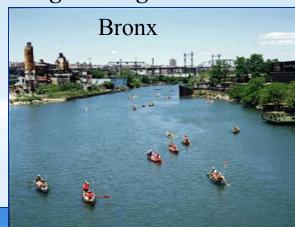
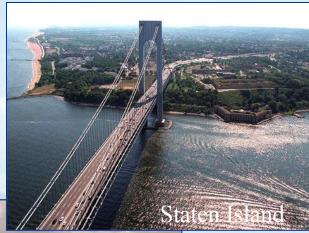
# New York "Big Apple"

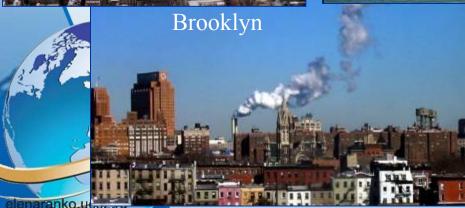


New York City is a city in the southern end of the state of New York, and is the most populous city in the United States of America. New York City is a global economic center, with its business, finance, trading, law, and media organizations influential worldwide. The city is also an important cultural center, with many museums, galleries, and performance venues. Home of the United Nations, the city is a hub for international diplomacy. With over 8.2 million residents within an area of 322 square miles (830 km²), New York City has the highest population density of major cities in the United States. The New York metropolitan area, with a population of 18.8 million, ranks among the largest urban areas in the world.







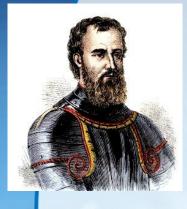








Giovanni da Verrazano was born sometime around 1485 in his family's castle (Castello Verrazzano) in Val did Greve, Italy. In 1507, Verrazano moved to Dieppe in the hopes of pursuing a career in navigation. While in Dieppe, he made voyages to the Eastern Mediterranean. He spent many years as a pirate, preying on Spanish and Portuguese sea vessels. He was responsible for stealing nearly two million dollars worth of gold from Spanish vessels that were bringing gold and jewels back from Mexico, stolen from the Aztec Empire.



In 1524, Verrazano was chosen by king Francis I of France to search for a "Northwest Passage" to Asia through North America. He left aboard La Dauphine in January of 1524. On March 1, 1524, he reached Cape Fear, North Carolina and proceeded north to explore the coastline. Verrazano believed he saw the Pacific Ocean as he explored the North Carolina coast on the other side of a narrow strip of land. He had actually found the Pamlico Sound, which is part of the Atlantic Ocean. Verrazano's error in judgment resulted in erroneous maps printed in Europe. The maps depicted North America as being split into two parts, connected by a narrow strip of land. The error took over a century to correct.

As Verrazano explored the Atlantic coast of North America farther north, he discovered New York Harbor, Block Island and Narragansett Bay. Because he often anchored far off-shore, Verrazano missed discovering the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays. He sailed farther north to Maine and Newfoundland before returning to France. Verrazano would make two more trips to the Americas. On the second trip, he was killed by natives on the island of Guadalupe. Today, New York Harbor's Verrazano Narrows Bridge commemorates his epic journey

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The statue was designed by a young French sculptor, Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi, who was striving to build a statue like the great Colossus that once stood at the Greek island Rhodes.

The statue's face was modeled after his mother's and the story goes that the body was modeled after a prostitute. The crown of Lady Liberty, as the statue is often affectionately called, has seven spikes, symbolizing the Seven Seas across which liberty should be spread. In her left hand she holds a tablet with the Declaration of Independence and in her right hand a torch, symbolizing Enlightenment.

The Statue of Liberty was constructed in Paris, France. It took nine years before it was completed in 1884 after which it was sent to the USA in 214 crates. Even before the arrival of the statue, Bartholdi himself had traveled to the United States to discuss the location of the statue with president Ulysses S. Grant. Eventually it was decided tot erect the statue at a small island in the harbor of New York City. Today the island is known as Liberty Island.

The Statue of Liberty is 46,5 meters (151ft) tall and together with the pedestal it reaches a height of 93 meters (305ft). You can take the staircase inside the statue and walk all the way up the 354 steps to the crown from where you have a nice view over New York City.

The Brooklyn Bridge, built between 1869 and 1883, connects Manhattan with New York's most populous borough, Brooklyn. The bridge is one of the most famous and magnificent landmarks in New York City. At the time of construction, Brooklyn - founded by Dutch settlers in the 17th century - was still an independent city. In fact it was even one of the country's largest cities. In 1898, 15 years after the opening of the Brooklyn Bridge, Brooklyn citizens decided in a close vote to become a borough of New York. The Brooklyn Bridge ranks as one of the greatest engineering feats of the 19th century and remains one of New York's most popular and well known landmarks.

