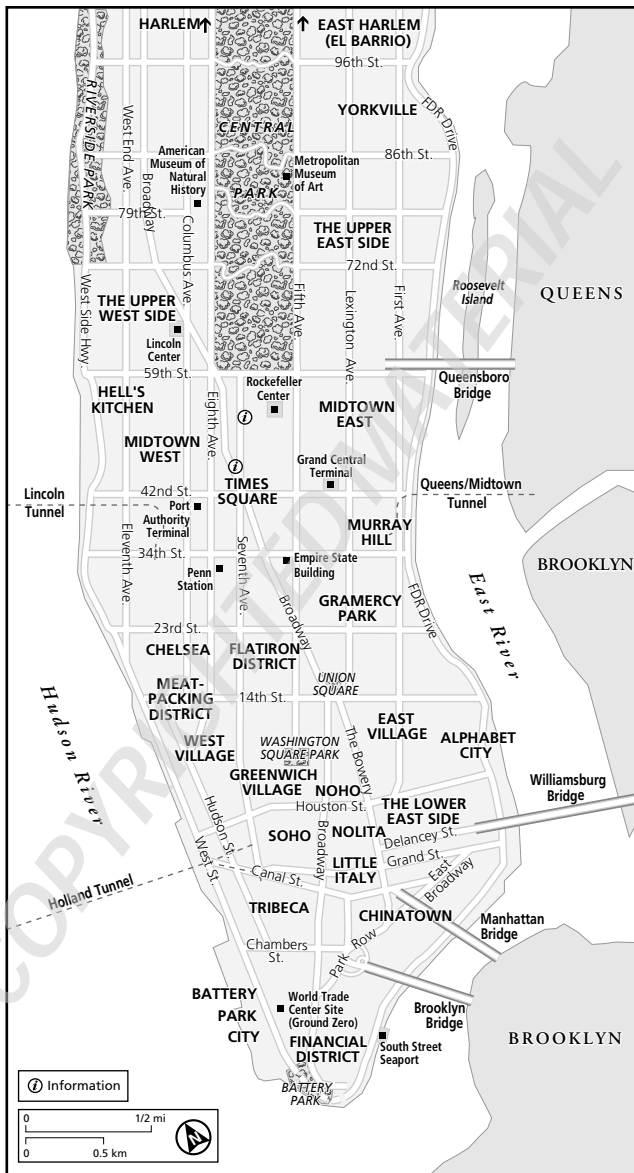
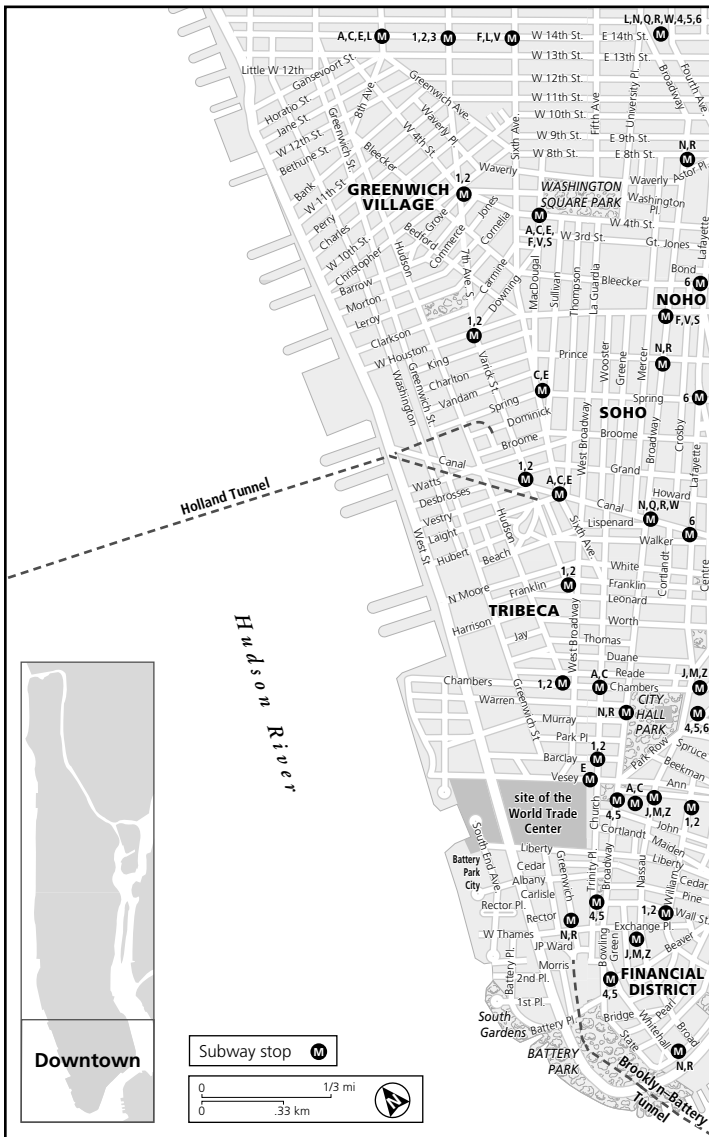


