

Upper West Side



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HABITATS
NEW YORK



THE UPPER WEST SIDE

Where Cultural Sophistication Meets Bohemian Intellectualism

Rich with cultural opportunities, egalitarian pleasures, and neighborly residents who enjoy Manhattan life, the Upper West Side is a destination for all ages. Though it may have been



Apartment buildings, which shot up throughout the late 19th century, were key to the gentrification of the area. Real estate developers invested in grand projects, and the avenues began to develop distinct characters

later to develop than the Upper East Side, at one time lacking the elite allure of that neighborhood across the park, today the Upper West Side is an area that pulses with attractions and amenities. A 1990s renaissance of the Upper West Side has fed the neighborhood with continuously opening bars, restaurants, comedy clubs

and gyms, attracting more social and artistic residents. They are well-off enough to enjoy life's finest, yet the atmosphere is more relaxed. As for quiet, many of the side residential streets are very much so...but venture onto Broadway, and the streets are hopping all day and night. ¶ Home to such venerable New York landmarks as Lincoln Center, Columbia University, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, the Dakota Apartments and Zabar's food emporium, the Upper West Side runs from 59th Street to 125th Street, and includes Morningside Heights. It is also bounded by Central Park to the East and by the Hudson River to the West.

The Upper West Side melds a mixture of families, single professionals, even seniors together into one desirable neighborhood. One can go out to eat in some of the city's finest restaurants, sip coffee in the trendiest cafes, browse the fashionable stores, or venture to Central Park West to enjoy an afternoon of activity or people-watching. Locals genuinely care about the condition of their community and are vocal about it, and with the proximity to Harlem and Columbia University, it's not surprising that many former student and activist types tend to find their way here.

A reassuring blend of old and new, and a bit more settled than TriBeCa or the East Village, the Upper West Side is a great alternative to other popular Manhattan neighborhoods, with train and bus transportation readily available to all areas. Much of the housing is pre-war, most buildings featuring doormen. Few of the apartments are condos. There are many skyscraper apartment buildings, but they intermingle with the good old-fashioned walkups that can be found throughout the neighborhood.

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Morningside Heights

Just north and west of Central Park is Morningside Heights, where a cultural outpost grew at the end of the 19th century, thanks to the emergence of the relocated Columbia University, St. Luke's Hospital and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. The cluster of academic and religious institutions that developed here somehow kept these blocks stable during years when the surrounding neighborhoods were collapsing. More recently, West Side gentrification has reclaimed the section to the South, while areas north and east have not changed much. This is an uptown student neighborhood mainly; while less trendy than the Village, it remains fun, friendly and intellectual.

Neighborhood History

The Upper West Side was settled by Dutch immigrants in the early and mid-17th century, though not without resistance from the Munsee Indians living on the north end of Manhattan Island. Warfare temporarily ended northward expansion by the Dutch in the 1650s, leaving them with a stretch of land north of the city called Bloemendal (valley of flowers). Mainly farms and countryside, Bloomingdale was a large producer of tobacco at the beginning of the 18th century. In 1703, Bloomingdale Road, later to become the Boulevard, then Broadway, was built to handle the traffic required by increasing commerce. The road originated at what is now 23rd Street and stretched to 114th Street. By the late 18th century, many wealthy merchants had country estates in the isolated Bloomingdale, and fine homes were scattered about the area. In the fall of 1776, the War of Independence made its mark on this suburb in the Battle of Harlem Heights.

The West End of the early 19th century consisted of small, distinct and independent villages. The wealthy estates continued to multiply, bringing elegant mansions that competed with the landscape. Despite the gridding and numbering of the streets in 1811, landholdings and natural obstructions prevented implementation until the end of the century. The 1850s creation of Central Park displaced the lower-income residents of the site, forcing them west.

Each year, the growing population brought the suburb closer to the big city, and by the end of the Civil War, Bloemendal was assimilated. Though its metropolitan feel had increased, the West End remained largely underdeveloped throughout the 19th century. Projects such as the improvement and widening of Bloomingdale Road and its rebirth as the Boulevard, the laying of new sewage systems, and the extension of the elevated railroad up the West Side by way of Ninth Avenue were the fore-visions of land buyers and developers.

