

Free Admission and Discounted Admission at New York City Museums

These NYC Museums Are Always Free

Who doesn't love to do something free? Check out these New York City museums and cultural institutions that offer free access every day that they are open -- confirm hours/days that they're open to avoid disappointment.

- [American Folk Art Museum](#)
Admission is free at the American Folk Art Museum where you can see the 9/11 National Tribute Quilt, as well as temporary exhibits and selections from the Museums' permanent collection.
Address: 2 Lincoln Square | **Phone:** 212-595-9533
- [The Bronx Museum of the Arts](#)
The flagship cultural institution of the Bronx, the Bronx Museum collects and celebrates 20th century and contemporary art, with a particular emphasis on artists of African, Asian and Latin American ancestry and those with a connection to the Bronx.
Address: 200 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn | **Phone:** 718-638-5000
- [Forbes Galleries](#)
Admission free to this interesting museum featuring collectibles such as toy soldiers, Monopoly games and more. The Forbes Galleries are open Tuesday - Saturday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Thursdays are reserved for groups with reservations.)
Address: 62 Fifth Avenue (at 12th Street) | **Phone:** 212-206-5548
- [Goethe Institut](#)
Weekdays you can experience German language and culture exhibits for free at the Goethe Institut.
Address: 72 Spring Street, 11th floor | **Phone:** 212-439-8700
- [Museum at Fashion Institute of Technology](#)
Admission to the museum displaying articles from the permanent collection, as well as changing exhibits on fashion, is always free.
Address: Seventh Avenue at 27 Street | **Phone:** 212-217-5970
- [Museum of Biblical Art \(MOBIA\)](#)
Admission is free at this Upper West Side museum that exhibits and interprets art related to the Bible and its cultural legacy.
Address: 1865 Broadway at 61st Street | **Phone:** 212-408-1500
- [National Museum of the American Indian](#)
Admission to the the sixteenth museum in the Smithsonian Institution is always free. Located in the Alexander Hamilton Customs House, the museum features changing exhibitions about Native cultures in the Western Hemisphere.
Address: 1 Bowling Green, George Gustave Heye Center | **Phone:** 212-514-3700
- [Queens Botanical Garden](#)
Off-season visits to the Queens Botanical Garden are free daily (closed Mondays) from November through March.
Address: 43-50 Main Street, Flushing, NY | **Phone:** 718-886-3800
- [Socrates Sculpture Park](#)
With free admission everyday, year-round, Socrates Sculpture Park in Long Island City is a great place to enjoy an ever-changing landscape of outdoor art exhibits against the backdrop of the city.
Address: 32-01 Vernon Boulevard at Broadway, Long Island City (Queens), NY 11106 | **Phone:** 718-956-1819
- [Sony Wonder Technology Lab](#)
Admission is always free to this entertainment and technology museum located in Midtown, but reservations are strongly encouraged.
Address: Sony Plaza Public Arcade at 56th Street and Madison Avenue | **Phone:** 212-833-5414
- [Swiss Institute of Contemporary Art](#)
Admission to the exhibitions at the Swiss Institute is always free -- it's open Wednesday through Sunday from 12-6.

New York City Museums With Suggested Admission

These New York City museums allow you to use your discretion when paying admission. Of course, they rely on income from admission to present their collections and do their work, but you can pay what you can afford (or what you feel represents your visit to the museum) with the suggested admission policy. At most of these museums the full-price admission price is posted, but you can tell the cashier how much you want to pay and they will admit you. I've done this several times when I am just visiting a museum for a brief period of time. Do note: you can't purchase tickets online for less than the suggested admission.

