

NEW YORK, NEW YORK



A Survival Guide for Recent Arrivals Spring 2008

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I. FIND YOUR NICHE: NYC NEIGHBORHOODS

The following is only a sampling of neighborhoods in the city of Manhattan. Brooklyn, Queens, Jersey City, Hoboken, Roosevelt Island, and Connecticut are other options just a short commute away from Manhattan with just as much charisma.

CHELSEA

Wedged between the West Village and Midtown West, this area runs between 14th and 28th Streets and from Seventh Avenue to the Hudson. It is a West-Side neighborhood—funky, creative, and entrepreneurial at the same time.

CHINATOWN

The official boundaries of Chinatown are Canal Street to the North, Worth Street to the South, Bowery to the East and Church Street to the West. However, always thriving, Chinatown continues to stretch beyond its boundaries.

THE FINANCIAL DISTRICT

The Downtown “residential” district is not quite residential—or a neighborhood in the customary sense of the word—but it is very convenient to Wall Street and downtown nightlife! Residential space in the financial district has boomed in the last few years as bankers and financial gurus desired living space close to work.

EAST VILLAGE

Located near NYU, Cooper Union, and Stuyvesant Town, the area is populated by and young artists primarily. It is a nocturnal neighborhood—always alive at night and on weekends as it has many popular bars. (Random bit of trivia: Madonna lived here when she first came to NYC). The East Village is also the setting for the Broadway musical, *Rent*.



FLATIRON DISTRICT

Includes the Meatpacking District and is bordered by West 14th Street to the South, the Hudson River on the west, Union Square to the East and 32nd Street to the North. It is near Chelsea and shares a similar feeling to that neighborhood. The Flatiron District has become very popular in the last few years.

GARMENT DISTRICT

This is a very commercial area with lots of loud trucks and wholesale fashion stores. It is the area between Madison and Eighth Avenues in the West 30s near Penn Station.

GRAMERCY

Beginning at 20th Street on the East Side and running until 26th Street, it is bordered to the East and West by the East River and Park Avenue South. The actual park, a very small plot of land in the center of the neighborhood, is gated and restricted to those who live in a building surrounding its borders. It is primarily a residential area (with quite a few restaurants) and is very safe.

GREENWICH VILLAGE

Lying North of Houston and below Chelsea, it considers itself on the “cutting edge of culture.” Everything goes in this area and it is full of youth and nightlife! As it has become a very trendy place to live, rents have increased, though there are a lot of “interesting” apartments in this area.

HARLEM

Bounded by the Harlem River to the North, 5th Avenue to the East, 110th Street to the South and Morningside and St. Nicholas Avenues to the West, Harlem is one of the most famous neighborhoods in New York, having an entire Renaissance named after it. It has a rich architectural base with apartments that need work but have a lot of potential.

LINCOLN CENTER

Living next to Lincoln Center is a musician's or music lover's dream come true! It is a commercial district with plenty of residential areas, restaurants, shops, movie theaters, and Lincoln Center events (including the NYC Ballet and the Metropolitan Opera).

LITTLE ITALY

A very popular tourist destination, this area is bordered by Mulberry, Mott, Elizabeth, and Baxter Streets. Nonstop tourism means that congestion is a way of life here but along with tourism comes fabulous restaurants!

LOWER EAST SIDE

Bordered on the North by Houston Street and to the South by Division Street, it is hemmed in by the East River and the Bowery. This funky neighborhood has done a 180 in the last few years as it is now safe and full of bars, cafes, and shopping!

MIDTOWN EAST

Extending from Central Park South at 59th Street to 42nd Street, the central part of midtown is just what it says, central. It is the heart of the city and brings with it everything NY has to offer-both good and bad. It is always crowded, as everyone wants to take advantage of the shopping, restaurants, attractions (such as Grand Central Station), and more.



MIDTOWN WEST/HELL'S KITCHEN/CLINTON

The residential area around Times Square is small and unique. It is truly an urban experience with high rises, neon signs and flashing lights. It is bordered to the West by the Hudson River, to the North by 62nd Street, to the East by Fifth Avenue and by 42nd Street.

