l'm not a bot



This article was adapted from National Geographic Traveller (UK). I started running errands here after school and on weekends in 1965, reminisces Billy Mitchell, as he swings open the auditorium doors. And before I knew it, Im meeting all these wonderful people. The Temptations. The Supremes. James Brown and Marvin Gaye took a real liking to me especially Mr Brown. Hed ask how my schoolwork was going. Its a 30C morning in mid-June, but weve escaped the oppressive heat in the cool embrace of the Apollo Veteran and ambassador of nearly 60 years, has seen many times. But as a rookie, Im entranced by the storied space, and by Billys genuine charm; hes met everyone in the music business and yet talks about it with the same kind of casual ease that I might discuss lunch plans. Though he is, after all, a local celebrity in his own right. Hes Mr Apollo.Ive never called myself that you know, Billy continues, but the village of Harlem has chosen to call me that. Im very grateful, of course. The theatre has always been a beacon of pride for this neighbourhood. Harlem, a 45-block stretch from Central Park to 155th Street clipped by Fifth Avenue to the east and the Hudson River to the west isnt somewhere many first-time New York City visitors see. Or even secondtime visitors. But of those who finally do put in the effort to come to this distinctive uptown pocket, most wonder what took them so long. An icon Harlem's cultural scene, the Apollo on W125th Street. Everyone from Jimi Hendrix to Mariah Carey has performed here. Its legendary Amateur Night has long been a springboard for new talent, where names like Ella Fitzgerald and Lauryn Hill were discovered. When the body of James Brown lay in repose here in 2006, people queued for blocks to pay their respects to the Godfather of Soul.Back in the 1930s, this was the only theatre in Harlem Renaissance, the early 20th-century artistic explosion that made this neighbourhood famous as a centre for Black culture. The guys running it were smart. They knew there was going to be a huge migration of African Americans the opportunity and to find jobs, too. When they did move, the theatre gave them a place to be as well as somewhere to perform. Even today, we give African Americans the opportunity and space to grow, experiment, succeed and, if they arent good enough, to fail. The Apollo isnt only a place for entertainment. Billy means that the Apollo is about community. So, evidently, is Harlem. An hour after saying goodbye to him, Im wandering down a tranquil street, with wide pavements, mature trees and soaring brownstone townhouses, not quite believing that Im still in one of the most densely populated cities on the planet. Parks studded with benches, waterfalls and barbecue areas are filled with dog walkers; little cafes buzz with locals sipping lattes. Its a far cry from the dense urbanity outsiders might imagine. Browsing art for sale at the Saturday farmers market at Morningside Park.Photograph by Maria MidesThe good looks are, as is often the case, down to history. In the late 19th and early 20th century, as lower Manhattan development crept northwards, Harlem farmland was transformed into desirable real estate for white middle-class families. But a housing crash meant Black working class families were able to move in instead, close to Downtown and its booming labour market. The Harlem Renaissance followed, led by literary figures including Langston Hughes and artists like Aaron Douglas. Jazz music flourished too, drawing white Manhattanites to the areas many clubs during Prohibition. Even today, New the intimate Bills Place tucked furtively away in the stately brownstones. Wandering further up towards the areas northern reaches, I encounter another unexpected sight: Hamilton, built in 1802 on what was then his 30acre country estate now present-day Harlem. Stepping in from the heavy outdoor heat, Im jolted back 200 years in a haze of wooden sideboards, sculpted busts and polished silverware. The air is stifling, and next to me a woman is fanning herself incessantly, firing pointed questions to the guide about Hamilton. Not the man, but the musical; apparently, visitor numbers to the Grange have seen a dramatic boost ever since the hit Broadway show, inspired by his life, premiered in 2015. As I head outside again, turning back south through St Nicholas Park, I ask another of the guides how many Hamilton fans she thinks stick around to explore the rest of Harlem. Not enough, she responds with a sigh. Sunset view of Harlem from Morningside Heights. Changing HarlemJust 20 minutes later, the park is a leafy memory and I feel the city pressing in. Im down on sun-baked W125th Street, and despite the pulsating summer heat, the park is a leafy memory and I feel the city pressing in. Im down on sun-baked W125th Street, and despite the pulsating summer heat, the park is a leafy memory and I feel the city pressing in. Im down on sun-baked W125th Street, and despite the pulsating summer heat, the park is a leafy memory and I feel the city pressing in. Im down on sun-baked W125th Street, and despite the pulsating summer heat, the park is a leafy memory and I feel the city pressing in. stalls curl through the air. Ahead, cloaked in scaffolding, is the Victoria Theater a sister project to the Apollo, under renovation to become an arts facility. Its just one of many new cultural projects currently underway in Harlem; 2024 will also see the launch of the areas reimagined Studio Museum, a celebration of Black artists. Thats not all I see. As I push through the crowds to Malcolm X Boulevard, I pass adverts for glossy new condos and spot a branch of Whole Foods Market. Harlem property prices are skyrocketing, new people are moving in and as is so often the case locals are being squeezed out. Billy was measured in his comments about the change, noting that Harlem has always been diverse and that it was Dutch, Italian and Jewish before it was African American. But not everyone is as restrained. Passing a church a few blocks south, I pause to take in the words on the large letter board sign: Stop The Gentrification in Harlem is a complicated, multifaceted issue. Its tricky to pinpoint the biggest threat to the established local identity: as the area becomes more affluent, is the real concern Harlems changing class or its changing clour? Aliyyah Baylor, owner of I Like It Black coffee shop on Harlem's W 125th Street. Photograph by Maria MidesIts a fact that Harlems getting whiter. But in turn, there also a growth in new-wave Black-owned businesses that celebrate the street. Photograph by Maria MidesIts a fact that Harlem's W 125th Street. Photograph by Maria MidesIts a fact that Harlem's W 125th Street. Photograph by Maria MidesIts a fact that Harlem's W 125th Street. Photograph by Maria MidesIts a fact that Harlem's W 125th Street. Photograph by Maria MidesIts a fact that Harlem's W 125th Street. Photograph by Maria MidesIts a fact that Harlem's W 125th Street. Photograph by Maria MidesIts a fact that Harlem's W 125th Street. Photograph by Maria MidesIts a fact that Harlem's W 125th Street. Photograph by Maria MidesIts a fact that Harlem's W 125th Street. Photograph by Maria MidesIts a fact that Harlem's W 125th Street. Photograph by Maria MidesIts a fact that Harlem's W 125th Street. Photograph by Maria MidesIts a fact that Harlem's W 125th Street. Photograph by Maria MidesIts a fact that Harlem's W 125th Street. Photograph by Maria MidesIts a fact that Harlem's W 125th Street. Photograph by Maria MidesIts a fact that Harlem's W 125th Street. Photograph by Maria MidesIts a fact that Harlew's W 125th Street. Photograph by Maria MidesIts a fact that Harlew's W 125th Street. Photograph by Maria MidesIts a fact that Harlew's W 125th Street. Photograph by Maria MidesIts a fact that Harlew's W 125th Street. Photograph by Maria MidesIts a fact that Harlew's W 125th Street. Photograph by Maria MidesIts a fact that Harlew's W 125th Street. Photograph by Maria MidesIts a fact that Harlew's W 125th Street. Photograph by Maria MidesIts a fact that Harlew's W 125th Street. Photograph by Maria MidesIts a fact that Harlew's W 125th Street. Photograph by Maria W 125th Street. Photograph by Maria W 125th Street. Photograph by Maria W 125th Stre Harlems unique identity, promoting its culture and keeping money in local pockets. Chic and millennial-friendly, these businesses are turning the area trendy. Ethiopian-Swedish celebrity chef Marcus Samuelsson changed the landscape when he opened his Red Rooster restaurant here in 2010. He believes in the neighbourhood and its culture, and employs locals. His menu of soul food classics cornbread, chicken and waffles, shrimp and grits riffs off the staples served at more retro neighbourhood joints, like Sylvias, a few doors down. Curled up in one of Red Roosters restaurant booths, I devour devilled eggs topped with poboy hummus, crisp pan-fried catfish with black-eyed peas, and, best of all, juicy fried chicken (yardbird, in the restaurants lingo), drizzled in sticky honey. Many smaller businesses shout loud and proud about their Harlem connections. I sink an afternoon pint at Manhattans first 100% African American-owned craft beer bar, Harlem Hops. At Sugar Hill Creamery, I try delicious honey and lavender ice cream crafted by long-time locals Petrushka Bazin Larsen and Nick Larsen.But my favourite discovery comes from the theatre. Standing outside in the heat sipping a gloriously frosty Southern Brew Brazilian dark roast, chicory, cane sugar, milk and plenty of ice I catch owner Aliyyah Baylor loading her van with boxes. Harlem Hops, Manhattans first 100% African American-owned craft beer bar. Photograph by Maria MidesThats my bakery next door, too, she tells me, as I realise those boxes are full of freshly baked cakes, and thats my daughter running the counter. I spy the thick wedges of red velvet and vanilla buttercream in the display cabinet from here and can already
