

New York



Insider Tips

New York City

Preface

This description is not a typical general tourist information, but my personal experiences through 18 travels to New York City.

It is always exciting to go on holiday, and if you were going to Mallorca or to another sunny destination, you would typically order a package trip, pack the suitcase and then leave. Very simple.

This could also be a trip to New York, but I will recommend planning the trip a little more in advance. New York has so much to offer that it can be completely unimaginable if you have not been clear of what you want to see in advance.

When you say New York, many people will typically associate this with Manhattan, and it is true that most tourist books are about Manhattan, where the main tourist attractions are located, but New York is more than Manhattan. NYC (New York City) consists of 5 Boroughs: Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, The Bronx and Staten Island. Manhattan is actually the smallest Borough in New York City, but contains the most famous attractions, and if it is your first time to go NYC, I would recommend that the trip should be concentrated here. Once you have been "bitten" by New York, yes, you can discover some of the other Boroughs.. It is generally hard to say how much you can see during a vacation, because of course it depends on the length of the vacation, as well as the individual's temper and interests. Someone can spend a whole day at a museum where others can do it in a couple of hours.

Plan the Trip!!

All in one package or?

The first thing to consider is whether you want a package trip from a travel agency, where the journey typically consists of airplanes and hotels, or if you want to combine the journey individually by booking a flight and hotel, etc.

I prefer the last thing and the internet is a valuable resource. I have always booked flights and hotels as well as various tours via the internet and it has worked impeccably every time. I have never had trouble paying online. However, I always pay with MasterCard so I have the opportunity to see what is being withdrawn from my account before it happens.

Accommodation

Hotels are generally VERY expensive in New York and especially those centrally located in Manhattan. The standard can not be compared to Denmark, which has a high standard at relatively reasonable prices.

However, you can still get hotels at a reasonable price, but it requires a little search on the web.

NB! Please note that it is still not unusual with a shared bath in the hallway at some hotels. The price is of course cheaper than with private bath, but I prefer a private bathroom.

There are a lot of internet agencies where you can book hotels. The same hotel can be seen at several agencies at different prices, so it's good to keep attention. Anyway, it's normally cheaper to book directly at the hotel's website. That is, if they don't transfer you to an Agency.

Although public transport is well developed in Manhattan, I would recommend booking a hotel centrally around Midtown. Especially if it's the first time you visit the City.

The larger hotels have restaurants that offer breakfast, but it is expensive!

There are a huge number of "breakfast cafes" so use the your money here instead.

Internet Agencies:

www.hotels.com
www.booking.com
www.expedia.dk

The above is only a fraction Websites, but I have good Experience with these. Search via Google!

airbnb:

An alternative to staying in a Hotel is to use [airbnb](https://www.airbnb.com) to rent a Room or a whole Apartment.

It works very well and in recent years, I have used this way to find Accommodation. It is typically much cheaper than Hotels, and a positive Side effect is that you get to know some Local New Yorkers.

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Flight

Normally I order my Airplane Tickets via the Internet.

There are several Companies who fly directly from Copenhagen to New York and many Companies who have various stops on the way, so look carefully before you submit your order.

Normally direct flights are more expensive than flights with stops.

I have flown several times with SAS that fly directly from Copenhagen to New York (Newark).

Be aware that there are two main International Airports Serving Europe. JFK that is situated Centrally in Queens and Newark that is situated in New Jersey (30 km from Manhattan).

The past 6 vacations I have flown with Brussels Airlines that arrive in JFK in Queens.

This flight has 1 stop in Brussels.(2 Hours Transfer). It is Cheaper than a direct Flight, and I think it is convenient with a small break in Brussels. (Good Airport).

Besides that it is much easier to come to Manhattan from JFK. (See section about Transportation from the Airport).

Both SAS and Brussels Airlines uses big Airbus 330 Airplanes, which are Comfortable with inflight Entertaining systems.

You will have a main meal just after Take Off and a small Sandwich just before arrival.

The flight time is Approx. 8 hours, and it is a good thing to walk around from time to time and drink plenty of Fluids. NO NOT liquor or Beer. **WATER**. Did you hear me ?

Travel Documents

As a Danish Citizen you do NOT need a VISA to go to USA, but you need a Machine-readable biometric passport. Further more you have to Apply for an **ESTA** approval at least 72 Hours before Take-Off.

Read more about ESTA here: [Click](#)

The Yellow Danish Insurance Card cannot be used in USA and you MUST ensure that you have insurance in USA. If something happens and you don't have insurance, you could get ruined !

Many people have World Wide Coverage through various other private insurances, but check that or buy a Travel Insurance **BEFORE** you go!

Upload your documents incl. passport to the Cloud. Then you always have a copy !