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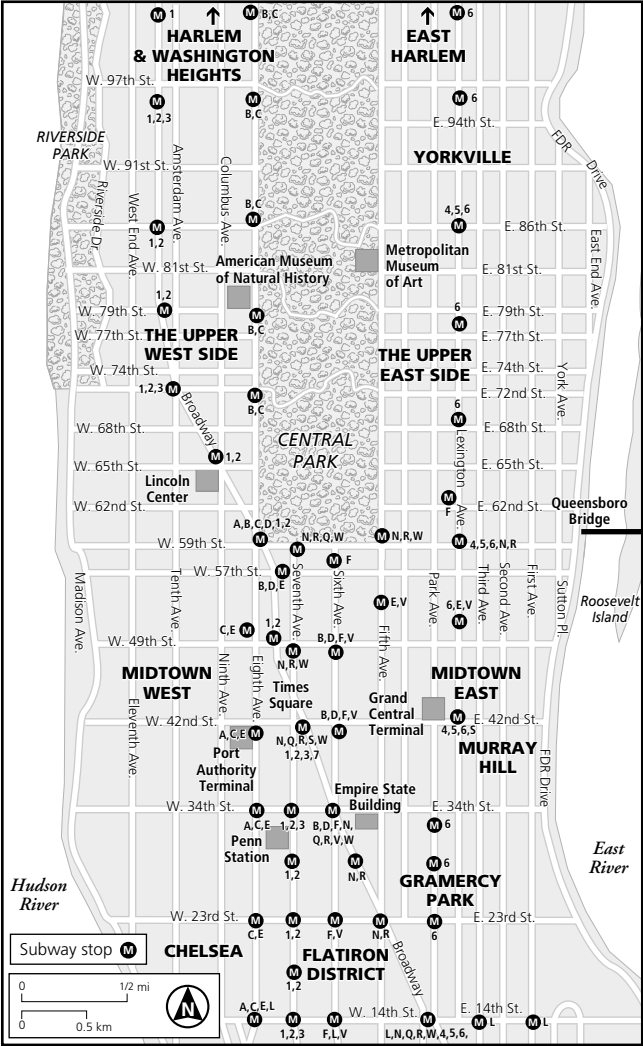


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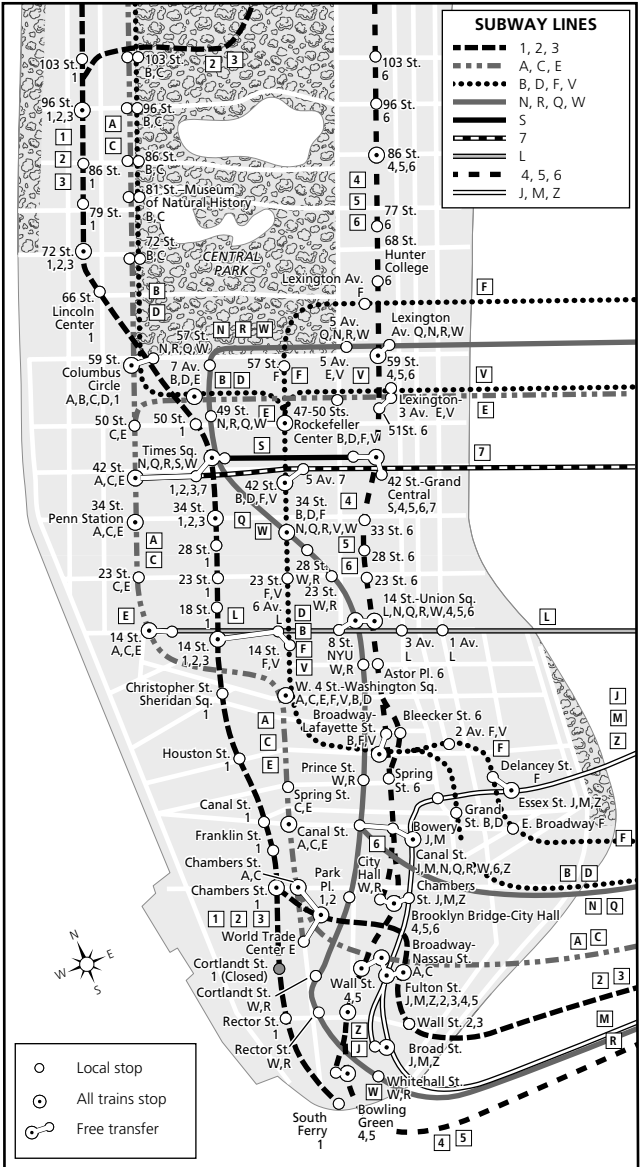