feel my stomach growling again. Ive been making my Southern-style bakes for 25 years in Harlem, but the coffeeshop is new, she tells me with a goodbye wink, before disappearing into the drivers seat. Tomorrow marks the start of Juneteenth long weekend, and shes busy with deliveries. Juneteenth, the American federal holiday that marks the emancipation of enslaved African Americans, is understandably a big deal in Harlem. Taking a final stroll in the late afternoon, I can already feel the fizzing excitement. Released from school, kids dart through the leafy parks, spraying each other with water bottles. Music pours from speakers perched on brownstone stoops. Friends call out to each other in the streets. Tents are erected and aluminium buffet trays line folding tables in anticipation of tomorrows parade where Billy Mitchell himself willact as marshal. As I contemplate the contrast between these friendly boulevards and the anonymity and skyscrapers synonymous with central NYC, I find myself wondering once more if Im really still in Manhattan. But maybe thats just it: despite what the maps say, perhaps Harlem Areally Manhattan. Harlem is Harlem. A vendor sells bags, beads and jewellery sourced from across Africa at the Malcolm Shabazz Harlem Market. Photograph by Maria MidesInsider tipsHarlem is awash with markets. Visit the daily Malcolm Shabazz Harlem Market, selling clothing, instruments and other wares sourced from across Africa. On Saturdays, theres a farmers market in rambling Morningside Park. Or, on the second Thursday of the month (April to November), visit the Uptown Night Market, a trendy food event in West Harlem with more than 50 vendors. Want to see jazz the way Harlem locals do? Besides established spots like Mintons Playhouse and Bills Place, check out the roaming Jazzmobile, which puts on pop-up events throughout the area. Red Rooster, Sylvias and Charles Pan-Fried Chicken are the names that get the most attention but Harlem residents also rate Famous Fish Market a family-owned business set on St Nicholas Avenue since 1974. It does exactly what it says on the tin: fried fish sandwiches, crispy prawns and chips. Getting there & aroundAer Lingus, American Airlines, British Airways, Delta Air Lines, JetBlueand Virgin Atlantic fly direct to New Yorks JFK from UK for UK f terminals including Edinburgh, Gatwick, Heathrow and Manchester. Average flight time: 8h.Harlem is simple to navigate on foot. Its easily reached from other parts of Manhattan using the subway network, which you can pay for using a contactless bank card. If travelling from Downtown, express trains stop at 125th Street and 145th Street. When to goTheres no bad season to visit New York, but from late spring to early autumn youll see Harlem really come to life its parks are lush and theres plenty of al fresco dining and outdoor festivities (especially over Juneteenth, celebrated on 19 June). July and August can get very hot in the city, with temperatures averaging 26C, which can make exploring a bit taxing, while during winter, temperatures can drop below freezing. Where to stayAloft Harlem. From 128, B&B. The Harlem Flophouse. From 209 for two nights, room only. More infoNYC The Official Guide. nycgo.comHarlem Shuffle by Colson Whitehead. RRP: 16.99How to do itAmerica As You Like It has seven nights at the Aloft Harlem, B&B, from 1,653 per person, including return flights.Published in the October 2022 issue of National Geographic Traveller (UK)Follow us on social mediaTwitter | Facebook | Instagram Harlem is currently defined as the area from Central Park North (West 110th Street) to West 155th Street; from Fifth Avenue to the east, westward to a combination of St. Nicholas Avenue and Morningside Avenue. Because the neighborhood is one of the largest in the city (roughly the size of Central Park), it goes through many changes from street to street and from block to block. Yes, there is public housing. But there's also Strivers' Row, the Apollo Theater, and wide, tree-lined avenues. Songs have been sung here, played here, composed here, inspired here ... and that's just the beginning. Much of its history (and historic buildings) are under pressure from gentrification. But there's no doubt that, whatever changes occur, Harlem is a vibrant neighborhood located in the northern part of Manhattan. Known for its rich cultural history, Harlem is home to a diverse population that includes Africans. The neighborhood boasts beautiful historic brownstones and a bustling commercial corridor along 125th Street, which features a variety of restaurants, shops, and entertainment options. Harlem is also home to several cultural institutions, including the Apollo Theater, the Studio Museum in Harlem, and the National Black Theatre. In recent years, Harlem has undergone significant development and gentrification, but efforts have been made to preserve the neighborhood's unique character and history. Harlem, Manhattan is a neighborhood known for its rich history and vibrant culture. The origins of Harlem's name can be traced back to the Dutch settlement of New Amsterdam in the early 17th century. At the time, the area was known as Nieuw Haarlem, named after the Dutch city of Haarlem. The English later anglicized the name to Harlem when they took control of the area in the 1660s. Over the centuries, Harlem has become a cultural hub and is renowned for its contributions to African-American art, music, and literature. Despite facing challenges over the years, Harlem has become a cultural hub and is renowned for its contributions to African-American art, music, and literature. neighborhood located in Upper Manhattan, New York City. It was originally settled by the Dutch in the 17th century, and by the late 1800s, it had become one of the city's most fashionable neighborhoods. During the Harlem Renaissance in the 1920s and 1930s, the area became a center of African American culture, art, and literature. The neighborhood has gone through several transformations over the years, including periods of urban decay and revitalization. Today, it is a vibrant community that is home to a diverse population and is known for its distinctive architecture, music scene, and lively street life. Harlem is a neighborhood in the northern part of Manhattan, New York City. popularly known for its rich cultural history. One of the most prominent landmarks in Harlem is the Apollo Theater, a renowned music venue that has been around since the that has been ar 19th century, and it is popularly known for its gospel music, civil rights activism, and community outreach programs. Then we have the Studio Museum in Harlem Meer is a serene lake located in Central Park, Harlem's southern boundary. It is a favorite spot for fishing, rowing, and strolling around its picturesque surrounding. Harlem is a neighborhood in Manhattan known for its vibrant culture and heritage. It has produced several notable individuals who have made significant contributions in their respective fields. Some of the famous people from Harlem include Langston Hughes, a renowned poet and novelist who was a leading figure in the Harlem Renaissance; Duke Ellington, an iconic jazz pianist and composer; and Maya Angelou, an author, poet, and civil rights leader; and Madame C.J. Walker, an entrepreneur who became the first self-made female millionaire in the United States. Harlem's legendary figures continue to inspire and influence people across the world. Source / Shutterstock Harlem is one of NYCs most historic neighborhoods, rich in culture and lore dating all the way back to the 1920s-30s. Ever since the Harlem Renaissance drove many Black Americans to the area decades ago, its continued to be synonymous with music, literature, dance, art, and African American heritage. Sitting right above Central Park, the neighborhood continues to be buzzing today, welcoming some of the best things to do, see, and eat in Harlem next time you visit. Sylvias Restaurant View this post on Instagram A post shared by Secret NYC (@secret nyc) Step foot into the oldest black-owned restaurant in NYC and the undisputed Queen of Soul Food at Sylvias Restaurant. When we say this place is not only a Harlem institution, but a city-wide one, its true The neighborhood staple has been slinging authentic soul food since 1962, including their beloved menu items like BBQ ribs, chicken and waffles, mac and cheese, and a whole lot more. Having a meal here is like collecting one of the infinity stones of the NYC restaurant gauntlet, and is somewhere you can brag to your friends about. 