

**An eclectic guide to
eating and drinking and having fun
in New York
RUME 2006**

This guide is meant to help you navigate through the many restaurant, bar, and entertainment choices in New York. We have focused on neighborhoods where there is a lot going on, so there will be other places close by to choose from.

The list is drawn from personal experience and from reviews found in the New York Times and other websites. For more in depth reviews of most of the restaurants and bars found here, please see <http://www.nytimes.com/pages/dining/index.html>.

In the restaurant section, we have tried to include a wide variety of types of foods and price ranges, with an emphasis on foods that might be hard to find elsewhere. The price guides are approximate, and in most cases don't include alcohol or tip. \$ means inexpensive, less than \$20. \$\$ means moderate, between \$20 and \$40. \$\$\$ means expensive, over \$40.

Restaurants are usually crowded in New York on Saturday nights, so if you are going with a group, it would be wise to make reservations.

Special picks are marked with **.

In this guide you will find:

Restaurants.....pp. 2-7
Bars and Cafes ...pp. 8-10
Things to do..... pp. 11-12

Restaurants

Greenwich Village

John's Pizzeria \$

Want good pizza? Try this place (or the one on 44th between 8th Ave and Broadway, though that doesn't have the same atmosphere). Voted best Pizza in NY 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2004 by Citisearch.

278 Bleecker St. (Between Jones and Morton)

(212) 243-1680

Subway: 1,9 to Christopher or A,C,E to W. 4th

** **Otto's** \$\$

Basically an upscale pizza place, with an amazing wine list and unbelievable gelatos. Owned in part by Mario Batali. The olive oil gelato sounds strange, but tastes very good. Close to NYU campus. And not far from Strand bookstore.

1 Fifth Ave. and 8th Street (entrance on 8th)

(212) 674-2044

Subway: A,C,E to W. 4th St or N,R to 8th St.

Lower East Side

Katz's Deli \$

Considered by some to be the best deli in New York. If you are craving a hand-cut pastrami or corned beef sandwich piled very high, here is one place you can go.

205 E. Houston St. (at Ludlow St)

(212) 254-2246

Subway: F,V to 2nd Ave.

Tribeca/Soho

Cubana Café \$

A small cozy restaurant delivering some pretty tasty (if not authentic) Cuban food for a reasonable price. Not the best choice for vegetarians (though one could put together a yummy meal from appetizers and salads). Some of the best dishes are the pulled pork with wine gravy and picadillo. The corn appetizer is also delicious, as are the mojitos.

110 Thompson St. (between Prince and Spring St.)

(212) 966-5366

Subway: A, C, E to Spring St.

Nam \$ to \$\$

A nice place to be able to both eat good food and enjoy nice conversation. The Vietnamese food is good, and the quiet adult atmosphere is pleasing.

110 Reade St. (between W. Broadway and Church)

(212) 267-1777

Subway: A,C, E to Chambers St.

East Village

Elvie's Turo Turo \$

This tiny, cafeteria style restaurant is great for someone on a budget, or for anyone who wants to sample delicious Filipino food. You can fill your plate high with several entrees including chicken adobo, several fish dishes, and at least one vegetarian stew. If it is cold out, beware that you can feel a chill anytime someone opens the door.

214 1st Ave. (between 12th and 13th Streets)

(212) 493-7785

Subway: L to 1st Ave

Holy Basil \$\$

Rated as one of the best Thai restaurants in the city, though I haven't been there so I can't say. The food is supposed to be well spiced.

149 Second Ave. (between 9th and 10th Streets)

(212) 460-5557

Subway: L to 3rd Ave

**** Momofuku Noodle Bar \$**

This place is really special. The website claims they are good for groups, but beware that there are only about 20 seats in the place. Still, even if you have to wait, it may be worth it. This will probably be one of the best bowls of ramen noodles you have ever had.

163 First Ave. (between 10th and 11th St.)

(212) 475-7899

Subway: L to 1st Ave

Supper \$

A popular, good value Italian restaurant. Some suggested items include tjarin d'ortice (tagliatelle with mint and butter, good to share as an appetizer), roasted beet salad, veal tortelloni, and hazelnut pannacotta.

