

Greenwich Village Neighborhood Tour

Meet at Kimmel, 60 Washington Sq. South, in the Lobby

1. **Washington Square Park** has been in the past a potter's field, an execution site, and a military parade ground. **Washington Square Arch** was completed in 1892 and designed by Stanford White, a prominent architect at the time. Its purpose is to commemorate George Washington's inauguration as President. In 1917, members of the bohemian Liberal Club climbed to the top and proclaimed the area the "Independent Republic of Greenwich Village." In 1968, the Students Against War and Racism climbed to the top and flew a banner reading "The Streets Belong to the People" along with the National Liberation Front of Vietnam flag. The passageway to the top is now locked. During the 1830s, the north side of the park was built to house the area's wealthier residents in the Greek revival houses that are still there today. Immigrants and artisans populated the south side, where Kimmel now stands. The park is a great place to listen to music played by street musicians, watch an impromptu street show, play a game of frisbee, or just people watch. Some have dubbed the park the "unofficial quad" of NYU.

Walk left out of the Kimmel lobby to the corner of Thompson and Washington Square South.

2. **55 Washington Sq. South - Judson Memorial Baptist Church.** The church, also designed by Stanford White, was founded in 1891. It became a major help to the surrounding community and has remained socially active throughout its years. In the past, the church has helped immigrants with finding jobs, provided a refuge for activists fleeing the police, and helped prostitutes with finding healthcare and other services.

Turn left (south) onto Thompson, and right (west) onto W. 3rd St. until 85 West 3rd St.

3. **85 West 3rd St.** is a former residence of Edgar Allen Poe. It is now part of NYU Law School and certain rooms in the building are rumored to be haunted.

Continue on West 3rd St. to Sullivan St. Turn left (south) onto Sullivan St. until Bleecker St.

4. **Bleecker St.** in the mid to late 19th Century was known as a racy part of the city. The surrounding area was a red-light district with the busiest sections on Bleecker by Greene St. and Mercer St.

159 Bleecker St. between Sullivan and Thompson Streets is the former site of the **Circle in the Square Theatre.** It has since moved uptown to 1633 Broadway at 50th St. where it now puts on Broadway shows.

Turn right (west) onto Bleecker St. until MacDougal. Turn right (north) onto MacDougal until Minetta Lane.

5. **Minetta Lane** is named for the Minetta Brook that started on 23rd St. and flowed through here en route to the Hudson. The brook still runs underground. Many of the buildings on Minetta Lane and Minetta Street have survived from before the Civil War when the area, known then as "Little Africa," was home to one of NYC's largest African American communities.

113 MacDougal St – The Minetta Tavern, below Minetta Lane on MacDougal, was a speakeasy during the time of Prohibition and in the basement of the tavern is where *Reader's Digest* was born. Literary greats like e.e. cummings, Ernest Hemmingway, and Ezra Pound all used to hang out here.

There are a few different places on MacDougal to check out: Esperanto Café (114 MacDougal) south of Minetta Lane on MacDougal is open 24 hours. This café provides an all-night study haven complete with great coffee and free wireless Internet access.

If you want a night of laughs, **The Comedy Cellar (117 MacDougal)** is also on MacDougal. They've had comedians like Jerry Seinfeld, Colin Quinn and Jon Stewart perform.

There's **Mamoun's Falafel (119 MacDougal)** located north of Minetta Lane where you can get a great falafel sandwich for only \$2.50. The shop itself is small so get it to go (and maybe eat it in Washington Square Park!).

For a different taste, there's **Meskerem (124 MacDougal)**, Ethiopian cuisine. They have lunch specials!

There are several other restaurants, shops and hangouts on MacDougal that will sometimes give discounts to NYU students so make sure to have your NYU ID on you!

Continue on MacDougal until West 3rd St.

6. **133 MacDougal Street - Provincetown Playhouse** came to the village in 1916 and has featured Eugene O'Neill, John Reed, and Max Eastman. Bette Davis made her stage debut here. It is now owned by NYU and student productions, along with non-NYU productions, are performed here.

Continue to the corner of Washington Pl. and Washington Square West.

7. **33 Washington Sq. West – Hayden Hall.** This FYRE hall was originally built in 1957 as a Law student residence hall. An old hotel from the early 20th Century, Holley Chambers Hotel, is incorporated into the building and it is rumored that Theodore Roosevelt was once a guest there. There are other remnants of the hotel left with the building like an “HC” still engraved over the door and a letter chute that’s no longer working. Hayden also has one of NYU’s many purple flags attached to it. As you continue walking, you’ll notice that most NYU buildings also display the purple flag.

On the North corner of Washington Place and Washington Sq. West is where Eleanor Roosevelt lived from 1945 to 1949 after FDR’s death.

Continue on Washington Sq. West to MacDougal Alley.

8. **MacDougal Alley.** Built in the 1830s as horse stables to service those around Washington Sq. Park, the buildings in the Alley have been renovated into artists’ studios. The founder of the Whitney Museum, Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, once lived here. The Museum, itself, was originally at 10 West 8th Street.

