

New York landmarks

The Empire State Building was designed in Art Deco style by William Lamb. By October 1930, there were 88 floors finished and only 14 to go. These top floors took the form of a tower of glass, steel, and aluminium, which is about 200 feet high and is topped with a dome. After the destruction of the Twin Towers on September 11, 2001, the Empire State Building has become New York's tallest building again.

The Statue of Liberty was a gift of France to the United States in honour of the friendship established during the French Revolution. The statue was designed by Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi and was completed in 1886. Once completed, the statue was dismantled into 350 pieces which were sent to the USA, where it took four months for it to be reassembled. As its name suggests, the statue is regarded as a universal symbol of freedom. Visitors can reach the top of the statue.

The Staten Island Ferry is a free ferry from lower Manhattan to Staten Island, used by commuters and tourists wanting a view of the harbour and the Statue of Liberty.

The Rockefeller Center in midtown Manhattan, is known for its Christmas tree, ice skating, Top of the Rock Observation Deck, Radio City Music Hall, and numerous shopping and dining opportunities. Rockefeller Center is a great destination for visitors any time of year.

Ellis Island was the gateway to the United States from 1892 to 1954. The Ellis Island Immigration Museum offers visitors a fascinating look into the immigrant experience. Interactive exhibits, walking tours and movies reveal the hardships and challenges faced by immigrants passing through Ellis Island.

Since opening to the public in 1869, the American Museum of Natural History has evolved and grown.

In addition to the Rose Center planetarium and regular exhibits, the American Museum of Natural History hosts a revolving series of new exhibits, so there is always something new to see.

Central Park has offered a welcome escape from the concrete jungle of New York City for over 150 years. It is a large public, urban park located in the borough of Manhattan. With about twenty-five million visitors annually, Central Park is the most visited city park in the United States, and its appearance in many films and television shows has made it famous.

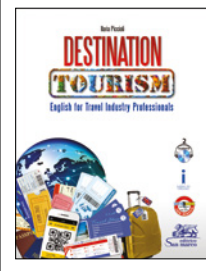
While much of the park looks natural, it is in fact almost entirely landscaped (i.e. created by architects and planners). It contains several natural-looking lakes and ponds, extensive walking tracks, two ice-skating rinks, the Central Park Zoo, the Central Park Conservatory Garden, a wildlife sanctuary, a large area of natural woods, a reservoir with an encircling running track, and an outdoor amphitheater called the Delacorte Theater which hosts the Shakespeare in the Park summer festival.

Indoor attractions include Belvedere Castle with its nature center, the Swedish Cottage Marionette Theatre, and the historic Carousel.

In addition there are many major and minor grassy areas, some of which are used for informal or team sports, some are set aside as quiet areas, and there are a number of enclosed playgrounds for children.

Over 2 million works of art from around the world and throughout history are housed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. This art museum is located on the eastern edge





of Central Park, along what is known as Museum Mile. It has a permanent collection containing more than two million works of art, divided into nineteen departments.

The main building is one of the world's largest art galleries, and has a much smaller second location in Upper Manhattan, at 'The Cloisters,' which features medieval art. The permanent collection includes works of art from classical antiquity and Ancient Egypt, paintings and sculptures from nearly all the European masters, and an extensive collection of American and modern art. The Met also maintains extensive holdings of African, Asian, Oceanic, Byzantine, and Islamic art.

The museum is also home to encyclopedic collections of musical instruments, costumes and accessories, and antique weapons and armour from around the world.

Founded in 1929 as the first museum dedicated entirely to contemporary art, the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) houses an impressive collection of modern masterpieces. It is located in Midtown Manhattan. The museum's permanent collection offers an unparalleled overview of modern and contemporary art, including works of architecture and design, drawings, painting, sculpture, photography, prints, illustrated books, film, and electronic media.

MoMA's library and archives hold over 300,000 books, artist books, and periodicals, as well as individual files on more than 70,000 artists.

ACTIVITIES

1 Answer the following questions.

- Why does New York enjoy an international reputation?
- Why is New York considered a microcosm of human race?
- What can you see in Little Italy?

2 Talk about Manhattan.

3 Where do you go in New York if you want...

- to have a view of New York harbor.
.....
- to skate on ice.
.....
- to learn about the history of immigration to the United States.
.....
- to relax and have a walk.
.....

- What is Harlem?
- Who was Giovanni da Verrazzano?
- Why was New York originally called New Amsterdam?
- When was New York conquered by the British?
- How many boroughs make up New York?

- to see Ancient Egyptian works of art.
.....
- to write a report on a particular movement of contemporary art.
.....
- to do some shopping.
.....
- to attend a Shakespearean play during summer.
.....

4 Decide if the following statements are true or false and correct the false ones.

- The top floors of the Empire State Building are made of glass and iron. (T) (F)
- France gave the Statue of Liberty to the United States as a gift. (T) (F)
- The Statue of Liberty was also the entry point for immigrants. (T) (F)
- There are many shops at the Rockefeller Center. (T) (F)
- The American Museum of Natural History opened at the beginning of the 20th century. (T) (F)
- Central Park is a large green area in the heart of New York. (T) (F)
- The Metropolitan Museum of Art houses one million works of art. (T) (F)
- The MoMa is in upper Manhattan. (T) (F)

5 Find in the text the English equivalents of the following words and expressions.

- Cupola
- Rivoluzione Francese
- Pendolari
- Albero di Natale
- Mostre interattive
- Giungla d'asfalto
- Zoo
- Pista da corsa
- Aree erbose
- Sport di squadra
- Aree gioco
- Arte contemporanea