

# City Guide: Getting to know New York



## Welcome!

New York City is one of the most exciting fast-paced cities in the world, and it's the ideal place to experience jazz and jazz musicians in their "native habitat." While New York may appear a little intimidating from the outside, it's actually a well-organized metropolitan area that's fairly easy to navigate.

New York offers a wide variety of food and lodging options that can cater to just about any budget. A great website that will help you familiarize yourself with NYC on a variety of levels is [www.nycgo.com](http://www.nycgo.com). In the following pages, we have put together a basic guide to NYC that will help answer many of your questions about what you can expect from a visit to "The Big Apple."

## 1. The Collective – Jazz Intensive "Headquarters"

Most of the Jazz Intensive activities will take place at *Drummers Collective*, located at in the Wall Street neighborhood of Manhattan, next to Battery Park and a quick subway ride to Greenwich Village and Midtown districts.

Wall Street is a safe, vibrant neighborhood, and an easy walk to local hotels, restaurants, shops, parks, subway stations, train stops, newsstands, banks, and much more.

## 2. Getting to New York – Airports, Trains, Buses, Etc.

There are any number of ways to travel to New York City:

### 2.1 Flying

Three major airports serve New York—La Guardia (LGA) and John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) in New York and Newark Liberty (EWR) in New Jersey. For information about each of the airports serving New York and the surrounding areas, including flight information, alerts and advisories, and individual airport guides, go to [www.panynj.gov/airports/](http://www.panynj.gov/airports/).

### 2.2 Ground Transportation to/from Airports

*La Guardia*—

An easy-to-access shuttle service (\$13 per ride) transports riders from La Guardia to the Port Authority Bus Terminal, Grand Central Station and Penn Station. Purchase tickets online at [www.NYCAirporter.com](http://www.NYCAirporter.com). For more information, call 718-777-5111.

*John F. Kennedy International*—

Taxi into Manhattan costs \$52 flat rate (plus tax, tolls and tips). Taking the Long Island Railroad or Subway into town are cheaper options – although you will have to add the cost of the Airtrain that circles JFK (an additional \$5.00). Additionally, JFK is also served by an easy-to-access shuttle service (\$16 per ride) which transports riders from JFK to the bus terminal, Grand Central Station, and Penn Station. Purchase advance tickets online at [www.NYCAirporter.com](http://www.NYCAirporter.com). For more information, call 718-777-5111.

*Newark Liberty*—

Newark Airport Express Bus provides shuttle service (\$16 per ride) transporting riders from Newark Liberty to Grand Central Station, Bryant Park, and Port Authority Bus Terminal. Go to [www.NewarkAirportExpress.com](http://www.NewarkAirportExpress.com) for more information.

### 2.3 Trains and Buses

Live near the city already? Amtrak provides service to New York's Penn Station from many cities up and down the Eastern seaboard of the U.S. Acela Express service

provides "business class" comfort and shorter travel times when compared to regular train service. Ticket prices change with the availability of seats, so reserve your tickets early. Go to [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com) for more information. Regional buses can often be a cheaper option than a train when traveling to NYC. For schedules and rates, check out Megabus ([www.us.megabus.com](http://www.us.megabus.com)), Greyhound ([www.greyhound.com](http://www.greyhound.com)) or Peter Pan ([www.peterpanbus.com](http://www.peterpanbus.com)).

### 2.4 Driving

While it's certainly possible to drive into NYC and park your vehicle during the Intensive, it is not recommended unless you are already familiar with the City. Driving in New York (particularly Manhattan) can be a very stressful experience. Street parking requires understanding some tricky regulations and parking garages can be very expensive. A site that offers an excellent overview of the entire NYC parking scenario is [www.nyc.bestparking.com](http://www.nyc.bestparking.com).

## 3. Lodging – Where to Stay?

Think New York is expensive? Guess again! Hotel prices start at \$100 per night and creative options, like sharing a room at someone's home, can start as low as \$40 a night. We offer several starting points on the next page.

Drummers Collective is central to many major transit lines, so whether you find accommodations near the Collective, in Times Square, or in the outer boroughs (like Brooklyn or Queens), you may just be minutes away by subway. If you want to stay near Drummers Collective, narrow your search to include Lower Manhattan and Wall Street.

Pro tip: Once you have lodging in mind, use a smartphone "Map" app—such as Apple Maps or Google Maps—to get directions to Drummers Collective, and find out estimated travel times along with recommended routes.

There are many online sources for accommodations, but here are a few we like:

**Hotels:** [www.hotels.com](http://www.hotels.com) or [www.booking.com](http://www.booking.com) starting at \$100 per night.

