



My Drift

Title: New York City

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Yes, I have been to New York City. The following chapter from a book I wrote in 2001 titled “My Greatest Adventures” pretty much sums up what I think of the “Big Apple”.

Chapter 13

Muggers and Queers



I'm not sure what I dislike the most about New York City but I'm pretty sure it's either the muggers or the queers. I have been to New York three times and have been mugged or attempted to be mugged three times. Queers have propositioned me more than a dozen times. It is hard to find a “straight” bar in New York City. Come to think about it, all the “straight” people were so unfriendly that I didn't like them too much either.

The first trip to New York was okay. Me and a couple of my Navy buddies took the bus from Lakehurst, N.J. where we were stationed. We stayed at the YMCA and did some sightseeing in addition to checking out as many bars as possible. We went to the top of the Empire State Building and to Central Park. Times Square is a real sleazy place where most of the action is at, so we spent a lot of time there. We rode the subway to Yankee Stadium and saw a baseball game. The subway was an adventure and a little scary, but we were not mugged on this trip.

We had such a good time on the first trip to New York that we decided to go again a couple of months later. This time, I drove my car (I had a 1957 Pontiac) and this was a big mistake. We got to New York City and immediately got lost and did not know where we were at. We finally stopped and asked for help and eventually found our way to Downtown New York but could not find any parking. We ended up at a Motel outside the city and took a taxi to Times Square. My friend and I got separated (actually he picked up a girl and disappeared). While I was wandering around looking for a bar, three black guys with knives jumped me and demanded all my money. I give them what I had in my pockets. I walked about 50 feet and two more muggers jumped me and wanted all my money, but I told them they were too late and walked away. I was definitely in the wrong part of town! Fortunately, I kept my wallet in my sock, so I had money to get back to the Motel where I found my car with two broken windows and two flat tires.

My last trip to New York City, in the late 1980's, was TDY to attend IBM Training for two weeks. A lady (Nancy Karasuda) from our office went with me. Back in those days, the Government gave you \$100 a day for room and food and beer. We checked all the decent hotels close to the Training Center and could not find one even close to \$100 a night. We finally ended up seven blocks away close to Times Square in a large old "sleazy" hotel for \$80 a night. Every morning, we would walk to class and I never saw so many homeless bums sleeping on the sidewalk, in doorways, and in the alleys. Walking back to hotel was even more fun because the homeless bums were awake and asking for money. Nancy was too afraid to go any place by herself, so I had to accompany her everywhere she wanted to go. I was the bodyguard.

One morning as I was leaving my room, two guys appeared out of nowhere and pushed me up against the wall and demanded my wallet. Well, I was mad as hell and was not going to take it any longer, so I hit one of the muggers in the nose as hard as I could and kicked the other mugger between the legs and walked away. They did not follow. Most nights after we had dinner and I got Nancy back to her room, I would go to the hotel bar for a few cold beers. This must have been the hangout for many of the Times Square prostitutes and transvestites because the bar was always packed with them every night. I actually liked this bar and met a lot of interesting people.

However, I have no desire to go to New York City again.

I understand New York City is much safer now days but there are many other places I would much more like to visit if I ever get the chance. In the rest of this article, we will learn about the largest and most famous city in the United States. There has got to be more to New York City than muggers and queers!

Geography

New York City is the most populous city in the United States with a population of 8,550,000 distributed over a land area of 302.6 square miles. New York is the most densely populated major city in the United States.

New York City is composed of five boroughs: Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx and Staten Island. Each of which is a separate county of New York State.



New York City is situated in the Northeastern United States, in southeastern New York State, approximately halfway between Washington, D.C. and Boston. The geography of the City is characterized by its coastal position at the meeting of the Hudson River and the Atlantic Ocean in one of the world's largest natural harbors. Most of New York City is built on the three islands of Long Island, Manhattan, and Staten Island.

The highest point in the city is Todt Hill (401 feet high) on Staten Island that is the highest natural point in the five boroughs of New York City and the highest elevation on the entire Atlantic coastal plain from Florida to Cape Cod. The summit of the ridge is largely covered in woodlands as part of the Staten Island Greenbelt, although much of the surrounding area is developed and residential. This area is considered one of the most exclusive and most expensive housing areas in New York City.

