

New York City Airports

John F Kennedy International Airport (JFK)

Location: The airport is located 15 miles (24km) southeast of central Manhattan.

Getting to the city: The New York Airport Service provides a transportation service to and from Manhattan (New York City), JFK Airport, LGA Airport, and Midtown Hotels. The buses leave regularly and cost \$13. Travellers can also get to the city centre on the subway (\$2). A free yellow, white and blue Long-Term Parking Lot Bus takes passengers to Howard Beach Station, from there take 'A' subway train to the centre. To JFK from Manhattan, use 'A' train to 'Far Rockaway'. 'SuperShuttle Manhattan' is a 24-hour, shared, door-to-door service which costs between \$15 and \$19 to anywhere between Battery Park and 227th including all hotels, the service also operates to Queens, Brooklyn, Bronx, Staten Island. Taxis are available and cost \$35 plus tolls; journey time to Manhattan is between 40 and 60 minutes, longer in peak hours.

Website: www.kennedyairport.com

New York La Guardia Airport (LGA)

Location: The airport is located 8 miles (13km) east of central Manhattan, in the borough of Queens.

Getting to the city: The New York Airport Service Express Bus leaves regularly for all areas in Manhattan between 7am and 11pm (cost: \$8-12; journey time: 30-45 minutes). 24-hour buses connect with the New York subway (Bus: \$1-\$1.50 exact fare; Subway: \$1.50). The SuperShuttle Manhattan is a 24-hour, shared door-to-door services which goes to all areas of the city between 7am and 11.30pm (\$15-\$22). Taxis are available at all hours, they cost \$16-\$26 plus tolls and take 20-30 minutes to central Manhattan, longer at peak hours.

Website: www.laguardiaairport.com

Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR)

Location: The airport is located 2 miles (3km) south of Newark, 16 miles (26km) southwest of New York.

Getting to the city: New Jersey Transit bus #302 leaves for Newark's Penn Station every 20-30 minutes from where PATH trains leave regularly for downtown Manhattan and 33rd Street, taking around one hour. The Olympia Airport Express leaves regularly for the New York Port Authority Bus Terminal, Grand Central Station and downtown Manhattan. The journey to Midtown Manhattan takes 30-60 minutes and costs US\$14. SuperShuttle Manhattan is a shared minibus service which goes to all areas of Manhattan, including hotels, and costs \$15-\$19. Taxis are also available and cost between \$34 and \$55.

Website: www.newarkairport.com

Best Hotels Under \$150

Second Home on Second Avenue

Pick your theme: Peruvian, Tribal, Caribbean, 20th-century Modern... Each of the seven cozy rooms (\$85-\$185) has decorative touches that are intended to evoke a cultural motif — thankfully most are too subtle to detect. Staying in five of the quarters does require sharing a bathroom, but the charm of this 19th-century townhouse (and its owner, Carlos) makes that trip across the hall in the middle of the night worth it.

221 Second Ave., between 13 and 14th Sts., 212-677-3161, secondhome.com.

Abingdon Guest House

Okay, so only two out of the nine rooms in this landmark guest house fall into the category of being under \$150 (the Perrin for \$137 and the Essex for \$147), *and* they're usually booked. But to find so much character for so little money in the West Village is worth mentioning. The rooms are reminiscent of those in a New England B&B, and the owners also follow suit in their unerring hospitality.

13 Eighth Ave., between Jane and 12th Sts., 212-243-5384, abingdonguesthouse.com.

Howard Johnson Express Inn

Despite the hip address, the accommodations are fairly run-of-the-mill (you can take the HoJo out of suburbia but, well, you know). As a result, this East Village over-nighter is perfect for those who would rather spend their time hitting the streets than hitting the hay. Rates start at \$135 for a single and include a continental breakfast.