328 Malcolm X Blvd Reserve a table at Sylvias Restaurant Apollo Theater The Apollo Theater The Apollo Theater is one of the most historic music venues in the history, the theater has launched the careers of legendary artists like Billie Holiday, James Brown, and Stevie Wonder! Nowadays the renowned weekly talent show Amateur Night (which has been around since 1934) continues to encourage Harlems finest to come make a name for themself, as well as hosting other concerts and performances throughout the week. Its the heartbeat of the African American culture and artistic expression that radiates throughout the neighborhood. 253 W 125th St See whats on at Apollo Theater National Jazz Museum in Harlem Source / Shutterstock Harlems rich jazz Museum in Harlem Source / Shutterstock Harlems rich jazz Museum in Harlem Source / Shutterstock Harlems rich jazz Museum in Harlem Source / Shutterstock Harlems rich jazz Museum in Harlem Source / Shutterstock Harlems rich jazz Museum in Harlem Source / Shutterstock Harlems rich jazz Museum in Harlem Source / Shutterstock Harlems rich jazz Museum in Harlem Source / Shutterstock Harlems rich jazz Museum in Harlem Source / Shutterstock Harlems rich jazz Museum in Harlem Source / Shutterstock Harlems rich jazz Museum in Harlem Source / Shutterstock Harlems rich jazz Museum in Harlem Source / Shutterstock Harlems rich jazz Museum in Harlem Source /
Shutterstock Harlems rich jazz Museum in Harlem Source / Shutterstock Harlems rich performances to preserve, promote and present jazz by inspiring knowledge, appreciation and the celebration of jazz locally, nationally and internationally, according to their website. The museum is curated by multi-GRAMMY winning Artistic Directors Jon Batiste and Christian McBride, meaning that every exhibition, event, and collection is carefully thought out to demonstrate the importance of jazz in the neighborhood! 58 W 129th St Learn more about the National Jazz Museum in Harlem Claires serves up favorites like the classic BEC, Western breakfast wraps, and egg sandwiches and emphasizes Mediterranean-inspired bites. Though its a great early-morning pitstop, whats particularly beloved about the eatery is the vibe: its an easy-going place to catch up with friends over coffee and pastries and its ideal for people watching. 19th Saint Nicholas Ave See Claires menu Vinateria (@vinateria hungry. The Black and woman-owned business has quickly become a Harlem staple with a cool twist thanks to the with Spanish influence on Italian dishes. We highly recommend a bowl of the papardelle with lamb ragu trust us! 2211 Frederick Douglass Blvd Explore the menu online Marcus Garvey Park Source / NYC Parks This 20-acre park right in the heart of Harlem is of course named after influential Black nationalist leader Marcus Garvey, and serves as one of the neighborhoods great gathering points! New Yorkers can stroll through the famous park and check out different features like the 47-foot cast-iron fire watchtower and the pair of performance arts stages where various cultural events and concerts (including the famous Black Woodstock in 1969) take place from time to time. Marcus Garvey Park also boasts one of the best outdoor swimming pools in the summertime and one of our favorite playgrounds for kids in the area. 6316 Mt Morris Park W Red Rooster Harlem Acclaimed restauranteur Marcus Samuelsson is behind this one-of-a-kind comfort food; think chicken & waffle, shrimp & grits, mac & cheese, combread, and plenty more. The restaurant also hosts plenty of live jazz and soul performances which pair pleasurably with your meal. We recommend going on Sundays for one of their gospel brunches. 310 Lenox Ave Reserve a table at Red Rooster Harlem Sugar Hill Creamery Whos got a sweet tooth?! Sugar Hill Creamy is one of the best Black-owned ice cream shops in New York City, and their Harlem outpost is a must-hit when were in the area. Theyre famous for making the ice cream shops in Seasonally so be sure to check out whats in store, but trust us its worth dropping by for a scoop! 184 Malcolm X Blvd See Sugar Hill Creamerys flavors Archer & Goat Source / Michael Tulipan This pretty unassuming restaurant inside a Harlem townhouse is worth the rave, and their menu of classic American twists and traditional Latin and South Asian dishes should catch your eye. Archer & Goats cute little dining room adorned with lots of lightbulbs is great for a quick meal, drink with a friend, or post-work catch up. Its a family-owned business so you know everything is made with love and care, including our favorite items the Chicken Vindaloo Arepas, Carne Asada, and Roasted Duck. 187 Malcolm X Blvd Reserve a table at Archer & Goat Sugarmonk Source / Sugarmonk We couldnt make a Harlem guide without a great place to grab a cocktail, and Sugarmonk has our hearts! The lounge vibes are real here and the bartenders are amazing and know your name if you go there enough. Owners Ektoras Binikos and Simon Jutras use their visual arts backgrounds to construct some of those most unique drinks youll ever see, divided by their inspirations. From a gin-based Ugly Beauty to a cognac-based Over the Volcano we promise you wont find another cocktail bar quite like it. 2292 Frederick Douglass Blvd Plan your visit to Sugarmonk The Studio Museum in Harlem (Reopening Soon) Source / Albert Vecerka Bookmark this one for later this year, but The Studio Museum in Harlem is set to reopen in the fall of 2025 after a six-year closure, marking a significant return to the cultural scene. The museums first show will feature a comprehensive presentation of the work of artist, educator, and activist Tom Lloyd, highlighting his electronic sculptures and works on paper from the 1970s and 1980s The museum was founded to address the exclusion of artists of African descent from mainstream art institutions. 144 W 125th St Learn more about the The Studio Museum in Harlems reopening Harlem Uptown Market Source / Uptown Night Market Each summer, Harlems reopening Harlem Uptown Market Source / Uptown Night Market Each summer, Harlems reopening Harlem Uptown Market Source / Uptown yummy food! 2025 marks the 5th annual edition of the festival, which welcomes local small businesses to help amplify the vibrancy of Harlems community, culture, and food. Last year, over 80+ diverse vendors representing over 20 countries were on display and we can expect even more this year! The night market usually takes place on the second Thursday of each month, April to October under the Harlem Arches. 701 W 133rd St Learn more about the Uptown Night Market Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture The breadth of the New York Public Library is well known, but in Harlem it means even more. Specifically the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, which is dedicated to preserving and showcasing the history and culture of people of African descent worldwide. The library dates back to 1925 and today houses over 11 million items spanning history, literature, and so much more. The center is well known for offering extensive resources for research and hosting various cultural events and exhibition; all with a focus on Black cultural expression and historical preservation! 515 Malcolm X Blvd Plan your visit to Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture Hamilton, one of Americas founding fathers, resides in Harlem and the historic house museum is open to visit for New Yorkers! The house, which was initially built back in 1802, serves as a symbol of the key figure in shaping the U.S. government and economy. Over the years, the house has gone through several restorations, and today has a historically furnished interior that offers a glimpse into Hamiltons life and legacy. Its one of the coolest pieces of living history in NYC in our humble opinion, 414 W 141st St Plan your visit to Hamilton Start evident enough guite vet, let us introduce you to Mintons Playhouse, our go-to jazz club in the neighborhood. The legendary venue is known as the birthplace of bebop, a style of jazz that emerged through the clubs late-night jam sessions. They host jazz/dinner shows all the time, welcoming in live music and moody dark ambiance thats next to none in the neighborhood! 