

NYC Travel & Hotels

*(Unless otherwise indicated, the venue is **SLC Conference Center**, at 15 W. 39th Street, 3rd floor. SLC is not a hotel, students need to book their own accommodation if taking class in NYC)*

For general NYC info, check out <http://gonyc.com>

For point-to-point public transportation options: triplanner.mta.info, Google maps and choose the train icon, or citymapper.com. [Mta.info](http://mta.info) gives general info about public transportation.

PLEASE DO NOT TAKE A RED-EYE FLIGHT, ARRIVING THE MORNING OF CLASS, BECAUSE WE HAVE HAD SITUATIONS WHERE A FLIGHT IS DELAYED SUFFICIENTLY THAT BY THE TIME THE STUDENT ARRIVED, IT WAS TOO LATE FOR THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN CLASS.

Getting Into New York (Manhattan)

There are 3 airports you can fly into: **JFK, LaGuardia and Newark**. Newark is in New Jersey but Manhattan is very accessible from there and often it is cheaper to fly into Newark. All of the airports have connections to these transportation hubs in Manhattan: *Port Authority Bus Terminal* (42nd St & 8th Ave), *Grand Central Terminal* (120 E 41st St from Park to Lexington Avenues) or *Pennsylvania Station* (also called Penn Station, at 34 St & from 7th to 8th Aves).

From any of the airports you can get to Manhattan by the “Blue Van” *SuperShuttle* (www.supershuttle.com). This is like a group taxi. The main disadvantage is that if you are dropped off last (or picked up first on the return to the airport), you will spend extra time driving around in the Shuttle. If you’re not in a hurry, it’s very convenient and inexpensive. Call 800-258-3826 or 212-315-3006. Cost to midtown Manhattan one way is approximately \$23 from Newark or JFK, \$17 from LGA, and \$12 for the second person in your party.

A private taxi that you get at the taxi stand at the airport is more expensive. Approximate prices into Manhattan: From JFK \$52 (flat rate) + tolls + tip. Depending on traffic, the ride is 40-60 minutes. From LaGuardia about \$45 + tolls + tip, with ride taking 20-30 minutes. From Newark airport, about \$80, + tolls + tip, taking 40-60 minutes.

Students have had good experiences using Yelp to find cars to call to come and pick them up, there are always cars bringing people to airports that need a fare for the return trip. This is often less expensive.

There are good public transportation options. Note that during rush hour, the subway is not the best place to be with luggage. Subway fare is \$2.50; you will need to buy a MetroCard at a vending machine or a tollbooth. Buses are the same; there is a free transfer from bus to subway within 2 hours of getting on. Need MetroCard or exact change to get on bus, no bills taken on bus.

From JFK: There is an Air Train for \$5 that connects you from the airport to either the LIRR (Long Island Railroad) or a subway train. You take the Air Train to Jamaica Station, about a 10-minute ride. (<http://www.mta.info/mta/airtrain.htm>) From there you can:

- a) Take the LIRR to Penn Station, about a 35-minute ride, for \$7-\$10 depending on time of day
- b) Take the subway, the E or F train that goes into Manhattan. The subway takes almost an hour and is \$2.50 at all times. (On the way back, to connect to the Air Train, you would get off at Sutphin Blvd, which is same station as Jamaica Station for the Air Train and the LIRR)
- c) From JFK and LaGuardia there is also a New York Airport Service Express Bus for \$15 from JFK and \$13 from LaGuardia (call 718-875-8200 or www.nyairportservice.com). There are routes that go to the Port Authority Bus Terminal, Grand Central Terminal, Penn Station, or any hotel between 60th and 31st Streets.
- d) There is a very uncomplicated and cheap way to get to LaGuardia airport. The M60 bus goes to LaGuardia and costs \$2.50. Take the #1 train from Penn Station to 110th and Broadway and wait for the bus on the NE corner. There is a free transfer from subway to bus. Depending on time of day, it will take 40 to 90 min. Or, take the #2 or #3 train from Penn Station to 125th Street, and the bus stop for the M60 is on the SE corner of 125th and Lenox. Or, take the 4 or 5 train from Grand Central Station to 125th Street and Lexington and the M60 bus stop will be right there on the South side of the street.

- e) From Newark there is a bus, the Newark Liberty Airport Express, which runs from 4 a.m. to 1 a.m., leaving every 15 minutes to half hour, either to Port Authority, Grand Central or Penn Station for about \$16. A roundtrip ticket is \$28. Call them at: 908-354-3330 or www.coachusa.com. You can go to one of the stops and then take a short taxi ride to your hotel from there. From Newark there are also trains that go to Pennsylvania Station. In the airport you take the Air Train to the North Airport Rail Station (which is within the airport) and then take the NE Corridor Line or North Jersey Coastline into New York for about \$14, depending on the time of day. For information, njtransit.com or www.panynj.info or call 888-397 4636.

