

NYC PEDICAB DRIVER'S GUIDE TO CENTRAL PARK LOWER LOOP

QUICK FACTS

- Central Park is the first landscaped public park in America. The construction of the park started in 1858. It lasted 15 years with a \$14 million cost. This amount is around \$200 Million in today's dollars.
- Central Park is the most visited city park in the United States.
- Central Park is the 85th largest City Park in the United States.
- Central Park is the 18th Oldest City Park in the United States.
- Hot dog/ice cream vendors: About 50.
- Endowment of the Central Park Conservancy: \$72 million.
- Feeding times for penguins at the zoo: 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m.
- The Park's six-mile perimeter extends from Eighth Avenue to Fifth Avenue and 59th Street to 110th Street.
- Central Park is completely manmade. No machinery was used at all. The area was mostly swampy. Workers moved nearly five million cubic yards of stone, earth and topsoil.
- The total area of Central Park is 843 acres which is %6 of Manhattan's total acreage.
- Central Park closes at 1:00 am and opens at 6:00 am every day of the year.
- The Park Drive is 6,5 miles and there are 58 miles of pedestrian paths.
- There are 6000 benches. If you want to adopt one, the price ranges from \$7500 to \$25000.
- There are approximately 26000 trees. Adopting a tree costs between \$1000 and \$100000.
- There are 51 sculptures in the Park and 36 bridges and arches. Bethesda Fountain was the only sculpture included in the original design of the Park; the others were gifts.
- The Manhattan schist outcrops in the Park are approximately 450 million years old.
- Central Park contains 58 miles of pedestrian paths, 4.5 miles of bridle trail, 6.5 miles of Park Drive, and 7 miles of benches (nearly 6,000).
- There are 21 playgrounds.

- More than 500,000 trees, shrubs, and vines were planted during the construction of the park. Today, there are more than 26,000 trees, including 1,700 American elms.
- More than 25million visitors enjoy Central Park each year.
- Since 1980, a public-private partnership between New York City and the Central Park Conservancy has restored and preserved Central Park.
- Central Park is larger than two of the world's smallest nations. It is almost twice as large as Monaco and nearly eight times as large as Vatican City.
- Central Park's twenty-five million annual visitors is more than five times those of the Grand Canyon.

HISTORY

At the beginning of 19th century, there were 60,000 people living in New York City, mostly congregated in lower Manhattan. A wave of immigration that began in the 1830's caused the population to grow more than 300,000 in the 1840's to swell over 500,000 by 1850. By mid-century, however, most New Yorkers still lived below 38th Street in crowded, chaotic quarters. The volume of street noise from carriage wheels alone challenged the sanity, much less serenity of these early residents. The need for an open green space was unavoidable for those who wanted to escape from the din of city life. The city decided to build Central Park at this stage.

HECKSCHER PLAYGROUND

- Heckscher Playground is 1.8 acres.
- It is the oldest and the largest of the 27 playgrounds in Central Park.

WOLLMAN RINK

- Opened in 1949.
- Wollman Rink is open from October till April.
- Wollman Rink was closed in 1980 for an announced 2 1/2 years of renovations. When the work was not completed by 1986, Donald Trump persuaded Mayor Ed

Koch to let him complete the work and he completed the renovations in four months to have it open by the end of the year.

- The admission fee is \$17 at the weekends. \$11 in weekdays.
- Movies at Wollman Rink: Love Story (1970), Home Alone 2 (1992), Miracle on 34th Street (1994), Stepmom (1998), Serendipity (2001), My Sassy Girl (2008), The Other Woman (2009), Limitless (2011).

CAROUSEL

- It is one of the largest in the country with 57 hand carved horses reflecting American Folk Art.
- 250,000 people take a ride on the Central Park Carousel every year.
- It is the 4th carousel in the same location. This one was designed in 1908 and was brought from Coney Island in 1951.
- The first one was in use in 1871. The first one was powered by a blind mule and a horse.

