

NEW YORK CITY TOUR

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TIMES SQUARE



LINCOLN CENTER



Rockefeller Center

Rockefeller Center is a complex of 19 commercial buildings covering 22 acres between 48th and 51st streets in New York City. Built by the Rockefeller family, it is located in the center of Midtown Manhattan, spanning the area between Fifth Avenue and Seventh Avenue.

Construction of the 14 original buildings (which included Radio City Music Hall) in the Art Deco style began on May 17, 1930 and was completed on November 1, 1939. There was an addition of newer buildings added west of Avenue of the Americas in the 1960's and 70's that include headquarters for Time-Life, McGraw-Hill and Fox News Channel.

At the heart of Rockefeller Center at 30 Rockefeller Plaza also referred to as '30 Rock', is the 70-floor, GE Building (formerly known as the RCA Building). The famous Rainbow Room club restaurant is located on the 65th floor. The skyscraper is the headquarters of NBC and houses most of the network's New York studios, including the former home of Late Night with David Letterman and Late Night with Conan O'Brien and the home of Saturday Night Live plus the NBC News studios. The observation deck, known as the 'Top of the Rock' on the 70th floor, with wide viewing areas, allows visitors a unique 360-degree panoramic view of New York City.

At the front of 30 Rock, at the very center of the complex, is the Lower Plaza, which features the statue of Prometheus and the ice-skating rink with the Channel Gardens and Promenade that stretches out to Fifth Avenue. There is also an underground Concourse with a series of interconnected pedestrian passageways that stretch from 47th Street to 51st Street, and from 5th Avenue to 7th Avenue and offers many shopping and eating establishments.



STATUE OF LIBERTY

The Statue of Liberty was a gift to the people of the United States from the people of France in the late 19th century in recognition of the friendship that was established during the American Revolution. French sculptor Frédéric Bartholdi was commissioned to design a sculpture which was to be completed by 1876 to mark the Centennial of the American Declaration of Independence. Due to delays in funding the statue arrived in New York Harbor on June 17, 1885.

The people of the United States were to build the base, and the French were responsible for the statue and its assembly in the States. Both sides struggled to raise the needed funds. In France, public donations, various forms of entertainment and a lottery were among the methods used to raise the 2,250,000 francs needed. While in America, theatrical events, art exhibitions, auctions and prize fights were a means to help raise needed funds.

Despite this, fund raising for the pedestal was going particularly slowly. In an effort to galvanize support, the noted journalist Joseph Pulitzer used his newspaper to criticize the public for its lack of enthusiasm for the project. His campaign was successful in helping to motivate the American people to contribute. And eventually the necessary funds had been secured.

The statue rests majestically in New York Harbor. She has been a symbol of freedom and opportunity to immigrants and visitors entering America for well over a century.



BROOKLYNG BRIDGE



WORLD TRADE CENTER

The World Trade Center was a complex of seven buildings in Lower Manhattan in New York City that were destroyed in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The site is currently being rebuilt with six new skyscrapers and a memorial to the casualties of the attacks.

Groundbreaking for the original World Trade Center designed by Minoru Yamasaki with its twin 110-story towers took place on August 5, 1966. The North Tower was completed in December 1970 and the South Tower was finished in July 1971. The excavation from the construction project provided the landfill material that was used in creating Battery Park City to the west of the site at The Hudson River. The World Trade Center complex ultimately consisted of seven separate buildings. The final building constructed was 7 World Trade Center in 1985.

Prior to 9/11, on February 26, 1993, The World Trade Center was the target of a parking garage terrorist bombing. This attack resulted in more stringent security but no one could have foreseen the lengths to which an enemy would go to achieve the horrific destruction that took place on September 11, 2001. On that fateful morning, hijackers flew two 767 jets into the complex, one into each tower, in a coordinated suicide attack. After burning for 56 minutes, the South Tower collapsed, followed a half-hour later by the North Tower. The attacks on the World Trade Center resulted in 2,750 deaths.

The rebuilding process has been a long and arduous one. Although some development is underway, the many political and commercial interests at stake have created a log-jam that has hindered what should be a unified effort to restore the site to wholeness.



