

# New York City



**New York City** is a city in the southern end of the state of New York, and is the most populous city in the United States of America. New York City is a global economic center, with its business, finance, trading, law, and media organizations influential worldwide. The city is also an important cultural center, with many museums, galleries, and performance venues. Home of the United Nations, the city is a hub for international diplomacy. With over 8.2 million residents within an area of 322 square miles (830 km<sup>2</sup>), New York City has the highest population density of major cities in the United States. The New York metropolitan area, with a population of 18.8 million, ranks among the largest urban areas in the world.

Manhattan



Bronx



Staten Island



Brooklyn



Queens

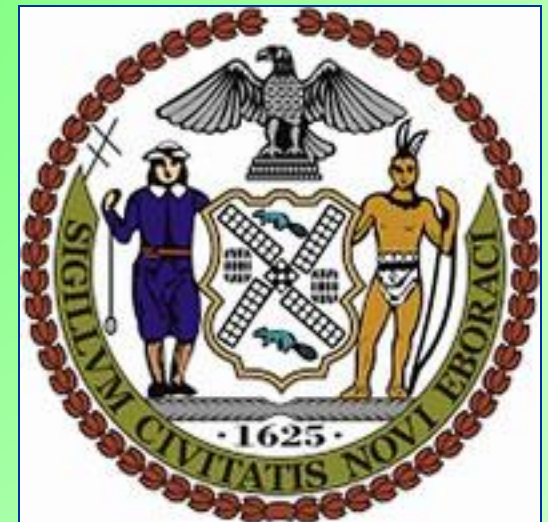




The official [Flag of the City](#) of New York is designed to bear the same colors (orange, white, and blue) as the flag of the United Netherlands used in 1625, the year New Amsterdam was settled on the island of Manhattan. Located in the center is a blue print of the official Seal of New York City.

The [Seal of the City of New York](#), adopted in an earlier form in 1686, bears the legend SIGILLUM CIVITATIS NOVI EBORACI which means simply "The Seal of the City of New York": Eboracum was the Roman name for York, the titular seat of James II as Duke of York. The symbols in the seal are interpreted as follows:

- [Eagle](#) - the symbol of New York State.
- [Indian](#) - represents the Native Americans who preceded the Europeans.
- [Sailor](#) - represents the settlement of the area.
- [Beaver](#) - represents the Dutch West India Company, the first company in the city.
- [Windmill, Barrel and Flower](#) - represent early industry.
- [1625](#) - the year in which Manhattan Island was established by the Dutch.



The region was inhabited by the Lenape Native Americans at the time of its European discovery in 1524 by **Giovanni da Verrazzano**, an Italian explorer in the service of the French crown, who called it "Nouvelle Angoulême".