CHESS & CHECKERS HOUSE

- Chess & Checkers House has 24 outdoor chess tables.
- In the summer, six- to thirteen-year -olds are taught to play chess by experts provided by the Conservancy.

PLAZA HOTEL

- Opened in 1907
- National Historic Landmark status.
- French Renaissance château-style
- The cheapest room starts at \$700 a night.
- One of the two hotels who has the NYC landmark status (the other one is Waldorf Astoria)
- The Beatles stayed at the Plaza during their first visit to the United States in February 1964.

- Plaza hosts presidents, primer ministers of other countries when they are in New York, mainly for United Nations meetings.
- Plaza was in the classic novel; the Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald.
- Crocodile Dundee and Home Alone 2 were some movies at the Plaza.
- Plaza went through a 3 year renovation from 2005 to 2008.
- Today plaza has 282 hotel rooms and 152 private condos.
- Movies at the Plaza Hotel: Crocodile Dundee (1986), King of New York (1990), Home Alone 2 (1992), Scent of a Woman (1992), Sleepless in Seattle (1993), Meet Joe Black (1998), It Could Happen to You (1994), Cruel Intentions (1999), Almost Famous (2000), Hollywood Ending (2002), The Producers (2005), August Rush (2007), The Other Guys (2010), The Adjustment Bureau (2011)

TRUMP TOWER

- Opened in 1983
- Used for retail, office and residential purposes.
- Trump Tower is the setting of the NBC television show The Apprentice.

GENERAL MOTORS BUILDING

- Opened in 1968.
- General Motors Building originally featured, in its street-level lobby, a showroom for the vehicles of General Motors. Currently, the lobby is the home of FAO Schwarz's flagship toy store with the oversized keyboard on the floor played by foot as seen in the movie Big with Tom Hanks.
- The building is also home to CBS's The Early Show.
- Also in the building is the flagship Apple Store.

PIERRE HOTEL

- Built in 1930
- Unrestricted views of Central Park

- The residents of the Pierre have been British/American actress Elizabeth Taylor in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, CBS Chairman Sumner Redstone and Mohamed El Fayed; the Egyptian businessman who owns the soccer club Fulham in English Premiere League.
- Martin Zweig, a hedge-fund manager, owns the triplex co-op that occupies the top three floors of the building. With its \$70 million price tag, the triplex is the most expensive home for sale in New York City.

ZOO

- The zoo first opened the 1860s and it is first official zoo of New York City.
- The zoo has giant penguins, polar bears, snow leopards, fruit bats.
- The zoo is open every day of the year.
- The admission fee is \$12 for the adults. Children aged 3 to 12 pay \$7 to get in.
- Movies at the Zoo: *Madagascar* (2005), *Hitch* (2005), *Definitely Maybe* (2008), *Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps* (2010)

THE MALL

- The Mall provides the only purely formal feature in the naturalistic original plan of Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux for Central Park, New York City.
- Flanking the 40-foot-wide Mall are quadruple rows of American Elms, providing a living cathedral ceiling high over the walkaway.
- The elms are gone from America's Elm Streets, victims of Dutch Elm disease, but the Central Park elms, isolated from contamination from neighboring elms and closely watched by the gardeners of the Central Park Conservancy, now form one of the largest remaining plantations of the trees.
- Movies at the Mall: *Kramer vs. Kramer* (1979), *Big Daddy* (1999), *Vanilla Sky* (2001), *Serendipity* (2001), *Mr. Deeds* (2002), *Maid in Manhattan* (2002), *Panic Room* (2002), *Little Manhattan* (2005), *The Producers* (2005), *Enchanted* (2007), *Ghost Town* (2008), *Definitely Maybe* (2008), *The Wackness* (2008), *Going the Distance* (2010), *The Smurfs* (2011), *Friends With Benefits* (2011)

BALTO

- In January 1925, Nome, Alaska had a terrible outbreak of diphtheria.
- The anti-toxin serum was in Nenana, a town which is 667 miles away from Nome.
- The only way to deliver the serum was over the treacherous ice bound tundra and the only means to this end was with a musher and dogsled team.
- In blizzard conditions, 20 teams over with 200 dogs traveled along the Iditarod mail route in minus 50 degrees at roughly 6 miles an hour.
- It was Gunnar Kasson and his lead dog Balto, a black and white Alaskan Malamute who brought the serum first within a record breaking 5 days and 7 hours.
- There is a 1995 cartoon movie based on the true story of Balto.

