



UPPER WEST SIDE

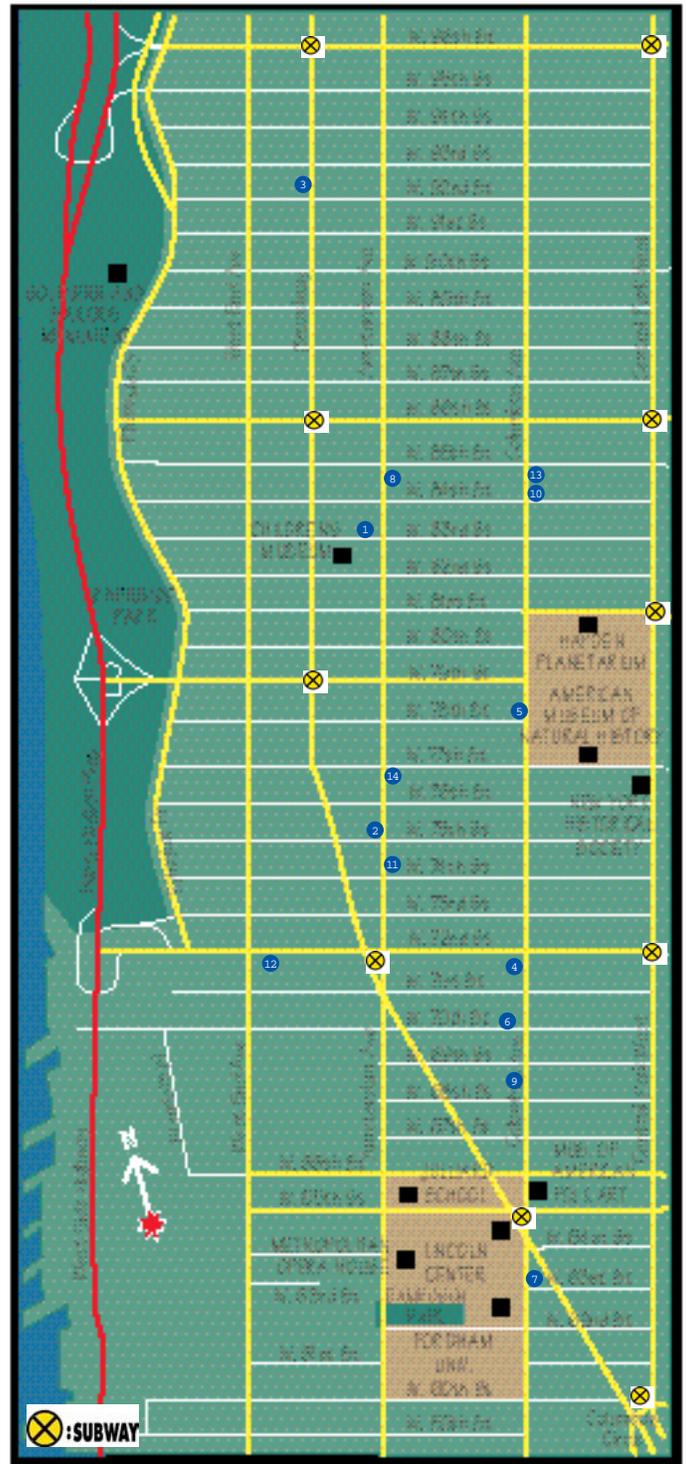


The land of lucrative liberals and the socially self-conscious, the Upper West Side has become synonymous with cultural elitism in Manhattan.

Like most of the city these days, a fresh energy is seeping into the neighborhood, livening the evening air washing in off the Hudson River. The winds of change here, though, are not blowing nearly as fierce as they are to the south, yet enough to notice at least slight changes in demographics. But for a neighborhood home to Lincoln Center, as well as a number of prestigious colleges and universities, new ideas are nothing new.

The neighborhood is bounded by Central Park to the East, Columbus Circle and West 59th to the south, Riverside Park and the Hudson River to the west, and extending northward to the mid-nineties. The evening air wafting throughout the Upper West Side is charged with a dynamic vibe flowing freely from the endless rows of popular bars, bistros and sidewalk cafes.

A delicate balance between upper-class and high-minded bourgeois style, the area is more residential than most neighborhoods to the south — yet fosters a nightlife that rumbles on well past midnight. Experience the area's crisp flavor over a casual sidewalk brunch at one of the many neighborhood eateries, or spend a few more dollars one of the more famous establishment's like Tavern on the Green or Cafe des Artistes. But if you'd like a side order of excitement with your evening, try pub crawling along popular crowded bars that line Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues.