- [American Museum of Natural History](#)
The suggested adult admission at the American Museum of Natural History is \$19, but you can make whatever contribution you see as appropriate to enter the museum (though you'll have to pay full price for planetarium shows, IMAX films and special exhibits).
Address: Central Park West at West 79th Street | **Phone:** 212-769-5000
- [Brooklyn Museum](#)
One of the oldest and largest art museums in the world, the Brooklyn Museum is housed in a beautiful Beaux-Arts building. The suggested admission is \$12 to see not only the museum's permanent collection, but also a range of ever-changing exhibits that are often amazing.
Address: 200 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn | **Phone:** 718-638-5000
- [El Museo del Barrio](#)
Located in East Harlem, El Museo del Barrio collects and exhibits Caribbean, Latino, and Latin American art. The museum's suggested admission of \$9 offers you the opportunity to explore both temporary exhibits, as well as displays from the museum's permanent collection.
Address: 1230 Fifth Avenue (104th Street) | **Phone:** 212-831-7272

- [Metropolitan Museum of Art & The Cloisters](#)
Although they raised the suggested admission to \$25, you can pay what you can afford to see one of the greatest art museums in New York City.
The Met - Address: 1000 Fifth Avenue | **Phone:** 212-535-7710
The Cloisters - Address: 99 Margaret Corbin Drive, Fort Tryon Park | **Phone:** 212-923-3700
- [MoMA PSI](#)
PSI exhibits contemporary art in a former Public School in Long Island City, Queens. Suggested admission is \$10, which gains you access to temporary exhibitions, as well as long-term exhibits at the museum. Admission is also free for MoMA ticket holders within 30 days.
Address: 22-25 Jackson Ave. at 46th Ave., Long Island City | **Phone:** 718-784-2084
- [Museum of the City of New York](#)
The Museum of the City of New York features a permanent collection and changing exhibits about the history of this fascinating city. They suggest visitors pay \$10, and offer free admission to people who live or work above 103rd Street in East Harlem.
Address: 1220 Fifth Avenue at 103rd Street | **Phone:** 212-534-1672
- [Queens Museum of Art](#)
The Queens Museum of Art collects and exhibits art reflecting the urban experience, with an emphasis on artists working and living in New York City and Queens. Suggested admission of \$8 gives you a chance to see their most famous exhibit, [The Panorama of the City of New York](#) built by Robert Moses for the 1964 World's Fair.
Address: New York City Building, Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Queens | **Phone:** 718-592-9700
- [Sculpture Center](#)
Founded in 1928, the Sculpture Center collects and commissions contemporary sculpture, and exhibits work by emerging and established sculptors. A donation of \$5 is suggested for admission to this Queens museum open Thursday - Monday from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Address: 4419 Purves Street, Long Island City, Queens | **Phone:** 718-361-1750
- [Staten Island Museum](#)
The Staten Island Museum prides itself on dynamic exhibits highlighting its multidisciplinary collection related to natural science, art, and history. Suggested admission is just \$5.
Address: 75 Stuyvesant Place, Staten Island | **Phone:** 718-727-1135
- [The Studio Museum of Harlem](#)
The Studio Museum of Harlem asks for a \$7 suggested donation to see their exhibits which focus on the works of local, national and international artists of African descent.
Address: 144 West 125th Street | **Phone:** 212-864-4500
- [Tibet House](#)
The Tibet House Cultural Center features exhibits of classical and contemporary Tibetan art, as well as art inspired by Tibetan culture. Admission is free, but there is a box to contribute your donation (\$5 suggested).
Address: 22 West 15th Street | **Phone:** 212-807-0565

New York City Museums With Free Admission on Monday

While many museums are closed on Mondays, these ones are open and offer free and pay-what-you-wish options for admission on Mondays.