SUMMER STAGE

- Central Park Summer Stage presents free of charge performances of outstanding artistic quality to serve diverse the diverse communities of New York City.
- The famous people who performed in this stage include Neville Brothers, Chaka Khan, Joni Mitchell, Clint Eastwood, Louis Armstrong, Edward Jones and Damien Rice. Garth Brooks concert was in 1997.
- Usher, Beyonce and Lady Gaga came to Summer Stage for "Good Morning America".

CONSERVATORY WATER

- Conservatory Water is an ornamental pond which is popular with the remote controlled model boats.
- Adding to the appeal of this site is the Alice in Wonderland sculpture to the north of Conservatory Water where children enjoy climbing.
- At the Hans Christian Andersen Sculpture to the west, there is story telling during summer months.
- Movies at the Conservatory Water: The Muppets Take Manhattan (1984), The Mirror Has Two Faces (1996), Stepmom (1998), 13 Going on 30 (2004), The Hoax (2006), The Nanny Diaries (2007), The Other Woman (2009)

LOEB BOATHOUSE CAFÉ & RESTAURANT

- Boathouse is the most popular restaurant in Central Park. It serves American and Seafood.
- Row boat rentals that you can enjoy in the 22 acre lake are \$12 an hour at the Boathouse.
- Gondola rental is also possible for \$30 for half an hour. The gondola ride comes with a guide.
- Movies at the Boathouse: When Harry Met Sally (1989), Little Manhattan (2005), Enchanted (2007), 27 Dresses (2008)

BETHESDA TERRACE

- The pool is centered by a fountain sculpture designed by Emma Stebbins in 1868 and unveiled in 1873.
- Stebbins was the first woman to receive a public commission for a major work of art in New York City.
- The bronze, eight-foot statue depicts a female winged angel touching down upon the top of the fountain, where water spouts and cascades into an upper basin and into the surrounding pool.
- It was the only statue in the park called for in the original design.
- Beneath her are four four-foot cherubs representing Temperance, Purity, Health, and Peace.
- Also called the Angel of the Waters, the statue refers to the Gospel of John, Chapter 5 where there is a description of an angel blessing the Pool of Bethesda, giving it healing powers.
- In Central Park the referent is the Croton Aqueduct opened in 1842, providing the city for the first time with a dependable supply of pure water: thus the angel carries a lily in one hand, representing purity, and with the other hand she blesses the water below.
- Movies at the Bethesda Terrace: Marathon Man (1976), When Harry Met Sally (1989), It Could Happen to You (1994), Ransom (1996), One Fine Day (1996), Deconstructing Harry (1997), Big Daddy (1999), Stuart Little 2 (2002), Mr. Deeds (2002), Elf (2003), Uptown Girls (2003), The Producers (2005), Enchanted (2007),

27 Dresses (2008), The Other Woman (2009), Friends With Benefits (2011), The Avengers (2012)

NAUMBURG BANDSHELL

- Naumburg Bandshell was constructed in 1862.
- Its beginning was a mere classical music arena.
- Today, the Bandshell is known for its summertime concerts, which include a variety of musical artists from a wide range of different genres in addition to the traditional classical.
- The site of both a speech delivered by Martin Luther King Jr. and a eulogy read for John Lennon, it has become a place of historical importance within the Park.
- Movies at the Bandshell: Breakfast at Tiffany's (1961), The Lonely Guy (1984)

