



CHI WORK AND TRAVEL

255 West End Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901 USA

1-800-432-4643 x2
1-415-459-5397 x2

chiwt@chinet.org

wt.chinet.org

Job Description

EMPLOYER INFORMATION

Employer Name: Statue Cruises LLC
DBA: Statue City Cruises
Type of Business: Concession/Food Service
Job location: Castle Clinton National Monument
Location type: Metropolitan area
City: New York
State: NY
Zip: 10004
Website: statuecitycruises.com

Why choose us?

Statue City Cruises is the official and authorized ferry concessionaire for the Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration, operating under contract with the U.S. National Park Service. As the exclusive provider of ferry transportation to these world-famous landmarks, Statue City Cruises plays a vital role in connecting millions of visitors each year with two of the most historically and culturally significant sites in the United States.

Working with Statue City Cruises means being part of an operation that prioritizes safety, hospitality, and exceptional guest service while supporting an iconic American visitor experience. Team members contribute to a high-volume, fast-paced environment that values teamwork, cultural exchange, and professionalism, all while helping guests from around the world create unforgettable memories.

Cultural exchange activities

Working with Statue City Cruises offers participants a unique opportunity to experience the cultural and historical heart of the United States. Each day, you will interact with visitors from around the world while helping them explore two of the nation's most meaningful landmarks—the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. This role provides valuable exposure to American culture, customer service standards, and daily English-language communication.

During your free time, you can take advantage of countless cultural experiences in New York City and Jersey City, both easily accessible by ferry, subway, and train.

Recommended Cultural Experiences

Visit the Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration to learn about America's immigrant history and cultural diversity.

Explore Battery Park, a scenic waterfront area featuring historic monuments, gardens, and stunning views of New York Harbor.

Walk across the Brooklyn Bridge or visit the top of the Empire State Building for unforgettable city views.

Discover world-famous museums such as the American Museum of Natural History, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the 9/11 Memorial & Museum.

Attend local festivals, concerts, and community events held throughout the city, especially during the summer months.

Explore diverse neighborhoods like Chinatown, Little Italy, Harlem, and Williamsburg, each offering unique food, music, art, and cultural traditions.

Enjoy outdoor movie nights, free concerts, and cultural performances in Central Park and Hudson River Park.

Participating in these experiences allows you to practice English, connect with people from diverse backgrounds, and gain a deeper understanding of American life, values, and history—making your Summer Work & Travel experience both meaningful and memorable.

Position

Job title: Concession Associate



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Job prerequisites: Drug Test

All participants are required to successfully pass a pre-employment drug test before beginning work. This is a strict requirement, and no exceptions will be made.

National Park Service (NPS) Clearance

Participants must complete the National Park Service (NPS) background application within one month of receiving their offer letter. This clearance is mandatory and must be fully approved before the first day of work. Failure to submit the application on time may result in a delayed start date, and any delay will be the participant's responsibility, not CHI's or the employer's.

English Proficiency

Participants must possess strong English communication skills to interact clearly, professionally, and confidently with guests, supervisors, and team members.

Work Ethic and Flexibility

Participants must demonstrate a strong work ethic, be outgoing, and be willing to assist with assigned duties, including cleaning tasks such as trash removal. Flexibility is essential, including comfort with daily ferry commuting between New York and New Jersey.

City Adaptability

Participants must be comfortable living and working in a fast-paced, crowded urban environment. New York City has a high cost of living, and participants are expected to plan financially and adjust accordingly.

Scheduling Requirements

Availability is required during peak business periods, including Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

Housing

Participants are responsible for arranging their own housing accommodations prior to arrival.

Math and Money Handling

Participants must have basic math skills and be familiar with U.S. currency prior to beginning work.

Independence

Participants must be prepared to work independently and understand that assignments, locations, and schedules may differ from those of friends or other participants.

Job description: The Concession Associate supports the Vessel Concession Manager in the operation of onboard concessions serving visitors traveling between Battery Park, Liberty State Park, the Statue of Liberty, and Ellis Island. This role focuses on delivering excellent customer service, supporting concession operations, maintaining cleanliness, and maximizing sales through accurate, efficient service in a fast-paced maritime environment.

Key Responsibilities

Accurately handle cash, credit, and mobile payments.



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Sell and promote concession items efficiently, courteously, and professionally.

Process will-call orders and manage pass packages as assigned.

Manage guest lines and clearly communicate available options.

Greet guests, verify tickets, and guide them to the correct boarding lines.

