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PUBLISHER: Clifford Luster

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR:

Donna Duarte-Ladd

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: Erin Brof

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR:

Stacie Goldberg

EDITORIAL LEAD: Jeannine Cintron

DEPUTY EDITOR: Danielle Ramos

EVENTS EDITOR: Shara Levine

ASSOCIATE DIGITAL EDITOR:

Soe Kabbabe

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT: Alexa Lutter

PARTNERSHIP MANAGERS:

Lauren Alperin, Lauren Anchin, Joan Bergman, Mary Cassidy, Suzanne Cirigliano, Chris Cunningham, Lori Falco, Shelli Goldberg-Peck, LynnMarie Hanley, Lisa Herlihy, Janine Mulé, Nina Spiegelman, Gwen Tomaselli

MARKETING & STRATEGY DIRECTOR:

Rosalia Bobé

MARKETING & EVENTS

COORDINATOR: Ashley Rivera

MARKETING ASSISTANT: Lorens Morris

MEDIA SALES ASSISTANT:

Ruston Ropac

ART DIRECTOR: Leah Mitch

WEB DEVELOPER: Sylvan Migdal

CONTACT INFORMATION

ADVERTISING: (718) 260-4554

Advertising@NewYorkFamily.com

CIRCULATION: (718) 260-8336

Tina@NewYorkFamily.com

ADDRESS:

New York Family Media/Schneps Media
15 MetroTech Center, Seventh Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11201



PRESIDENT: Victoria Schneps-Yunis

CEO: Joshua Schneps

COO: Clifford Luster

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GUIDE TO NYC NEIGHBORHOODS:

Manhattan

BY MIA SALAS

Although the smallest borough, Manhattan, boasts the most neighborhoods in NYC, offering families a wide range of options. From coveted river views and stroller-friendly streets in Tribeca to the energy of Chelsea and the top-tier education of the Upper East Side, there is a home for every kind of family. Manhattan offers an incredible range of neighborhoods; these are just a few highlights. For more on where to go and what to do, visit newyorkfamily.com.

Chelsea

If you're looking for an upbeat, energetic vibe in a safe, friendly neighborhood, Chelsea might be right for your family. Known for its galleries and diverse architecture—from historic townhouses to sleek condos—it's vibrant and welcoming to parents and children.

Centered around the High Line, one of the city's best outdoor spaces, Chelsea offers gardens, food vendors, and family programming. Chelsea Piers is a major draw, with bowling, gymnastics, swimming, rock climbing, skating, camps, and after-school programs. Chelsea Market is a go-to for weekend outings.

Creative enrichment is strong here, with options like cooking classes at Taste Buds



Kitchen, arts programming at Kids at Work, and exhibits at the Museum of Illusions. Housing ranges from pre-war walk-ups to luxury condos, and commuting is easy with multiple subway lines.

Hot Spots: Chelsea Waterside Park,

Pricing key: \$ = relative affordability within borough; \$\$\$\$ = highest price point

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Chelsea Piers, The Meatball Shop
Commute: A/C/E, 1/2/3, L trains; multiple bus lines

Housing: Pre-war, condos, lofts, townhouses, co-ops

Pricing: \$\$\$

Schools: Hundreds of public, private, and charter options

Tribeca

A downtown gem, Tribeca (Triangle Below Canal Street) evolved from an industrial hub into a sought-after residential neighborhood. Historic lofts and warehouses now sit alongside luxury high-rises with Hudson River views.

Quiet, spacious, and trendy, Tribeca is especially popular with young families. Hudson River Park offers playgrounds, mini golf, and open space, while Pier 25 and 26 provide waterfront recreation. Washington Market Park and Tribeca Upland add green space, while indoor options include Play Garden and Tribeca Performing Arts Center.

Highly walkable and well-connected, Tribeca blends relaxed, creative energy with upscale living.

Hot Spots: Washington Market Park, Hudson River Park, Bubby's

Commute: A/C/E, 1/2/3; buses M20, M22, M55

Housing: Lofts, luxury condos, townhouses

Pricing: \$\$\$\$

Schools: A tight-knit school community with some of the city's most coveted zoned options, and more just minutes away

Upper East Side

The Upper East Side is defined by leafy streets, historic mansions, and proximity to world-class museums and Central Park. Long associated with affluence, it offers housing from brownstones to co-ops and high-rises.

Top-rated public and elite private schools draw families, along with strong enrichment programs. The 92nd Street Y, Metropolitan

Museum of Art, The Art Farm, and Ballet Academy East provide arts, STEM, and cultural programming.

Central Park access is a major perk, along with nearby John Jay and Carl Schurz Parks. The neighborhood is walkable, refined, and ideal for families seeking classic New York with strong resources.

Hot Spots: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, East River Esplanade, Jewish Museum

Commute: Q, 4/5/6; extensive bus routes

Housing: Co-ops, condos, brownstones, high-rises

Pricing: \$\$\$

Schools: Home to many of the city's top public and private schools

Upper West Side

Located between Central and Riverside Parks, the Upper West Side offers abundant green space and a cozy, residential feel. Developed alongside Central Park and early subway lines, it has long attracted families, artists, and intellectuals.

Today, it remains a favorite for its stroller-friendly streets, strong schools, and family-focused culture. Highlights include the American Museum of Natural History, Lincoln Center programming, and outdoor events like Shakespeare in the Park and Summer on the Hudson.

Housing includes brownstones, pre-war co-ops, and luxury condos. While prices are high, more affordable options can be found further north.

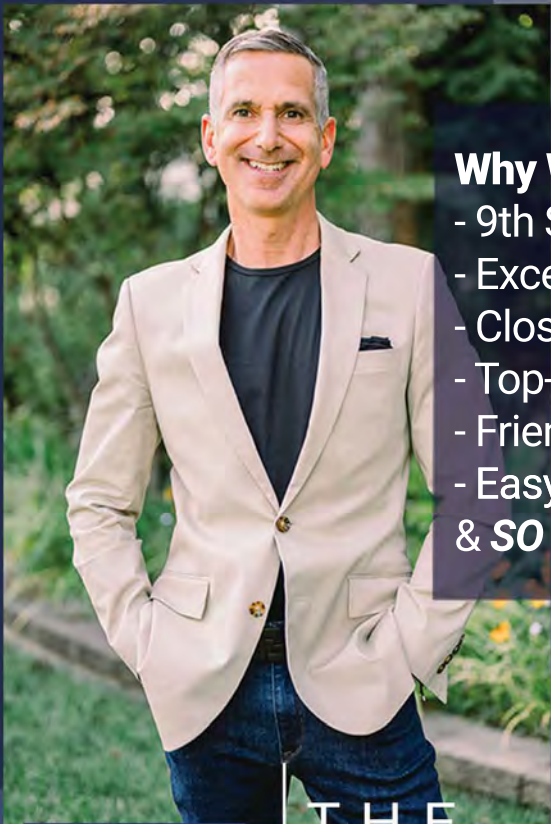
Hot Spots: Children's Museum of Manhattan, Central Park, Kidville, Beacon Theatre

Commute: 1/2/3, B/C trains; multiple buses

Housing: Co-ops, condos, townhouses, walk-ups

Pricing: \$\$\$\$–\$\$\$\$

Schools: Highly rated public and private schools, including LaGuardia High School



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GUIDE TO NYC NEIGHBORHOODS:

Brooklyn

BY NAOSHA GREGG

For many, Brooklyn is more than just a place to live—it's an experience. From waterfront views of the Brooklyn Bridge to vibrant murals, diverse dining, and family-friendly parks, the borough offers a lifestyle for families that feels both dynamic and deeply rooted in community. As the city's largest borough, Brooklyn can feel overwhelming, but each neighborhood offers something unique for families. Whether you're seeking space, culture, or a strong sense of community, there's a corner of Brooklyn that feels like home. Brooklyn is full of distinct neighborhoods, each with its own personality; these are just a small snapshot. For more on where to go and what to do, visit newyorkfamily.com.

Bay Ridge

Bay Ridge is a hidden gem known for its strong sense of community, waterfront views, and easy access to other boroughs via major roadways. Third and Fourth Avenues are lined with eateries, shops, and everyday conveniences, while 86th Street offers a lively retail strip.

Rich in Italian culture, the neighborhood is filled with family-friendly dining and local businesses. Shore Road Park and nearby recreational options provide outdoor space, while Dyker Heights golf course offers a unique activity for families.

Transportation is more limited, with the R train running locally, but buses provide

additional access.

Hot Spots: Fairytale Island, Shore Road Park, Alpine Cinema

Commute: R train; B1, B4, B8, B9, B16, B37, B64 buses

Housing: Apartments, condos, single- and multi-family homes

Pricing: \$\$–\$\$\$

Schools: Fort Hamilton High School, Poly Prep; fewer options for younger children



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Carroll Gardens

Carroll Gardens offers a rare mix of city living with a suburban feel. Known for its tree-lined streets, historic brownstones, and signature front gardens, it provides a quiet, family-friendly environment just minutes from downtown Brooklyn.

Court and Smith Streets are filled with boutiques, restaurants, and local favorites like Farmacy Brooklyn, Frankies 457 Spuntino, and Buttermilk Channel. The neighborhood is highly walkable, with access to daycares, the YMCA, and Trader Joe's.

Transit is convenient via the F and G trains, though local school options are somewhat limited.

Hot Spots: Brooklyn Farmacy, Lucali, New York Transit Museum, Smith Street

Commute: F and G trains; B61, B57, B63 buses

Housing: Apartments, condos, multi-family homes

Pricing: \$\$\$

Schools: P.S. 372, M.S. 442, International School of Brooklyn

Crown Heights

Crown Heights is a vibrant, culturally rich neighborhood offering historic architecture and a slightly more affordable entry point into Brooklyn living. Along Eastern Parkway, classic buildings feature detailed interiors and old-world charm.

Families enjoy proximity to Prospect Park, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and Prospect Park Zoo, along with easy access to the Brooklyn Museum. Franklin and Nostrand Avenues are lined with diverse dining options, while Washington Avenue offers cafés and bakeries.

With access to multiple subway lines, commuting is easy, and the area offers a wide range of school options.

Hot Spots: Brooklyn Children's Museum, Jewish Children's Museum

Commute: 2/3, 4/5, Franklin Ave shuttle; B17, B45, B65 buses

Housing: Apartments, condos, multi-family homes

Pricing: \$\$–\$\$\$

Schools: Prospect Heights High School, Achievement First, Medgar Evers

Park Slope

Often considered one of Brooklyn's most desirable neighborhoods, Park Slope is ideal for families looking for charm, space, and access to nature. Tree-lined streets are filled with brownstones and historic homes, many with classic architectural details.

Steps from Prospect Park, families can enjoy year-round activities, from ice skating at LeFrak Center to nature programs at the Audubon Center. The neighborhood is highly walkable, with bike lanes, safety features, and strong community infrastructure.

Park Slope is rich in resources, from health-care to top-tier schools, and offers a wide range of dining and shopping along Fifth Avenue.

Hot Spots: Prospect Park, Brooklyn Public Library, Puppetworks, Fifth Avenue

Commute: D, N (express), F, R trains; B61, B63 buses

Housing: Brownstones, condos, apartments

Pricing: \$\$\$–\$\$\$

Schools: P.S. 321, Berkeley Carroll, Park Slope Collegiate.

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GUIDE TO NYC NEIGHBORHOODS:

Queens

BY ADRIENNE FARR

Queens stands out as a great place for families because neighborhoods like Astoria, Bayside, Forest Hills, and Kew Gardens create a warm and welcoming atmosphere, and kids always find something fun to do.

Families enjoy riding scooters on quiet streets, visiting small toy shops, picking up sweet treats from local bakeries, and joining community events that bring everyone together.

There are also sprawling parks like Flushing Meadows–Corona Park, the Queens Zoo, and kid-focused museums like the New York Hall of Science.

If you're looking for diversity, Queens has been regarded as the most ethnically diverse urban area in the world! Residents from over 120 countries, speaking more than 160 languages, call Queens home. This diversity is reflected in its neighborhoods, top-rated public schools, and cultural institutions, making it a uniquely inclusive place for families.

Each neighborhood holds peaceful streets, fun play areas, and friendly corners where kids can explore safely and happily. The next section talks about Astoria, Bayside, Forest Hills, and Kew Gardens, and shows how each place brings its own kind of comfort, care, and everyday fun for families

Astoria

Astoria is a top choice for families,



offering culture, convenience, and quick Manhattan access. Astoria Park anchors the neighborhood with recreation and waterfront views.

Hot Spots: Astoria Park, Museum of the Moving Image

Commute: N/W trains

Housing: Co-ops, condos, multi-family homes

Pricing: \$\$–\$\$\$

Schools: A strong mix of public schools and early education options, including P.S. 122 and P.S. 166



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HOME

Bayside

Bayside offers a suburban feel with tree-lined streets, strong schools, and a close-knit community. Bell Boulevard serves as its main commercial hub.