Carnegie Hall

Carnegie Hall, located at Seventh Avenue and West 57th Street in midtown Manhattan, gets its name from well known philanthropist Andrew Carnegie who financed its construction. It has been in operation since it opened in 1891. Designed by architect William Burnet Tuthill, it is renowned for its acoustics, and is one of the most famous venues in the United States for classical and popular music.

Carnegie Hall's main auditorium seats 2,804 and is five levels. The New York Philharmonic made it's home here from the Hall's opening in 1891 until it moved to the newly constructed Lincoln Center on Manhattan's upper west side in 1962.

With the philharmonic moving out and after years of wear and tear, the building was slated for demolition. Under pressure from a group led by violinist Isaac Stern and others, special legislation was passed that allowed the City of New York to buy the site, and the nonprofit Carnegie Hall Corporation was formed to run it. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1962.

In 1986, Carnegie Hall underwent a major renovation. Following completion of work on the main auditorium, there were complaints that the acoustics of the hall had been compromised. Finally, in 1995, the cause of the problem was discovered to be a slab of concrete under the stage which was subsequently removed. In 1997 the main hall was re-named The Isaac Stern Auditorium in honor of the man who had worked so hard to save the building from the wrecking ball



UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS

The official headquarters for the United Nations is an 18 acre, four building complex located on the east side of Manhattan, along the East River and sits between 42nd and 48th Streets. It has served as the UN's main location since it was completed in 1950. The United Nations property is considered International Territory.

Of the four buildings that make up the complex, the most prominent is the Secretariat building, a 39 story, 544 ft tall green glass-curtain tower. It has become the most recognizable symbol of the United Nations.

The General Assembly building, and 1,800 seat hall where meetings of the representatives of all UN members take place, sits adjacent to the Secretariat and is a modest 5 stories with a dome in the middle that marks the assembly hall. The other two structures are the Conference building and the Dag Hammarskjold Library.

Adjacent to the United Nations complex is a public park bordering the East River. The park displays artwork that has been donated by many countries. In front of the United Nations Headquarters, running along First Avenue, is a procession of flags representing each UN member starting with Afghanistan at 48th street and ending with Zimbabwe at 42nd street



Central Park

Central Park is a beautiful man-made park that sits in the middle of the New York City borough of Manhattan. Bordered on the east by Fifth Avenue, on the north by 110th Street (Central Park North), on the south by 59th Street (Central Park South) and on the west by Eighth Avenue (Central Park West), it covers an area of 843 acres.

In the mid 19th century the residents and public officials of New York City were in desperate need of an escape from the hustle and bustle of the crowded city streets. In 1857 the newly formed Central Park Commission held a landscape design contest which was won by landscape designer Frederick Law Olmsted and English architect Calvert Vaux.

While much of the park looks natural, it is in fact almost entirely landscaped. It contains several natural-looking lakes and ponds, extensive walking tracks, two ice-skating rinks (one of which is a swimming pool in July and August), the Central Park Zoo, the Central Park Conservatory Garden, a wildlife sanctuary, a large area of natural woods, a reservoir with an encircling running track, and the outdoor Delacorte Theater which hosts the "Shakespeare in the Park" summer festivals.

One of the most popular locations in Central Park and considered the heart of the park is Bethesda Terrace (pictured above right) featuring the Bethesda Fountain. The Lake, which sits adjacent to the fountain, is where row boats can be rented during the warmer months. The Lake is also bordered by the famous Boat House restaurant.

With its wonderful array of open spaces and many varied architectural features, Central Park is a popular destination for New Yorkers and tourists alike. The park is host to approximately twenty-five million visitors each year. In 1963 Central Park was registered as a National Historic Landmark.



Union Square Park

Union Square Park has long been a focal point for all kinds of social, environmental, political and labor rallies. Despite Union Square's history of social activism and center for demonstrations, its name is not derived from its connection to the labor movement or from the Civil War. It is instead reflective of the fact that at this spot in the early 19th century was the meeting of two major thoroughfares in New York City, Bloomingdale Road (now Broadway) and the Bowery Road (now Fourth Avenue). It also served as the confluence of several trolley lines.