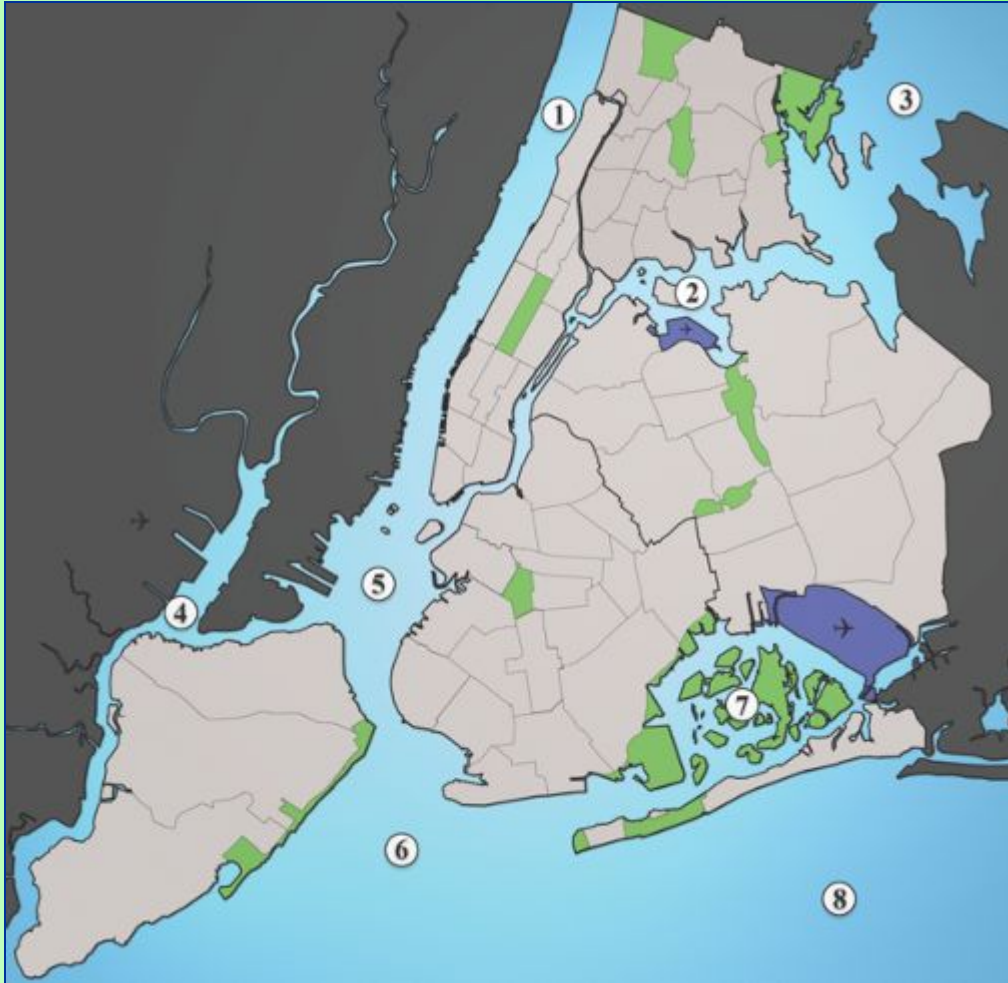
Giovanni da Verrazzano was the first known European navigator to enter New York Harbor where the **Verrazano-Narrows Bridge** is named in his honor, and Narragansett Bay, where the Jamestown-Verrazano Bridge is located.



- European settlement began with the founding of a Dutch fur trading settlement, later called "**New Amsterdam**," on the southern tip of Manhattan in 1614.
- Dutch colonial Director-General **Peter Minuit** purchased the island of Manhattan from the Canarsie Native Americans in 1626 (legend, now disproved).
- In 1664, the British conquered the city and renamed it "**New York**" after the **English Duke of York and Albany**.



# Waterways



1. Hudson River,
2. East River,
3. Long Island Sound,
4. Newark Bay,
5. Upper New York Bay,
6. Lower New York Bay,
7. Jamaica Bay,
8. Atlantic Ocean

# Hudson River

The **Hudson River**, called Muh-he-kun-ne-tuk in Mahican is a river that runs through the eastern portion of New York State and, along its southern terminus, demarcates the border between the states of New York and New Jersey. It is named for Henry Hudson, an Englishman sailing for the Netherlands, who explored it in 1609. Early European settlement of the area clustered around the river. The area inspired the Hudson River school of painting, a sort of early American pastoral idyll.

Bear Mountain Bridge



Battery Park City



# East River

The East River is a tidal strait in New York City. It connects Upper New York Bay on its south end to Long Island Sound on its north end. It separates Long Island from the island of Manhattan and the Bronx on the North American mainland. The river is spanned by **thirteen tunnels**.



The river is spanned by eight **bridges**:

- Throgs Neck Bridge
- Bronx-Whitestone Bridge
- Rikers Island Bridge
- Hell Gate Bridge
- Triborough Bridge
- Roosevelt Island Bridge
- Queensboro Bridge
- Williamsburg Bridge
- Manhattan Bridge
- Brooklyn Bridge



# Statue of Liberty



Liberty Enlightening the World known more commonly as the [Statue of Liberty](#), is a large statue that was presented to the United States by France, standing at Liberty Island as a welcome to all visitors, immigrants, and returning Americans. The copper-clad statue, dedicated on October 28, 1886, commemorates the centennial of the United States and is a gesture of friendship from France to America.