MURRAY HILL

Lying south of 42nd Street and north of Gramercy, Murray Hill is a hybrid of Chelsea-style avant-garde and commercial Midtown. It consists largely of young professionals and is full of shops, chains, markets, and restaurants.

NOHO

Noho stands for "North of Houston" and is a mini-neighborhood right in the middle of Lower Manhattan. Noho runs from Houston to 8th Street and from Mercer Street to the Bowery. It is like a middle child between Greenwich Village and the East Village...very quaint and charismatic.

SOHO

Like Noho, Soho is named for its location, "South of Houston." This area has been transformed from a purely industrial area to an almost outdoor mall and market. It forms a perfect square in the center of downtown Manhattan and is delineated by Houston Street, Crosby Street, 6th Avenue and Canal Street.

TRIBECA

Tribeca is an acronym for the “Triangle Below Canal (Street)” and has become, much like the Village and Chelsea, a hip place to live, though not as trendy or well-located. Its streets are still lined with cobblestones which pave the way to the financial district.

UPPER EAST SIDE

This is a highly residential area. Similar to midtown, it has a lot of shopping, though less nightlife and diversity than many other neighborhoods. It is “waspy” than the villages, Chelsea, and the Upper West Side, and not very accessible via subway (only the 4,5,6). However, this is generally regarded as the safest (and the most affordable) neighborhood in Manhattan.

UPPER WEST SIDE

The Upper West combines a neighborhood feel with mainstream urban life. It tends to be younger and more artsy than the Upper East Side and the streets are buzzing day and night. Just off of Central Park, this area also gives an escape from the concrete of the city and is adjacent to Riverside Park.

II. FINDING THE RIGHT APARTMENT

A. WHEN SHOULD I START LOOKING FOR AN APARTMENT?

The ideal time to find an apartment is 4 weeks prior to your move-in date. In other words, if you'd like to move-in July 1st, then you should begin looking on June 1st. Looking at spaces and gathering information prior to this period is useful, but if you are not ready to put a deposit down immediately, the specific apartment you looked at will not be available later. As of April 2007, the vacancy rate in Manhattan is less than 1%, so there are not many available apartments out there. If you are planning to move to New York in the summer, keep in mind that college students will be moving to the city and they are all looking at the same time.

B. HOW DO I FIND AN APARTMENT?

There are many ways to find an apartment in New York but “house-hunting” can be extremely overwhelming. The 3 most likely ways to find an apartment are: Brokers, Listings, and Websites. On-line resources and books can make the process much easier. A few of our favorites:

- www.VillageVoice.com (the print publication comes out every Wednesday but you can read in on-line on Tuesday night)
- www.NYTimes.com – new listings come out Friday
- www.craigslist.com – be wary of “bait and switch” tactics, illegal sublets, roommates who charge you more than half of the rent, and shady brokers
- www.nofeerentals.com – you will see ads here for \$2200 two bedrooms in the East Village. These will have no living room, a half-sized refrigerator, 8 by 9 bedrooms, and be on the 5th floor of a walk up with no laundry. Some people have had good luck with this website, though.
- www.rent-direct.com (worth using if you begin 4 weeks in advance)
- www.easyrent.com (basically the same as rent-direct.com)
- www.ApartmentSource.com (register on-line for this and they will send apartment updates. May not be worth paying to use their service, but you can still see apartments/buildings and locations without paying anything)
- **Zany's New York City Apartment** Guide (an annual guide to apartment hunting found in your local bookstore)

1. BROKERS

Some people try to avoid using a broker because brokers charge a month's rent to 15% of the first year's rent for their service. The key to using a broker is to understand the process fully before exploring this option. Some helpful tips:

1. Know the rules. Once a broker shows you a specific apartment, then you will have to pay their fee in order to sign a lease in that building.
2. Be firm with the prices you are willing to pay so that brokers don't show you apartments out of your price range. Sometimes landlords will negotiate their prices down, so it may make sense to look \$50 to \$100 above your price range.
3. Know the neighborhoods. This is very difficult if you have never lived in NY, but it's important because many brokers will tell you what you want to hear. For example: many brokers will list apartments in Alphabet City as East Village because the name is more appealing to renters. Always consult a map and the surrounding area if you are confused about which neighborhood the apartment is located. See the "Neighborhoods" section of this guide for more on this topic. The least expensive areas in Manhattan right now are the Lower East Side (very "hip," but some parts are still a bit "sketchy", the Financial District/Battery Park City (very nice, but there is very little nightlife there), and the Upper East Side (above 80th Street near 1st Avenue/York Ave). Areas in close proximity to the city (one or two stops on the subway) that are less expensive than Manhattan include Astoria or Long Island City, Queens; Williamsburg & Brooklyn Heights, Brooklyn; Roosevelt Island; and Jersey City, N.J. Hoboken and Williamsburg are almost as expensive as Manhattan these days, but they are great neighborhoods with lots of young people.
4. Understand Craig's List. Some brokers will advertise an apartment as "no fee," but when you get to the apartment they will say, "I'm sorry, that one's been rented, but I have this one." Of course, "this one" has a fee. Often, apartments are advertised as a "two bedroom" but they are actually converted two bedrooms, so one bedroom may not have a closet or a window. It is expensive to live in Manhattan and many people put up pressurized walls to add an extra room so that they can afford the rents. If it sounds "too good to be true," it probably is.
5. Renting in a Co-op or Condo building. Renting in a co-op or condo building has its pros and cons. You will usually pay less rent, but there may be co-op/condo fees. You may also have to complete a board package, which requires more paperwork than a rental building. You also need more lead time for the board to approve your application, and they may also interview you. If you want to look for an apartment two months in advance, it doesn't hurt to investigate these apartments.
6. Some buildings are "broker protected" and you can not rent an apartment there without using a broker. Some buildings will rent to anyone who walks-in off the street. One example of this is Chelsea Centro on W 26th St. and 7th Ave., the current home of several alumni and many other recent college graduates.
7. Brokers work on commission only, so you don't pay them a dime if they do not find you an apartment. A broker may be able to find you a \$1600 apartment with a fee that is nicer than an \$1800 a month apartment with no fee. Since less than 5% of apartments are "no fee," it doesn't hurt to also look with a broker. If you don't have the time to scour Craig's List or walk the streets looking for buildings that you can walk into, using a broker will save you a lot of time.
8. Some of the brokerage companies that USC grads have used and liked are:

City Habitats (212.794.1133)

Manhattan Apartments (212.378.2680)

Village Dwellings (212.691.1201)

Or call Dawn Frojen (USC class of 97) Prudential Douglas Elliman 646.408.4442 (cell)

dawn.frojen@elliman.com

Or call Christine Toes (UVA class of 99) of Citi Habitats at 917.608.6973

FEES-Do not hesitate to ask brokers what their fees are. Broker's fees are sometimes, but not always negotiable. If a broker shows you a listing that is shared between two companies, also called a "co-

broke,” since two companies are splitting the fee, the commission is generally not negotiable. However, you may find a shared listing that is nicer than the other apartments that you have seen.

2. LISTINGS

This method may take longer but could save you money. Browsing through apartment listings in the newspaper is an arduous task. The Village Voice or New York Times online can be a great start, but be careful. Some brokers will post dummy listings for great places that do not exist or have already been rented. Look closely at the listings for abbreviations such as “bkr” or “bk”.

3. WEBSITES

These can be successful. Usually, they offer you access to their database at a one-time cost of about \$300. From there you can contact landlords directly. Some even offer guarantees to pay your broker fees if their site doesn’t find you a place in the first month. Definitely worth looking into as a cost-effective way of finding an apartment.

