

RAINCOAST

CREATIVE SALON

SANDRA HARRIS PHOTOGRAPHY

MY NEW YORK RECOMMENDATIONS
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RESTAURANTS

Lower East Side/ East Village

Russ & Daughters Café [127 Orchard]

How many restaurants are over 100 years old, owned by the same family AND worth visiting? This is it. Think updated, modern Jewish classics.

Crif [113 St Marks Place]

Hot dogs. THE best dogs in NYC.

Baz Bagel [181 Grand St]

THE best whitefish salad! Loved it so much I went back the next day and had the Golda Medal each time. Love this place!

Harry & Ida's [189 Avenue A btn 11th & 12th]

Not a sit down place [only have 4 chairs] BUT excellent smoked meat!

Dirt Candy [86 Allen St]

If you can get in, you are lucky. Spectacular vegetarian restaurant owned by award winning Amanda Cohen.

Café Mogador [101 Saint Marks Place]

Moroccan that's been around forever. Outdoor patio. Breakfast onwards to supper, all amazing!

Pies & Thighs [43 Canal Street]

Not fancy but super fried chicken with all the fixin's.

Rubirosa [235 Mulberry St]

Another excellent Italian restaurant.

Two Hands [164 Mott St]

Coffee, breakfast, smoothies, snackage.

El Rey [100 Stanton]

Coffee – I need my fix in every 'hood! Lots of locals. Friendly.

Schillers [131 Rivington St]

One of our faves for drinks & dinner. Great atmosphere.

The Nite Owl [166 1st Ave]

Drinks and appys for happy hour & later.

Clinton St Baking Company [4 Clinton btn Houston & Stanton]

It's been around a LONG time but the brunch is worth it. No reservations so stand in line earlyish.

The Butcher's Daughter [19 Kenmare Street [at Elizabeth]

Juice bar and brunch place and there's jicama too!

Solo & Noho

I'm not a big fan of Soho as it's pretty much a shopping mall now but if you do need to go, here are a few places to grab a bite to eat that are worth it.

Jack's Wife Freda [225 Lafayette]

Mentioned above in the Greenwich Village section. Worth it.

La Colombe [270 Lafayette]

While you are waiting for your table at Jack's Wife Freda, walk up the street to La Colombe and grab a coffee. There are a few seats for people watching and tasty baked goods. Amazing coffee.

Balthazar [80 Spring]

Full of tourists but impeccable food. And serves a good breakfast. Steak frites can't be beat.

Mile End Deli [53 Bond St]

I'm a huge fan of well-prepared "soul" food [Jewish/middle eastern food]. This is always on my list of places to visit every trip to NYC. Great smoked meat!

Midtown

Great Northern Food Hall [Grand Central Station]

Claus Meyer's Scandinavian food hall [he of Noma fame in Denmark]. Great for a breakfast or lunch. Think food stations. A sit down option as well.

The Breslin [16 W29th btn 5th & 6th]

One of April Bloomfield's restaurants located in the Ace Hotel. Yummy food and a great atmosphere.

Culture Espresso [72 W38th btn 5th & 6th]

One of the few places to get a great latte in midtown. A new location on 36th btn 7th & 8th as well.

Salvation Burger [230 E51st btn 2nd & 3rd]

April Bloomfield's burger joint.

Don Antonio [309 W50th at 8th Ave]

Fabulous pizza and a perfect location near the theater district. I'm always on the lookout for a place to eat before a play. Trust me, there are MANY places to avoid in/near Times Square!

The Burger Joint [119 W56th btn 6th & 7th]

A tiny burger place located in the Parker Meridian Hotel. Inexpensive. Reasonably close to the theater district if you need a bite to eat before a play.

R Lounge [714 7th Ave at W48th]

It's an oasis in the craziness that is Times Square. Perfect for a drink or two before the theater. The appetizers are average but the view? Can't be beat.

Greenwich Village & the West Village

The Little Owl [90 Bedford St]

Tiny neighbourhood restaurant. Charming with good food. Love this place!

Bar Pitti [268 6th Ave]

Excellent Italian food all day long. Cash only.

Buvette [42 Grove St]

Excellent french food and worth a visit. Long line-ups. Serves breakfast. Not to be missed!

Socketbit [89 Christopher St]

Swedish candy store that sells by the pound. Super fresh and things you don't normally see.