The statue shows a woman standing upright, dressed in a robe and a seven point spiked crown representing the seven seas and continents, holding a stone tablet close to her body in her left hand and a flaming torch high in her right hand. The statue is 46.5 m tall, with the foundation adding another 46.9 m. The tablet contains the text "JULY IV MDCCLXXVI" (July 4, 1776) commemorating the date of the United States Declaration of Independence.





New York City is comprised of **five boroughs**, an unusual form of government used to administer the five constituent counties that make up the city.

## **The five boroughs:**

**1: Manhattan,**

**2: Brooklyn,**

**3: Queens,**

**4: Bronx,**

**5: Staten Island**

**Manhattan** (pop. 1,593,200) is the most densely populated borough of New York City and home to most of the city's skyscrapers. The borough contains the major business and financial centers of the city and many cultural attractions, including numerous museums, the Broadway theatre district and Madison Square Garden. Manhattan is loosely divided into **Downtown**, **Midtown**, and **Uptown** regions. Uptown Manhattan is divided by Central Park into the Upper East Side and the Upper West Side, and above the park is Harlem.



# Manhattan is famous for its skyscrapers



Empire  
State  
Building  
448 m



World Trade  
Center  
528 m

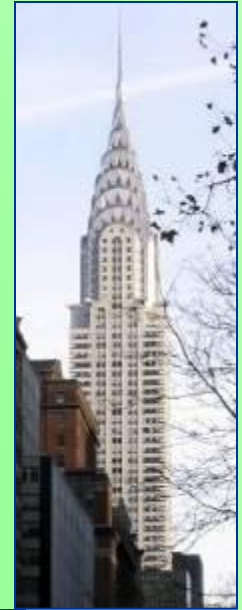


Woolworth  
Building  
241 m

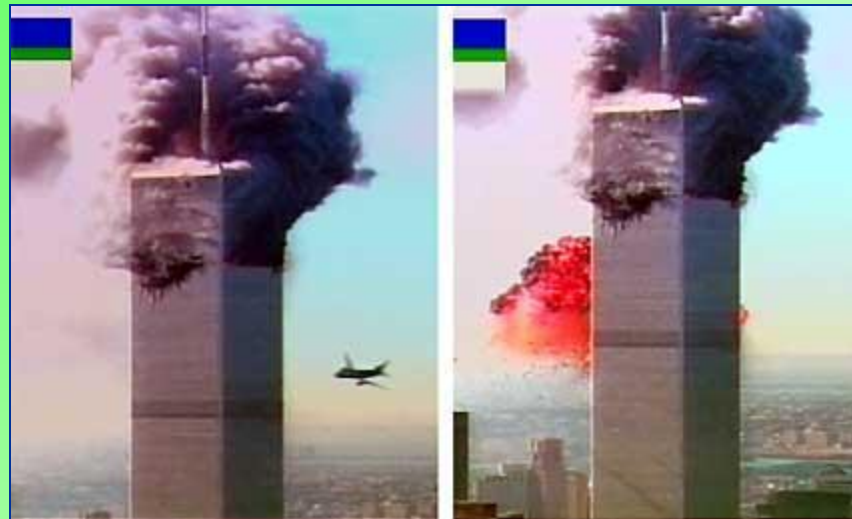
40 Wall Street  
283 m



Chrysler  
Building  
317 m



NY city was one of the sites of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, when nearly 3,000 people died in the destruction of the [World Trade Center](#). The Freedom Tower will be built on the site and is scheduled for completion in



**Brooklyn** (pop. 2,511,408) is the city's most populous borough and was an independent city until 1898. Brooklyn is known for its cultural and ethnic diversity, an independent art scene, distinct neighborhoods and a unique architectural heritage. The borough also features a long beachfront and **Coney Island**, established in the 1870s as one of the earliest amusement grounds in the country.





Beach

# Coney Island



Astroland



**Queens** (pop. 2,256,576) is geographically the largest borough and the most ethnically diverse county in the United States. Historically a collection of small towns and villages founded by the Dutch, the borough today is mainly residential and middle class. It is the only large county in the United States where the median income among black households, about \$52,000 a year, has surpassed that of whites. Queens is the site of **Shea Stadium**, the home of the New York Mets. It is also the home to New York City's two major airports, **LaGuardia Airport** and **John F. Kennedy International Airport**.