Hot Spots: Alley Pond Park, Crocheron Park

Commute: LIRR, buses

Housing: Single-family homes, co-ops, townhouses

Pricing: \$\$–\$\$\$

Schools: Known for strong public school options and competitive specialized programs

Forest Hills

Forest Hills blends charm and convenience, with Tudor homes and vibrant shopping along Austin Street. Forest Park adds green space and recreation.

Hot Spots: Forest Hills Stadium,

Austin Street

Commute: E/F/M/R, LIRR

Housing: Tudors, co-ops, condos, apartments

Pricing: \$\$–\$\$\$

Schools: Strong public school options

Kew Gardens

Kew Gardens offers a village-like feel with easy transit access and proximity to Forest Park.

Hot Spots: Baker's Dozen Bagels, Forest Park, Ralph J. Bunche House, Maple Grove Cemetery

Commute: E/F, LIRR

Housing: Co-ops, condos, townhouses, single-family homes

Pricing: \$\$–\$\$\$

Schools: Eclectic school choices, including Queens High School for the Sciences at York College and The Kew-Forest School..



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GUIDE TO NYC NEIGHBORHOODS:

The Bronx

BY DOUGLAS HATT

For families looking for more space, affordability, and a strong sense of community without leaving New York City, the Bronx deserves a closer look. Home to iconic destinations like the Bronx Zoo, New York Botanical Garden, Yankee Stadium, and Pelham Bay Park, the borough offers a unique blend of urban convenience and suburban charm.

From waterfront communities and quiet residential enclaves to vibrant cultural hubs, the Bronx is filled with neighborhoods that appeal to families of all sizes and lifestyles. While every corner of the borough has its own personality, these neighborhoods stand out for their family-friendly amenities, green spaces, schools, and community feel.

City Island

If you've ever dreamed of living in a small coastal town without leaving New York City, City Island may be your perfect match. This waterfront community feels worlds away from the city's fast pace, with seafood restaurants, charming cottages, locally owned shops, and picturesque views around every corner.

Families are drawn to the neighborhood's walkability, close-knit atmosphere, and easy access to outdoor recreation. Nearby Pelham Bay Park—New York City's largest public park—offers beaches, playgrounds, trails, and sports fields, making it



easy to spend weekends outdoors.

Hot Spots: The Black Whale, City Island Lobster House, Lickety Split, City Island Nautical Museum

Commute: Bus service to Pelham Bay Park (6 train); commuter buses to Manhattan

Housing: Detached homes, cottages, co-ops, condos, townhomes

Pricing: \$\$–\$\$\$

Schools: P.S. 175; access to District 11 schools and specialized high schools

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Kingsbridge

Kingsbridge offers a little bit of everything: walkable streets, diverse dining, ample green space, and convenient transportation. Located in the northwest Bronx, the neighborhood combines city conveniences with a residential feel that appeals to families.

Van Cortlandt Park serves as a major draw, offering playgrounds, athletic fields, hiking trails, and open space. Broadway's commercial corridor provides restaurants, cafés, and neighborhood shops, while the area's distinctive step streets add character and charm.

Hot Spots: Van Cortlandt Park, Kingsbridge Armory, Step Streets, The Punch Bowl

Commute: 1, 4, B, and D trains; multiple bus routes

Housing: Single-family homes, townhomes, co-ops, condos, apartments

Pricing: \$\$–\$\$\$

Schools: P.S. 7, P.S. 86, In-Tech Academy, Kingsbridge International High School

Morris Park

Known for its strong community ties and residential character, Morris Park has long been a favorite among Bronx families. The neighborhood's main commercial corridor, Morris Park Avenue, is lined with bakeries, restaurants, cafés, and locally owned businesses that give the area its welcoming feel.

Families benefit from proximity to the Bronx Zoo and New York Botanical Garden, as well as access to some of the borough's leading healthcare institutions. Many homes

feature driveways and yards, offering a little extra space that's often hard to find elsewhere in the city.

Hot Spots: Bronx Zoo, New York Botanical Garden, Addeo's of the Bronx, Patricia's of Morris Park

Commute: 2, 5, and 6 trains; local bus service

Housing: Single- and multi-family homes, co-ops

Pricing: \$\$\$

Schools: District 11 schools, charter options, Villa Maria Academy

Riverdale

For families seeking a suburban feel without sacrificing city access, Riverdale is one of the Bronx's most sought-after neighborhoods. Tree-lined streets, spacious homes, and abundant green space create a peaceful atmosphere that feels distinctly different from much of New York City.

The neighborhood is home to some of the city's most respected public and private schools, while local shopping districts, cafés, and cultural attractions like Wave Hill make it easy to stay connected to the community. Metro-North service also provides a quick commute to Manhattan.

Hot Spots: Wave Hill, Lloyd's Carrot Cake, Moss Café, Bronx Burger House

Commute: Metro-North, express buses, limited 1 train access

Housing: Single-family homes, co-ops, condos, townhomes, apartments

Pricing: \$\$\$

Schools: Horace Mann, Fieldston, Riverdale Country School, Bronx Scienc.e



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One Resource, Thousands of Childcare Options: Meet NYC Childcare Navigator

Ask any New York City parent about childcare, and you'll likely hear the same thing: finding the right program can feel like a full-time job. Between comparing providers, figuring out costs, understanding eligibility requirements, and juggling busy schedules, the search can quickly become overwhelming.

That's why many families are turning to NYC Childcare Navigator, a free online resource designed to make the process easier.

Created with busy parents in mind, NYC Childcare Navigator brings together the city's most comprehensive childcare directory—more than 10,000 home-based, center-based, and school-based programs—in one easy-to-use platform. Instead of bouncing between websites and making countless phone calls, families can search for care that fits their needs in just a few clicks.

Need a provider near home or work? Looking for flexible hours, language-specific programs, meals, or special-needs accommodations? Families can filter results based on the factors that matter most to them, making it easier to find a childcare solution that truly works for their household.

But the platform goes beyond helping parents find care. One of its most powerful features helps families uncover financial assistance they may not realize they're eligible to receive. In less than five minutes, users can confidentially check eligibility for more than 10 childcare assistance programs,



along with benefits such as SNAP, WIC, and Section 8 housing vouchers. For some families, that could mean saving thousands—or even tens of thousands—of dollars each year.

And because parenting doesn't stop when the school day ends, NYC Childcare Navigator also includes more than 1,600 afterschool, holiday camp, and summer camp programs across the five boroughs.

For families navigating one of parenthood's biggest challenges, NYC Childcare Navigator offers something invaluable: a simpler path forward. By bringing trusted information, personalized search tools, and money-saving resources together in one place, it's helping New York parents spend less time searching—and more time focusing on what matters most: their children.

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A YEAR OF FUN

A month-by-month guide to events across the city and beyond

JULY

Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood at the Bronx Zoo

Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood, the beloved PBS KIDS series from Fred Rogers Productions, comes to the Bronx Zoo with an all-new experience. Pass through the Tunnel of Make-Believe, climb aboard the life-sized Trolley, enjoy a live performance with Daniel Tiger and Katerina Kittycat, and more! *Bronx Zoo, 2300 Southern Blvd., Bronx. Through September 7, Saturdays and Sundays, 10 am – 5:30 pm, Weekdays, 10 am – 5 pm. All ages. Included with admission: \$39; \$29 ages 3-12; free for children 2 and under. bronxzoo.com*

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through August 20. All ages. Free. Advanced registration required. brooklynbridgepark.org

Empire State Fair

Empire State Fair returns with amazing rides, games, and entertainment, including the all-new Circus Murcia under the big top, Sandlofer Family Petting Zoo, the Big Bee Transforming Robot, and brand-new amusement rides and attractions. New for 2026 is the Aqua Live Water Show, a spectacular water acrobatics performance. Plus, enjoy fireworks displays on Saturday nights, including July 4! *Nassau Coliseum, 1255 Hempstead Turnpike, Uniondale. Through July 19, Weekdays, 5 – 11 pm; Saturdays and Sundays, 12 – 11 pm. All ages. \$10; free admission for children under 36" tall; additional fee for rides. empirestatefair.com*

The FIFA World Cup™ Comes to Life

Celebrate the FIFA World Cup™ 2026 with an immersive exhibit, live match watch parties on the big screen, and a major exhibition with artifacts from FIFA, FOX Sports, Telemundo/Peacock, U.S. Soccer, and MLS. *The Paley*

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CALENDAR

Museum, 25 West 52 St., Manhattan. Daily, noon – 6 pm, through July 26; except July 13, 20, and 21. Ages 5 and older. \$16 – \$21.50. (954) 270–6984, paleycenter.org

50th Macy's 4th of July Fireworks

America's celebration of the summer will be jam-packed with serious star power, electrifying performances, and heart-pounding pyrotechnics. *Saturday, July 4, around 9:25 pm. Or watch from home on NBC beginning at 8 pm. Free. All ages. Visit macys.com/fireworks for viewing locations.*

Red, White & BOOM!

Celebrate July 4th with live music, LEGO builds, themed foods, show watchings, and more! Plus, a fireworks display that transforms into LEGO® bricks! *LEGOLAND New York Resort, One Legoland Blvd, Goshen. Friday, July 4, 10 am – 9 pm. All ages. Tickets start at \$64. legoland.com/new-york*

Hans Christian Andersen Storytelling Series

See some of the world's best storytellers, often accompanied by musicians, perform for rapt audiences of all ages. Experienced and irresistible storytellers combine the great oral literature of fairytale and folklore, including Andersen stories, with personal tales, participation, and world music. *Central Park Hans Christian Andersen Monument, E 74th St., Manhattan. Saturdays, 11 am – noon, through Aug. 29. Ages 6 and older. Free. hcastorycenter.org*

47th Annual Thunderbird American Indian Powwow

This spectacular 3-day powwow features intertribal Native American dance competitions by over forty Indian Nations. The program features an expansive market of authentic Native American art, crafts, jewelry, and food. *Queens County Farm Museum, 73-50 Little Neck Pkwy, Queens. July 24 – 26, Friday, 7 – 10 pm; Saturday, 12 – 5 pm & 7 – 10 pm; Sunday, 12 – 5 pm. 1-Day Pass: \$19; \$12 (Children ages 2-12). 3-Day Pass: \$38; \$24 (Children ages 2-12). Free*



KIDZ BOP LIVE Birthday Concert Event

for children ages 0-1. All ages. queensfarm.org

AUGUST

KIDZ BOP LIVE Birthday Concert Event

The KIDZ BOP LIVE Birthday Concert Event brings the party to the stage, with the KIDZ BOP Kids performing today's biggest kid-friendly pop hits alongside throwback favorites from the past 25 years. With interactive moments, an all-new stage design, and the return of the fan-favorite Daddy Dance Off, it's a high-energy experience made for kids (and fun for parents too!). *Northwell at Jones Beach Theatre, 895 Bay Pkwy, Wantagh. Saturday, August 1, 6 pm. Tickets start at \$41. kidzbop.com*

44th Annual National Dominican Day Parade

The Dominican Day Parade is a joyful celebration of Dominican heritage and culture. Each year, the community comes together in New York City to honor and recognize the many accomplishments of Dominicans in the United States and around the world. With music, dancing, and over 10,000 marchers! *The parade takes place along 6th Ave. between 39th and 54th Streets, Manhattan. Sunday, August 9, 11 am. All ages. Free. natddp.org*

The Little Mermaid Movie Screening and Sing-Along

Join a special screening of the beloved 1989 animated film *The Little Mermaid*. Sing along to your favorite songs with Tinny Kenny Jones and meet Princess Ariel in the lobby! *St. George Theatre, 35 Hyatt St., Staten Island. Wednesday, August 12, 4:15 pm. \$20. All ages.*

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AGES 2 - ADULT • TAP • JAZZ • BALLET • HIP-HOP • LYRICAL • ACRO

CALENDAR

stgeorgetheatre.com

India Day Parade

This annual event features over 50 marching bands and over 40 colorful floats, showcasing an exuberance of pageantry, each meticulously crafted in accordance with its respective theme, serving as a representation of India's prosperous culture and historical legacy. *The parade takes place on Madison Avenue from E 38th Street to E 27th Street, Manhattan. Sunday, Aug. 16, noon. Free. fianynjct.org*

New York Hall of Science

As New York City's only hands-on science and technology center, NYSCI holds more than 400 hands-on exhibits that explore biology, chemistry, and physics, which will inspire your young scientists. Fun fact: The New York Hall of Science occupies one of the few remaining structures from the 1964 New York World's Fair. *New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th Street, Queens. \$19 – \$22. nysci.org*