Transportation from the Airport

As I mentioned earlier there are 2 International Airports serving Europe.
JFK in Queens and Newark in New Jersey.

Please check which Airport you arrive in **BEFORE** you go !

I have seen people arriving and asking me : "How do I get to my Hotel ?"
This is nuts!!

After an 8 hour flight, you just want to go to your destination as fast and comfortable as possible.

I have arrived in both Airports and there are several ways to come to Manhattan etc. from the airports. A convenient way is naturally by Taxi but this can be a little pricy. Another good way, if you are going to Manhattan, is to book a shared Van where you typically drive together with 5-6 other guests. Below you will find links to the two Airports and I strongly recommend that you check the opportunities **BEFORE** you arrive in New York !!

[JFK:](#) (Click)

[Newark:](#) (Click)

Transportation Examples by Train: (Click "Train")

[Google maps JFK to Empire State Building](#)

[Google maps Newark to Empire State Building](#)

Shared Vans can be booked on [Viator](#)

Arrived in New York

Once you have hopefully arrived safely at your hotel or other accommodation, I will NOT recommend that you take a "nap" even if you may be tired after a long Trip. The reason for this is that you need to adapt to New York Time. (Denmark is 6 Hours ahead of New York). It means that when the time is 10(22) in the evening in Denmark, the time is 4pm in the afternoon in New York.

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Transportation within the City

New York is a **WALKING** City, which means that you will be walking a lot. The sidewalks are wide and everybody is walking a lot.

Besides of walking, you may need other transportation opportunities. e.g. to visit the various attractions around Manhattan etc.

New York has very good transportation opportunities besides from walking.

The most common is Subway, Bus and Taxi.

Subway:

New York has the worlds largest Subway System measured by number of stations and miles of tracks.

The system has 36 Lines, 472 Stations and 380 km of tracks and carries approx. 6 mill. Passengers on a daily Basis.

By the way: In New York it is the **SUBWAY. NOT** Underground, Tube, Metro or other Strange names, but you say: "I'm taking the Train and using my Metro Card to pay for the fare".

If it is the first time in NYC and want to take the Train, the first thought is:

"Where are the trains, and how does the System works?"

Well, once you have tried it, it seems pretty forward but below you will find some useful links:

[MTA \(Subway Website\)](#)

Here you will find Maps, fares and a lot of other information.

If you want to download Subway apps, please look at the "[Links](#)" Section on my Website.

On You Tube you will also find Videos about "[how to Ride the Subway](#)". Where do I get Tickets? [Ticket Machines](#).

I have also collected a bunch of [Videos about New York](#).

Public Buses:

Even though the Subway System is Wide Spread, it doesn't go everywhere.

A good alternative in areas not served by Subway are the public Buses. The Fare is the same as Subway and You use the same Metrocard to access. For information please look at [MTA](#).

A special note about MetroCards:

If you have purchased a regular MetroCard, more than 1 Person can use the Card because a single fare will just be deducted every time you swipe.

But if you have purchased an Unlimited Card **only** 1 Person can use it. It cannot be used for the next 20 minutes after a Swipe.

Taxi:

New York Taxies are probably known by half the Worlds population!

They are also called Yellow Cabs. Which color are they ? NOT blue, not red. They are **yellow** :-)

Well, I think they are almost orange, but they are called Yellow Cabs anyway.

In resent years you will also see green cars and they are Eco Friendly, but exactly the same at the same price.

There are approx. 12.000 Yellow Cabs in the City but sometimes it's hard to get one, especially during rush hours and rainy weather. On the other hand many times it's faster to take the Train because Cars get stuck in Traffic. Trains don't, but they have some other issues like signal failure so the trains don't run etc.

You cannot call for a Taxi.

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Hailing a New York City Taxi:



Hailing a cab is as simple as stepping off the curb and holding out your arm—it only gets complicated when you need to figure out why many New York taxis seem to drive by without stopping for you.

The trick is in the lights atop the cab.

- When **just the center is lit**, highlighting the medallion number, the **cab is available**.
- When the **medallion number, as well as the side lamps are lit**, the **cab is off-duty**.

When **no lights are lit**, the **cab already has a fare** they are bringing to a destination.

All Taxis use fare Meters and you can pay Cash or Credit Card.

The fare is more expensive at night time.

Remember to tip the Driver with approx. 20 % !!

Other forms of Transportation

Subway, Bus and Taxi are the most common forms of transportation, but New York also has PATH Trains to New Jersey (kind of Subway, but with Separate Fare System), various ferry Routes on Hudson River and East River and last but not least Commuter Trains like Metro North and Long Island Railroad.