History

The written history of New York City began with the first European explorer Giovanni da Verrazzano in 1524. A permanent European presence in New Netherland began in 1624 – making New York the 12th oldest continuously occupied European established settlement in the continental United States – with the founding of a Dutch fur trading settlement on Governors Island.

In 1664, the city was named after then Duke of York, and future King of England James II. Charles II, King of England, James's older brother, had named him proprietor of the former territory of New Netherlands and its main city of New Amsterdam, which had recently been seized from the Dutch.

The Battle of Long Island, the largest battle of the American Revolutionary War, was fought in August 1776 within the modern-day borough of Brooklyn. In 1789, New York City became the first national capital of the United States for one year.

In the 19th century, the city was transformed by development relating to its status as a trading center, as well as by European immigration. At the turn of the 20th century, New York City became the city we know today. In 1895, residents of Queens, the Bronx, Staten Island and Brooklyn—all independent cities at that time—voted to “consolidate” with Manhattan to form a five-borough “Greater New York City.”

New York City is famous for having many nicknames such as “The Great American Melting Pot,” “Gotham,” and “The City that Never Sleeps” — but its most famous name, without a doubt, is “The Big Apple.”

The Big Apple moniker first gained popularity in connection with horseracing. Around 1920, New York City newspaper reporter John Fitz Gerald, whose beat was the track, heard African American stable hands in New Orleans say they were going to “the big apple,” a reference to New York City, whose racetracks were considered big-time venues. Fitz Gerald soon began making mention of the Big Apple in his newspaper columns. The nickname later faded from use and wasn't revived until the early 1970s, as part of a tourism campaign to spiff up New York's image.



The Five Boroughs

Manhattan

The number of visitors to New York City (in 2018) climbed for the ninth straight year to a record 65.2 million. About 80% of these visitors came from other places in the United States. Most foreign visitors came from Canada, China, and the United Kingdom. As you probably guessed, most of these visitors stayed in lower Manhattan.

Manhattan referred to by New Yorkers as “the City”, is the most densely populated of the five boroughs with 1,665,000 residents plus visitors crowded into 22.8 square miles. Manhattan Island is divided into three informally bounded components, each aligned with the borough's long axis: Lower, Midtown, and Upper Manhattan.

Manhattan has been described as the cultural, financial, media, and entertainment capital of the world. The borough hosts the United Nations Headquarters, Wall Street in the Financial District of Lower Manhattan, the world's two largest stock exchanges (New York Stock Exchange and NASDAQ). Many multinational media conglomerates are based in Manhattan, and the borough has been the setting for numerous books, films, and television shows. Manhattan real estate has since become among the most expensive in the world. Fifth Avenue in Midtown Manhattan commands the highest retail rents in the world, at US\$3,000 per square foot.



United Nations



Times Square

Times Square is one of the most recognized spots in New York City. It is a major commercial intersection, tourist destination and entertainment center in Midtown Manhattan. Brightly adorned with billboards and advertisements, Times Square is sometimes referred to as “The Crossroads of the World”. It is one of the world’s most visited tourist attractions, drawing more than 50 million people annually.

Just in case you were wondering where Harlem is located, it occupies a large part of northern upper Manhattan. Yes, just a few blocks up from Midtown and the upper east side where the millionaires and billionaires live is Harlem where the mostly poor

blacks and immigrants live. The racial makeup of Harlem is 9% White, 63% African American, 22% Hispanic or Latino and less than 1% Asian. The black population in Harlem peaked in 1950, with a 98% share of the population (population 233,000). Currently, Harlem's black population is declining as many African Americans move out and more immigrants move in.



Brownstone rowhouse built for the black population of Harlem in the 1930s

Long known for its intimate jazz clubs, soul food institutions and African American heritage, Harlem draws a diverse crowd of locals and visitors. Trendy eateries, stylish clubs and hip bars make for an energetic nightlife scene. The area features a mix of 19th-century brownstones and modern high-rises. Its main artery, 125th Street, is home to the iconic Apollo Theater, as well as chain stores and restaurants.