206 W 118th St See whats on at Mintons Playhouse Where music, history and soul meetWhenever I have a tour guest ask for a recommendation of a neighborhood to visit while in NYC, I will almost always answer, Harlem! Full disclosure: this is the neighborhood I have called my home for almost all of my adult life. So I am a little biased. But I know that I am not alone in thinking that Harlem is one of the most vibrant neighborhoods in the city, and should not be missed! This post covers things to do in Harlem, NYC. I will include the best things to see and do, where to eat, hear live music, and how to attend a gospel service. Its a ghborhood rich with history, art, architecture, culture andgreat food! (Come to Harlem hungrytrust me on this.) Powered by GetYourGuide Below I will tell you about the places I think one must visit in Harlem. Many of these are stops on our Harlem Walking Tour. I almost always recommend a tour for folks visiting Harlem for the time. It is a massive neighborhood, and there is so much to know about it. A tour will give you the best introduction to the area. In this video, Derrick, a tour guide with us, Tours by Foot NYC, takes you on a virtual walking tour of Central Harlem. PLAN YOUR VISIT Harlem is a neighborhood strongly rooted in Black culture and is known throughout the world for the period called the Harlem Renaissance. If you want to understand African-American history and culture, Harlem is a must-visit neighborhood. It's a place where you can see historic sites and diverse architecture, hear amazing jazz and gospel, taste succulent soul food, and feel the unique vibe that Harlem offers. Historic brownstones line the sidestreets, while along the avenues you may come across a live African-style drumming circle. You can see innovative art and huge murals just a block away from ancient African artifacts. I can't emphasize enough that if you have time in your itinerary, head up to Harlem. I will sometimes hear from visitors that they perceive
the neighborhood as being far away. It really isnt. If you are staying in Midtown, it will take you about as long to get to Harlem as it would to get to Lower Manhattan. There is an express train (the A or D) that can whisk you from Columbus Circle to 125th in 7 minutes! If you don't want to go it alone, join ourHarlem Walking Tour. If you prefer to explore on your own, you can enjoy our GPS-led audio tour, which can be taken at any time of day or night. How to Get Here As I mentioned before, Harlem is a large neighborhood, stretching from the Hudson River to the East River and from 110th to 155th Streets. Take a look at the map below to see just how HUGE Harlem is. But Harlem is made up of smaller, mini-neighborhoods, each with its own vibe. Some streets are bustling with restaurants, bars, and shopping while others are entirely residential. The areas most people think of in Harlem are in what we would call Central Harlem. 125th Street is like the Main Street of Central Harlem and many places I recommend you see are on and around this Street. A good place to start your exploration is at 125th Street and Lenox Avenue. Use thisGoogle mapto get directions from your point of departure. By subway Take the 4, 5, or 6 trains to 125th Street and then either take a taxi or a bus Westbound to 8th Avenue/Frederick Douglass Boulevard New to NYC's subway system? See our posts on how to master the subway and tips on choosing the right MetroCard, By bus M1, M7, M102, M103, M104, M104, M103, M104, M104, M103, M104, M104, M103, M104, M104, M103, M104, outdoors. The weekends are the liveliest, both day and night. During the peak tourist season, you may find that restaurants, jazz clubs, museums, and historic sites are a bit more crowded than on weekdays. Sunday is the busiest day of the week in Harlem as locals are out and about, enjoying brunch, shopping, and for many, going to church. I think visiting on a Sunday gives you one of the best snapshots of the neighborhood, but please remember that it is also very crowded. The streets will be full, and there will likely be wait times at restaurants, especially in the hours after church services. IS HARLEM SAFE TO VISIT? I get this question a lot from my tour guests on other tours who are curious about Harlem. I understand why they ask and am never offended. The neighborhood had a reputation for not being safe at one point. However, that time was quite a while ago. Usually, when I am asked this question, my answer is simple: I have lived in this area for nearly two decades, and have never had a safety issue. For those who want a more detailed answer, I recommend reading our post, Is Harlem Safe? The reputation Harlem once had as a dangerous neighborhood is no longer the case. If you are new to NYC, I suggest you follow these guidelines: 1) Use the same precautions you would when visiting any other New York City neighborhood. Keep your eyes on your bags and pockets as a precaution. 2) Feel free to ask locals for directions if you are lost. Most people are friendly, just like in other parts of the city. Note that not all locals are thrilled that their neighborhood has become a tourist destination. Still, it is unlikely that you will have any negative interactions. 3) As everywhere in NYC at night, pay attention to your surroundings Walk on well-lit, populated streets when possible. 4) I have seen people say to avoid parks in Harlem at night. I mostly see others out doing the same. For visitors though, you may feel more comfortable avoiding these areas very late at night. Besides, they are better to visit during the day anyway! TOP 13 ATTRACTIONS AND THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN HARLEM Here is a list of what I think are the best things to do in and around Central Harlem. Throughout the year there are some special events, so I've included those as well. Everything on the list isfamilyfriendly. Most are free (my favorite price) or affordable, which is just how I like it! Click the map to open an interactive version. Also, I've included some things you might want to check out beyond Central Harlem. Take a Walking Tourthat stops at more sites than covered in this post. You'll be entertained and educated by one of our personable and knowledgeable guides who'll tell you stories of Harlem's past and present. If you can't join our Harlem tour of Harlem. See all our tour offerings on this calendar. Apollo Theater 253 West 125th St bet. Frederick Douglass Blvd. and Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd. If people know one thing about Harlem, it is usually the Apollo! The world-famous Apollo Theater has been a staple in the Harlem community since 1934 and has featured giant musical entertainers for generations. The list is endless! Performers over the decades include Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespiece (1934) and has featured giant musical entertainers for generations. Count Basie, Ray Charles, Aretha Franklin, and James Brown. Apollo's famous Amateur Night showcases emerging singers, bands, comedians, and dancers from all backgrounds. The audience does not hesitate to boo someone off the stages if they are terrible. I always tell people that Amateur Night will probably be unlike any live show they have ever attended! Many Amateur Night include Stevie Wonder, Michael Jackson, and Lauryn Hill. Amateur night is on Wednesday nights at 7:30 pm. You can also see other shows at the Apollo. (See our Nightlife section below). Amateur Night is the ultimate Apollo experience, but if you can swing it, I also highly recommend their tours. The tour guide is Billy Mitchell- he has only ever worked in one place in his life: The Apollo Theater! He started as a young teenager in 1965 and has been there ever since. His stories are UNREAL. I have a picture with him from when I was 16 years old, taking a tour with a school group. If you have an opportunity to do this tour: take it. You will not regret it. Read more about the Apollo Theater here. Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture 515 Malcolm X Blvd. This unique public library is located in the heart of Harlem and is also where we begin ourHarlem Walking Tour. The Schomberg opened in 1925 and has become one of the world's top institutions devoted to the research, preservation, and exhibition of materials focused on African American, African Experiences. They have over 10 million objects, artifacts, documents, recordings, art pieces, and more. The main floor has rotating exhibitions that are always interesting and free to see. Click here for more information. The rotating exhibitions that moment. Special events, readings, and lectures are scheduled regularly. The topics range from Educational Injustice & the Struggle for Liberatory Education and When Sugar Hill Was Sweet: A Womans Work Is Never Done. Sylvia's Restaurant 328 Malcolm X Blvd. at 127th St. Looking for a great place to eat in Harlem? A popular yet affordable place thats rich in culture and history? When people think of Sylvias. For good reason- this place is iconic. View this post on Instagram A post shared by Rob Ridner (@ridner) The late founder, Sylvia's, clickhere. For other restaurants, see our Where to Eatsection below. Also, check out our post onSoul Food in Harlem. National Jazz Museum 58 West 129th St. at Malcolm X Blvd. This Smithsonian-affiliated museum is just a few streets north of Sylvia's. It is a small museum, but for Jazz fans, you will leave feeling very satisfied. While they have access to the Smithsonian's filiated museum is just a few streets north of Sylvia's. It is a small museum for Jazz fans, you will leave feeling very satisfied. While they have access to the Smithsonian's filiated museum is just a few streets north of Sylvia's. It is a small museum for Jazz fans, you will leave feeling very satisfied. While they have access to the Smithsonian's filiated museum for Jazz fans, you will be access to the Smithsonian's filiated museum for Jazz fans, you will be access to the Smithsonian's filiated museum for Jazz fans, you will be access to the Smithsonian's filiated museum for Jazz fans, you will be access to the Smithsonian's filiated museum for Jazz fans, you will be access to the Smithsonian's filiated museum for Jazz fans, you will be access to the Smithsonian's filiated museum for Jazz fans, you will be access to the Smithsonian's filiated museum for Jazz fans, you will be access to the Smithsonian's filiated museum for Jazz fans, you will be access to the Smithsonian's filiated museum for Jazz fans, you will be access for the Smithsonian's filiated museum for Jazz fans, you will be access for the Smithsonian's filiated museum for Jazz fans, you will be access for the Smithsonian's filiated museum for Jazz fans, you will be access for the Smithsonian's filiated museum for Jazz fans, you will be access for the Smithsonian's filiated museum for Jazz fans, you will be accessed with the smithsonian's filiated museum for Jazz fans, you will be accessed with the smithsonian's filiated museum for Jazz fans, you will be accessed with the smithsonian's filiated museum for Jazz fans, you will be accessed with the smithsonian's filiated museum for Jazz fans, you will b Jazz Collection, this museum prefers to keep jazz thriving through lectures, discussions, and live performances. You can listen to hundreds of historical recordings not found anywhere else in the world. I recommend you bring wired headphones to listen to the collections at the listening stations. If you don't have your own, you can purchase earbuds at the musical instruments from jazz legends, original sheet music and posters. Take the time to talk to the docents and you will have a richer experience. The museum is open Thursdays-Saturdays from 12 pm to 5 pm. Admission is free, but they do ask for a suggested donation of \$10. Donations must be made through contactless payment so have a credit or debit card with you. See their website for more information. Abyssinian Baptist Church 132 W 138th St. The congregation that calls
this gorgeous church home was founded in 1808. The building was built in 192223 in the Gothic Revival and Tudor Revival styles One of its most famous leaders was Reverend Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., one of Americas first civil rights activists. The Abyssinian Baptist Church is a popular place for visitors to take in a gospel service- with good reason! It is a church with a lot of history and their choir is amazing. However, it is one of the more crowded spots, in terms of people trying to experience a gospel service. If you arent up for waiting in line or dealing with crowds, you may want to consider another church. To find other locations to witness a gospel church service. Gospel Music in New York City. That post details some must-know etiquette to follow when visiting these churches. Check Out Harlem's Murals, I think Harlem is one of the top places to see street art in NYC. At 229 W. 135th Street between Adam Clayton Powell Jr. and Frederick Douglass Boulevards, you can see the larger-than-life jazz legend Dizzy Gillespie, who made his name in Harlem during the Harlem Renaissance. We stop at many of these murals on our tours of Harlem. Taking one is a great way to ensure that you see the highlights! While a lot of murals are on main thoroughfares, some are a bit more tucked away, so it is helpful to have a guide! Keep an eye out on the 125th Street subway platform on the 2 and 3 subway lines where glass mosaic murals depict Harlem legends and famous Harlem locations. TIP: The Graffiti Hall of Fame, inside a playground at Park Avenue and E. 106 Street is pretty cool if you have the time to walk over. Strivers Row West 138th St. and West 139th St. bet. Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd. and Frederick Douglass Blvd. I love Strivers' Row, a small, historic set of houses built in 1891. The architecture is gorgeous, and the history is fascinating! Some of the most famous names of the Harlem Renaissance lived in these homes. One special thing about Strivers' Row is the different styles of buildings you will see within just two blocks. On the north side of West 138th Street and the south side of 139th St, the houses are entirely different, made of yellow brick and brown, Italian Renaissance-style of 139th St features dark brown, Italian Renaissance-style of 139th St features dark brown, Italian Renaissance-style of 139th St features dark brown, Italian Renaissance-style of West 138th Street, you can find red-brick and brown for the south side of 139th St features dark brown, Italian Renaissance-style of 139th St features dark brown, Italian Renaissance-style of West 138th Street, you can find red-brick and brown for the south side of 139th St features dark brown, Italian Renaissance-style of West 138th Street, you can find red-brick and brown for the south side of 139th St features dark brown, Italian Renaissance-style of West 138th Street, you can find red-brick and brown for the south side of 139th St features dark brown, Italian Renaissance-style of West 138th Street, you can find red-brick and brown for the south side of 139th St features dark brown, Italian Renaissance-style of 139th St features dark brown for the south side of 139th St features dark brown for the south side of 139th St features dark brown for the south side of 139th St features dark brown for the south side of 139th St features dark brown for the south side of 139th St features dark brown for the south side of 139th St features dark brown for the south side of 139th St features dark brown for the south side of 139th St features dark brown for the south side of 139th St features dark brown for the south side of 139th St features dark brown for the south side of 139th St features dark brown for the south side of 139th St features dark brown for the south side of 139th St features dark brown for the south side of 139th St features dark brown for the south side of 139th St features dark brown for the south side of 139th St features dark brown for the south side of 139th St features dark brown for the south side of 139th St features dark brown for the south houses designed by the famous architect Stanford White. Strivers Row was essentially a planned community, so the different styles were by design: the project hired three architects with their own preferred styles. Something to keep an eye out for are the plots of land between some of the houses, often with ornate iron gates in front. These were stable mews for the horses to drive carriages - there weren't cars in 1891. This gives the homeowners today a lot more breathing room between some houses played in the growth of distinct socioeconomic classes among the African-American residents of Harlem. Studio Museum 429 West 127th Street bet. Amsterdam and Convent Avenues. This is a contemporary art museum devoted to African-American artists of the 19th and 20th centuries. It curates work from emerging black artists and has both a permanent location at 125th Street is closed as they renovate and expand the museum. The work is