Shea Stadium



J.F.K. International Airport



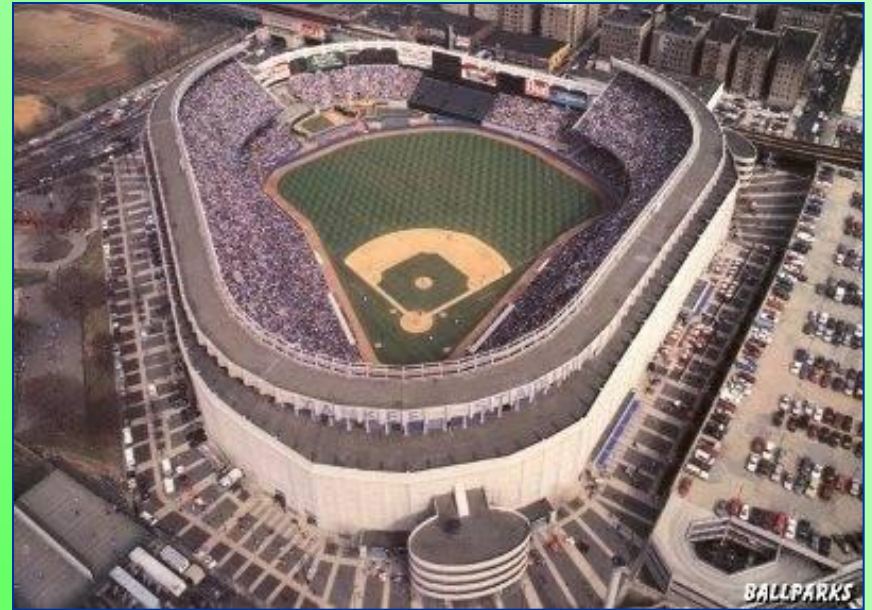
Flushing Meadows-Corona Park



USTA National Tennis Center

**The Bronx** (pop. 1,364,566) is New York City's northernmost borough. The site of Yankee Stadium, home of the New York the largest cooperatively owned housing complex in the United States, Yankees, and home to Co-op City. Except for a small piece of Manhattan known as Marble Hill, the Bronx is the only section of the city that is part of the United States mainland. It is home to the Bronx Zoo. The Bronx is the birthplace of rap and hip hop culture. Famous Bronx neighborhoods include the South Bronx, "Little Italy" on Arthur Avenue in the Belmont section, Morris Park, and Riverdale.





Museum of the Arts



**Staten Island** (pop. 475,014) is the most suburban in character of the five boroughs. It is connected to Brooklyn by the [Verrazano-Narrows Bridge](#) and to Manhattan via the free [Staten Island Ferry](#). Until 2001, the borough was home to the [Fresh Kills Landfill](#), formerly the largest landfill in the world, which is now being reconstructed as a large urban park.





The city has more than 2,000 arts and cultural organizations and more than 500 art galleries of all sizes. Wealthy industrialists in the 19th century built a network of major cultural institutions, such as the famed **Carnegie Hall** and **Metropolitan Museum of Art** that would become internationally established. The city's 39 largest theatres are collectively known as "Broadway," **The Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts** is the largest performing arts center in the United States.