On the corner of MacDougal and Washington Sq. North is the building where Matthew Broderick and then Uta Hagen, the famed acting teacher, once lived.

Continue on MacDougal to 8th Street. Turn left (west) onto 8th St. to the corner of 6th Avenue.

9. **8th Street** itself is full of different shoe stores.

On the North corner of 8th St. and 6th Ave. is **Gray’s Papaya** said be some to be the best hot dogs in New York. They’re open 24 hours and the hot dogs do come cheap!

Turn right (north) onto 6th Ave. to 9th St.

10. **425 Sixth Avenue - Jefferson Market Library.** The plot of land was originally a food market and the clock tower on top was intended as a fire lookout. The library was then turned into a courthouse and the current garden used to be a detention center for women. Mae West once spent time here for her “indecent” plays. It was turned into a library in 1967. The library is open to public use with a New York Public Library card, which you can get for free.

Bigelow Chemists (414 Sixth Ave.), established in 1838, is the oldest apothecary in America. It was declared an interior landmark in 1984 and it still contains its 1838 wood shelving, tiles and lamps. The stamp of “C.O. Bigelow” found on the products from this famous landmark, stands for Clarence Otis Bigelow, its founder. It’s said Mark Twain used to fulfill his prescriptions here. It’s still visited by celebrities including Winona Ryder, Kate Moss, and Liv Tyler. Bigelow’s is known for its wide selection of homeopathic remedies and beauty supplies and other stores, like Bath & Body Works, now carry Bigelow’s products. But for tutti-frutti or chocolate chip flavored medicine, you’ll have to go to the original Bigelow’s store.

Continue on 6th Ave., then right (east) on 10th Street to the corner of 5th Ave.

11. **35 5th Ave. – Rubin Hall** was once the Grosvenor Hotel, one of the most expensive hotels in Manhattan. Writer Willa Cather lived here for a short time. This was also Felicity’s residence hall in the show *Felicity*. Only the exterior was ever shown.

Continue on 10th Street.

12. **7 E. 10th St. – NYU Bronfman Center for Jewish Student Life.** The building itself has been around since 1887 and was designed by Lockwood De Forest, one of the founders of the Associated Artists. De Forest was inspired after a trip to India to decorate the exterior with teak carvings, which can be seen around the building’s main entry. The building was purchased by NYU in the 1990s. The Center has several programs and events throughout the year open to all students.

Continue on 10th St. then to University Place.

13. *Corner of University Place and 10th St.* is **Spice (60 University Place)** popular among NYU students for its lunch specials, which come with a free appetizer.

North on University Place is **Dean & Deluca Café (75 University)** also featured on the show *Felicity*. You can get some coffee here and sit at the windows to people watch.

Further north is **Bowlmor Lanes (110 University)**, a great place to have a fun night of bowling in the city.

Turn right (south) on University Place to 8th St.

14. *University Place between 9th & 10th* is **Bagel Bob's (51 University Place)** where Mondays 4-6, everything is ½ price.

Corner of University & 8th St. is **BBQ (21 University Place)**, another hang out of NYU students.

On 8th St. there is a **Subway** for good sub sandwiches and a **Johnny Rockets (42 E. 8th St.)** both of which take Campus Cash (which is not the same as the Declining Dollars used in the NYU dining halls).

Continue on University Place to 5-11 University Place, Weinstein Hall.

15. 5-11 University Place is **Weinstein Hall**, built in the 1960s specifically as a residence hall for NYU. In September 1970, there was a sit-in in the basement of Weinstein for seven days protesting the cancellation of a series of dances organized by the Gay Liberation Front and the Christopher Street Liberation Day Committee. The police invaded the building and arrested 29 people out of about 100 who were part of the sit-in. Parts of the film "The Freshman" were also filmed in the residence hall. Weinstein also has a food court and an all-you-can-eat dining facility.

Across the street is **Washington Mews**. This cobblestone row of houses was once a row of stables. The stables were converted into the apartments that are there today. Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney once lived here as well. Now three of NYU's language houses can be found at the Mews:

Ireland House is at No. 1,

Maison Francaise is No. 16 and

Deutsches Haus is at No. 42.

Space Market (1 University Pl.), next door to Weinstein, gives an NYU discount and takes Campus Cash.

Continue on University Place to Waverly Place. Turn left (east) onto Waverly to the corner of Greene St. and Waverly.

16. *Waverly between Greene and Mercer* there is **Caliente Cab Co. (21 Waverly Place)** and **Pizza Mercato (11 Waverly Place)**, both loved by NYU students. Pizza Mercato is known for its very affordable pizza and soda deal.

Turn right (south) on Greene St. to the corner of Washington Pl.

17. **29 Washington Place (Brown Building) - Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire of 1911.** In 1911, a sweatshop caught on fire and killed over 100 workers, mostly immigrant women. The fire exits in the building had been locked in order to keep workers at their stations. The factory moved 5 days later to 5-11 University Place, now Weinstein Hall, before it became a residence hall building. The fire prompted a huge movement for political reform regarding worker conditions and safety. The building was donated to NYU in 1929.

