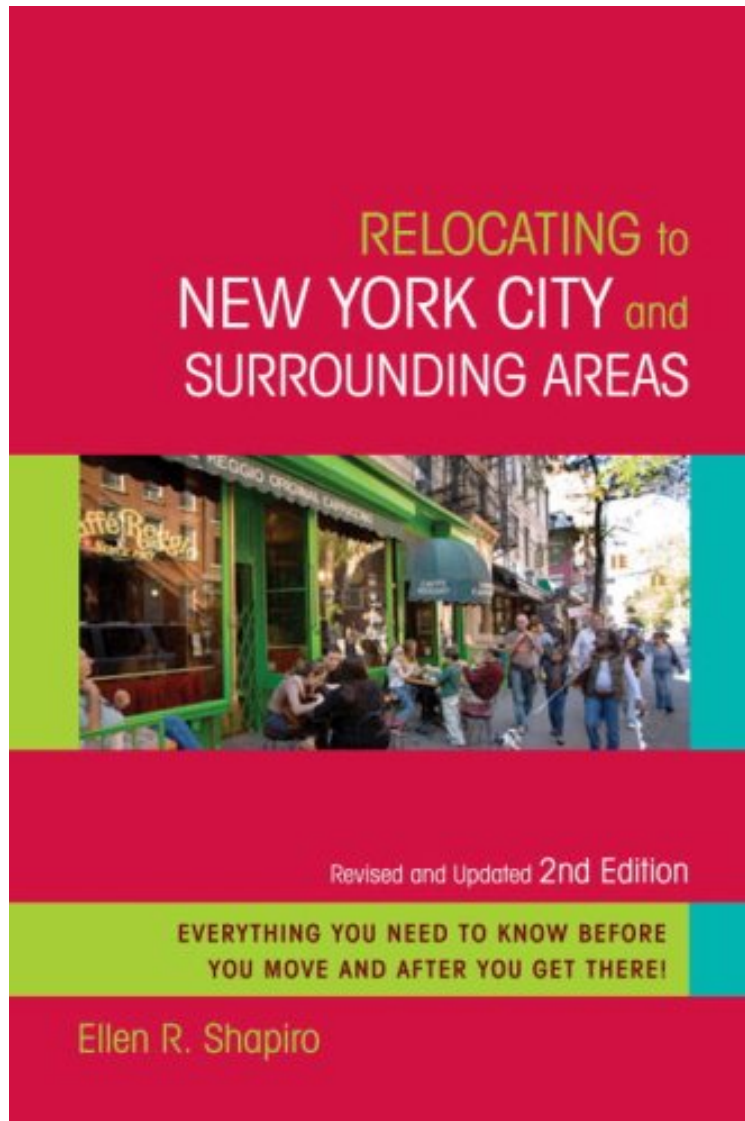


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(Relocating to New York City Surrounding Areas)

# Relocating to New York City and Surrounding Areas: Revised and Updated 2nd Edition (Relocating to New York City Surrounding Areas)

*Ellen R. Shapiro*

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**Ellen R. Shapiro : Relocating to New York City and Surrounding Areas: Revised and Updated 2nd Edition (Relocating to New York City Surrounding Areas)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Relocating to New York City and Surrounding Areas: Revised and Updated 2nd

Edition (Relocating to New York City Surrounding Areas):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A Good General Overview of NYC - Will Need More Research  
By Customer  
I bought this book about two years ago, when I was first moving to NYC. (I now live there) I thought it was very informative in general aspects. It teaches you about all the different types of apartments in NYC, the jargon that goes along with it, ways in how to look for them. It also gives you references to roommate sites, moving companies, places to look for temp work. I thought this book was definitely very informative. There were a lot of details of New York City, that would have caused me great headaches if I didn't have the head's up. Knowing all this, you should also know that it won't give you specifics on rental rates, and neighborhood environments. Now that I live here, I can say it would be difficult to choose a neighborhood solely based on a book description, but I think it could have done a better job with that. I would definitely recommend reading this book before any others (especially if you don't have a friend or someone that can guide you already living in NYC), and then choosing a more specific book once you know what you're looking for.  
4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. An Info Packed Reference  
By Andie  
If you have been thinking of moving to New York City this book is a must read. It has information about the entire process, from picking a neighborhood, packing, moving, even where to stay if you're without an apartment at first. I really loved the information on the things that didn't even cross my mind, like needing a "local" bank account before renting an apartment and companies that do roommate matching so you don't end up with some freak.  
Bottom line: if you are even remotely interested in moving to NYC, you MUST buy this book.  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. NYC relocation book  
By Annie  
Book covers a lot of ground. Good information provided but also focuses a lot on actual moving (calling movers, labeling boxes, etc). I just wanted NYC info so I skipped over those parts.