Metropolitan Museum of Art



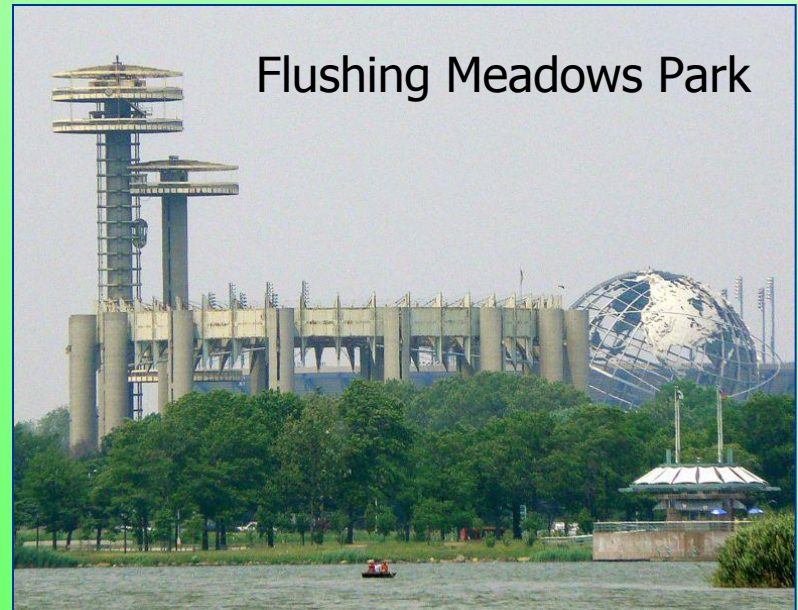
Carnegie Hall



Philharmonic Hall



New York City has over 28,000 acres (113 km<sup>2</sup>) of parkland and 14 miles (22 km) of public beaches. Manhattan's **Central Park** is the most visited city park in the United States. **Prospect Park** in Brooklyn has a 90 acre (36 Hectare) meadow. **Flushing Meadows Park** in Queens, the city's third largest, was the setting for the 1939 World's Fair and 1964 World's Fair.





New York's food culture, influenced by the city's immigrants and large number of dining patrons, is diverse. Jewish and Italian immigrants made the city famous for **bagels**, **cheesecake** and **New York style pizza**. Some 4,000 mobile food vendors licensed by the city, many immigrant-owned, have made Middle Eastern foods such as **falafels** and **kebabs** standbys of contemporary New York street food. The city is also home to many of the finest **haute cuisine** restaurants in the United States.



Yankee Stadium, Bronx

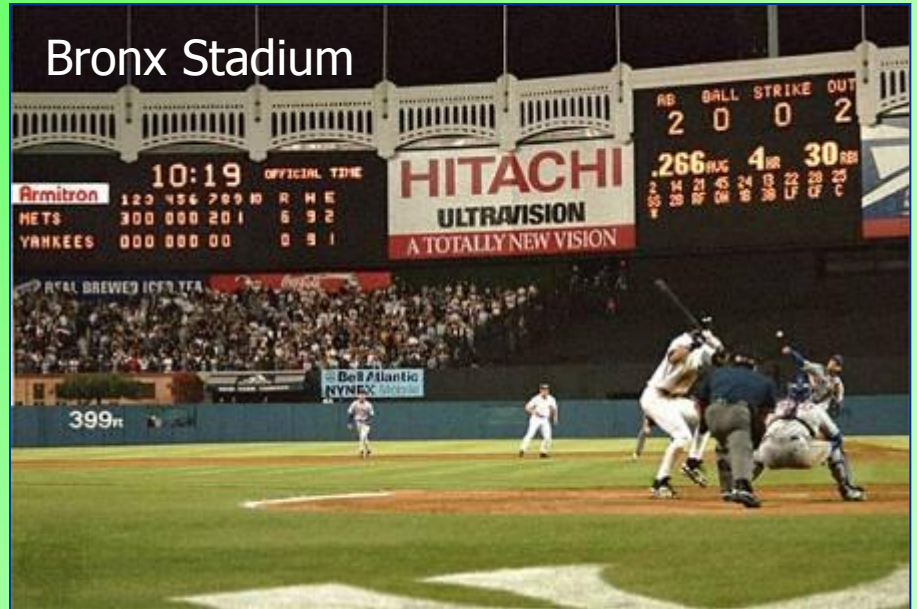


New York City has teams in each of the major American professional sports leagues. The city's two current Major League **Baseball** teams are the **New York Yankees** and the **New York Mets**. The city is represented in the National **Football** League by the **New York Jets** and **New York Giants**. The **New York Rangers** and **New York Islanders** represent the city in the National **Hockey** League. The city's National **Basketball** Association team is the **New York Knicks**.