156 E. Second St. (at Ave. A)

(212) 477-7600

Subway: F to 2nd Ave

Tsampa \$

One of several good Tibetan restaurants in town. Try the momo (dumplings) as well as some of the following: lentil soup, chicken and collard greens with mung beans, yam and pumpkin pie, and spicy udon noodles. The butter tea is an... well...an experience.

212 E. Ninth Street (between 8th and 9th Ave.)
New York, NY 10003
Subway: 6 to Astor Place or N,R to 8th Street

China Town

Joe's Shanghai \$

Always crowded (usually with non-Asians), but for good reason. Try the soup dumplings, and be prepared to dribble in happiness.

9 Pell St. (between Doyers and Bowery)
(212) 233-8888
Subway: B, D, Q to Grand Street

**** Congee Village \$**

A bit outside of Chinatown proper, but well worth the effort. A sprawling restaurant filled mostly with Chinese patrons serves up some of the best congee in NY (try the one with quail eggs or frog legs). The salted chicken cooked in bamboo is fabulous. Call in advance for reservations because the lines can be quite long.

100 Allen Street (at Delancy)
(212) 941-1818
Subway: F to Delancy-Essex St.

Chinatown Ice Cream Factory \$

Try ice cream flavors like red bean, green tea, litchi, and taro. All handmade on premises. Open until 11:30 pm.

65 Bayard St.
(212) 608-4170
Subway: 6 or N,R to Canal St.

India Town (Murray Hill, aka Curry Hill)

Chinese Mirch

This is the Chinese food Indians eat in India. The okra appetizer is great, as are the vegetable monchurians. The restaurant is below street level which lends it a cool atmosphere. Vegetarian.

120 Lexington Ave. (between 28th and 29th)
(212) 532-3663
Subway: 6 to 28th Street

Saravanaas

Supposedly one of the best south Indian restaurants in the city. Vegetarian.

81 Lexington Ave (at 26th Street)

(212) 679-0204

Subway: 6 to 28th Street

Korea Town

**** Cho Dang Gol \$\$**

Serving a mostly Korean clientele, this Korean restaurant is classy and the food delicious. They make their own pillowy soft tofu, and while you don't cook on the table, the kal bi (beef ribs) never disappoints. You will find several things here that you don't find at typical Korean restaurants. Reservations are advised.

55 W. 35th Street (between 5th and 6th Ave)

(212) 695-8222

Subway: B,D, F, V or N,R to 34th Street (Herald Square)

Kum Gang San \$\$

This place is good if you want to cook Korean barbeque on your own table. It is also open 24 hours, even if the waterfall and white piano turn you off.

49 W. 32nd Street (between Broadway and 5th Ave)

(212) 967-0909

Subway: B,D, F, V or N,R to 34th Street (Herald Square)

Harlem

Miss Mamie's Spoonbread Too \$\$

Good home cookin' from the South. Try smothered chicken, collard greens, and macaroni and cheese. The fried chicken is also supposed to be good. Ex. President Clinton likes to go here.

366. W. 110 Street (Above 103rd Street)

between Manhattan and Columbus

near Columbia University

(212) 865-6744

Subway: B or C to Cathedral Parkway

The sister restaurant Miss Maude's is at:

547 Lenox Ave. between 137th and 138th in Harlem

(212) 690-3100

Subway: 2 or 3 to 135th Street

M & G Diner \$\$

Really good “greaseless” fried chicken. A soul-food landmark.

383 W. 125th St.

Phone (212) 864-7326

Subway: A, C or B, D to 125th Street

Theater District/Midtown West

Aquavit \$\$\$

A good choice if you want to treat yourself to a special meal. Ethiopian born Marcus Samuelsson was raised in Sweden and delivers unusual fusion cuisine. If you want to eat in the main dining room, it is wise to make reservations. But there is also a café where you can get less expensive fare (hopefully) without a wait.

65 E. 55th Street (between Park and Madison)

212-307-7311

Subway: E, V to 5th Ave.