Apartment buildings, which shot up throughout the late 19th century, were in many ways the key to the gentrification of the area. Real estate developers invested in such grand projects as the Dakota and the San Remo, and the avenues began to develop distinct characters: Columbus offered commerce; Amsterdam featured low-rent housing and small shops; Riverside Drive (opened in 1880) was alternately an elegant and seedy residential park-fronted strip; and West End was a quiet residential street. The Boulevard housed an odd collection of hotels and vacant lots belonging to developers who were just waiting for the economic boom that would hoist property values and merit grand-scale construction.

Apartment housing pushed out the homeowner-oriented row houses, which dominated the building trends of the West End for half a century, and began forming the Upper West Side landscape we know today. In addition, the subway system – the first in the country – which opened in 1904, revolutionized public

Schools

Abraham Joshua Heschel,
270 West 89th Street

Alexander Robertson,
3 West 95th Street

Bank Street College,
610 West 112th Street

Beacon High School,
227 West 61st Street

The Brownstone School,
128 West 80th Street

Calhoun,
433 West End Avenue

Collegiate School,
260 West 78th Street

Columbia Grammar and Prep,
5 West 93rd Street

Dwight,
291 Central Park West

Ethical Culture,
33 Central Park West

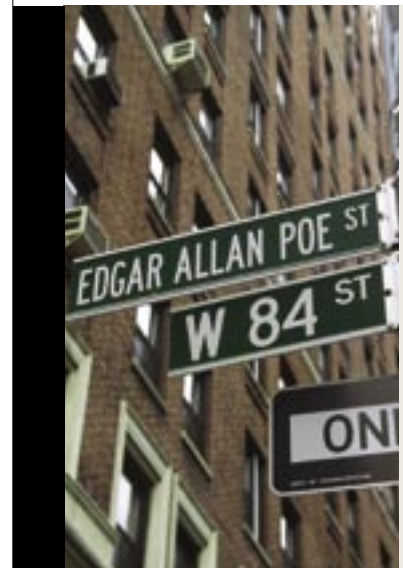
Fordham University,
113 West 60th Street

The Juilliard School,
60 Lincoln Center Plaza

Manhattan School of Music,
120 Claremont Avenue

Metropolitan Montessori,
325 West 85th Street

New York Institute of Technology,
1855 Broadway



Professional Children's,
132 West 60th Street

PS199,
270 West 70th Street

PS87,
160 West 78th Street

Rodeph Sholom,
10 West 84th Street

Solomon Schecter High,
1 West 91st Street

St. Hilda's and St. Hugh's,
619 West 114th Street

Studio Elementary,
124A West 95th Street

Trinity,
139 West 91st Street

West Side Montessori,
309 West 92nd Street

Restaurants/Bars

Café des Artistes, 1 West 67th Street at Central Park West, the ground-floor restaurant of the Hotel des Artistes, with an aesthetically engaging décor adorned with lush, soft-toned murals of nymphs at play by Howard Christy Chandler. Owned by Hungarian restaurant impresario and writer George Lang, it features continental fare.

Calle Ocho, 446 Columbus Avenue between 81st & 82nd Street. Named after Miami's Little Havana (8th Street), Calle Ocho is Nuevo Latin food at its finest. A colorful, energetic and inspiring atmosphere combined with flavorful dishes.

Compass, 208 West 70th Street between Amsterdam and West End Avenues. As its names suggests, Compass hones in on many directions. Taking cues from around the globe, Compass serves New American cuisine that reflects the various techniques and ingredients found in the finest kitchens around the world.

EJ's Luncheonette, 477 Amsterdam Avenue, between 81st & 82nd Streets, serves upscale comfort food in a faux '50s setting.

