

Big Apple Greeter welcomes you to New York City!



Big Apple Greeter
New York City

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The Big Apple Greeter Guide to

Washington Heights

DOMINATED BY THE MIGHTY GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE, Washington Heights today is the epicenter of Dominican business and culture in the United States. It is also the home to respected historical sites and has a long history in the annals of baseball.

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SPECTACULAR VIEWS

FINE ARTS

Where is Washington Heights?

Located in the northern reaches of Manhattan, Washington Heights is bordered on the south by 155th Street and on the north by Fairview Avenue. Its western border is the Hudson River and its eastern border is the Harlem River.

About Washington Heights

Onetime home to the famed Polo Grounds, Washington Heights was once home to five clubs in American professional sports. Although the baseball and football teams have moved to different venues, Washington Heights is still identified with collegiate and non-professional sports, including track and field, mountain bike racing and competitive swimming.

It's Easy to Get to Washington Heights

M **BY SUBWAY:** 1 train to 157th, 168th, 181st or 191st Streets. C train to 155th, 163rd or 168th Streets.

A train to 168th, 175th, 181st or 190th Streets.

BY BUS: Bus lines that service Washington Heights include the **M2, M3, M4, M5, M10, M18, M100** and **M101**.

Things to See and Do in Washington Heights

1 **AUDUBON TERRACE HISTORIC DISTRICT** located west of Broadway between W. 155th and W. 156th Streets is a landmark complex containing some of the finest examples of Beaux Arts buildings in the city. The district contains several cultural institutions and

is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Included within the “campus” are the Hispanic Society of America, the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the Church of Our Lady of Esperanza.

GREETER'S SECRET:
Washington Heights is home to respected institutions of higher education, including the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, Yeshiva University and the Manhattan campus of Boricua College.

2  **THE HISPANIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA** at 613 W. 155th Street near Broadway contains the largest collection of works by El Greco and Goya outside the Museo del Prado.

With more than 800 paintings and 6,000 watercolors and drawings, the Hispanic Society offers a comprehensive survey of Spanish painting and drawing. To learn more about hours and exhibits, see their website at hispanicsociety.org.

3 **THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS** at 633 W. 155th Street near Broadway is an honor society of 250 architects, composers, artists and writers. The Academy's purpose is to foster interest in Literature, Music and the Fine Arts. The Academy offers two exhibits annually. To learn more, see their website at artsandletters.org.

4 **THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF ESPERANZA** at 624 W. 156th Street near Broadway is richly decorated and contains some fine examples of religious art and stained glass windows. Completed in 1911, the church has a lamp donated by then-monarch King Alfonso XIII of Spain in honor of its consecration.



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AUDUBON TERRACE



HISPANIC SOCIETY

5 THE MALCOLM X AND DR. BETTY SHABAZZ MEMORIAL AND EDUCATION CENTER at 3940 Broadway near W. 165th Street honors the legacy of its namesakes. Public programs, educational activities and cultural works are presented regularly. The center is located within the remaining façade of the Audubon Ballroom, the site of Malcolm X’s assassination. To learn more about hours and programs, see their website at theshabazzcenter.net.



HALL OF FAME

6 FORT WASHINGTON PARK at Riverside Drive along the Hudson River between W. 155th and W. 179th Streets is the namesake of the Revolutionary War structure that occupied the same site. It is also the home to the Little Red Lighthouse, the only lighthouse in Manhattan and the subject of a beloved children’s book of the same name. Known for its spectacular views of the George Washington Bridge and the New Jersey Palisades, the park also is home to peregrine falcons.

7 THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE with a walkway entrance at W. 178th Street just west of Cabrini Boulevard dominates the neighborhood landscape. Designed by architect Cass Gilbert, it links Fort Washington on the New York side and Fort Lee on the New Jersey side, both fortified positions used by General George Washington and the American forces during the British occupation of New York. The great architect Le Corbusier described it as “the

most beautiful bridge in the world”. It is the only bridge in the city that gives pedestrian access to New Jersey.

8  THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE BUS STATION near the foot of the George Washington Bridge between W. 178th and W. 179th Streets and Fort Washington and Fort Wadsworth Avenues is one of the few

