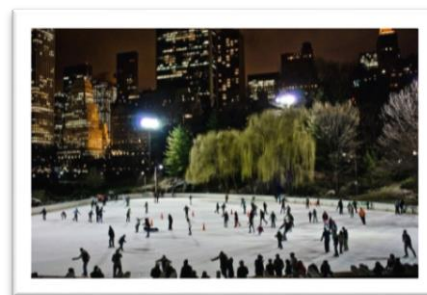
Trump Wollmann Skating Rink

History

Wollman Skating Rink is a public ice rink in the southern part of Central Park, Manhattan. The rink was opened in 1949 with funds donated by Kate Wollman who donated \$600,000 for the rink to commemorate her entire family.

Historically, the rink has been open for ice skating from October to April and in the summer seasons is transformed into a venue for other purposes.

The rink was closed in 1980 for 2½ years of renovations. When the work was not completed by 1986, Donald Trump persuaded Mayor Ed Koch to let him complete the work. He completed the renovations in four months to have it open by the end of the year.



Facts

Wollman Rink is currently operated by the Trump organization, and is today known as the Trump Wollman Skating Rink.

Since 2001, Wollman Rink has been operated by a joint venture between Trump Organization and Rink Management Services of Mechanicsville, Virginia. The Trump name is prominently displayed on the walls of the rink as well as on the Zamboni that maintains the rink.

TV and Movies

The Wollman Rink has been featured in several movies, including *Love Story* and *Serendipity*.

Little Italy

Facts

Little Italy is a neighborhood in lower Manhattan, once known for its large population of Italians. Today the neighborhood of Little Italy consists of Italian stores and restaurants.

Much of the neighborhood has been absorbed and engulfed by Chinatown, as immigrants from China moved to the area. What was once Little Italy has essentially shrunk into a single street which serves as a restaurant area and maintains some Italian residents. The northern reaches of Little Italy, near Houston Street, ceased to be recognizably Italian, and eventually became the neighborhood known today as NoLiTa, an abbreviation for North of Little Italy.



Today, the section of Mulberry Street between Broome and Canal Streets is all that is left of the old Italian neighborhood. The street is lined with some two-dozen Italian restaurants popular with tourists and locals. Unlike Chinatown, which continues to expand in all directions with newer Chinese immigrants, little remains of the original Little Italy.

China Town

History

Chinese traders and sailors began trickling into the United States in the mid eighteenth century; while this population was largely transient, small numbers stayed in New York and married.

Beginning in the mid nineteenth century, Chinese arrived in significant numbers, lured to the Pacific coast of the United States by the stories of "Gold Mountain" California during the gold rush of the 1840s and 1850s and brought by labor brokers to build the Central Pacific Railroad. Most arrived expecting to spend a few years working, thus earning enough money to return to China, build a house and marry.



In the years after the United States enacted the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, allowing many more immigrants from Asia into the country, the population of Chinatown exploded. Geographically, much of the growth was to neighborhoods to the north. In the 1990s, Chinese people began to move into some parts of the western Lower East Side, which 50 years earlier was populated by Eastern European Jews and 20 years earlier was occupied by Hispanics.

Facts

Manhattan's Chinatown, home to one of the highest concentrations of Chinese people in the Western hemisphere, is located in the borough of Manhattan. Manhattan's Chinatown is one of the oldest ethnic Chinese enclaves outside of Asia.

Chinatown was adversely affected by the September 11, 2001 attacks. Being so physically close to Ground Zero, tourism and business has been very slow to return to the area. Part of the reason was the New York City Police Department closure of Park Row – one of two major roads linking the Financial Center with Chinatown.

By 2007 luxury condominiums began to spread from Soho into Chinatown. Previously Chinatown was noted for its crowded tenements and primarily Chinese residents. While some projects have targeted the Chinese community, the development of luxury housing has increased Chinatown's economic and cultural diversity.

Currently, the rising prices of Manhattan real estate and high rents are also affecting Chinatown. Many new and poorer Chinese immigrants cannot afford their rents; as a result, growth has slowed, and a process of relocation to the Flushing Chinatown and Brooklyn Chinatown has started. Many apartments, particularly in the Lower East Side and Little Italy, which used to be affordable to new Chinese immigrants, are being renovated and then sold or rented at much higher prices. Building owners, many of them established Chinese-Americans, often find it in their best interest to terminate leases of lower-income residents with stabilized rents as property values rise.

By 2009 many newer Chinese immigrants settled along East Broadway instead of the historic core west of the Bowery. In addition Mandarin began to eclipse Cantonese as the predominant Chinese dialect in New York's Chinatown during the period. The New York Times says that the Flushing Chinatown now rivals Manhattan's Chinatown in terms of being a cultural center for Chinese-speaking New Yorkers' politics and trade.

Brooklyn Bridge

History

The Brooklyn Bridge is one of the oldest suspension bridges in the United States. Completed in May 1883, it connects the New York City boroughs of Manhattan and Brooklyn by spanning the East River. With a main span of 1,595.5 feet (486.3 m), it was the longest suspension bridge in the world from its opening until 1903, and the first steel-wire suspension bridge.

Facts



Walking over the bridge takes around 20 minutes to half an hour depending on how often you stop to take photos. There are two lanes marked by a white line down the middle of the path to indicate which direction to walk in, but be careful of cyclists who seem to get very annoyed if you get in their way! Walking across the bridge is free of charge.

The first person to jump from the bridge was rights activist Charlotte Odlum Smith, on May 19, 1885. He struck the water at an angle and died shortly thereafter from internal injuries. Steve Brodie was the most famous jumper, or self-proclaimed jumper in 1886.

On June 1993, Thierry Devaux performed (illegally) eight acrobatic bungee jumps above the East River close to the Brooklyn pier, in the early morning. He used an electric winch between each acrobatic figure.

TV and Movies

It has been shown in films such as *Once Upon A Time In America*, *Captive Women*, *The Fifth Element*, *Deep Impact*, *Godzilla*, *Aftershock: Earthquake in New York*, *I Am Legend*, *Life After People*, *Cloverfield*, *Zombi 2*, *Oliver & Company*, *Enchanted* and *Kate & Leopold*.