C. DEFINITIONS TO KNOW

- **Walk-up Building**-this is a building without an elevator, thus you WALK UP to your apartment (walk-ups are less expensive than elevator buildings)
- **Doorman Buildings**-these are buildings with elevators and doormen, some doormen are there all day and night but some buildings have part time doormen. One advantage of a doorman is that you can have packages & dry cleaning delivered when you aren’t home. If there is a Mailboxes, Etc. or UPS store nearby, they usually accept packages for a small fee. Some people feel that having a doorman also increases security. Doorman buildings are more expensive than walk-up and elevator buildings
- **Rent Stabilized**-this limits the amount a landlord can increase your rent when a lease comes up for renewal; the increase is set by a city control board every 1-2 years. Signing a longer lease benefits you in this case, although many landlords won’t sign for more than 2 years. Rent stabilized apartments are very difficult to find, they generally change hands by word of mouth.
- **Rent Controlled**-rent cannot increase in these apartments and most have been in the same family since 1971 when this came into being; these apartments must be passed down and cannot go on the market or the rent can increase to current market rates – often a huge increase over what they were. These apartments don’t come onto the market anymore, so if you see one advertised, it is most likely an illegal sublet – steer clear!
- **Pre-War Building**-buildings built prior to WWII which usually have interesting architectural details like high ceilings, hardwood floors, crown moldings, and fireplaces. However, they also have had more wear and tear, older plumbing, etc.
- **Post-War Building**-buildings built after WWII, most have been renovated and some recently built with new floors, new appliances and more reliable plumbing; however, these buildings lack some of the charm and appeal of the older buildings.
- **One, Two or Three Bedroom SHARE (also “Convertible”)**-a “share” is a common term in New York and it refers to the amount of bedrooms; with rent so high, many people take a one bedroom and have a temporary wall built so that it can become a two bedroom, the same can be done in larger apartments—there are even companies that specialize in this type of wall building in New York. Make sure that building a wall and having an extra person is allowed in your building before you sign a lease!

D. CLOSING THE DEAL

1. **ACT FAST**-If you see a place that you really like, count on a half dozen other people trying to swipe it out from under you. When visiting apartments, either with a broker or alone, carry several forms of ID, bank statements, tax returns, pay stubs from your employer (if you have these), and a letter of employment stating your job title, length of employment and salary, or offer letter. If you do not have a job yet, you are going to need your parents to co-sign your lease & you will need all of their paperwork also. Landlords and real estate management companies are very particular about who they rent to, so you must be organized.
2. **ASK QUESTIONS**-Just because you are dying for a place, don't be foolish and sign a lease before negotiating the best deal possible. This is the time to ask every question that you can think of.
3. **CREDIT**-Almost all landlords require a credit check. These can be accessed in many ways, and often at low cost. One way is online, at either www.equifax.com (cost:\$9) or www.freecreditreport.com which claims to be free. A credit check is required for your co-signer as well. Many landlords charge \$50 to \$100 per person per credit report & they will not let you run your own credit report. Landlords rarely rent to individuals with bad credit unless they are able to provide a secure guarantor. You may need a co-signer ("guarantor") on your apartment, usually a parent or legal guardian if you have little or no credit history.
4. **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**-Along with a credit check, you may be asked for bank statements, tax returns, pay stubs, and a letter of employment (stating length of employment, position, salary and/or bonus). Make sure to bring ID including driver's license, social security card, birth certificate and/or passport.
5. **GUARANTORS**- Most landlords require that your gross annual income be 40-50X the monthly rent of the apartment. If you do not meet these financial standards, then you will need a guarantor. This is very common, and usually parents will serve as the guarantor to an apartment. Guarantors are typically required to earn 80-100X the rent of the apartment in annual income. This may seem incredibly unnecessary to parents unfamiliar with NY apartments, but it is a very real part of the process. If you do not have a guarantor, or are not yet employed, you may need to put down an extra month's security. Students, non-citizens, retired people, and unemployed people may have to pay 6 months to a year's rent UP FRONT in order to secure an apartment.
6. **SECURITY DEPOSIT**-Most landlords require a full month's rent (or two) to be paid at the signing of the lease. Many landlords have a fine art of keeping security deposits so make sure that you understand the stipulations of getting it back. Most of these deposits are in the form of a certified check so opening a New York bank account in advance is useful. Landlords are supposed to keep your security deposit in a separate account and if you return the apartment in good condition, you get this money back PLUS interest.
7. **PETS**- Leave your large dog at home! Having a dog over 30 lbs makes it almost impossible to find an apartment. Only about 10% of landlords will allow you to have a large dog. You pretty much need to buy an apartment to have a large dog in Manhattan!