Making the Big Move to the Big Apple Just Got Easier!  
Moving to New York City and its neighboring areas can be overwhelming and expensive. What you need is a comprehensive and authoritative guide to the diverse neighborhoods, cultures, and lifestyles not to mention the entertainment options, trends, and hidden gems that are the heartbeat of your new home. In *Relocating to New York City and Surrounding Areas, Revised and Updated 2nd Edition*, you get an insiders view of New York plus all the practical information you need to make your transition smooth and more affordable, including:  
How to find a place to live  
Fast and in a neighborhood you'll love  
Where to look for a job  
How much it costs to live in the city and its environs  
Where to find the best restaurants and entertainment in town  
How to get around New York  
How to move, ship, and store your stuff easily and affordably  
Not just a neighborhood directory for newcomers, this is also a bible for those already living here, offering advice on the best schools, bargain shopping, discount tickets, and free events. Whether you're planning a move or already here, you'll want to keep this definitive guide in reach for the handy checklists, savvy tips, website listings, and fresh advice. Bursting with up-to-date statistics on every neighborhood and information on everything from post offices and grocery stores to health clubs and theaters, *Relocating to New York City and Surrounding Areas* will help you negotiate the city like a local on your very first day.  
Learn about New York's hottest neighborhoods  
Greenwich Village  
SoHo  
East Village  
Morningside Heights  
Park Slope  
Williamsburg  
Cobble Hill  
Brooklyn Heights  
Dumbo  
Astoria

Making the Big Move to the Big Apple Just Got Easier  
About the Author  
Ellen R. Shapiro has seen all sides of the publishing industry from marketing manager to senior editor at major New York publishing houses to freelance travel writer and author of several books, including *New York City with Kids*. In addition, she is a professional photographer and an avid collector of children's books. She lives in New York City.  
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CHAPTER ONE  
ABOUT NEW YORK'S NEIGHBORHOODS  
Apart from the actual decision to relocate, perhaps the most significant and challenging decision you'll have to make when you relocate to New York is deciding where you'll live. New York itself is geographically small, but your day-to-day life will center around two even smaller areas: the neighborhood where you live and the one where you work. Many aspects of your life (the restaurants you frequent, your gym, the services you utilize, and to some extent the friends you make especially if you have kids) will flow from your choice of neighborhood, and even from your choice of block (New Yorkers often say block instead of street) and building. Still, all is not what it seems on the surface, and your ultimate choice of neighborhood may be very different from what your first instinct might lead you to believe. In an ideal New York City, you'd be able to get a large, airy, sunny apartment in your neighborhood of choice for exactly the amount of money you're willing and able to spend. But in the real New York City, even multimillionaires have to make some compromises and the rest of us have to compromise a whole lot more. The delicate balance between the need for a space in which you'll be happy and the need for a few dollars left over to cover other essentials (like food) is an elusive target for most every New Yorker. When considering a neighborhood, you'll want to weigh the following primary factors:  
Your personality and the personality of the neighborhood  
Cost of housing  
Availability of desirable housing  
Safety  
Proximity to work  
Consider these factors against the backdrop of three very important distinguishing factors about the neighborhoods in New York City (as opposed to neighborhoods almost everywhere else):  
First, although the human brain uses generalizations to make sense of the world, the neighborhoods of New York City are mind-boggling in their diversity, and they defy