The Wiggles Tree of Wisdom Spectacular

The Wiggles are coming to town with a magical concert filled with surprises! Join in this all-ages celebration featuring timeless hits and sing-along moments from all your favorites, including Rock-A-Bye Your Bear, Fruit Salad Yummy Yummy, and Hot Potato! Plus all new favorites like Big Red Ute, Bin Night, and so much more. *Beacon Theatre, 2124 Broadway, Manhattan. Saturday, Aug. 22, 3 pm & 6 pm. All ages. Tickets start at \$55. msg.com*

The Dutchess County Fair

Visit the largest agricultural six-day fair in New York, with plenty for every member of the family to do—thrilling rides, great food, and entertainment around every corner. Explore the over 140 acres filled with livestock, meet costumed storytellers from the early 1900's, talk with farmers, and so much more. *Dutchess County Fairgrounds, 6636 Spring Brook Avenue (Route 9), Rhinebeck. August 25 – 31, Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am – 10 pm; Sunday, 10 am – 8 pm.*

Rides open at 11 am. All ages. Admission starts at \$18; free admission for ages 11 and younger; \$30 ride- all-day wristband. An additional fee for some performances. dutchessfair.com

The 2026 Great New York State Fair

The 13-day Great New York State Fair is a celebration of delicious food, captivating exhibits, exciting entertainment, and unforgettable fun. As the oldest state fair in the United States, it features a diverse array of animals, hundreds of attractions, thrilling midway rides, and performances by top entertainers. This iconic event offers something for everyone to enjoy. *581 State Fair Blvd., Syracuse. August 26 – September 7, 9 am – 11 pm, daily. Labor Day, 9 am – 9 pm. \$8; free admission for children 12 and younger and seniors 65 and older. nysfair.ny.gov*

SEPTEMBER

New York Renaissance Faire

Travel back in time to an age of adventure! Join Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth I on a grand visit to a beautiful 16th-century English village. Cheer your favorite knight at the Joust Tournament. Meet Robin Hood and his Merry Band. Feast on savory sweets and tempting treats. See incredible acrobats, magical fairies, swashbuckling pirates, and more! *600 Rt. 17A, Tuxedo. Though October 4, Saturdays, Sundays & Labor Day, 10 am – 7 pm. \$60; \$53 seniors 62 and older and military; \$28 ages 5 – 12. renfaire.com*

Flower Power at NYBG

Channel the spirit of the '60s at Flower Power, a joyous celebration of flowers as enduring symbols of peace and love. NYBG's galleries will showcase photography and visual art from the 1960s, while installations on the grounds invite everyone to "come together" and be empowered to embrace flowers as symbols in our own lives. *New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Blvd., Bronx. Tuesdays – Sundays, 10 am – 6 pm, through Oct. 18. All ages. \$4-\$39. (718) 817-8700, nybg.org*



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CALENDAR

LuminoCity Dino Safari

Step carefully through a portal in time where more than 70 roaring dinosaurs will greet you from the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous periods. These ancient giants come to life with stunning realism, moving, roaring, and towering up to 46 feet tall! Revel in the thrill of walking amongst these prehistoric giants! Venture into a world where prehistory is reimagined through the art of light. Roaring dinosaurs, luminous plants, and glowing creatures transport you back millions of years. Check the website for special theme nights! *Walt Whitman Shops, 160 Walt Whitman Road, Huntington Station. Sept. 2, Fridays and Saturdays, 5 – 10 pm, Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 5 – 9:30 pm, through Oct. 18. All ages. Tickets start at \$26.29. luminocityfestival.com*

Richmond County Fair

The Richmond County Fair, hosted by Historic Richmond Town, features carnival rides, delicious fair food, historic trades demonstrations, bouncy houses, live music, games, contests, and so much more! *Historic Richmond Town, 441 Clarke Ave., Staten Island. September 5 – 7, 12 – 8 pm, daily. See historicrichmondtown.org for ticket prices.*

The Feast of San Gennaro

The Feast of San Gennaro is a New York icon and a world-renowned event stretching throughout 11 blocks of the Little Italy neighborhood. The Feast of all Feasts has always been an essential part of the neighborhood, representing Italian culture and traditions for generations. *Mulberry Street between Canal and Houston/Hester between Baxter St. and Centre St./Grand between Baxter and Centre Market Place, Manhattan. September 17 – 27. Free admission. Visit sangennaronyc.org for the complete schedule.*

57th Annual African American Day Parade

Celebrate African American culture and history at this lively parade featuring marching



The Long Island Fair

bands, majestic floats, community organizations, celebrities, and more! *The parade marches from 111th Street to 136th Street along Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd., Manhattan. Sunday, Sept. 20, 12:30 – 6 pm. All ages. Free. africanamericandayparade.org*

The Long Island Fair

Enjoy some good old-fashioned family fun at this annual event featuring thrilling shows, glass blowing, live music, demonstrations, contests, animals, vendors, face painting, and more. *Old Bethpage Village Restoration, 1303 Round Swamp Road, Old Bethpage. September 25 – 27, 10 am – 5 pm daily. Tickets available to purchase online. lifair.org*

Brooklyn Book Festival: Children's Day

Enjoy a full day of readings, workshops, performances, book signings, and art projects with favorite authors and illustrators at New York City's largest free literary festival. *Brooklyn Borough Hall and Plaza, 209 Joralemon St., Brooklyn. Saturday, September 26, 10 am – 4 pm. Free. brooklynbookfestival.org*

The Atlantic Antic

This annual event is the oldest and largest street festival in Brooklyn. Stroll the avenue and experience a celebration of ethnic tastings, fine arts and crafts from around the world, non-stop music and entertainment, kidz zone, and more. *Atlantic Avenue starts at Fourth Street in Brooklyn. Sunday, September*

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CALENDAR

27, 12 – 6 pm. Free. atlanticave.org

OCTOBER

Sesame Street Live: Elmo's Got the Moves

Kids and parents alike will be dancing along with Elmo and his Sesame Street friends as they move, stretch, and play along to fan-favorite songs, including “Sunny Days,” “Elmo’s Got the Moves,” and “Letter of the Day.” *St. George Theatre, 35 Hyatt St., Staten Island. Friday, October 2, 6 pm. All ages. Tickets start at \$39.* stgeorgetheatre.com

Alice in Wonderland the Musical

Tumble down the rabbit hole with the wonderfully wild, wacky, and whimsical cast of characters in the musical adaptation of Alice in Wonderland. Frolic with Alice as she dances her way through Lewis Carroll’s legendary tale. In addition, meet the White Rabbit – if you can catch him! Don’t forget to bow to the Queen of Hearts or it’s off your head – oh my! Sixty minutes of marvelous mayhem. After all, it’s sure to be a mad tea party, and you’re the guest of honor! Free Family Workshop one hour before matinee shows. *The Players Theatre, 115 MacDougal St., Manhattan. Saturdays, 3 – 4 pm, Saturdays, 7 – 8 pm, Sundays, 11 am – noon, Sundays, 2 – 3 pm, through Nov. 8; except Oct. 31. Ages 3 and older. \$34 – \$50.* theplayerstheatre.com

Harvest Festival

Celebrate the end of the growing season with a family-friendly day of outdoor fun. Explore the pumpkin patch, watch seasonal cooking demonstrations, enjoy live performances, get creative with face painting, and discover nature through hands-on activities. *Randall’s Island, Fields 62/63 and the Urban Farm, East River and Hell Gate Circle, Manhattan. Sunday, October 4, 12 – 3 pm. All ages. Free.* randallsisland.org

Hallockville Country Fair

The Hallockville Country Fair is a North Fork



The Atlantic Antic

tradition! Celebrate the community’s rich folk arts and agricultural traditions in a genuine old-fashioned country fair atmosphere. The Fair features craft and artisan vendors, demonstrations, live music, children’s activities, games, and more! *Hallockville Museum Farm, 6038 Sound Avenue, Riverhead. October 3 – 4, Saturday and Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm. All ages. \$12.* hallockville.org

Staten Island Oktoberfest

Celebrate Oktoberfest with classic German cuisine and beer, live entertainment, vendors, music, carnival games, rides, a bouncy house, and more! *Staten Island University Hospital Community Park, 75 Richmond Terrace, Staten Island. Saturday, October 3, 12 – 8 pm. See sioktoberfest.com for tickets.*

89th Annual Pulaski Day Parade

Celebrate Polish heritage at one of NYC’s oldest parades featuring Polish dancers, schools and organizations, government representatives, floats, music, and more. *Parade begins at 5th Ave. and 41st St., Manhattan. Sunday, October 4, 12:30 pm. Free.* pulaskiparade.org

Columbus Day Parade

The annual Columbus Day Parade is the largest celebration of Italian American heritage and culture in the United States. Over 100 Marching groups, bands, and floats will make their way up Fifth Avenue from 44th St. to 72nd St., Manhattan. *Monday, October 12, 11:30 am – 3:30 pm. Free.* columbuscitizens.org

Halloween on the Farm

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Dr. Hafeez founded comprehend the Mind over 20 years ago to provide children and adults with data - driven guidance. She has conducted thousands of evaluations throughout her career while continuing to teach and write. Dr. Hafeez is regularly interviewed by major news outlets and magazines. She is a published author of PTSD and Autism having literally "written the book" on autism.

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CALENDAR

lar! Monster Mash Dancing, The Amazing Maize Maze, trick-or-treating, Halloween hayrides, and more! *Queens County Farm Museum, 73-50 Little Neck Pkwy, Queens. Saturday, October 31. See website for tickets. queensfarm.org*

NOVEMBER

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom: The Musical

This musical, based on the beloved picture book, bursts onto the stage in a bright, joy-filled celebration of letters, words, and imagination that will captivate kids and adults alike. With infectious rhythms, dazzling puppets, lively dancing, and playful audience interaction, this high-energy production transforms the beloved story into a whirlwind of color, creativity, and fun. *Bergen Performing Arts Center, 30 North Van Brunt Street, Englewood, NJ. Sunday, Nov. 1, 1 pm & 4 pm. Ages 8 and younger. \$25-\$39. (201) 227-1030, bergenpac.org*

Christmas Spectacular Starring The Radio City Rockettes

When you think of Christmas in New York City, The Christmas Spectacular Starring the Radio City Rockettes is the first thing that comes to mind. Performed annually since 1933, the show features more than 140 performers, an original musical score, singing, dancing, and humor. *Radio City Music Hall, 1260 Avenue of the Americas, Manhattan. Performances run November 4 – January 4. Tickets start at \$60. Visit rockettes.com for the complete schedule.*

New York City Veterans Day Parade

Line up along Fifth Avenue to honor our nation's heroes at the largest Veterans Day parade in the country. *Parade begins at West 24th St. and 5th Ave., Manhattan. Wednesday, November 11, 12:30 – 4 pm. uwvc.org*

Disney on Ice: Spotlight Magic

Mickey and his friends invite you and your

family to a star-studded gala experience, where stories from *Zootopia 2*, *Tangled*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Toy Story*, *Monsters, Inc.*, and more come to life in dazzling Hollywood-style fashion. Watch Stitch introduce Angel for her North American on-ice debut, journey alongside Judy Hopps and Nick Wilde as they investigate a mysterious reptile causing chaos in Zootropolis, and brace yourself for a dramatic entrance by the Disney Villains! *UBS Arena, 2400 Hempstead Turnpike, Elmont. Nov. 11, Fridays – Sundays, 11 am, through Nov. 15; Daily, 7 pm, through Nov. 15; Nov. 14 & 15, 3 pm. All ages. See website for ticket prices. disneyonice.com*

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New York Metro Reptile Expo

Check out over 250 vendor tables full of reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, cages, tanks, food, plants, and supplies for your new pet. *Westchester County Center, 198 Central Ave., White Plains. Sunday, Nov. 22, 9 am – 4 pm. All ages. \$12; \$6 ages 7-12; free for children 6 and younger. reptileexpo.com*

Holiday Train Show

NYBG's Holiday Train Show has been making memories for over 30 years! See model trains zip through an enchanting display of more than 190 replicas of New York landmarks, each delightfully re-created from natural materials such as birch bark, lotus pods, and cinnamon sticks. *New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Blvd., Bronx. Opens mid-November through mid-January. Free with price of*



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CALENDAR

admission. nybg.org

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

Bring the family together to the 100th annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, lining the streets with your favorite and soon-to-be favorite floats. *Central Park West, Columbus Circle, or Sixth Avenue between Central Park South and 38th Street in Manhattan. Thursday, November 26, 9 am – 12 pm. macys.com*



Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

DECEMBER

Bank of America Winter Village at Bryant Park

Bank of America Winter Village at Bryant Park is Manhattan's winter wonderland. Enjoy NYC's only free admission ice skating rink, curling, the Holiday Shops, rinkside eats and drinks, and more. Located between Fifth Avenue and Avenue of the Americas and 40th and 42nd Streets in Midtown Manhattan. The Village opens in late October. *The Holiday Shops will remain open until early January, and the rink remains open through March. bryantpark.org*

Circus Vazquez

See one of the largest family-owned circuses in North America, featuring acts such as acrobats, jugglers, and clowns, all accompanied by a live band. This circus is a multi-generational family affair, currently in its fourth or fifth generation of performers. The show features dazzling lights and is designed to be an exciting and magical experience for the audience, with plenty of clowns to make you laugh until you drop your popcorn! *Citi Field, 41 Seaver Way, Queens. Saturdays and Sundays, 1 pm, Saturdays and Sundays, 4 pm, through Dec. 13; Daily, 7 pm, through Dec. 13. All ages. Tickets start at \$20. circusvazquez.com*

Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree

The Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree will arrive the first week of December and remain lit, and can be viewed until the first week of January 2025. *45 Rockefeller Plaza, Manhat-*

tan. Times are usually from 5:30 am – 11:30 pm. Free to view. rockefellercenter.com

Clifford The Big Red Dog The Musical

Everyone's favorite Big Red Dog bounds onto the stage in a brand-new musical comedy adventure that celebrates friendship, imagination, and the magic of unconditional love! Emily Elizabeth absolutely adores her new puppy – the tiny red runt of the litter. This musical is full of extra-large laughs, joy, and love – the perfect show for Clifford's growing young fans – and nostalgic parents who remember him too. *BMCC Tribeca PAC, 199 Chambers St., Manhattan. Saturday, Dec. 5, 11 am & 2 pm. Ages 3 – 8. \$40. tribecapac.org*

Blippi Live – Be Like Blippi Tour!