The impressive bridge spans the East river between Brooklyn and Manhattan and stretches for a length of 5989 ft, about 1.8 km. The span between the large towers measures 1595.5 ft (486 meters). This made the Brooklyn Bridge the world's largest suspension bridge







Times Square, the most bustling square of New York is known for its many Broadway theatres, cinemas and electronic billboards. It is one of those places that make New York a city that never sleeps. At the end of the 19th century, New York City had expanded up to 42nd street and the area was becoming the center of the city's social scene. In 1904, the New York Times built the Times Tower on 43rd street just off Broadway to replace its downtown premises. The square in front of the building was called Longacre square, but was soon renamed Times Square. The name is now used for the area between 40th and 53rd street and 6th and 9th avenue.

Today Times Square is a constantly buzzing tourist magnet; the square is even one of the most visited places in the world. Many people come to Times Square for the ambiance and the billboards spectacle, but there are also many restaurants and shops - well over 100 - in the area including some crowd-pullers such as the Disney Store and a large Toys"R"Us. But Times Square is best known for its entertainment, and plenty of visitors come here to attend a Broadway show. Times Square is also home to MTV's headquarters and ABC's 'Good Morning America' is broadcast in front of a live audience from its office at 44th and Broadway.



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- More than any other building in the world, the **Empire State Building** represents the ambition of humans to build towers that reach for the skies. The skyscraper is probably New York's best known building and can be seen on many postcards. The Empire State Building also features in many films, most notably the classic film 'King Kong' from 1933. Even today, though the building has been stripped from its title of the world's tallest building, it is a symbol of New York itself, visited by more than three million people each year
- The Empire State Building was designed by William Frederick Lamb of the architectural firm of Shreve, Lamb, and Harmon. The Empire State Building is situated south of Midtown, away from the skyscraper clusters in midtown and in the financial district downtown, so this is one of the few places in Manhattan where you have an open 360 degree view.



The area where Rockefeller Center is located was originally planned as the new location for the Metropolitan Opera. At the time the area, situated between 48th and 51st streets and Fifth and Sixth avenues was a red-light district owned by Columbia University. John D. Rockefeller Jr. leased the area on behalf of the Metropolitan Opera. he design of the complex was created by the American architect Benjamin Wistar Morris. His plan, influenced by the **Grand Central Terminal** complex included a landscaped garden and a monumental Opera House as well as tall office towers, shops and terraces. The buildings would be connected by a series of bridges and walkways. Rockefeller Center - known as a 'city in the city' - is an exceptional example of civic planning. All buildings share a common design style, Art Deco, and are connected to each other via an underground concourse, the Catacombs. The complex is nevertheless well integrated in the city of New York, especially along Fifth Avenue. In 1959 and the early seventies, Rockefeller Center was expanded with five additional buildings along Sixth Avenue.

With more than two million works of art spanning thousands of years, the Metropolitan Museum of **Art** is one of the most expansive and prolific art museums in the world and it should be on everyone's New York to-do list.

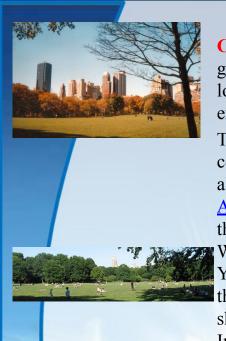












Central Park is one of those places that make New York such a great place to live. The huge park, 341 hectare large (843 acres), is located in the center of Manhattan. Its design has served as an example for city parks around the world.

The park boasts several lakes, theaters, ice rinks, fountains, tennis courts, baseball fields, many playgrounds and other facilities. It is also home to the Central Park Zoo and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Especially during the weekends, when cars are not allowed into the park, Central Park is a welcome oasis in this hectic city.

When the terrain for Central Park was bought by the City of New York in 1853, it was faraway from civilization, somewhere between the City of New York and the village Harlem. The area contained sheds from colonists, quarries, pig farms and swamps.

In 1857, the city of New York organized a competition for the design of this new park, which had to rival with the great parks in <u>London</u> and <u>Paris</u>. A design by Frederic Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, named 'the Greensward Plan' was chosen.

This plan featured an English style landscape with large meadows, several lakes and hills. Winding pedestrian roads were separated from main roads and the huge number of trees ensured the city's buildings were not visible from within the park.