Manhattan: 14th Street & Above



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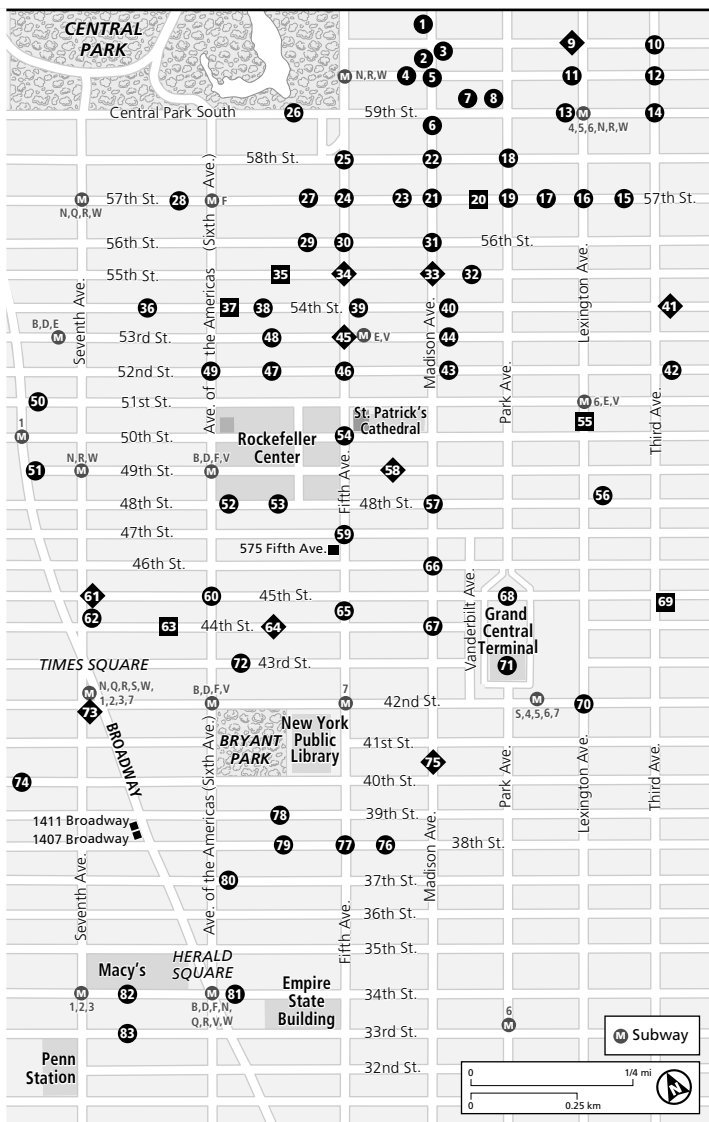
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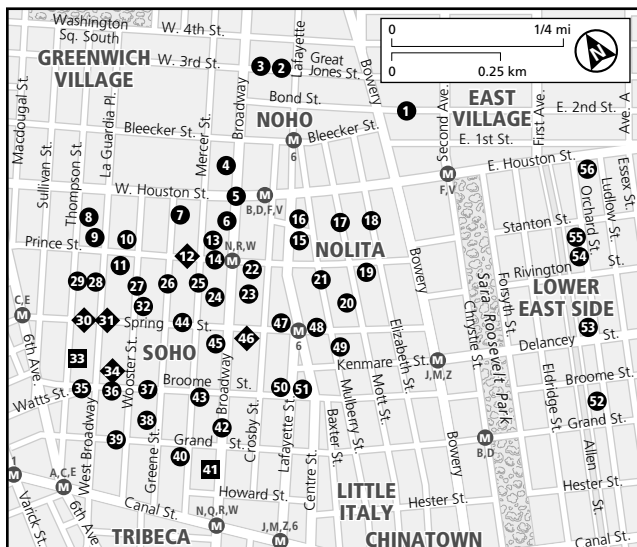
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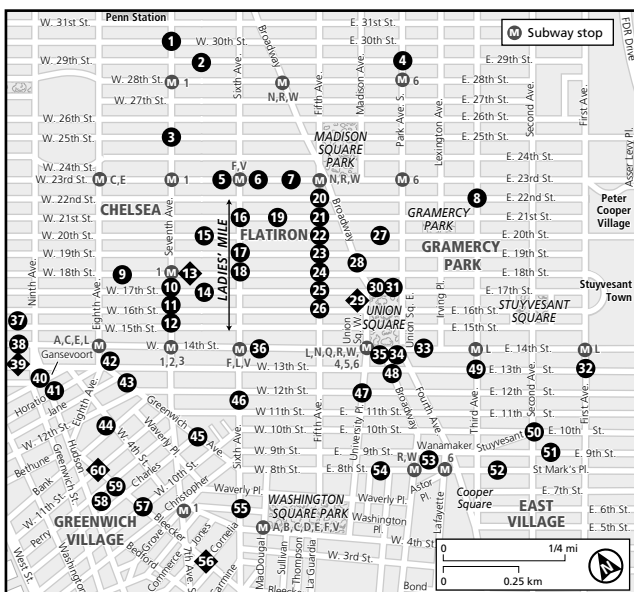
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Chapter One