Blippi is coming to town in the all-new Be Like Blippi Tour! Get ready to see the world more curiously as you move like, play like, and explore just like Blippi! Join Blippi and Meekah live on stage in a high-energy live show packed with music, laughter, and surprises, featuring fan-favorites like “The Excavator Song,” “Monster Truck,” “Dino Dance,” and “Curious Like Me.” *Kings Theatre, 1027 Flatbush Ave., Brooklyn. Saturday, Dec. 12, 2 pm. Ages 8 and younger. Tickets start at \$39.50. us.atgtickets.com*

George Balanchine's “The Nutcracker”

This memorable holiday tradition features old-fashioned costumes, a tree that grows before your eyes, crystal-shaped snowflakes, and outstanding New York City Ballet choreography. *David H. Koch Theater, 20 Lincoln*

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CALENDAR

Center Plaza, Manhattan. See nycballet.com for the complete schedule and tickets.

Grand Army Plaza Menorah Lighting

Celebrate the festival of lights with the lighting of the largest menorah in Brooklyn throughout the eight nights of Hanukkah. There will be live music, hot latkes, and gifts for the children. Grand Army Plaza, Fifth Ave. and Central Park South (59th St.), Brooklyn. Hanukkah begins sundown on Friday, December 4, and continues through Saturday, December 12. Visit largestmenorah.com for the complete schedule.

Grand Central Holiday Train Show

Watch model trains zip through tunnels, around skyscrapers, and through cityscapes in this annual holiday train show with Lionel trains, which travel through a 34-foot-long mini New York City. *New York Transit Museum Gallery Annex and Store, Main Concourse at Grand Central Terminal, 89 E. 42nd St., Manhattan. Free. grandcentralterminal.com.*

Jurassic Quest

Embark on a journey where North America's largest moving, roaring, and breathing dinosaurs come alive in a fully immersive walk-through experience. Discovery awaits at every turn as families dig for fossils, meet adorable baby dinos, ride life-sized giants, and more. *Meadowlands Exposition Center, 355 Plaza Drive, Secaucus, NJ. Dec. 30, Daily, all day, through Jan. 3, 2027. All ages. Tickets start at \$28. jurassicquest.com*

JANUARY

First Day Hike

Start the New Year off on the right foot with a guided hike on the first day of 2026. Explore the terrain in your neighborhood, or travel to another borough to see what the New York City parks have to offer. Free. To find a local New Year's Day Hike, visit nycgovparks.org

The Rink at Rockefeller Center

Ice skating on The Rink is a quintessential New York winter activity. The Rink sets the perfect scene, from ice skating lessons to special events. It's a tradition that has never failed to delight! *Rockefeller Center, 45 Rockefeller Plaza, Manhattan. Daily through the end of March. rockefellercenter.com*

Three Kings Day Parade

This annual Three Kings Day Parade and Celebration is held in El Barrio (East Harlem). *The parade begins at 106th St. and Park Ave., and ends at 115th St. and Park Ave. in Manhattan, featuring camels, floats, and live music. Free. elmuseo.org*

Super Pet Expo

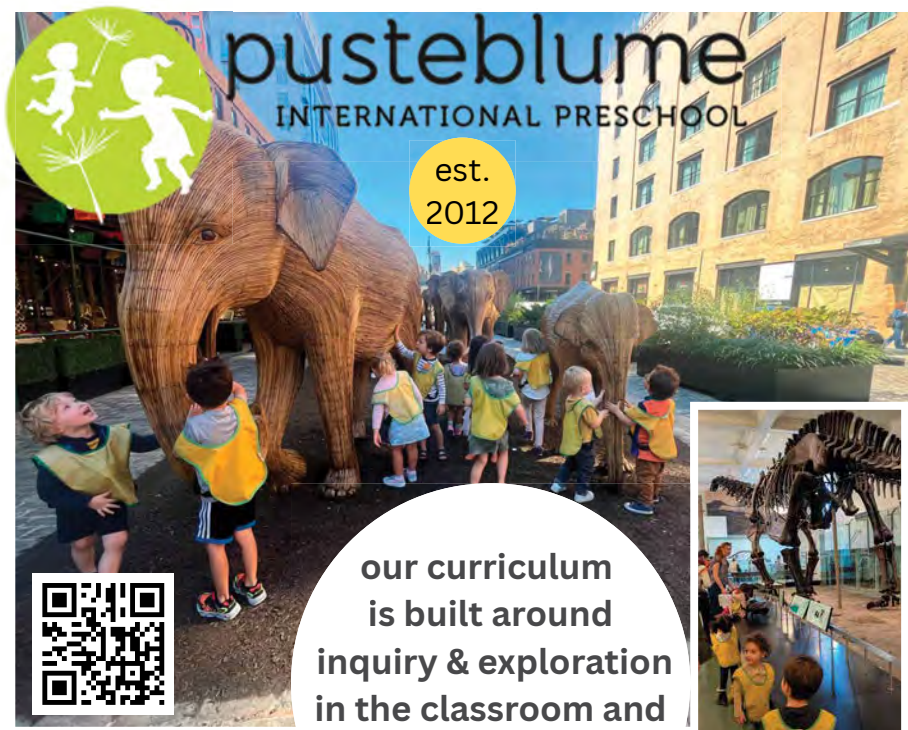
Unleash the fun with a weekend of animal-related entertainment, shopping, experts, influencers, meet-and-greets, workshops, pet activities, and more. *New Jersey Convention & Exposition Center, 97 Sunfield Ave., Edison, NJ. Friday, January 8, 3 – 8 pm; Saturday, Jan. 9, 10 am – 7 pm; Sunday, Jan. 10, 10 am – 5 pm. See website for tickets. superpetexpo.com*

Staten Island Children's Museum

Bring the kids to explore 10 hands-on exhibits, interactive art experiences, and engaging STEAM programs. Special events throughout the year introduce a variety of themes and cultures through activities and live performances. *Staten Island Children's Museum, 1000 Richmond Terrace, Building M, Staten Island. Open Wednesday to Sunday, 10 am - 5 pm. \$10. sichildrensmuseum.org*

The Sorcerer's Apprentice

With ethereal scenery, exquisite puppets, and spellbinding magic, this brand-new story inspired by this 18th-century poem is not just a cautionary tale, but a reminder that the greatest lessons come from embracing our mistakes and opening our hearts. *The New Victory Theater, 209 W 42nd St., Manhattan. Jan. 15 – 24; see website for complete schedule. Ages 7 and older. Tickets start at \$25. newvictory.org*



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CALENDAR

Musical Explorers Family

Discover music from around the world at this popular, highly interactive concert for children. Artists with magnetic personalities teach families all about their musical traditions. *Carnegie Hall, 881 7th Ave., Manhattan. Saturday, January 16, 12 pm and 3 pm. Age 4 – 8. See website for tickets. carnegiehall.org*

2027 New York Boat Show

Escape the cold and plunge into summer fun at the 2027 New York Boat Show. Bring your crew to climb aboard hundreds of shiny new boats from luxurious yachts to tricked-out runabouts – then melt away those winter blues at the Discover Boating Beach Club with music, drinks, beach games, and more. Plus, take advantage of free boating education, free kid-friendly activities, and exclusive, show-only savings. *Jacob Javits Convention Center, 429 11th Ave., Manhattan. Jan. 20 – 24, see website for schedule. All ages. nyboatshow.com*

FEBRUARY

Groundhog Day

Charles G. Hogg, aka “Staten Island Chuck,” is the best-known groundhog meteorologist in New York, with a record of predicting the weather. Get to the Staten Island Zoo early to find out if there will be six more weeks of winter or an early spring. *Staten Island Zoo, 614 Broadway, Staten Island. Tuesday, February 2, 7 am. statenislandzoo.org*

The Mo & Co. Show

The Mo & Co. Show! draws fans of Mo’s beloved children’s book characters—“bestus” pals Elephant and Piggie, Knuffle Bunny, and more—into a rowdy hour of riffing and reading. With kids’ music superstar Kate Micucci on ukulele, and author and muse Cher Willems manning the projections, Mo performs a handful of classic stories, guided in true improv fashion by conversations with the audience. *The New Victory Theater, 209 W 42nd St., Manhattan. Feb. 6 – 21; see website for schedule. Ages 4 and older. Tickets start at*

\$25. newvictory.org

Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company celebrates The Year of the Goat

Welcome the Year of the Goat, known for its calm, compassion, and creativity, with this festive showcase of traditional and contemporary Chinese culture. *New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center St., Newark, NJ. February 6 – 7, Saturday and Sunday, 2 pm. All ages. Tickets start at \$49.80. njpac.org*

BAMkids Film Festival

Catch up on another international showcase of the best in children’s films at the annual BAMkids Film Festival, which presents more than 60 films from across the globe, geared to all ages. Ranging from feature-length live international films to animated shorts. Post-screening discussions with filmmakers and live music performances are festival features. BAMkids Film Festival takes place in February. *BAM Rose Cinemas, Peter Jay Sharp Lobby, The Adam Max Gathering Space, Forte Green. bam.org*

NBA G League Basketball

Catch a Long Island Nets game, the NBA G League affiliate of the Brooklyn Nets, at Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, or a Westchester Knicks game, the NBA G League affiliate of the New York Knicks, at the Westchester County Center in White Plains. Enjoy all the excitement of an NBA game without the NBA prices! *gleague.nba.com*

Chinatown Lunar New Year Parade & Festival

Welcome the Year of the Goat at this annual parade featuring traditional lion dances, elaborate floats, marching bands, live performances, local first responders, and more! *Mott & Canal St., Manhattan*

Kids Week at the Intrepid Museum

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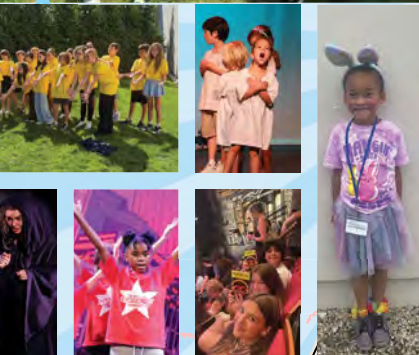
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CALENDAR

exhibits, live animal shows, hands-on workshops, performances, special guests, and interactive demonstrations designed to educate and inspire. *Pier 86 West 46th St., Manhattan. February 13 – 20. See intrepidmuseum.org for the complete schedule.*

The Orchid Show

Enter a world of color with vivid installations and thousands of beautiful orchids showcased to show the complexity of these striking flowers in a Victorian-style glasshouse. *New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Blvd., The Bronx. nybg.org.*

MARCH

New York International Children's Film Festival

The New York International Children's Film Festival is packed with premieres, special guests, and thoughtful films for all ages. See films featuring stories from down the block to across the pond. *Through March 14. See nyicff.org for tickets and the complete schedule.*

Little Journey

One boy from India and another from China find themselves on a shared adventure told through enchanting dance. Aakash Odedra's choreography blends the classical and the contemporary, capturing the universal magic of newfound friendship and reminding us that it doesn't matter where you come from: anyone can be a friend. *The New Victory Theater, 209 W 42nd St., Manhattan. Through March 14; see website for schedule. Ages 8 and older. Tickets start at \$25. newvictory.org*

Bronx Children's Museum

Explore over 10,000 sq ft. of Bronx-inspired fun with the 35-foot-long water table that mimics the three Bronx waterways, a mini local neighborhood play area, an art space inspired by Bronx residents, and more! *Bronx Children's Museum, 725 Exterior Street, 2nd Floor, Bronx. \$8–\$14. See*



New York International Auto Show

bronxchildrensmuseum.org for hours.