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Type of Establishment
Bar/Restaurant
Hours
F-Sa 9am-4am
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

Don't go to Cafe Lalo if you plan to regret giving in to sweet temptation. Do visit if you're looking for a place to treat yourself or the sweetheart in your life to an indulgent end to the perfect night out. There's plenty of sweet somethings here, laden generously with you-want-it-we-got-it. For those at peace with their hedonistic tendencies, Cafe Lalo is also a place to just leisure over that favorite book. Large wood-framed windows open up to a quiet, tree-laden sidewalk and large, old fans stir up the breeze on muggy days. This is the only place to be for Sunday brunch, and when you're done you can always top it off with one of those sinful desserts.

Type of Establishment
Bar/Restaurant
Hours
F 5:30pm-1am
Su 11:30am-11pm
M 5:30pm-11pm
Drink Prices
Moderate
Food
Southwestern
Nearest Subway
1,9,2,3 to
79th Street
Credit Cards
All Major

Citrus Bar & Grill

320 Amsterdam Avenue @ 75th Street
212.595.0500

Unwind over margaritas around a steely-smooth bar as your senses are quickly soothed by the surrounding citrus colored hues. Relax as the breeze washes over you while dining al fresco on Southwestern favorites like Chilled Roasted Corn Bisque and Blue Cornmeal Calamari. If you like loud Latino music but prefer avoiding small-talk encounters, stay in the front restaurant and work your way through more than 100 types of tequila. In the back though, summer cool becomes autumny warmth in a golden hued, intimate supper experience.

Type of Establishment
Bar/Restaurant
Hours
Daily 3pm-4am
Drink Prices
Moderate
Food
American/
Continental
Nearest Subway
1,2,3,9 to
72nd Street

Cleopatra's Needle

2485 Broadway
Between 92nd & 93rd Streets
212.769.6969

This is a jazz haunt with integrity. An intimate venue, it is filled with a mix of neighborhood regulars and serious jazz intellectuals assured of consistently good jazz, seven nights out of seven. Mingling around the large, central bar is a mix of young beautifuls chatting each other up and older jazz-lovers with 'Do Not Disturb' signs on their foreheads. Single women seem to feel at ease, being able to enjoy the music without looking conspicuous. There is a large screen for sporting events, and an eclectic though small menu for those who wish to dine as well.

Cream

246 Columbus Avenue @ 72nd Street
212.712.1666

Whether you're into sweating it out in a rhythmic jungle, chilling (literally!) in an Arctic zone, or just resting your swooning head on leopard-skin folds, this multi-experience club will fulfill your most adventurous tendencies. After a high energy session round the Jungle Room's banana tree, you can swing yourself into a freeze in the whiter-than-white Winter Wonderland..brrr! The Tribal Room is a ceiling-to-floor experience in animal print and in the red VIP room, you can entertain friends around a glowing volcano whilst sitting at lightening-struck tables on tree stumps.

Evelyn Lounge

380 Columbus Avenue @ 78th Street
212.724.2363

This uptown venue gives you a sense of how eclectic New York can be. Check out the animated scene trying to out-do loud 80s funk, hip-hop, house and disco at the dark salon bar with illuminated tables. Then either wander back to the green New England library, featuring heavy curtains and leather chairs, or veer off to the adobe-colored, candle-flickering New Mexican new age bar. You can even go French all the way in the back at the red bistro. It's a local crowd, so the young professional Upper Westsiders, in neatly pressed Gap garb, all seem to all know each other from college.

Exile

117 West 70th Street
Between Columbus & Broadway
212.496.3272

You may think you're on the wrong street before stumbling across one of the west-side's most popular lounges. Thick marble columns rise to a high ceiling, devoid of decor except for a few seemingly lost African masks. The owner calls the theme 'Eastern European chic', but the crowd's fashion sense is strictly 90s Western Capitalist. In spite of the open warehouse setting, there are cozy corners where couples or groups of friends unwind. Just try to resist the urge to get up and dance, especially on weekend nights. We dare you.

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

Type of Establishment
Bar/Lounge
Hours
Daily 6pm-4am
Drink Prices
Moderate
Food
American
Nearest Subway
1,9 to
79th Street
Credit Cards
AmEx, V, MC,
Diners

Type of Establishment
Bar
Hours
T-Th 7:30pm-1am
F-Sa 7:30pm-4am
Drink Prices
Moderate
Food
N/A
Nearest

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, V, MC, Discover

\$20-\$30 Cover

Iridium Jazz Club (Empire)
48 West 63rd Street
Between Columbus & Broadway
212.582.2121

'Merlin meets Salvador Dali' in one of the most popular jazz clubs in town. The famous designer, Joseph Mozer, imitated the way jazz music twists and winds in the carefully selected decorative elements. The colossal spirals of a pearly, oversized shell hang upside-down above a bar that's fast becoming famous for its retro cocktails. Downstairs, decor is not the predominant feature, because this is where the jazz happens. Les Paul plays every Monday night, and the club also features artists like Mose Allison Quartet, Phil Woods and Clark Terry.