III. GETTING AROUND: TRANSPORTATION

NYC is a pedestrian city equipped with an amazing public transportation system including subways and buses—yes, buses! They are clean, safe, and your best bet for getting around-town. All you need is a MetroCard to ride and you can purchase one in any subway station from an attendant or from a machine. Single ride cards, unlimited daily/weekly/monthly passes or cash cards are available. The subway and the buses are \$2 per ride. Express buses from borough-to-borough are usually more than



\$2 and require a cash MetroCard. To ride the bus without a card, you must have exact change in quarters. Go to the MTA website at: <http://www.mta.nyc.ny.us> for maps, schedules, and service changes.

Taxis are available to take you wherever you need to go, too. Vacant taxis are easily recognizable by the lit numbers on the roof of their cabs. Once a cab has a passenger, the number light turns off. Cabs with off-duty lights on may sometimes pick up fares, too. The off-duty lights are on either side of the cab number. You may find it is most difficult to hail a cab during shift changes – around 4 pm on

weekdays. Taxis are expensive and can take a long time, depending on traffic, so your best bet is often the subway.

IV. ENTERTAINMENT

NYC is truly “The City that Never Sleeps” with some of the world’s best food, interior design, nightlife, comedy, athleticism, and musical talent. Below we highlight just a few entertainment options the city has to offer.

A. RESTAURANTS AND BARS

There are so many amazing restaurants in NYC it’s hard to know where to begin. Several websites such as www.timeout.com, www.citysearch.com, www.nymag.com, www.nymetro.com are extremely helpful, but above all, **BUY a ZAGAT’S Guide** to New York Restaurants. It is great and even “real” New Yorkers swear by it. Trust us on this. You can also check out just about every restaurant’s menu in NYC from home by visiting www.menupages.com or order in from hundreds of restaurants by using www.seamlessweb.com. Here are a few of our favorite spots:

RESTAURANTS – 35 Suggestions to jump start your culinary adventure.

Aroma (an Italian gem)- 36 E. 4th Street, 212.375.0100
Azuki Sushi (Spend \$15 on food, get unlimited wine & sake)- 239 Park Ave S, 212-228-3611
Blue Ribbon (something for EVERYONE)-multiple locations
Blue Water Grill (great date spot)-31 Union Square West, 212-675-9500
Buddakan (upscale Chinese)-75 9th Avenue, 212.989.6699
Capsouto Freres-451 Washington Street, 212-966-4900
Corner Bistro (Charlottesville in the West Village, \$3 beers)-331 W. 4th Street, 212.242.9502
Cube 63 (BYOB, sushi)-63 Clinton Street, 212.228.6751
Dos Caminos (upscale Mexican)-Multiple locations
Dumpling Man (cheap, amazing dumplings)-100 Saint Marks Place, 212-505-2121
Gemma (trendy, East Village)-335 Bowery, 212.505.9100
Good Enough to Eat-483 Amsterdam Avenue, 212-496-0163

John's Pizza (the best pizza in the city)- 278 Bleecker Street, 212.243.1680
 La Esquina-106 Kenmare Street, 646.613.7100
 Los Dados-73 Gansevoort Street, 646.810.7290
 Lupa-277 Church Street, 212-343-1035
 Ocean Grill-384 Columbus Avenue, 212-579-2300
 Paradou (French in Meatpacking District)-8 Little West 12th, 212.463.8345
 Park Avalon-225 Park Avenue South, 212-533-2500
 Penelope (great for brunch)-159 Lexington Avenue, 212-481-3800
 Philippe (upscale go-to)-35 E. 60th Street, 212.644.8885
 Piccolo Angolo (amazing Italian food and owner)- 621 Hudson Street, 212.229.9177
 PJ Clarke's (amazing hamburgers, low key atmosphere)-Multiple Locations
 Primavera-1578 1st Avenue, 212-861-8608
 Prune (great brunch spot)-54 E. 1st Street, 212.677.6221
 Rissoteria- 270 Bleecker Street, 212.924.6664
 Sante Fe-72 W. 69th Street, 212-724-0822
 Sarabeth's-423 Amsterdam Ave., 212-496-6280 or 1295 Madison Ave., 212-410-7335
 Sea (cheap Tai food with great atmosphere)-75 2nd Avenue, 212-228-5505
 Snack Taverna (hole in the wall trip to Greece)-63 Bedford Street, 212.929.3499
 Socialista-505 West Street, 212.929.4303
 Spotted Pig (trendy but low key, amazing Roquefort burger)-314 W. 11th Street, 212.620.0393
 Tao (trendy Japanese food)-42 E. 58th Street, 212.8882288
 The Place (hole in the wall Italian)-310 W. 4th Street, 212.924.2711
 Tortilla Flats (Mexican, great for groups)-767 Washington Street, 212-243-1053
 Union Square Café (upscale, celebrity chef)-21 E. 16th Street, 212-243-4020