Union Square Park officially opened to the public in 1839. In 1928 it was completely demolished to accommodate a new underground concourse for the subway. In 1997 the United States Department of the Interior designated Union Square Park as a National Historic Landmark because of its significance in American labor history including its honor as the site of the first Labor Day parade.

Union Square is noted for its eclectic array of statues ranging from George Washington, unveiled in 1856 to the more recent Mahatma Gandhi, in the southwest corner of the park, added in 1986. Among the other statues are the Marquis de Lafayette dedicated at the Centennial, July 4, 1876 and Abraham Lincoln unveiled in 1868.

The popular Union Square Greenmarket, in operation since 1976, is on the north side of the park and offers a variety of fresh food and plants brought in by local farmers. The park is bordered by 17th Street at its north end and 14th Street at its south and sits between Union Square West and Park Avenue South (Union Square East).



Bryant Park

Bryant Park is a privately managed 8 acre public park located in Midtown Manhattan, New York City. It sits between Fifth and Sixth Avenues and 40th Street and 42nd Street. It is essentially the backyard to The New York Public Library which is as wide as the park and sits on its east end facing Fifth Avenue. Its design is simple, with a large central lawn surrounded by trees and paved walkways populated with 2,000 moveable chairs. Around it's perimeter you will find various kiosks that feature food and shopping. There is also a carousel near the southwest corner.

Although considered part of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, Bryant Park is managed by a private not-for-profit corporation, the Bryant Park Corporation. Since it is privately managed, the Great Lawn is often used for revenue generation by the management company, primarily by renting it to corporations for private functions and public events. The best-known of these are the twice-yearly tented New York Fashion Week shows, each of which completely occupies the lawn for approximately one month.

During the course of the year there are numerous other events that are hosted by the park. On Monday evenings during the summer there is The Bryant Park Summer Film Festival, which showcases classic movies on a large temporary screen while attendees sprawl out on the Great Lawn. The summer months also bring free musical performances that are sponsored by various corporations and since 2005, the Great Lawn also hosts "Pinstripes in the Park", sponsored by the New York Yankees, an event featuring a live broadcast of a Yankees game.

Aside from all the public and private events, the park is mostly used by busy mid-town office workers looking for a pleasant and peaceful lunch-break or as an after-work meeting place. It also has public restrooms that are modern and well maintained.



Washington Square Park

Washington Square Park sits at the foot of Fifth Avenue between Waverly Place at its north border and 4th Street at its south, in New York City's Greenwich Village. The park has long represented a tradition of nonconformity, and is a magnet for the bohemian culture that populates Greenwich Village as well as the student population of New York University.

The park has close ties to New York University as most of the buildings surrounding the park belong to NYU and are used for academic and residential purposes. The university also uses the park for its graduation ceremonies, and uses the Washington Square Arch as an icon in its promotional materials.

Although closely associated with NYU, Washington Square remains a public park, which local residents have protected as an essential part of the neighborhood. Its most prominent features are Washington's Arch at the north end and the fountain located at the center of the park. Its fountain area has long been a focal point for rallies and demonstrations.

Used as military training grounds in the early 1800's, by mid-century the grounds were reworked into an early version of the park we know today. The first fountain was installed in 1852. In 1871, the park came under the auspices of the newly-formed New York City Department of Parks, and it was re-designed again with a new fountain replacing the original in 1872. The fountain was renovated yet again in 1934 so that it would also serve as a wading pool.

In 1889, in celebration of the centennial of George Washington's inauguration as president, a large temporary Memorial Arch was erected over Fifth Avenue just north of the park. The arch was so popular that in 1892 a permanent marble arch, designed by the renowned New York architects Stanford White, was erected just inside the park, standing 77 feet tall.



Radio City Music

Radio City Music Hall is located in Rockefeller Center in the New York City borough of Manhattan. Designed in the Art Deco style of that era, it was the world's largest indoor theater when it opened to the public on December 27, 1932. It's Great Stage, measures 66 feet deep and 144 feet wide. It was designed to resemble a giant setting sun, and it incorporates a hydraulic elevator system.

