



MIDTOWN EAST

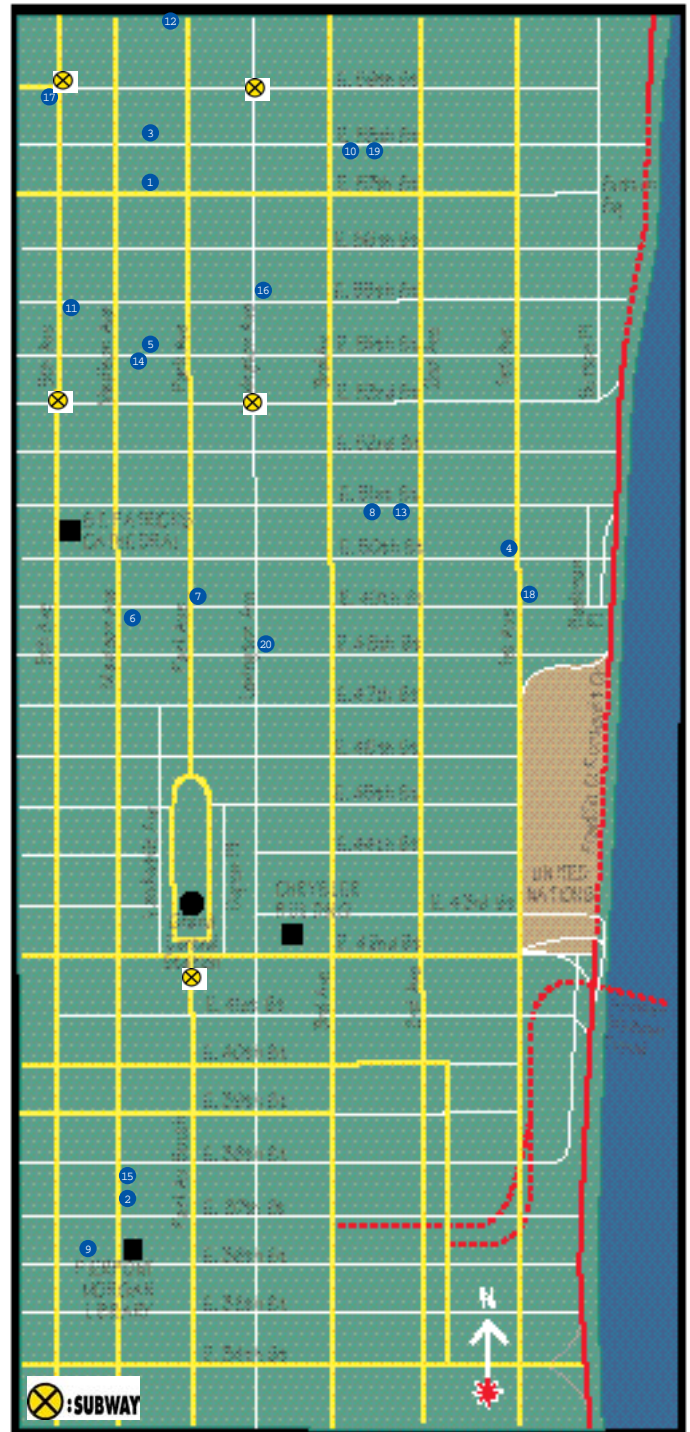


Nightlife in Midtown East is a carefully orchestrated symphony of hotel bars, theme clubs, champagne lounges, supper clubs, pre- and post-theater dining...

Midtown East is just a sampling of the finest sophistication New York City has to offer, whether it's a crucial business meeting or intimate dinner, there is an endless number of ideal settings here to make that desired impression.

The area offers countless sightseeing opportunities, including the Empire State Building, FAO Schwartz, Grand Central Terminal, Radio City Music Hall, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Trump Tower, and the United Nations. A crisp afternoon of ice skating at Rockefeller Center before treating yourself to a ridiculously expensive shopping spree at Bergdorf's and Saks is the typical holiday, but the options extend far beyond the confines of tourist traps.