I will not go through these transportation forms but find more information at [MTA's website](http://www.mta.info).

Attractions

Now that you have arrived in New York, learned how to move around, it's time to see some attractions etc. New York has so many attractions, museums etc. that you will simply run out of Steam if you don't plan ahead.

If you are a "first timer" in New York, you will probably want to see all the Sights that you have seen in so many Movies.

A little anecdote:

The very first time I came to New York was in April 2002. I came by Bus from Newark Airport and arrived just outside The New Yorker Hotel.

The building that caught my Eye was the Empire State Building. Tall as hell I thought.

I had this VERY strange feeling, that I had been to New York before, because I had seen this Building so many times before. But that was of course in Movies.

When you come to New York, you will probably feel the same and immediately want to explore everything.

Well—you can see a lot in a couple of days, but with a little Survey and planning before you board the Plane bound for the Greatest City in the known Universe, you can probably manage to see more that you had imagined.

How much you manage to see will of course depend of how long your stay is, but please plan ahead, especially if it is the first time to this fabulous place.

Even though I have been to New York 18 times and have seen many of the well known attractions, I always Survey and plan before I go, because every year new exiting things "pop up".

If I should line up every interesting Attraction in this Paper, I should write a Comprehensive Guide Book.

Instead I will point out that the Internet has so many good websites where you can get Information.

If you want to read a real book, there are numerous good Guidebooks on the market.

I will recommended books from [Lonely Planet](http://www.lonelyplanet.com)

They can also be found in Danish on [Saxo](http://www.saxo.com).

If you have an iPad or Tablet, I can recommend the app: [Kindle](http://www.amazon.com/kindle-dbs), where you can buy books on Amazon and read on your tablet.

If you are more to Surf the Internet, I will Recommend [Tripadvisor](http://www.tripadvisor.com) as a good start.

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I will also Refer to my [“Links Page”](#) on my Website.

Well, if I should point out some Attractions /Museums that I like it would be (in no special order):

- [Empire State Building](#)
- [Top of the Rock](#)
- [Statue of Liberty](#)
- [Central Park](#)
- [Museum of Natural History](#)
- [Metropolitan Museum of Art](#)
- [Walk over Brooklyn Bridge](#)
- [Brooklyn Heights Promenade](#)
- [3 Hours boat trip with Circle Line](#)
- [Grand Central Terminal](#)
- [South Street Seaport](#)
- [Times Square](#)
- [Greenwich Village Food tour](#)
- [Wall Street and Lower Manhattan](#)
- [Walk on 5th Avenue](#)
- [Hop On Hop Off Bus Tours](#)
- [Chrysler Building](#)
- [Phantom of the Opera](#)
- [Helicopter Tour](#)
- [Free Tours By Foot](#)
- [Woodbury Outlet](#)
- [911 Museum](#)
- [One World Trade Center](#)
- [Roosevelt Island Tram](#)
- [Self Guided walking Tours. \(See Appendix\)](#)

The above attractions are just a tiny part of attractions that I would recommend.

Many of the above attractions requires a ticket and some are free (like walking Brooklyn Bridge, walking 5th Avenue, Central Park etc.)

If you surf the above links, you will notice that you can buy tickets directly on the websites.

I Will recommend to buying a Pass at [NYC Passes](#).

These Passes covers many of the above attractions to a much lower price than buying directly on the individual websites!!

I will also STRONGLY recommend [Viator](#), where you can buy numerous Tours at a very reasonable prices.

Viator also has an [app](#). (Android link).

You can easily spend a Fortune on Attraction Tickets, but there are also some Tours that doesn't cost so much and still are VERY good.

These Tours are called [Free Tours by Foot](#) .

They have various Guided Walking Tours to many Places.

They are guided by independent Tourguides.

The Tours are free of charge, but at the end of the trip you pay only tips. Typically 10-20 \$, depending on the Tour Length etc.

I have been on many ours and it has always been very exiting!. It is a very good way to explore Sites that are off the normal Tourist Path.

Also the Tour guides really know what they are talking about!!!

Almost all of the mentioned Attractions and Tours are situated around Manhattan, which you of course associate with New York, but New York City is much more than Manhattan.

The other Boroughs (Brooklyn, Queens, The Bronx and Staten Island) also have numerous Attractions.

Just let me mention a few:

Queens:

- [Flushing Meadows-Corona Park](#)
- [Queens Museum of Art](#)
- [Recommended link](#) (Time Out)

The Bronx:

- [Bronx Zoo](#)
- [New York Botanical Garden](#)
- [Van Cortland Park](#)
- [Pelham Bay Park](#)
- [Recommended link](#) (Time Out)

Brooklyn:

- [Brooklyn Botanical Garden](#)
- [Prospect Park](#)
- [Coney Island](#)
- [Recommended link](#) (Time Out)

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Staten Island:

Staten Island is like the “lost Son”.

