



New York City

A Guide for New Arrivals

The Michigan State University Alumni Club of Greater New York

www.msuspartansnyc.org

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1. ABOUT YOUR CLUB

The MSU Alumni Club of Greater New York represents Michigan State University in our nation's largest metropolitan area and the world's greatest city. We are part of the Michigan State University Alumni Association, and our mission is to keep us connected with all things Spartan and to keep MSU connected with us.

Our programs include Spartan social, athletic and cultural events, fostering membership in the MSUAA, recruitment of MSU students, career networking and other assistance for alumni, and partnering with MSU in its academic and development related activities in the Tri-State area.

We have over fifty events every year including the annual wine tasting dinner for the benefit of our endowed scholarship fund for MSU students from this area and our annual picnic in Central Park to which we invite our families and newly accepted MSU students and their families as well. We have food, history and architecture walking tours of NYC neighborhoods; visits to the magnificent cultural institutions based here; group trips to hear MSU musicians at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and jazz venues; young alumni networking and social gatherings; outings to see visiting Detroit professional teams take on one of the nine pro teams in our area; our own amateur athletic teams; all-Big Ten events including a summer happy hour to which visiting interns are invited and annual community service events; group ticket purchases when MSU varsity teams play in our area; and of course watch parties for football and basketball games along with pre-football game tailgate picnics in Central Park.

The Spartans at our events range from current students all the way to alumni who graduated before those students' parents were born! We've brought together Spartans to be friends, roommates, colleagues in their careers, and even spouses. When you come to a watch party and get to meet a baby whose parents met at that same bar, well, you understand that we mean it when we say that we are the Gotham City version of Spartan family—and we hope you'll join us if you haven't already!

Spartanly yours,

Greg Hauser

President, MSU Alumni Club of Greater New York

2. NYC NEIGHBORHOODS

The following is a high-level list of the neighborhoods in Manhattan. Brooklyn, Queens, Jersey City, Hoboken, Roosevelt Island, Westchester, Long Island and Connecticut are other options just a short commute away from Manhattan with just as much charisma. Look for additional information about those areas in future editions of this guide.

You can view an excellent map of the neighborhoods of Manhattan here, at NYCInsiderGuide.com.

ALPHABET CITY

Part of the Lower East Side and East Village, Alphabet City gets its name from Avenues A, B, C, and D. It is bordered by Houston Street to the south and by 14th Street to the north, which is also the southern edge of Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village.

CHELSEA

Wedged between the West Village and Midtown West, this area runs between 14th and 28th Streets and from Seventh Avenue to the Hudson. It is a West-Side neighborhood—funky, creative, and entrepreneurial at the same time.

CHINATOWN

The official boundaries of Chinatown are Canal Street to the North, Worth Street to the South, Bowery to the East and Church Street to the West. However, always thriving, Chinatown continues to stretch beyond its boundaries.

THE FINANCIAL DISTRICT

The Downtown “residential” district is not quite residential—or a neighborhood in the customary sense of the word—but it is very convenient to Wall Street and downtown nightlife! Residential space in the financial district has boomed in the last few years as bankers and financial gurus desired living space close to work.

EAST VILLAGE

Located near NYU, Cooper Union, and Stuyvesant Town, the area is populated by and young artists primarily. It is a nocturnal neighborhood—always alive at night and on weekends as it has many popular bars. (Random bit of trivia: Madonna lived here when she first came to NYC). The East Village is also the setting for the Broadway musical, Rent.

FLATIRON DISTRICT

Includes the Meatpacking District and is bordered by West 14th Street to the South, the Hudson River on the west, Union Square to the East and 32nd Street to the North. It is near Chelsea and shares a similar feeling to that neighborhood. The Flatiron District has become very popular in the last few years.

GARMENT DISTRICT

This is a very commercial area with lots of loud trucks and wholesale fashion stores. It is the area between Madison and 8th Avenues in the West 30s near Penn Station.

GRAMERCY

Beginning at 20th Street on the East Side and running until 26th Street, it is bordered to the East and West by the East River and Park Avenue South. The actual park, a very small plot of land in the center of the neighborhood, is gated and restricted to those who live in a building surrounding its borders. It is primarily a residential area (with quite a few restaurants) and is very safe.