Gennaro, 665 Amsterdam Avenue between 92nd & 93rd Streets. The food here is worth the seemingly-endless-at-times wait and cramped tables. This tiny storefront trattoria has some of the city's best and most reasonably-priced Italian food.



72nd Street Subway kiosk at Broadway

transportation. Improved access bolstered the appeal of the once rural Upper West Side and furthered its complete “citification” by the 19th century’s close.

In the 1890s, Columbia University relocated from the East Side to Morningside Heights. Columbia’s presence contributed to the already active cultural life and the rising intellectual/artistic trend on the Upper West Side. Artists and academics shared their community with the equally lively mob through the early decades of the 20th century. The roaring 20s found Riverside Drive and West End Avenue still wealthy, but lower-middle-class families remained on Broadway and in other areas living in neglected old buildings. From the early 1930s through the early 80s, development and construction stopped, and the Upper West Side’s popularity and social appeal dissipated.

The Upper West Side saw an influx of many nationalities from the 40s to the 60s, and the area has remained diversified. Likewise, the Upper West Side has retained a liberal constituency and bohemian attitude. Major urban renewal, starting in the mid-50s under Robert Moses, was the first step in its revival. Furious debate centered on the slum clearance undertaken to make way for Lincoln Center in 1959. Despite its relative unpopularity throughout the 1970s, the Upper West Side maintained a sense of community, attracting creative types and young families with its relatively low rents. The wealth of the 80s renewed the area, raising rents and drawing young professionals with high incomes, also prompting renovation of the grand old buildings of the earlier era.

Still viewed as more intellectual and less well-to-do than the East Side, the Upper West Side is again experiencing an inundation of young, affluent 30-somethings, as available apartments disappear faster than they appear on the market.

Notables

Columbus Circle is the bustling intersection where Broadway, Eighth Avenue, Central Park West and Central Park South intersect. A 700-ton granite monument capped by a marble statue of Columbus himself sits in the middle of the circular park. On the northwest quadrant of the circle, a multi-towered office, residential and entertainment complex, named the Columbus Centre, recently has been constructed at the site of the former New York Coliseum. Guarding the entrance to Central Park is the Maine Monument featuring equestrian figures perched atop a formidable limestone pedestal. On the wedge of land between Central Park West and Broadway stands The Trump International Hotel & Tower, which cost Donald Trump \$250 million to build.

Columbus Centre, One Central Park. Encompassing the entire northwest quadrant of Columbus Circle, this multi-towered office, residential and entertainment complex breathes new life into the site of the former New York Coliseum. Designed by architects Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, the complex houses the AOL Time Warner World Headquarters, CNN live broadcast production studios, a concert hall for Jazz at Lincoln Center, 225 luxury condominiums, shops, restaurants, and the sophisticated Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

Central Park West, one of the city’s grandest avenues and the ideal place to stroll. It is also the quintessential place to have your address.

New York Society for Ethical Culture, the two solid brick-and-limestone buildings at 33 Central Park West and 2 West 64th Street, where lectures and concerts are held.

Isabella’s, 359 Columbus Ave at 77th Street, serves Mediterranean New American cuisine and fantastic brunches.

Jean Georges, 1 Central Park West. Located at the ground floor of Trump International Hotel & Tower, this is where celebrity chef Jean Georges Vongerichten works his culinary genius.

Josie’s Restaurant, 300 Amsterdam at 74th Street, is a sleek restaurant that’s perfect for vegans and agriculturally-conscious carnivores alike with dishes like veggie “meatloaf” and organic, free-range rotisserie chicken.

Levana, 141 West 69th Street between Columbus Avenue & Broadway, has been one of the best Kosher restaurants in the city for over 20 years with a Tuscan-style setting.



Nice Matin, 201 West 79th Street at Amsterdam Avenue. Southern French delights abound in this yellow, red and lime green hued restaurant. With plenty of outdoor seating, Nice Matin is a perfect spot for warm spring afternoons and summer evenings.

Ocean Grill, 384 Columbus Avenue between 78th & 79th Streets. Delicious seafood and a super raw bar make this a favorite dining establishment.