Very few Tourists visits this Borough, which is an Island Situated in New York Upper Bay just south of Manhattan.

Okay.. I must admit that I have not been here much either and there are not so many famous attractions here, but.. If I should highlight one attraction, it would be [Staten Island Ferry](#).

This is a Commuter Ferry between the Southern tip of Manhattan and St. George on Staten Island.

The Ride is totally free of charge.

The Ferry itself is not the Attraction, but the Ride offers a perfect view of the southern tip of Manhattan as well as view of the Statue of Liberty.

If you don't have time to visit “the Green Lady”, this is a good way to get some Pictures of her anyway!.

All the above links are just a tiny part of links to the various attractions.

I will recommend that you use [Google](#) to search as well as [Google Maps](#), [Tripadvisor](#) and [Time Out](#).




One thing I have not tried myself, but what seems to be a good way to explore is [“Big Apple Greeter”](#).

Remember that you don't need to book and buy the tours in advance, **except Free Tours by Foot, that has to be booked in advance.**

Tips & Taxes:

In Denmark we are not used to tip when we go to Restaurants, take a Taxi etc. but in New York tips are actually a part of Peoples Salary in many lines of business especially in the Service Sector.

You typically tip these places:

U.S. TIPPING GUIDELINES	
 BARTENDER \$1 to \$5 per round of drinks, depending on the number of drinks	 SKYCAP AT AIRPORT \$1 to \$3 per bag checked
 BELLHOPS \$1 to \$5 per bag, depending on the level of the hotel	 TAXI 15%-20%, but round up the fare to the next dollar amount
 HOTEL CONCIERGE \$5 or more, if he or she performs a service for you	 TOUR GUIDE 10% of the cost of the tour
 HOTEL DOORMAN \$1-\$2 if he helps you get a cab	 VALET PARKING ATTENDANT \$1-\$2, but only when you get your car
 HOTEL MAID \$1-\$3 a day (either daily or at the end of your stay, in cash)	 WAITER 15%-20%, with 20% being the norm at high-end restaurants
 HOTEL ROOM-SERVICE WAITER \$1 to \$2 per delivery, even if a service charge has been added	 RESTROOM ATTENDANTS \$1 or small change in more expensive restaurants
 PORTER AT AIRPORT OR TRAIN STATION \$1 per bag	 COAT-CHECK PERSONNEL \$1-\$2 per item checked unless there is a fee, then nothing.

- Restaurants (15-20%)
- Taxi (15-20%)

Be aware that almost all Prices you see (in windows etc). are **without** taxes.

Tax Rates:

Restaurants(8,875 %) + **tips!**

Hotels (14,75 % + 3,5 \$ per night)

Other goods (Clothes, electronics etc. (8,875 %)

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just keep crossing unless a car come. Everybody does and that is even when a police officer sees it. You will NOT get fined, but its illegal AND dangerous to jaywalk(cross the street outside the pedestrian crossing).

When to go to New York?

All Year round!

But I think the best seasons are spring and late summer unless you of course want to spend Christmas & New Year here.

New York City has typically cold winters and HOT summers.

My favorite travel times are May and late September.

In May, spring has really come to NYC, but you may experience thunderstorms as well.

September is the late summer season typically with very pleasant weather.

June, July and August is high summer season typically with very high temperatures and very humid. Especially July.

Late April is also a good season. Spring is coming and cherry tries are typically blooming. Very beautiful . Typically New York City is 1 month ahead of Denmark spring wise.

Tips & Etiquette

When you are in NYC for the first time you are obviously a tourist in a foreign City, but do you absolutely have to act like one ?

You can always spot a Japanese tourist miles away.

Short, funny eyes, funny pants and huge amounts of Cameras and other electronic equipment hanging in front of him like a huge burden .

But you could try to blend in just a little bit.

Well you can't change the way you look just because you travel to NYC, but you could follow some simple rules.