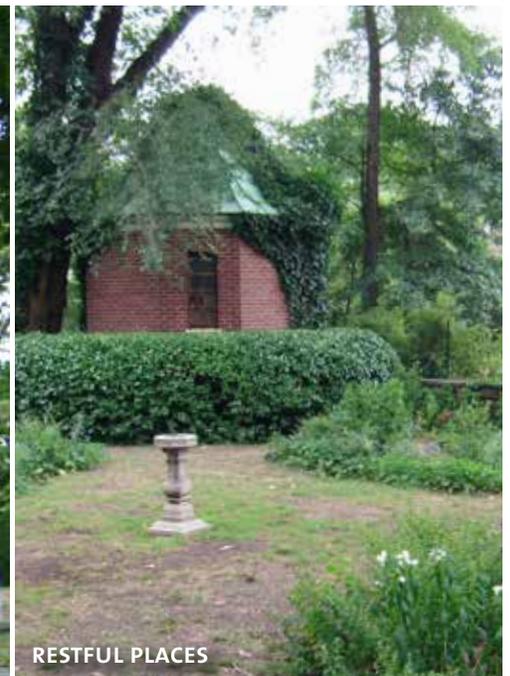
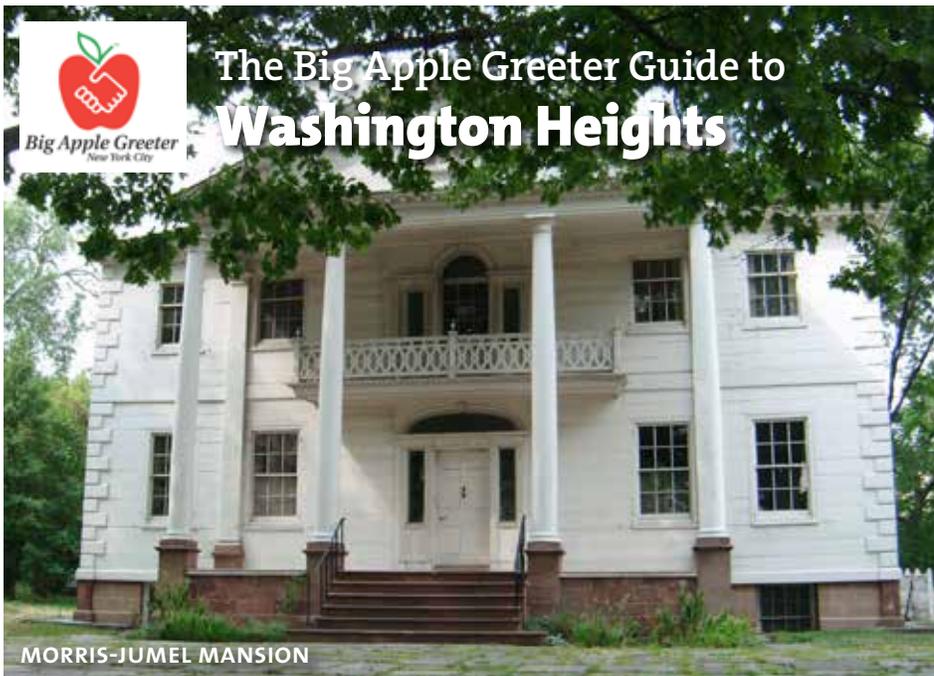
structures outside of Italy designed by renowned architect Pier Luigi Nervi. The building contains murals, as well as busts of George Washington and Othmar Amman, the civil engineer responsible for building the Bridge.

9 BENNETT PARK at Fort Washington Avenue and W. 183rd Street occupies the highest point of land in Manhattan. Look for the plaque near Pinehurst Avenue and W. 183rd Street marking the elevation at 265.05 feet above sea level. A large outcropping of Manhattan schist dominates the center of the park. During the Revolutionary War, General George Washington located his base of operations at this strategic high point.

10 THE NATIONAL TRACK AND FIELD HALL OF FAME located within the Armory Foundation at 216 Fort Washington Avenue between W. 168th and W. 169th Streets honors Americans who have made important contributions to the history of Track and Field. To learn more about this interactive museum, see their website at ny.milesplit.us/pages/Hall-of-Fame.



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11 THE MORRIS-JUMEL MANSION at 65 Jumel Terrace between W. 160th and W. 162nd Streets near Edgecombe Avenue is the oldest remaining house in Manhattan. The mansion interprets the colonial era, the period when General George Washington occupied it during the American Revolution and the early 19th century in New York. To learn more about their hours and programs, see their website at morrisjumel.org.

12 THE PAUL ROBESON RESIDENCE located at 555 Edgecombe Avenue at W. 160th Street is a National Historic Landmark. Once home to the famed actor, it also served as the residence to renowned musician Count Basie and boxer Joe Louis.

13 HIGHBRIDGE PARK between W. 155th and Dyckman Streets and Edgecombe and Amsterdam Avenues offers natural beauty, open vistas and unusual geologic outcroppings. The park is home to the High Bridge Water Tower which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and offers rare views of the area. It is also the home to mountain bike races that take place every spring and summer. The races are sponsored by the New York City Mountain Bike Association and are open to professional and amateur competitors. To learn more about the park, see the website at nycgovparks.org/parks/highbridgepark. To learn more about the races, see their website at nycmtb.com.

