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6th Edition

New York City

FOR

DUMMIES



Myka Carroll

New York City

FOR

DUMMIES®

6TH EDITION

by Myka Carroll

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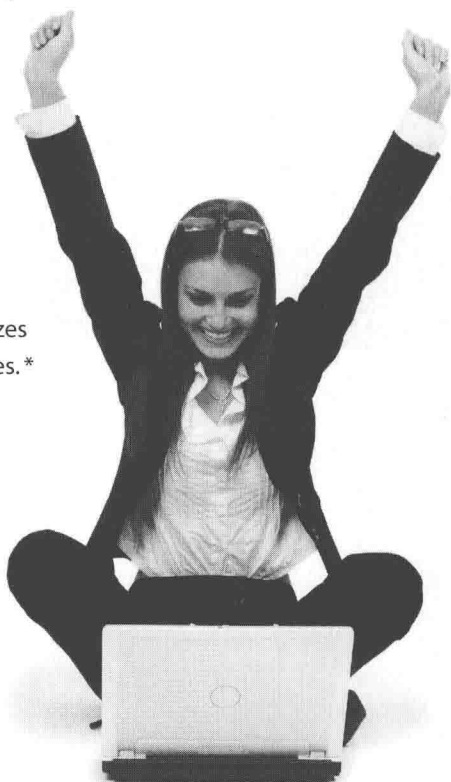
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About the Author

New York-based **Myka Carroll** edited 70-plus travel guides for Frommer's before jumping to the other side of the desk as a freelance writer. Her favorite New York movie is *Smoke*, her favorite New York band is Sonic Youth, and her favorite New York hero is Shirley Chisholm. She would like to thank her family and dearest friends for their unwavering support, and to give props to the gang at Academy Restaurant, the best diner in the city. She dedicates a knife, a fork, a bottle, and a cork to Benjamin Más, the best sun ever.

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Introduction

When it comes to a city as famous and infamous as New York is, everybody has an opinion, often based on indelible film images or evocative song lyrics. Growing up in other places, I envisioned New York as a city of artists and warriors, where all the critics loved you and you could dance, if you wanted to, in legwarmers on top of a taxicab. The New York I made my home as an adult is tamer and wealthier but still full of hassles and hustles. It's also a place where the only thing you can count on is change. New Yorkers like the shock of the new — it's where the city gets its fabled energy. We have short attention spans here on the bleeding edge; a restaurant, show, club, or store may be the hottest thing to hit the city for a couple of months, and then another opens or is discovered, and that once-hot place quickly becomes yesterday's news.

On the other hand, New Yorkers don't always appreciate change, because it means we may have lost something we had come to love. New Yorkers respect the old standards — places and things that have become a part of the city's core identity. What would we do without that reassuring sight of the Lady in the harbor? Or the gleaming spire of the Empire State Building? Or the perfect pizza slice? Or a Sunday in Central Park? Or the rumbling of the train beneath our feet? Or the sounds of jazz from a Village club? So, even though New York is ever-changing — since 2001, we've bid adieu to the Twin Towers, the subway token, Yankee and Shea stadiums, and Tavern on the Green — certain essential features remain the same. And we wouldn't have it any other way.

In the pages that follow, I do my best to guide you to what's fresh and new, without leaving out some beloved standards. I tell you where to find the best that New York has to offer, both on and off the beaten path. But really, what I hope to accomplish is to present New York as simply as possible so that you can decide what paths *you* want to follow during your visit.

About This Book

Maybe this is your first trip to New York, or maybe you're a repeat visitor; in either case, I assume that you want to find out what you need to know, plus a little bit more. But I don't want to overload you with information, which is easy to do when you're talking about New York.

This is both a guidebook *and* a reference book. You can read it cover to cover, or you can jump in anywhere to find the information you want

about a specific task, such as finding a hotel or working out your budget. Whether you're sitting in your living room trying to make a reservation or standing on the corner of 42nd Street and Fifth Avenue wondering where to eat, *New York City For Dummies*, 6th Edition, is set up so that you can quickly get the facts and recommendations you want.

Please be advised that travel information is subject to change at any time — this is especially true of prices. Therefore, I suggest that you write or call ahead to confirm prices and details when making your travel plans. The author, editors, and publisher cannot be held responsible for readers' experiences while traveling. Your safety is important to us, however, so I encourage you to stay alert and be aware of your surroundings. Keep a close eye on cameras, purses, and wallets, all favorite targets of thieves and pickpockets.

Conventions Used in This Book

In this book, I include lists of hotels, restaurants, and attractions. As I describe each, I often include abbreviations for commonly accepted credit cards. Take a look at the following list for an explanation of each.

AE: American Express

DC: Diners Club

DISC: Discover

MC: MasterCard

V: Visa

I've divided the hotels into two categories: my personal picks of the top accommodations the city has to offer and those that don't quite make my preferred list but still get my hearty seal of approval. Don't be shy about considering these "runner-up" hotels if you're unable to get a room at one of my favorites or if your preferences differ from mine — the amenities offered by the runners-up and the services that each provides make all these accommodations good choices to consider as you determine where to rest your head at night.

I also include some general pricing information to help you as you decide where to unpack your bags or dine on the local cuisine. I've used a system of dollar signs to show a range of costs for one night in a hotel (the price refers to a double-occupancy room) or for a meal at a restaurant (included in the cost of each meal is soup or salad, an entree, dessert, and a nonalcoholic drink). Check out the following table to decipher the dollar signs.