The New York City Saint Patrick's Day Parade

Celebrate Irish culture and heritage at the oldest and largest St. Patrick's Day Parade in the world, featuring spectacular bagpipers, magnificent floats, marching bands, and more. *Fifth Avenue from 44th Street to 86th Street in Manhattan. Wednesday, March 17, 11 am. Free. nycstpatriksparade.org*

Macy's Flower Show

A sure sign of spring is the Macy's Flower Show! Thousands of stunning flowers and lush plants transform the store into one of the most colorful destinations in NYC. Over two weeks, beautiful blossoms will brighten up this Herald Square institution. Stop and smell the roses...and the tulips, and all the other blooms! *Macy's Herald Square, 151 W. 34th St., Manhattan. Free.*

New York International Auto Show

New and exciting exhibits will showcase the best the automobile industry has to offer. With the largest electric vehicle test track ever created at an auto show, interactive displays, and concept cars, you'll quickly learn that you don't need to be old enough to drive to have fun. *March 26 – April 4. Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, 655 W. 34th St., Manhattan. autoshowny.com*

Easter Parade & Easter Bonnet Festival

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CALENDAR

the place to show off your Easter finery and best bonnets. If you don't have one, that's OK; you'll still want to be there to see people watch and spot over-the-top chapeaus! *Fifth Avenue, from 49th to 57th Streets, Manhattan. Sunday, March 28, 10 am. Free.*

Queens Zoo

Visit the Queens Zoo to see all the amazing animals: coyotes, bison, bears, pumas, rabbits, cows, ducks, sea lions, and more. *Queens Zoo, 53-51 111th St., Queens. \$7.95-\$10.95; free for children 2 and younger. queenszoo.com*

APRIL

Family Day: Spring Fest

Enjoy free, interactive, and fun musical activities and performances in Carnegie Hall's Resnick Education Wing. Family Weekend: Spring Fest invites the whole family to play and celebrate all things spring. *Carnegie Hall, 7th Avenue, Manhattan. April 10 – 11, Saturday and Sunday, noon – 4 pm. Ages 10 and younger. Free. carnegiehall.org*

Mario the Maker Magician Returns!

Mario Marchese, the world's loudest kid whisperer, is back at the New Victory by popular demand. Doubling down on his signature grab bag of sleight-of-hand slapstick, heartfelt storytelling and geeky do-it-yourselfitude, Mario gives kids permission to dream big and do what they love. *The New Victory Theater, 209 W 42nd St., Manhattan. April 17 – May 9; see website for complete schedule. Ages 4 and older. Tickets start at \$25. newvictory.org*

Don't Let The Pigeon Drive The Bus! The Musical!

Bring the whole flock to the most feather-ruffling, toe-tapping event of the season: "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! The Musical!" With Mo Willems' ingenious script and Deborah Wicks La Puma's catchy tunes, this is no ordinary show—it's a whirlwind of laughter and fun! *BMCC Tribeca Performing Arts Center, 199 Chambers St., Manhattan.*

Saturday, April 17, 11 am & 2 pm. Ages 3 – 8. \$40. tribecapac.org

Care Bears Live!

This brand-new, action-packed stage show bursts with music, dancing, adventure, and heart. The show delivers an unforgettable experience full of warmth and wonder. In a noisy world, the Care Bears' message of love, kindness, and connection shines brighter than ever, making Care Bears Live! An unforgettable event that families will want to share together! *Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, 720 Northern Blvd., Brookville. Thursday, April 22, 2 pm. All ages. tillescenter.org*

Erth's Dino Zoo

Observe, meet, and interact with an eye-popping collection of amazing life-like dinosaurs and other creatures in a theatrical performance that thrills and entertains kids while stimulating their imaginations in ways that forever connect them to their world. *Bergen Performing Arts Center, 30 North Van Brunt Street, Englewood, NJ. Sunday, April 25, 1 pm & 4 pm. All ages. \$25 – \$39. bergenpac.org*

Staten Island Children's Museum

SICM provides children with creative and cultural hands-on experiences through 12 indoor and outdoor exhibits. Kids can build houses, perform shows, run conveyor belts, captain ships, fish for oysters, climb rock walls, and more. *Staten Island Children's Museum, 1000 Richmond Terrace, Building M, Staten Island. Wednesdays–Sundays, 10 am – 5 pm. \$8. sichildremsmuseum.org*

Old Time Baseball

Enjoy the great American pastime the way it was originally played. "Old-time" Baseball is played with authentic 1860s-era bats, balls, and uniforms, governed by the era's peculiar game rules. *Old Bethpage Restoration Village, 1303 Round Swamp Road, Old Bethpage. The season runs through October. oldbethpagevillage restoration.org*

Earth Day

Get out of the house and into nature this Earth Day with the NYC Parks Department. From hikes to nature walks to recycled crafts, gain a new appreciation for Mother Earth at local events. *Thursday, April 22.* Free. nycgovparks.org

MAY

The Adventures of Harold and the Purple Crayon

This beloved book series leaps off the pages and onto the stage in this charming stage production where Harold creates the world he wants to explore, using nothing more than a big purple crayon and his sky's-the-limit imagination. *Bergen Performing Arts Center, 30 North Van Brunt Street, Englewood, NJ. Sunday, May 2, 1 pm & 4 pm. All ages. \$25 – \$39.* bergenpac.org

Springtime At Wave Hill

Spring is the perfect time to take your kids to this spectacular 28-acre public garden and cultural center in Riverdale, overlooking the Hudson River and the Palisades. The historic landscape of Wave Hill is one of the most beautiful spots in the city! *Wave Hill, W. 249th St. and Independence Ave., Bronx. \$4 – \$10; free for members.* wavehill.org

Cirque-Tacalar presents Spring Is In The Air

Portrayed through dazzling circus, dance, and can't-believe-your-eyes specialty acts, audiences of all ages will delight as the glory of the spring season unfolds amidst the antics of comical woodland characters. *BMCC Tribeca Performing Arts Center, 199 Chambers St., Manhattan. Saturday, May 8, 3 pm. All ages. \$40.* tribecapac.org



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CALENDAR

Doodle POP

It's giggles galore when Boogie and Woogie make magic with artful illustrations, silly scribbles, and interactive animation. Accompanied by two musicians, this captivating clown duo from Seoul, South Korea, shows us that we can go anywhere and do anything with a little ink and a big imagination. *The New Victory Theater, 209 W 42nd Street, Manhattan. May 15–23; see website for schedule. Ages 4 and older. Tickets start at \$25. newvictory.org*

KAWS

Both iconic and iconoclastic, KAWS takes over NYBG with bold interventions that put the artist's work front and center against the living canvas of the Garden, creating unexpected moments for long-time fans and new viewers alike. Set out to find awe-inspiring scenes both inside the galleries and across 250 acres of the garden, and experience KAWS' boundary-defying work within the beauty and complexity of the natural world. *New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Blvd., Bronx. May 22 – October 24. All ages. Included with admission. nybg.org*

Le Carrousel at Bryant Park

Stop by Bryant Park to take a ride on the French-inspired carousel. The brightly colored animals and French cabaret music are features you will want to see and hear for yourself. Bryant Park, between 40th and 42nd Streets and Fifth and Sixth Avenues, Manhattan. 11 am – 7 pm. See bryantpark.org for pricing.

Brooklyn Cyclones Baseball

Head to Coney Island for the beaches, the boardwalk, and baseball! The Mets' affiliate team, the Brooklyn Cyclones, represents the borough with exciting games, great giveaways, fun theme nights, and plenty of heart. *Maimonides Park, 1904 Surf Ave, Brooklyn. See milb.com/brooklyn for the complete schedule and ticketing information.*

JUNE

129th Philippine Independence Anniversary Commemoration Parade

Join tens of thousands of Filipino Americans, families, friends, and supporters for one of the largest Philippine Independence Day celebrations outside the Philippines! Experience a day filled with spectacular cultural performances, live music and entertainment, traditional and contemporary Filipino dances, colorful floats and community pride, delicious Filipino food favorites, and most of all, a powerful celebration of heritage, unity, and Freedom. *pidci.org*

Lullaby Project Celebration Concert

The Lullaby Project pairs new and expecting parents with professional artists to write and sing personal lullabies for their babies, supporting parental health, aiding childhood development, and strengthening the bond between parent and child. Hear enchanting lullabies written by families in New York City and around the world in this concert that celebrates 15 years of Carnegie Hall's Lullaby Project. *Carnegie Hall, 7th Avenue, Manhattan. Saturday, June 5, 3 pm. carnegiehall.org*

Learn To Swim

Register at any local city pool this June to learn to swim. Lessons are available for all ages and levels, whether you are a beginner just starting out or an advanced swimmer wanting to improve. *There are multiple locations throughout the five boroughs. Registration is free. nycgovparks.org.*

Puerto Rican Day Parade

Celebrate the best of Puerto Rican culture, achievement, and legacy with music, dance, and colorful displays of cultural pride. *The parade marches along Fifth Avenue from 44th to 79th Streets and has grown into one of the largest in the United States. nprdpinc.org*

Hunts Point Fish Parade

This annual procession through Hunts

Point connects the community to the Bronx River through a vibrant, family-friendly celebration. Participants often use banners, costumes, and puppets representing marine life. The parade culminates in an arts festival featuring live music, dancing, and art-making. *The parade begins at The Point CDC, 940 Garrison Ave., Bronx. See thepoint.org for date and schedule. Free.*

NYC Public Pools Open

Celebrate the start of summer by taking a dip in one of New York's many public pools. It is one of the most popular ways to cool down under the summer sun, and thankfully, public pools reopen in late June. *Check nycgovparks.org for the exact opening day. Free.*

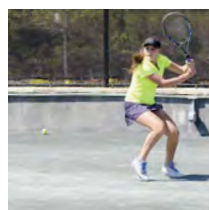
Rooftop Cinema Club

Don't just go to the movies; experience

a cinematic event. Sit back and enjoy a classic favorite or discover the next great film amongst city skylines, sunsets, starlit evenings, awesome drinks, and delicious food. *Rooftop Cinema Club Midtown, 60 W 37th Street, 3rd Floor, Manhattan. See website for pricing and schedule. rooftopcinemaclub.com*

Brooklyn Children's Museum

Escape the heat while your kids enjoy fun, educational exhibits that teach them about world cultures, history, science, and nature, including live animals and a collection of historical artifacts. There is a special area with activities geared toward kids younger than 5. *Brooklyn Children's Museum, 145 Brooklyn Avenue, Brooklyn. \$15, free for babies younger than 1 year; Amazon Free Hours every Thursday from 2 – 5 pm. brooklynkids.org.*



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The Mamaroneck Beach + Yacht Club emanates timeless beauty. Overlooking the Long Island Sound, the views at MB+YC are breathtaking. The buildings and facilities are surrounded by 13 acres of lustrous centennial trees, statues and vibrant flowers. The Osborn Castle serves as the main clubhouse. The property boasts several other original outbuildings like the newly renovated Harbor Cafe, a beautiful setting overlooking the Long Island Sound offering items from brunch to dinner. Members can choose to relax poolside or beach side in state-of-the-art cabanas. They also offer 9 Har-Tru tennis courts, several dining options and a 57-slip marina, all of which are available to members.

The Mamaroneck Beach + Yacht Club team offers decades of experience in both hospitality and architecture. MB+YC has been reimagined as a private member-ship club with unparalleled service. They have created a world where relaxed elegance meets a new world luxury lifestyle. Experience tranquility from the moment you arrive and create cherished summer memories with your family. Exceptional service, attention to detail, the warmth of the staff and unmistakable style will make MB+YC a recognized figure in its community and a beloved destination by its members. They hope that you will join and become a part of the family. Visit www.mamaroneckbeachandyacht.com for more information.



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6 Beautiful Train Stations around NYC and beyond

BY SOE KABBABE

In and around New York, train stations aren't just places to pass through—they're part of the story. Some are grand and architectural, others small and quietly charming, but all of them offer something rare: a moment to pause in the middle of movement.

For families, you can turn a simple outing into something more intentional. For commuters, they offer a kind of everyday beauty that's easy to overlook. And for anyone building a slower, more thoughtful rhythm into their days, these stations are destinations in their own right.

Beautiful Train Stations in NYC Grand Central Terminal

No list starts anywhere else. Grand Central Terminal is more than a mere station—it's one of the most breathtaking public spaces in the world. The celestial ceiling, sweeping staircases, and constant hum of movement make it feel cinematic at any hour. Kids are drawn to the gallery (the New York Transit Museum usually has cool exhibitions there!) and the main concourse clock, while adults appreciate the architecture and history layered into every detail.

