

Four Squares: A Walk in the Park

Flatiron Building

One of New York's most famous early skyscrapers and one of the first buildings to use a steel frame. When it was built in 1902, it was the world's tallest building. Originally named the Fuller Building, some also called it "Burnham's Folly," predicting that the winds created by the building's unusual triangular shape would knock it down. At that time the winds along 23rd St. were known for blowing around women's long skirts and drew crowds of men hoping to get a peek at women's ankles. Police officers had to keep people moving along.

ABC Carpet and Home

888 Broadway at 19th St.
Walk through this eight floor showcase admiring the amazing display of color, texture, and home furnishings. From antique to contemporary to classic designs, there's something for everyone.

Shopping on Fifth Avenue

5th Ave. Betw. 16th & 21st Streets
A great place to go shopping, this area offers a variety of stores, from bargain to upscale brands, all in a row. Express, Aldo, Kenneth Cole, Anthropologie, Club Monaco, Coach, Zara, Searle, Daffy's, J Crew, Armani Exchange, Body Shop, Sephora, Ann Taylor, Arden B, Banana Republic, Victoria's Secret, Nine West and more.

The Forbes Galleries

62 5th Ave. at 12th St.
Inside the *Forbes* magazine headquarters, free and open to the public, are galleries displaying some of the amazing collections of billionaire Malcolm Forbes Sr. and his children. Here you will find over 12,000 toy soldiers set in amazing displays, 500 toy boats, and original Monopoly game sets. Historical, Presidential photos and letters, an unusual trophy room, and periodic short-term art exhibits complete the package.

Madison Square Park

In the 1840s, the Knickerbocker Baseball Club was the U.S.'s first baseball team and the first to codify the game's rules. They played in a vacant lot where Madison Square Park now stands. In 1873 P.T. Barnum built the Great Roman Hippodrome, the world's first three-ring circus, here. There were rumors that participants in the circus acts and sporting events were killed on a regular basis. Today the park is a pretty and peaceful spot of greenery and a favorite relaxing place for nearby office workers. Featuring a kids' playground, public art, and the very popular Shake Shack (see back of itinerary for further info.) it's the perfect place to absorb the NYC vibe.

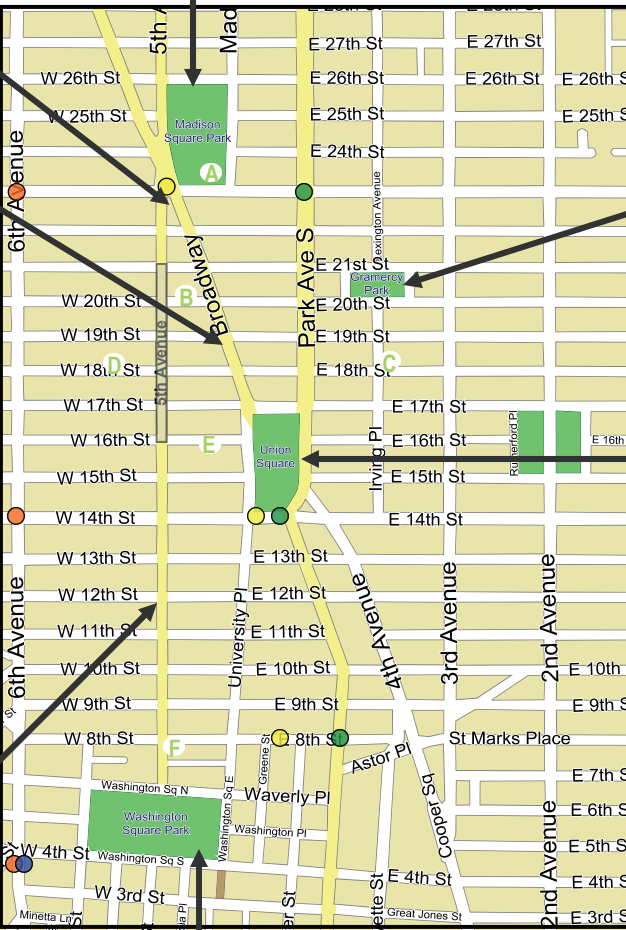
Gramercy Park Area

Gramercy Park is the city's only private park. Only residents of the surrounding buildings have keys to the park gate. It is surrounded by some stunning residences. One is guarded by knights in armor! Take a stroll around the outside of the park and admire the architecture. The buildings at 19 and 20 Gramercy Park South have a connecting door between them and are currently a 37 room private home.