Onera, 222 West 79th Street between Broadway & Amsterdam Avenue. Greek for “dream,” Onera respects the tradition of its Greek cuisine by playing up classic ingredients like lamb and mint with inventive pairings and preparation. The décor (white columns and blue walls) honors Greek tradition in a thoroughly modern style.

Ouest, 2315 Broadway at 84th Street. Impeccable cuisine and a sophisticated, yet comfortable atmosphere make this restaurant a favorite among Upper West Siders.

Picholine, 35 West 64th Street between Broadway & Central Park West. This mellow restaurant was patterned after a Provencal farmhouse, with soft colors, wooden floors and dried flowers. Chef-proprietor Terrance Brenna’s French food with a Mediterranean spin is among Manhattan’s finest.

Rain, 100 West 82nd Street between Amsterdam & Columbus Avenues. Pan-Asian cuisine and a hip crowd to match make this a popular spot.

Rosa Mexicano, 61 Columbus Avenue at 62nd Street, serves gourmet Mexican fare and fresh guacamole made at your table.

Ruby Foo’s, 2182 Broadway at 77th Street, is where Upper West Siders flock for favorites from most Asian cuisines, with many dishes intended for sharing. A dramatic staircase ascends from the middle of the over-the-top Asian fantasy lounge.

Sarabeth’s Kitchen, 423 Amsterdam Avenue between 80th & 81st Streets, where lining up for brunch is second nature for Upper West Side residents. This is a favorite for its eclectic American menu.

Shun Lee West, 43 West 65th Street between Columbus Avenue & Central Park West. Dramatically-lit, with a black lacquer décor accented by white dragons and monkeys, this glamorous Chinese restaurant serves excellent food with attentive service.



Scenic streetscapes pulse with life on the Upper West Side

Hotel des Artists, 1 West 67th Street at Central Park West. Built in 1918 with an elaborate, mock-Elizabethan lobby, this “studio building” features high ceilings and immense windows, making it ideal for artists. A great variety of distinguished residents, from Norman Rockwell to Rudolph Valentino and Joel Grey, have lived here.

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, West 62nd to 66th Streets between Broadway & Amsterdam Avenue. Lincoln Center, built 1962-68, is the largest cultural complex in the world, and New York’s premier performing arts venue. The Center is comprised of 12 world-renowned, independent resident companies that represent the very best of performing arts today. They are: The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and the New York Film Festival at Alice Tully Hall, The Film Society of Lincoln Center, The Juilliard School, Lincoln Center Presents, Lincoln Center Theater, The Metropolitan Opera at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York City Ballet and New York City Opera at the New York State Theater, New York Philharmonic at Avery Fisher Hall, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts – a research and circulating library with an extensive collection of books, records, videos and scores on music, theater and dance, and the School of American Ballet. Lincoln Center can seat nearly 18,000 spectators at one time in its various halls. In addition to its three core theaters, its major outdoor venue is Damrosch Park, where summer open-air festivals are often accompanied by free concerts at the Guggenheim Bandshell. Between the Metropolitan and Avery Fisher is the North Plaza, with a massive Henry Moore sculpture reclining in a reflective pool. Behind it stands the Vivian Beaumont Theater, officially considered a Broadway house despite its distance from the Theater District, and the smaller Mitzi E. Newhouse Theater, where many award-winning plays originate.

The Juilliard School, 60 Lincoln Center Plaza. Founded in 1905 as a music academy to rival the European conservatories, today it is one of the finest educational facilities of its kind. The school strives to harness and enhance the talents of students endowed with a natural calling to act, dance, perform and compose music.