Below you will find some "Do's" and "Don'ts":

- When you are walking on the Sidewalk and reach the pedestrian crossing and the light is red,

- Don't hail a cab that is occupied (Light off)
- It is Grand Central Terminal, not Station.
- It is The Bronx, not (just) Bronx.
- Don't pronounce Houston Street "hyuston street" like the City in Texas. It is pronounced "howsten street"
- Do NOT stop in the middle of the Sidewalk to take pictures!! New Yorkers are busy people and get annoyed if you just stop like a "fucking" tourist.
- If you have to stop, then step aside (Right)
- Walk FAST. It is a busy City. If you want to stroll, then go to Central Park.
- If you are lost, just ask for directions. New Yorkers will gladly help!
- Eventually you will learn to speed up ,stop in an instant, jump aside etc.
- If you take the Bus, you normally get off at the rear door, but IF you somehow get off at the front door, say "Thank You" to the Driver!
- Have your Money ready when you are in a line and have to pay.!
- Swipe your MetroCard and walk through the turnstile FAST. New Yorkers get pissed if it takes too long time. You will end up getting pushed away.
- Don't just chat with strangers in the train. People are in their own world.
- Let people off the train BEFORE you board.
- Check the weather forecast before you go out. Bring umbrella if necessary.
- Don't board an empty train car. There is a reason why its empty. Especially during rush hours.
- Don't skip the line. It's rude and New Yorkers get pissed if you do!
- Prepare for a lot of walking. Bring good shoes!
- Do NOT take photos of police officers unless you ask first. You can get fined.
- Do not drink alcohol in the Street ! It's illegal and you can get arrested.
- Smoking is prohibited in hotels, restaurants, parks, beaches, public plazas, and almost anywhere. Besides this, tobacco is **VERY** expensive in New York. Approx. 10-12\$ for 20 Cigarettes.

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Food

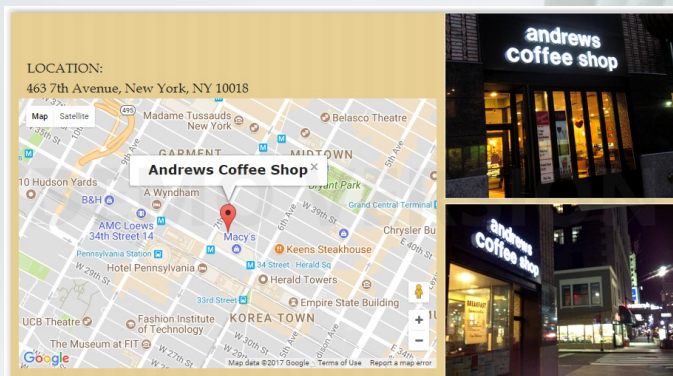
You don't have to go hungry to bed when you are in NYC.

NYC has approx. 24.000 restaurants including street vendors etc. [Source: NYC Health](#)

There are restaurants for every taste.
I have made a small collection to start with.
[Click to explore.](#)

As I have mentioned earlier, please check if your hotel booking is incl. breakfast or not.

Breakfast



If not, I will recommend to find a Breakfast place near-by your hotel. There are plenty and they are actually good.

If You are staying in Midtown I can **highly** recommend [Andrews Coffee Shop on 7th Anenue](#).

I have been here several times even if I have not stayed in Midtown.

I simply **LOVE** that place!! They also have good Pizza etc.

I will also recommend that you use [Google Maps](#) to search for places near you or simply walk down the street and you will "bump" into a breakfast Restaurant.

You can also use [Open Table](#) to search. Also available as [app](#). [Zomato](#) is also good. ([app](#)).

Lunch

When it comes to lunch, you can either search for



restaurants using the above mentioned tools or just grab a hot dog from a street cart. Its is NOT like Danish Hot Dogs that are famous around the World, but they will do and are cheap.

I will also highly recommend having lunch at the numerous Deli's around the City.
The word Deli is wide spread around the City, but I am talking about the big Deli's with seating and this large buffet.

You mix your lunch and pay by weight. Very smart!

In downtown just adjacent to 21st Century Store, I can recommend "Arome Café II". It is also situated 100 meters from World Trade Center.

In this area I can also recommend [Eataly](#) which is situated inside the new [Westfield World Trade Center](#). Here you find **EVERYTHING** Italian !!.

In Midtown I can recommend [PAX Wholesome Foods](#).

Dinner

Dinner can range from 5\$ to 500\$ depending of your mood and financial abilities.

You will find every kitchen from around the world within New York City.

I have been to several small cozy restaurants in East Village, because I have very good friends living here.

Don't judge the restaurant by the facade of the building. You will find many good restaurants that looks like crab from the outside, but once you come in, it could actually be very good.

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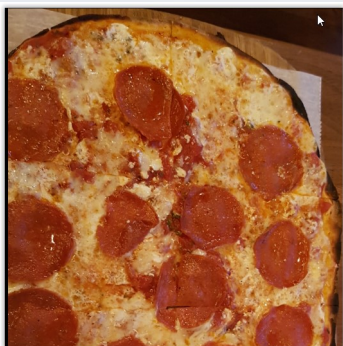
Look at the Rating of the restaurant though.

To my opinion only chose A-rated restaurants.

You do not have to reserve Tables at the mentioned places. Just walk in. But of course it depends on how many you come.