ACCOMMODATIONS IN NEW YORK CITY:

General Notes

Prices vary greatly according to the time of year, and January and February are generally the lowest. There are also so many means of booking, that we are not giving prices, as they will be inaccurate, except for a few places that are consistent. It pays to call several places and shop around, as well as checking the sites like www.hotels.com to see if there is a lower rate there. Also, be aware that ***better prices can usually be had by booking as far in advance as you can.*** You can always cancel the reservation if something better comes along. Most hotels have discount rates for AAA, or AARP, some have discounts on the Internet and some, like the Comfort Inn, have member programs that you can join to accumulate points for a free night. **Do check if any price you get includes tax, which will be around 14.75 %. There is also a \$3.50 NYC occupancy tax that may or may not be included, so check that as well.**

Most of Manhattan streets are set up on a grid, with Avenues running North and South and streets running East and West. Fifth Avenue divides the island into East and West, and the streets are numbered in sequence. On an “Avenue”, the higher the number, the further north, or uptown, as locals would say. The higher the street *address* number (e.g. 322 E.21st is higher than 6 E.21st) the further the walk across the avenue blocks. In general, 20 streets (or blocks) is 1 mile, but the distance between avenues is about 2 or 3 streets. You can always go to www.mapquest.com and put in the address of the SLC Conference Center and the address of the hotel to see exactly how far you would have to walk, or use Google maps or citymapper.com for directions on taking public transportation from one location to another in Manhattan, both bus and subway.

The accommodations are listed below in order of ascending price, hostels are listed first, then contact numbers for B&B's, then inexpensive hotels, then moderate ones, etc.

Hostels and Guest Houses

Airbnb is changing the way people come and stay in New York. Check out www.airbnb.com. You can filter for "Manhattan" and put in a keyword like "Midtown". You will need to check the address to see how far away the room is from the venue. If you also check with you can see if it is an easy subway ride away. You might chose to stay in Harlem for \$55 a night and take a 20-minute subway ride, or pay a bit more and walk some avenue blocks. Airbnb definitely requires more legwork, but many students have gotten amazing bargains to stay at good places within walking distance. **Do check for cleaning fees on airbnb, which can turn a bargain into not so much of a deal.**

www.roomorama.com

For those worried about handing over cash to a stranger, this would be better than Craigslist. Roomorama also takes credit cards, offers automated booking and is more organized than Craigslist. (We don't recommend Craigslist for finding a place to stay)

HOSTELS:

For institutional hostels, check for whether linens are provided. I.D. is necessary. Some of these have age requirements.

In addition to what is listed below, you can also check www.hostelny.com or www.hostels.com/us.ny.html or www.hostelworld.com

Hostelling International New York

212-932-2300/ Fax: 212-932-2574 // 891 Amsterdam Ave, between 103rd -104th Streets. www.hinewyork.org. They have air conditioning in summer and have non smoking rooms, cafe, communal kitchen facilities, fax machine, garden, & laundry services. The subway is right there at 103 St. and Broadway, one avenue block to the West. Prices start at \$49 for a bed in 12-bed co-ed room. Tax included, different configurations of co-ed or single sex rooms. Seasonal prices. Shared bath in the hall. Very clean and well kept. Lockers available for storing belongings, bring a lock or buy one there. Linens provided.

American Dream Hostel

212-260-9779// 917-885-6191 // 168 E. 24th St. (Lexington-3rd Ave)

www.americandreamhostel.com

Room options: They say shared rooms are meant for people who know each other.

Favorite of students for price and location. Shared bathrooms. There is a kitchen equipped with a microwave-oven refrigerator, and space for food storage. A free breakfast of coffee, milk, toast, hot/cold cereal is served every morning. WiFi is free if you have your own laptop, otherwise, a charge to use their computers. They also have 24-hour reception & check-in (so there is no curfew). They accept children, credit cards, have luggage storage & security lockers, have a common room, have telephone/fax facilities. Non-smoking on premises.

Note: getting to class would involve either a walk of 1.3 miles (to Source of Life), or a short bus or subway ride

Seafarers & International House

212-677-4800 // 123 E. 15th St // email: res@sihnyc.org // Website: [http://](http://www.sihnyc.org)

www.sihnyc.org

#1 student favorite. Basic and clean. This is a guesthouse operated by a church agency. They offer simple rooms. Single: \$89; these have shared toilet and bath, also two twin beds with private bath for more money. They are about a 20-minute walk to Source of Life or short bus or subway ride. Some features are: air-conditioned and smoke free accommodations, color TV and full cable service, private telephones with voice mail, linen service, free Internet access, locker storage, kitchen for light food prep. If you are an ordained minister, there is a discount. NO TAX is charged.

YMCA

You can make a reservation and get more information at www.ymca.org

There are shared bathrooms, single and double rooms, no tax because it is a non-profit, and you get access to their fitness facilities. You can get a better rate by going to www.hostelworld.com, but they only get a certain amount of rooms to book.