From its early years, up until 1979, Radio City Music Hall became the premiere showcase for the release of major studio films. The Music Hall featured a first run movie shown on the giant screen and a spectacular stage show, with four complete performances presented every day.

In 1980, the theater underwent a major renovation and is now a premiere venue for a wide variety of musical acts as well as other entertainments, and continues to host the world-famous Rosettes and annual Radio City Christmas Spectacular. Every year more than a million visitors take in the Christmas Spectacular. The show runs for eight-weeks and has been a holiday tradition since its debut in 1933.



Chrysler Building

Located on the east side of Manhattan at the intersection of 42nd Street and Lexington Avenue. Standing 1,047 feet high, it was briefly the world's tallest building before it was overtaken by the Empire State Building in 1931. After the destruction of the World Trade Center, it is again the second tallest building in New York City. This supreme example of Art Deco architecture is considered by many to be the finest building in New York City.

The skyscraper, designed by architect William Van Allen, was originally built to house the Chrysler Corporation. The groundbreaking occurred on September 19, 1928. At the time, the builders of New York were engaged in an intense competition to build the world's tallest skyscraper. The Chrysler Building was erected at an average rate of four floors per week. Just prior to its completion, the building stood about even with the rival project 40 Wall Street, designed by H. Craig Severance. Severance quickly increased the height of his project by two feet and claimed the title of the world's tallest building.

Van Allen secretly obtained permission to build a spire that was hidden inside the building during construction. The spire, measuring 125 feet long and composed of stainless steel, was hoisted to the top of the building on October 23, 1929. The added height allowed the Chrysler Building to surpass both 40 Wall Street and the Eiffel Tower as the tallest building and the tallest structure in the world. It was also the first man-made structure to stand taller than 1,000 feet. The building was opened to the public in 1930.



Grand Central Station

One of New York City's most famous landmarks, Grand Central Terminal is located at 42nd Street and Park Avenue in Manhattan. Opened in 1913, it is the second incarnation to occupy this location.

Grand Central Depot which opened in 1871 featured an enormous glass and steel train shed. The street level tracks leading out of the station dominated the local area with few safe pedestrian crossing areas. After years of locomotive service, the noise and air pollution were chronic, and public concerns about safety were on the rise. By the end of the century the age of the steam locomotive was drawing to a close and there was an increasing demand for electric trains.

In 1902 plans were announced to improve and expand Grand Central. It was necessary to demolish the existing station and create a new double level terminal for electric trains. Construction would last ten years. Excavation was an enormous undertaking as subway access was incorporated into the planning and the grade of the outer rail yard was lowered to an average depth of 30 feet below street level.

In the mid 20th century, railroads fell into a major decline with competition from interstate highway construction and inter-city airline flights. There were plans proposed for replacing Grand Central with hi-rise commercial office buildings. The plans drew huge opposition, and the station was saved. In 1994 a massive restoration restored the station to the grandeur that is evident today



Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum

The Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, one of the most unique attractions in New York City, opened in 1982, and is located at Pier 86 at 46th Street on the West Side of Manhattan. The Museum is centered on the aircraft carrier Intrepid, one of the most successful ships in US history, and now a national historic landmark.

The Museum's exhibits which range from historical re-creations to new interactive displays include the A-6 Cockpit Simulator, the Virtual Flight Zone as well as more than 20 restored aircraft. Visitors can also explore the Growler submarine docked along side the Intrepid as well as a tour through a British Airways Concorde.

In her career the Intrepid has served in World War II and Vietnam as well as serving as one of the primary recovery vessels for NASA. More than 750,000 people visit the Intrepid each year.