Fat Cat [75 Christopher St at 7th Ave]

A combo bar, pool hall, ping pong palace and shuffleboard place that ALSO has live jazz music. Take the family! Too much fun.

The Meatball Shop [64 Greenwich Ave]

There are a few locations in NYC including the East Village. Yummy. Inexpensive. Sit down [not fast food]. Good for a quick lunch or dinner.

The Elk [128 Charles St]

Founded by a Vancouver local – Claire Chan. Coffee, snacks and lifestyle items for sale. Wifi available. Excellent avocado toast and other breakfast offerings. Full of locals.

Bluestone Lane Café [55 Greenwich Ave at Perry]

More substantial breakfast and lunch items than Elk but no wifi. Worth it for breakfast!

Jack's Wife Freda [50 Carmine St]

Also a location in Soho at 224 Lafayette. Great breakfast, brunch, lunch and supper. A line up for brunch on the weekend. Think modern take on middle eastern food. One of my faves right now.

Taim [222 Waverly Place]

Falafel, falafel and more falafel! Casual.

Black Tap Craft Burgers & Beers [248 W14th]

Yummy burgers and beers.

Hummus Place [71 7th Ave South at Bleecker]

You'll find lots of Middle Eastern/Jewish recommendations on my list and this is another. Can't get enough hummus! Gluten free corn torillas in place of home

made pita if needed. There's an upper west side location too [305 Amsterdam btn 74th & 75th].

Third Rail Coffee [240 Sullivan Street]

Not a lot of seating but excellent coffee just south of Washington Square Park. Grab a latte and walk back to the park for people watching.

Babbo [110 Waverly Place]

Reservations might be tricky to get but if you don't mind sitting at the bar [and I love sitting at the bar – NYC bartenders & local patrons are the source of great banter], line up for a 4:30 open on Sundays and 5pm on weekdays. They keep spots open for walk in's like you! And if you have kids, an early dinner is perfect timing.

Lupa [170 Thompson]

And if you don't get in to Babbo, walk a few blocks south of Washington Square Park to Lupa, another Batali restaurant. Just north of Houston. Impeccable service and excellent food.

Flatiron, Union Square, Murray Hill

Marta [29 E29th]

Great buzz. Wood fired pizza, chicken & other entrees. Probably the best pick for dinner in Murray Hill, a 'hood that's a bit quiet.

Breads Bakery [18 E16th St Union Square]

Babkas. Need I say anymore?

Eisenberg's [174 5th Ave btn 22nd & 23rd]

Quirky old place in a style that used to be everywhere in Manhattan. Babka!
Matzoh ball soup!

Dough [14 W19th St]

Doughnuts galore. And near a Muji, Madewell, ABC Carpet & Home, Fishes Eddy
and children's bookstore Books of Wonder.

Gramercy Tavern [42 E20th]

If there aren't any tables, grab a drink at the bar and wait for a seat. That
buzzy NYC energized atmosphere. Food is always impeccable.

Maison Kayser [921 Broadway at 21st]

Many locations in NYC and a taste of Paris with amazing pastries and more.

ABC Kitchen [35 E18th]

You can't lose here located within ABC Carpet & Home, itself worth a visit].
Good for lunch too.

Shake Shack [Madison Square Park]

Line-ups might be wacky but worth a visit. There's also one west of Times
Square on 44th [at 8th Ave] and one near the Museum of Natural History [366
Columbus at 77th St]

Random Thoughts

First time in NYC and thinking of the Empire State Building? Book a tour at
Rockefeller Center instead. It's a better 360 degree view and you see more of
Manhattan [including the Empire State Building].

Book theater tickets as far ahead as possible and get the best seats possible. This might be your only trip to NYC, right? Then spring for top seats.

The Metropolitan Museum is by donation. MOMA has free admission from 4-8 on Friday nights but you'll need to line up. Kids under 16 are always free at MOMA.

Some tours at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum are perfect for families – shorter and pitched at kids.

The Sat/Sun family tours at MOMA are free and soooo worth it. Your kids will be grouped by age and have an age appropriate tour/activity. Free admission for the family included!

Make reservations for any restaurants you really want to get into. Go earlier to have a better chance. And try a walk in if you don't get a reservation – you never know.

Walk as much as possible – you'll get a great flavour of Manhattan.