Here is the racial composition of Manhattan as a whole:

Racial Composition	Percent	Largest Ethnic Groups
White	64%	Irish, Italian and German
Black	18%	
Hispanic or Latino*	26%	Puerto Ricans
Asian	13%	Chinese

***Of any race**

Religion

Manhattan is religiously diverse. The largest religious affiliation is the Catholic Church with 36% of the population and 110 congregations. Jews comprised the second largest religious group with 21% in 102 congregations. They are followed by Protestants with 9% and Muslims with 3%.

Some of Manhattan's primary attractions start on next page.



The Statue of Liberty is located on Liberty Island in Upper New York Bay. The island is an exclave of the borough of Manhattan, surrounded by the waters of Jersey City, New Jersey. The copper statue, a gift from the people of France to the people of the United States, was designed by French sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi and built by Gustave Eiffel. The statue was dedicated on October 28, 1886.



9/11 Memorial & Museum is a memorial that commemorates the September 11, 2001 attacks, which killed 2,977 people and the 1993 World Trade Center bombing which killed six.

One World Trade Center also known as the Freedom Tower is the main building of the rebuilt World Trade Center complex in Lower Manhattan. The supertall structure has the same name as the North Tower of the original World Trade Center that was completely destroyed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks. At 1,776 feet, One World Trade Center is the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere, and the sixth tallest in the world.



The Empire State Building is an iconic 102-story skyscraper in Midtown Manhattan on Fifth Avenue between West 33rd and 34th Streets. It was the tallest building in the world from 1931 to 1972. The building has a roof height of 1,250 feet, and with its antenna spire included, it stands a total of 1,454 feet high. The Empire State Building is in the Art Deco style, characterized by decorative, geometric designs.

The Empire State Building is an American cultural icon and has been featured in more than 250 TV shows and movies since the film King Kong was released in 1933. A symbol of New York City, the tower has been named as one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World.



Central Park

Central Park is located between the Upper West Side and the Upper East Side of Manhattan. It is the most visited urban park in the United States, with an estimated 38 million visitors annually, and one of the most filmed locations in the world. Central Park is the fifth-largest park in New York City by area, covering 843 acres.

Other attractions in Manhattan:



Rockefeller Center

Historic landmark for dining and shopping in the heart of Manhattan



Madison Square Garden

This is a multi-purpose indoor arena located in Midtown Manhattan. It is situated atop of the famous Penn Station

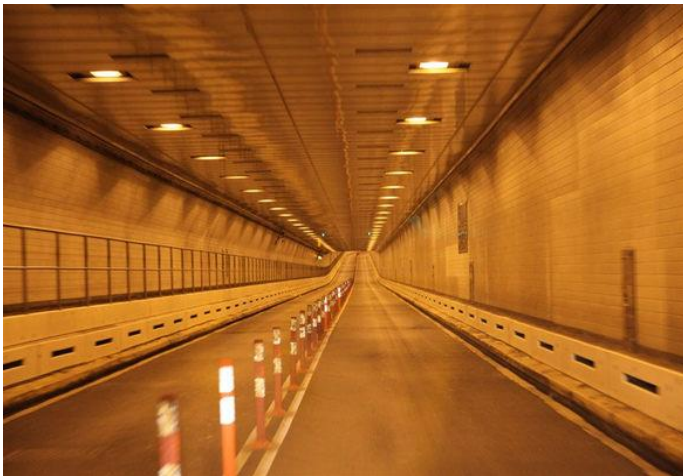
Now you know why most people visiting New York City stay and sight see in the borough of Manhattan. That is where most of the tall buildings, famous sights, theaters, entertainment centers, and bars are located. It is where the action is at!

Brooklyn



**Brooklyn Skyline looking across the East River
The Brooklyn Bridge is on the left**

Brooklyn is the most populous county in the state of New York and the second-most densely populated county in the United States. It is New York City's most populous borough, with an estimated 2,649,000 residents. Named after the Dutch village of Breukelen, it borders the borough of Queens at the western end of Long Island. Brooklyn has several bridge and tunnel connections to the borough of Manhattan across the East River with the Brooklyn Bridge and the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel being the most famous. The 13,700-foot Verrazano-Narrows Bridge connects Brooklyn with Staten Island.