expected to be done by Fall 2025. Until then you can visit Studio Museum 127, a temporary programming space between Thursdays through Sundays, from 12 to 6 pm. Checktheir website for schedules of exhibitions and other exciting initiatives. Hotel Theresa On the corner of 125th Street/Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd. Built in 1912-13, the Hotel Theresa was a major social hub in Harlem. The building itself isn't what's special. What's special is what took place inside. View this post on Instagram A post shared by E Alfil Trece (@ealfiltre) Among its guests over the years are Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and Fidel Castro - who had his 'friend' Nikita Krushev over while he was visiting New York from the USSR! The building today is an office bui West & Madison Avenue Marcus Garvey Park has something for everyone. You can often find live music, plays, and comedy performances put on in the parks amphitheater. For those traveling with kids, there are two playgrounds as well as a pool to cool off in on summer days. View this post on Instagram A post shared by Bryan Hopping (@hopping.bryan) I have to give a shoutout to Classical Theatre of Harlem! Central Park isnt the only place to catch amazing Shakespeare outside in NYC. Marcus Garvey Park hosts this company every year. Summer 2024 saw a production of A Midsummer Nights Dream set during the Harlem? neighborhood all through the year. See the park'swebsite for events, hours, and amenities. The Cotton Club opened in 1920, at the height of Harlems jazz scene. Prohibition had been enacted that year and the country went dry The Cotton Club opened in 1920, at the height of Harlems jazz scene. Prohibition had been enacted that year and the country went dry The Cotton Club opened in 1920, at the height of Harlems jazz scene. entertainment and bootleg alcohol. Over the years jazz musicians like Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway and Louis Armstrong played here. The original Cotton Club is still swinging today. You can enjoy a range of music, from jazz to gospel, while eating lunch or dinner. The club is at 656 W. 125th St. See the Cotton Club website for more information. The Langston Hughes House The renowned African-American poet Langston Hughes was one of the most important figures during the Harlem Renaissance era. In 1951, he wrote the deeply moving poem Harlem, better known as A Dream Deferred. Hughes lived in Harlem for the last 20 years of his life. He died in 1967 and in 1980 his residence at 20 E. 127th St. was given landmark status. Today, his apartment is open to the public to visit and pay tribute. Also, in the building is the I, Too Arts Collective at the Langston Hughes House, a non-profit that offers poetry readings. EVENTS IN HARLEM Here are a few of the best events to check out throughout the year. Harlem Week is a month-long and takes place annually (usually the last week in July to the last week in August). There are dozens of events on its website calendar including dance performances and classes. Most are free or very affordable. Annual Christmas Showby the Harlem, see our post about things to do in New York City and our monthly posts about things to do in the city. BEYOND CENTRAL HARLEM Central Park The northern section of Central Park is located on the southern border of Harlem and is less frequented by tourists. I have to say that they are missing out! This is my favorite part of the park. The North Woods is one of the few places in Manhattan where you can truly forget that you are in the middle of a city. It gives you the feel of the Adirondacks, with forests, hills, and waterfalls. There are flora and fauna and birds not found in other parts of the park. View this post on Instagram A post shared by Cesar (@cg2017) In the Autumn you can see the colorful leaves and in Spring, see the new blossoms. Plus, you'll find some great playgrounds. You can fish in Harlem Meer in the summer (catch and release) and swim in the pool. In the winter you can go ice-skating at Lasker Rink. NOTE: The Lasker Rink and the pool at Harlem Meer is closed until 2025 when a three-year \$160 million renovation of Harlem Meer is closed until 2025 when a three-year \$160 million renovation of Harlem Meer is closed until 2025 when a three-year \$160 million renovation of Harlem Meer will be AMAZING when it reopens. I cant wait! For more about the north section of Central Park, take a look at the maps on our postaboutfree tours and activities in Central Park. Alexander Hamilton Grange National Memorial 414 West 141st bet. Convent and St Nicholas Avenues. (family-friendly) This historic house dating from 1802 is in Hamilton Heights, part of North Harlem. The house's first owner was Alexander Hamilton, one of the most significant individuals in America's Founding Fathers, as well as the founder of the U.S. Treasury system. You can see him on the \$10 bill and now the subject of a hit Broadway musical! At the Grange home, you can see historically furnished
rooms either on a ranger-guided tour and talk or on your own. For a brief period, I lived across the street from the Grange and I thought it was the coolest thing to have Alexander Hamiltons house as a neighbor. If you are a history buff or a fan of the musical I would say this is a must-see. See the website for more information It's free to visit. TIP: Find out how to get \$20 tickets to Hamilton, the Broadway show! General Ulysses S. Grant National Memorial 122nd St and Riverside Drive More widely known asGrant's Tomb, this is the largest mausoleum in the United States. You can explore the inside of the large impressive stone monument, with occasional access to the crypt. There are reliquary rooms on the main floor with Civil War artifacts, a visitors center, a gift shop, and a public restroom. It's free to visit. Museum is dedicated to preserving and showcasing New York City's history through exhibits of all kinds in addition to its permanent collection. This is one I visit over and over again. Because the exhibits are constantly changing, this museum never gets old. My personal favorite was an exhibit about the New York City Marathon. I visited the year I was running, and knowing the incredible history made the experience so much better come race day! The museum is also fun for kids as well with special educational programs. You can find more information on the website. Free entry with suggested admission. El Museo del Barrio 1230 Fifth Avenue at 104th St. This museum is the only museum in NYC that showcases Latino cultures so extensively. You can see works by artists of Puerto Rican, Caribbean and Latin American heritage. They also host cultural festivities, youth, and educational programming, and literary discussions. View this post on Instagram A post shared by Fab. (@thephotofab) Click here for more information. Free with suggested admission. TIP:See what other museums are free in NYC. There are dozens! PLACES TO EAT & SHOP IN HARLEM Here are a few restaurants that I and my fellow guides enjoy a lot and recommend to our tour guests looking for places to try soul food. Beneath this list, I recommend some authentic shops for goods unique to Harlem. To learn a bit about the history of this fabulous cuisine, read our post on Soul Food in Harlem. Sylvias House of Soul Food328 Malcolm X Blvd. at 127th St. Decades-old and world-famous, Harlem would not be the same without this restaurant. View this post on Instagram A post shared by Rob Ridner (@ridner) To learn more about this iconic Harlem restaurant click here. Amy Ruth's Restaurant 116th Street & Lenox Avenue (Malcolm X Blvd.) Though not as famous as Sylvias, Amy Ruths is the real deal in every way. No frills, just great food. The chicken and waffles is a specialty here, but you cant go wrong with anything here. These are the dishes that original owner Carl Redding learned to make from his grandmother: Amy Ruths is the real deal in every way. No frills, just great food. The chicken and waffles is a specialty here, but you cant go wrong with anything here. mix of traditional American food and diverse culinary appeals to the New Harlem" scene. The chef is award-winning chef Marcus Samuelsson, who also was the chef for the first State Dinner of the Obama administration. The fried chicken is a must-have. I recommend Red Rooster to anyone looking for a soul food experience in a cool, modern atmosphere. Melba's American Comfort Food300 West 114th St. This attractive establishment stands out with its charming church pews sitting out front. This is one of the smaller restaurants in Harlem and seating is limited. If you can swing it though, I highly recommend this one! I live just a few blocks away, so this is a go-to for me. I have never had anything here