

The best MARCO POLO Insider Tips

Our top 15 Insider Tips



INSIDER TIP ▶ Humble beginnings

The *Tenement Museum* is a faithful reproduction of the way immigrants experienced New York way back in the 19th century (photo right) → p. 40

INSIDER TIP ▶ Film-making up close

Take a look behind the scenes at the *Museum of the Moving Image*. Not only learn how films are cut and sound recorded, but also create your own flip book movie → p. 123

INSIDER TIP ▶ Club par excellence

Live concerts, dancing, karaoke and ping-pong are all on offer at *The Bell House*, one of the trendiest clubs in Brooklyn → p. 88

INSIDER TIP ▶ World affairs lunch

Yes, there's a *canteen* at the United Nations, too! You can rub shoulders with politicians while you have lunch at the UN Building in Midtown with a view of the East River → p. 69

INSIDER TIP ▶ Asian delight

The hip *Momofuku Ssäm Bar* in East Village – regrettably not for vegetarians – serves delicious meat dishes → p. 66

INSIDER TIP ▶ A street vendor worth hunting down

Before you go out to eat you need to check Facebook, Twitter or the *Schnitzel & Things* website: to hunt down where this food truck will be parked – its location changes daily → p. 71

INSIDER TIP ▶ Eccentric eatery

Inspired by the cult film “*The Big Lebowski*”, the owner of the *Little Lebowski* family eatery in Greenwich Village will serve you your meal clad in his dressing gown → p. 80

INSIDER TIP ▶ A music workout

Ever heard of the shuffleboard? Give it a try to the sounds of DJ music and drinks at the bar at *Royal Palm Shuffle* → p. 86

INSIDER TIP ▶ The pharmacist is “in”

Green Absinth is served by waiters dressed in white lab coats at *Apothéke* – this place in Chinatown seems more like a stage than a bar → p. 84

INSIDER TIP ▶ Party beneath chandeliers

Welcome to the home of the Polish community where rock and indie bands play the music of today in a 1950s ballroom – the *Warsaw Club* is a timeless gem → p. 89

INSIDER TIP ▶ Off to the island

A ferry runs from Manhattan to *Governors Island* with its green meadows and historic buildings where concerts and dance events are often offered free of charge → p. 77

INSIDER TIP ▶ Sea sensation

The rooms in the historical *Jane Hotel* are called cabins and are decorated like berths on a ship. It has a marvellous view of the Hudson River → p. 100

INSIDER TIP ▶ Flying high

The *Trapeze School* in Hudson River Park gives (not only) children the opportunity to become a circus performer for the day as a juggler, trampolinist or trapeze artist. Learn to “fly” fearlessly with a safety net → p. 123

INSIDER TIP ▶ Ode to joy

Not to be missed are the many *open air concerts* of the world renowned Metropolitan Opera held in various parks all over the city. They are among the most impressive New York experiences to be had in the summer (for free) → p. 91

INSIDER TIP ▶ Much more than just a park

The sprawling *Brooklyn Bridge Park* is chock-full of fun: kayaks, beach volleyball, grills, live music, open-air movies, playgrounds, a beach, a historic carousel and much, much more (photo left) → p. 97



BEST OF...

GREAT PLACES FOR FREE

Discover new places and save money

● *Bastion of contemporary art*

Entry to The Museum of Modern Art (*MoMA*) is free every Friday afternoon. The museum's collection of contemporary art is phenomenal and its special exhibitions are outstanding (photo) → p. 44

● *The ferry not to be missed*

When the *Staten Island Ferry* pulls away from the shore you get to see the full sweep of the Manhattan skyline from the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island across to New Jersey on the one side and Brooklyn on the other. This free trip is full of magic! → p. 33

● *Native Americans in the heart of the big city*

The history of the American Indians with their rituals, customs and art is presented in an imposing building in the south of Manhattan, the *National Museum of the American Indian*. Admission to see the treasures of the Native Americans is free → p. 32

● *City tour with local guides*

Big Apple Greeters are a group of engaged New Yorkers who take pleasure in showing visitors around their hometown. A good way to make new friends – and all you have to pay is a smile → p. 36