The Brooklyn–Battery Tunnel (officially the Hugh L. Carey Tunnel) is a toll tunnel that connects Red Hook in Brooklyn with Battery Park in Manhattan. With a length of 9,117 feet, the Brooklyn–Battery Tunnel is the longest continuous underwater vehicular tunnel in North America.



The Verrazano–Narrows Bridge is now the nation's most expensive bridge to cross after a toll hike ratcheting up the rate to \$19 (one-way) went into effect. The bridge carries thirteen lanes of Interstate 278, with seven lanes on the upper level and six on the lower level.

With a land area of 70.8 square miles and water area of 26 square miles, Kings (Brooklyn) County is New York state's fourth-smallest county by land area and third smallest by total area, though it is the second largest among the city's five boroughs. Today, if each borough were ranked as a city, Brooklyn would rank as the third-most populous in the U.S., after Los Angeles and Chicago.



Brooklyn in the foreground – Manhattan in the background

Neighborhoods

Brooklyn's neighborhoods are dynamic in ethnic composition. For example, during the early to mid-20th century, Brownsville had a majority of Jewish residents; since the 1970s it has been majority African American. Midwood during the early 20th century was filled with ethnic Irish, then filled with Jewish residents for nearly 50 years, and is slowly becoming a Pakistani enclave. Brooklyn's most populous racial group, white, has declined from 97% in 1930 to 47% today. Here is the current breakout:

Racial Composition	Percent	Largest Ethnic Groups
White	47%	Italian and Irish
Black	34%	
Hispanic or Latino*	20%	Puerto Ricans and Mexicans
Asian	13%	Chinese

***Of any race**

Given New York City's role as a crossroads for immigration from around the world, Brooklyn has evolved a globally cosmopolitan ambience of its own, demonstrating a robust and growing demographic and cultural diversity. Brooklyn contains dozens of

distinct neighborhoods representing many of the major culturally identified groups found within New York City. Among the most prominent are listed below:

Chinese American - Over 200,000 Chinese Americans live throughout the southern parts of Brooklyn, in Sunset Park, Bensonhurst, Gravesend, and Homecrest. The largest concentration is in Sunset Park along 8th Avenue is called "Brooklyn's Chinatown".

Jewish American - Brooklyn is home to the largest Jewish community in the United States, with approximately 600,000 individuals. About 23% of the borough's population is Jewish which are concentrated in Borough Park, Williamsburg, and Flatbush.

African American - Brooklyn's African American community is concentrated in the Crown Heights, Flatbush, East Flatbush, Kensington, and Canarsie neighborhoods.

Latino American - Bushwick is the largest hub of Brooklyn's Latino American community. Nearly 80% of Bushwick's population is Latino

Russian and Ukrainian American - Brooklyn is also home to many Russians and Ukrainians, who are mainly concentrated in Brighton Beach and Sheepshead Bay.

Polish American - Brooklyn's Polish are largely concentrated in Greenpoint, which is home to Little Poland.

Italian American - Italians are mainly concentrated in the neighborhoods of Bensonhurst, Dyker Heights, Bay Ridge, Bath Beach, Gravesend, Cobble Hill, and Carroll Gardens.

Muslim American - Today, Arab Americans and Pakistani Americans along with other Muslim communities have moved into the southwest portion of Brooklyn.

Irish American - Irish Americans can be found throughout Brooklyn, but the highest concentrations are in the neighborhoods of Windsor Terrace, Park Slope, Marine Park, Gerritsen Beach, and Vinegar Hill.

Greek American - Brooklyn's Greek Americans live throughout the borough, especially in Bay Ridge and adjacent areas.

You have heard the expression “birds of a feather flock together”, right? Well, this is true with people around the world and especially in Brooklyn. This expression could read, “people of the same race or with the same tastes and interests will be found together”.

Other Top Brooklyn Attractions



Prospect Park is situated between the neighborhoods of Park Slope, Prospect Heights, Prospect Lefferts Gardens, Flatbush, and Windsor Terrace, and is adjacent to the Brooklyn Museum, Grand Army Plaza, and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.