Stroll down East of 3rd Avenue and see how the other half lives in the cozy and urban upper-crusty bistros and cigar lounges in Kips Bay, Murray Hill and Sutton Place. Walk further towards the river and behold the majesty of the United Nations complex, just don't expect to find any parking here. Proper planning is essential here, as you'll probably run out of time and money before things to do.



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Type of
Establishment
Bar/Restaurant

Hours
M-Sa 3:30pm-1am
Su 3:30pm-12am

Drink Prices
Expensive
Food
New American
Nearest
Subway
4,5,6,N,R to
59th Street
Credit Cards
All Major

5757 (Four Seasons)

57 East 57th Street
212.758.5757

Minimalist sophistication oozes from every nook and cranny here — from the high ceilings with their art deco onyx chandeliers to the low-lit, languid lounge. The martini is the drink of choice — with over 14 varieties to choose from. But, also try the oh-so-cool summer floats, or the almost forgotten classic cocktails of yesteryear. If you wish to make a night out of it, treat yourself to the excellent contemporary American fare based, true to Four Seasons policy, only on seasonal ingredients.

Asia De Cuba

237 Madison Avenue
Between 37th & 38th Streets
212.726.7755

You'll find neither Asia nor Cuba, but a fusion of minimalist and colonial — white on white on wood — when you enter this slick establishment. A long, glowing marble table stretches diagonally across the downstairs restaurant floor, colliding with a waterfall on the far wall. Pause a moment and inspect this somewhat ostentatious moving picture: it hides a few surprises. Everything's white, providing the perfect backdrop for deliberately dressed-down girls gliding past or reclining on oversized, semi-circular linen lounge chairs. It's obvious that the patrons come here not so much for the fusion of Asian-Latin food, or even the sangria, but rather to look and be looked upon.

Au Bar

41 East 58th Street
Between Park & Madison
212.308.9455

Partying at Au Bar feels a little like letting oneself loose at a moneyed friend's chateau while the elders are away. A long, narrow staircase, covered in Persian carpet, descends to a small dancefloor, surrounded by genteel looking lounge areas dotted with deep leather and chintz chairs. Old paintings, lit by small lamps, hanging from dark-brown walls cast a mellow glow over couples in close conversation. Short skirts and 'suits on a mission' mingle along the narrow bar over imported beer and cocktails. On the dancefloor, they get down and groove to the sounds of old-time favorites.

Beekman Bar & Books

889 1st Avenue @ 50th Street
212.980.9314

It may come as a surprise, but cigar smoking only became en vogue in the early 90s and this cigar bar was the first room in America dedicated to the art. Connoisseurs visit to choose from a select range of top quality cigars and have it personally cut and lit by an elegant hostess in black. Small, chic, well ventilated and undoubtedly uptown, patrons come here not so much to impress, but to enjoy a truly great cigar in a very intimate setting. In the back, a tres prive cigar bar is the perfect sequestered space in which to entertain close friends or business associates.

Bill's Gay Nineties

57 East 54th Street
Between Park & Madison
212.355.0243

That's Nineties — as in 1890s. Step into this popular former prohibition-era speakeasy and sample the shadows of an era long past, yet imbedded in the foundation of Manhattan's nightlife. Wall-to-wall period pictures of athletes and personalities — including signed prints of exhibits at the 1893 Columbia World's Fair in Chicago — peer down at you as you enjoy your dinner or drinks. The second floor dining room comes alive with the soulful sounds of Dixieland jazz on Monday nights, and features live cabaret talent Tuesday through Saturday.

Blackbird

60 East 49th Street
Between Park & Madison
212.692.9292

Blackbird as in the Beatles? *Blackbird* as in the subject of Wallace Stevens' poem? Not even...try a beautifully decorated 30s-to-modern-crossover cocktail lounge and restaurant. Then try a *Blackbird* cocktail, or any one of the special potent potables prepared by resident Master Mixologist, Dale DeGroff. He's been poring over ancient and modern texts for 24 years and knows how to masterfully blend them into his own unique works of tasteful art. Sip them round the lounge's low tables and circular seating, or take them with you into the restaurant and mingle with a fine array of American bistro cuisine.