generalization. Although its possible to characterize neighborhoods based on the characteristics of the majority of their residents, the simple truth is that every kind of person lives in just about every neighborhood of New York. Sure, some neighborhoods have greater percentages of families or hipsters or gay men or specific ethnic groups, but without question youll find everyone living everywhere. For example, Chelsea is known as a gay neighborhood, but plenty of young, upwardly mobile, heterosexual thirty-something couples with kids choose to live there, perhaps because they work downtown and found a good apartment in the London Terrace complex, because they love the boutiques and cafs that that neighborhood boasts, or perhaps because they just like their neighbors. The stereotype of the Upper East Side is that its stodgy and wealthy, but some young artists choose to live there rather than in SoHo because, ironically, there are now more housing bargains to be found on the Upper East Side. Not every building can be on Fifth Avenue facing Central Park the side streets are full of deals plus, though the galleries may be downtown, the museums are uptown. Youll find plenty of corporate lawyer- and investment-banker-types too, some of them living in the working-class neighborhoods of Car-roll Gardens in Brooklyn, or Astoria in Queens, because theres more space for the money and the commute to Wall Street is more convenient than from many neighborhoods within Manhattan. And Staten Island is not just for the big-haired crowd anymore (like Melanie Griffith and Joan Cusack in *Working Girl*) there are plenty of young professionals who choose to live in the apartments near the Staten Island ferry because they work downtown, the view is great, the rent is lower, and all they have to do is walk off the boat and one block to the office an easy and interesting commute by all accounts. Even within a specific building, its hard to generalize. Almost every brownstone in New York has one highly desirable ground-floor garden apartment with a backyard and a nearly identical apartment (with no yard) on the fifth floor, which can be reached only by climbing five flights of stairs. These two apartments may be in the same building, with the same internal square footage, same exposure, and same address yet one may cost three times as much as the other! While the garden apartment may be occupied by a lawyer and a doctor, their newborn baby, and a golden retriever, the fifth-floor walk-up may be shared by three aspiring actors or models. Second and this always takes newcomers a while to grasp neighborhoods in New York change dramatically in just a few feet. For example, in the case of East 96th Street, one of the most genteel neighborhoods in America (Carnegie Hill) ends on the south side of the street, and one of the formerly most rough-and-tumble (East Harlem) begins on the north. Until a couple of years ago El Barrio, or Spanish Harlem, as it was known, used to be one of the most run-down and dangerous neighborhoods in Manhattan, but now, East Harlem is changing, and young professionals, artists, and tree huggers are moving into the neighborhood. Most of the Upper West Side was a slum in 1970. Now its perhaps the most desirable (judging by popularity and cost) neighborhood in town. TriBeCa, a former manufacturing district, has gone residential, as have the areas of Williamsburg and Dumbo (an acronym for Down Under the Manhattan Bridge Overpass). Only a decade or two ago, it would have been almost unthinkable for a newcomer to live in the neighborhood now known as Clinton, which used to be called Hells Kitchen. Now it abounds with hipsters, families, wannabes, and longtime residents, which translates to more restaurants, coffee shops and cafs, and, of course, higher rents. Its hard to believe it until youve seen it yourself, and even then it takes time for this reality to sink in. There are subtle and not-so-subtle dividing lines all over New York, and it takes a practiced eye to see them the neighborhoods are always evolving, like living things. Apartments in New York can be bigger or smaller, more or less desirable, cheaper or more expensive, all based on these subtle dividing lines. You cant expect to know where you want to live right away, and for the majority of people who choose to relocate to New York (young folks with no kids), thats not a problem. The thing to do is find yourself a space with which youll be reasonably happy for the money youre paying and then spend the next year (the length of your lease, probably) exploring the town. Take this time to decide if the neighborhood you live in feels like home and, if it doesnt, by the end of your lease you should know the city well enough to find a place to call your own.

