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Gay New York – the best gay hotels,  
bars, clubs & more

New York City is a world-famous destination and is a melting pot of people, cultures, neighborhoods and experiences. The beginning of the gay rights movement was started in New York City and some of the most famous LGBT places and symbols are located here, like the Stonewall Inn or Christopher Street Pier. You can't miss some of NYC's top attractions like the observation deck of the Empire State Building or visiting Central Park. You'll find lots of gay bars in Hell's Kitchen but there are places scattered throughout the city, offering great nightlife and drag performances from some of the top talent in the US.

The city is internationally known for its unique skyscrapers, bustling crosswalks and high population density. While many tourists venture out to see famous sights like the Statue of Liberty or the Empire State Building, New York also has one-of-a-kind parks and green spaces scattered throughout the city that are worth making a visit.

### **General Tips**

New York is a megacity and there's always something going on. You can visit any time of year, but you'll likely want to avoid winter which can be quite cold and unpleasant. The best weather is from April to June and September to November, but that's also when you'll encounter the most tourists.

New York has so much to do and so many possibilities that planning a trip and choosing your itinerary can even be overwhelming. The best advice is to find what interests you most. Yes, you may want to visit some of the iconic places, but don't make visiting all of them a requirement.



## Transportation & Airport Transfer

Your flight to New York City will arrive in one of three airports, JFK, La Guardia or Newark. Figuring out how to get into the city can almost be overwhelming by the number of options – train, subway, bus, taxi, rideshare or shuttle. All airports are quite far so taxi and rideshare are notoriously expensive. The least expensive option is typically the subway or bus. Below is our recommendation knowing that you have luggage and don't want to pay \$50-\$80 or more for a taxi or rideshare.

JFK – take the Long Island Railing to Penn Station. From Penn Station you can connect to the subway or take a taxi/rideshare to your hotel or accommodation.

La Guardia – take bus M60 bus to 125th street in Manhattan and connect the subway or take a taxi/rideshare to your hotel or accommodation.

Newark – take the NJ Transit to Penn Station. From Penn Station you can connect to the subway or take a taxi/rideshare to your hotel or accommodation.

Once you make it into the city, the easiest way to get around is by taking the [subway \(MTA\)](#), taxi, Uber or Lyft. If you're planning on moving around a lot during the day, a multi-day pass is a good option. Otherwise, you can just pre-load a set amount of money on your card and pay-per-use.

## Gay Hotels in New York

There aren't currently any [gay hotels](#) in New York, but there are many gay-friendly options.

### *Luxury*

[W New York – Times Square](#) – soaring above a glittering stretch of Broadway in the heart of Midtown. Benefit from the prime location and discover the endless attractions. After a busy day, recharge in your bold guest room or suite, refuel at one of our two dynamic restaurants or relax in The Living Room, a playful tribute to Times Square of the past.

[Hotel Beacon](#) – the historic Hotel Beacon is in the heart of Manhattan's Upper West Side neighborhood and offers apartment-style rooms and two-bedroom suites. Stretch out, relax, and surround yourself with culture and experiences.

[Andaz 5<sup>th</sup> Ave](#) – boutique hotel across from the iconic New York Public Library. The spacious rooms feel like exclusive New York lofts, with 12-foot ceilings and plenty of natural light. The property has a restaurant, fitness center and spa onsite.

### *Mid-Range*

[Chelsea Pines Inn](#) – bed and breakfast hosting guests in Chelsea and the Meatpacking District. The five-story walk-up provides 24-hour concierge services near the Highline. The Inn is decorated with film posters from the Golden Age of Hollywood. Guests can enjoy the complimentary breakfast in the lounge, indoor greenhouse or flower-filled seasonal inner garden.

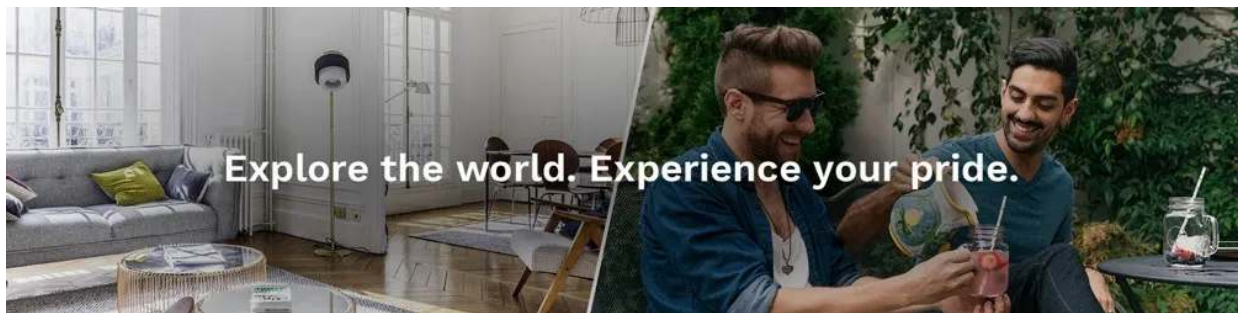
[Colonial House Inn](#) – features a rooftop seasonal sun terrace. A continental breakfast is provided each morning and guests can enjoy a complimentary happy hour in the evenings hosted in the lobby.