The lovely, tree lined block of E. 19th street between Irving Place and Third Ave. has achieved landmark status and is known as "Block Beautiful." Some of the townhouses date from the 1840s, and several were restored in the 1920s.

Union Square and Greenmarket

A lively gathering spot for locals, a favorite meeting place for political gatherings, and a popular after-work cocktail spot at the hidden Luna Park bar inside the square. Framed on all sides by large flagship stores like Barnes and Noble and Virgin Records and by great restaurants like Union Square Café. On Mon, Wed, Fri, and Sat, the park fills with stands selling fresh-from-the-farm organic produce, home baked goods, flowers, herbs, cheeses, jams and other treats. Many of the city's top chefs express a love for the fresh produce found here and say they shop here early in the morning and often. It's a fun and colorful time to visit Union Square.



Washington Square Park

People from all walks of life come together here: NYU students, elderly chess players, street performers, nearby office workers, skateboarders, moms, nannies and children. Bob Dylan is said to have sung folk songs near the fountain in the center of the park. Today it's still a popular gathering spot. Standing tall at the southern end of the park is the Washington Square Arch. Designed by Stanford White, it was erected in 1895 to mark the centenary of George Washington's 1789 inauguration. North of the park on W. 10th St. between 5th & 6th Ave. is one of the Village's most beautiful blocks and worth a stroll down.

We haven't forgotten your appetite! Stop in any (or many) of the places listed below to see what this area offers to tempt your palate.



A. Shake Shack

Southeast corner of Madison Square Park (212) 889-6600 www.shakeshacknyc.com

Shake Shack's hamburgers were voted Best Burger by *New York* magazine and are extremely popular so there's often a very long line. Your best bet for a delicious burger (Shake Shack also serves hotdogs, fries, frozen custard, beer and wine) and a minimum wait is to go before or after the lunch rush.



B. T Salon

11 E. 20th St. betw. 5th Ave & Broadway (212) 358-0506

This tearoom offers a large selection and wide variety of teas in a serene, peaceful, Asian-influenced environment. Tea sandwiches, fruit, pastries, and cookies round out the menu. It's a very relaxing place to escape from the bustle and noise of the city.



C. Pete's Tavern

129 E. 18th St. at Irving Place (212) 473-7676

One of the oldest bars in NYC, Pete's Tavern has been in operation since 1864. Short story writer O. Henry, who lived nearby at 55 Irving Place, wrote "The Gift of the Magi" here.



D. City Bakery

3 W. 18th St. betw. 5th & 6th Ave. (212-366-1414) www.thecitybakery.com

Sleek and modern and much more than a bakery, City Bakery has a popular salad bar and lunch buffet that beats others hands down. They turn fruits and vegetables from the Union Square greenmarket into dishes like grilled pineapple with ancho chile and entrees like baked chicken with mustard pumpnickel crust.



E. Chat 'n Chew

10 E. 16th St. betw. Union Square & 5th Ave. (212) 243-1616 www.chatnchewnyc.com

A small restaurant with kitschy décor that serves home-style, comfort food in a fun atmosphere at reasonable prices. What more could you want? A neighborhood favorite.



F. Otto

One 5th Ave. at 8th St. (212-995-9559) www.ottopizzeria.com

A restaurant by famed chef Mario Batali. The front room wine bar area evokes an Italian train station. The back room sit-down restaurant is where you can order your Otto-style thin crust pizzas, pastas and other goodies.

ABC Carpet and Home

888 Broadway at 19th St.
(212) 780-0577
www.abchome.com

Hours

Mon to Thurs: 10am to 8pm
Fri: 10am to 6:30pm
Sat: 11am to 7pm
Sun: noon to 6:30pm

The Forbes Galleries

62 5th Ave. at 12th St.
(212) 206-5548
www.forbesgalleries.com

Hours

Tues & Wed: 10am to 4pm
Fri & Sat: 10am to 4pm
*Thursdays are reserved for group tours
CLOSED Mon & Sun

Abracadabra Superstore

19 W. 21st St. Betw. 5th & 6th Ave.
(212) 627-5194
www.abracadabrasuperstore.com

Not listed on the front of your itinerary but worth a mention here. This is *the* place to go in NY for costumes, novelties, and gags. Looking for a Trump wig, a medieval sword, a fake body part? Look no further!