



# UPPER WEST SIDE

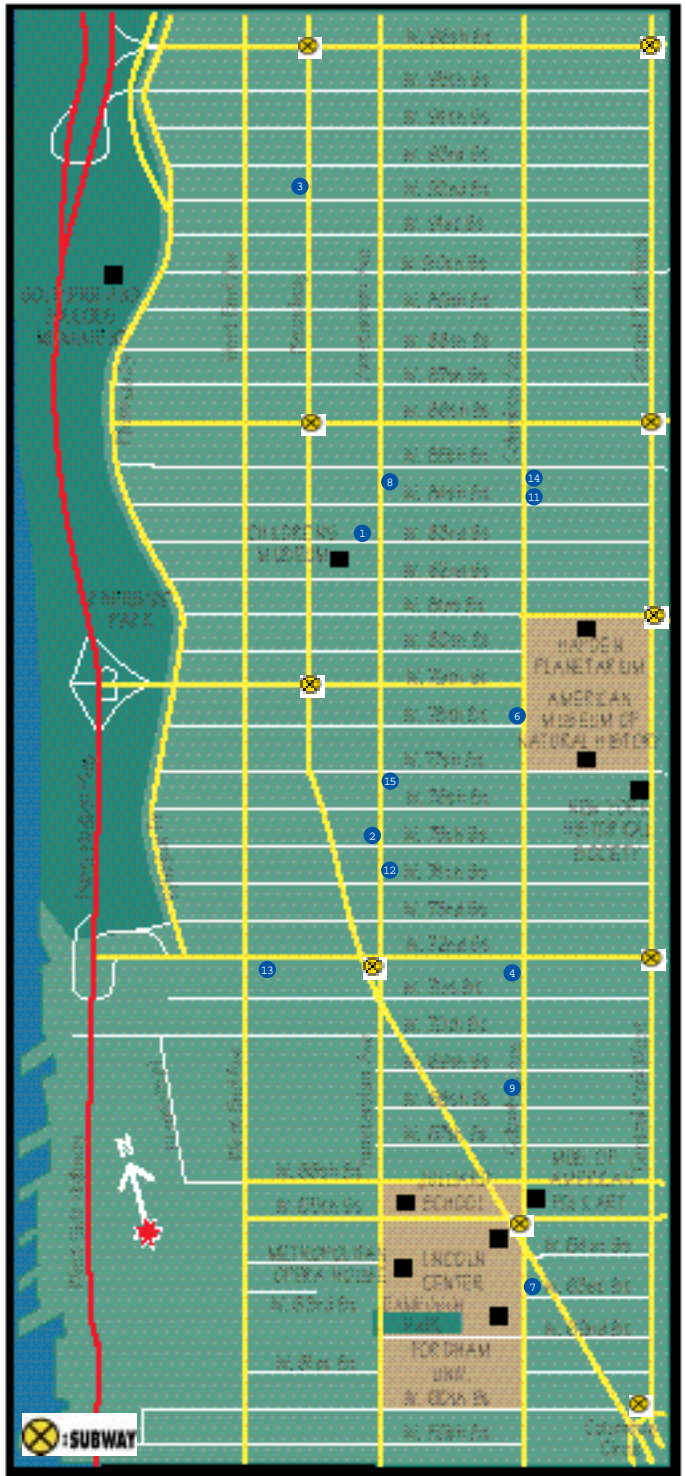


*The rousing AtNight scenes played out in the crowded bars along Broadway, Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues will echo with you long after last call.*

A steady stream of artists, intellectuals and affluent young professionals pouring in over the last few decades has reinventing the Upper West Side of Manhattan. Bounded by Central Park to the east and the Hudson River to the west, the area stretches from Columbus Circle north through Morningside Heights. The area boasts numerous New York cultural institutions such as Lincoln Center, the American Museum of Natural History, Columbia University, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, the Dakota Apartments and Zabar's food emporium.

Close enough to NYC's swirling epicenter in midtown, the Upper West Side is yet far enough removed to shed some of the plastic madness and congestion due south. It's as worthy of its uptown autograph as its neighbor on the other side of Central Park, though certainly less pretentious. From the endless energy spilling out from the rows of popular bars and restaurants, to the chic sidewalk eateries slightly hidden away, the Upper West Side is alive and electric.