GREENWICH VILLAGE

Lying North of Houston and below Chelsea, it considers itself on the “cutting edge of culture.” Everything goes in this area and it is full of youth and nightlife! As it has become a very trendy place to live, rents have increased, though there are a lot of “interesting” apartments in this area.

HARLEM

Bounded by the Harlem River to the North, 5th Avenue to the East, 110th Street to the South and Morningside and St. Nicholas Avenues to the West, Harlem is one of the most famous neighborhoods in New York, having an entire Renaissance named after it. It has a rich architectural base with apartments that need work but have a lot of potential.

LINCOLN CENTER

Living next to Lincoln Center is a musician’s or music lover’s dream come true! It is a commercial district with plenty of residential areas, restaurants, shops, movie theaters, and Lincoln Center events (including the NYC Ballet and the Metropolitan Opera).

LITTLE ITALY

A very popular tourist destination, this area is bordered by Mulberry, Mott, Elizabeth, and Baxter Streets. Nonstop tourism means that congestion is a way of life here but along with tourism comes fabulous restaurants!

LOWER EAST SIDE

Bordered on the North by Houston Street and to the South by Division Street, it is hemmed in by the East River and the Bowery. This funky neighborhood has done a 180 in the last few years as it is now safe and full of bars, cafes, and shopping!

MIDTOWN EAST

Extending from Central Park South at 59th Street to 42nd Street, the central part of midtown is just what it says, central. It is the heart of the city and brings with it everything NY has to offer—both good and bad. It is always crowded, as everyone wants to take advantage of the shopping, restaurants, attractions (such as Grand Central Station), and more.

MIDTOWN WEST / HELL'S KITCHEN / CLINTON

The residential area around Times Square is small and unique. It is truly an urban experience with high rises, neon signs and flashing lights. It is bordered to the West by the Hudson River, to the North by 62nd Street, to the East by Fifth Avenue and by 42nd Street.

MURRAY HILL

Lying south of 42nd Street and north of Gramercy, Murray Hill is a hybrid of Chelsea-style avant-garde and commercial Midtown. It consists largely of young professionals and is full of shops, chains, markets, and restaurants.

NOHO

Noho stands for “North of Houston” and is a mini-neighborhood right in the middle of Lower Manhattan. Noho runs from Houston to 8th Street and from Mercer Street to the Bowery. It is like a middle child between Greenwich Village and the East Village—very quaint and charismatic.

SOHO

Like Noho, Soho is named for its location, “South of Houston.” This area has been transformed from a purely industrial area to an almost outdoor mall and market. It forms a perfect square in the center of downtown Manhattan and is delineated by Houston Street, Crosby Street, 6th Avenue and Canal Street.

TRIBECA

Tribeca is an acronym for the “Triangle Below Canal” and has become, much like the Village and Chelsea, a hip place to live, though not as trendy or well-located. Its streets are still lined with cobblestones which pave the way to the financial district.

UPPER EAST SIDE

This is a highly residential area. Similar to midtown, it has a lot of shopping, though less nightlife and diversity than many other neighborhoods. It is “waspier” than the villages, Chelsea, and the Upper West Side, and not very accessible via subway (currently only the 4,5 and 6 lines). However, this is generally regarded as the safest (and the most affordable) neighborhood in Manhattan.

UPPER WEST SIDE

The Upper West combines a neighborhood feel with mainstream urban life. It tends to be younger and more artsy than the Upper East Side and the streets are buzzing day and night. Just off of Central Park, this area also gives an escape from the concrete of the city and is adjacent to Riverside Park.

3. FINDING THE RIGHT RENTAL APARTMENT

WHAT'S SHOULD I EXPECT TO PAY FOR RENT?

Rents vary considerably based on location, building, apartment size and amenities. An excellent info graphic illustrating Average Rental Prices in NYC can be viewed here: www.nakedapartments.com/blog/average-rental-prices-in-nyc/

WHEN SHOULD I START LOOKING FOR AN APARTMENT?

The ideal time to find an apartment is 4 weeks prior to your move-in date. In other words, if you'd like to move-in July 1st, then you should begin looking on June 1st

Looking at spaces and gathering information prior to this period is useful, but if you are not ready to put a deposit down immediately, the specific apartment you looked at will not be available later. If you are planning to move to New York in the summer, keep in mind that college students will be moving to the city and they are all looking at the same time.

HOW DO I FIND AN APARTMENT?

