



New York is the biggest city in the United States with a **population** of over 8 million . It lies along the Hudson River in the southeast corner of the state that has the same name. New York is always alive – a “city that never sleeps”.

## Boroughs of New York

New York is made up of five **districts**, called boroughs.

- **Manhattan** is the central part of New York. It is the smallest district with an **area** of only 60 **square kilometres**. All of the city’s **major** banks and the **stock exchanges** can be found here. It is the **seat** of the city’s **government** and the home of cultural institutions.
- **Brooklyn** is a **major seaport** and the centre of industry. It has the most **residents** of all boroughs and is known as the district of churches and homes.
- **Queens** is the largest of New York’s boroughs. It **consists** of **rows** of single-family houses and is often **referred** to as the city’s biggest **suburb**. Whites, **Hispanics** and Blacks live together in Queens.
- The **Bronx** , a **residential district** with many apartment buildings, is the only borough **situated** on the **mainland**.
- For many years **Staten Island** could only be reached by **ferry**. Today, the borough is **connected** with Brooklyn through the Verrazano – Narrows Bridge. The opening of this bridge in 1964 led many New Yorkers to move to Staten Island.



- 1 Manhattan
- 2 Brooklyn
- 3 Queens
- 4 The Bronx
- 5 Staten Island

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## Population

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New York is a **melting pot** of different nationalities with people who have their **origins** all over the world. **Hispanics**, African Americans and people of European origin make up most of the city's population. Ellis Island, not far from the Statue of Liberty, was once the main **entry point** for the millions of **immigrants** who have come to America in the past two **centuries**.

The first immigrants came from England, Germany and Scandinavia at the beginning of the 19th century. Between 1880 and 1930 Eastern Europeans, Italians and the Irish came to America. After World War II Asians, Cubans and Hispanics came to New York in large numbers. The city also has the largest Jewish **community** in the world.

## Culture

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New York is often said to be the cultural centre of the United States. Many famous museums are at home in the city. The Metropolitan Museum of Art has a **huge** collection of over 2,000 European and 4,000 American paintings, **sculptures** and drawings. Other famous museums are the Guggenheim and the Museum of Modern Art.

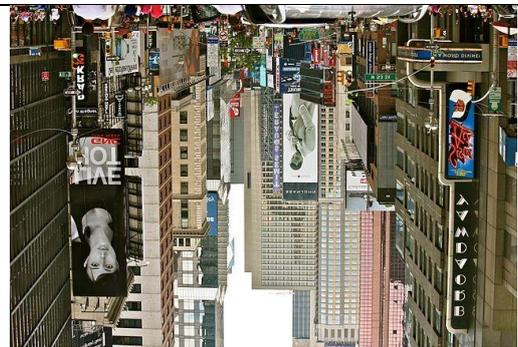
New York City is especially **popular** among theatregoers. The greatest theatre **district** in the world is around Times Square and Broadway. About 40 theatres offer a **wide range** of dramas, musicals and comedy shows.

Music lovers can **attend performances** of New York's Metropolitan Opera or concerts of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra.



**The Guggenheim Museum**

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**Broadway**

Image: [Alex Proimos from Sydney, Australia; cropped by Beyond My Ken \(talk\) 00:05, 29 August 2014 \(UTC\), CC BY 2.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons



## Transportation

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Like many modern **megacities**, New York also has great traffic problems. Most **foreign** travellers get to New York through John F. Kennedy International Airport, one of the world's busiest, **situated** in the south-eastern part of the city.

**Public** transport centres on a subway system which is the largest in the world. It is over 300 km long, has over 400 stations and is used by almost 4 million people every day. Because New York is such a large city many people tend to walk or, when in a hurry, go by one of the thousands of Yellow **Cabs** that **cruise** around

## History of New York

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The first Europeans were **explorers** who were impressed by the area's natural harbour. In 1609 the English **navigator** Henry Hudson sailed up the river that is today named after him. In 1626 the Dutch set up a **trading post** at the southern **tip** of Manhattan and called it New Amsterdam. In the same year they bought Manhattan from the Indians who lived there.

The British took over the colony in 1664 and named it after the Duke of York. After the **American Revolution** New York became America's first **capital**, but only for a short time. Back then about 33,000 people lived there.