Ellis Island

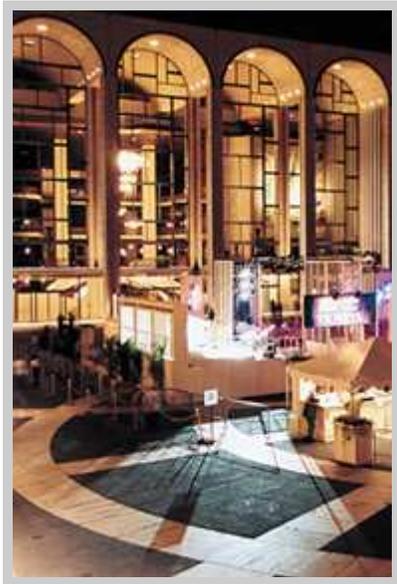
Ellis Island was the main processing facility for immigrants entering the United States between the years 1892 and 1924 (when the Immigration Act of 1924 greatly restricted immigration in favor of processing at overseas embassies.) It remained open until 1954 primarily as a detention and deportation processing center. In its time over 12 million immigrants were inspected there by the US Bureau of Immigration.

Sitting at the mouth of the Hudson River in New York Harbor, Ellis Island gets its name from Samuel Ellis, a colonial New Yorker who first owned the property in the late 1700's. The Federal government purchased Ellis Island from New York State in 1808 and with tensions with the British escalating, constructed Fort Gibson there, and making the island part of the harbor fortification system.

In the 35 years before Ellis Island started processing immigrants, Castle Garden in the Battery served as the New York State immigration station as approximately eight million immigrants, passed through its doors between the years 1855 and 1890. However, nearing the end of the 19th century, it eventually became apparent that Castle Garden was ill-equipped and unprepared to handle the growing numbers of immigrants arriving yearly. With the fortifications no longer necessary the Federal government constructed a new Federally-operated immigration station on Ellis Island. 1907 was the peak year for immigration at Ellis Island with 1,004,756 immigrants processed.

Ellis Island was sometimes known as "The Island of Tears" or "Heartbreak Island" because of the roughly 2% who were not admitted after the long transatlantic voyage due to reasons such as chronic contagious disease, criminal background or insanity . Those who were approved generally spent from two to five hours at the facility.

On October 15, 1966, Ellis Island, along with Statue of Liberty, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Lincoln Center

Lincoln Center is a sprawling performing-arts complex that was built on Manhattan's upper west side as part of the urban renewal programs of the late 1950's and 1960s. The Lincoln Center complex was the first gathering of major cultural institutions into a centralized location in an American city.

Among its performance facilities are:

Alice Tully Hall, a 1,095-seat concert hall.

Avery Fisher Hall, a 2,738-seat symphony hall and home of the New York Philharmonic.

The Metropolitan Opera House, a 3,900-seat opera house that is home to Metropolitan Opera.

Vivian Beaumont Theater, a 1,080-seat Broadway-style theater operating since 1985 as the main stage of Lincoln Center Theater.

David H. Koch Theater, a 2,713-seat theater constructed to be the home of the New York City Ballet which also serves as home to the New York City Opera and Broadway musical revivals.

Mitzi E. Newhouse Theater, an intimate 299-seat theater operated by Lincoln Center Theater for its Off-Broadway-style productions.

Various other associations include Jazz at Lincoln Center which is located separately a few blocks away in the Frederick P. Rose Hall complex within the Time Warner Center at Columbus Circle. On any given night, the plaza is abuzz with crowds heading to and from the various performance spaces.



Central Park West entrance



Rose Center for Earth and Space



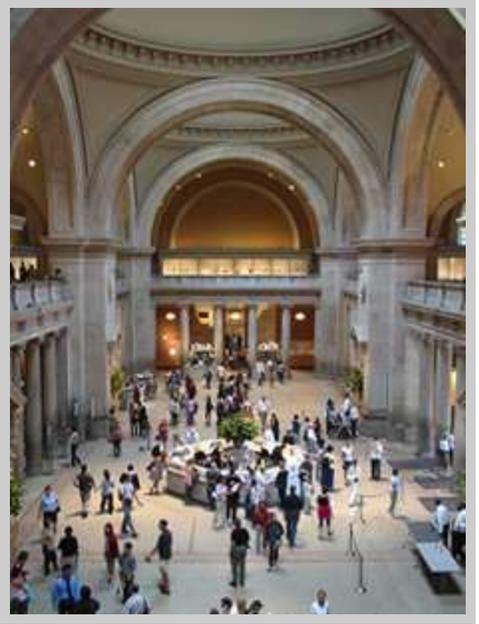
Full scale model of Tyrannosaurus Rex

Museum of Natural History

The American Museum of Natural History, located on the Upper West Side of Manhattan at West 79th Street and Central Park West, is one of the largest and most celebrated museums in the world. The Museum comprises 25 interconnected buildings that house 46 permanent exhibition halls, research laboratories, and its renowned library.

