

EPA Region 2's **TOP TEN** Things to Do in NYC

(even better than David Letterman)

10. **Take the Subway**

No matter where your New York City travel plans take you, the subway is a good way to go. The New York City subway has 468 stations serving 26 subway lines—more than any other system in the world. Routes are identified by letters, such as **A B C** or numbers, such as **1 2 3**. There are maps posted in each station and you can ask for a free map, or directions, at any subway station booth. Each subway ride costs \$2, payable with a MetroCard that you buy (using cash or credit cards) from vending machines located in each station. In general, trains run every 2 to 5 minutes during rush hours, and every 5 to 15 minutes during midday, evenings, and weekends. To make planning your trip easy, go to <http://travel.mtanyct.info/> and type in your beginning and end locations. The online system will tell you which trains to take and how to get to and from your desired subway stations.

9. **See a Broadway Show**

Discounted tickets of up to 50% off are available for day-of or next day Broadway performances through two TKTS ticket booths. The two ticket booths are located at **Times Square** and **South Street Seaport**. TKTS only accepts cash or travelers checks. For information on purchasing tickets through TKTS visit www.tdf.org. For a current listing of shows, showtimes, and reviews consult the Theater section of the New York Times at www.nytimes.com.

8. **Visit Central Park**

Arguably one of the most famous parks in the world, Central Park is a man-made wonder. Not only is it the first public park built in America, but it is also one of the most frequently visited, with over 25 million guests per year. Set in the middle of bustling Manhattan, its 843 acres serve as a safe haven, not only for athletes, daydreamers, musicians, and strollers, but also for teems of migratory birds each year. One can spend an entire peaceful day roaming its grounds, gazing upon nearly 50 fountains, monuments, and sculptures or admiring its 36 bridges and arches. With recreational facilities abounding, the more energetic won't have a problem finding a spot to skate, pedal, row, dribble, or climb to his or her heart's delight. Visit www.centralpark.com for more information.

7. **Go to the Empire State Building**

You will get some of the best views of Manhattan from this legendary NYC landmark. Located on the 86th floor, 1,050 feet (320 meters) above the city's bustling streets, the Observatory offers panoramic views from within a glass-enclosed pavilion and from the surrounding open-air promenade. Nighttime visits are especially magical and also easy to fit into any schedule since the Observatory stays open till 2:00 a.m.! The building is located at 350 Fifth Avenue, between 33rd and 34th Streets, in midtown Manhattan. Observation deck tickets are \$18-20 and up for adults. Learn more at www.esbnyc.com.

6. **Take a (Free) Trip on the Staten Island Ferry**

The Staten Island Ferry is run by the City of New York for one pragmatic reason: to transport Staten Islanders to and from Manhattan. Yet, the 5 mile, 25 minute ride also provides a majestic view of New York Harbor and a no-hassle, even romantic, boat ride, for free! One guide book calls it "One of the world's greatest (and shortest) water voyages." From the deck of the ferry you will have a perfect view of The Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. You'll see the skyscrapers and bridges of Lower Manhattan receding as you pull away and coming into focus again as you return. Ferries leave from Battery Park's Whitehall Terminal every 30 minutes (15 minutes during rush hour). For more information, go to www.siferry.com. For those who wish to visit the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, ferries to those islands leave from Battery Park at the lower tip of Manhattan regularly between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. For their schedule, go to www.circlelinedowntown.com.

5. Take Advantage of NYC's Great Museums

New York City is the cultural capital of the United States with dozens of museums devoted to art, architecture, photography, natural history, television, radio and technology. For visitor information and exhibit schedules, consult the Visitors page at www.nyc.gov, the Art and Design pages of the New York Times at www.nytimes.com, or the following visitor websites: www.ny.com/museums, www.nyctourist.com.

4. Shop 'til You Drop

If you're looking for the more expensive stores like Tiffany & Co., Cartier and Gucci, you'll find them on Fifth Avenue in the 50's. It's fun to check out the scene and join the parade of shoppers—even if you don't buy anything. Favorite downtown (i.e., nearby) shopping destinations include SoHo, lower Broadway (between Houston and Canal street), Chinatown, Century 21 (22 Cortlandt Street in Lower Manhattan between Church and Broadway), and Anbars (for discount designer shoes), located around the corner from EPA at 60 Reade Street between Broadway and Church Streets.

3. Walk over the Brooklyn Bridge

Just a short walk from EPA Region 2's offices, you can enter the walkway of the Brooklyn Bridge on Centre Street just south of Chambers Street. You'll see a spectacular view of the NYC skyline in addition to getting some exercise!

2. EAT!!!

New York City is famous for its food! Bagels and pizza are city favorites. The battle for the best pizza in NYC is mainly between Lombardi's Pizzeria in SoHo (at 32 Spring Street on the corner of Mott Street—#6 train to Spring Street) and Grimaldi's Pizzeria in Brooklyn (19 Old Fulton Street, just under the Brooklyn Bridge—A/C trains to High Street). Also, Little Italy and Chinatown are always great places to eat. Both are located near 290 Broadway's offices.

1. Call Your New Friends in EPA Region 2 if You Need Us!

Don't hesitate to call us if you want to ask for advice, directions, or anything else. Just dial Jennifer May at (646) 369-0039 or Marie O'Shea at (212) 637-3585 anytime.