To convert the swampy area into the park the designers had envisioned, several hundred thousand trees were planted, more than 3 million cubic yards of soil was moved, roads and bridges were constructed and a large reservoir was dug out. It took more than 15 years before the 20,000 workers had completed the park. *The Lake* Central Park immediately became a popular place for all New Yorkers, attracting millions of visitors each year.

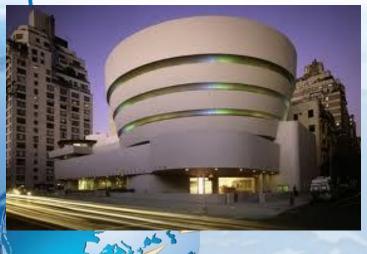




## Guggenheim Museum



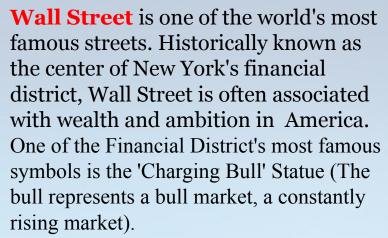
- The Guggenheim Museum on <u>Fifth Avenue</u> is home to an important collection of modern art. Even if you're not into art, the building housing the art is worth a visit on its own. It was the last completed project by Frank Lloyd Wright before he died in 1959.
- The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum houses some fine collections of world famous painters like Picasso, Chagall, Kandinsky, and many other modern artists. The major part of the collection consists of paintings, but sculptures and photos are also on display in the museum.



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The collection was started by Solomon R. Guggenheim in the late 1920s. In 1937, he founded the Museum of Nonobjective painting, located on East 54th street. It later moved to its present location near <u>Central Park</u>. The collection was expanded several times. In 1976, an important collection of paintings from Gauguin, Picasso, van Gogh and many others were donated by Justin K. Thannhauser. In 1990, more than 200 works of American Minimalist art were added to the collection.













#### **Ellis Island**



ELLIS ISLAND
Gateway to a Dream

- New York's Ellis Island is one of the most popular attractions for those visiting Manhattan and its surrounding areas, second only to landmarks like the <u>Empire State Building</u> and <u>Statue of Liberty</u>.
  - That's probably because millions of Americans have a connection to the island, through which their ancestors passed on the way from their homeland to their brand new home in America. Records indicate that more than half of all Americans had a relative who passed through Ellis Island. From 1892 to 1954, Ellis Island was the immigrant gateway to America. More than 12 million people would arrive here on the way to their new life in a new country. Many had little or no money, some were ill, others had family waiting for them on the other side of the gate. The stories are many and varied, but all arrived hoping for something different and better than what they had in their homeland.

# United Nations Headquarters



In 1946, the United Nations (UN) were looking for a location for their new headquarters in New York. The original plan was to use the grounds of the 1939 World Fair in Flushing Meadow Park in Queens. But when a project known as X-City on Manhattan's eastern border failed to materialize, John D. Rockefeller Jr. bought the 18 acre (7 ha) plot and donated it to the United Nations. This site was then used to build the UN's headquarters. The whole area was converted into international territory and officially does not belong to the United State

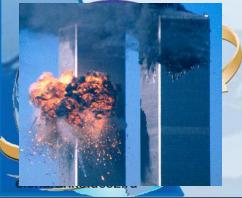
# **Bryant Park**



Bryant Park, an 8 acre (3ha) large green oasis at the intersection of 42nd Street and Sixth Avenue is one of the most pleasant parks in Manhattan. Even though the park is bordered by heavily trafficked streets, it is a very relaxing park. Bryant Park has a simple but effective design, with a large, central lawn surrounded by trees. From the park you have a great view on some great architectural landmarks









The city suffered the worst nationally of the September 11, 2001 attacks, when nearly 3,000 people died in the destruction of Towers 1, 2, and 7 of the World Trade Center. A new complex, which includes One World Trade Center, a 9/11 memorial and museum, and three other office towers, is being built on the site. The first buildings are finished and it is scheduled for completion by 2014. The World Trade Center PATH station, which was opened on July 19, 1909 as the Hudson Terminal, was also destroyed in the attack. A temporary station was built and opened on November 23, 2003. A permanent station, the World Trade Center Transportation Hub, is currently being constructed and is scheduled to be completed in the second quarter of 2014. At the time of its completion in 2014, the new One World Trade Center will be the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere and the third-tallest building in the world by pinnacle height, with its spire reaching a symbolic 1,776 feet (541.3 m) in reference to the year of American independence. This new supertall skyscraper has been the tallest building in New York City since April 30, 2012



**World Trade Center Memorial** 

автор шаблона

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