The Dakota, 1 West 72nd Street at Central Park West. The most famous of all the apartment buildings on Central Park West, the Dakota set a high standard for those that followed it. Edward Clark, a former Singer family attorney who later became



president of the Singer Sewing Machine Company, saw potential for city expansion and so purchased \$5 million worth of farmland with the vision of building a multi-family dwelling for the wealthy class. Designed by Henry Hardenbergh, also architect of the Plaza Hotel and the Western Union building, the Dakota was so far uptown when it was finished in 1884 that it was joked as being way “out in the Dakota territory.” This buff-color chateau housed some of the West Side’s first residents, and later some of its most famous, like John Lennon, who was shot and killed by a deranged fan in December 1980 at the front entrance upon his returning home from a recording session. Boris Karloff, Rudolf Nureyev, Lauren Bacall and Leonard Bernstein also have resided in the building. The eclectic façade of this 200-square-foot, nine-story residence is enhanced by a blend of German Gothic, French Renaissance and English Victorian details. With its picturesque gables, copper turrets, corner pavilions and decorative terra-cotta panels and moldings, the Dakota is often depicted in scenes of old New York. Its donut-shaped apartment layout surrounds a large central courtyard for residents to enjoy. Although the cream of New York society first was skeptical of the Dakota and the type of apartment living it represented, years later it has become a fashionable address in the increasingly popular Upper West Side neighborhood.

The Century, 25 Central Park West between West 62nd & 64th Streets. In the 1930s it was quite the rage to have your home address here. This block-long building went up in 1931, taking with it one of the last large lots below 96th Street.

Langham, 135 Central Park West at 73rd Street, is an Italian Renaissance-style high-rise designed by leading apartment architect Emery Roth in 1929-30.

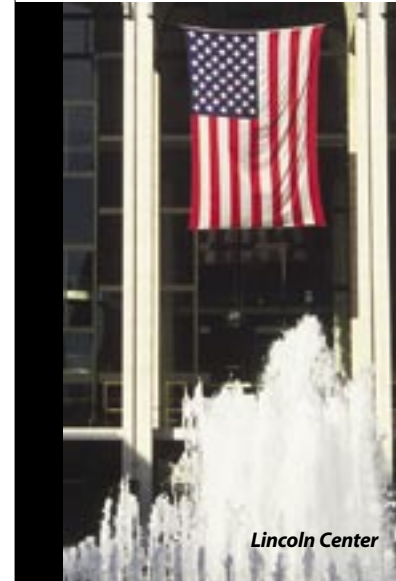
San Remo, 145-146 Central Park West at 74th Street, has, over the years, been home to such stars as Rita Hayworth, Dustin Hoffman, Raquel Welch, Barry Manilow and Diane Keaton. Inspired by architect Emery Roth during the economic prosperity of the late 1920s, which gave way to great skyscrapers of steel, masonry and glass, the San Remo opened its uniquely embellished limestone doors in 1930, exuding a sense of Old World nobility amidst new, high-rise glamour. This magnificent 27-story edifice emerged not only as one of the city’s tallest residential structures, but as its very first twin-towered building. The towers convey a lyrical, uplifting feel similar to the aura of a medieval cathedral, and continue to symbolize elegance and luxury from an earlier age.

Kenilworth, 151 Central Park West at 75th Street, was built in 1908. It features an immense pair of ornate front columns and was once the address of Hollywood’s Sherlock Holmes and Basil Rathbone, as well as Michael Douglas.

Beresford, 211 Central Park West at 81st Street, built by Emery Roth in 1929, has lighted towers that romantically haunt the sky at night.

The Ansonia, a turn-of-the-century luxury building at 73rd Street & Broadway. This 1904 Beaux Arts masterpiece designed by Paul M. Duboy commands its corner with spectacular architectural details like turrets, a mansard roof and filigreed iron balconies from turn-of-the-century Paris. Now a condominium apartment building, its original purpose was as a hotel. Designed to be fireproof, its thick, soundproof walls make it attractive to musicians and such famous names as Igor Stravinsky, Enrico Caruso and Babe Ruth.

Verdi Square, named for Italian opera composer Giuseppe Verdi, features a marble statue of the composer flanked by figures from Verdi’s operas: Aida, Othello, and Falstaff. The square is located at 72nd Street where Broadway cuts across Amsterdam Avenue.