BARS/CLUBS – 25 suggestions to help you jump start your night.

Galway Hooker – 36th btwn Madison & 5th (Where USC watches its football games)
 1 Oak (very trendy, velvet rope, Chelsea)
 Back Fence (live classic rock, peanut shells on floor, West Village)
 Barrow Street Ale House (your perfect pub in the West Village)
 Blind Pig (classic pub on 14th)
 Boucaru (unexpected dance party with outdoor area, Lower East Side)
 Brother Jimmy's (college frat party revisited, multiple locations)
 Culture Club (kitschy, 80's, bachelorette party)
 Fiddlesticks (another pub, always packed, West Village)
 Gold Bar (trendy lounge)
 Lit (subterranean techno party, East Village)
 Louis 649 (live jazz music in the East Village)
 McSorley's Old Ale House (a NYC mainstay, oldest bar in the city, force-fed beer, East Village)
 Merc Bar (log cabin inspired Soho lounge)
 MObar (at the Mandarin Oriental, GREAT views of city)
 Rare View (rooftop bar in Murray Hill)
 Red Lion (live, fun music to dance to in West Village)
 Rose Bar (lounge in Gramercy)
 Sway (lounge in Soho)
 Tenjune (trendy nightclub)
 The Bowery Bar (outdoor area, good for groups, DJ, in East Village)
 The Garage (live jazz music)
 The Village Idiot (pub in Greenwich Village)

B. SHOWS

BROADWAY

The best way to get cheap Broadway tickets is to go to the TKTS Ticket Booth in Times Square or in South Street Seaport. This booth has tickets for that night's performances at reduced prices. The South Street Seaport location also sells tickets for the next-day's performances, a little known secret. Go to: www.tdf.org for info.

Another way to get tickets is to go straight to the ticket windows at the theaters. If you have a student ID, there are student tickets available for that night's performance on the first and second rows for a discount price—but you have to go early in the morning to get them. You can also go through a ticket broker—there is a really good one at Applause Tickets, 212-307-7050.

A few show suggestions:

A Chorus Line
Avenue Q
Cat on a Hot Tin Roof
I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change
Jersey Boys
Lion King
Mama Mia!
Mary Poppins
Spring Awakening
Wicked

But there are MANY more.

OTHER

In addition to Broadway shows, we recommend checking out off-Broadway productions (The Karaoke Show, Stomp, etc.), comedy shows (at venues such as Caroline's, the Comedy Cellar, and Gotham Comedy Club), musical performances at Lincoln Center & Carnegie Hall to Irving Plaza and Beacon Theatre and live television shows ranging from The Daily Show to Who Wants to be a Millionaire.

C. SPORTS

WATCH (Live or at your local watering hole)

- Baseball: Mets at Shea Stadium (718-507-8499), Yankees at Yankee Stadium (212-307-1212)
- Basketball: New York Knicks at Madison Square Garden (212-465-6741)
- Hockey: New York Rangers at Madison Square Garden (212-465-6741)
- Football: New York Giants at Giant Stadium (201-935-3900), New York Jets at Giants Stadium (212-935-3900)
- Tennis: US OPEN Tennis Tournament, August/September (718-760-6200)



PLAY

- Softball: The Virginia Alumni Club has a team that plays on Sundays in Central Park. Our field is on the Great Lawn, located between 80th and 84th streets, field #1.
- Chelsea Piers offers everything from bowling to ice skating to golf.
<http://www.chelseapiers.com/>
- ZogSports: Offers a host of intramural sports - from dodgeball to soccer - for young professionals. <http://www.zogsports.org/>

V. FAQs

WHAT BANK SHOULD I USE?