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THE BEST OF NEW YORK

Best this, best that, best, best, best—editors and list makers are obsessed with the best. In fact, I’ve just published a book called *Where to Buy the Best of Everything*, so I guess I too am obsessed. If you are dashing about in a New York Minute, or thinking that all the possibilities in these pages are overwhelming, this at-a-glance chapter might help you get started quickly and easily.

This chapter features some easy-to-locate shops where you can find what you need if you’re short on time, as well as some easy-to-make choices when in a hurry. Each store mentioned here is explained in greater depth in later chapters, and, of course, there are plenty more shops discussed inside.

Addresses in all listings are given with cross streets so that you can find your destination more easily. When taking a taxi, tell the driver the cross streets as soon as you get in the car so there is no confusion.

The subway is your best bet—especially for long hauls, which can get tedious (and expensive) in traffic. Never take the uptown or downtown bus when you are in a hurry unless it’s an express bus; crosstown buses, however, are worth the effort.

Note: I use 34th Street as the dividing line between uptown and downtown. This is not a traditional dividing line (many people use 14th St. or 23rd St. as the official dividing point and consider 34th St. as Midtown), but I find it very handy and use it throughout this text.

YOU HAVE ONLY 1 HOUR TO SHOP

.....

If you have only an hour to shop, your choices really depend on what part of town you're in, what your goals are, and how frequently you get to New York. Sometimes I'm willing to blow my single hour in town on something totally nontraditional, and sometimes I'm forced to look for something as specific as a matching button. But let's concentrate on location in this chapter, since time is so tight here.

Upper East Side

I can walk from 57th Street to 90th Street along Madison Avenue in a little over 2 hours, poking into whatever stores interest me (but not doing serious shopping). You can do this same stroll in less time if you stick to window-shopping. Few districts of the city give you a better overview of why New York is so special.

Midtown Fifth Avenue

Do you want an hour's worth of visual stimulation and excitement or do you want to do some serious shopping? If it's inspiration you seek (and maybe not that much in terms of durable goods), poke in quickly at **Takashimaya** (693 Fifth Ave., at 54th St.) and **Henri Bendel** (712 Fifth Ave., at 56th St.). Then stop by **Felissimo** (10 W. 56th St.), a shop filled with whimsy and wonder. **Gucci's** new flagship (675 Fifth Ave., at 56th St.) is a must-see. If you really need something and need it fast, do what I do and spend an hour at **Saks Fifth Avenue** (611 Fifth Ave., at 50th St.).