The Museum was founded in 1869, but was not situated at its present location until 1877. The original Victorian Gothic building, which was opened in 1877, was designed by Calvert Vaux and J. Wrey Mould who were closely identified with the architecture of Central Park. It was soon eclipsed by the south range of the Museum, which extends 700 feet along West 77th Street with corner towers 150 feet tall. The Hayden Planetarium, connected to the Museum, is now part of the Rose Center for Earth and Space, housed in a glass cube containing the spherical Space Theater.

The Museum's collection contains over 150 million specimens, of which only a small fraction can be displayed at any given time. Among the Museum's features are dioramas of African, Asian and North American mammal habitats, a full-size, 94 ft. long model of a Blue Whale suspended in the Milstein Family Hall of Ocean Life, a life size model of Tyrannosaurus Rex and a Brontosaurus composed of real fossils, a 62 foot Haida carved and painted war canoe from the Pacific Northwest, a massive 31 ton piece of the Cape York meteorite, and the "Star of India", the



Metropolitan Museum of Art

The Metropolitan Museum of Art is located at 86th Street and Fifth Avenue and sits on the eastern side of Central Park in New York City. The Metropolitan Museum of Art was founded in 1870 and opened on February 20, 1872, at its original location at 681 Fifth Avenue. It subsequently moved to West 14th Street but the collection was rapidly becoming too large and a bigger space was needed.

In 1871, the Met acquired land on the east side of Central Park on Fifth Avenue where it built its present and most likely, permanent home. Today, the Metropolitan Museum of Art stretches almost a quarter mile long and occupies an area of more than two million square feet.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art has a permanent collection of over two million works of art, which make up nineteen curatorial departments. Represented in the permanent collection are works of art from classical antiquity and Ancient Egypt, paintings and sculptures from nearly all the European masters, and an extensive collection of American and modern art as well as African, Asian, Oceanic, Byzantine and Islamic art.

It also has a collection of over five thousand musical instruments from all over the world, as well as an extensive collection of costumes and accessories, and antique weapons and armor. Interiors, ranging from 1st century Rome through modern American design, are permanently installed among the Met's numerous galleries. The museum is also home to a vast collection of modern art including works by Picasso, Jackson Pollock and Jasper Johns among others.



Museum of Modern Art - MoMA

Located in midtown Manhattan in New York City, on 53rd Street, between Fifth and Sixth Avenues, The Museum of Modern Art (known as MoMA), is considered to be one of the most influential museum of modern art in the world. The museum's collection features an extensive overview of modern and contemporary art.

The idea for The Museum of Modern Art was developed in 1928 by Abby Aldrich Rockefeller, the wife of John D. Rockefeller Jr., and two of her friends, Lillie P. Bliss and Mrs. Cornelius J. Sullivan. They originally rented six rooms on the twelfth floor of a building, on the corner of Fifth Avenue and 57th Street and it opened to the public on November 7, 1929. At the time, it was America's premier museum devoted exclusively to modern art. Its first successful exhibition was in its opening month, displaying paintings by among others, Vincent van Gogh, Paul Gauguin, Paul Cezanne, and George Seurat.

Within the next ten years the museum moved into and out of three more temporary locations. John D. Rockefeller Jr. was not initially supportive of his wife's venture as he was opposed to the modern art movement and did little to help in her efforts. Over time however, he came around and eventually donated the land on which the current museum is located as well as other contributions. The current Museum of Modern Art opened to the public on May 10, 1939.

MoMA underwent a major renovation between 2002 and 2004 which would nearly double its exhibition space to 630,000 feet. During that time a portion of its collection was on display in the New York City borough of Queens in the converted former Swing line Staple Factory. Since the completion of the renovations the Museum of Modern Art has been averaging over 2 million visitors a year.