Provide friendly, professional service while helping to expedite boarding.

Coordinate with National Park Service staff and vessel crew as needed.

Post, update, and maintain schedules and signage as directed.

Ensure all guests disembark safely at the end of each operating day.

Answer guest questions as directed by the Ticket Sales Supervisor or Guest Service Manager.

Complete assigned tasks such as stocking, restocking, and inventory support.

Assist with daily setup and closing of concession areas.

Maintain clean, organized workspaces and follow all uniform and phone use policies.

Assist fellow crew members at embarkation and disembarkation points as needed.

Participate in safety drills and assist during emergencies when required.

Report operational issues or guest concerns promptly to the Vessel Concession Manager.

Perform cashier duties and serve as a general information resource for guests.

Complete other duties as assigned based on operational needs.

Role Expectations

Teamwork, flexibility, and reliability are essential in this role. Concession Associates must be prepared to assist in any area as needed, including tasks not specifically listed above. Personal matters must be managed outside of work hours and should not interfere with job performance.

Consistent attendance, punctuality, professionalism, and a positive attitude are critical to maintaining a strong team environment and delivering a high-quality guest experience.

English level required: Upper Intermediate

Hourly wage (before taxes): 17.70

Wage comments: Statue City Cruises is incorporated in the State of New Jersey, and all employees are paid based on New Jersey wage rates, regardless of whether they are working in New York or New Jersey during their shifts.



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Position ID: 30565

Union: No

Union Dues:

Payroll Period: Paid Weekly

Payroll Period Comments: CHI strongly recommends that participants open a U.S. bank account and enroll in direct deposit. Direct deposit is the safest and most reliable way to receive your pay, preventing delays, loss, or theft of paper checks.

Position Information

Tips: No

Bonus: No

Bonus comments:

Estimated hours per day: 32 hours; if you're dependable

Number of days per week: Varies

Overtime: No

Overtime details: Overtime is not guaranteed and should not be expected. This is a seasonal position, and scheduling depends on weather, tourism flow, and event demand. While any hours worked over 40 in a week will be paid according to U.S. labor laws, such situations are uncommon. Participants who demonstrate reliability and strong performance can expect to average around 32 hours per week, though actual hours may vary. Dependable participants are prioritized when scheduling shifts.

Is the employer willing to hire couples? Yes

Is the employer willing to hire group of friends? Yes

Meals? No

Meals details:

Is a drug test required? Yes

Drug test comments: Statue City Cruises operates under federal maritime law and enforces a strict zero-tolerance policy regarding drugs and alcohol in the workplace. All participants are required to successfully pass a pre-employment drug test before beginning work. No exceptions will be made, and failure to comply will result in ineligibility for employment.

Is employer interview required? Yes

Employer interview details: The employer will conduct interviews via Microsoft Teams

Do students complete an additional application upon arrival? Yes

Possibility to find a second job in the area No

Second jobs require you to contact CHI at chiwt@chinet.org or 1-800-432-4643 to receive the required form. The new potential employer will need to complete it. Both you and the employer will need to sign and return it to CHI for approval. You can work with a new secondary employer ONLY AFTER you have received written authorization from CHI.

Additional comments regarding second job: Participants may obtain a second job only with prior CHI approval, but a second job may never be treated as a priority. Your position with Statue City Cruises is your primary employment, and all scheduling, availability, and performance expectations must be met first.

Work schedules at Statue City Cruises are not fixed and may change based on operational needs. Hours may fluctuate, and assignments may rotate among Battery Park (New York), Ellis Island, Liberty Island, and Liberty State Park (New Jersey). Daily ferry travel is required,



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which makes coordinating a second job challenging.

Any second job must be scheduled around your primary employer's needs. You may not refuse shifts, arrive late, leave early, or request schedule changes in order to accommodate another job. Schedule conflicts caused by a second job are not acceptable.

This is a tourism-based operation, and you must be available to work Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, which are the busiest days. Failure to prioritize your primary employer may result in disciplinary action or termination. CHI will not advocate on your behalf if issues arise due to conflicts with a second job.

While Statue City Cruises will make reasonable efforts to provide hours, no specific number of hours is guaranteed. Reduced hours may occur during the first two weeks of training or due to weather, visitor volume, or operational changes throughout the season.

By accepting this position, you agree to prioritize attendance, punctuality, and professionalism with Statue City Cruises at all times. Participants who are unable or unwilling to make their primary employer their priority should carefully reconsider this placement.