Brooklyn Bridge Park is an 85-acre park on the Brooklyn side of the East River. The site includes Brooklyn Piers 1–6 and the historic Fulton Ferry Landing. The park also includes Empire Stores, the Tobacco Warehouse, and two Civil War-era structures.



The New York Aquarium is the oldest continually operating aquarium in the United States. It is located on the Riegelmann Boardwalk in Coney Island. The facility occupies 14 acres and boasts 266 species of aquatic wildlife.



The Brooklyn Brewery is a leading global independent craft brewer and a pioneer of the American craft beer revolution. Located in Williamsburg, this beer draws inspiration from the diverse local cultures.

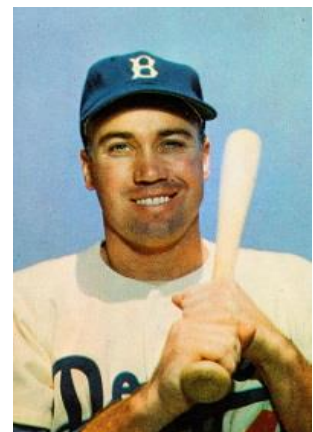
One of the biggest attractions in Brooklyn is the different food you can find at restaurants in the neighborhoods we talked about above. Has Brooklyn's dining scene finally surpassed Manhattan restaurants? Judging from the breadth and innovation emerging from the borough's restaurants, many people say yes. Whether you're

looking for New York pizza or a Middle Eastern feast, you can find all kinds of food in Brooklyn.



Coney Island is a residential Brooklyn neighborhood that morphs into a relaxation and entertainment destination each summer. Locals and tourists crowd its beach, the Wonder Wheel and Luna Park, an amusement park featuring the famed Cyclone roller coaster. Street performers, the Circus Sideshow and the Mermaid Parade in June lend an eccentric vibe. Nathan's Famous is known for its July 4th hot-dog eating contest.

When I was young the only part of New York City I was familiar with was Brooklyn. That's because I grew up as a Brooklyn Dodgers fan. My favorite player was Duke Snider. I remember listening to the baseball games on the radio. When I was a kid, the games were not on television yet, which didn't matter too much since we didn't have a television set until I was a teenager.



Duke Snider

The Brooklyn Dodgers were a Major League baseball team that played in the National League from 1884 until 1957, after which the club moved to Los Angeles, California, where it continues its history as the Los Angeles Dodgers. The team moved west at the same time as its longtime rivals, the New York Giants that relocated to San Francisco. The Dodgers played in two stadiums in South Brooklyn, each named Washington Park, and at Eastern Park before moving to Ebbets Field in the neighborhood of Flatbush in 1913. The team is most noted for signing Jackie Robinson in 1947 as the first black player in the modern major leagues.

Queens

Queens is the largest New York City borough geographically (178 square miles) and is adjacent to the borough of Brooklyn at the southwestern end of Long Island. Queens also shares water borders with the boroughs of Manhattan and the Bronx. The borough of Queens is the second largest in population (after Brooklyn), with an estimated 2,360,000 residents, approximately 49 percent of them foreign-born. If each of New York City's boroughs were an independent city, Queens would be the nation's fourth most populous, after Los Angeles, Chicago, and Brooklyn. Queens is the most ethnically diverse urban area in the world. Even more than Brooklyn!!

Racial Composition	Percent	Largest Ethnic Groups
White	48%	Italian and Irish
Black	21%	
Hispanic or Latino*	28%	Puerto Ricans and Mexicans
Asian	27%	Chinese

**Of any race*

Queens was established in 1683 as one of the original 12 counties of New York. The settlement was named for the English queen Catherine of Braganza (1638–1705). From 1683 until 1899, the County of Queens included what is now Nassau County. Queens became a borough during the consolidation of New York City in 1898.



John F. Kennedy International Airport

Queens has the most diversified economy of the five boroughs of New York City. It is home to John F. Kennedy International Airport and LaGuardia Airport, both among the world's busiest, which in turn makes the airspace above Queens among the busiest in the United States.