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Shopping

14 SISTERS UPTOWN BOOKSTORE at 1942 Amsterdam Avenue at W. 156th Street offers classics as well as texts from local authors. A community resource, the store holds a weekly mediation series and an on-going storytelling program.

15 THE MORRIS-JUMEL MANSION gift shop is a treasure trove of gift items, books, colonial games and memorabilia for children and adults. It is a fine resource for information about American history, the decorative arts, architecture, and the city.

16 FUMEE at 837 W. 181st Street near Cabrini Boulevard is an elegant, wood-paneled tobacco shop offering a wide selection of cigars. One of the few cigar bars left in the city, check out their wide selection in their walk-in humidor.

When It's Time to Eat

17 EL MALECON at 4141 Broadway near W. 175th Street is a lively, friendly spot that offers Dominican food at reasonable prices. Popular with the local residents, be sure to try the wonderful rotisserie chicken.

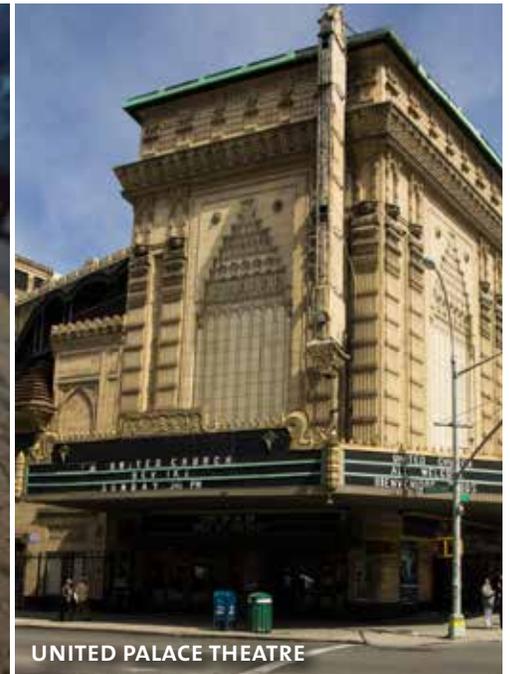
18 107 WEST at 811 W. 187th Street between Fort Washington and Pinehurst Avenues offers large portions of Tex-Mex fare at fair prices. Congenial service attracts family diners.



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ETHNIC DINING



UNITED PALACE THEATRE

19 LA CASA DEL MOFONGO at 1447 Saint Nicholas Avenue near W. 182nd Street is famous for its roast pork and rich desserts served in a tropical setting.

Culture

20 THE NORTHERN MANHATTAN ARTS ALLIANCE at 178 Bennett Avenue between W. 189th and W. 190th Streets fosters neighborhood artists and sponsors cultural events such as the Uptown Arts Stroll. To learn more, see their website at nomaanyc.org.



UNIQUE ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

21 CULTURARTE at 260 Audubon Avenue at W. 178th Street is a Dominican cultural foundation that offers weekly classes, seminars and performances. For more information, call 212-928-8100.

22 THE UNITED PALACE THEATRE at 4140 Broadway at W. 175th Street is a church and live music venue that was formerly the Loew's 175th Street Theatre. The former movie palace, opened in 1930, was designed by Thomas W. Lamb and was built as one of the Loew's Wonder Theaters for vaudeville and movies. Considered a masterpiece of architecture, church services are still given on Sundays, but concerts, recitals, lectures and art exhibits are offered during the rest of the week. To learn more, see their website at liveatunitedpalace.com/index.html.

About Big Apple Greeter

Founded in 1992, Big Apple Greeter's mission is to enhance New York City's worldwide image while enriching the city experience for its visitors. Connecting with business and leisure travelers from all over the US and the world, Greeters take visitors on informal, unscripted walks through one or more neighborhoods in any of the five boroughs, promote tourism throughout the city, and help visitors discover the ease of using public transportation. Over 300 volunteer Greeters speak collectively almost 25 languages and enjoy giving their time and energy back to their hometown. Since its founding, Big Apple Greeter—a free public service—has welcomed nearly 100,000 visitors and been featured in thousands of newspapers, magazines, and television and radio programs all over the world, reaching an audience of over one billion potential visitors to New York City. Big Apple Greeter is proud to partner with NYC & Company, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Metro New York.



Big Apple Greeter is a proud member of the **Global Greeter Network**, operating on five continents, including North America, South America, Australia, Europe and Asia. Click on the link to find a Greeter program where you are traveling next: globalgreeternetwork.info

You may learn more about Big Apple Greeter and its many services on our website: bigapplegreeter.org or by emailing us at information@bigapplegreeter.org



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