When will work begin? Participants should expect to begin working within 5 to 7 days after arrival in the United States.

Arrival Instructions: Your official start date with Statue City Cruises will be confirmed after your arrival. Start dates may vary by several days from the DS-2019 program start date, so we ask for your patience as the employer finalizes scheduling and integrates new participants into operations.

To support a smooth onboarding process, you must complete all required electronic paperwork and background checks before arrival. Please check your email frequently for important onboarding instructions and National Park Service (NPS) clearance forms, which must be completed prior to your start date.

You will participate in on-the-job training and orientation. On your orientation day, please bring the following original documents:

Passport
Form DS-2019
I-94 Arrival Record

Having these documents prepared will help ensure a seamless and timely start to your employment with Statue City Cruises.

All participants are also required to successfully complete and pass a pre-employment drug test as part of the onboarding process. Failure to complete or pass the drug test will result in denial of employment, with no exceptions.

Is training required? Yes

Conditions of training: As a participant in this program, you hold a contract with your home agency and Cultural Homestay International (CHI). By signing that contract, you agreed to follow all program rules and regulations. If you are selected and recommended to one of CHI's valued employers, you are expected to give your best effort at all times. Because this is a tourism-based position, you will be scheduled to work on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, which are peak business days.

This employment is a privilege, not a guarantee. Your employer provides an offer of



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employment, but it is not a contract. You are responsible for maintaining your job through consistent attendance, punctuality, teamwork, and professional behavior. CHI will not intervene if you lose hours due to lateness, call-outs, poor attitude, or conflicts with other employment. Employers in the United States have the right to adjust schedules or end employment at any time for lawful reasons.

Employers will make every effort to provide an average of 32 hours per week during the main part of the season. However, hours are not guaranteed and depend on business volume, weather, and participant performance. Restaurants in the United States often overstaff and then reduce hours ("cut") when business is slow. This is a normal part of restaurant work, and participants are expected to accept this as part of the job.

By law, U.S. employers cannot displace American workers to give hours to exchange visitors. If business levels decline, participants are often the first to have hours reduced. Consistent effort, cooperation, and positive attitude help maintain your schedule. Managers are more likely to schedule participants who demonstrate reliability and strong work ethic.

It is critical to approach this opportunity with respect and professionalism. Behaviors that place your program at risk include:

- Poor attendance or frequent call-outs
- Dishonesty about your availability or program dates
- Theft or dishonesty at work
- Refusing assigned tasks or prioritizing other opportunities over your primary job

Is there possibility to change positions? No

Uniform required? Yes

Does employer provide uniform? Yes

Cost of uniform:

Is uniform refundable? No

Uniform provided details: The employer provides required outerwear and polo shirts as part of the official uniform. Participants are expected to wear the assigned uniform during all scheduled shifts and to keep it clean, presentable, and in good condition at all times, in accordance with company policy.

Failure to maintain proper uniform standards may result in disciplinary action.

Do students need to purchase specific clothes or footwear? No

If so, details for clothing: For personal safety and injury prevention, participants are required to purchase closed-toe, black, slip-resistant athletic shoes. Proper footwear is essential to maintain secure footing while performing job duties in a maritime and high-traffic environment.

Grooming: Participants should also plan to bring black pants to complete the required uniform. Maintaining a high standard of personal grooming and appearance is essential in the hospitality industry to ensure guest safety, comfort, and satisfaction. All employees are expected to present a clean, professional, and well-groomed appearance at all times while on duty.

Shower daily and use antiperspirant or deodorant to maintain a fresh, odor-free presence. Wash hands frequently, especially after using the restroom.



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Hair must be clean, neatly styled, and kept away from the face to maintain a professional appearance.

Nails must be clean, trimmed, and moderate in length. Avoid excessive, chipped, or distracting nail polish.

Jewelry should be minimal and non-distracting. Large, dangling, or flashy accessories are not permitted while working.

Tattoos should be covered whenever possible, particularly those that may be considered inappropriate or distracting to guests. Excessive or visible piercings should be avoided while on duty or in uniform.

Failure to meet grooming and appearance standards may result in corrective action, in accordance with company policy.

Important points of job: All participants must successfully pass a pre-employment drug test as part of the onboarding process. This is a strict requirement, and no exceptions will be made.

