

# NYC

## Travel, food, and entertainment: suggestions from the organizers of The Last HOPE

### Getting Around Town

New York City is easier to get around than most cities in the world. It's also one of the most friendly. Yes, we said friendly. Forget what you see on TV and in the movies. People here will look out for you and help you if you have a question, as long as you're not annoying or overly naive. In other words, if you made it here you should be fine.

**Subways** are by far the most efficient and cheapest way to get places that you don't want to walk to. (We really do encourage you to walk as much as you can if you really want to take in the sights.) Free subway maps are available from the agents in any station.

We don't recommend taking the **buses** if you're not familiar with New York City (they're slower and more confusing than the subway), but the bus maps, also available in subway stations, are nice, free maps of the city.

There are three major subway stations within a block of the hotel.

**The 1, 2, and 3 lines** are right outside the front door of the hotel. This is the 7th Avenue line that goes to the West Village (downtown) and the Upper West Side (uptown). Just walk to the left or the right once you leave the hotel and look for the entrance.

**The A, C, and E lines** are on 8th Avenue. Simply walk across the street and downstairs into Penn Station and follow the signs. All three of these trains go to the West Village (downtown) while on their uptown runs the A and C go to the Upper West Side and the E loops through Midtown before heading to Queens.

**The B, D, F, and V lines** are one block to the east on Broadway. They run downtown along 6th Avenue to the Lower East Side and on to Brooklyn. The B and D run uptown to the Upper West Side, while the F and V end up in Queens.

**The N, Q, R, and W lines** are also one block to the east on Broadway. They all go up to Midtown and (except for the Q) also wind up in various parts of Queens. Downtown they all go through various parts of the East Village, Lower East Side, and Chinatown before heading to Brooklyn.

Each ride on the subway costs \$2.00, and you get an additional 15% "bonus" if you put at least \$7 on your card at once. (Paying \$15.65 will give you a \$2.35 bonus and thus an \$18 card, if you like to have a whole number of rides.) Once you're in the system, you can stay there forever and ride every train. (Please

don't do that this weekend.) You can also get an all-day transit pass that will work until 3 a.m. on all buses and subways for \$7.50. It doesn't pay to get this unless you use it four or more times in a day. Weekly passes may be a better deal, selling for \$25 for a full week, or consider a 30-day pass for \$81 if you're in town for a while. All of these passes reset after 15 minutes so technically you could let someone else into the system on your card if you wait around. (You didn't hear that from us.) The normal \$2.00 Metrocard fare isn't that bad a deal if you use it wisely. You get a free transfer from train to bus and vice versa for a little more than two hours after you swipe it. (For some reason you don't get this deal with cash. For some other reason, buses don't take paper money at all.) So if you go somewhere by subway and get on a returning bus within two hours, you've saved half the cost right there.

And if you can't stand mass transit, just wave your hand and, like magic, taxis will swirl around you and take you anywhere you want to go. Be sure to tip generously or you will make an enemy for life.

### Popular Destinations

**Bleecker Street:** Same as the East Village (below). Just go one more stop on the 6 to Bleecker. Walk west and hook up with the West Village. Echoes of Dylan can still be heard.

**Broadway Theater District:** Walk east to Broadway, make a left, and it will unfold in front of your eyes. (Note the lack of use of a subway.)

**Central Park:** For the east side of the Park, take an uptown N, R, or W to 5th Avenue. For the west side of the Park, take an uptown A, B, C, or D to 59th Street/Columbus Circle. The Park is what keeps New Yorkers sane. There's always something happening whether it's Shakespeare in the Park, free concerts at the Summerstage, or just the everyday kite flying, dog walking, bike riding, jogging, and lying in the sun. You too can bask on a field, climb a rock, or visit the zoo. You could spend the entire weekend there. Too bad you have this conference you can't miss a moment of. So extend your stay and explore during the week!

**Chinatown:** Take the N, Q, R, or W southbound to Canal Street and walk east. The best street to walk down in Chinatown is Mott Street which intersects Canal. Chinatown is also adjacent to Little Italy.