There are many ways to find an apartment in New York but "house-hunting" can be extremely overwhelming. The 3 most likely ways to find an apartment are: Brokers, Listings, and Websites.

Brokers

Some people try to avoid using a broker because brokers charge a month's rent to 15% of the first year's rent for their service. The key to using a broker is to understand the process fully before exploring this option.

Some helpful tips:

Know the rules. Once a broker shows you a specific apartment, then you will have to pay their fee in order to sign a lease in that building.

Be firm with the prices you are willing to pay so that brokers don't show you apartments out of your price range. Sometimes landlords will negotiate their prices down, so it may make sense to look \$50 to \$100 above your price range.

Know the neighborhoods. This is very difficult if you have never lived in NY, but it's important because many brokers will tell you what you want to hear.

For example: many brokers will list apartments in Alphabet City as East Village because the name is more appealing to renters. Always consult a map and the surrounding area if you are confused about which neighborhood the apartment is located. See the “Neighborhoods” section of this guide for more on this topic.

The least expensive areas in Manhattan right now are the Lower East Side (very “hip,” but some parts are still a bit “sketchy,” the Financial District/ Battery Park City (very nice, but there is less nightlife there), and the Upper East Side (above 80th Street near 1st Avenue/York Ave). Areas in close proximity to the city (one or two stops on the subway) that are less expensive than Manhattan include Astoria or Long Island City, Queens; Williamsburg & Brooklyn Heights, Brooklyn; Roosevelt Island; and Jersey City, N.J. Hoboken and Williamsburg are almost as expensive as Manhattan these days, but they are great neighborhoods with lots of young people.

Understand Craig’s List. Some brokers will advertise an apartment as “no fee,” but when you get to the apartment they will say, “I’m sorry, that one’s been rented, but I have this one.” Of course, “this one” has a fee. Often, apartments are advertised as a “two bedroom” but they are actually converted two bedrooms, so one bedroom may not have a closet or a window. It is expensive to live in Manhattan and many people put up pressurized walls to add an extra room so that they can afford the rents. If it sounds “too good to be true,” it probably is.

Renting in a Co-op or Condo building. Renting in a co-op or condo building has its pros and cons. You will usually pay less rent, but there may be co-op/condo fees. You may also have to complete a board package, which requires more paperwork than a rental building. You also need more lead time for the board to approve your application, and they may also interview you. If you want to look for an apartment two months in advance, it doesn’t hurt to investigate these apartments.

Some buildings are “broker protected” and you can not rent an apartment there without using a broker. Some buildings will rent to anyone who walks-in off the street. One example of this is *Chelsea Centro* on W. 26th St. and 7th Avenue.

Brokers work on commission only, so you don’t pay them a dime if they do not find you an apartment. A broker may be able to find you a \$1600

apartment with a fee that is nicer than an \$1800 a month apartment with no fee. Since less than 5% of apartments are “no fee,” it doesn’t hurt to also look with a broker. If you don’t have the time to scour Craig’s List or walk the streets looking for buildings that you can walk into, using a broker will save you a lot of time.

Here are a few of the brokerage companies in the city:

- **Citi Habitats** 212-794-1133
- **Manhattan Apartments** 212-378-2680
- **Village Dwellings** 212-691-1201

Do not hesitate to ask brokers what their fees are. Broker’s fees are sometimes, but not always negotiable. If a broker shows you a listing that is shared between two companies, also called a “co-broke,” since two companies are splitting the fee, the commission is generally not negotiable. However, you may find a shared listing that is nicer than the other apartments that you have seen.

Listings

This method may take longer but could save you money. Browsing through apartment listings in the newspaper is an arduous task. The *Village Voice* or the *New York Times* online can be a great start, but be careful. Some brokers will post dummy listings for great places that do not exist or have already been rented. Look closely at the listings for abbreviations such as “bkr” or “bk.”

Websites

From free listings to fee-based subscriptions, these sites allow you to cover a lot of ground in a short time. The fee-based sites usually offer access to their database at a one-time cost of about \$300. From there you can contact landlords directly. Some even offer guarantees to pay your broker fees if their site doesn’t find you a place in the first month. Definitely worth looking into as a cost-effective way of finding an apartment. Here is a short list of these sites:

- **VillageVoice.com** – the print publication comes out every Wednesday but you can read in on-line on Tuesday night)
- **NYTimes.com** – new listings come out Friday
- **Craigslist.com** – be wary of “bait and switch” tactics, illegal sublets, roommates who charge you more than half of the rent, and shady brokers
- **NakedApartments.com** – a great site for finding apartments. Also offers

email notifications and user-ratings of brokers. Highly recommended.