Type of
Establishment
Bar/Restaurant

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

Drink Prices
Expensive
Food
Asian/Cuban
Nearest
Subway
4,5,6,7 to
Grand Central
Credit Cards
AmEx, V, Mc,
Diners

Type of
Establishment
Lounge/Club

Hours
Daily 9pm-4am

Drink Prices
Expensive
Food
Continental
Nearest

Type of
Establishment
Bar

Hours
M-Th 4:30pm-2am
F-Sa 4:30pm-4am
Su 6pm-2am

Drink Prices
Expensive
Food
Appetizers
Nearest
Subway
6 to 51st
Street
Credit Cards
AmEx, V, MC,
Diners
Jacket & Tie

Type of
Establishment
Bar/Restaurant

Hours
M-Sa 11:30am-1am

Drink Prices
Moderate
Food
American
Nearest
Subway
E,F to
3rd Avenue
Credit Cards
All Major

Type of
Establishment
Bar/Restaurant

Hours
F 12pm-1am
Sa 5pm-12am
M-W 12pm-12am

Drink Prices
Expensive
Food
American
Bistro
Nearest
Subway
6 to 51st
Street

Type of
Establishment
Bar/Restaurant

Hours
Daily 12pm-
11:30pm

Drink Prices
Expensive

Food
American

Nearest
Subway
E, F to
3rd Avenue

Credit Cards
All Major

Type of
Establishment
Lounge

Hours
M-F 5pm-4am
Sa-Su 7pm-
4am

Drink Prices
Moderate

Food
Eclectic Tapas

Nearest
Subway
6 to 51st
Street

Credit Cards
AmEx, V, MC,
Diners

Type of
Establishment
Bar

Hours
Th-Sa 12pm-
4am
Su 3pm-12am
M-W 11:30am-
2am

Drink Prices
Moderate

Food
Light Fare

Nearest
Subway
6 to 33rd
Street

Bull & Bear (Waldorf-Astoria)
301 Park Avenue @ 49th Street
212.872.4900

Located in the heart of the Waldorf-Astoria, this bar/restaurant, named after the highs and lows of the stock market, is clearly all about business. Oil paintings of horses, upholstered couches and brown leather chairs give B&B a striking resemblance to a grandfather's study. A bit boring yes, but the excitement comes from knowing that in different corners of the room men named Thurston the III and Chip are making million-dollar deals over wine, cigars and Black Angus steaks (\$30).

Divine Bar
244 East 51st Street
Between 2nd & 3rd Avenues
212.319.9463

Ix-nay on the screwdrivers. Divine is within 500 feet of a synagogue so only wine and beer are served in this funky duplex townhouse. In spite of its midtown location, surprisingly this place has a strong downtown SoHo feel — outfitted as it is with zebra-skinned chairs and rugs, orange walls, red velvet and black leather couches, candles, candles and more candles. This place is perfect for the young, hot and powerful. Don't you dare leave without trying some of the tantalizing tapas. Mmmm...now you know why it's called 'Divine.'

Ginger Man
11 East 36th Street
Between 5th Avenue & Madison
212.532.3740

This hustling and bustling Amsterdam-style pub is all about taps: there are 66 of them lined up all along the length of the seemingly endless bar. They pour you a foaming brew from around the world (or at least those countries that a respectable beer-drinker holds in his vocabulary). The density of the yuppie, post-workday crowd and resultant noise levels make this the ideal place to bring that co-worker or client you DON'T want to make small talk to.

Julie's
204 East 58th Street
Between 2nd & 3rd Avenues
212.688.1294

Men, if you're looking for that special someone, you won't find her here. Women, if you're desperately seeking Susan, walk on in and feast your eyes on Julie's smorgasbord of ladies. Like Townhouse (the gentleman's gay bar next door), this lesbian hot spot attracts a more upscale, working professional crowd. Every third Monday of the month, Personal Personals, a dating service for 'wimmin,' hosts a matchmaking party that's only \$5 with a flyer. Don't worry about a come-on line — hostess Sonoma and her Cupid cohorts pass notes along for you shy girls.