**East Village:** Take the N, Q, R, or W to 14th Street/Union Square, transfer to a downtown 6, and take that one stop to Asator Place. (You can even walk from Union Square and skip the 6 if you prefer.) Head east on St. Mark's Place towards Tompkins Square Park. That street alone will provide you with all sorts of places to check out for an entire night. Lots of Indian food is on 6th Street between 1st and 2nd Avenues. There are 24 hour Ukrainian restaurants on 2nd Avenue. The neighborhood is filled with plenty of fun places that are open late extending all the way to Avenue C (east of the park).

**Empire State Building:** It's not even possible to take a subway to this location from the hotel since it's so close. You should really have no difficulty spotting it.

**Fifth Avenue:** Either take an uptown E or an uptown N, R, or W. The N, R, and W will drop you right on the southeastern corner of Central Park. The E will drop you a few blocks south of that. Or simply walk east a couple of blocks from the hotel, make a left onto Fifth Avenue, and it'll all start to come alive.

**Ground Zero:** Site of the past and future World Trade Center and location of the biggest terrorist act ever to occur in the United States. There are still memorials up but the site is slowly moving forward as construction is underway on the new tower. Much of the infrastructure has been restored with a temporary train station now open for New Jersey commuters. (This "PATH" station is worth a visit for its displays, massive amount of escalators, and unusual (for New York) architecture. Plus it's the closest view you can get of the WTC site. Take the E southbound to the last stop, which is still called World Trade Center.

**Koreatown:** More often known as "K-Town," a block east of the hotel (on 32nd Street) you will see a whole bunch of Korean businesses including places where you can get Korean food around the clock. If you're really adventurous, try the Korean barbecue where you cook your own food at your table.

**Midtown Tourist Trap:** To see Rockefeller Center, try to get into the Letterman show, get ripped off at the Carnegie Deli, jump up and down like idiots outside the Today Show, or any of the other touristy things people in midtown do, just take an uptown B, D, F, or V to 47-50th Street and go nuts. Or walk.

**Times Square:** It's only eight blocks up 7th or 8th Avenue but if you insist, take the 1, 2, 3, A, C, or E uptown one stop.

**Wall Street:** Take the downtown 2 or 3 to the money capital of the world. You may even see soldiers with machine guns pro-

tecting all that money from the likes of you. Soon to be renamed Armed Barricade Street. Due to the current economic situation, the practice of dropping money from the sky has been suspended.

**West Village:** Depending on how far west you want to go, either take the A, B, C, D, E, F, or V to West 4th Street (not so west) or the 1 to Christopher Street (more west). This is historically the heart of the gay district so if you're coming from a red state, you may find yourself going into shock. Don't panic. And don't forget to check out the meatpacking district (no jokes please, that's what it really is) south of 14th Street for a strange looking neighborhood with lots of clubs and cobblestone streets.

There are always shows, concerts, and performances of all types to see while in New York (apart from the spectacles you will witness here at the conference). There is no way we could even begin to focus on them but there are many other easy ways to find out what's going on. Simply pick up a free copy of *The Village Voice* or *The New York Press* and see what's listed. Or just ask around.

## Food and Where to Get It

This is New York City—there is a lot of food here, and a lot of it is really good. What's below are just some suggestions. There are all sorts of neat places out there waiting for you to discover them, any time of the day or night. For more suggestions, check with the Info Desk, look on the HOPE forums, or visit [menupages.com](http://menupages.com).

### Around the Hotel

If it's fast food you're looking for, you will find a wide assortment in the blocks surrounding the hotel. There are also dozens of places across 7th Avenue inside Penn Station. A block to the east on 32nd Street you will find yourself in K-Town, a 24-hour mecca of Korean food. You won't find much west of Penn Station but to the north is Times Square, the West Village is due south (a moderate walk or a short subway ride), and all sorts of things can be found to the east.

Here are some places nearby:

**Brother Jimmy's** Barbecue. 416 8th Avenue, at 31st Street.

**Minar** Pretty decent cheap Indian food. 5 West 31st Street, between 5th and 6th Avenue.

**Hangawi** Vegetarian Korean food. 12 East 32nd Street, between Madison and 5th Avenue.

**Home on 8th** Good Chinese food, for both vegetarians and omnivores. 391 8th Avenue, between 29th and 30th Street.

**Skylight Diner** Fairly standard diner, open 24 hours. 402 West 34th Street, at 9th Avenue.

### Curry Hill

The stretch of Lexington Avenue between around 26th and 29th Street has become known as "Little India" or "Curry Hill" due to the large number of Indian restaurants along it. Some highlights:

**Curry in a Hurry** A classic place with a pretty much self-describing name. 119 Lexington Avenue, between 28th and 29th Street.