- [NoFeeRentals.com](#) - you will see ads here for \$2200 two bedrooms in the East Village. These will have no living room, a half-sized refrigerator, 8 by 9 bedrooms, and be on the 5th floor of a walk up with no laundry. Some people have had good luck with this website, though.
- [Rent-direct.com](#) - worth using if you begin 4 weeks in advance
- [ApartmentSource.com](#) - register on-line for this and they will send apartment updates. May not be worth paying to use their service, but you can still see apartments/buildings and locations without paying anything
- [Sublet.com](#) - Long-term or short term sublets. This site connects renters directly with apartment owners who are looking to sublet.
- [NyFurnishedApartments.com](#) - This is a more temporary solution, but if you are in a hurry for housing, this may help
- [NyHabitat.com](#) - Similar to Sublet.com, offering furnished and unfurnished apartments for sublet.

DEFINITIONS TO KNOW

Walk-up Building: this is a building without an elevator, thus you WALK UP to your apartment (walk-ups are less expensive than elevator buildings)

Doorman Buildings: these are buildings with elevators and doormen, some doormen are there all day and night but some buildings have part time doormen. One advantage of a doorman is that you can have packages & dry cleaning delivered when you aren't home. If there is a *Mailboxes, Etc.* or *UPS* store nearby, they usually accept packages for a small fee. Some people feel that having a doorman also increases security. Doorman buildings are more expensive than walk-up and elevator buildings

Rent Stabilized: this limits the amount a landlord can increase your rent when a lease comes up for renewal; the increase is set by a city control board every 1-2 years. Signing a longer lease benefits you in this case, although many landlords won't sign for more than 2 years. Rent stabilized apartments are very difficult to find, they generally change hands by word of mouth.

Rent Controlled: rent cannot increase in these apartments and most have been in the same family since 1971 when this came into being; these apartments must be passed down and cannot go on the market or the rent can increase to current market rates—often a huge increase over what they were. These apartments don't come onto the market anymore, so if you see one advertised, it is most likely an illegal sublet—steer clear!

Pre-War Building: buildings built prior to WWII which usually have interesting

architectural details like high ceilings, hardwood floors, crown moldings, and fireplaces. However, they also have had more wear and tear, older plumbing, etc.

Post-War Building: buildings built after WWII, most have been renovated and some recently built with new floors, new appliances and more reliable plumbing; however, these buildings lack some of the charm and appeal of the older buildings.

One, Two or Three Bedroom SHARE (also “Convertible”): a “share” is a common term in New York and it refers to the amount of bedrooms; with rent so high, many people take a one bedroom and have a temporary wall built so that it can become a two bedroom, the same can be done in larger apartments—there are even companies that specialize in this type of wall building in New York. Make sure that building a wall and having an extra person is allowed in your building before you sign a lease!

CLOSING THE DEAL

Act Fast - If you see a place that you really like, count on a half dozen other people trying to swipe it out from under you. When visiting apartments, either with a broker or alone, carry several forms of ID, bank statements, tax returns, pay stubs from your employer (if you have these), and a letter of employment stating your job title, length of employment and salary, or offer letter. If you do not have a job yet, you are going to need your parents to co-sign your lease & you will need all of their paperwork also. Landlords and real estate management companies are very particular about who they rent to, so you must be organized.

Ask Questions - Just because you are dying for a place, don't be foolish and sign a lease before negotiating the best deal possible. This is the time to ask every question that you can think of.

Credit - Almost all landlords require a credit check. Under the Fair and Accurate Transaction Act, **Equifax**, **Experian**, and **TransUnion**, will provide you with one free credit report every 12 months (at your request). A credit check is required for your co-signer as well. Many landlords charge \$50 to \$100 per person per credit report & they will not let you run your own credit report. Landlords rarely rent to individuals with bad credit unless they are able to provide a secure guarantor. You may need a co-signer (“guarantor”) on your apartment, usually a parent or legal guardian if you have little or no credit history.