The bank you choose depends pretty much on your personal needs. Citibank and Chase certainly have the largest presence in NY with numerous branch locations and ATMs (Chase now has an ATM in EVERY Duane Reade!). Make sure that you choose a bank with an ATM located near your work and your apartment, because you will use these most frequently. Many larger employers will set up bank accounts for their employees, as they have special arrangements with certain institutions.

Be aware that the cost of checking accounts in NY is higher than most places. Monthly fees are greater than in Charlottesville. When opening an account, all of the money you use to open an account will NOT be available immediately. In New York, due to excessive money laundering, checks, especially out of state checks and EVEN cashier's checks, take longer to clear. In most cases, an initial amount will be available the next day and then the check will clear in increments. Just don't expect to have access to all of your money all at once during the moving process.

HOW DO I FIND FURNITURE?

Furniture can definitely be a hassle in the city with having it delivered, shipped, etc. However, in late July and early August, New York retailers have their annual furniture sales so places will have things a lot cheaper than normal. Furniture stores are ALL OVER the city. Many cheaper stores are located near NYU, such as in Union Square and 5th Avenue. Straight from the Crate is a great option for inexpensive but nice apartment furniture. There are not any IKEAs in Manhattan, but if you are willing to travel a bit you can find them in Brooklyn and New Jersey. There is a bus that leaves from Port Authority and goes straight to Ikea. Ikea will also deliver to Manhattan, but it may take a few weeks to get your furniture.

Mattresses- The best way is to find the mattress that you want at a local store (type, brand, cost, etc), then call 1-800-MATTRES and they will beat the price and deliver it with no extra charge.

WHAT ABOUT UTILITIES? CABLE?

For utilities, call CON EDISON at 212-338-3000. For phone and DSL service call VERIZON at 212-890-1550 and for cable/TV hook-up, call TIME WARNER CABLE at 212-222-5388. The summer can be a busy month so call early and schedule an appointment to have these installed. You will have to present for all cable installation but most phone and utilities can just be switched on.

HOW CAN I JOIN THE USC CLUB OF NEW YORK?

The USC Club of NY has open meetings regularly. Email us at nycuscemail@gmail.com.

VI. HELPFUL HINTS AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Dial 411 for free directory service from any payphone or cell phone to get phone numbers, addresses, and restaurant locations with cross-streets, etc. Sometimes they even give directions!
- Dial 311 to request New York City information, city agency help and resource info, or to register a complaint.
- Buy a New York City Guide book or even better, “The Newcomer’s Handbook for New York City” which has great information on getting started in NY including finding utilities, furniture, etc.
- Take cab receipts from cab drivers. It sounds silly but the receipt will have the cab number and when you leave your wallet or purse or whatever in the back of a cab one day, you will be glad you have the receipt!
- BUY A ZAGAT’S restaurant guide and a nightlife guide!
- Need dinner delivered? www.seamlessweb.com is a fast and easy way to order online.
- www.freshdirect.com offers prepared meals and groceries delivered right to your door.
- Check out www.newyork.citysearch.com for easy access to events, restaurants, bars, museums, shopping and more. It is updated daily.
- Check out www.dailycandy.com and www.urbandaddy.com for fun and exciting insights into New York life. They send out weekly listings of designer sample sales and more.
- Subscribe to the New York Times’ Urban Eye
<http://www.nytimes.com/marketing/urbaneye/>. UrbanEye is a free e-mail newsletter sent Monday through Friday giving you the best of New York City. Find out about New York's newest restaurants, cultural events, latest styles, the best places to shop and more! Don't miss the weekend guide sent each Friday to help you plan your perfect weekend.
- Visit www.nymag.com for great restaurant, bar, and shopping reviews.
- Real People. Real Reviews. Check out www.yelp.com to review and talk about what’s great – and not so great – in your area.
- Check out the USC Club facebook group to see what USC Alumni are up to in the city:
<http://www.facebook.com/apps/application.php?id=11339335154>

Welcome to New York and **Fight On!**

USC

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