135 East Houston St.; 212-358-8844, hojo.com.

Cosmopolitan Hotel

TriBeCa's latest bargain hotel, the Cosmo offers 105 small, clean rooms, ideal for business types looking to stay downtown. If you do want a bit more space, however, they can accommodate — book one of their eleven 2-level mini-lofts with a lower-level sitting area and upper-level bedroom area (\$109 per night). Other features include newly renovated rooms, all of which have color televisions and private bathrooms. Rates for a single room start at \$119.

125 Chambers St., at W. Broadway; 212-566-1900, cosmohotel.com

Carlton Arms Hotel

160 E. 25th St.

212.679.0680

www.carltonarms.com

Hotel 17

225 E. 17th St.

http://hotels.sidestep.com/hoteldetails/us/ny/new_york/hotel_17

For great hotel deals visit:

<http://www.newyorkmetro.com/urban/guides/nyonthecheap/travel/hotels.htm>

<http://newyork.citysearch.com/>

www.orbitz.com

Cheap Eats

McChale's

8th Ave. & 46th St.

The best burger in town, awesome bar! One of the only jems in Time Square.

Bereket

Turkish Kebab House

Turkish, Middle Eastern

187 E Houston St, New York 10002

At Orchard St open 24 hours a day!

This place has the best turkish food for the price, the atmosphere is great. They have the best adana kebab and mercimek corbasi (lentil soup). Open all night, and it's so inexpensive!

John's of 12th Street

Italian

302 E 12th St at 2nd Ave

This is the Pontanis favorite Italian restaurant in the city. Old school, delicious, no credit cards, good food, tell 'em the Pontani Sisters sentcha!

BAR TABAC

128 Smith St., Brooklyn, NY

(718) 923-0918

Great little Brooklyn French Bistro. They serve food late night.

Miss Williamsburg Diner

(outdoor patio - Brooklyn)

Marion's

354 Bowery

This legendary establishment is a mainstay for the Pontanis. Great food, great ambiance. Tell them the Pontani Sisters' sentcha!

Republic

37 Union Sq (bet 16th & 17th St); 212-627-7168

This Pan-Asian hotspot is a must for the budget conscious as well as for trend seekers. The communal, cafeteria-style lunch-hall tables, affordable noodle dishes, and fresh juices all equate to one thing - a great time in an unconventional atmosphere! And with a menu providing ample options for vegetarians as well as traditional items such as the spicy coconut chicken and fried wontons, you can be sure to find something that will please every palate.

Tiny's Giant Sandwich Shop

127 Rivington St (bet Essex & Norfolk St); 212-982-1690

Tiny's is the perfect answer to what's for lunch, where every sandwich is prepared to order so it is served at its freshest. The small, hurried shop is mostly focused on takeout orders. About half the menu is vegetarian friendly and equally as tasty are the omnivorous selections. Renowned for having both the best veggie burger as well as the best Chicken Po' Boy and hot-melt sandwiches, the soups are also excellent, with recipes rotating on a seasonal basis.

Grilled Cheese

168 Ludlow St (bet Stanton & Houston St); 212-982-6600

This is not your grandmother's grilled cheese sandwich. Instead, owner John Behrens has critically updated the old classic, grilling sandwiches with a touch of olive oil with black-olive and basil pesto as sauces and spreads. For his vegan sandwiches, hummus is a flavorful alternative to mayonnaise. Smoked turkey, ham, Canadian bacon, Genoa salami and whole-milk cheeses come from local gourmet and natural-foods distributors and the bread comes from a French Bakery in Brooklyn. The results are a simple and satisfying turn on an American tradition.

Favorite Watering Holes

Tainted Lady Lounge

318 Grand St
Brooklyn, New York
(take the L to Lorimer stop in Brooklyn)
A Must See!

The Coral Room

512 W 29th St.
New York, NY

Scratcher

209 E Fifth St.
NY, NY

Bar on A

Ave A and 7th St.

Howard Johnson's

201 W 46th St, New York

Last Exit

Atlantic Ave. - Brooklyn

A few helpful web sites to check out.

<http://www.nycpulse.com/>

<http://www.mta.nyc.ny.us/>

<http://www.easynewyorkcity.com/airporttransportation.htm>