Restaurants I can recommend:

- [Pazza Notte](#)
- [Heartland Brewery](#)
 - Several locations, but my favorite is Empire State Building & Times Square
- [Auzaatar](#)
- [Lasagna](#)
- [Rocking Horse Cafe](#)
- [Sammy's Noodle Shop & Grill](#)
- [Bohemian Hall & Beergarden](#)
- [El Paso](#)
- [Olive Tree Café](#)
- [Dallas BBQ](#)
- [Prime One 16](#)
- [Waverly Place](#)



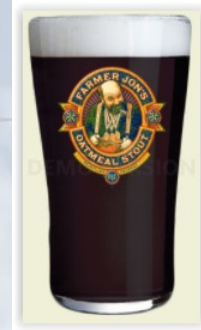
- [The Bucher's Daughter](#) (Brunch)
- [Nocciola](#)
- [SweetBird](#)

All the above places are not that expensive and a mix of many Kitchens.

I have visited all the above places, but should I highlight some of them it would definitely be Pazza Notte, which probably is my favorite Restaurant. It is also called "Home of 2 for 1 Martini". Always 2 Martini Drinks for 1 , but it's the pizza I fancy.

If you are into beer I would highlight Heartland Brewery in Empire State Building.

The best Stout ever. Farmer John's Outmeal Stout



I have only mentioned a fraction of good places. Just explore and visit places that you like.

By the way.. One Restaurant that I have been recommended, but not visited yet is [Peter Luger's Steakhouse](#) in Williamsburg. It should serve the **WORLD'S BEST** Steak, but reserve well in advance. Approx. 3 month of waiting time!!.

Bagels

New York City makes the BEST Bagels in the World. And there is a reason for this. The **water**. The water used for boiling the Bagels come from The Catskills. In fact all freshwater in NYC comes from here. New York has the cleanest water in any big City in the US, and you can drink directly from the Tap!!!!

Recommended Bagel places (Source (FourSquare)

1. [Brooklyn Bagel & Coffee Co.](#)
2. [Absolute Bagels](#)
3. [Tompkins Square Bagels](#)
4. [Murray's Bagels](#)
5. [Ess-a-Bagel](#)
6. [Russ & Daughters](#)
7. [Best Bagel & Coffee](#)
8. [Murray's Bagels](#)
9. [H&H Midtown Bagels East](#)
10. [Sadelle's](#)
11. [Zucker's Bagels & Smoked Fish](#)
12. [David's Bagels](#)

I have not necessarily tried the above places.

Pizza"

New York is probably the Worlds Pizza Capital. You can get every possible kind of Pizza here.

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For Lunch many New Yorkers just grab a “**Slice**” or if you just get hungry, and don’t have time for sitting in a Restaurant.

There are strict Rules how to eat a Slice!
Watch this [You Tube Video!](#)

If You are at a Fancy Restaurant, I would use Knife and Fork though.

Recommended Pizza places (Source (FourSquare)

They are not all in Manhattan, so make your Survey.
Some are Restaurants and some are just “Slice places”.

[PAZZA NOTTE](#)
[GRIMALDI](#)
[BLEECKER STREET PIZZA](#)
[LOMBARDI](#)
[KESTE PIZZA & VINO](#)
[JOHN'S PIZZA](#)
[JOE'S](#)
[SPEEDY ROMEO](#)
[DI FARA](#)
[LUCALI](#)
[PATSY'S PIZZERIA](#)
[TOTONNO'S](#)
[ROBERTA'S](#)
[JOE & PAT'S](#)
[JOE'S PIZZA](#)
[SAM'S](#)
[MARIO'S](#)
[JULIANA'S](#)
[L&B SPUMONI GARDENS](#)
[SOTTOCASA](#)
[DENINO'S](#)
[FRANNY'S](#)
[BEST PIZZA](#)
[CO.](#)
[EMILY](#)
[RIBALTA](#)
[PASQUALE JONES](#)
[BROTHER'S PIZZERIA](#)

If you are a “Pizza Nerd” try Scott’s [Pizza Tour!](#)
This Guy knows **EVERYTHING** about Pizza!

Photography

I am an enthusiastic “Photoshooter”, but not Professional in any way. I have over the years purchased several cameras, including cameras from [B&H Photo](#), which is absolutely my favorite Store when it comes to Photography etc.

Just how the Store works is an attraction itself.

Anyway—New York is a very Photogenic City and I can spend Hours just walking in the streets taking pics and video.

I must admit that the Smartphones nowadays are so good with video and all, so this has become my favorite camera. You also have the ability to shoot the famous Selfies and immediately upload to various social media.

Many People ask me if it is a bargain to buy electronics in New York and my answer is: “not always”.