Island Burger and Shakes \$

Extensive menu of hamburgers and chicken burgers (churascos) in a trendy, hole-in-the-wall place. No fries (the kitchen is too small), but you can have chips or a baked potato. Cash only.

766 9th Ave (between 50th and 51st)

(212) 307-7934

Subway: C, E to 50th Street

**** Queen of Sheba** \$\$

One of the better Ethiopian restaurants in town. If you are daring go for the kitfa, which is raw beef with some hot spices on the side. Also good is the gored gored (can be slightly cooked) and the vegetable sampler. Honey wine goes well with the meal. Make reservations if you are going with a sizeable group.

650 10th Ave (between 45th and 46th Streets)

(212) 397-0610

Subway: A,C,E to 42nd Street (Times Square)

Uncle Vanya's \$

A cute little Russian restaurant with great borscht, blinis, and polmenyis (meat dumplings). They often have some good homemade vodkas. Not a good choice for vegetarians.

315 W 54th Street (between 8th and 9th)

(212) 262-0542

Subway: C, E to 50th Street

Chelsea

Cabo Rojo \$

Try traditional Puerto Rican food, like picadillos con maduros (ground beef with plantains) or bacalao (salt cod) served with generous portions of rice and beans. The achiote-tinged flan is supposed to be good for dessert.

254 10th Ave. (between 24th and 25th Street)

(212) 242-1202

Subway: C, E to 23rd Street

Rocking Horse Café \$\$

A Mexican restaurant with unusual regional offerings such as little tamales imbued with hitlacoche and a salad of crisp cornmeal-swathed calamari with frisee, orange sections, and cubes of chorizo. Also recommended: shrimp with papaya and poblano chilis, chicken in pipian sauce, and buñuelos.

182 Eighth Ave. (Between 19th and 20th Streets)

(212) 463-9511

Subway: 1,9 to 18th street or C,E to 23rd Street.

Midtown East

Oyster Bar and Restaurant \$\$\$

If you like oysters and you haven't been to the oyster bar at Grand Central Station, it could be worth a try. The seafood is really fresh and you couldn't have a cooler location. The Station has been beautifully restored and is full of life.

Grand Central Station

Midtown East (44th and 4th Ave)

(212) 490-6650

Subway: S from Times Square to Grand Central

Bars and Cafes

East Village

**** d.b.a.**

A very cool neighborhood bar with an amazing beer and alcohol (over 150 types of beer, 130 Single Malt Scotches, and 60 tequillas). Voted best Whiskey Bar by New York Mag.

41 First Ave. (between 2nd and 3rd)

(212) 475-5097

Subway: F, V to Second Ave.

**** Decibel**

Down the stairs into a cool-looking Asian dungeon. A great place for sake and some interesting Japanese snacks. Really neat atmosphere. Can get busy late at night.

240 E. Ninth St.

(212) 979-2733

Subway: 6 to Astor Place

Starlight Bar and Lounge

Sizeable gay crowd in this friendly, clean lounge. New York magazine says, "This is the best gay bar you can bring your straight friends to."

167 Avenue A (between 10th and 11th Ave)

(212) 475-2172

Subway: L to First Ave, F to Second Ave.

The Thirsty Scholar

Had to include this one because it explicitly caters to intellectuals. If you don't mind Mark Twain sitting in the corner, you should enjoy the cheap drinks and discussion of Nietzsche.

155 Second Ave (between 9th and 10th Streets)

(212) 777-6514

Subway: 6 to Astor place or N, R, W to 8th St.

Lower East Side

Punch and Judy

An award winning wine bar where you sit on couches and drink to your heart's content. There is also real food on the menu and chocolate fondue.

26 Clinton Street (between Houston and Stanton)

212-982-1116

Subway: F, V to 2nd Ave or Delancy Stret

Chelsea

Barracuda

A low-key gay bar with some straight visitors. Cool atmosphere and billiard room await.

275 W. 22nd Street

(212) 645-8613

Subway: C, E or 1, 9 to 23rd Street

Kanvas

Nice, upscale bar with art for sale on the walls. Half price drinks from 4 to 8 pm.