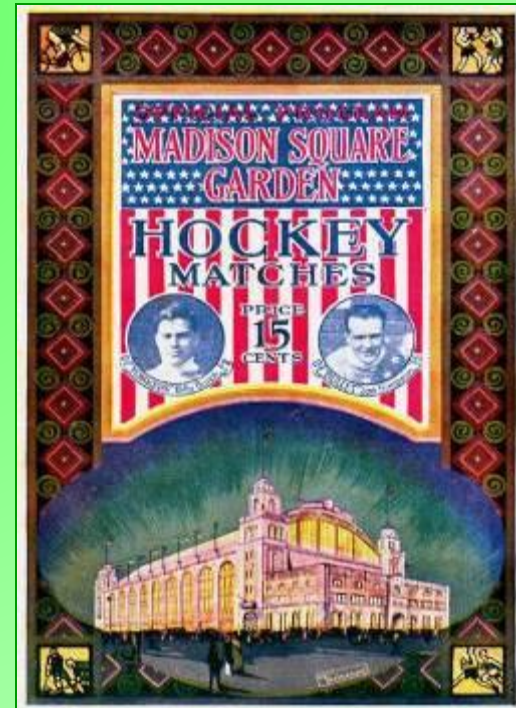
Shea Stadium, Queens



Bronx Stadium



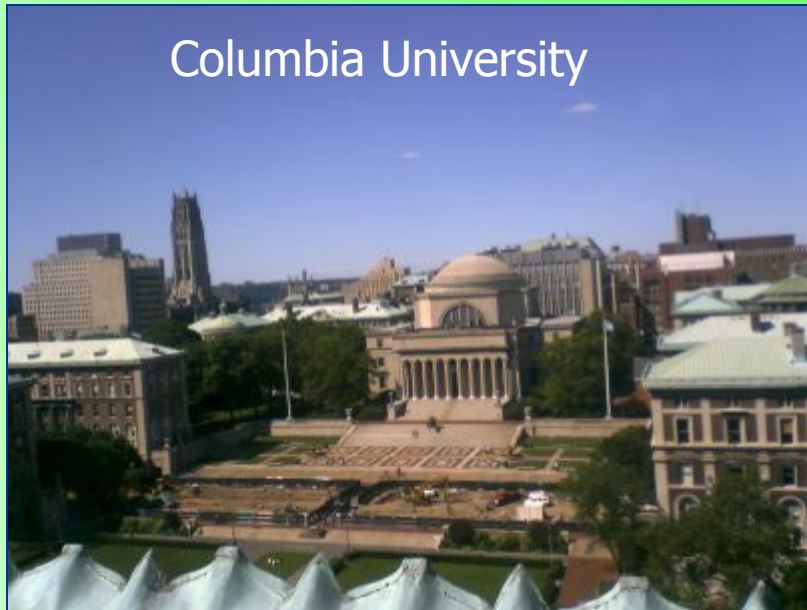
As a global city, New York supports many events outside the big four American sports. These include the **U.S. Tennis Open**, the **New York City Marathon** and the **Millrose Games**, an annual track and field meet whose featured event is the Wanamaker Mile. Boxing is also a very prominent part of the cities sporting scene, with events like the Amateur Boxing Golden Gloves being held at Madison Square Gardens each year.



The city's public school system, managed by the [New York City Department of Education](#), is the largest in the United States. About 1.1 million students are taught in more than 1,200 separate primary and secondary schools. There are about 600,000 university students in New York City. New York City is also home to such notable private universities as [Columbia University](#), [Cooper Union](#), [Fordham University](#), [Manhattan College](#), [The New School](#), [New York Institute of Technology](#), [Pace University](#), [Polytechnic University](#), and [St. John's University](#).



Fordham University



Columbia University



New York Institute of Technology



New York Public Library



Queens Library

The [New York Public Library](#), which has the largest collection of any public library system in the country, serves Manhattan, The Bronx, and Staten Island. Queens is served by the [Queens Borough Public Library](#), which is the nation's second largest public library system, and [Brooklyn Public Library](#) serves Brooklyn. The [New York Public Library](#) has several research libraries, including the [Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture](#).



Brooklyn Public Library

New York is home to the two busiest rail stations in the United States, including **Grand Central Terminal** and **Penn Station**.



Penn Station



Grand Central Terminal

The **New York City Subway** is one of the largest rapid transit systems in the world with 1,062 km of mainline track. The transportation system in New York City is extensive and complex. It includes the longest suspension bridge in North America, the world's first mechanically ventilated vehicular tunnel, more than 12,000 yellow cabs and an aerial tramway that transports commuters between Roosevelt Island and Manhattan.