[Incentra Village Hotel](#) – Occupying two brownstone townhouses, this Greenwich Village hotel is a Victorian-style inn originally built in 1841 with a kitchenette provided in each room.

[The GEM Hotel](#) – boutique hotel located in Chelsea with a rooftop and fitness center. Walking distance to Penn Station and Madison Square Garden.

### *Apartments*

There are many sites for apartment rentals in New York, with [AirBnB](#) probably being one of the most popular. Prices are generally comparable to budget hotels, especially if you're willing to get a room in a shared apartment. [Book AirBnB →](#)



There are even a few LGBT-oriented booking sites like [misterb&b](#) with listings from gay hosts for gay guests where you can either rent a whole apartment or a private room in a shared apartment. Understanding New York's gay scene is much more easily done with the help of a local and apartment sharing is one of the best ways to meet someone living in the city who knows how things work, where and when are the best nights to go out, and what places to eat at and which to avoid.

### **Sightseeing & Activities in New York**

New York City has something for everyone. There's plenty of culture and history to be found but also lots of tourist traps and overrated places. The recommendations below are just a small list of suggestions that might be interesting for an LGBT visitor. This is by no means an exhaustive or 'best of' list.

The High Line – an icon of modern design and repurposing of old infrastructure. The entire park is elevated above the city on train tracks that had been abandoned since the mid 1980s. Since the track is narrow, only pedestrian traffic is allowed so there’s no need to dodge bikers. The best part of The High Line is the views of the skyscrapers surrounding you as you weave in between, to the side and beneath all the buildings.



Central Park – an obvious, but must-see park to enjoy on any visit to New York. The park was opened in 1857 and now occupies nearly 4% of the total land area of Manhattan. There are numerous playgrounds, running paths and food vendors throughout the park so you can easily spend several hours wandering about this famous landmark.

[Leslie-Lohman Museum](#) – provides a platform for artistic exploration through multi-faceted queer perspectives. It was created to preserve LGBT identity and build community, by acting as a cultural hub. With a collection of over 30,000 objects, the museum hosts six major exhibitions annually.

Manhattan Skyline – enjoy breathtaking views from Bushwick Inlet Park. Grab a bench along the waterfront and enjoy the views. Also near this park, you can enjoy [Smorgasburg](#), a weekend market with various stalls selling multiple food selections from savories to sweets, located at East River State Park. Or if you prefer, take a free ride on the free Staten Island Ferry for an alternate viewpoint.

Broadway Show – check out a Broadway show including great favorites like [Chicago](#) or [The Lion King](#). The shows can be rather expensive, but it's an unforgettable experience if you're into theater. [Buy tickets →](#)

Food Tours – New York is a foodie's paradise but it's also easy to find poor quality and tourist traps. Be sure you find some of the best options on a food tour like the [Lower East Side](#) or [Brooklyn](#) food tours. [Book tour →](#)



[The Ride](#) – Explore THE RIDE's world-class experiences through photo and video. It offers a unique experience with a mix of technology and cityscape in a state-of-the-art motorcoach. The patented busses are the largest in New York and they highlight the best parts of the city through floor-to-ceiling glass, sound and motion effects, and 40 LCD TV screens. The RIDE is also an LGBT-owned NYC business. [Book tour →](#)

## Gay Tours in New York

[Gay Secrets of the Met](#) – an exploration of homoerotic art in the Metropolitan Museum. On this tour, you'll discover some of the Met's queer treasures, from ancient Greek nudes and erotic vase-painting to homoerotic paintings from the Renaissance—as well as a panoply of modern works, some by LGBT artists, some portraying LGBT people and some expressing same-sex desire. [Book tour →](#)

[LGBT History and Culture of Greenwich Village](#) – Uncover the history of NYC's LGBT community during this walking tour of Greenwich Village. Pause at historical sites that might be tricky to find yourself, such as the city's oldest gay bar, a cafe where Broadway stars visit to sing, and the Stonewall Inn—where the gay civil rights movement began in 1969. [Book tour →](#)



[Gay History Tour of New York](#) – Take a city stroll with Oscar Wilde Tours and they'll bring it all out of the closet. They've created the first tour giving the entire gay history of New York City. [Book tour →](#)

## Restaurants and Cafes



[Julius Restaurant](#) – the oldest continually operating gay bar in New York City, this West Village nightspot is on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1966—before the Stonewall Uprising—the Mattachine Society (one of the country’s first gay rights groups) held a public “Sip-In” protest here, taking a stand for civil rights. These days, Julius’ remains a favorite for its regular events, drinks and great burgers.

[Hearth](#) – this restaurant is everything the word implies...a warm, comfortable restaurant with hospitality as its goal. Chef Marco Canora's cuisine employs seasonal, locally-sourced ingredients prepared with an Italian influence. The menu is rather expensive but the food amazing.