Landmarks in Queens include Flushing Meadows–Corona Park; Citi Field, home to the New York Mets baseball team; the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, site of the US Open tennis tournament; Kaufman Astoria Studios; Silvercup Studios; and Aqueduct Racetrack. The Queens Night Market in Flushing Meadows–Corona Park attracts over 10,000 people nightly to sample food from over 85 countries.



Flushing Meadows–Corona Park



Citi Field



Aqueduct Racetrack



Billie Jean King National Tennis Center



The Queens International Night Market

The Bronx

The Bronx is the third-most densely populated county in the United States. It is south of Westchester County; northeast and east of Manhattan, across the Harlem River; and north of Queens, across the East River.

The Bronx has a land area of 42 square miles and a population of 1,470,000. Of the five boroughs, it has the fourth-largest area, fourth-highest population, and third-highest population density. It is the only borough predominantly on the U.S. mainland.

The Bronx is divided by the Bronx River into a hillier section in the west, and a flatter eastern section. East and west street names are divided by Jerome Avenue. The West Bronx was annexed to New York City in 1874, and the areas east of the Bronx River in 1895. Bronx County was separated from New York County in 1914. About a quarter of the Bronx's area is open space, including Woodlawn Cemetery, Van Cortlandt Park, Pelham Bay Park, the New York Botanical Garden, and the Bronx Zoo in the borough's north and center. These open spaces are situated primarily on land deliberately reserved in the late 19th century as urban development progressed north and east from Manhattan.

The name Bronx originated with Swedish-born Jonas Bronck, who established the first settlement in the area as part of the New Netherland colony in 1639. In the 19th and 20th centuries, the Bronx received many immigrant and migrant groups as it was transformed into an urban community, first from various European countries (particularly Ireland, Germany, Italy and Eastern Europe) and later from the Caribbean region (particularly Puerto Rico, Haiti, Jamaica, and the Dominican Republic), as well as African American migrants from the southern United States. This cultural mix has made The Bronx a wellspring of Latin music, hip hop and rock.

The Bronx racial composition and largest ethnic groups:

Racial Composition	Percent	Largest Ethnic Groups
White	45%	Italian, Irish and Russian
Black	44%	
Hispanic or Latino*	56%	Puerto Ricans and Mexicans
Asian	5%	Indians and Chinese

***Of any race**

The Bronx is the poorest of New York City's five boroughs. There are, however, some upper-income and middle-income neighborhoods such as Riverdale, Fieldston, Spuyten Duyvil, Schuylerville, Pelham Bay, Pelham Gardens, Morris Park, and Country Club. The Bronx saw a sharp decline in population, livable housing, and

quality of life in the late 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s culminating in a wave of arson. In addition, the South Bronx saw severe urban decay. The Bronx has experienced some redevelopment since then.

Top Attractions



Bronx Zoo

The Bronx Zoo is located within Bronx Park. It is one of the largest zoos in the U.S. by area, comprising 265 acres of park lands and naturalistic habitats separated by the Bronx River. The zoo features 843 animals in 22 exhibits.



Yankee Stadium

Yankee Stadium is located in Concourse, Bronx. It is the home field for the New York Yankees. The \$2.3 billion stadium, built with \$1.2 billion in public subsidies, replaced the original Yankee Stadium in 2009.



New York Botanical Garden

The New York Botanical Garden is located at Bronx Park. The 250-acre site's verdant landscape supports over one million living plants in extensive collections.



Pelham Bay Park

Pelham Bay Park is a municipal park located in the northeast corner of the Bronx. It is, at 2,772 acres, the largest public park in New York City. The park is more than three times the size of Manhattan's Central Park.

Staten Island

Staten Island is located in the southwest portion of the city, the borough is separated from New Jersey by the Arthur Kill and the Kill Van Kull (tidal strait and channel) and from Brooklyn by New York Bay. With an estimated population of 477,000, the island is the least populated of the boroughs but is the third largest in land area at 58.5 square miles. The borough also contains the southern-most point in the state, South Point.