CHERRY HILL PLAZA

- Designed by Jacob Wrey Mould, this ornamental structure was originally designed as a watering trough for horses during the 19th century.
- The fountain consists of a granite dome and sculpted bluestone basin inset with Minton tiles. Crowning this 14-foot high tower are eight frosted round glass lamps and a golden spire.
- In 1998, the Central Park Conservancy, along with a gift from Elizabeth and Clement Moore, restored the fountain back to an operable state.
- Movies at the Cherry Hill Plaza: Marathon Man (1976), The Muppets Take Manhattan (1984), Big Daddy (1999), 27 Dresses (2008),
- Movies at the Bow Bridge: Autumn in New York (2000), Keeping the Faith (2000), Uptown Girls (2003), Spiderman 3 (2007), Enchanted (2007)

CENTRAL PARK WEST

- Central Park West is the city's most architecturally unique residential street in New York City.

- What distinguishes Central Park West from Fifth Avenue, of course, is its flamboyance.
- Fifth Avenue had initially been developed north of 61st Street with mansions that resulted with it being known as "Millionaire's Row." Central Park West, on the other hand, had been developed more commercially, in part because many theaters were in its vicinity.
- The apartment buildings that replaced the Fifth Avenue mansions tended to be elegant, but quite conservative, and many were not developed until soon after World War II when standards, and ceiling heights, were lowered dramatically.
- In contrast, Central Park West was largely fully developed before the Depression set in fully and its architecture reflects an appropriately optimistic grandeur.

SAN REMO TOWERS

- San Remo is a luxury, 27-floor, co-operative apartment building.
- San Remo is the tallest building in Upper West Side.
- Construction began in 1929, weeks before the market crash initiated the Great Depression. San Remo's construction process took approximately two years. When the building was completed in the early 1930s, New York and the rest of the nation had just finished the Roaring 20's and was headed into economic distress and World War II. In 1940 the building was sold for \$25,000 over the existing mortgages.
- Past and present residents of the building include such famous personalities as Stephen Sondheim, Tiger Woods, Steven Spielberg, Donna Karan, Tony Randall, Demi Moore, Glenn Close, Dustin Hoffman, U2 frontman Bono, Steve Martin, Bruce Willis, Trey Parker, Eddie Cantor, Robert Stigwood, Marshall Brickman, Jackie Leo, Don Hewitt, Billy Squier, and Texas natural-gas heiress Adelaide de Menil but also some businessmen: Dodi Fayed, Andrew Tobias, Aaron Spelling, Jack Sherwall, Hedy Lamarr. Rita Hayworth spent her last years there. In 2007 same-floor residents Bono and Billy Squier went to court over a fireplace. Steve Jobs bought and renovated a penthouse apartment but never lived in it, ultimately selling it to Bono.

KENILWORTH BUILDING

- Kenilworth was built in 1908.
- Kenilworth is 13 floors.
- Kenilworth is one of several distinguished French Second Empire-style apartment houses on the West
- Side that are among the city's most wonderful residential buildings.
- Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones were past tenants of Kenilworth Building.

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

- The American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), located on the Upper West Side, Manhattan, New York, USA, is one of the largest and most well-known museums in the world.
- The museum was founded in 1869.
- The Museum comprises 25 interconnected buildings that house 46 permanent exhibition halls, research laboratories, and its renowned library.
- Theodore Roosevelt, Sr., the father of the 26th U.S. President, was one of the founders of the museum.
- The museum in the film "Night at the Museum" is based on the AMNH. Several scenes in the 2004 movie "The Day After Tomorrow" were set in the museum's halls.