[Momofuku Noodle Bar](#) – award-winning restaurant located in both the East Village and Columbus Circle. They offer a constantly changing roster of noodles, steamed breads, soft serve, and daily dishes.

[Prune](#) – very popular neighborhood bistro with an award-winning chef. It’s a great option for lunch or dinner or weekend brunch.

[Burger Joint](#) – a small and simple, award-winning burger place with delicious burgers and low prices. This place is popular so it’s best to visit during an off-peak time.

[Katz’ Deli](#) – very famous deli that’s been family-owned for over 100 years. Each week thousands of visitors from around the world flock to Katz’s to dine in this legendary deli, and to feast on the most delectable sandwiches, platters and meats.

## **New York Gay Bars**

Greenwich Village is home to historic LGBT bars and nightclubs that have stood the test of time. But you can find a huge amount of selection of gay bars Hell’s Kitchen and other parts of the city with each offering a different style and scene. Below is a selection of places worth checking out.

[No Bar](#) – relatively new queer bar located at The Standard, East Village.

[Lips](#) and [Lucky Cheng's](#) are two long-standing cabaret restaurants that produce memorable drag shows and dining experiences.

[Stonewall Inn](#), a gay bar and historic landmark that marks the site of the 1969 riots that sparked the gay rights movement.

[The Duplex](#) – established in 1950 and continues today as an international destination for arts and entertainment, providing nightly performances as varied and colorful as the streets of the West Village. The venue has a piano bar, café and cabaret.

[Monster](#) – since 1981, this Manhattan LGBT venue has been a pioneer on the scene with loads of adventures through its rich 33-year history. They have drinks specials and events offered throughout the week.

[Marie's Crisis](#) – a bar that has roots all the way back to the 1850s when it was used as a den for prostitution. Unique in so many different ways, Marie's Crisis has been a staple of New York City for a very long time. If you want to have a drink in an authentic and unique place, Marie's Crisis Cafe is a great option.

[Cubby Hole](#) – mixed LGBT bar open since 1994 and particularly popular with women.

[Henrietta Hudson](#) – a longstanding lesbian bar in the West Village. Evenings are upbeat affairs with events, feature DJs, drink specials and go-go dancers. The bar fosters an inclusive spirit, and patrons tend to be a diverse bunch of [party](#) people.

## **New York Gay Clubs and [Parties](#)**

Like many cities, New York doesn't have large dedicated, gay dance clubs. But instead there are a variety of organizations that host monthly parties at local venues like [MEAT](#), [Alegria](#), [MasterBeat](#), Black Party, [Horse Meat Disco](#) and [BRUT](#).

## **Gay Beaches in New York**

New York is not exactly a beach destination but there are a couple of places popular with LGBT locals to enjoy the sun and warmth, when the weather is nice.

Queens' Riis Park – this has been a gay destination for decades. People of all colors, backgrounds and ages come here, creating a lively gathering at the eastern end of this expansive public beach. You can also find a wide range of artisanal eats and treats at the [Riis Park Beach Bazaar](#).

Pier 45 (Christopher Street Pier) – Though not a beach, this waterfront spot has a ton of history. It's better known as the Queer Pier and was once a place for gay cruising and later become a haven for homeless youth of color.

Fire Island – a bit of a trek from NYC, Fire Island has two gay beaches, [The Pines](#) and [Cherry Grove](#). If you're in NYC for the summer, it might be worth a day trip if you have time.

## **Gay Events in New York**

[DragCon NYC](#) – the annual drag conference takes place in New York. Meet some of your favorite queens along with many other amazing celebrities, plus see performances from special guests, participate in contests, and attend discussion panels.

[Queer Comic Fair](#) – The only comic and art fair geared entirely towards LGBTQ sequential art and illustration in New York City. While other great queer-themed conventions and fairs exist in NYC, the NYC Queer Comic Fair is the first fair in NYC geared entirely towards queer comics, graphic novels, illustrated stories, photo-comics, or any other interesting take on the medium of still-visual storytelling and/or illustration.

[NYC Pride](#) – Started the year after the Stonewall riots, NYC Pride is an event celebrating the LGBT community. It is one of the largest annual Pride marches in the world, attracting tens of thousands of participants and millions of sidewalk spectators each June.

[New York Fashion Week \(Queer Fashion Show\)](#) – each September, dapperQ, a leading digital queer style magazine, produces the largest queer fashion show during New York Fashion Week. The show takes place at the Brooklyn Museum featuring over 70 models representing a diverse range of race, ethnicity, body types and gender identities. More than 2,000 people attend the event.

## **Day Trips from New York**

[Fire Island](#) – a barrier island off the southern shore of Long Island. It's known for protected beaches interspersed with seasonal resort communities. It's also been a summer gay destination for decades and is popular amongst New Yorkers. Fire Island has two gay beaches, [The Pines](#) and [Cherry Grove](#). They also host a variety of events and parties throughout the summer.