- [Museum at Eldridge Street](#) Visitors to the Museum at Eldridge Street have the opportunity to learn about the 1887 Eldridge Street Synagogue, its history and architecture, as well as the story of the Jewish immigrants who worshiped there. (Full-priced admission is usually \$10)
Address: 12 Eldridge Street | **Phone:** 212-219-0888
- [Yeshiva University Museum](#) Admission is free on Mondays (open from 5-8 p.m.) to the YUMuseum, where you can explore exhibits that celebrate Jewish intellectual and artistic achievements. (Full-price admission \$8)
Address: 15 West 16th Street | **Phone:** 212-294-8330

New York City Museums With Free Admission on Tuesday

- [Brooklyn Botanical Garden](#)
Enjoy the beautiful gardens, conservatory and exhibitions at the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens for free every Tuesday. (Admission is also free every weekday from mid-November through February)
Address: 1000 Washington Avenue, Brooklyn, NY | **Phone:** 718-623-7200
- [China Institute](#)
Access to the China Institute galleries is free from 6-8 p.m. on Tuesdays. The galleries feature changing exhibits about Chinese art and culture.
Address: 125 East 65th Street | **Phone:** 212-744-8181
- [McKim Rooms at the Morgan Library & Museum](#)
From 3-5 p.m. on Tuesdays, visitors can access the McKim Rooms, which include Piermont Morgan's library, study and the rotunda, for free.
Address: 225 Madison Avenue | **Phone:** 212-685-0008
- [Staten Island Museum](#)
Admission is free on Tuesdays from 12 to 2 p.m. at the Staten Island Museum which has exhibits exploring history, art and natural science.
Address: 75 Stuyvesant Place, Staten Island, NY | **Phone:** 718-483-7114

New York City Museums With Free Admission on Wednesday

- [Bronx Zoo](#)
Admission by donation gets you into the Wildlife Conservation Society's flagship Bronx Zoo all day on Wednesday.
Address: 1040 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY | **Phone:** 718-367-1010

- [Museum of Jewish Heritage](#)
Admission is free on Wednesdays from 4-8 p.m. at the Museum of Jewish Heritage which focuses on Jewish history, life and culture before, during and after the Holocaust.
Address: 36 Battery Place | **Phone:** 646-437-4202
- [New York Botanical Garden](#)
Free admission on Wednesdays covers access to the NYBG grounds only.
Address: Bronx River Parkway and Fordham Road, Bronx, NY | **Phone:** 718-817-8700
- [Queens Botanical Garden](#)
Enjoy free admission to the Queens Botanical Garden on Wednesdays from 3-6 p.m.
Address: 43-50 Main Street, Flushing, NY | **Phone:** 718-886-3800
- [Staten Island Zoo](#)
Visit the Staten Island Zoo for free on Wednesday afternoons from 2-4:45 p.m. Parking is always free too!
Address: 614 Broadway, Staten Island | **Phone:** 718-442-3100
- [Yeshiva University Museum](#) *Admission is free on Wednesdays from 5-8 p.m. to the YUMuseum, where you can explore exhibits that celebrate Jewish intellectual and artistic achievements. (Full-price admission \$8)*
Address: 15 West 16th Street | **Phone:** 212-294-8330
- [Van Cortlandt House Museum](#)
Built in 1748, the Van Cortlandt House was part of the family's 1,000 acre estate. Visitors will enjoy visiting the house and seeing its impressive furniture collection for free on Wednesdays.
Address: Van Cortlandt Park (Broadway at West 246th Street), the Bronx | **Phone:** 718-543-3344

New York City Museums With Free Admission on Thursday

- [Children's Museum of the Arts](#)
Free arts-oriented fun for the kids, since you can pay what you wish on Thursdays from 4-6 p.m.
Address: 103 Charlton Street | **Phone:** 212-274-0986
- [China Institute](#)
Access to the China Institute galleries is free from 6-8 p.m. on Thursdays. The galleries feature changing exhibits about Chinese art and culture.
Address: 125 East 65th Street | **Phone:** 212-744-8181
- [Museum of Arts and Design](#)
Pay-what-you-wish from 6-9 p.m. on Thursday nights at this Columbus Circle museum that explores design and offers you the chance to watch artists at work.
Address: 2 Columbus Circle | **Phone:** 212-299-7777
- [Museum of Chinese in the Americas](#)
Admission is free all day on Thursdays to this Chinatown museum dedicated to Chinese American history.
Address: 215 Centre Street | **Phone:** 212-619-4785
- [New Museum](#)
Visit the New Museum for free from 7-9 p.m. on Thursdays to experience their contemporary art exhibitions.
Address: 235 Bowery | **Phone:** 212-219-1222