Experience the Upper West Side over a sidewalk brunch at one of the many neighborhood eateries. Or, shell out a few ducats more for a sophisticated rendezvous at some of the area's more famous establishments like Tavern on the Green. The popular AtNight scene in the crowded bars along Broadway, Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues will surely echo with you long after last call.



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Type of  
Establishment  
Bar/Restaurant

Hours  
F-Sa 9am-4am  
M-Th 8am-2am

Drink Prices  
Inexpensive

Food  
Light Menu/  
Desserts

Nearest  
Subway  
1,9 to  
79th Street

Credit Cards  
Cash Only

### Cafe Lalo

201 West 83rd Street  
Between Amsterdam & Broadway  
212.496.6031

With the Upper West Side the undisputed heavyweight brunch capital of the world, it comes as no surprise that the city's brunchiest venues is located on West 83rd Street. Expect a long line to snag a couple of seats. The wait for a table at this brightly lit side street fixture is usually just as long on Sunday afternoon as it was the night before. Locals will tell you Cafe Lalo is a great spot to top off an evening with someone, and something, sweet. Go ahead, you know you could use another cup of coffee. Waiting in that line must have killed your buzz.

### Citrus Bar & Grill

320 Amsterdam Avenue @ 75th Street  
212.595.0500

The decor and food at this bar/restaurant lean towards Southwestern eclectic. In other words, expect tacky cowboy motifs on the banquettes. The lighting, though, is something that no self-respecting roadhouse would hang. Blend in as you wrangle one of the potent potables they wrangle up here, momentarily leaving you with a distinctive Southwestern drawing 'Got-Damn'. The scene morphs over the course of the evening, starting early with small yuppy clans crowding the tables. The bar traffic picks up around 9pm as a second wave of young professionals rolls in, minus the munchkins. Later on, Citrus is taken over by a more relaxed, singles-minded mentality.

### Cleopatra's Needle

2485 Broadway  
Between 92nd & 93rd Streets  
212.769.6969

Strap on your sax and step to this Egyptian bar that's as close to an epic night in Tunisia as you'll find in New York. While bands blow it up nightly starting at 9pm, the real thrill is the open jam session starting around 1am. What is it about North African food and jazz? Maybe it all goes back to Dizzy Gillespie's obsession. Cleopatra's Needle fills the void for both, drawing the occasional knot of Columbia students in the know, but mostly an older crowd. Their professors, perhaps?

### Cream

246 Columbus Avenue @ 72nd Street  
212.712.1666

The Victorian main lounge. The flashing jungle room. The electric red room. The icy Winter Wonderland. Cream is as delightfully over-the-top as you'll get this far uptown. There are several bars, and two dance floors, one of which has giant plastic trees looming overhead. DJs spin a variety of hip-hop, dance and R&B tracks. Variety awaits the uptown clubber here, but you'll need your AtNight radar for this one. There's no signage out front. Still, the velvet rope, the bouncer, and the line should tip you off. And, keep in mind that dope Wu-Tang jam: C.ash R.ules E.verything A.round M.e.

### Dead Poet

450 Amsterdam Avenue  
Between 81st & 82nd Streets  
212.595.5670

Don't think Robin Williams tear jerker. Think traditional English pub uprooted, hauled all the way across the pond and replanted right on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. Though from the sidewalk out on Amsterdam Dead Poet looks small, this literary-leaning watering hole is quite spacious. Well, it's big enough to sport a few gas streetlights, a small library and plenty of Westsiders. Sorry, you'll not find many of those cute, cuddly soccer hooligan types here for World Cup Action, but the big screen TV up front is great on game day. And, the regulars really roll through en masse for the lengthy 8am-8pm Happy Hour.

### Evelyn Lounge

380 Columbus Avenue @ 78th Street  
212.724.2363

That the Evelyn Lounge has two separate entrances speaks volumes for its dual personality. Turn left at the bouncer and head downstairs for a basement atmosphere that some say is hardly more than a frat party by candlelight. Not that we've got anything against arrested adolescents, especially when they're this friendly. Opt out for the upstairs area though, where the lounge really lives up to its name. The quiet bar lined with comfortable chairs and sofas makes for a great setting for some quiet conversation. It's the sort of place you'd want to bring a date you actually want to talk to.