Forest Hills Station, Queens

Tucked into one of Queens' most walkable neighborhoods, Forest Hills Station feels like something out of another era. Originally built in the early 20th century, the station blends Tudor-style architecture with a village-like setting. Step off the platform, and you're



immediately in the heart of Austin Street, surrounded by cafés, bakeries, and tree-lined sidewalks.

You can also make it a local day out in Forest Hills with the kiddos! Stroll through Forest Hills Gardens, where cobblestone streets and historic homes make it feel more European than NYC; stop by the local pizza parlor or ice cream shop; and end the outing by taking a mini hike around Forest Park.

Long Island Train Stations That Feel Like Hidden Gems Oyster Bay Station

At the very end of the LIRR line, Oyster Bay Station offers a completely different kind of train experience. This historic station feels

frozen in time, with preserved architecture and a peaceful, waterfront-adjacent setting. It's part of the Oyster Bay Railroad Museum, which adds an educational layer for kids. This is best for a slow day trip to Nassau County if you combine it with a walk to the harbor or nearby parks.

Sea Cliff Station

Small, quiet, and incredibly picturesque, Sea Cliff Station is the kind of place you almost don't expect to exist anymore. Situated near a charming North Shore village, the station feels intimate and nostalgic, surrounded by greenery and close to scenic overlooks of the Long Island Sound.

More Worth-the-Trip Stations Beyond NYC

Poughkeepsie Station

Set along the Hudson River, Poughkeepsie

Station is both functional and unexpectedly beautiful. Its proximity to the Walkway Over the Hudson—one of the longest elevated pedestrian bridges in the world—makes it more than just a stop. Step off the train and you're immediately in one of the most scenic areas in the state. We love it for family day trips! Take the train up, walk the bridge, grab lunch, and turn it into a full-day Hudson Valley outing.

Beacon Station

A favorite for weekend escapes, Beacon Station offers simplicity with a view. Overlooking the Hudson River, the station feels open, calm, and intentionally minimal, letting the landscape do the work. To have a lovely day out with the kiddos, simply head into Beacon's Main Street for galleries, cafés, and one of the most family-friendly art scenes in the region.

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Stargazing Spots in the Metro Area

BY DANIELLE RAMOS AND NAOSHA GREGG

New York City's glow makes it one of the toughest places in the country to see a truly dark sky. Between streetlights, storefronts, and skyscrapers, even the brightest constellations can fade into the background. But here's the good news: great stargazing near New York City is absolutely possible—you just need to know where to go!

The best spots for stargazing near NYC include Cherry Springs State Park, the Catskill Mountains, Fire Island National Seashore, and Harriman State Park, all within roughly one to three hours of the city. Closer to home, you'll also find darker pockets of sky at places like the David Dunlap Observatory and select Long Island preserves.

Whether you're searching "star gazing near me" for a spontaneous Friday night plan or mapping out a weekend family day trip, there are options for every level of effort. Some locations are easy drives with parking and restrooms (a must for kids); others are accessible by commuter rail plus a short walk. A few are designated Dark Sky sites for serious astronomy fans, while others are relaxed, blanket-on-the-beach kind of places where kids can spot the Big Dipper.

Timing matters a lot (new moon nights are best), and so does distance from major highways and town centers. But you don't need a telescope or an overnight camping permit to make it memorable. With a little planning, stargazing in NY can turn an ordinary evening into something surprisingly magical and really fun.

Whether you're planning a family overnight or just looking to escape the city lights for a few hours, this guide highlights recommended stargazing locations near NYC, from easy-access parks to certified dark sky destinations, plus tips on what to bring and the best times to go.

If you're new to stargazing, don't overthink it. You don't need a telescope, and you don't need to memorize constellations. All you need is a darker patch of sky, a little

patience, and maybe a phone app to help you figure out what you're looking at.

A big plus is that stargazing works at any level. Little ones can hunt for the brightest star they can find. Older kids can try spotting major constellations or tracking the phases of the moon.

Check What's In the Sky

Get an idea of what the sky's going to look like before heading out for a stargazing session.

It's best to stargaze before a full moon, so look at the moon phase when you're picking a date. You'll also see different constellations depending on what time of year and time of night you go out, so look at a star map to get an idea of what you'll be seeing.

While you're at it, be sure to check the weather before heading out. Nothing ruins a

night of stargazing like a sky full of clouds.

Download an App

A stargazing app can be helpful as you and your family scan the sky. Many of them cost money, but there are plenty of free or cheap options if you're more of a casual stargazer. Some good options for beginners include SkyView or Star Rover.

Expensive Equipment Not Required

Having an expensive telescope is not a requirement for stargazing, especially if you're just starting out. An old pair of binoculars will do the trick. They'll be more than enough to magnify the night sky and allow you to see things you may not have been able to see before.

Get to know the night sky before taking the plunge and buying a telescope.



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If you decide later on that you want to take your stargazing to the next level, do some research when deciding what telescope is best for you and your family.

Dress and Pack Accordingly

Set yourself up for success by dressing for the weather when going out for a night of stargazing. New York nights can get chilly, so be prepared to layer up with sweaters, cold gear, winter coats, scarves, hats, gloves, and anything else you typically need to stay warm.

Bring a few blankets for extra warmth and to give yourself some protection from the ground if you choose to lie down to look at the stars.

Find an Astronomy Club

There are a ton of clubs for amateur astronomers, which are a great resource if you're looking to get into stargazing yourself. For example, the New York-based Amateur Astronomers Association offers classes, lectures, and public observation sessions throughout the year.

"This is a great way to learn and receive guidance in your first steps toward discovering the universe," says Cyril Dupuis, passionate stargazer and founder at Vaonis. "It also provides an opportunity to observe the night sky through high-quality telescopes before deciding to invest in one."

Joining a group like this is a great way to get more involved with stargazing alongside a new community.

You can also follow astronomers on social networking sites. Often, they'll post about cosmic events coming up or where and how you can see celestial points of interest.

Recommended Locations for Stargazing in New York

Believe it or not, there are some great stargazing spots in New York City. They're not great for seeing the deepest objects in space, but they're good for seeing a few bright spots in the sky.

"In general, the key is to find areas with minimal exposure to bright city lights, a clear horizon, especially toward the south, and of course, accessibility late at night or overnight," Dupuis continues. "With these criteria in mind, places like Central Park, Floyd Bennett Field, Great Kills Park, etc. could be suitable options."

If you're looking to see more in the sky, we've also included some spots outside of the city.

Pupin Physics Laboratories

Home of the physics and astronomy departments at Columbia University, Pupin Hall hosts public outreach astronomy events for the whole family. Drop in for rooftop stargazing every other Friday during the academic year.

Check out their Family Astro events, hosted three times a year and targeted towards children with families ages 6 through 12. Be sure to check out their website for the latest news and events.

The High Line

Take a closer look at the stars at the High Line in Manhattan. Join the Amateur Astronomers Association every Tuesday at dusk to learn about what's in the sky that night.

The program is free and open to visitors of all ages but only runs from April through October, so put this on your spring-to-do list!

Vanderbilt Museum & Planetarium

The Charles and Helen Reichert Planetarium at the Vanderbilt Museum on Long Island offers planetarium shows throughout the week and public stargazing hours in the Observatory on Friday evenings.

Their website also offers a comprehensive list of astronomy resources for amateur astronomers of all levels.

Walkway Over the Hudson

This historic site is the world's longest elevated pedestrian bridge and a great place

to stargaze. Watch the stars shine against the Hudson River and take in the breathtaking views.

Montauk Point State Park

This state park on Long Island is far enough away from the bright lights of the city to give you a perfect sky for stargazing.

If you go at the right time of year, you can even get a glimpse of the Milky Way's core, which is visible from the Northern Hemisphere around February every year. Gaze up at the stars amid views of the Atlantic where it meets the Block Island Sound.

Harriman State Park

One of the closest state parks to New York City, Harriman State Park in Rockland and Orange counties, is full of great locations for stargazing. It's open year-round, so you can

always make a trip with your family for some stargazing.

Big Buck Mountain Multiple Use Area

There are no formal trails at Big Buck, but there are 146 acres of land open for primitive camping and exploring. It's a good choice for stargazing if you and your family are experienced with camping and being outdoors.

Adirondack Mountains

Just a short drive from the city, the Adirondack Mountains offer fantastic and clear views of the sky. Ideal for a first-time stargazer, many can see the glorious stars that light up the sky due to the low light pollution and high elevation. Mount Jo, Tupper Lake, and the Adirondack Sky Center & Observatory are particularly known for their dark skies and stargazing opportunities.

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NYC's Top Museums

THE BRONX

Bronx Children's Museum

725 Exterior St., 2nd Floor, South Bronx

718-775-3450 • bronxchildrensmuseum.org

Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10am-1pm; Saturdays, 10am-1pm, 2pm-5pm

Admission: \$14 adults; \$10 seniors; \$8 children; free under 1

Bronx Zoo

2300 Southern Blvd., Belmont

718-220-1010 • bronxzoo.com

Hours: April-October: Monday through Friday, 10 am – 5 pm;

Saturday and Sunday, 10 am – 5:30 pm. November-March:

Daily 10 am – 4:30 pm

Admission: Varies daily; starts at \$38.70 adults (13+); \$33.70 seniors (65+); \$28.70 children (3 - 12); free under 2; free

Wednesdays (tickets must be reserved online)

The New York Botanical Garden

2900 Southern Blvd., Bedford Park

718-817-8700 • nybg.org

Hours: Tuesday through Sunday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Varies daily; starts at \$35 adults; \$31 seniors and

students; \$15 children (2 - 12); free under 2; free Grounds

Access on Wednesdays to NYC residents all day and to all other visitors 10 -11 am

Wave Hill

4900 Independence Ave., Riverdale

718-543-3344 • wavehill.org

Hours: Tuesday through Sunday, 10 am – 5:30 pm

Free: Thursdays

Admission: \$10 adults; \$6 seniors and students; \$4 children (6-18); free under 6

BROOKLYN

Brooklyn Botanic Garden

990 Washington Ave., Prospect Heights

718-623-7200 • bbg.org

Hours: Tuesday-Thursday: 8 am – 8 pm, Friday – Sunday:

8 am – 6 pm Seasonal hours may vary; visit website for more information.

Admission: \$22 adults; \$16 seniors (65+) and students (12+); free for children 12 and under

Brooklyn Children's Museum

145 Brooklyn Ave., Crown Heights

718-735-4400 • brooklynkids.org

Hours: Wednesday – Sunday, 10 am – 5 pm

Admission: \$15; discounts may apply

Brooklyn Museum

200 Eastern Pkwy., Prospect Heights

718-638-5000 • brooklynmuseum.org

Hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am – 6 pm,

First Saturdays, 11 am – 10 pm

Admission: \$20 adults; \$14 seniors, students and visitors with disabilities; free under 19. Free first Saturday of each month

New York Aquarium

602 Surf Ave., Coney Island

718-265-3474 • nyaquarium.com

Hours: May 23 through September 7: 10 am to 5 pm;

September 8 through October 31: 10 am to 5 pm; November 1

to March: 10 am - 4:30 pm

Admission: Off peak: adults (13+) \$29.95, seniors \$27.95, kids (3-12) \$25.95, 2 and under free; Peak: Adults (13+) \$32.95, seniors \$29.95, kids \$27.95, 2 and under free

New York Transit Museum

99 Schermerhorn St., Downtown Brooklyn

718-694-1600 • nytransitmuseum.org

Hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm

Admission: \$10 adults; \$5 seniors and children (2 – 17)

MANHATTAN

American Museum of Natural History

200 Central Park West, Upper West Side

212-769-5100 • amnh.org

Hours: Daily 10 am – 5:30 pm

Admission: \$37 adults; \$30 seniors and students; \$22 children; pay-what-you-wish for NY residents

Asia Society Museum

725 Park Ave., Upper East Side

212-288-6400 • asiasociety.org/museum

Hours: Wednesday – Sunday, 10 am – 5 pm

Admission: \$15 adults; \$10 seniors and students; free under age 16

Children's Museum of Manhattan

212 W. 83rd St., Upper West Side

212-721-1223 • cmom.org

Hours: Tuesday through Sunday, 10 am – 5 pm

Admission: Walk-ins \$18 for adults and children; \$17 if purchased online

Guggenheim Museum

1071 Fifth Ave., Upper East Side

212-423-3500 • guggenheim.org

Hours: Daily 10:30 am – 5:30 pm

Admission: \$30 adults; \$19 seniors (65+), students and visitors with disabilities; free under 12; pay-what-you-wish Tuesday and Sunday 4 – 5:30 pm

Hours and admission subject to change. We advise visiting museum's website for details before you go.