The North Shore—especially the neighborhoods of St. George, Tompkinsville, Clifton and Stapleton—is the most urban part of the island; it contains the designated St. George Historic District and the St. Paul's Avenue-Stapleton Heights Historic District, which feature large Victorian houses. The East Shore is home to the 2.5-mile F.D.R. Boardwalk, the fourth-longest boardwalk in the world. The South Shore, site of the 17th-century Dutch and French Huguenot settlement, developed rapidly beginning in the 1960s and 1970s and is now mostly suburban in character. The West Shore is the least populated and most industrial part of the island.

Motor traffic can reach the borough from Brooklyn via the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge and from New Jersey via the Outerbridge Crossing, Goethals Bridge and Bayonne Bridge. Staten Island is the only borough that is not connected to the New York City Subway system. The Staten Island Ferry also connects the borough across New York Harbor to Manhattan and is a tourist attraction which provides views of the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and Lower Manhattan.



Staten Island Ferry

Staten Island racial composition and largest ethnic groups:

Racial Composition	Percent	Largest Ethnic Groups
White	75%	Non-Hispanic White
Black	12%	
Hispanic or Latino*	19%	Puerto Ricans
Asian	10%	Chinese

***Of any race**

Some Staten Island attractions



Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden



Fort Wadsworth is located on the west shores of the Narrows. This historic fort formerly guarded the entrance to New York Harbor and Manhattan for over 200 years. Built in the late 17th century, the fort has the longest continuous military history in the United States.



The Staten Island Zoo is one of the few zoos in the country that has an educational mandate as part of its mission.



Lemon Creek Park is one of the few remaining parks in New York City that has a ground-level creek running through it.

Some Interesting Information about New York City

Some of the most breathtaking views of the city are from its marvelous bridges. They all are, without any exceptions, pieces of art. The city is home to more than 2,000 bridges and tunnels. Probably the most famous is the Brooklyn Bridge. It is a hybrid cable-stayed/suspension bridge and is one of the oldest bridges of either type in the United States.



Another landmark of New York is the yellow taxi. More than 13,000 licensed taxis work in the city. And it seems like every one of these taxis are driven by a person from Pakistan who can't speak English!



NYC Pizza

New York is full of experiences and is one of the best places in the world to try incredible food. So many different people live there and they are all happy to offer their national cuisine. Many people consider the city to have the best pizza in the world. Many of the restaurants rank among the most expensive in the world while the others are ready to offer you the fast food for a couple of dollars.

New York City subway was opened in 1904 and nowadays it represents the largest mass transit system in the world with 472 stations. Approximately 6 million people use the subway every day.

New York City has more than 2,000 arts and cultural organizations and more than 500 art galleries of all sizes.

Each New Year's Eve 1 million people gather in New York City's Times Square to watch famous ball drop. Another 1 billion people from around the world will watch the famed ball drop on TV.

Land in New York is priceless to own and even more expensive to develop that people are looking up — way up. In New York City, it's possible to sell the air above a building for future development. Air, people. Air!

New York invented one of the world's first and greatest luxury hotels — the Waldorf Astoria — which invented the velvet rope and its meaning.

The city and its metropolitan area constitute the premier gateway for legal immigration to the United States, and as many as 800 languages are spoken in New York, making it the most linguistically diverse city in the world.

New York City has the largest Chinese population of any city outside Asia and the largest Puerto Rican population of any city in the world. Manhattan, Queens and Brooklyn all have their own Chinatowns.

New Yorkers drink almost 7 times more coffee than other cities in the U.S.

Tokyo is the city with the most millionaires in the world, but London has the most multi-millionaires and New York the most billionaires.

More Jewish people live there than any other city outside of Israel.

What did I learn from researching and writing this article?

- 1. There are a lot of foreigners living in New York City.**
- 2. There are so many Mideastern (Muslims) immigrants moving into Harem that the blacks are moving out.**
- 3. The rich people live in Midtown and the Upper East Side of Manhattan plus several area in Staten Island. The poor people live everywhere else.**
- 4. How does Staten Island keep the “riffraff” out of the borough? Easy. Just charge \$19 one way to cross the bridge to get there.**
- 5. Everything in New York City costs a fortune especially in Manhattan. Even more than Honolulu!**
- 6. Lower Manhattan is considered “the city”. Everywhere else is considered the suburbs or the slums.**
- 7. Okay, I have to admit it – there is more to NYC than muggers and queers.**

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