





• This is part of a growing series of opinionated guides which offer no-nonsense insider's advice on what to do and see in cities around the world

The original metropolis, the city of cities: New York is mythic in stature and impossible to pin down. The planet's most surreal urban experiment is a dizzying feast of iridescent skyscrapers, iconic landmarks and heavyweight cultural institutions – it's irresistible, even if all you can afford is a bagel and a walk through Central Park. Luckily, we've got the inside scoop on the island's most treasured local delis, historic bookshops, memorable bars and beloved neighborhoods – Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens and Staten / From the Battery to the top of Manhattan.

Devra Ferst is a food and travel writer who has called New York City home for over 20 years. Her work has appeared in the New York Times, Vogue, Bon Appetit and Eater. She is also the co- author of The Jewish Holiday Table: A World of Recipes, Traditions & Stories to Celebrate All Year Long. You can often find her racing around New York on her green bicycle, Olive.