Moonlighting
511 Amsterdam Avenue
Between 84th & 85th Streets
212.799.4643

You may not want to moonlight to other venues once you've hit this one. Dark and narrow oversize gilt mirrors force you to get close with a mix of all types of city dwellers. The long bar has a reputation of being staffed by some of the best bartenders in town, so grab a drink or check out the raised dance floor. An excellent mix of Latin, funk, soul and techno has girls in tight skirts and guys in equally tight sweaty-T's. Warning: This is not a place to relax. It's energetic, loud and pulsating, so come prepared for a party.

Peter's
182 Columbus Avenue
Between 68th & 69th Streets
212.877.4747

Pompeii meets NYC local in this unpretentious, laid-back bar/restaurant. The bar's long, narrow room is your best excuse for bumping into that certain someone you've been dying to meet. By mere virtue of the place's popularity and architecture, you're going to get close to another body pretty quick, so make sure it's the right one. If you need more space, shuffle past the jukebox and dartboard to the restaurant where you can hang around a smaller bar or dig into a late-night snack.

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
12:30pm-4am

Drink Prices
Moderate

Food
American/Continental

Nearest Subway 1,9 to 66th Street

Prohibition
503 Columbus Avenue
Between 84th & 85th Streets
212.579.3100

Prohibition is a concoction of interesting elements. Suits mingle with neighborhood regulars as frontroom sophistication leads you into the backroom, prison-style decadence. A live band plays every night to corporate types mingling over martinis and a platter of Global Appetizers. The only reference to Prohibition here is the naughty, but inconspicuous drawings on the walls. Move to the back and you'll find a blood-red cell with a blood-red pool table behind thick, black burglar bars. This is a great place for sundowners, and early-evening dining that segues into mid-evening live entertainment.

Shark Bar
307 Amsterdam Avenue
Between 74th & 75th Streets
212.874.8500

Queen Latifah, Mase, Jennifer Lopez, and many other hip-hop and rap stars, actors, basketball and football celebrities dine here unassumingly on succulent soul food. Spread out on different levels and painted in beige, blue and yellow, this place is as inviting as a friend's house. You may also come by yourself and hang out at the bar — it's cramped with an upscale, interesting-looking, artsy, professional and lively crowd where everyone seems to have something interesting to say to his or her neighbor.

Sugar Bar
254 West 72nd Street
Between Broadway & West End
212.579.0222

There's a precious piece of Africa in New York and it's called the Sugar Bar — Nick Ashford's (from Ashford and Simpson) dream to combine African culture, tradition and spirituality with a fascinating blend of foods, each with its own story to tell of the different tribes it represents. The ambiance is accentuated with authentic headpieces, masks and figurines scattered throughout the small restaurant. In the kitchen, Chef Michael Navarro blends African spices into a fascinating spread of mouth-watering dishes. Behind the kitchen is a Moroccan-like tent, ideal for private parties or just intimate dining.

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

Food
Soul

Nearest Subway 1,9 to 79th Street

Credit Cards
All Major

Type of Establishment
Bar/Restaurant

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

Drink Prices
Expensive

Food:
Mediterranean

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

Type of
Establishment
Bar/Lounge
Hours
Daily 7pm-
4am
Drink Prices
Moderate
Food
N/A
Nearest
Subway
B,C to
86th Street
Credit Cards
MC, V, AmEx

Venue

505 Columbus Avenue
Between 84th & 85th Streets
212.579.9463

Take your pick at this funky, dark and sensually throbbing cave of cosmopolitan pleasures: stop at the luscious couches, step up to the large bar with an active people watching scene, where a fashionably hip, young crowd is chatting away and where guys in suits are on the lookout for a hook-up to take to the back lounge. Here, elevated mattresses and pillows in metallic, dark stretch-velvet are lit by red lights and watched by a diligent guard! Or venture downstairs into the small disco with carpets and moving psychedelic pictures — where a DJ spins a great mix of house and James Brown.

Vermouth

355 Amsterdam @ 77th Street
212.724.3600

Type of
Establishment
Lounge
Hours
F-Su 5pm-4am
M-Th 5pm-
2am
Drink Prices
Expensive
Food
Mediterranean
Nearest
Subway 1,9 to
79th Street
Credit Cards
All Major

Perfectly stirred — and definitely not shaken — is this cool, sophisticated martini lounge. Move to the tastefully appointed bar and you are under no illusion as to what is served here: two huge globes fashioned out of martini glasses hang hypnotically right above your line of vision. Like most of the artwardly mobile, corporate crowd, you will want to slowly work your way through a careful selection of 51 different martinis, sustained by an item or two from the interesting Mediterranean menu. Agent 007 would have stepped right into character here.