**Chinese Mirch** Has "Indian-style Chinese" food and is definitely worth trying. 120 Lexington Avenue, between 28th and 29th Street.

**Madras Mahal** All-vegetarian and Kosher-certified. And pretty darn good. 104 Lexington Avenue, between 27th and 28th Street.

**Roomali** Serves Indian-style "wraps," which is a brilliant invention. 97 Lexington Avenue, between 26th and 27th Street.

### Chelsea

There are a number of restaurants and clubs in the West 20s.

**Chelsea Market** A number of decent places to get lunch, in an old factory. 75 9th Avenue, between 15th and 16th Street.

**Pita Pan Café** Well-prepared Middle Eastern standards. 273 8th Avenue, between 23rd and 24th Street.

**Whole Foods** Overpriced, but if you want to walk from the hotel to a supermarket, this is a good one. 250 7th Avenue, at 24th Street.

### East Village

The coordinators of The Last HOPE want to invite all attendees to New York's famous East Village, a wonderful place to spend an evening. (Subway directions are above.) Formerly home to wealthy families, the area is now known for its original, offbeat culture. Incidentally, this area also happens to offer a varied assortment of foods. Provided below are restaurants, cafes, and bars all relatively close to each other. (Note: St. Mark's Place and 8th Street are the same.)

**7A** A lively 24 hour food and drink establishment, decent on all fronts. As its name implies, it's on the corner of 7th Street and Avenue A.

**Angelica Kitchen** Organic vegan cooking and extremely popular. 300 East 12th Street, right off 2nd Avenue.

**Around the Clock** The traditional place to go after the monthly 2600 meetings since the 1980s. 8 Stuyvesant Street, off 3rd Avenue (very close to 9th Street).

**Avenue A Sushi** Japanese food. 105 Avenue A, between 6th and 7th Street.

**Awash** Yummy Ethiopian food. 338 East 6th Street, between 1st and 2nd Avenue.

**Café Orlin** Open around the clock. 41 St. Mark's Place, between 1st and 2nd Avenue.

**Dumpling Man** Lunchtime dumplings with an attitude. 100 St. Mark's Place, between 1st Avenue and Avenue A.

**Gruppo** Ultra thin crust New York pizza. 186 Avenue B, between 11th and 12th Street.

**John's of 12th Street** Old school Italian food. 302 East 12th Street, right off 2nd Avenue (and right smack next to Angelica Kitchen).

**Khyber Pass** Afghan food. 34 St. Mark's Place, between 2nd and 3rd Street.

**Max** Excellent Italian food with a great atmosphere. 51 Avenue B, between 3rd and 4th Street.

**Nicky's Vietnamese Sandwiches** Very tasty (and cheap!) sandwiches. 150 East 2nd Street, right off Avenue A.

**Nino's Pizza** Great slices, all sorts of weird customers, and an amazing view of the street. Open til dawn. Corner of St. Mark's Place and Avenue A.

**Sidewalk** Open all night with a wide assortment of dishes and lots of outdoor tables. 94 Avenue A, on the corner of 6th Street.

**Sonar Gaow** Very cheap Indian food. 328 East 6th Street, between 1st and 2nd Avenue.

[Note that you will find a wide variety of Indian places on this part of 6th Street.]

**Yaffa Cafe** Popular late night hangout with decent food and desserts. 97 St. Mark's Place, between 1st Avenue and Avenue A. (Across the street you will see the building that was on the cover of Led Zeppelin's *Physical Graffiti* album.)

### After Food

**Decibel** Basement sake bar. 240 East 9th Street, between 2nd and 3rd Avenue.

**Lucy's** Cozy bar with all sorts of interesting types going through the door. Say hi to Lucy but don't try and show her a fake ID. 135 Avenue A, between 8th and 9th Street.

**Mars Bar** The epitome of a dive bar. Not for the faint of heart. David Lynch would just love this place. 25 East 1st Street, on the corner of 2nd Avenue.

**Veniero's** Pasticceria and cafe. A huge Italian dessert hangout that's been around since 1894.

*Note that perennial hacker favorite café Alt.Coffee recently closed, much to the dismay of many of the HOPE organizers.*