King Cole Bar (St. Regis)
2 East 55th Street
Between 5th Avenue & Madison
212.339.6721

The famous Bloody Mary cocktail, initially dubbed a Red Snapper, was created right here under the mischievous grin of Old King Cole in Mark Parrish's huge, turn-of-the-century mural. Today you can sit under that same roguish gaze while slowly sipping one of a significantly larger selection of cocktails, cognacs, single malt scotches and brandies, and finger a sampling of fine hors d'oeuvres. This intimate bar is a great spot for an after-work rendezvous or a pre-dinner drink. And, should you perchance look up, do raise a tippie to Old King Cole and his merry jesters.

Match-Uptown
33 East 60th Street
Between Park & Madison
212.906.9177

Though quite different from its downtown elder sibling, Match-Uptown still has the designer touch that transcends geography. Following with the same Asian-influenced menu and motif, this bar/restaurant brings a breath of fresh air to the arid canyons of Midtown East's nightlife. With a dedicated after-work crowd and a business lunch appeal, finding a seat can sometimes be a blessing. But don't let that scare you because the sushi here is too good to pass up (although you'll pay for it).

Type of
Establishment
Bar

Hours
Daily 5pm-
4am

Drink Prices
Expensive

Food
N/A

Nearest
Subway
4,5,6,N,R to
59th Street

Credit Cards
Cash Only

Type of
Establishment
Bar

Hours
Su-Th
11:30am-
1am
F-Sa 11am-
2am

Drink Prices
Expensive

Food
Hors
d'oeuvres

Nearest
Subway
4,5,6,N,R to
59th Street

Credit Cards
All Major

Jacket & Tie

Type of
Establishment
Bar/Restaurant

Hours
Su-M 11am-
11pm
T-Sa 11am-
2am

Drink Prices
Expensive

Type of
Establishment
Bar/Restaurant

Hours
Sa-Su 7pm-4am
M-F 5pm-4am

Drink Prices
Moderate

Food
Asian Tapas

Nearest
Subway
6 to 51st
Street

Credit Cards
AmEx, V, MC,
Diners

Type of
Establishment
Bar/Restaurant

Hours
Daily 5:30pm-4am

Drink Prices
Expensive

Food
American

Nearest
Subway
E,F to
3rd Avenue

Credit Cards
All Major

Jacket & Tie

Type of
Establishment
Lounge

Hours
M-T 5pm-2am
W-Sa 5pm-4am
Su 6pm-1am

Drink Prices
Expensive

Food
N/A

Nearest
Subway
4,5,6,7 to
Grand Central

Credit Cards
All Major

Mica Bar

252 East 51st Street Between
2nd & 3rd Avenues
212.888.2453

Sick of Upper East snobbery and chi-chi hang-outs, yet not quite into a night out downtown? Just mosey on down to the Mica Bar. Whether you're in your high heels or Teva's, this glossy-looking, but down-to-earth bar will make you wanna just...let your hair down. Settle in and snuggle up to your date on the cozy downstairs couches, or slip into one of the bend-over-and-whisper tables upstairs. Then again, you can always head out onto the terrace for a beer and party under the stars.

Monkey Bar (Elysee)

60 East 54th Street
Between Park & Madison
212.838.2600

Greeting you at the door are wall-to-wall murals of monkeys making merry. But don't be deceived; there is not much monkeying around in this sophisticated bar/restaurant. It's a warm and intimate venue; a great place to meet someone special for sun-downers or to relax after dinner. A piano bar sets the mood for reclining couples with romance on their minds and location-wise, it serves as a good pitstop on your way to dinner, or a last ditch as the evening winds down.

Morgan's (Morgan)

237 Madison Avenue
Between 37th & 38th Streets
212.726.7600

Rough industrial basement walls provide the backdrop to an array of mirrors in every size and shape in this dark and sultry bar. A long, underlit center table provides a warm meeting place. This is a popular spot for an after-work crowd who use its midtown location as a halfway stop between office and home, or en route to an uptown restaurant. Snacks are served from 5 to 8 p.m. every day, and the bar is known to pour a good martini or cosmopolitan.