● *Gospel songs that strike a chord*

The devotion of the congregation at a *gospel church service* – clad in their Sunday best with flamboyant hats – is guaranteed to give you goose pimples! → p. 44

● *Where robots roam*

The *Sony Wonder Technology Lab* is a technical wonderland where visitors can program robots, create cartoon characters or make radio recordings. Admission is free, so don't hesitate to give it a go! → p. 46

● *Mini stage with maxi music*

The small, but first-rate club *Barbes* brings excellent music to the stage, free of charge, with a mix of jazz, world beats and East European tunes → p. 87

●●● Dots in guidebook refer to "Best of..." tips

ONLY IN NEW YORK

Unique experiences

● *Reflections on the 9/11 site*

The poignant *9/11 Memorial* is a place for contemplation. Three waterfalls tumble into two huge pools that mark the exact spots where the twin towers used to be → p. 29

● *Front row seats on the square*

With 42nd Street on *Times Square* having been declared a pedestrian precinct visitors can now take in the world-famous neon lights from the comfort of a chair or seated on one of the steps → p. 27

● *Department store of superlatives*

Macy's is the biggest department store and a New York institution. Its parade on July 4th is an extravagant spectacle with gigantic balloons and dancing cheerleaders → p. 76

● *A bird's eye view of the Big Apple*

Gaze over the length of Central Park and the Manhattan skyline from the *Roof Garden* of the Metropolitan Museum. While the people below run around like busy bees, you can sit back and enjoy the view with a cocktail in hand → p. 54

● *A feast for the senses*

SoHo is known for its large lofts belonging to stars like Madonna, its superb galleries and boutiques and its gourmet grocery stores. The most famous is *Dean & DeLuca* which has been importing delicacies from around the world for more than 30 years – delicious but pricey! → p. 75

● *A breath of fresh air*

Rambling *Central Park* with its trees, boulders and waterfalls was established more than a century ago. Today this green belt is a rollerbladers', joggers', nannies' and dog-lovers' paradise. Whether lazing on the lawns, rowing on the lakes or listening to a concert – there is plenty to do here (photo) → p. 50

● *Donut delight*

The *Doughnut Plant* steps it up a notch when it comes to the stereotypical donut. Their decadent donuts come in a selection of unusual flavours (like pistachio, peanut butter or blueberry) and shapes → p. 62



ONLY IN



DISCOVERY TOURS

1

NEW YORK AT A GLANCE



START: ① Eisenberg's
END: ⑮ Rockwood Music Hall

1 day
 Driving/walking time
 (without stops)
 3.5 hours

Distance:
 → 30 km/18.6 miles

COSTS: entrance fees \$57, speedboat *The Beast* \$29, food and drinks \$50, taxi approx. \$12



IMPORTANT TIPS: avoid the long lines at the Empire State Building by purchasing tickets online (more expensive). Buy a weekly ticket for the subway (\$31). Eisenberg's doesn't open until 9am on Sat/Sun.

New York at its best – from an authentic diner breakfast to the different boroughs and the tallest skyscrapers to the most authentic club.

Cities have many faces. If you want to get behind the scenes to explore their unique charm and head off the beaten track or find your way to green oases, handicapped restaurants or the best local activities, then these tailored Discovery Tours are just the right thing. Choose the best route for the day and follow in the footsteps of the MARCO POLO authors – well-prepared to navigate your way to all the many highlights that await you along the tour.

08:00am Thanks to the time change, you will probably be starving when you wake up on your first morning in New York. At ① **Eisenberg's** → p. 62 – a traditional diner in Chelsea (subway N, R 23 Street) – eggs and different kinds of toast are made to order. If you sit at the counter, you can watch how fast the cooks and waitstaff work. Once you've cleaned your plate, **walk north on Fifth Avenue, past one of New York's real landmarks, the Flatiron Building (on the right near 23rd Street)**, which looks like an upright clothes iron. Shortly thereafter, you will come to

① Eisenberg's