Type of  
Establishment  
Club

Hours  
Daily 10pm-4am

Drink Prices  
Expensive

Food  
N/A

Nearest  
Subway  
1,2,3,9 to  
72nd Street

Credit Cards  
All Major  
www.creamnyc.com

Type of  
Establishment  
Bar/Restaurant

Hours  
F 5:30pm-1am  
Sa 5pm-12am  
Su 11:30am-11pm

M  
5:30pm-11pm  
Tu-Th 5:30pm-12am

Drink Prices  
Moderate

Food  
Southwestern

Nearest  
Subway  
1,9,2,3 to  
79th Street

Credit Cards  
AmEx, MC, V  
www.citrusnyc.com

Type of  
Establishment  
Bar/Restaurant

Hours  
Daily 3pm-4am

Drink Prices  
Moderate

Food  
American/  
Continental

Nearest

Type of  
Establishment  
Bar

Hours  
Daily 8am-4am

Drink Prices  
Inexpensive

Food  
N/A

Nearest  
Subway  
1,9 to 79th Street

Credit Cards  
AmEx, MC, V  
www.deadpoet.com

Type of  
Establishment  
Bar/Lounge

Hours  
Daily 6pm-2am

Drink Prices  
Moderate

Food  
American

Nearest  
Subway  
1,9 to  
79th Street

Type of  
Establishment  
Live Music

Hours  
F-Sa 5pm-2am  
Su 11am-11pm  
M-Th 5pm-1am

Drink Prices  
Expensive

Food  
New American

Nearest  
Subway 1,9 to  
66th Street

Credit Cards  
AmEx,  
Discover, MC,  
V

\$20-\$30 Cover

### Iridium Jazz Club (Empire)

48 West 63rd Street  
Between Columbus & Broadway  
212.582.2121

If it's good enough for the legendary Les Paul to have a regular gig here, it's good enough for us. This fairly recent addition (circa 1993) to the storied NYC jazz establishment has become one of the toniest live music joints in town, in part due to its swoopy deco decor, its full menu from upstairs restaurant Merlot, and its roster of



top-notch headliners. The crowd knows its jazz, and the clued-in regulars jockey for the tables up front where listening to jazz icons becomes a truly intimate experience. For live jazz, Iridium certainly rivals anything

Midtown or the Village offers these days.

### Moonlighting

511 Amsterdam Avenue  
Between 84th & 85th Streets  
212.799.4643

Not much lounging going on here with the elegant wooden bar surrounded by less-than-comfortable stools and the mezzanine near the DJ booth furniture-free. That's just fine. The layout forces the attractive clientele to its collective feet to enjoy their well-heeled neighbors and the eclectic sounds spewing out of the speakers. Some spectacular drink specials early on weekend evenings make this a great start to a night out, especially if you happen to be female: 8pm-10:30pm, Thursday through Saturday, ladies drink for free.

### Peter's

182 Columbus Avenue  
Between 68th & 69th Streets  
212.877.4747

Thankfully the trompe l'oeil columns are accents on the decor and not part of some ill conceived overblown, overall theme. This laid-back Lincoln Center area bar/restaurant is a great for a pre-opera grilled chicken sandwich or a post-symphony nightcap. Despite its hoity-toity institutional neighbors (which includes two big movie houses) and the faux facades, the pretension level in this neighborhood jukebox-and-pool-table joint is practically nil. It can, however, get pretty crowded later in the evening, when the ABC crews across the street start to wander in, and those who came for dinner are loathe to give up their precious seats.

### Potion Lounge

370 Columbus Avenue  
Between 77th & 78th Streets  
212.721.4386

The Upper West Side crowd is slowly finding its way to this ambitious little overachiever tucked away on Columbus Ave. A thumping soundtrack and beefy bouncers with matching comb-overs greet you at the door of this hip little Euro-style bar that wants oh so much to be an even hipper club. You can't see in from the street because of the tiny blue bubbles simmering up across the windows. But if you could, you'd spy a small chic space including a slick bar, a few cozy booths, but little room to dance. The signature Potions run \$10, so they'd better work some kind of magic. They also offer a selection of champagnes, and bottles of liquor for the table (Absolut will run you around \$150).

### Prohibition

503 Columbus Avenue  
Between 84th & 85th Streets  
212.579.3100

Expecting another smarmy take on the hackneyed Prohibition-era theme, we were thankfully disappointed. What really sets this bar/restaurant apart is its live music, leaning towards the jazz tip. The decor uses the drinking-implement-as-light-fixture motif (wine bottles in this case), which along with the generous use of deep color gives Prohibition a dark, yet upbeat ambiance. Nights when the bands are off, Prohibition recedes to yet-another-local-bar status, albeit at the top of the list. You'll also find the crowd a bit older and more sedate than your usual.



