



Upper East Side Neighborhood Guide

By Karen Lo



The Upper East Side Neighborhood Guide. Just a few centuries ago, the Upper East Side was mostly farmland — though it didn't take too long for well-to-do families in New York to begin settling the area in the early 1900s, commissioning giant homes that would give the neighborhood its distinctly grand and timeless architecture. The Vanderbilts, Carnegies, Rockefellers, Kennedys, and Roosevelts all had homes on the Upper East Side — mostly mansions facing Central Park — as have other cultural icons like Woody Allen, Spike Lee, Mariah Carey, and Joan Rivers.

Today, the UES still has the occasional mansion (including Gracie Mansion, the official residence of the mayor of New York City), but it's not all white tablecloths and bowties anymore. No matter what tax bracket you fall into, the Upper East Side has a lot to offer — like farm-fresh dining, experimental cocktails, and yes, a few rooms where adherence to the dress code is appreciated, even if not explicitly enforced.

● 9 The Meatball Shop

The Meatball Shop
Upper East Side
1462 2nd Ave (E 76th & 1st Ave)
212.257.6121

This East 70s outpost of Daniel Holzman and Michael Chernow's meatball shop — where you can get carefully sourced, delicious sandwiches made from classic beef, spicy pork, chicken, or veggie meatballs — and any sauce you want (including a spicy meat sauce, in case four meatballs isn't enough) is great for dinner, and even better for a weekend brunch.

On Saturdays and Sundays until 4pm, get the Balls, Biscuits & Gravy: two fried eggs, two biscuits, mushroom gravy, and your meatball of choice, or the Balls Benedict: two poached eggs, hollandaise on brioche toast with a meatball. Important: Don't leave here without an ice cream sandwich.