Meatpacking District & Chelsea

Take a taxi to **Jeffrey** (449 W. 14th St., near Tenth Ave.) and step on it. Walk east across 14th Street to see all the new stuff and then hop over to **Barneys Co-Op** (236 W. 18th St., near Seventh Ave.) if you have time. From there, well, if you're game, let's go to **Loehmann's** Chelsea store.

SoHo & Nolita

Sure, you can spend an hour breezily and easily in SoHo, but take time out and head for nearby Nolita! No doubt about it, these two neighborhoods are bursting with new stores—some original shops and some branches of big names. The big money (**Chanel**, 139 Spring St., at Wooster; **Louis Vuitton**, 116 Greene St., between Prince and Spring sts.; **Armani Casa**, 97 Greene St., between Prince and Spring sts.) continues to move here, so if you're looking for funky, hunt for it on the fringes. The best shopping is on Wooster, Greene, and Mercer streets, between Prince and Spring streets. Stores open late, so make a day of it by adding on dinner at one of the hot restaurants in the vicinity.

YOU WANT TO SEE SOMETHING *VERY* NEW YORK

.....

If you're visiting from Europe, much of American retail will seem new and fresh to you. If you're visiting from another American city, you'll find that many Manhattan versions of your favorite chain stores are bigger and better but fundamentally the same. Therefore, visiting those stores that are the epitome of New York style (even if they have stores in other cities as well) will give you supreme pleasure, whether you buy anything or not. For those reasons, check out:

ABC CARPET & HOME

888 Broadway, at 19th St. (Subway: R or W to 23rd St.).

EILEEN FISHER

521 Madison Ave., near 53rd St. (Subway: E or V to Fifth Ave./53rd St.).

TAKASHIMAYA

693 Fifth Ave., at 54th St. (Subway: E or V to Fifth Ave./53rd St.).

YOU WANT SOME PLACE NEW TO DISCOVER

Union Square

Union Square offers tons of stores, lots of energy, and the chance to hit the **Greenmarket** (held Mon, Wed and Fri–Sat 8am–6pm). Check out **Whole Foods** (40 E. 14th St., between Broadway and University Place), then go upstairs to **Filene's Basement** (4 Union Sq. S., at 14th St.), **DSW** (40 E. 14th St., 3rd floor, between Broadway and University Place), and **Forever 21** (49 E. 14th St., between Broadway and University Place). To keep with the foodie theme, head to **Trader Joe's** (142 E. 14th St., between Third and Fourth aves.).

Midtown

Head for Columbus Circle and the **Time Warner Center**, which houses a hotel, a large mall, and a huge **Whole Foods**. The mall is sort of overglitzy, but you'll find good **Borders** and **Williams-Sonoma** stores.

YOU WANT ONE ADDRESS TO TELL FRIENDS ABOUT

Get your fix at **Dylan's Candy Bar** (1011 Third Ave., near 60th St.), operated by none other than Ralph Lauren's daughter. This place has two floors of goodies and items not found anywhere else. There's a basement floor as well as an old-fashioned soda fountain. You'll see plenty of gift ideas, including beautiful ready-made and custom-made gift baskets.

ONE ADDRESS YOU CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DON'T KNOW

Speaking of Ralph Lauren, you probably think you know it all and there's not much more to say. So, have you been to **Rugby** (99 University Place, at 12th St.) yet? This store near the NYU

campus is very Ralph, but has been tweaked just so for the college set. There's clothing and gear for all of life's needs, from active sportswear to dress-up.

BEST HAUTE HOME STYLE

.....

Dress up, pretend you live in the neighborhood, and head to **Ankasa** (135 E. 65th St., at Lexington Ave.) to gush over the India-inspired textile, furniture, and accessory collections. A couple of blocks away, **Charlotte Moss** (20 E. 63rd St., between Fifth and Sixth aves.) flaunts her impeccable design talent in a new, five-story town-house showroom. You'll want to buy it all or just move in.

SOMETHING FOR THE YOUNG ONES

.....