Firstly you have to remember that tax is added to the price and secondly you don’t have the same warranty as e.g. In Denmark.
Well you can purchase a special worldwide warranty package, but then you can just as well buy it back home!

Another thing—DO **NOT** buy from the countless Electronic Stores around!. Only from serious Stores like B&H.

If you anyway decides to buy e.g. a dedicated Video Camera, you have to ensure that it is a PAL Camera, which is used in Europe. USA uses NTSC system, which is not compatible with Danish television.

Have always your Camera or Phone with you, because suddenly you stumble into something interesting.

By the way.. The Statue of Liberty is best in the morning with the sun in her front.

Phone and data connection

Almost everybody have an Smartphone nowadays for calling people obviously, but also for Internet and Navigation.

Google Maps Rules!!!!

Normally both phone calls and especially data costs a fortune via Roaming when you are abroad, but the Danish Phonecompany [3.dk](#) offers “3likehome”, which is a roaming service at a fixed

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price. Works perfectly in New York via T-mobile and doesn't cost anything extra besides the normal price you pay in Denmark.

3.dk is to my knowledge the only Danish company offering free roaming service in USA.

The advantage of using this service is that you do not have to switch SIM Cards. You use your Phone as if you were in Denmark.

Alternatively you can buy various prepaid Phonecards many places. Nut check if it is including Data!

Once you become a dedicated New YorkerFan, you can buy a dedicated US phone number like I have done.

But what about old fashioned maps ?

I I don't use them anymore. Only Google maps and other useful apps.

See the "[Links Section](#)" on my Website for useful apps and other links.

I know it can be nostalgic to look at a map, but my Patience doesn't allow it and many times I have my bookings and tickets online via apps !

Shopping

You can spend thousand of Dollars shopping in New York.

New York has absolutely everything but a favorite sport is also just window shopping, which I prefer. It is cheaper and you don't get problems with overweight in the Airport.

Anyway - NYC is a shopping Heaven, so be careful!

Clothes and Shoes are among the favorite things Danes buy in New York.

And well known Brands are cheaper here than in Denmark.

You can sometimes even get it much cheaper, if you can cope with last years collection.

I am not a big shopper myself, but walking down 5th Avenue or Madison Avenue looking at Store windows is always entertaining even without buying anything. Along 5th Avenue, above 42nd Street, you will find all the expensive original Brands, but please make arrangements with your bank before swiping that little plastic card!.

Well New York is much more than very expensive Stores when it comes to shopping.

One big Store, which I like very much is [21. Century Department Store](#), situated right next to World Trade Center.

Here you can buy original perfumes, all kind of clothes, shoes etc. at a bargain price!

The Store is also referred to as "the best kept secret of New York", because not so many tourists know its existence.

It is my favorite Store for buying clothes etc.

One Big Store I also fancy a lot is the well-known [MACY's](#) on 34th Street. It is called the world's largest department store and it IS huge.

Here you will also find everything that your heart desire.

I can also recommend [Bloomingdales](#) on Lexington.

If you really want to buy BIG I can recommend a Tour to [Woodbury Outlet](#). It is a Shopping Mecca situated approx. 100 km north of the City.

Parks in NYC

New York can be very overwhelming with noise, extremely busy people, honking car horns, fire-trucks and Ambulances on the move.

Some times you just want to relax your ears and have a quiet stroll.

Well - then it is convenient that New York City has so many beautiful parks !

This is a [link to the official webpage for New York Parks](#).

Here you can find any information about the parks around the City.

If I should mention my favorites it would be:

Central Park
Bryant Park
City Hall Park
[Highline Park](#)
Prospect Park
Inwood Hill Park
Van Cortland Park
Flushing Meadows-Corona Park

New York City

You will find links to all of them via the above official website.

All the above parks are Public and free of charge.

But you will also find tranquil heavens like:

Brooklyn Botanical Garden
New York Botanical Garden
Bronx Zoo

The above requires entrance fees, but my favorite places too.

Beaches in NYC:

Did you know that New York has actually some of the largest and finest beaches along the Eastern seaboard ?

New York has plenty of great beaches for a summer swim. New York is not all concrete!

Close to the City:

- [Coney Island /Brighton Beach](#)
- [Manhattan Beach](#)
- [Pelham Bay / Orchard Beach](#)
- [Far Rockaway Beach](#)
- [FDR Boardwalk & Beach](#)
- [Cedar Grove Beach](#)
- [Wolfe's Pond Beach](#)

The above beaches are relatively close to the City and can be reached by Subway / Bus.

Coney Island is probably the most famous of the above mentioned.



