

Midtown Manhattan

Times Square, the Empire State, Broadway houses and Grand Central's constellation ceiling

Midtown is the New York of the postcards: the Empire State Building of 1931, the Chrysler's steel crown, thirty-odd Broadway theatres between 41st and 54th, and Grand Central's 1913 concourse with its backwards zodiac ceiling. It is also the densest business district in the country, which means it empties at weekends and roars on weekday mornings.

At a glance

EMPIRE STATE	381 m to the 86th-floor deck, opened 1931
BROADWAY	41 theatres · matinees Wed and Sat
GRAND CENTRAL	44 platforms, the most of any station on earth

When to go

April–June and September–early December. The tree at Rockefeller Center goes up after Thanksgiving and the crowds with it.

Getting around

Almost every subway line crosses Midtown; walking between Fifth Avenue and Times Square is quicker than any taxi at rush hour. Buy show tickets at TKTS in Times Square for same-day discounts.

What to see

Times Square	The illuminated crossroads at Broadway and Seventh, busiest between 20:00 and 23:00.
Empire State Building	The 86th-floor open-air deck; the 102nd is glassed in and quieter.
Rockefeller Center	Top of the Rock looks back at the Empire State — the view Midtown itself cannot give you.
Grand Central Terminal	The whispering gallery, the Oyster Bar and the constellation ceiling above.
Bryant Park	The lawn behind the New York Public Library, with a winter rink and summer films.
Fifth Avenue	From the Library to Central Park: the flagship stores, St Patrick's and Saks.

Tours worth booking

Manhattan helicopter flight over the skyline 1 hour · Adventure · 4.8/5 (15600 reviews)

Hamptons and Montauk day trip from Manhattan 12 hours · Nature · 4.6/5 (1200 reviews)

Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island ferry with reserved entry 5 hours · Culture · 4.7/5 (24800 reviews)

9/11 Memorial & Museum guided visit 3 hours · Culture · 4.8/5 (11200 reviews)

Top of the Rock and Empire State observatory combo 3 hours · Culture · 4.7/5 (8900 reviews)

Broadway show ticket with pre-theatre dinner 5 hours · Nightlife · 4.7/5 (4300 reviews)

Where to stay

The Plaza Midtown · Fifth Avenue · Historic · From \$750

The St. Regis New York Midtown · 55th & Fifth · Luxury · From \$820

The Peninsula New York Midtown · Fifth Avenue · Luxury · From \$780

Baccarat Hotel Midtown · 53rd Street · Luxury · From \$890

Aman New York Midtown · Crown Building · Luxury · From \$2,400

The Ritz-Carlton New York, Central Park Midtown · 59th Street · Luxury · From \$900

Day-by-day itineraries

Midtown Manhattan in 1 day suitesandsunsets.com/itineraries/midtown-manhattan/1-day-itinerary

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