Toys "R" Us is all over the U.S., but the best one is at Times Square—you ain't seen nuthin' like it, I promise you. I'll give you a hint: indoor Ferris wheel. Also in Midtown are the **Disney Store** (711 Fifth Ave., at 55th St.), **M&M's World** (1600 Broadway, between 48th and 49th sts.), and the **Metropolitan Museum of Art Store** at Rockefeller Center, which has a wonderful kids' department. **F.A.O. Schwarz** (767 Fifth Ave., at 58th St.) has scaled down a bit, but it's still a treat for everyone in the family. Yes, you can play the foot-piano as in the movie *Big*.

BEST BLING

.....

Ivanka Trump (683A Madison Ave., between 61st and 62nd sts.) just opened a jewelry store, showcasing her Deco-inspired designs, where you can sip a coffee and be shown diamonds by the mile.

BEST DOWN- $\&$ -DIRTY BARGAINS

It's got to be **Ladies' Mile** (Sixth Ave., around 18th St.). And no, it's not just for ladies anymore. Off-pricers **T.J. Maxx** and **Filene's Basement** are located in the same building at 620 Sixth Ave., at 18th Street.

Although it's not in this stretch, **Loehmann's** (101 Seventh Ave., at 16th St.) is only a block away, and should definitely be included in this neighborhood.

BEST STUFF FOR YOUR APARTMENT OR HOME

You won't believe you read this here, and I can't believe I'm writing it, but here goes: the East Side, mostly around the East 50s and 60s!

Move over to Madison for **Crate & Barrel** (650 Madison Ave., at 59th St.). Or head straight for **The Conran Shop** (407 E. 59th St.) and **Bed Bath & Beyond** (410 E. 61st St.), both under the 59th Street Bridge.

Not too far away, there's also a big department store at 59th Street and Lexington Avenue called **Bloomingdale's** (yep, you've heard of it before!), which has a terrific bed-linen selection that, when it goes on sale, equals discount prices. And for the final flourishes, head to **Gracious Home** (1217 Third Ave. and 1220 Third Ave., both at 70th St.).

You should also check out Lower Broadway and Ladies' Mile. Start at **ABC Carpet & Home** (888 Broadway, at 19th St.) and **Fish's Eddy** (889 Broadway, at 19th St.); then wander the side streets east of Broadway and look for the upholsterers and quiet fabric and furniture sources nestled in and around 20th Street. Or just head straight over to Seventh Avenue to the new **Pottery Barn Bed and Bath** (100-104 Seventh Ave., between 16th and 17th sts.).

BEST GIFTS

Need to pick up a few quick gifts for friends? Here are a few ideas:

- Soap or a Dead Sea beauty treatment from **Sabon**.
- Something from **Tiffany & Co.** Small leather goods, scarves, and items in sterling silver are reasonably priced.
- Health, beauty, or well-being products from a brand with limited distribution—browse the selection at **Space.NK** (99 Greene St., between Prince and Spring sts.).
- Art or folk art from any of the museum stores—or even the street. The **Metropolitan Museum of Art** has a shop in Macy's and one at Rockefeller Center; notebooks and stationery items are in the \$9-to-\$12 price range and make useful, stylish gifts.
- A Lady Liberty M&M dispenser from **M&M's World** (1600 Broadway, between 48th and 49th sts.), for the kids.
- A fabric-covered hatbox full of chocolates from **La Maison du Chocolat** (1018 Madison Ave., between 78th and 79th sts.)—for a very good friend.
- A gift for the pet—pet boutiques are the rage in New York. Try **Canine Styles** (43 Greenwich Ave., near Charles St.); the Cheeky Squeaky toy made of tennis-ball material is a winner for \$12. The **Sherpa Shop** (400 Madison Ave., near 48th St.), inside Crouch & Fitzgerald, is where you'll find high-quality totes for cats and dogs.

CHEAP THRILLS

- NYC makeup brush set from **Duane Reade** (\$2)
- A bag of gourmet popcorn from **Garrett Popcorn Shops** (\$5–\$10)
- Bath bombs from **Lush** (\$5)
- Silk flower hairclips from **Dulken & Derrick** (\$12)
- Mini gel eye masks from **Waterworks** (\$10)

BEST QUICKIE SHOPPER'S LUNCH

Burger Heaven. Yummy burgers. See p. 63 for locations.