THE BERESFORD

- It is one of the masterpieces of architect Emery Roth, who also designed the twin-towered San Remo.
- It is an upscale, 23-floor apartment building
- The genius of the design is the deployment of three towers, one of which, of course, conceals the building's water tank.
- In 1998, Jerry Seinfeld, the comedian, bought a duplex apartment in the building from Isaac Stern, violinist, for about \$4,350,000. City records indicated in September 2007 that David M. Brown paid \$8,400,000 for a three-bedroom

apartment next door to another three-bedroom he had purchased in 2004 for \$10,500,000, and Vikram Pandit paid \$17,850,000 for a 10-room apartment that had been owned by Tony Randall, the actor. The building's other residents have included comedian singer Diana Ross, tennis player John McEnroe, and musician Laura Nyro.

DANIEL WEBSTER

- Daniel Webster was a leading American statesman and senator from Massachusetts during the period leading up to the Civil War.
- He first rose to regional prominence through his defense of New England shipping interests.
- Webster's increasingly nationalistic views, and his effectiveness as a speaker, made him one of the most famous orators and influential Whig leaders of the Second Party System.
- He was one of the nation's most prominent conservatives, leading opposition to Democrat Andrew Jackson and the Democratic Party.
- During his 40 years in national politics, Webster served in the House of Representatives for 10 years (representing New Hampshire), in the Senate for 19 years (representing Massachusetts), and was appointed the Secretary of State under three presidents.

STRAWBERRY FIELDS

- Strawberry Fields was dedicated on what would have been Lennon's 45th birthday, 9 October 1985, by New York Mayor Ed Koch and Lennon's widow Yoko Ono, who had underwritten the project.
- The memorial is a triangular piece of land falling away on the two sides of the park, and its focal point is a circular pathway mosaic of inlaid stones, with a single word, the title of Lennon's famous song: "Imagine". This was a gift from the city of Naples.
- The memorial is often covered with flowers, candles in glasses, and other belongings left behind by Lennon fans. On Lennon's birthday (October 9) and on the

anniversary of his death (December 8), people gather to sing songs and pay tribute, staying late into what is often a cold night.

DAKOTA BUILDING

- Dakota Building, constructed from October 25, 1880 to October 27, 1884, is a co-op apartment building.
- It was designed by architect Henry Janeway Hardenbergh, who also designed the Plaza Hotel, for Edward Clark, head of the Singer Sewing Machine Company.
- It is the first building in Upper West Side.
- According to popular legend, the Dakota was so named because at the time it was built, the Upper West Side of Manhattan was sparsely inhabited and considered as remote as the Dakota Territory.
- John Lennon was murdered at the entrance archway of the building on December 8, 1980.
- Director Roman Polanski filmed the exteriors for *Rosemary's Baby* at the Dakota. David Aames, the protagonist in Cameron Crowe's 2001 movie *Vanilla Sky* is a Dakota resident.
- The residents of Dakota Building have included Judy Garland, Lauren Bacall, Leonard Bernstein, Boris Karloff, Maury Povich, Gilda Radner and many more.
- Movies at the Dakota Building: *Rosemary's Baby* (1968), *Vanilla Sky* (2001)

SHEEP MEADOW

- Open from mid April through mid October, this vast 15-acre green grass meadow is most currently a social gathering place for sunbathing, frisbee tossing and picnics.
- It was a grazing area for 200 sheep until 1934.
- The pastoral nature of the Sheep Meadow would radically change during the 1960s and 1970s when the field was used for political causes, heavy sports use and large-scale concerts. Vietnam protests, "gay-ins" and hippie "love-ins" were a sign of the times, but it was the worst of times for the lush green grass of the Sheep Meadow which had become mutilated by the massive crowds.
- On October 27, 1945, Harry S. Truman spoke to 50,000 people at Sheep Meadow on Navy Day.