**Basic New York City Geography**  
New York City is made up of five boroughs: Manhattan, Queens, the Bronx, Staten Island, and Brooklyn. There is also an emerging sixth borough, which consists of the nearby New Jersey cities of Hoboken and Jersey City (discussed later in Chapter 4, *The Suburbs*). That said, when most people think of the City theyre visualizing Manhattan, and Manhattan was, in the past, the most likely destination for the overwhelming majority of newcomers (most newcomers figure, *Why move to the City if youre not going to live in the City?*). But in recent years, with the dramatic rise in real estate costs, there has been a trend for locals and newcomers alike to consider the outer boroughs (all boroughs other than Manhattan) and the sixth borough of Hoboken and Jersey City as equally valid options. The primary focus of this section is on the major neighborhoods within Manhattan and the most popular and commutable communities within the other four boroughs. There are many other lovely neighborhoods within those boroughs, but theyre simply not as convenient or close to Manhattan. Also, this section contains an overview of neighborhoods and suburbs in northern New Jersey, Long Island, Westchester/Rockland, and southern Connecticut (the tristate area) and beyond, which are mostly of interest to families with children (who want a house with a yard). The areas covered in this section are: New York City Manhattan Financial District and TriBeCa Greenwich Village and SoHo East Village, Lower East Side, and Chinatown Clinton (Midtown West) and Chelsea Turtle Bay (Midtown East), Gramercy, Murray Hill Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village Upper East Side Upper West Side Morningside Heights and Hamilton Heights Central Harlem East Harlem Washington Heights and Inwood Outer Boroughs Brooklyn Downtown Brooklyn, Brooklyn

Heights, Fort Greene, Dumbo Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens, Park Slope, Red Hook Williamsburg, GreenpointQueensAstoria, Jackson Heights, Long Island CityStaten IslandNorthern Staten IslandThe BronxThe South Bronx (SoBro) RiverdaleSuburbsWestchester/Rockland Long Island Northern New Jersey Southern ConnecticutOutside the AreaUpstate New York Southern and Central New Jersey Western and UpstateConnecticutThe East End of Long IslandCrime in New York CityBy now its hardly news that safety in New York City has improved by leaps and bounds over the past two decades, and that trend shows no signs of abating. It is now safer to live in New York City than in any other large city in America.Crime in New York has been dropping steadily since 1991, and the City now has the lowest crime rate of the ten largest cities in the United States. Murders in 2005 were at their lowest since 1963, and there has been a 75 percent overall drop in crime since 1991. New York City now has a rate of 2,802 crimes per 100,000 people, a far lower number per 100,000 than in the other large cities: 8,960 in Dallas; 7,904 in Detroit; 7,402 in Phoenix; 7,347 in San Antonio; 7,195 in Houston; 5,471 in Philadelphia; 4,376 in Los Angeles; and 4,103 in San Diego.Major recent crime-fighting initiatives in the areas of statistics gathering, DNA testing, school safety, domestic violence, aggressive driving, and criminal justice reform promise to continue improving New Yorks reputation as a safe, livable city. Plus, its important to remember that the bulk of New York Citys violent crimes occur in neighborhoods that wont be under consideration in this book. In a safe neighborhood like Carnegie Hill, where my husband and I have lived for almost two decades, any incident of violent crime (and there are very few) is major news in the community, just as it would be in any small town anywhere in America.Some crime is unavoidable, but most can be prevented through a combination of vigilance and common sense. Dont let yourself be a statistic. Be aware of your surroundings, dont get into situations or confrontations that you cant handle, and dont be afraid to call for help. Keep your doors locked and your eyes open. Plan for safety, and your safety is much more likely to be assured.Also, safety is often in the eye of the beholder. Some neighborhoods, like Mott Haven in the Bronx, may be perfectly safe for groups of young males sharing an apartment, but not as comfortable for families with young children or women living alone (although that neighborhood is improving so rapidly that, by next year, it will likely be far more desirable). Up-and-coming, formerly unsafe (but not totally safe yet) neighborhoods are favorite destinations for young people who, in exchange for a bigger apartment with a smaller rent, are often willing to forgo conveniences (like twenty-four-hour markets) and dodge the sketchy characters who might be loitering around the area. Obviously, not everyone would make this choice.