

PRESENTED BY



Instant Guide to New York City Lower Manhattan

4 hours on the go

Fodor's



New York City is famous for transforming overnight—so what's packed and popular this month may be passé by the time you arrive. Lower Manhattan, what New Yorkers refer to as "all the way downtown," has Wall Street at its center and,

most notably, in that empty but evolving gulf among skyscrapers, Ground Zero. To the west, south of Canal Street, residential TriBeCa has a mellow vibe, as opposed to Chinatown, an anything-but-quiet enclave with restaurants, Buddhist temples, and pungent open-air markets. Our top picks will give you the best Lower Manhattan experience.

GET HERE FAST

Use the Fulton Street Broadway-Nassau subway station, with nine lines, for areas around City Hall, South Street Seaport, and Ground Zero. Chinatown is closest to the Canal and Grand Street stations. For TriBeCa, take the 1 Train to Franklin Street.

DON'T MISS

■ **Ground Zero:** The World Trade Center grounds remain largely a construction site where people continue to visit and reflect on the tragedy of September 11, 2001. A steel viewing wall now encircles the area, bound on the north and south by Vesey and Liberty streets, and on the east and west by Church and West streets. There's also the newly-opened and free Memorial Preview Site, which displays the progress of the Memorial Museum.

■ **Brooklyn Bridge:** A walk across the bridge's promenade—a boardwalk elevated above the roadway and shared by pedestrians, in-line skaters, and bicyclists—takes about 40 minutes from Manhattan's civic center to Brooklyn Heights. It's well worth traversing for the astounding views.

■ **South Street Seaport Historic District:** This charming cobblestone corner of the city blends a quasi-authentic historic district with Fulton Street, a busy pedestrian mall. See Schermerhorn Row, a redbrick terrace of Georgian- and Federal-style warehouses, the South Street



Seaport Museum, and the historic ships docked at Pier 16.

■ **Chinatown:** Head to densely packed Mott Street, Chinatown's main thoroughfare, for restaurants, hair salons and barbershops, bakeries, tea parlors, and souvenir shops, most of which are below Canal Street. The few blocks above Canal overflow with food markets selling vegetables and fish. Off restaurant-lined Pell Street is alley-size Doyers Street, the site of early-20th-century gang wars and today a favorite location for film shoots.

QUICK HITS

■ **Battery Park:** Jutting out at the southernmost point of Manhattan, leafy Battery Park provides plenty of places to sit and rest, including two tiers of wood benches that line the promenade facing New York Harbor.

■ **City Hall Park:** This small park next to City Hall is home to a dozen monuments and great for a picnic or people-watching,

with benches surrounding the gorgeous 19th-century Mould Fountain.

■ **Wall Street's Charging Bull:** In 1989 this 7,000-pound surprise gift for New York City was left by its sculptor under the Christmas tree in front of the New York Stock Exchange. The bull quickly became an icon of Wall Street. It's now located in Bowling Green, across from the Standard Oil Building at 26 Broadway.

SHOPPING BLITZ

■ **Century 21:** A favorite of many New Yorkers, this downtown fixture—right across the street from Ground Zero—has four floors of discount shopping. It's crammed with everything from Gucci sunglasses to Ralph Lauren towels.

■ **City Store:** Stop here for a selection of quality souvenirs, such as cocktail napkins, printed manhole-cover coasters, and more. The store is closed after 4:30 on weekdays and on weekends.

IN-THE-KNOW

The main viewing area for **Ground Zero** is on Liberty Street, but you'll have a better view from the two pedestrian bridges to the World Financial Center.

Without having to pay a cent, take a trip on the **Staten Island Ferry** for spectacular views of the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, and the southern tip of Manhattan.