**Vacation Rental by Owner:** [www.vrbo.com](http://www.vrbo.com) (when you want the whole place to yourself) from \$125 per night

**AirBnB:** [www.airbnb.com](http://www.airbnb.com) starting at \$60 per night for private rooms/\$30 per night for shared rooms. With all of the Jazz Intensive activities and the nightlife in NYC, you won't spend much time sleeping, is our guess.

## 4. Getting Around Town – Subways, Cabs, Walking, Etc.

Like other major cities, New York has its fair share of traffic congestion and you never know when “gridlock” could set in. That said, public transportation is the favored option of most New Yorkers, and it's generally pretty convenient and easy to use.

Don't forget that in many cases, WALKING may actually be your best or fastest option, especially in June, when the weather is generally quite beautiful.

### 4.1 Subways and Buses (FREE for Intensive Participants)

When you arrive at Drummers Collective for the opening day of the Daniel Glass Jazz Intensive, your registration packet will include a 7-day unlimited-ride MetroCard providing you with around-the-clock access to subway and bus service in all five boroughs of New York City (you are responsible for your own local travel costs up to the first day of Jazz Intensive activities).

#### *Subways -*

Detailed information is available from the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA): [www.mta.info](http://www.mta.info). Maps are posted on the walls of the subway stations, and you can view them online at [web.mta.info/nyct/maps](http://web.mta.info/nyct/maps). Internet service is not always available in subway stations, so you might consider downloading one of several subway apps for your smartphone. Most of these contain detailed maps of the subway system.

First-time rider? No problem. Check out MTA's visitor

guide which includes tips on sightseeing, safety, and how to board the right train! Go to [web.mta.info/nyct/howto\\_sub.html](http://web.mta.info/nyct/howto_sub.html). You'll look like a New Yorker in no time.

#### *Buses -*

Buses are generally a less convenient option than subways, mainly because they are subject to the same “above ground” traffic snarls as cars and other vehicles. That said, a bus or bus/subway combination may be a desirable option, depending on where in New York you are staying.

### 4.2 Yellow Cabs and Uber Service

Taking a cab or Uber service can be a faster and more convenient way of getting to your destination than the subway, especially later at night, when traffic is generally lighter and mass transit service is less frequent. Getting (or “hailing”) a New York City yellow cab is extremely easy. When you see the center light lit atop a cab, just stick your arm up or holler “Taxi” (yes, people really do that in NYC). Go to [www.gonyc.about.com/a/taxi.htm](http://www.gonyc.about.com/a/taxi.htm) for more information about using taxis.

Uber and other ride services determine fares in advance, so these can be a cheaper and more accurate option than a cab. For [www.uber.com/cities/new-york](http://www.uber.com/cities/new-york)

## 5. Restaurants and Dining Options

As with lodging, NYC offers a wide variety of dining options that can work with just about any budget. From fast food to fine dining, you can get just about anything to eat at any hour, and often have it delivered as well. Here is just a small sampling of the offerings available within a few blocks of the Collective:

\$ - Crave It / McDonald's / Terry's Gourmet / Pizza 33 / Popeye's / DQ Grill & Chill / Dunkin' Donuts / Murray's Bagels / Chipotle / H & H Fruit & Grocery / Alberto's Pizza and Cheesesteak / Crepe Café / Café Seasons / Slice & Company

\$\$ - Good Stuff Diner / Starbucks / Da Andrea (Italian) / Café Loup (bistro) / Salaam (Middle-Eastern) / Bar Six (Moroccan) / Grape & Vine (Romantic American) / Horchata (Mexican) / Green Fusion (healthful Asian-fusion) / Spain Restaurant & Bar (Spanish) / Mikado Bistro (Japanese-sushi) / Umami Shoppu (Japanese-sushi) / Shu

Han Ju (Chinese)

\$\$\$ - Gradisca (Italian)

## 6. Jazz Clubs

As the center of the jazz universe, New York is home to many of the world's greatest jazz musicians and clubs. Here are just a few of Manhattan's finest jazz spots:

Blue Note / Birdland / Village Vanguard / 55 Bar / Fat Cat / Smalls / Smoke / The Iridium / The Jazz Standard / Knickerbocker Bar & Grill / Metropolitan Room

## 7. Museums and Sightseeing

Metropolitan Museum of Art / Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) / Whitney Museum of American Art / Ground Zero Museum

## 8. Music Stores/Drum Shops

Steve Maxwell's / Guitar Center / Sam Ash

## 9. General Tourism Information

[www.nyctourist.com](http://www.nyctourist.com)

## 10. Nearby Banks/ATMs:

Bank of America ATM / Chase Bank / Wells Fargo ATM / ATM in McDonald's (next door to Drummers Collective)