Least Expensive *Hotels*

In addition to what is listed below, you can check these websites: www.travelweb.com or www.ny.com/hotels/budget.html or www.hotels.com or www.orbitz.com or <http://nymag.com/urban/guides/nyonthecheap/travel/hotels.htm> or www.quikbook.com. And there are others. Be aware some inexpensive hotels are walk-ups, which means they have no elevator.

You need to ask questions, **without making assumptions**, about the nature of the rooms.

Americana Inn

212-840-6700 // 69 W. 38th Street// www.americanainn.com. This inexpensive hotel does have an elevator. Rooms very small but very clean. Sink in the room. Shared bathrooms. No WiFi, computer in lobby that you pay to use.

Murray Hill Inn

212-545-0879 // 212-683-6900 // 143 East 30th Street (nr. Lexington)//
www.murrayhillinn.com

Singles: \$96 with shared bath, King, two beds in room available, with shared baths and private baths. WiFi on a paid plan. The rooms and bathrooms have been tastefully refurbished—lots of pretty wood. **NOTE:** There is no elevator here. There are 5 floors.

Grand Union Hotel

Tel: 212-683-5890// fax: 212-689-7397 // 34 E. 32nd Street, between Madison and Park Avenue.

<http://grandunionhotelnewyork.com/> Single Rooms and Double. Full amenities, with free WiFi access in guest rooms.

Larchmont Hotel

212-989-9333// 27 W. 11th St. between Fifth and Sixth Avenues//
www.larchmonthotel.com

Right in the heart of Greenwich Village. A mile and a half to venue. Rooms feature TVs, phones, robes and sinks, with full baths available in the hall. Continental breakfast is included. Different rates for weekend and weekday.

The Latham Hotel

212-685-8300// 4 E. 28th St. at 5th Ave. // www.thelathamhotel.com or info@thelathamhotel.com

Recommended by students who stayed here recently. Full amenities with smaller TV & A/C, with WiFi for a fee. Offering rooms with double beds, or two twins, with either shared or private bathrooms. Check for seasonal specials.

More Expensive Hotels (but still ‘reasonable’ for NYC)

Thirty Thirty Hotel

212-689-1900 // 30 E. 30th St, near Park Ave. // www.thirtythirty-nyc.com. This hotel is “European style” which means charming ambiance with small rooms. Standard amenities. WiFi fee per day. Lots of specials listed on website. Standard queen room or two double beds, about a half-mile walk to venue

Herald Square Hotel

212-279-4017// 19 W. 31st St. (5th Ave- Broadway)// www.heraldsquarehotel.com or info@heraldsquarehotel.com Each room is unique in this small hotel, and has elevators. Rooms have cable TV with free HBO, free WiFi in rooms, on site laundry. Free coffee, cappuccino and hot chocolate in the lobby. Queen Bed either double or single.

Hotel Stanford

212-563-1500 or 1-800-365-1114 // 43 W. 32nd St. between 5th & Bwy // www.hotelstanford.com

The rooms are older, but clean. Boutique hotel. All standard amenities, private baths, elevator. TV, frig in room, and complimentary continental breakfast. WiFi in room for fee. Business center has free Internet access on two computers from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

La Quinta

212-736-1600 // 17 W. 32nd St (5th Ave- Broadway). www.applecorehotels.com

Singles are a good size, clean & modern, with a large TV. Free local & 800 calls. All amenities, WiFi in room.

Red Roof Inn

212-643-7100 // 6 W. 32nd St. (5th Ave- Broadway) www.applecorehotels.com Free local & 800 calls. Renovated in 2005, a highly sensitive student found this clean and did not trigger allergies. All amenities. Free WiFi.

Comfort Inn

Comfort Inn Times Square South is at 305 W. 39th Street, between 8th and 9th Avenues, so it is on the same street as the venue, just several Avenue blocks to the West. definitely walkable, or Comfort Inn Manhattan, 42 W.35th, just four blocks away, at 212-947 0200 www.comfortinn.com.. All amenities.

Closest Hotel to venue

Residence Inn by Marriott

1033 Sixth Avenue at 39th Street. www.marriott.com// 212-768-0007. This is an extended stay hotel that is a half a block from the venue. More expensive, but deals can be had depending on time of year or if you have “points” from credit cards, etc. All amenities.

Hotel in New Jersey with easy commute

Some students just don't like staying in the city. Particularly if driving to New York, parking the car can add \$20 to \$50 a day to your stay. (If you fly to NY, and wish to stay here use Newark, NJ airport). Recent students did some research and discovered this place:

EconoLodge Meadowlands

201- 935-4600, 395 Washington Avenue, Carlstadt, New Jersey
www.econolodgemeadowlands.com

Parking is free. Clean and well kept rooms. Typical motel amenities, free breakfast, coffee, microwave and frig in room, cable TV. WiFi in rooms for no charge. Basic rooms, double beds or queen.

Commute: the #161 bus at 8:00 am is a two-minute walk from the motel. It costs around \$4.00. That takes you to the Port Authority Bus Terminal at 42nd Street and 8th Ave. You can walk to the venue, which is “cross-town”; it will take about 20 minutes. The trip takes about 1 hour door to door.