New York City Museums With Free Admission on Friday

- [Asia Society and Museum](#)
Free Admission on Fridays from 6-9 p.m. (does not apply July 1 - [Labor Day](#))
Address: 725 Park Ave. at 70th St. | **Phone:** 212-288-6400
- [The Bronx Museum of the Arts](#)
Admission is free on Fridays when the museum is open from 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. at the Bronx Museum. The Bronx Museum collects and celebrates 20th century and contemporary art, with a particular emphasis on artists of African, Asian and Latin American ancestry and those with a connection to the Bronx.
Address: 200 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn | **Phone:** 718-638-5000
- [Brooklyn Botanical Garden](#)
Seniors can enjoy free admission on Fridays at the BBG.
Address: 1000 Washington Avenue, Brooklyn | **Phone:** 718-623-7200
- [Children's Museum of Manhattan](#)
*On the **first Friday** of every month, admission to CMoM is free from 5-8 p.m., thanks to Target.*
Address: 212 West 83rd Street | **Phone:** 212-721-1223
- [Historic Richmond Town](#)
A living history museum located on 100 acres over four sites on Staten Island, access to Historic Richmond Town is free on Fridays from 1-5 p.m.
Address: 441 Clarke Avenue, Staten Island | **Phone:** 718-351-1611
- [International Center for Photography](#)
Admission to the frequently changing photography exhibitions is available with your voluntary contribution on Fridays from 5-8 p.m.
Address: 1133 Avenue of the Americas at 43rd St. | **Phone:** 212-857-0000
- [Japan Society Gallery](#)
Explore the Japan Society Gallery for free on Friday evenings from 6-9 p.m.
Address: 333 East 47th Street | **Phone:** 212-832-1155

- [McKim Rooms at the Morgan Library & Museum](#)
From 7-9 p.m. on Fridays, it's free to visit Piermont Morgan's library, study and the rotunda.
Address: 225 Madison Avenue | **Phone:** 212-685-0008
- [Museum of Arts and Design](#)
Pay-what-you-wish from 6-9 p.m. on Friday nights at this Columbus Circle museum that explores design and even has artists you can observe working in studios at the museum.
Address: 2 Columbus Circle | **Phone:** 212-299-7777
- [Museum of Modern Art \(MoMA\)](#)
Free Admission on Target Fridays from 4 - 8 p.m. gives you access to see the MoMa's impressive collections and exhibits, which normally cost \$25.
Address: 11 West 53 Street | **Phone:** 212-708-9400
- [Museum of the Moving Image](#)
Visiting the galleries of this museum dedicated to all things film is free on Fridays from 4 - 8 p.m., but it does not include film screenings.
Address: 35 Avenue at 36 Street, Astoria | **Phone:** 718-784-0077
- [Neue Galerie](#)
From 6-8 p.m. on the **first Friday** of every month, visitors can experience the Neue Galerie's collection of German and Austrian art.
Address: 1048 Fifth Avenue | **Phone:** 212-628-6200
- [New York Aquarium](#)
CURRENTLY CLOSED DUE TO DAMAGE FROM HURRICANE SANDY. Admission on Friday afternoons after 3 p.m. is by donation at this Coney Island aquarium.
Address: Surf Avenue and West 8th Street, Brooklyn | **Phone:** 718-265-FISH
- [New York Hall of Science](#)
If you don't mind some crowds, join the free admission fun at NYSci on Fridays from 2-5 p.m. (except in July & August).
Address: 47-01 111th Street Queens, NY | **Phone:** 718-699-0005
- [New-York Historical Society](#)
Pay-What-You-Wish on Fridays from 6-8 p.m., to visit the [New-York Historical Society's](#) exhibits that explore the history and culture of New York City and the United States.
Address: 170 Central Park West (76th/77th Street) | **Phone:** 212-873-3400
- [Noguchi Museum](#)
Pay-what-you-wish on the **first Friday** of every month to see this museum founded and designed by Japanese-American artist Isamu Noguchi.
Address: 9-01 33rd Road (at Vernon Boulevard), Long Island City | **Phone:** 718-204-7088
- [Rubin Museum of Art](#)
Admission is free for all visitors on Friday nights from 6-10 p.m. at this museum dedicated to the art of the Himalayas.
Address: 150 West 17 St. | **Phone:** 212-620-5000
- [Whitney Museum of American Art](#)
Pay-what-you-wish on Fridays from 6-9 p.m. to visit the Whitney, which displays 20th century and contemporary American art.
Address: 945 Madison Avenue at 75th Street | **Phone:** 212-570-3676
- [Yeshiva University Museum](#) Admission is free on Fridays (open from 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.) to the YUMuseum, where you can explore exhibits that celebrate Jewish intellectual and artistic achievements. (Full-price admission \$8)
Address: 15 West 16th Street | **Phone:** 212-294-8330

