



Money Saving Tips for Visiting NYC

1. **Subscribe to some of the many NYC specific newsletters and magazines.** Subscribe to Time Out New York and Urban Daddy to have some of the best deals in the city emailed and snail-mailed directly to you.
2. **Follow CheapInTheCity.com.** To keep up to date on ways to save money in NYC. Sign up for their [mailing list!](#)
3. **Check out the top 10 NYC cheap eats:** <http://thenewyorkbudget.com/2015/04/13/top-10-nyc-cheap-eats/>
4. **Don't pay full admission (or any) to the MET or Natural History museums.** A number of museums around the city are actually "[suggested donation](#)", meaning you don't have to pay a cent to get in! Many tourists are unaware of this little tidbit and end up shelling out \$15 – 20 each.
5. **Eat Falafel.** A New York favorite: this vegetarian dish is filling and typically costs \$2 – 3. [Falafels](#) consist of pita bread stuffed full of fried chickpeas, lettuce, tomatoes, onions and a white sauce. Beware of the hot sauce! They can be found all over the city and are perfect after a late night out on the town.
6. **Visit the Bronx Zoo for Free on Wednesdays.** Every Wednesday of every week, the [Bronx Zoo has donation based admissions](#). That means you can get into the zoo for little to no money.
7. **Attend free TV show tapings.** A number of [shows are filmed in NYC and offer free tickets](#) to those who want to sit in on it all. Shows like The Daily Show give out tickets each day and have a standby line if you are not lucky enough to get tickets the first round.
8. **Ride the Roosevelt Island Cable Car.** The [cable car](#) connecting Manhattan to Roosevelt Island is another cheap way to catch beautiful views on the city. The trip simply costs you a swipe of your Metro Card (\$2.75).
9. **Take the subway from the airport.** If you're arriving at JFK International Airport, you can take the [subway into the city for \\$2.75 each](#). A cab ride will cost you \$45 plus tolls. You may also want to try taking an Uber or Lyft to the airport. They can't pick you up from the airport, though.
10. **Take a van service from the Airport.** If you're not keen on the idea of a one hour subway ride from the airport, try a [van service](#). They typically cost \$10 - \$25 per person and drop you off right in front of your destination.
11. **Drink tap water.** Rather than paying \$1 – 3 per bottle of water, simply drink straight from the tap. NYC water is some of the cleanest urban water in the country. It is brought in from upstate NY through the water aqueduct. You are NOT drinking water from the Hudson!
12. **Take the water taxi to IKEA.** If you'd like to take a day trip to IKEA, take the [free water taxi](#). As long as you spend \$10 or more at IKEA, your trip is free. The views are amazing and the ride is fun. **Once you get to IKEA; eat there.** [IKEA has some of the best cheap food in the city](#). For \$1 to \$3 you can get yourself a plate of Swedish Meatballs with Mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and a soda.



13. **Grab a “slice”.** New York is known for its pizza. Grab a slice on the go for as little as 99 cents! You’ll find slices for 99 cents each along 6th Avenue near 14th Street. Just look for the big signs that say “99 Cent Slice!”
14. **Grab a hotdog from a vendor.** You can’t visit or live in NYC without eating one. So, grab a \$1 hotdog from a vendor and save some cash.
15. **Buy from street vendors.** NYC has some very strict health guidelines that vendors must follow in order to keep their location open. Grabbing a snack from a vendor can save you time and money while helping out the little guy. They also tend to offer some amazing handmade crafts. The streets of SoHo are filled with such craft vendors.
16. **Download social apps.** I’ve downloaded such social apps as Yelp! Using this app, you check into restaurants and bars you visit. Some offer free drinks or appetizers if you check in. My favorite is at the Mermaid Oyster Bar in the West Village. You get a free side with every check in. These are amazing sides! Try the fried brussel sprouts.
17. **Download reservation apps.** Open Table is a service that allows you to reserve a table at some of the city’s best restaurants. Make enough reservations via the service and get yourself gift certificates to help pay for your next meal. Look for the 1,000-point reservations to help speed up the process.
18. **Pick up *Frommer’s NYC Free & Dirt Cheap*.** This is one of my favorite [NYC guides](#) for finding free things to do in the city. You’ll find everything from free events to free food. The maps are great.
19. **Don’t pay for internet access.** The city offers a growing number of [free Wi-Fi hotspots](#).
20. **Take a tour.** If you are coming early to the convention location or staying late, you may want to take part in these [free tours](#).
21. **Shop in Chinatown.** If you’re looking for deals, there’s no better place than Chinatown. Haggle as much as you can to get the best deal. Don’t be shy, they aren’t.
22. **Grab a copy of *The Village Voice* or *AM New York*.** NYC has a number of free publications. Many of them offer up the free local events of the day. You can find them outside most subway stations.
23. **Catch a comedy show at the Upright Citizens Brigade Theater.** If you like comedy, you can’t beat this deal. The shows are good and you’ll even find celebrities there. [Tickets are typically \\$5 per show](#) and shows last an hour and a half.
24. **Go ice skating for free at Rockefeller Center.** Rockefeller Center offers an amazing ice skating experience for free. Skates cost extra, so bring your own if you have them.
25. **Go ice skating for free at Bryant Park.** During the winter months you can [ice skate for free at Bryant Park](#). Skate rentals are extra.
26. **Buy your Broadway tickets at a TKTS booth.** You may have to wait in a long line for up to an hour, but you’ll be rewarded with [Broadway tickets up to 50% off](#). There are currently 3 locations in NYC: one in Times Square Center, one in the South Street Seaport and one in Brooklyn.
27. **Buy “rush” or “standing room only” Broadway Tickets.** You can get tickets to some of your favorite Broadway shows for as little as \$25 if you’re willing to stand or sit in not the best location. Some of these tickets are available to students only, so bring your student ID if you



have one. You typically buy such tickets the day of the show and they are almost always cash only.

28. **Get a subscription.** Theater lovers who visit New York regularly or are planning a lengthy trip should consider an [Audience Extras membership](#). For a yearly fee, you get access to last-minute tickets for local shows and concerts that have empty seats to fill. Tickets are free other than a \$3.50 reservation charge. The membership pays for itself after just a few shows.

29. **Other Resource Sites:**

- a. <http://www.freetoursbyfoot.com/new-york-city-on-a-budget/>
- b. http://travel.usnews.com/New_York_NY/Travel_Tips/
- c. <http://gonyc.about.com/od/budgettravel/>
- d. <http://www.bbcamerica.com/anglophenia/2014/04/10-places-to-do-tea-in-nyc>