Intrepid Sea, Air Space Museum

Pier 86, 12th Ave. and W. 46th St., Hell's Kitchen
212- 245-0072 • intrepidmuseum.org
Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 am – 5 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 10 am – 6 pm
Admission: \$38 adults; \$36 seniors and students; \$28 children (5-12); free under age 4

The Jewish Museum

1109 Fifth Ave., Upper East Side
212- 423-3200 • thejewishmuseum.org
Hours: Monday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 11 am – 6 pm, Thursday 11 am – 8 pm
Admission: \$24 adults; \$14 seniors; \$10 students, free under 18; free on Saturdays

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

1000 Fifth Ave., Upper East Side
212- 535-7710 • metmuseum.org
Hours: Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday, 10 am – 5 pm; Friday and Saturday: 10 am – 9 pm
Admission: \$30 adults; \$22 seniors and visitors with disabilities; \$17 students; free under 12; pay-what-you-wish for NY residents and NY, NJ, and CT students

Museum of Modern Art (MoMA)

11 W. 53rd St., Midtown
212- 708-9400 • moa.org
Hours: Daily, 10:30 am – 5:30 pm; Friday, until 8:30 pm
Admission: \$30 adults; \$22 seniors and visitors with disabilities; \$17 students; free for children 16 and under

Museum of the City of New York

1220 Fifth Ave., East Harlem
212- 534-1672 • mcny.org
Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 am – 5 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 10 am – 6 pm
Admission: \$23 adults, \$18 seniors, \$14 students; free under 18

New-York Historical Society

170 Central Park West, Upper West Side
212- 873-3400 • nyhistory.org
Hours: Tuesday through Thursday and Saturday and Sunday, 11 am – 5 pm; Friday, 11 am – 8 pm
Admission: \$24 general admission; \$19 seniors; \$13 students; \$6 kids (ages 5-13); free under 5. Free daily tours at 1 and 2:30 pm

Statue of Liberty & Ellis Island Museum

17 Battery Place #324, Battery Park
212- 561-4588 • statueofliberty.org/ellis-island
Hours: Daily 9:45 am – 4:45 pm
Admission: Free; ferry fare is required. Visit website for more information.

Whitney Museum of American Art

99 Gansevoort St., Meatpacking District
212- 570-3600 • whitney.org
Hours: Monday, Wednesday through Sunday, 10:30 am – 6 pm. Open daily June 16 – August 18.
Admission: \$30 adults; \$24 seniors and students; free under 25 and Friday, 5 – 10 pm and 2nd Sunday of the month

QUEENS

New York Hall of Science

47-01 111th St. at 49th Ave., Corona
718- 699-0005 • nysci.org
Hours: Tuesday, 10 am – 2 pm; Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am – 5 pm
Admission: \$22 adults; \$19 seniors, students, and children

Noguchi Museum

9-01 33rd Rd., Long Island City
718- 204-7088 • noguchi.org
Hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am – 6 pm
Admission: \$16 adults; \$6 seniors and students; free under 12 and NYC public school students

Queens Museum of Art

New York City Building, Flushing Meadows-Corona Park
718- 592-9700 • queensmuseum.org
Hours: Wednesday through Friday, 12 pm – 5 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 11 am – 5 pm
Admission: Pay-what-you-wish; suggested \$8 adults; \$6 seniors and students; free under 12

STATEN ISLAND

Historic Richmond Town

441 Clarke Ave., Richmond Town
718-351-1611 • historicrichmondtown.org
Hours: January to March: Friday through Sunday, 11 am - 4 pm; April to December: Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am - 4 pm
Admission: Varies. Check website for details. Free 2-4pm on Thursdays, May - December

National Lighthouse Museum

200 The Promenade at Lighthouse Point, St. George
718-390-0040 • lighthousemuseum.org
Hours: Thursday through Sunday, 11 am - 4 pm
Admission: \$7 adults; \$5 seniors and students; under 12 free

Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden

1000 Richmond Terrace, Randall Manor
718-448-2500 • snug-harbor.org
Hours: Daily, dawn to dusk
Admission: Varies by museum

Staten Island Children's Museum

1000 Richmond Terrace, Randall Manor
718-273-2060 • sichildrensmuseum.org
Hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am - 5 pm
Admission: \$10 adults and children; free under 1

The Staten Island Museum

1000 Richmond Terrace, Randall Manor
718-727-1135 • statenislandmuseum.org
Hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am – 5 pm
Admission: \$8 adults; \$5 students and seniors; \$2 children (2-12); free under 2



School Admissions in NYC

BY MIA SALAS

Choosing a school for your child is no easy task. Between open houses, online research, and more, it can be stressful (and exhausting!) to find the right fit. That's why we're here to help with an overview of what you can expect from the private and public school admission process in NYC.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Individualized Attention: Unlike public schools, which are funded by the government, private schools have the flexibility to create their own educational guidelines. This allows them to tailor their teaching methods to better suit individual students. They can adjust the pace of instruction, taking time to focus on each student's unique needs. Additionally, private schools typically have smaller class sizes.

With fewer students in each classroom, teachers can more easily recognize each student's learning pace and ensure that everyone has the support they need to succeed.

Emphasis on Leadership: Private schools provide students with opportunities to take on responsibilities. Through various assignments, such as leading groups, serving as club presidents, or presenting projects, students can develop their leadership skills on a daily basis. Private schools encourage accountability, which is an important value we all want to instill in our children.

Outstanding Resources: Thanks to the robust alumni networks that many private schools in NYC maintain, your children will have access to excellent opportunities and resources. This includes funded travel and trips, extended language programs, tutoring, college counseling, advising

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programs, and summer internships. Your kids will receive the support they need to succeed.

What should I consider when applying to a private school?

Do the advantages of private school education, mentioned earlier, resonate with your family? When researching schools, take into account the school culture and environment, academic programs, extracurricular activities, and the school's mission. The mission statement can reveal much about the school's values and help you determine whether they align with your own. While the prestige of some schools may be tempting, it's important to look beyond that and focus on what will be the best fit for your child.

When should I apply?

Typically, the official application process kicks off in September, although it doesn't hurt to start looking around during the summer.

How long are the applications?

We won't sugarcoat it—you should set aside some time. You will need to complete an online application, and you will likely participate in a parent interview and a tour or open house.

Is there financial aid?

Many, if not most, private schools in NYC offer financial aid programs, but this can vary by school. If financial assistance is important to you, be sure to explore this information on the school's website before applying. Some schools may also provide scholarships or other funding resources to help families cover tuition costs.

What are private schools looking for?

There isn't one specific quality that schools look for in your family, so just be yourself! Show the schools who you are and what your family represents. Remember,

this process is about YOU finding the right fit for your child, not about private schools selecting you. Be sure to ask any questions you have and be honest about what you're seeking.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Diverse Learning: NYC public schools offer a diverse range of academic subjects for your kids to dive into, including arts, computer science, health education, literacy, math, physical education, science, social studies, and STEM. You can expect a very well-rounded education for your kids, where they'll get to figure out exactly what they enjoy doing.

Testing: Testing is essential in the NYC public school system to monitor student progress and determine eligibility for programs. In elementary school (grades K-5), students take various New York State and local tests. In middle school (grades 6-8), they continue these assessments with additional tests reflecting their advancing skills. High school tests serve a similar purpose while also facilitating opportunities for college credits and admissions. Accommodations are available for students with disabilities.

After-School: After-school programs play a crucial role for working parents. NYC public schools offer over 900 after-school programs throughout the city. Most of these programs are free, allowing your children to explore their interests and discover new activities.

Clear Expectations by Grade: New York City public schools have a well-organized system that outlines specific goals and expectations for students at each grade level. For instance, in first grade, your child will learn how to subtract numbers up to 20, describe shapes, tell time, understand place values and whole numbers, recognize the properties of liquids, solids, and gases, and explore music and rhythm, among other topics. As a parent, you will have a clear understanding of what to expect for each

grade your child enters.

Do I have to apply to a public school?

All NYC children are guaranteed a seat in NYC public schools; however, you still need to apply because there are various programs available. Schools are categorized as district or zoned, based on your residential location. Additionally, there are non-zoned, boroughwide, and citywide programs that are open to a larger number of students.

How do I apply?

You can apply online through MySchools. You will be able to select up to 12 programs that your child is interested in attending. Including more options increases your chances of receiving an offer from any of your preferred programs. Remember, the order you rank the programs is important,

so be sure to arrange them accordingly!

What factors go into my application?

In addition to your child's rankings, the available seats and demand at each school are considered when determining the school offer for your child. Other factors, such as priority batches, are also important; these include students and residents of the district, as well as applicants who qualify for free and reduced lunch.

Who can I reach out to for help or advice?

If your child is already enrolled in a public school, you can reach out to your school counselor for help or advice regarding your options. Additionally, MySchools allows you to easily explore various options and programs. You may also contact a Family Welcome Center for further assistance.

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Share your journey

Best NYC Playgrounds

BY DANIELLE RAMOS

BROOKLYN

Imagination Playground at Prospect Park: Playground with Creative Play Spaces

Address: Ocean Ave. & Parkside Ave.

Hours: 6 am to 9 pm daily

Standout Features: Natural play area with logs, boulders, sand, and water

Tucked into a wooded corner of Prospect Park, the Imagination Playground lives up to its name. Back in the day, we'd call it the Wooden playground. Instead of traditional equipment, kids find slides carved into hills, climbing areas built from logs and boulders, a stone bridge, and plenty of sand and water for digging, pouring, and playing freely. Surrounded by the shade of plenty of trees, it feels more like a natural playland than a city playground.

Sweetwater Playground, Domino

Park: Cool Playground with Waterfront Views

Address: 15 River St., Williamsburg

Hours: 6 am to 1 am daily

Standout Features: Industrial-themed playground inspired by the Domino Sugar Factory, offering creative play structures and riverfront seating.

With stunning waterfront views and plenty of unique play equipment, Domino Park is a regular go-to for North Brooklyn families. Built on the site of the former Domino Sugar Factory, the playground features the Sugar Cane Cabin, Sugar Cube slide tower, and Sweetwater Silo. Kids can cool off in the sprinklers on warm days, and there's plenty of seating nearby. Just like out of a movie scene, you can have a picnic under the Williamsburg Bridge with great views of Manhattan.

Brooklyn Bridge Park, Pier 6 Playground: Playground with a Jungle Gym

Address: Atlantic Avenue near Furman Street,



Brooklyn Heights

Hours: 6 am to 1 am daily

Standout Features: Large play zones with water features, volleyball courts, and skyline views
Brooklyn Bridge Park's Pier 6 is one of the best spots in the city for both views and fun playground time. There are multiple play areas for different ages, including Slide Mountain for climbing and sliding, and Sandbox Village, one of the city's biggest sand areas. Kids can run, climb, and swing at Swing Valley, then cool off at Water Lab and the splashy Exploratory Marsh.

THE BRONX

Colucci Playground: Cool Playground for Teenagers

Address: Hutchinson River Parkway E. between Wilkinson Ave. and E. 197 St., Pelham Bay

Hours: 6 am to 10 pm daily

Standout Features: Fitness and recreation space designed for teenagers with gym-style equipment.

Older kids and teens will want to go to this

playground. There's workout equipment, swings, and plenty of room to move around or just hang out. If you also have little ones, seating and clear sightlines make it easy for you to keep an eye on them while also giving teens a bit of independence. Bonus: it's a great spot to catch the cherry blossoms in season.

Pelham Bay Park: Cool Playground Offering Sensory-Friendly Activities

Address: 3533 Bruckner Blvd., Pelham Bay

Hours: 6 am to 10 pm daily

Standout Features: Inclusive design with accessible ramps and sensory play zones

Designed for kids of all abilities, this playground includes wide ramps, accessible surfaces, and equipment that works for wheelchairs and other mobility needs. There are sensory-friendly features, water play, and adjustable basketball hoops, plus plenty of green space for families to relax and enjoy the surroundings.

Starlight Park Playground: Cool Playground with River Views

Address: Sheridan Exwy. between E. 174 St., E. 172 St., and Jennings St., Claremont Village

Hours: 6 am to 9 pm daily

Standout Features: Riverfront playground with spray showers and picnic areas.

Starlight Park playground is located on the grounds of the historic amusement park and is a bright, open space for families. It has modern play equipment and soft surfaces that are easy for strollers and wheelchairs. Plus, there are spray showers for warm days, shaded benches with picnic tables nearby, and plenty of green space and river views.

MANHATTAN

Ancient Playground- Central Park:

Cool Playground with Big-Kid Zones

Address: East 85th St. & Fifth Ave., Upper East Side

Hours: 7 am to dusk daily

Standout Features: Egyptian-themed playground with pyramids and tunnels.

Ancient Playground is a clean, well-main-

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PARKS & NATURE

tained space with pyramid-style climbing structures, tunnels, and water features for active kids. It has separate areas for toddlers and older children, and seating for parents and caregivers. Located inside Central Park, it has restrooms (always a plus!), and is easy to finish a visit with a nice stroll or picnic.

Battery Playscape: Playground with Innovative Play Spaces

Address: 20 State St. & Battery Place, The Battery

Hours: 7 am to 9 pm daily

Standout Features: Nature-inspired playground with treehouses, slides, and water zones.