that wasnt delicious, and I will often bring my own out-of-town quests here. Check out the Southern Fried Chicken & Eggnog Waffles featured on the Food Network. Bonus: Tuesday is live music night! Londel's2620 Frederick Douglass Blvd. Authentic Harlem food, although a bit more expensive than other places. But they have live music, so the extra money is worth it. Miss Mamies Spoonbread Too 366 W 110th St. Spoonbread is a corn-meal-based dish that resembles corn-meal-based dish that resembles corn-meal souffle. Think Yorkshire pudding. Delicious indeed. Norma Darden has been 'making it delicious and soulful' since 1997. Make My Cake 121 St Nicholas Ave and also 2380 Adam Clayton Powell Blvd. I have the biggest sweet tooth and Make My Cake has been a favorite for years. Several of my birthday cakes have been from here. They used to have a location a couple of blocks from me. On gray days, I would wander over and see what was in the case. A cupcake makes any day brighter! Levain Bakery 2167 Frederick Douglass Blvd (at Eighth Ave) Levain Bakery is a must for those who love chocolate chip cookies. The famous 6 oz. giant Chocolate Chip Walnut and Dark Chocolate cookies are sublime. You can ask for your cookie to be warmed up for an extra gooey experience. I live right upstairs from this bakery and it is both the best and worst thing in the world. Best: obvious reasons. I can have these any time I want. Worst: 6 oz cookies are not something you should have all the time. And I have to walk right by the door every day. Yatenga Bistro 2269 Adam Clayton Powell Blvd. Yatenga is located in the heart of Harlem and has a very rustic look with matched chairs and festive statues for sale. The mac and cheese is a huge favorite! They have outdoor seating, which is a treat in nice weather. Shopping in Harlem 125th Street The main shopping area in Harlem 125th Street The main shopping area in Harlem. community. Malcolm Shabazz Harlem Market 52 West 116th St. just east of Malcolm X Boulevard (Lenox Avenue). Traditional African crafts and textiles, carved wooden figurines, wooden baskets, drums, handmade African-style apparel for men, women, and children, and more. Harlem Haberdashery 245 Lenox Avenue between 122nd & 123rd Stree This fashion at this upscale mens boutique is inspired by the rich cultural history and unique style of the Harlem Renaissance integrated into a future-forward exclusive design. NiLu Gift Shop 191 Malcolm X Blvd Beautiful unique gifts from books, paper gods, candles and soaps, accessories, home decor and more. Black-owned since 2015. Harlem Chocolate Factory 2363 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd. Handcrafted Artisan Chocolates in Harlem. NIGHTLIFE IN HARLEM Be sure to also check out our post on things to do at night in NYC. Apollo Theater253 West 125th Street There is no lack of live performances at the Apollo. You can see comedy, music, dance, theater, and more. See their calendar here. Don't forget you can go see Amateur Night At The Apollo. Harlem Tavern2153 Frederick Douglass Blvd (at 116th St) Of any place on this list, this is my true go-to. I live just around the corner and have been coming here since it opened. I remember when this lot was a gas station! What I love most about Harlem Tavern is that it manages to be so many things, depending on the day. Sundays, it is a chill brunch spot with jazz and a true neighborhood feel. In the evening it is a bustling happy hour spot, with live music some nights. During major sporting events, it is a rancous, fun sports bar. The menu is broad enough to please most people, and it is one of the best places to eat outside in nice weather. Shrine World Music Venue2271 Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard This is the place I recommend the most for music lovers. There is no cover charge to see great live music. You'll hear genres such as Hip Hop, African, and the Caribbean. Be sure to check the Shrines website for the musical performance schedule. Bill's Place148 W 133rd St. A visit here is like seeing great live jazz in a friends basement. It is intimate, informal, and incredible. You pay only the cover charge of \$20 per person (cash only). You can bring in your own drinks, wine, etc. as well as snacks. Make reservations ahead of time for this only in New York" experience. View this post on Instagram A post shared by Erin Durkin (@erinmdurkin) Silvana 300 W 116th St Silvana offers the same diverse musical lineup you would find at Shrine. (In fact, they are operated by the same name. The cafe has amazing food as well! I eat here at least once a week. Silvana offers live music every night of the week. After the live music is over, the party doesnt stop! There are typically 3-4 live acts, followed by a DJ that goes until 4 am. Silvana has a very cool, speakeasy feel to it, and is decorated to evoke the atmosphere of a Middle Eastern market. Harlem Nights 2361 Adam Clayton Powell Jr Blvd (138th Street) A cozy neighborhood bar with live music most nights, of many genres, including jazz, Latino, singer/songwriter music, and more. Its a very welcoming atmosphere with playful cocktails and small plates of food. The Cotton Club 656 W. 125th St. See live music at this iconic Harlem establishment that opened in 1920. Sip on classic a cocktail like Mai-Tais and Cosmopolitans. They also have a full menu for lunch and dinner. Music ranges from jazz, blues, and gospel. GOSPEL SERVICES There is no shortage of Harlem gospel tours. Before booking a tour, be sure to read our post, Where to Hear Gospel Music for New York for Free. You could also find guided tours on that page. TIPS FROM LOCALS AND TRAVELERS As a local, I have my favorite spots in Harlem! But my favorites may not be yours, so we like to share suggestions from members of our New York Travel Tips Facebook group. Here are a few recommendations. We had a lot of locals chime in with their suggestions for sights that must be seen in Harlem. Most are from our list above. Bruce has it all covered - and threw in City College. Founded in 1847, City College has a gorgeous campus with five landmark Neo-Gothic buildings. Its a bit of a hike from Central Harlem, so we dont include it in this post, but if you are curious read about it here. Like
Bruce, Barbara also recommends the Schomburg Center and Revolution Bookshop. Lit lovers will enjoy this aspect of Harlem. Rosa, a Harlem local suggests a visit to the Jazz Museum, one of our top 13 list! She goes on to mention Astor Row, where youll see more than 20 three-story red brick houses built in the early 1880s. If you like architecture mixed with history, take a stroll over to these houses. Anina liked simply walking around Harlem admiring the brownstones, seeing locals coming from church on a Sunday, and shopping at the Malcolm Shabazz Market. And she offers a great tip. Wear comfortable shoes if youll be doing so much walking! Here Sandra adds a second vote for the Malcolm Shabazz Market and also mentions the lovely Harlem Meer in Central Park. These group members stayed in Harlem and found that there were a lot of local cultural events like free jazz concerts and even Shakespeare performances. Several group members spent their time in Harlem combining a meal at Red Rooster with a musical performance. Rave reviews all around! In Dawns case, she combined her meal with a visit to hear gospel music. You can switch it up at night by following a meal at Red Rooster with a show at the Apollo. As for other restaurants, two of our favorites, Sylvia's and Amy Ruth's, were the most often mentioned restaurants. There was plenty of enthusiasm among our group members about going to the Apollo Theater, in particular Amateur Night. Like the group members above, Dorothy recommends tacking on a meal at Sylvias. If you have more questions about Harlem (or anything else about NYC) that we haven't covered here, check out our New York Travel Tips Facebook group! Harlem, located in northern Manhattan, is a neighbourhood rich in history, culture and music, and is a must-see for visitors to New York. It is known for being the centre of the Harlem Renaissance in the 1920s, a cultural movement that showcased African-American artistic talent and shaped the neighbourhoods culture. Today, Harlem continues to thrive thanks to its cultural institutions, musical heritage and authentic cuisine. New York whose history is intimately linked to that of African-American culture, as well as to the social and political evolution of the city. Located on the north side of Manhattan, Harlem has undergone several significant phases, notably as a refuge for different communities over the centuries. Originally founded by Dutch settlers in the 17th century, Harlem has evolved over the centuries to become a major cultural