Moscow

137 East 55th Street
@ Lexington Avenue
212.813.1313

Enter and sink down to the underground bar and sample several of the 100 commercial and 30 homemade vodkas, including conspicuous combinations such as garlic, horseradish and even mango. Siberian gypsies entice you to try foot-stomping dances to Russian banjos and accordions on four nights of the week, and a menu with traditionals like Borscht and Tuna-Tartar make you want to sidle into one of the rough hewn benches and eat...like a peasant. Ascend to the red Russian Room and do the Czarist thing: Beluga or Sevruga caviar washed down with Crystal Signature or Stolichnaya Gold vodka. Prost!

Oak Room (Plaza)

768 5th Avenue @ 59th Street
212.759.3000

The Oak Room is impressive in every way. Within its high, dark walls and beneath its lofty ceilings is a space in which you cannot help but feel diminutive. Turn of the century paneled oak, darkened some say by the cigar smoke of a hundred years, forms a solemn background to ancient masterpieces. Humidors offer carefully selected cigars, and waiters in white deliver pricey cosmopolitans to tables overlooking Central Park. This spot is a favorite with business people for drinks after-work, as well as tourists for celebrity spotting.

Top of the Tower

3 Mitchell Place
1st Avenue @ 49th Street
212.980.4796

Your most romantic dream may just come true here. The 26th floor elevator door opens to a suave piano player stroking love songs out of a gleaming baby grand, while a couple, intertwined and lost to the world, slowly lilt to the notes. Beyond them New York's million-and-one lights lie sprinkled like stardust. A sky terrace unfolds a breathtaking, 360-degree view of Manhattan, the East River and the Brooklyn Bridge. Tables for two hold long champagne glasses, a silver dish of Moules Marnier and clasped fingers. This is where you bring that special someone and just...take her in your arms.

Type of
Establishment
Bar/Restaurant

Hours
Th-F 12pm-3am
Sa 7pm-3am
Su 5pm-3am
M 12pm-11pm

Drink Prices
Moderate

Food
Russian

Nearest
Subway
E, F to
3rd Avenue

Credit Cards
All Major

Type of
Establishment
Bar/Restaurant

Hours
Daily 11:30am-1:30am

Drink Prices
Expensive

Food
American

Nearest
Subway
4,5,6,N,R to
59th Street

Credit Cards
All Major

Type of
Establishment
Bar/Restaurant

Hours
F-Sa 5pm-1am
Su-Th 5pm-1am

Drink Prices
Expensive

Food
N/A

Nearest
Subway
6 to 51st
Street

Type of
Establishment
Bar
Hours
Daily 4pm-
4am
Drink Prices
Moderate
Food
N/A
Nearest
Subway
4,5,6,N,R, to
59th Street
Credit Cards
Cash Only

The Townhouse Bar
236 East 58th Street
Between 2nd & 3rd Avenues
212.754.4649

It may look like your grandfather's Elk Club, but The Townhouse Bar has got a definite (and we do mean definite) twist. "This place attracts gay men with good jobs, the type who dress well and know how to carry themselves," said a Townhouse regular. "It's very high end. It's one of most upscale gay crowds in Manhattan." He's right. You won't find any downtown drag queens or flagrant trannies here. This place leans more towards the Rock Hudson than RuPaul type. Muscle-bound bartenders, dressed in beach-club chic (khaki shorts and tight aqua t-shirts) are heavy handed so the shots are grand.

Type of
Establishment
Bar
Hours
M-Sa 4pm-
4am
Su 5pm-2am
Drink Prices
Expensive
Food
N/A
Nearest
Subway
6 to 51st
Street
Credit Cards
AmEx, V, Mc

Whiskey Blue (W)
541 Lexington @ 49th Street
212.755.1200

Say you're clocking out late from your east-side firm, up for a little networking, and maybe even down for a potential hook-up. Head here on any given night and you'll find this bar packed with moneyed midtowners and other assorted hanger-ons. And, because the crowd is homogeneous to the extreme, no one bats an eye when the most popular pick-up line is bumming a cigarette. For whatever reason, it might also be worth noting that Whiskey Blue is the kind of place that watches the Left Coast for trends, like Apple Martinis. If you're idea of getting ready to go out is taking your tie off at the door, this is the place for you.