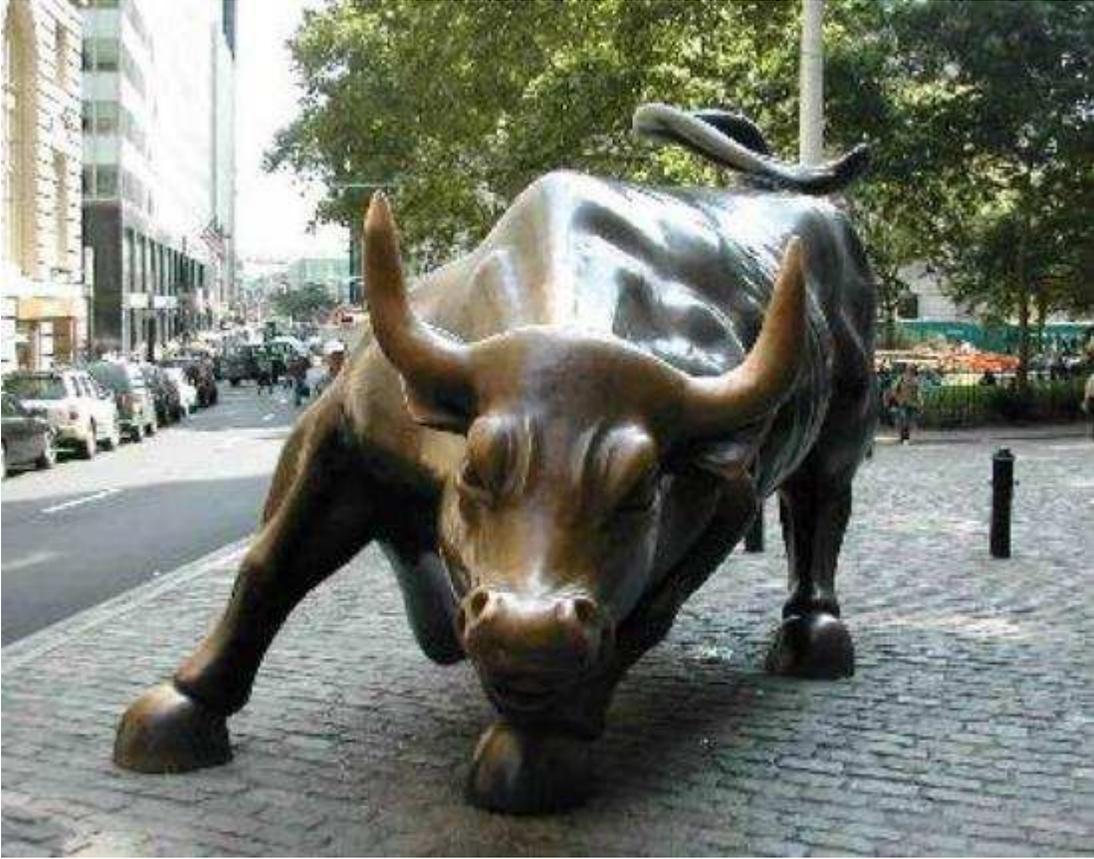


Empire State Building

Located at the corner of Fifth Avenue and 34th Street in the New York City borough of Manhattan, the Empire State Building is an internationally known landmark and arguably the most famous building in the world. With its Art Deco inspired design, the building and its lobby have been designated landmarks by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission.

On a fast track for completion, despite the onset of the Great Depression, excavation of the site began in January of 1930, and construction on the building itself started in March of that same year. Over 3,000 workers worked seven days a week to complete the construction of the building in a remarkable one year and 45 days. The building was officially opened on May 1, 1931.

At the time, the construction was part of an intense competition in New York City for the title of the world's tallest building. Two other projects, 40 Wall Street and the Chrysler Building each claimed the title for a short time, but upon its completion, the Empire State Building surpassed them both. It stood as the world's tallest building for more than forty years. At one time the tallest building in the world, the Empire State Building is currently the second tallest skyscraper in the United States and still among the tallest world-wide. Despite being surpassed in height, few other buildings in history can claim the iconic status of The Empire State Building.



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