Lincoln Center

Tavern on the Green, Central Park at West 67th Street, is Warner LeRoy’s lavish restaurant in Central Park, with different dining rooms featuring different themes. There’s jazz and cabaret in the Chestnut Room, and a view of the trademark Christmas-tree lighting in the Crystal Room. Alfresco dining in the garden is a popular treat in nice weather.

Museums/Galleries

American Bible Society Gallery and Library, 1865 Broadway at 61st Street, houses the largest Bible collection in the world outside the Vatican, with nearly 50,000 scriptural items in 2,000 languages. The library houses Helen Keller’s massive 10-volume Braille Bible and a Torah from China. The public gallery shows changing exhibitions of sacred art, from stained glass to sculpture.

American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at West 79th Street. This is the world’s largest and most important museum of natural history, with 42 exhibition halls and over 36 million artifacts and specimens, including its amazing collection of dinosaur skeletons. The all new spectacular high-tech Hayden Planetarium is contained in a 90-foot aluminum-clad sphere that appears to float inside a huge glass cube, home to the Rose Center for Earth and Space. At the top of the sphere is the new Sky Theater, which transports you from galaxy to galaxy using “all-dome video” as though you were traveling through space.

Children's Museum of Manhattan, 212 West 83rd Street, was founded in 1983 to engage children and parents in a partnership of learning through interactive exhibits and educational programs.

New York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West at 77th Street. Founded in 1804, it is the city's oldest museum and houses one of its finest research libraries, with a collection of six million pieces of art, literature, and memorabilia shedding light on New York's – and America's – history, everyday life, art and architecture. Highlights of the collection include George Washington's inaugural chair, 500,000 photographs from the 1850s to the present, the architectural files of McKim, Mead & White, and the largest U.S. collection of Louis Comfort Tiffany's lamps.

Parks

Central Park is the first urban landscaped public space in the United States. It spans two and a half miles, from 59th to 110th Street, from Fifth to Eighth Avenue, and offers an internal "loop" called Park Drive that extends from side to side and runs approximately six miles around. The park was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, park superintendent, and architect Calvert Vaux. Construction began in 1857 on a site that was ideal for its many natural elements. Today, Central Park is loved by all New Yorkers as an oasis in the city, able to transport you to Shakespearean plays, boating excursions, the zoo, a skating rink, the discovery center, playgrounds, vast lawns and rolling meadows.

Morningside Park, 116th Street & Morningside Drive. Designed by Olmsted and Vaux of Central Park fame, the park has a lovely landscape.

Riverside Park, 72nd to 159th Streets between Riverside Drive and the Hudson River. Long and narrow, tree-lined Riverside Park was laid out by Central Park designers Olmsted and Vaux between 1873 and 1888. Riverside Park is more manageable than Central Park, and best visited on weekends, when Upper West Side residents and their children fill its walkways. A statue of Eleanor Roosevelt stands at the park's entrance at 72nd Street and Riverside Drive. The 79th Street Boat Basin is a rare spot in the city where you can walk right along the river's edge and

The Ansonia, a landmark Upper West Side building





Confections are out of this world at Cafe Lalo.

Symphony Space, at Broadway and 95th Street, is a performing arts complex that recently underwent a huge capital improvement program. Facilities include the Peter Jay Sharp Theater and Leonard Nemoy Thalia just around the corner.

Sherman Square, the triangle south of 72nd Street, is named for Union Civil War general William Tecumseh Sherman.

Old Subway Kiosk at 72nd Street & Broadway – currently no longer in use, a brick and terra-cotta building with rounded neo-Dutch molding, is one of two remaining control houses from the original subway line. The other is at Bowling Green in Lower Manhattan.

Columbia University, West 116th Street between Amsterdam Avenue & Broadway, is a wealthy, private, coed Ivy League school and was New York's first college when founded in 1754. It was called King's College back then, before American independence from Britain.