In the early part of the 19th century **waves** of European **immigrants** started to come to the city. They usually worked for **little** money, helped **boost** the **economy** and made New York the largest city in the country. The **rapid growth** of the city also created problems: crime, **poverty**, **overpopulation** and **pollution**. In the 1970s the city went through a big **economic** crisis. It didn't have enough money to pay its **bills** and almost went **bankrupt** but **recovered** again some years later.

In **recent** years the city has become the target of terrorist activities. In 1993 a car bomb exploded in the **basement** of the World Trade Centre, killing six people. The city's darkest hour came on September 11th, 2001 when terrorists **hijacked** two planes and flew them into the World Trade Centre. Both buildings **collapsed**— the attack killed almost three thousand people. In April 2006 **developers** began constructing a **skyscraper** called Freedom Tower at the place where the World Trade Centre once stood.



## Sights of New York

### Statue of Liberty

For over a hundred years the Statue of Liberty has been a symbol of the United States. It stands on Liberty Island and was a **gift** that France gave to the USA in 1886 as a symbol of friendship between the two countries. With its **pedestal** made of **concrete** the statue has a **height** of 93 metres. It represents a woman looking out over the harbour. On her head is a **crown** and in her hand a **torch**. Although tourists can go up to the **observation deck** in the crown, the torch itself is closed to all visitors.



**Statue of Liberty**

Image: [Andrew Maiman, CC BY-SA 3.0](#),  
via Wikimedia Commons

### Times Square

Times Square, where 42nd Street and Broadway meet, is often called **Crossroads** of the World. Millions of people see it on television every New Year's Eve. It got its name because the New York Times building was **originally** located there. Today it is home to theatres and cinemas with many electronic billboards **surrounding** the square.

### Empire State Building

The Empire State Building is one of the best-known buildings in the world. Located in the middle of Manhattan, the steel framed structure has 102 **stories** and a height of 381 metres. Built in 1931, it was the first building of such a **tremendous** height. For over twenty years it was the tallest building in the world and the tallest building of New York until the **construction** of the World Trade Centre in the 1970s. The building has **appeared** in famous films like King Kong and Superman. About 2 million tourists visit the Empire State Building every year.



**Empire State Building**

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via Wikimedia  
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### **Central Park**

Central Park is the largest and most important public park in Manhattan. It **extends** for about 4km and has an area of 340 hectares. The park **includes** lakes, **ice rinks**, **fountains**, playgrounds, bicycle paths and other **facilities**. When it was built in the 1840s the park was far away from the city's centre. Some of it was farming area another part was **swampy**, wet land that had to be laid dry. It took 20,000 workers more than 15 years to **remove** thousands of trees and **complete** the park.

### **Brooklyn Bridge**

Brooklyn Bridge, built between 1869 and 1883, **connects** Manhattan with New York's **most populous** borough, Brooklyn. The 1.5 km long bridge, which spans the East River, is one of the greatest **engineering achievements** of the 19th **century**.

### **Grand Central Station**

Grand Central Station is one of the most beautiful buildings of the city. It is the **busiest** train station in the world with about 800 000 people passing through it every day. It's well known for its wonderful **ceiling** with a **mural** of golden leaves.

### **9/11 Memorial**

The 9/11 memorial is a place that **commemorates** the tragic events that happened on September 11, 2001.

### **Staten Island Ferry**

The Staten Island **ferry** is a passenger boat that brings people from Manhattan to Staten Island. It operates 25 hours a day, 7 days a week.



**Brooklyn Bridge**

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**Staten Island Ferry**

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## Timeline

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**1609**

British **navigator** Henry Hudson sails up the river that was later named after him.

**1626**

The Dutch set up a **trading post** and call it New Amsterdam.

**1664**

The British take over New Amsterdam and rename it New York.

**1840 – 1860**

First wave of immigration - mostly from Ireland and Scandinavia

**1892**

Ellis Island becomes the centre for immigration to America.

**1931**

The Empire State Building becomes the largest **skyscraper** in New York

**1972**

The twin towers of the World Trade Centre open.

**2001**

Terrorists attack America and fly planes into the World Trade Centre



**European immigrants arriving at Ellis Island in 1915**

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