This is a fun play space that encourages kids to move, climb, and explore, and it's well-designed. It includes climbing structures, large slides, sand areas, and water features, along with treehouse-style play and plenty of room to run around. It's a great spot for kids who love to run and climb.

Heckscher Playground: Cool Playground with Large Play Areas and Water Zones

Address: 65th St. Transverse, Central Park

Hours: 7 am to dusk daily

Standout Features: Expansive playground with rock climbing, tunnels, and splash zones.

Heckscher Playground is the largest and oldest playground in Central Park, and has a wide range of activities for kids of all ages. Children can climb rock structures, explore tunnels and slides, and cool off in a water play area with spraying jets. Surrounded by trees and open views, it's very calming. There are also restrooms, shaded benches, and easy access to other parts of the park.

Pier 25 Playground – Hudson River Park: Playground with Skyline Views

Address: West St. & N. Moore St., Tribeca

Hours: 6 am. to 1 am daily

Standout Features: Modern waterfront playground with sand play and long slides.

This modern, waterfront playground is a family favorite for good reason. A massive

sandbox, water sprays, climbing structures, and long slides keep kids entertained, while parents can appreciate the shade, seating, and skyline views. Located steps from mini golf and snack stands, it's easy to spend an entire morning or afternoon here. The fully enclosed design offers peace of mind, and its fresh layout makes it one of the best all-ages playgrounds downtown.

Tom Otterness Playground – Riverside Park South: Playground with Artistic Sculptures

Address: Riverside Blvd. & W. 64th St., Upper West Side

Hours: 6 am to 1 am daily

Standout Features: Artistic bronze sculptures that double as slides and tunnels.

Located in Riverside Park South, this playground features sculptural play pieces designed by artist Tom Otterness. Kids can climb, slide, and explore through bronze figures that double as tunnels and climbing structures. The playground is set among trees and near paths, picnic spots, and river views. It's a smaller space, but there's a lot for kids to do with hands-on, creative play in a calm, scenic setting.

QUEENS

Astoria Heights Playground: Cool Playground with Athletics Field

Address: 30th Rd. between 45th and 46th St., Astoria

Hours: 6 am to 9 pm daily

Standout Features: Multi-age play space with double slides and nearby sports fields.

The renovated playground is a well-loved neighborhood spot with a comfortable design. Kids can enjoy double slides, a spiral pole, and a sprayground to cool off in warmer months. There's plenty of seating for caregivers to relax while still keeping an eye on the kids. There are also nearby athletic fields, tennis and volleyball courts, and a walking track.

Beach 30th St. Playground: Cool Playground Featuring Water Spewing Cannons

Address: 1-09 Beach 30th St., Far Rockaway

Hours: 8 am to 8 pm daily (seasonal)

Standout Features: Beach-themed water playground with spray cannons and ship playset.

The Beach 30th Street Playground in the Rockaways is a fun, beachy play spot. Kids can run through blue water arches, splash around, and climb on a ship-themed structure with water cannons. It's a great place to cool off and play during the warmer months, and much less crowded than Coney Island.

Juniper Valley Park: Cool Playground with Baseball Fields

Address: Juniper Blvd., Lutheran Ave., 71 St. & Dry Harbor Rd., Middle Village

Hours: 6 am to 10 pm daily

Standout Features: Large recreation park with courts, fields, and walking tracks.

This park is a go-to spot for both families and sports lovers. There are tennis, basketball,

handball, shuffleboard, and bocce courts, plus multiple play areas for kids. A splash pad keeps kids cool in warmer weather, and the jungle gym keeps younger kids busy. There's also a running track, baseball fields, and shaded walking paths.

Playground for All Children:

Playground with a Sprawling Play Area

Address: 1101 Corona Ave., Flushing Meadows Corona Park

Hours: 6 am to 9 pm daily

Standout Features: Fully accessible playground with ramps and sensory-friendly zones.

Located in Queens, this is the first fully accessible playground in the country. There are areas for climbing and jumping, along with everyone's favorite slides. A shaded layout, a small water area, and a play village with houses and vehicles give kids so many ways to explore and use their imagination.



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Pediatric Emergency Care

BY DANIELLE RAMOS

No one ever wants to have to take their kids to the emergency room, but as a mom, it's usually an inevitable visit, sooner or later. As a mom of three, I've been to many emergency rooms over the years with each of my kids, and they are definitely not all created equal. The best time to map out the top ERs in your area is well before you ever need one.

We compiled a list of some excellent emergency departments in the city that offer various levels of care.

No matter what you go for, whether a chronic condition, sudden illness, or a trauma, you want the most capable, experienced minds and hands, and then you want as pleasant an experience as possible for your child (and for you!).

Check out newyorkfamily.com for a full list of all our emergency care options.

NYU Langone Health KiDS Emergency Department/Hassenfeld Children's Hospital

Kips Bay

570 First Ave. | 212-263-5550

Located within Tisch Hospital, the Pediatric Emergency Department is part of Hassenfeld Children's Hospital at NYU Langone. It is a dedicated kids-only ER with 24/7 pediatric-specific emergency care, staffed by pediatric-trained emergency doctors and nurses.

Before you go, you can view waiting times, which are posted on the website and updated every 5 minutes. Kids get a quick initial screening by a pediatric emergency specialist as soon as they arrive, and then are moved into a treatment room right away.

There is a family-friendly waiting area that is deliberately kid-friendly, with toys, games, books, and child-life specialists to



help ease stress. The whole medical team is child-centered and goes out of their way to help put kids at ease.

Because Hassenfeld is part of a larger children's hospital with many pediatric specialties, if your child needs follow-up or specialized care after the ER visit, they're well-equipped to provide it. There is access to more than 35 NYU pediatric specialties if your child needs extra care.

Great for Manhattan families (or those from the five boroughs willing to travel) who want a caring, kid-focused ER experience with the top medical minds.

Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital

Washington Heights

3959 Broadway (at 165th St.) | 212-305-6628

Located within NewYork-Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital, the Cohen Children's Emergency Department is a Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center and, so they can treat the most serious and complex

emergencies, trauma cases, and pretty much any pediatric medical need. Your child will have access to top pediatric specialists in just about every area. This can be a godsend if the emergency turns into a longer hospital stay or if your child needs specialized care.

Plus, there is a Kids Express “Fast Track” area to speed up care for less urgent issues during busy hours, and self-registration kiosks for non-urgent visits that take as little as 90 seconds. The waiting room is a calming space for kids with reading nooks, internet access, game tables, and a multimedia wall with bright natural light, vibrant colors, and floor-to-ceiling storybook illustrations throughout.

Komansky Children’s Hospital

Upper East Side

525 East 68th St. | 212-746-3300

This is a Level 1 Trauma Center and a regional burn center located within NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. The center can treat everything from minor injuries to the most serious emergencies. Their 24/7 pediatric-only ER is staffed entirely by doctors and nurses trained specifically to care for infants, children, teens, and young adults. Families have direct access to a full range of pediatric specialists at Weill Cornell if your child needs extra care or admission to the hospital.

When you go, kids are assessed right away, and staff focus on fast pain relief and comfort, while using child-friendly tools, toys, and techniques to make the experience less scary. Charging stations are plentiful, and free Wi-Fi to keep devices going during long waits, which is a lifesaver (not all ERs have this!) Virtual Urgent Care is available for minor illnesses and injuries if you want to avoid an in-person trip (and who doesn’t, especially when flu and viruses are running rampant) Great for NYC children who need a high-level pediatric trauma and burn center. The fast triage and virtual urgent care capability also make it great for treating minor illnesses on off-hours when you can’t see your pediatrician.

Mount Sinai Kravis Children’s Hospital

Upper East Side

1184 Fifth Ave. | (212) 241-9500

The pediatric emergency department was recently redesigned to add more space and increase the number of beds. There is little to no wait time, as kids are brought directly to treatment rooms after check-in. A new resuscitation area for critically ill children ensures that the sickest patients get rapid, optimized care.

The whole department is designed with children in mind, and colorful lighting and interactive elements make visits less intimidating, and there’s even a low-stimulation room for kids with autism or sensory sensitivities. Being part of a large health system at NewYork-Presbyterian means that if your child needs admission or specialized follow-up, pediatric specialists and intensive care units are readily available.

Great for Upper East Side families seeking a newer, thoughtfully designed pediatric ER that balances quality medical care with a less stressful, more comforting environment for children.

Maimonides Children’s Hospital Pediatric Emergency Department

Borough Park, Brooklyn

4802 10th Ave. | (718) 283-7500

This is Brooklyn’s only dedicated children’s ER and Level 2 pediatric trauma center, so for families in Brooklyn or nearby boroughs, it offers convenient access without needing to travel to Manhattan. Certified and equipped to treat life-threatening injuries from serious incidents (falls, car accidents, etc.) The recently expanded emergency department has 32 treatment areas, advanced imaging (X-ray, CT, ultrasound), trauma rooms, and dedicated pediatric resources, including the largest PICU and NICU in Brooklyn. There are dedicated pediatric trauma rooms and orthopedic procedure areas. There is also an accredited pediatric cardiology program (IAC—certified in fetal and pediatric echocardiography).

The emergency department is staffed by specialists trained to care for children, who respond differently to injuries than adults. If your child has to have a hospital stay, the full-service pediatric hospital offers a complete range of inpatient services. Maimonides offers a full range of pediatric inpatient services (NICU/PICU, oncology, cardiology, etc.), which helps keep care coordinated.

The Pediatric Hospitalist Program provides individualized care coordination throughout a child's hospital stay. Child Life Services offers play, art, and music therapy to support emotional well-being and ease the stress of hospitalization. Great for families in Brooklyn or beyond who want a full-featured, child-specific hospital with access to top specialists.

NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital

Park Slope, Brooklyn
506 6th St. | (718) 780-5025

Right in the heart of Park Slope, one of the most family-dense neighborhoods in the city, this hospital is a lifesaver for local parents who want fast, reliable pediatric care without crossing a bridge. Their pediatric emergency team handles everything from fevers and injuries to more complicated concerns. Specialized pediatric emergency and critical care services are tailored for infants and children, and staffed by dual board-certified emergency and pediatric physicians and nurses. They have a dedicated pediatric area within NYP Brooklyn Methodist's ER, designed for a calmer experience for families.

The Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) for critically ill children treats conditions like respiratory failure, severe illness, and postoperative recovery. A Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) includes a 24-bed Level III NICU for newborns needing intensive medical care, equipped to care for extremely premature babies and infants recovering from surgery. Plus, there is a transitional Care Nursery that helps babies who

need extra support before heading home.

Great for Brooklyn families (especially those in Park Slope, Gowanus, Windsor Terrace, or nearby neighborhoods) who want a dependable, kid-savvy emergency department close to home for quick access, top specialists, and a calmer setting than the big Manhattan ERs.

Cohen Children's Medical Center

New Hyde Park
269-01 76th Ave. | (718) 470-7640

At less than 30 minutes from Queens, Cohen Children's Pediatric Emergency Medicine is the only freestanding pediatric emergency department on Long Island and the largest Level I pediatric trauma center in New York. It offers dedicated, round-the-clock emergency care exclusively for infants, children, and adolescents. Another plus is that it is a pediatric-only facility and staffed 24/7 by board-certified pediatric emergency physicians and specialized pediatric nurses. The department tends to a host of urgent needs, from routine childhood sicknesses and injuries to serious surgical and trauma cases. There is also a Pediatric Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center to support kids and teens who are having a mental-health crisis right alongside medical emergencies.

Since Cohen Children's is part of a major pediatric teaching hospital within Northwell Health, the whole place is built with kids in mind, staffed by people who are specially trained to care for young patients and all the unique needs they have.

Great for local Queens' families who want fast, specialized emergency care close to home, especially when their kids need a pediatric-only team that can handle everything from minor injuries to serious trauma or behavioral-health emergencies.

Remember, while you can technically take a child to any emergency room, having skilled pediatric staff and smaller equipment designed for children can make a huge difference in their recovery.

LONG ISLAND FAMILY DAY

FREE EVENT!



Save the date!

**Sunday, October 4th
12PM - 3PM**

Cradle of Aviation Museum

Charles Lindbergh Blvd
Garden City, NY 11530

**Fun for Kids.
Resources for Families.**

**Kids Play. Parents Discover.
Everyone Wins.**

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And while you explore, the kids have a blast with face painting, a bounce house, gaming, music, free classes, raffles, and giveaways.

For Exhibitor Opportunities email Events@newyorkfamily.com

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TICKETS TODAY!**



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NewYorkFamily.com/Events

Please note: The Cradle of Aviation Museum Gallery and Planetarium admission are not included in this free event; both are a separate fee. Please visit their website to learn more.

A photograph of children playing soccer on a green field. In the foreground, a child in a green shirt and khaki shorts is kicking a soccer ball. Other children are visible in the background, also playing. The text is overlaid on the image.

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