Financial Information - Along with a credit check, you may be asked for bank statements, tax returns, pay stubs, and a letter of employment (stating length of employment, position, salary and/or bonus). Make sure to bring ID including driver's license, social security card, birth certificate and/or passport.

Guarantors – Most landlords require that your gross annual income be 40-50X the monthly rent of the apartment. If you do not meet these financial standards, then you will need a guarantor. This is very common, and usually parents will serve as the guarantor to an apartment. Guarantors are typically required to earn 80-100X the rent of the apartment in annual income. This may seem incredibly unnecessary to parents unfamiliar with NY apartments, but it is a very real part of the process. If you do not have a guarantor, or are not yet employed, you may need to put down an extra month's security. Students, non-citizens, retired people, and unemployed people may have to pay 6 months to a year's rent UP FRONT in order to secure an apartment.

Security Deposit – Most landlords require a full month's rent (or two) to be paid at the signing of the lease. Many landlords have a fine art of keeping security deposits so make sure that you understand the stipulations of getting it back. Most of these deposits are in the form of a certified check so opening a New York bank account in advance is useful. Landlords are supposed to keep your security deposit in a separate account and if you return the apartment in good condition, you get this money back PLUS interest.

Pets – Leave your large dog at home! Having a dog over 30 lbs. makes it almost impossible to find an apartment. Only about 10% of landlords will allow you to have a large dog. You pretty much need to buy an apartment to have a large dog in Manhattan!

THINKING ABOUT BUYING AN APARTMENT?

Purchasing an apartment in New York City is, obviously, a much different process than renting. We don't recommend purchasing an apartment until you're familiar enough with the neighborhoods to make an educated decision. When you're ready to start thinking about buying, visit the City of New York's [Guide to Homeownership in New York City](#) website.

4. GETTING AROUND: TRANSPORTATION

NYC is a pedestrian city equipped with an amazing public transportation system including subways and buses—yes, buses! They are clean, safe, and your best bet for getting around-town. All you need is a MetroCard to ride and you can purchase one in any subway station from an attendant or from a machine. Single ride cards, unlimited daily/weekly/monthly passes or cash cards are available. The subway and the buses are \$2.25 per ride. Express buses from borough-to-borough are usually more than \$2.25 and require a cash MetroCard. To ride the bus without a card, you must have exact change in quarters. Go to the [MTA website](#) for maps, schedules, and service changes.

Taxis are available to take you wherever you need to go, too. Vacant taxis are easily recognizable by the lit numbers on the roof of their cabs. Once a cab has a passenger, the number light turns off. Cabs with off-duty lights on may sometimes pick up fares, too. The off-duty lights are on either side of the cab number. You may find it is most difficult to hail a cab during shift changes—around 4 pm on weekdays. Taxis are expensive and can take a long time, depending on traffic, so your best bet is often the subway.

5. ENTERTAINMENT

NYC is truly “The City that Never Sleeps” with some of the world’s best food, interior design, nightlife, comedy, athleticism, and musical talent. Below we highlight just a few entertainment options the city has to offer.

RESTAURANTS AND BARS

There are so many amazing restaurants in NYC it’s hard to know where to begin. Several websites such as timeout.com, citysearch.com, and nymag.com are extremely helpful, but above all, buy a *ZAGAT’S Guide to New York Restaurants*. It is great and even “real” New Yorkers swear by it. Trust us on this. You can also check out just about every restaurant’s menu in NYC by visiting menupages.com, or order in from hundreds of restaurants by using seamlessweb.com.

RESTAURANTS – Suggestions to jump start your culinary adventure.