New York City Museums With Free Admission on Saturday

- [Brooklyn Botanical Garden](#)
Arrive at the BBG on Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. and admission is free, unless there is a special public program happening.
Address: 1000 Washington Avenue, Brooklyn, NY | **Phone:** 718-623-7200
- First Saturdays at the [Brooklyn Museum of Art](#)
Evening admission (5-11 p.m.) on the **first Saturday** of every month is free. Includes most exhibits, music and movie screenings.
Address: 200 Eastern Pkwy, Brooklyn | **Phone:** 718-638-5000
- [El Museo del Barrio](#)
On the **third Saturday** of every month, admission is free to this museum dedicated to the art of Latino, Caribbean and Latin American cultures.
Address: 1230 Fifth Avenue (at 104th Street) | **Phone:** 212-831-7272
- [Guggenheim Museum](#)
Pay what you wish on Saturdays from 5:45 - 7:45 p.m. (last ticket issued at 7:15)
Address: 1071 5th Avenue at 89th Street | **Phone:** 212-423-3500
- [The Jewish Museum](#)
Enjoy free admission on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.
Address: 1109 Fifth Avenue (92nd Street) | **Phone:** 212-423-3200
- [New York Botanical Garden](#)
Explore the grounds at the NYBG for free if you arrive from 10-11 a.m. on Saturdays
Address: Bronx River Parkway and Fordham Road, Bronx | **Phone:** 718-817-8700

New York City Museums With Free Admission on Sunday

- [The Frick Collection](#)
On Sundays, visit Henry Clay Frick's Fifth Avenue mansion and art collection and pay-what-you-wish from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Address: 1 East 70th Street | **Phone:** 212-288-0700
- [McKim Rooms at the Morgan Library & Museum](#)
*From 4-6 p.m. on Sundays, you can see the most famous rooms (including Piermont Morgan's library, study and the rotunda) at the Morgan Library & Museum for free.***Address:** 225 Madison Avenue | **Phone:** 212-685-0008
- [New York Hall of Science](#)
*General admission to the museum is free on Sundays from 10-11 a.m. (except in July & August).***Address:** 47-01 111th Street Queens, NY | **Phone:** 718-699-0005
- [Queens Botanical Garden](#)
*There's no charge to visit the QBG on Sundays from 4-6 p.m.***Address:** 43-50 Main Street, Flushing, NY | **Phone:** 718-886-3800
- [The Studio Museum of Harlem](#)
See the works of local, national and international artists of African descent at the Studio Museum of Harlem for free on Sundays.
Address: 144 West 125th Street | **Phone:** 212-864-4500