- In 1967 Barbra Streisand performed in front of 135,397 people at Sheep Meadow.
- Movies at Sheep Meadow: The Lonely Guy (1984), Wall Street (1987), Uptown Girls (2003), 13 Going on 30 (2004), August Rush (2007), Enchanted (2007), The Visitor (2007), You Don't Mess with the Zohan (2008), Going the Distance (2010), Mr. Popper's Penguins (2011)

TAVERN ON THE GREEN

- Tavern on the Green was an American cuisine restaurant located in Central Park on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, in New York City.
- It remained in operation from 1934 to 2009 under various owners.
- The building is currently a public visitor's center and gift shop run by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, retaining the name Tavern on the Green.
- The restaurant in 2007 had gross revenues of \$38 million, from more than 500,000 visitors, making it the second-highest-grossing independent restaurant in the United States (behind The Venetian's Tao restaurant in Las Vegas, at \$67 million).
- Tavern on the Green is the finish line of the New York City Marathon. The Barilla Marathon Eve Dinner, a pre-race pasta party on the eve of the marathon for 10,000 guests (including registrants, who attend for free), took place at the Tavern.
- Movies at Tavern on the Green: Ghostbusters (1984), The Mirror Has Two Faces (1996), Alfie (2004)

HECKSCHER BALLFIELDS

- The Heckscher Ballfields offers players six fields in which to enjoy a game of baseball or softball and allows fans to sit back and watch the games from the bleachers that surround the ballfields.
- It was named after August Heckscher who was appointed as Parks Commissioner in 1967 and served a six year term.
- Athletic permits cost \$8 per session. Permits are free for applicants who are supervising a league composed of players 17 years old and younger.
- Movies at Pine Bank Bridge: Léon: The Professional (1994), Elf (2003),

15 CENTRAL PARK WEST

- 15 Central Park West is an ultra-luxurious condominium building.
- Construction started in 2005 and was completed in 2008, costing a total of \$950 million.
- Celebrity residents include or have included Sting, Norman Lear, Denzel Washington, Bob Costas, Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein and professional baseball player Alex Rodriguez.
- Ekaterina Rybolovleva, the 22-year-old daughter of Russian billionaire Dmitry Rybolovlev paid \$88 Million for a penthouse in the building.

COLUMBUS CIRCLE

- Columbus Circle was first completed in 1905
- The monument at the center of Columbus Circle, created by Italian sculptor Gaetano Russo,[1] was erected as part of New York's 1892 commemoration of the 400th anniversary of Columbus' landing in the Americas. Constructed with funds raised by Il Progresso, a New York City-based Italian-language newspaper, the monument consists of a marble statue of Columbus atop a 70-foot (21 m) granite rostral column decorated with bronze reliefs representing Columbus' ships: the Niña, the Pinta, and the Santa María. Its pedestal features an angel holding a globe.
- The exhibit, "Discovering Columbus" by Japanese artist Tatzu Nishi, has become a must-see cultural attraction in New York since it opened Sept. 20. Some 20,000 people have made the walk up six flights of stairs for the up-close view of Columbus, as well as the unique views of Midtown Manhattan and Central Park.
- Movies in Columbus Circle: Taxi Driver (1976), Die Hard with a Vengeance (1995), Keeping the Faith (2000), The Devil Wears Prada (2006), Enchanted (2007), I Am Legend (2007), Two Lovers (2008), Cloverfield (2008), Tower Heist (2011)

TIME WARNER CENTER

- Construction began in November 2000, following the demolition of the New York Coliseum, and a topping-out ceremony was held on February 27, 2003.
- The total floor area of Time Warner Center is 2.8 million square feet.

- Time Warner Center is divided between offices (notably the offices of Time Warner Inc. and an R&D Center for VMware), residential condominiums, and the Mandarin Oriental, New York hotel. The Shops at Columbus Circle is an upscale shopping mall located in a curving arcade at the base of the building, with a large Whole Foods Market grocery store in the basement. The complex is also home to a 1,200 seat theater for Jazz at Lincoln Center as well as CNN studios, from where Anderson Cooper 360° and Piers Morgan Tonight among other shows, are broadcast live.
- Movies at Time Warner Center: Cloverfield (2008), Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close (2011)