219 9th Ave (between 23rd and 24th)

Phone: (212) 727-2616

Subway: C,E to 23rd Street

Theater District

Library Bar

If you are looking for a quiet place with a fireplace, this could be a good choice.

Recommended by New York Magazine as a good place to go in bad weather, here is the place to curl up with an Armagnac and discuss philosophy of mathematics education.

365 W. 58th Ave (between 8th and 9th Ave in the Hudson Hotel)

212-554-6317

Subway: A, C or 1, or D to 59th Street Columbus Circle.

The View

If you like views from great heights, this isn't a bad place to get one. The revolving bar gives nice views of Times Square and the drinks are not too badly overpriced for this type of place.

Marriot Marquis, 48th floor

1545 Broadway (entrance on 45th Street)

(212) 704-8900

Subway: A, C, E to Times Square

Late Night Cafes

Café Lalo (Upper West Side)

Made famous by a cameo in “You’ve Got Mail”, this popular café offers a choice of more than 100 cakes, pies, and tarts. Cash only. Open until 4 am.

201 W. 83rd St. (between Broadway and Amsterdam Ave.)

212-496-6031

Subway: 1, 9 to 86th Street

** **Café Rafaella** (W. Village)

This is a large café so it would be good for a group, but it still can be crowded so allow a little time. If you are lucky you will get one of the big arm chairs to sit in. There is a full dinner menu, but it is really a place to come for dessert. The sour cream apple walnut pie (which comes from the Little Pie Company) is especially good. Open til 2am.

134 7th Ave. (Between 10th and Charles Street)

212-929-7247

Subway: 1,9 to Christopher Street.

Caffe Reggio (W. Village)

Close to Washington Square Park, near the NYU campus, this is one of several cafes on this street open late. This one has been around since 1927 and is supposed to have introduced cappuccino to New York. Cash only. Open until 3 am.

119 MacDougal St. (between Minetta Ln. and 3rd St.)

212-475-9557

Subway: A, C, E to W. 4th Street

Things to do

Bookstore

Strand Bookstore. 18 Miles of books. It is a bit hit or miss, but if you like rummaging through used books, this is a good place to spend the evening. Open until 10:30 pm.

Corner of 12th street and Broadway.

Subway: N,R or Q,W or 4,5,6 or L to Union Square

Movies

A few good (non-mainstream) theaters in the city:

- Sunshine Cinemas: 143 E Houston St. between Eldridge and Forsythe (East Village) (212) 358-7709
- Quad Cinema: 34 W 13th Street between 5th and 6th Aves. (Village) (212) 255-8800
- Film Forum: 209 W. Houston St, near Bedford (W. Village) (212) 727-8110

Music

- Village Vanguard- a classic jazz joint in a basement venue. Two sets, one at 9 pm and the other at 11 pm. There can also be an extra set on Saturdays at 12:30 am. For reservations call (212) 255-4037. Cost is \$35 which includes one drink. Credit cards not accepted at the door

178 7th Ave South (just below 11th St)

Greenwich Village

Subway: 1, 2, 3 to 14th Street

Empire State Building

If the night is clear, it is actually quite nice to see the view from the Empire State Building. There are few tourists at night which makes the view especially sweet. Last elevators go up at 11:15 pm and the admission price is \$14.50.

5th Ave at 34th Street (entrance on 5th Ave)

Subway: N, R or F to 34th St. or 6 to 33rd St.

Theater

Unfortunately theaters tend not to allow group rates or other discounts on Saturday nights so we were not able to arrange for tickets as a group. Still we have listed websites for some of the more popular Broadway plays in case you want to book something on your own.

- Avenue Q (musical)

Golden Theater

252 W. 45th Street (between Broadway and 8th Ave)

<http://www.avenueq.com/>

- Spamalot (musical)

Shubert Theatre

225 West 44th Street (Between Broadway and 8th Avenue)

<http://www.montypythonsspamalot.com/>

- Doubt (non-musical)

Walter Kerr Theatre

219 West 48th Street (between Broadway and 8th Ave)

<http://www.doubtonbroadway.com/>