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THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10007


Spring 2009

Dear Friends:

Nothing's more New York than riding our City's buses and subways. And they're a great way to experience the best that NYC has to offer. Whether hopping on the 6 train through the art deco entrance at Astor Place, pulling up to the waterfront at Battery Park on the M15, or ascending from the A train into the historic heart of Harlem at 125th Street, there's something new to explore at every stop. But the excitement isn't only in Manhattan! You can find yourself soaking up the sun at Brooklyn's Coney Island by riding the F train, cheering on the Yankees by taking the D, touring world cuisine through Queens on the Q66 or Q19, and exploring Staten Island's Snug Harbor with a scenic ferry ride and a short trip on the S40.

With so many options to choose from, this guide will certainly come in handy in deciding what to do next. But we hope whether you're a long-term resident or a visitor on a short stay that you'll take the opportunity to explore every corner of our City by letting the route take you wherever it leads. You won't be disappointed that you did.

Sincerely,

  
Michael R. Bloomberg  
Mayor

## INTRODUCTION



### INTRODUCTION



One of the best-kept secrets in New York is that MTA New York City Transit buses and subways are the best and cheapest way for visitors to see the City. *New York City by Bus and Subway* (an officially licensed MTA publication) will show visitors how to utilize

public transportation for sightseeing and will provide fascinating, interesting and unusual tours with commentary about the sights, neighborhoods and attractions along the way.

*New York City by Bus and Subway* is the key that will open the door for visitors to venture beyond the beaten tourist paths, getting them out on their own to discover the real New York - the neighborhoods, the people, the culture, the history and the ethnic diversity of the five boroughs.

This volume presents a unique collection of easy-to-follow self-guided bus rides and walking tours based on the use of public transportation. Commentary for this guide is provided by a "Who's Who" of distinguished New York City authors, historians and tour guides who share their love and knowledge of New York with you.

### TRAVEL TIPS

The following are some basic sightseeing tips to help make your visit a more pleasant and positive experience:

## Best Days

While there are no bad days to take the walking tours offered in this Guide, certain days are better than others for several of the neighborhoods, so be sure to check for the Best Days noted at the beginning of each walk. If the weather is an issue, take a bus ride instead of a walk. As a general rule, most museums are closed on Monday and sometimes Tuesday as well, particularly the smaller ones. If you want to visit a specific venue, call the phone number we provide to make sure when it is open.

## Work in Progress

New York is a constantly changing work in progress, so it is very possible that some of the sights and attractions listed in this Guide may be closed for renovation or may even no longer exist. While at the time of publication, every effort has been made to make this Guide as up-to-date and accurate as possible, it is impossible to predict what will happen in the future.

## Safety

Despite what most people think, the FBI in a 2007 report considered New York to be the safest big city in America. Nevertheless it is wise to be alert and to exercise caution and common sense at all times while touring the City, particularly at night, on side streets, in parks and in less populated areas. *While all the tours in this Guide have been chosen for historical and visual interest, safety has been a major consideration as well.*

## Lay of the Land

Most of Manhattan, and significant parts of the other boroughs as well, is laid out on a right-angle grid pattern. The Commissioner's Plan of 1811 established that Manhattan, between 14 St and Washington Heights, would be laid out in a grid pattern with consecutive numbered streets running east/west (Fifth Avenue being the great divide between them), and avenues running north/south. The major exceptions to this rule are Greenwich Village west of 6 Av and Lower Manhattan where things can get a bit confusing as the streets were allowed to remain as they were originally laid out several centuries ago.

## ARTS FOR TRANSIT



As you travel through the Metropolitan Transportation Authority network, you experience a first-rate art museum with works created in mosaic, terra cotta, bronze, glass and mixed-media sculpture.

The founders of the New York City subway believed that every design element in the system should show respect for our customers and enhance the experience of travel. Language was added to contracts to require the highest quality materials and craftsmanship. This led to the extensive use of ceramic tile, terra cotta and mosaics as decorative elements. As the century-old transportation network is restored and renewed, these decorative elements of the past are preserved and protected as contemporary art and design are introduced.

In conjunction with a massive rehabilitation program launched in the 1980s, MTA Arts for Transit was created to oversee the selection of artists and the installation of permanent artworks in subway and commuter rail stations. The program encompasses *Music Under New York*, a Transit Poster Program, and the Lightbox Project, a series of photography exhibits.

We invite you to discover and enjoy this diverse and beautiful 21-year-old collection of commissioned public artwork installed throughout the subway and commuter rail stations of the MTA.