BEST HOTEL LUNCH

Fancy hotels can offer very competitively priced luncheons, served in restaurants that are true hidden gems. The **Surrey** is home to **Café Boulud** (20 E. 76th St., near Madison Ave.), which has a fixed-price lunch. **Sarabeth's** is located in the **Hotel Wales** (1295 Madison Ave., at 92nd St.). Famous for Sunday brunch (arrive early!), it's a great midpriced lunch stop at the top of Madison Avenue.

BEST AFTERNOON TEA

The **Peninsula's Gotham Lounge** serves legendary afternoon tea from 2:30 to 5:30pm every afternoon (700 Fifth Ave., at 55th St.). **The Pierre** (2 E. 61st St., at Fifth Ave.) has been totally redone, so pop in for tea and a gawk.

BEST OVERALL DEPARTMENT STORE

Saks Fifth Avenue (611 Fifth Ave., at 50th St.) has it all.

BEST SALES

Nothing beats **Saks Fifth Avenue** (611 Fifth Ave., at 50th St.) when the sale merchandise gets marked down an additional 30% to 40%. **Barneys'** warehouse sale (255 W. 17th St., between Seventh and Eighth aves.) is usually held in February, when prices are slashed 50% to 75%.

BEST OFF-PRICER

.....

New York is suddenly teeming with off-pricers and discounters, so a new and better resource could pop up at any time. I left my heart at **Century 21**, which has locations in Manhattan (22 Cortlandt St., near Church St.) and Brooklyn (472 86th St., between Fourth and Fifth aves.).

BEST RESALE SHOPS

.....

Try **Encore** (1132 Madison Ave., near 84th St., 2nd floor), **Michael's** (1041 Madison Ave., near 80th St., 2nd floor), and neighbor **La Boutique** (1045 Madison Ave., near 80th St., 2nd floor). Remember, though, you have to get lucky.

BEST PLACE FOR A WEDDING GOWN

.....

Filene's Basement now holds its famous bridal sale twice a year in New York, too! See p. 293 for details.

If you time it right, you can get to the **Vera Wang** sample sale, usually held at the Hotel Pennsylvania. Check **Daily Candy** online or call © 212/628-3400 for the dates and details. Vera also does a bridal-event-cum-sale with Barneys.

Should you be willing to wear a used gown (of course you are), **Michael's** (1041 Madison Ave., near 80th St., 2nd floor) has one of the best selections in town.

If nothing but the full regalia will do, and your mom wants to sip tea while you try on your train, **Saks Fifth Avenue** (611 Fifth Ave., at 50th St.) has been doing this for years and remains the last of the full-service wedding belles.

And finally, I have to remind you that **Kleinfeld** of Brooklyn has come to Manhattan (110 W. 20th St., near Sixth Ave.). It has over 1,000 gowns on hand and all sorts of insider information, tips, and services for the bride and her entourage.

BEST HANDBAGS

I'd head straight for **Suarez** (5 W. 56th St., at Fifth Ave.), which sells a variety of designer-style handbags made in the same Italian factories as the big names (Gucci, Prada).

If you have the scratch and want the best wow bag in the world, head to **Anthony Luciano** (347 W. 36th St., Ste. 1400; ☎ 212/563-2225, by appointment; www.anthonyluciano.com). He uses vintage frames and exotic skins and fabrics to create the best bags in the city. They're also among the priciest; expect to pay \$1,500 and way up.

BEST "REGULAR" DRUGSTORE

Manhattan is dotted with drugstores. CVS, Duane Reade, and Rite Aid are fighting it out for the hearts and minds and teeth of New Yorkers, even in the best business districts in Midtown. They carry all the basics, from bottled water to beauty aids to condoms. Please note that prices on sundries in Manhattan are more expensive than anywhere else in the U.S., so you'll almost always pay less at home. Unless home is overseas.

Best for beauty supplies is **Ricky's**, which also sells wigs, jewelry, and funky gifts. See p. 241 for details and locations.

BEST FANCY DRUGSTORE

Go straight to **Clyde's** (926 Madison Ave., near 74th St.). Wait here please, James. ☎ 212/744-5050.

BEST MUSEUM STORE

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART STORE

Fifth Ave., at 82nd St. (Subway: 4, 5, or 6 to 86th St.).