Outside the City:

- [Jacob Riis Park](#)
- [Jones Beach](#)
- [Fire Island](#)
- [Long Beach](#)
- [Robert Moses State Park](#)

The above beaches are situated outside the City and some can only be reached by Car. So check before you go!

Practical Information:

When you go to New York, I will recommend that you bring a credit card(Visa, Master or Eurocard), but

I will also recommend that you bring Cash. Cash is good for Tips etc.

Personally I only use my credit card in large stores.

In restaurants I always pay cash because normally you will get the receipt in a folder and I will not leave my credit card in this folder even though I give it to the Waiter. You never knows where he/she is taking it.

I think it's safer to pay cash.

A little tip:

To calculate the tip for the waiter, you double the tax and round up, then you have approx. 18 % Some receipts even show how much tip you have to calculate and some have already in calculated 18 %, so take a close look at the receipt before you pay.

Apropos eating and drinking:

Be aware that New York has **VERY** few public toilets.

If you have to go, then do it in the restaurant before you leave.

If you are just on the street and have to use a restroom, then try the nearest Starbucks or other place like that. Normally they have restrooms.

Be aware that New York pretty much is a non smoking City.

New York City

It is prohibited to smoke in parks, beaches, public Plazas, hotels, museums and practically every place indoors. By the way are cigarettes **VERY** expensive.

Bring good Shoes. You will be walking a lot.

If you rent a car, check if your Insurance covers. Car Insurance is very expensive in US, but you **NEED** it!!

New York City is the safest large City in USA and don't be alarmed of the countless Police officers on the streets. NYPD (New York's Finest) keeps the City safe!! Do NOT take pictures of them without asking permission first!

Excursions outside the Manhattan:

As I have mentioned before, New York City consists of 5 boroughs.:

- [Manhattan](#)
- [Brooklyn](#)
- [Queens](#)
- [The Bronx](#)
- [Staten Island](#)
-

Normally New York is associated with Manhattan, but the other boroughs has also a lot of attractions, worth exploring.

Depending on the length of your stay, I will definitely recommend to visit the other boroughs.

Excursions outside the City:

If you somehow need to get out of the City, (which actually is unthinkable), I can recommend to take some "Getaways".

Of Course it depends on the length of your stay and what mood you are in, but I have been so many times to the City that I also want to explore places outside the City, that actually can be reached incl. return the same day.

Below you will find some "getaways" I have tried:

[West Point Military Academy & Bear Mountain\(Car\)](#)

[Montauk, Long Island \(Car\)](#)

You can also, as I have done several times, take [Metro North trains](#) via Hudson Line, where you can explore the beautiful Hudson Valley and nearby towns. Recommendable is Tarrytown with the beautiful [Lyndhurst Mansion](#).

As you may have guessed, New York is a Fabulous City with so much to offer, whether it's City Holiday, Sunny Holiday or just exploring new places.

Personally have I totally lost my Heart to this :

The Greatest City in the known Universe.

I hope this Paper was useful and if you have any questions, you are most welcome to [contact me](#)

On [my website](#), you will find Pictures & Videos and other Stuff.

On [Pinterest](#) you can also find very useful information.

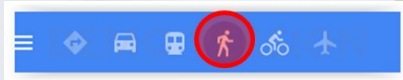
Have a fabulous vacation in the City that never sleeps.

New York City

Rockefeller Center (Top of the Rock)

Tour 2 (10 km)

Columbus Circle
New York Historical Society
American Museum of Natural History
Central Park West
Columbia University
Riverside Park



Tour 3 (3 km)

One World Trade Center (Freedom Tower)
911 Museum & Memorial
21 Century Department Store
Eataly (Italian Food Mecca)
Trinity Church
Wall Street
New York Stock Exchange
Battery Park
City Hall Park
Chinatown
Little Italy



Tour 4 (5 km)

Soho
Nolita
Washington Square Park
Greenwich Village
Chelsea Market
Whitney Museum of American Art
Entrance to Highline Park



Tour 5 (11km)

Museum of Modern Art
Bloomingdale's
Roosevelt Tramway
5th. Avenue
Metropolitan Museum of Art
Guggenheim
Museum of the City of New York
The Jewish Museum

Tour 6 (10km)

City Hall
Brooklyn Bridge
Brooklyn Bridge Park
Dumbo
Brooklyn Navy Yard
Williamsburg
Brooklyn Brewery

Tour 7 (3 km)

Columbus Circle
Bethesda Fountain

Appendix

Self guided walking Tours:

Below You will find Google maps:

Click on a Tour and click:

Tour 1 (5 km)

Flatiron Building
Empire State Building
Museum of Sex
New York Public Library
Bryant Park
Grand Central Terminal
Chrysler Building
Saint Patrick's Cathedral