ABC Kitchen - 35 E. 18th St., 212-475-5829
Aquagrill - 210 Spring St., 212-274-0505
Asia De Cuba - 237 Madison Ave., 212-726-7755
Azuki Sushi - 239 Park Ave S., 212-228-3611
Barbetta - 321 West 46th St., 212-246-9171
Becco - 355 West 46th St., 212-397-7597
Ben Benson’s Steak House - 123 W. 52nd St., 212-581-8888
Bennie’s Thai Cafe - 88 Fulton St. (at Gold St.), 212-587-8930
BLT Prime (steakhouse) - 111 East 22nd St, 212-995-8500
Blue Water Grill - 31 Union Square West, 212-675-9500
Boat Basin Café (open seasonally) - W. 79th St. & The Hudson River, 212-496-5542
Buddakan (upscale Chinese) - 75 9th Ave., 212-989-6699
The Burger Joint - 119 W. 56th St. (in Le Parker Meridien), 212-708-7414
Café Centro - 200 Park Ave. (MetLife Building), 212-818-1222
Cafe Edison (try the matzoh ball soup) - 228 W. 47th St., 212-840-5000
Campanile - 30 East 29th St., 212-684-4344
Carmine’s (family-style Italian food) - 200 West 44th St., 212-221-3800
Carnegie Deli (Historic NY Deli) - 854 7th Ave. at 55th St., 212-757-2245
Casa Mono - 52 Irving Place, 212-253-2773
Clinton St. Baking Co. - 4 Clinton St. (btwn E. Houston & Stanton), 646-602-6263
Corner Bistro (one of the best burgers in NYC) - 331 W. 4th St., 212-242-9502
Cube 63 (BYOB, sushi) - 63 Clinton St., 212-228-6751
Del Friscos (steakhouse) - 1221 6th Ave., 212-575-5129
Dinosaur BBQ - 700 W. 125th St. (& 12th Ave.), 212-694-1777
Dumpling Man (amazing dumplings) - 100 Saint Marks Place, 212-505-2121
El Parador Cafe (great mushroom quesadillas) - 325 E. 34th St., 212-679-6812

Euzkadi (Spanish tapas) - 108 E. 4th St., 212-982-9788
Five Points - 31 Great Jones St., 212-253-5700
Freeman's - 191 Chrystie St. (btwn Delancey & Rivington), 212-420-0012
The Harlem Tavern - 2153 Frederick Douglass Blvd. (at 116th St.), 212-866-4500
Il Buco - 47 Bond Street, 212-533-1932
John's Pizza (the best pizza in the city) - 278 Bleecker St., 212-243-1680
Kittichai (Thai) - 60 Thompson St., (btwn Spring & Broome), 212-219-2000
La Esquina - 106 Kenmare St., 646-613-7100
La Petite Auberge (great veal scallopini) - 116 Lexington Ave., 212-689-5003
The Little Pie Company (desserts) - 424 West 43 St., 212-736-4780
Mad Dog & Beans (Mexican - fantastic guacamole) - 83 Pearl St., 212-269-1177
Matsuri (great food and great sakes) - 369 16th St., 212-243-6400
Oh! Taisho (Japanese - Yakitori and beer!) - 9 St. Marks Pl., 212-673-1300
One If By Land Two If By Sea - 17 Barrow St., 212-228-0822
The Palm - 837 2nd Ave., 212-687-2953 and other locations
Paradou (French) - 8 Little West 12th, 212-463-8345
Peter Luger (classic NY steak house) - 178 Broadway in Brooklyn, 718-387-7400
Philippe - 35 E. 60th St., 212-644-8885
Piper's Kilt (great burgers) - 4946 Broadway (Inwood), 212-569-7071
PJ Clarke's (great burgers, low key atmosphere) - multiple Locations
Pomaire (Chilean) 371 W. 46th St., (btwn 8th & 9th Aves.), 212-956-3056
Primavera - 1578 1st Ave., 212-861-8608
Rissoteria - 270 Bleecker St., 212-924-6664
Sante Fe - 72 W. 69th St., 212-724-0822
Sarabeth's - 423 Amsterdam Ave., 212-496-6280 or 1295 Madison Ave., 212-410-7335
Sea (inexpensive Tai food with great atmosphere) - 75 2nd Ave., 212-228-5505
Shake Shack - E. 23rd St & Madison Ave. (in Madison Square Park), 212-889-6600
S'Mac (only serves mac & cheese) - 345 E. 12th St., 212-358-7912
Snack Taverna (hole in the wall trip to Greece) - 63 Bedford St., 212-929-3499
Socarrat Paella Bar - 259 W. 19th St., 212-462-1000
Southern Hospitality (BBQ) - 1460 Second Ave., 212-249-1001 (multiple locations)
Sparks Steak House (historic NY location) - 210 E. 46th St., 212-687-4855
Spotted Pig (amazing Roquefort burger) - 314 W. 11th St., 212-620-0393
The Stanton Social - 99 Stanton St. (btwn Orchard & Ludlow), 212-995-0099
Sushi Yasuda - 204 E. 43rd St., 212-972-1001
Taureau - (a fabulous fondue restaurant) - 127 E. 7th St., 212-228-2222
Tenzan (great sushi) - 285 Columbus Ave. (btwn 73rd & 74th), 212-580-7300
Tortilla Flats (Mexican, great for groups) - 767 Washington St., 212-243-1053
Traif (amazing brunch!) - 229 S. 4th St., Williamsburg (Brooklyn), 347-844-9578
Union Square Café (upscale, celebrity chef) - 21 E. 16th St., 212-243-4020
Villa Berulia (great menu) - 107 E. 34th St., 212-689-1970
Wallsé - 344 West 11th St., 212-352-2300
Zum Stammtisch - 6946 Myrtle Ave., Glendale (Queens), (718) 386-3014