The flagship inside the museum itself is the best, but there are multiple branches around town, including one inside Macy's and one at Rockefeller Center. © 212/570-3894. www.metmuseum.org/store.

BEST TRENDY SHOP

JEFFREY NEW YORK

449 W. 14th St., between Ninth and Tenth aves. (Subway: A, C, E, or L to 14th St./Eighth Ave.).

This place has trendsetting clothes and the attitude to go with them. There's an excellent service policy as well as a DJ. Time to rock 'n' roll. © 212/206-1272.

TRENDY WITH ARCHITECTURE

ADIDAS

610 Broadway, at Houston St. (Subway: B, D, F, or V to Broadway/Lafayette St.).

Not as large as Niketown, but the store is sleek and black and minimalist and functional all at once. © 212/529-0081. www.adidas.com.

PRADA

575 Broadway, near Prince St. (Subway: N, R, or W to Prince St.).

There are other Prada stores in Manhattan, but this is the one for style freaks and architecture buffs to check out. You don't have to buy anything; just bring a tissue in case you start to drool. In keeping with Miuccia's devotion to outstanding architecture statements, this store could be a museum. © 212/334-8888. www.prada.com.

BEST STORES IN NEW YORK

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In alphabetical order:

ABC CARPET & HOME

888 Broadway, at 18th St. (Subway: R or W to 23rd St.).

Even if you buy nothing, step into this beautifully dressed showcase for tabletop, linens, fabrics, and, oh yeah, carpets. © 212/473-3000. www.abchome.com.

BLANC DE CHINE

673 Fifth Ave., at 53rd St. (Subway: E or V to Fifth Ave./53rd St.).

This Hong Kong maker of luxury men's and women's clothing combines Chinese classic styles with Armani palette and makes expensive tailored clothes that will outlast fashion and rest in your world of style forever. © 800/228-2322.

CENTURY 21

22 Cortlandt St., between Church St. and Broadway (Subway: R or W to Cortlandt St.); 472 86th St., between Fourth and Fifth aves., Brooklyn (Subway: R to 86th St. in Brooklyn).

If you crave the biggest designer names at discount prices, it's worth the subway ride to downtown Manhattan, the schlep to Brooklyn, and maybe even the trip to New York! Note that the Brooklyn branch is better than ever (with a new home store). © 212/227-9092 for Manhattan; © 718/748-3266 for Brooklyn. www.c21stores.com.

CHARLOTTE MOSS

20 E. 63rd St., between Fifth and Madison aves. (Subway: 6 to 68th St.).

This five-story town house is filled to the rafters with style, substance, and beautiful home furnishings and accessories. © 212/308-3888. www.charlottemoss.com.

EILEEN FISHER

521 Madison Ave., near 53rd St. (Subway: E or V to Fifth Ave./53rd St.).

Several branches around town offer droopy chic for women. Love those elastic waists! Silks and linens, bouclé wools, and a soft color palette à la Armani—but affordable. © 212/759-9888. www.eileenfisher.com.

KATE'S PAPERIE

561 Broadway, near Prince St. (Subway: N, R, or W to Prince St.); 140 W. 57th St., between Sixth and Seventh aves. (Subway: N, Q, R, or W to 57th St./Seventh Ave.).

You'll find an eye-popping choice of papers, wraps, and ribbons here. © 212/941-9816 for Broadway; © 212/459-0700 for West 57th Street. www.katespaperie.com.

MUJI SoHo

455 Broadway, at Grand St. (Subway: N or R to Canal St.).

Sarah and I disagree on this. I know Muji from around the world and am not impressed with the new U.S. flagship. Sarah likes this lifestyle store's no-frills basics in timeless designs and neutral colors that will work with any decor or lifestyle. © 212/334-2002. www.muji.com.

TAKASHIMAYA

693 Fifth Ave., near 54th St. (Subway: E or V to Fifth Ave./53rd St.).

This place has gorgeous flowers and drop-dead lifestyle designs to gawk at. © 212/350-0100.

UNIQLO

546 Broadway, between Prince and Spring sts. (Subway: N, R, or W to Prince St.).

Uniqlo features an endless assortment of value-priced colorful clothing: cashmere, knits, outerwear, and more. Everything is inexpensive and disposable; if you're bored with something after a few wearings, toss it. © 212/966-5374. www.uniqlo.com.