### Shark Bar

307 Amsterdam Avenue  
Between 74th & 75th Streets  
212.874.8500

The dark, cozy front bar will help you get your groove back, should you have misplaced it on your way to this Upper West Side spot. But it's the jazzed upscale soul food served in the rear dining area that gives this little eatery its rep, drawing suddenly drooling locals and A-list celebs alike. The back room decor, reminiscent of Grandma's living room, is as homey as the cooking. Note: You'll first have to swim through the predatory crowds up front that give this place its menacing moniker.

Type of  
Establishment  
Lounge

Hours  
Tu-Sa 7pm-4am

Drink Prices  
Moderate

Food  
N/A

Nearest  
Subway 1,9 to 79th  
Street

Credit Cards  
AmEx, MC, V  
www.potionlounge.com

Type of  
Establishment  
Bar/Club

Hours  
W-F 6pm-4am  
Sa 7pm-4am  
Su 10pm-4am

Drink Prices  
Moderate

Food  
N/A

Nearest  
Subway 1,9 to  
86th Street

Credit Cards  
All Major

Su-\$10 Cover

Type of  
Establishment  
Bar/Restaurant

Hours  
Daily 11am-4am

Drink Prices  
Moderate

Food  
American/  
Continental

Nearest

Type of  
Establishment  
Bar/Restaurant

Hours  
Daily 5:30pm-4am

Drink Prices  
Expensive

Food  
Appetizers

Nearest  
Subway 1,9 to  
86th Street

Credit Cards  
All Major

Type of  
Establishment  
Bar/Restaurant

Hours  
F-Sa 5pm-1:30am  
Su 5pm-11:30pm  
M-Th 5pm-12am

Drink Prices  
Expensive

Type of  
Establishment  
Bar/Restaurant

Hours  
F-Sa 5:30 pm-  
1:30 am  
M-Th 5:30pm-  
12am

Drink Prices  
Expensive

Food:  
Mediterranean

Nearest  
Subway  
1,9,2,3 to  
72nd Street

Credit Cards  
All Major

www.ashforda-  
ndsimpson.co  
m

### Sugar Bar

254 West 72nd Street  
Between Broadway & West End Avenue  
212.579.0222

The tribal dance masks on the wall are definitely African, though the food at this restaurant isn't as easy to nail down. It seems the decor was assembled from the best of owner Nick Ashford's (of Asford & Simpson fame) African art collection, but the delicious menu ranges farther and wider, from delicately spiced African shrimp to Mediterranean dishes and blackened catfish. Sugar Bar is a smorgasbord of sight, sound and flavor. You can't tell from the front, but in back is one of the Upper West Side's very rare outdoor dining gardens. You'll have to navigate a short walk through the kitchen to get there, but for the novelty it's well worth the trek.

### Venue

505 Columbus Avenue  
Between 84th & 85th Streets  
212.579.9463

The velvet rope out front is a harbinger of things to come inside. Venue may not quite be the equal of its more famous downtown brethren, but this Columbus Avenue dance club and lounge has plenty of attitude, and lots to offer the tight ribbed t-shirt and black-clad crowd. The street-level rooms are laid back, so look downstairs for the action. You'll have to dodge the inflatable furniture (watch those keys in your back pocket), but they make a good place to perch with a drink as you both zone out admiring twirling lights on the back wall.

### Vermouth

355 Amsterdam @ 77th Street  
212.724.3600

Vermouth is much friendlier than its imposing red awnings and dark flickering atmosphere suggest. Behind the light fixtures (deep dangling sunbursts made of martini glasses) you'll find chatty bartenders and TVs tuned in to the game du jour. With a name like Vermouth, they'd better serve up a slamming Martini, which they do (over 20 varieties to choose from). A few tables for sit-down dining supplement a single long bar that spills out onto the street in warm weather. Sorry, no comfy lounges here. Still, the real appeal of the place is its intimacy,

Type of  
Establishment

Bar/Lounge

Hours  
Daily 7pm-  
4am

Drink Prices  
Moderate

Food  
N/A

Nearest  
Subway  
B,C to  
86th Street

Credit Cards  
AmEx, MC, V

www.venue.ny  
c.com

Type of  
Establishment  
Lounge

Hours  
F-Su 5pm-4am  
M-Th 5pm-  
2am

Drink Prices  
Expensive

Food  
Mediterranean