Barnard College, at Broadway & West 117th Street. Established in 1889 and one of the former Seven Sisters women's colleges, Barnard has remained single-sex and independent from Columbia, though its students can take classes there, and vice versa.

watch houseboats bob in the water. The Rotunda is a great spot for snacks, drinks and river views. Walk the Promenade, a broad formal walkway, north to 80th Street to find a community garden with flowers tended by nearby residents. An imposing 96-foot-high circle of white marble columns towers at Riverside Drive and 89th Street – the Civil War Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, designed by Paul M. Duboy in 1902.

Sakura Park, 122nd Street between Claremont Avenue & Riverside Drive, is a quiet, formal garden with cherry trees that bloom brilliantly in spring.

Shopping

Allan & Suzi, 416 Amsterdam Avenue

Bed, Bath & Beyond, 1932 Broadway

Betsey Johnson,
248 Columbus Avenue

Circuit City, 2232 Broadway

Citarella, 2135 Broadway

Details, 188 Columbus Avenue

Fairway Market, 2127 Broadway

Gracious Home, 1992 Broadway

Greenflea Flea Market,
Columbus Avenue between 76th &
77th Streets

Lord of the Fleas, 2142 Broadway

The New York Look, 30 Lincoln Plaza

North Face, 2101 Broadway

Olive & Bette's,
252 Columbus Avenue

Only Hearts, 386 Columbus Avenue

Penny Whistle Toys,
448 Columbus Avenue

Really Great Things,
284-A Columbus Avenue

Sean, 224 Columbus Avenue

Urban Outfitters, 2081 Broadway

ZBaby Company, 100 72nd Street

Zabar's, 2245 Broadway

Health & Fitness

Equinox, 344 Amsterdam Avenue
& 2465 Broadway

Karma Yoga, 37 West 65th Street

New York Sports Clubs,
2527 Broadway

Paris Health Club,
752 West End Avenue

Reebok Sports Club,
160 Columbus Avenue

Synergy, 700 Columbus Avenue

West Side YMCA, 5 West 63rd Street

World Yoga Center,
265 West 72nd Street

Teachers College, 525 West 120th Street, composed of red brick Victorian buildings, was founded in 1887. Housing Columbia University's graduate school in the field of education, it is still the world's largest. Its frieze along the Broadway façade holds the names of famous teachers throughout history.

Grant's Tomb, Riverside Drive & 122nd Street, is where Civil War general and two-term president Ulysses S. Grant and his wife Julia Dent Grant lay to rest. Opened in 1897, nearly 12 years after Grant's death, it was a more popular sight than the Statue of Liberty until the end of World War I. The towering granite tomb is the largest mausoleum in North America, and it is engraved with "Let Us Have Peace," in remembrance of Grant's speech to the Republican convention upon his presidential nomination.

The Cloisters Perched on top of a wooded hill in Fort Tryon Park near Manhattan's northernmost tip, The Cloisters carry the medieval collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in an exquisite monastery-like setting. In addition to two connecting authentic French and Spanish monastic cloisters, visitors are treated to an entire room devoted to the richly-woven and highly-detailed 15th- and 16th-century Unicorn Tapestries. Plus, visitors can attend one of the many medieval music concerts hosted by the facility.

Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue at 112th Street. A colossal cathedral, and the largest church in the United States, it has a 601-foot-long nave that holds about 5,000 worshipers and a 162-foot-tall domed crossing. The cathedral is also the principal church of the Episcopal diocese of New York. Five portals arch over its entrance doors, the central one depicting St. John witnessing the Transfiguration of Jesus. The cathedral's first cornerstone was laid in 1892, then a major architectural direction change came in 1911 at the hands of Ralph Adams Cram, who made a drastic switch from the Romanesque-Byzantine design and insisted on a French Gothic style. Evidence of both periods can be seen. The spectacular Great Rose Window in the western façade is made from more than 10,000 pieces of colored glass, and is the largest stained-glass window in the United States. Along with Sunday services, the cathedral runs many community outreach programs, has changing museum and art gallery displays, supports artists-in-residence and an early music consortium, and presents a complete calendar of non-religious concerts.



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