BARS/CLUBS - suggestions to help you jump start your night.



The the MSU Alumni Club of Greater NY has 2 official bars for Spartan sports watch parties. Both venues have great food and drink menus:

Blondie's (79th btwn Broadway & Amsterdam)

Mercury Bar East (3rd Ave. & 33rd St.)

1 Oak (very trendy, velvet rope, Chelsea)

Back Fence (live classic rock, peanut shells on floor, West Village)

Barrow Street Ale House (your perfect pub in the West Village)

Blind Pig (classic pub on 14th)

Boucaru (unexpected dance party with outdoor area, Lower East Side)

The Bowery Bar (outdoor area, good for groups, DJ, in East Village)

Brother Jimmy's (college frat party revisited) multiple locations

Culture Club (kitschy, '80s, bachelorette party)

Fiddlesticks (another pub, always packed, West Village)

Galway Hooker - 36th btwn Madison & 5th

The Garage (live jazz music)

Lit (subterranean techno party, East Village)

Louis 649 (live jazz music in the East Village)

McSorley's Old Ale House (oldest bar in the city, force-fed beer, East Village)

Merc Bar (log cabin inspired Soho lounge)

MObar (at the Mandarin Oriental, great views of city)

Rare View (rooftop bar in Murray Hill)

Red Lion (live, fun music to dance to in West Village)

Rose Bar (lounge in Gramercy)

Sway (lounge in Soho)

Tenjune (trendy nightclub)

The Village Idiot (pub in Greenwich Village)

SHOWS

Broadway - The best way to get cheap Broadway tickets is to go to the *TKTS Discount Booth* in Times Square or in South Street Seaport. This booth has tickets for that night's performances at reduced prices. The South Street Seaport location also sells tickets for the next-day's performances, a little known secret. Go to: www.tdf.org for info.

Another way to get tickets is to go straight to the ticket windows at the theaters. If you have a student ID, there are student tickets available for that night's

performance on the first and second rows for a discount price—but you have to go early in the morning to get them. You can also go through a ticket broker—there is a really good one at [Applause Tickets](#), 212-307-7050.

Other Shows - In addition to Broadway shows, we recommend checking out off-Broadway productions (*The Karaoke Show*, *Stomp*, etc.), comedy shows (at venues such as *Caroline's*, *the Comedy Cellar*, and *Gotham Comedy Club*), musical performances at Lincoln Center & Carnegie Hall to Irving Plaza and Beacon Theatre and live television shows like *The Daily Show* and *Late Night with David Letterman*.

SPORTS TO WATCH

- Baseball:** Yankees at Yankee Stadium in the Bronx
Mets at Citi Field in Queens
- Basketball:** New York Knicks at Madison Square Garden in Manhattan
New Jersey Nets at the NJ Meadowlands (in Brooklyn, Fall 2012)
- Hockey:** New York Rangers at Madison Square Garden
New York Islanders at Nassau Coliseum, Long Island
New Jersey Devils at the NJ Meadowlands
- Football:** New York Giants at the NJ Meadowlands
New York Jets at the NJ Meadowlands
- Tennis:** US OPEN Tennis Tournament, Flushing Meadow, every Aug.-Sept.
- Soccer:** New York Red Bulls at Red Bull Arena, Harrison, NJ

SPORTS TO PLAY

[Chelsea Piers](#) - from bowling to ice skating to golf.

[ZogSports.org](#) - a host of intramural sports - from dodgeball to soccer - for young professionals.