centre. In the early 20th century, the massive influx of African-Americans during the Great Migration transformed Harlem into a hotbed of intellectual, artistic and musical life, giving rise to what became known as the Harlem Renaissance in the 1920s and 1930s. This movement sent African-American literature, music and art around the world, with iconic figures such as theApollo Theater, famous for launching the careers of many jazz and soul legends, or the Studio Museum in Harlem, which showcases contemporary art from the African diaspora. Harlems rich history is also reflected in its architecture, notably on Strivers Row, and in religious institutions such as the Abyssinian Baptist Church, one of the oldest African-American churches in the city. decline, the district managed to reinvent itself from the 1990s onwards and was reborn as a dynamic centre, while remaining a strong symbol of African-American identity. When you stroll through Harlem, you will discover not only a neighbourhood marked by history, but also a place where creativity and culture continue to flourish. Visit Harlem: one-hour walking tour Heres an itinerary for visiting Harlems main places of interest while optimising your route. The idea is to start in the north and gradually work your way south. exploring the sites in a fluid way. This itinerary can be done in a day if youre prepared to walk or take public transport, while enjoying breaks in restaurants or parks. Hamilton Grange is the former home of Alexander Hamilton, one of the Founding Fathers of the United States. This restored house is a museum where visitors can learn more about Hamiltons life and his influence on the founding of the country. avenues is famous for its elegant townhouses, built in the late 19th century. Strivers Row reflects the architectural richness of Harlem and embodies one of the symbols of the upward mobility of the African-American community at that time. spiritual and community centre for many residents. Visitors are invited to attend a gospel service, a deeply emotional and musical experience that attracts many tourists. The Schomburg Library is an invaluable resource for those interested in learning more about African-American history and culture. It contains a vast collection of documents, rare books and historical objects relating to the history of Africans in America. The Studio Museum is dedicated to contemporary art by African American and African American and African American community. The Apollo Theater is one of the most famous theatres in the world. This historic theatre has launched the careers of many music legends, including Ella Fitzgerald, James Brown and Michael Jackson. Music fans should definitely attend one of the legendary Amateur Night evenings to experience the unique atmosphere of this iconic venue. This historic jazz club is known as the birthplace of bebop, an innovative jazz style of the 1940s. Many jazz legends, including Thelonious Monk and Charlie Parker, have played here. A great way to end your day, this jazz club is perfect for an evening of live music. Eating in Harlem is an authentic experience that reflects the soul of the district, blending culinary traditions with modern creativity. The district is the birthplace of soul food, a comfort cuisine rooted in traditional African-American dishes, with rich, generous flavours. As you stroll around, youll discover restaurants that offer not only classics like fried chicken or macaroni and cheese, but also more contemporary establishments that revisit these recipes with a modern twist. Harlem is also home to a diverse culinary scene, influenced by Caribbean, African and Latin cultures, which blends harmoniously with local dishes, creating a gastronomic offering as vibrant as the neighbourhood itself. Whether youre looking for a quick meal, a friendly atmosphere or more refined cuisine, youll find plenty to tantalise your taste buds in Harlem while immersing yourself in the history and culture of the neighbourhood. 6 recommended gournet stops in Harlem Restaurant serving authentic Yemeni cuisine, offering a unique blend of spicy and comforting flavours in a warm and friendly atmosphere in the heart of the neighbourhood. 377 W 125th St, New York A restaurant offering traditional Ethiopian cuisine with flavoursome and spicy dishes, served in a warm and authentic atmosphere, ideal for an immersive culinary experience.2288 Frederick Douglass Blvd, New York Sleeping in Harlem is a great option for visitors who want to discover New York while enjoying a neighbourhood rich in history and culture. Harlem offers a range of accommodation to suit different budgets, from modern boutique hotels to charming bed and breakfasts nestled in historic brownstones. The area is popular for its friendly atmosphere and generally more affordable prices than tourist areas such as Midtown or Times Square. location, but are often more affordable than in other parts of Manhattan. Youll be able to find value for money options while still enjoying the same high standards of comfort and service. If youre looking for a more local experience, some hostels and small hotels offer a friendly, authentic atmosphere. Harlem is also well served by public transport, with several metro lines connecting you easily to New Yorks main attractions. Lines A, B, C, D, 2 and 3 take you quickly to areas such as Times Square, Central Park and Lower Manhattan. Harlems proximity to transport makes it an excellent base for exploring the whole city, as well as offering a peaceful retreat at the end of the day. In short, Harlem is an ideal option for travellers looking for an immersive stay, offering good value for money, immersion in a culturally vibrant neighbourhood, and quick connectivity to other parts of the city. 2 recommended hotels in Harlem Contemporary hotel with a trendy design, located just a few steps from the districts emblematic cultural and musical attractions, offering a friendly atmosphere and modern comfort. Elegant modern hotel located in the heart of Harlem, offering a luxurious and refined setting with easy access to the areas iconic cultural sites. Is Harlem a dangerous area? Harlem 20th century, has changed considerably over the years. Today, Harlem is a revitalised neighbourhood with a vibrant cultural scene, popular restaurants and a welcoming local community. As in any big city, some parts of Harlem can be busier than others, but most of the areas frequented by tourists, such as those around the Apollo Theater, the Studio Museum and 125th Street, are safe and well-monitored. You are still advised to exercise the same caution as everywhere else in New York, avoiding dimly-lit streets at night and remaining vigilant in less-frequented areas. Thanks to efforts to improve infrastructure and security, Harlem is now a neighbourhood that many visitors enjoy for its cultural heritage and authentic atmosphere, without having to worry too much about their safety. What day should you visit Harlem? For an authentic and enriching experience, taking part in a guided gospel tour of Harlem is highly recommended. taking place mainly on Wednesdays and Sundays. Sundays are particularly popular, as the churches are busier and the atmosphere more festive. It is advisable to book in advance, given the popularity of these events. As well as the Mapolo Theater, famous for its role in Harlems musical history. These guided tours, often offered in
French, reveal both the cultural richness of the neighbourhood and the emotional power of gospel singing. Midtown represents the very essence of what visitors imagine when they think of New York. This iconic district, located between 34th Street and 59th Street, is the nerve centre of SoHo, an acronym for South of Houston Street, is one of Manhattans most iconic neighbourhoods. Known for its cobbled streets, elegant cast-iron buildings and vibrant atmosphere, it attracts art lovers The Financial District, or FiDi, is the historic and financial heart of New York. Located at the southern tip of Manhattan, this iconic district embodies both the citys colonial heritage New Yorks Chinatown is one of the citys most authentic and colourful neighbourhoods. Located in the heart of Manhattan between Chinatown and Soho. This historic district, once the centre of the citys Italian South Street Seaport is a friendly neighbourhood in Lower Manhattan, an iconic place that combines New Yorks maritime history with modern attractions. The presence of the old port and some

Harlem line timetable. What train goes to harlem. Metro north harlem line train schedule today. Metro north train schedule harlem line map pdf. Harlem.train line. Does the a train go to harlem. Harlem line. Metro north train schedule harlem line. Harlem line tsw. Harlem line schedule.