6. FAQs

WHAT BANK SHOULD I USE?

The bank you choose depends pretty much on your personal needs. Citibank and Chase certainly have the largest presence in NY with numerous branch locations and ATMs (Chase now has an ATM in every Duane Reade location). TD Bank now has many locations in the city and more generous hours and rates. Make sure that you choose a bank with an ATM located near your work and your apartment, because you will use these most frequently.

Many larger employers will set up bank accounts for their employees, as they have special arrangements with certain institutions. Be aware that the cost of checking accounts in NY is higher than most places.

When opening an account, all of the money you use to open an account will NOT be available immediately. In New York, due to excessive money laundering, checks, especially out of state checks and even cashier's checks, take longer to clear. In most cases, an initial amount will be available the next day and then the check will clear in increments. Just don't expect to have access to all of your money all at once during the moving process.

HOW DO I FIND FURNITURE?

Furniture can definitely be a hassle in the city with having it delivered, shipped, etc. However, in late July and early August, New York retailers have their annual furniture sales so places will have things a lot cheaper than normal. Furniture stores are all over the city. Many cheaper stores are located near NYU, such as in Union Square and 5th Avenue. **Straight from the Crate** is a great option for inexpensive but nice apartment furniture. There are not any **IKEAs** in Manhattan, but if you are willing to travel a bit you can find them in Brooklyn and New Jersey. There is a bus that leaves from Port Authority and goes straight to Ikea. Ikea will also deliver to Manhattan, but it may take a few weeks to get your furniture.

The best way is to find the mattress that you want at a local store (type, brand, cost, etc), then call **1-800-MATTRES** or **1-866-SLEEPYS** and they will beat the price and deliver it with no extra charge.

WHAT ABOUT UTILITIES?

Electricity

Con Edison: 212-338-3000

Phone and DSL service

Verizon: 212-890-1550

Cable TV

Time Warner Cable: 212-222-5388

The summer can be a busy month so call early and schedule an appointment to have these installed. You will have to present for all cable installation but most phone and utilities can just be switched on.

7. HELPFUL TIPS & ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Dial 411 for free directory service from any pay phone or cell phone to get phone numbers, addresses, and restaurant locations with cross-streets, etc. Sometimes they even give directions!

Dial 311 to request New York City information, city agency help and resource info, or to register a complaint.

Buy a New York City Guide book. Here are a few to consider:

- **NYC: An Owner's Manual: Arriving, Surviving and Thriving in the Greatest City in the World**
- **Not For Tourists Guide to New York City**
- **Newcomer's Handbook for New York City** – In need of an update but still full of useful information

Take cab receipts from cab drivers. It sounds silly but the receipt will have the cab number and when you leave your wallet or purse or whatever in the back of a cab one day, you will be glad you have the receipt!

Buy A ZAGAT'S restaurant guide and a nightlife guide!

Need dinner delivered?

- **Seamlessweb.com** is a fast and easy way to order online.
- **Freshdirect.com** offers prepared meals and groceries delivered right to your door.

Visit these websites:

- **Newyork.citysearch.com** for easy access to events, restaurants, bars, museums, shopping and more. It is updated daily.
- **Dailycandy.com** and **urbandaddy.com** for fun and exciting insights into New York life. They send out weekly listings of designer sample sales and more.
- **Nymag.com** for great restaurant, bar, and shopping reviews.
- **Yelp.com** to review and talk about what's great—and not so great—in your area.

Subscribe to the *New York Times*' "UrbanEye." A free e-mail newsletter sent Monday through Friday giving you the best of New York City. Find out about New York's newest restaurants, cultural events, latest styles, the best places to shop and more! Don't miss the weekend guide sent each Friday to help you plan your perfect weekend.

8. CREDITS & NOTES

This New Arrival's Guide to New York is based on an original guide created by our friends at the Virginia Club of New York (www.uvanyc.org) and used with their permission.

Members of the MSU Alumni Club of Greater New York contributed extensively to this version of the Guide.

Though we tried to be certain that all of the information included was accurate at the time this publication was released, it's very likely that inaccuracies will develop over time. Please notify us if you find any incorrect or out-of-date content. We can be reached via email at msuacgny.info@gmail.com.

This Guide will be revised periodically to include updated and expanded information. If you'd like to help contribute content to the next publication, please email us at msuacgny.info@gmail.com.