Because work is performed aboard vessels and on the water, participants must be able to comfortably tolerate marine environments without experiencing motion sickness or seasickness. Individuals who are prone to seasickness are strongly

Additional position information: Commitment

You are required to honor the work dates you agreed to when accepting your placement with Statue City Cruises as a Concession Associate. The employer expects you to fulfill your full commitment without exceptions. Reliability, honesty, and professionalism are essential to maintaining good standing with both the employer and CHI.

Role Expectations – Concession Associate

A day as a Concession Associate at Statue City Cruises is fast-paced, physically demanding, and customer-facing. Responsibilities include preparing and serving food and beverages, handling cash and electronic payments, restocking products, cleaning workstations and guest areas, removing trash, managing lines, and assisting guests efficiently during peak service periods.

Concession Associates must work quickly and accurately while maintaining food safety standards and excellent customer service. You are expected to remain calm and professional during high-volume service, long lines, weather disruptions, and busy ferry schedules.

This role involves significant physical activity, including standing for long periods, repetitive movements, lifting supplies, and working in tight service areas. Work is performed both indoors and outdoors, with exposure to heat, humidity, wind, and cooler temperatures on the water. Ferry motion and marine conditions are part of the work environment, and employees may assist guests who feel uncomfortable while onboard.

Maintaining energy, focus, and a positive attitude throughout long shifts is essential. This position requires resilience, teamwork, and a strong work ethic.

Hospitality Standards

As a Concession Associate, guest interaction is a key part of the role. You are expected to:

Greet guests in a friendly, respectful manner

Communicate clearly and politely, even during busy periods

Maintain composure when guests are impatient or frustrated

Work efficiently to keep service moving and lines organized

Medical or Mental Health Conditions

By accepting this position, you confirm that you are medically and mentally able to safely



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perform all Concession Associate duties, including prolonged standing, repetitive tasks, lifting, working with food, cleaning products, and operating in a marine environment. If you arrive with a pre-existing condition that prevents you from completing your job duties, CHI may be required to end your program early. If a new condition develops after arrival, you must:

Notify CHI immediately

Visit a licensed medical doctor in the United States

Provide written medical documentation stating you are unable to perform your assigned duties

Emotional discomfort, stress, or fatigue alone are not valid reasons for reassignment without medical documentation. Most entry-level jobs in the U.S. involve physical labor, public interaction, and cleaning duties. If a doctor determines you cannot safely perform these tasks, it is unlikely another job would be more suitable, and you may be advised to return home.

How to Avoid Program Termination

To remain in good standing with CHI, you must:

Validate your SEVIS record within 24 hours of arrival at <https://wt.chinet.org>

Update your address and phone number in the CHI portal within one week of any change

Obtain CHI approval before starting a second job

Respond promptly to CHI emails and check your spam folder regularly

Complete your Monthly Evaluation on time

Social Media Policy

As a Concession Associate, you represent CHI, Statue City Cruises, and the U.S. exchange program both in person and online. Do not post from work, while in uniform, or from restricted areas. Do not share negative or misleading content about food operations, pay, housing, coworkers, or guests. Social media is not an appropriate platform for complaints. Violations may result in termination from the program.

Tips for Success as a Concession Associate

Mobile Phone Use

Phones are prohibited during training and work hours. Phone use on the job is unsafe, unprofessional, and may result in termination.

Attendance and Punctuality

Arrive on time and attend all scheduled shifts. If you are sick or unable to work, notify your manager at least two hours before your shift. Failure to follow attendance procedures may result in termination.

Work Duties

You may be asked to perform tasks outside your initial job description, including cleaning or restocking. This is normal in U.S. workplaces. Saying "that is not my job" is considered unprofessional.

Entry-Level Job Expectations

Follow supervisor instructions even if schedules, duties, or days off differ from those of friends. This is normal and expected.



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Learning Curve

Food service is fast-paced. Feeling overwhelmed in the first two to three weeks is normal. Speed and confidence improve with practice and effort.

Teamwork

You will work closely with others in tight spaces. Respect, communication, and cooperation are essential.

Skill Building

This role builds valuable skills including time management, customer service under pressure, teamwork, and responsibility.

Global Bridges Academy (GBA)

CHI offers free Global Bridges Academy online sessions covering teamwork, communication, U.S. workplace culture, and stress management. Participants who attend these sessions consistently perform better and adapt more successfully. Participation is strongly encouraged.

Housing Information

Housing name: 2026 Must Arrange Own NYC

Housing address: 179 MOORE ST

City: BROOKLYN

Phone: (347) 227-8634

Fax:

Contact: Temporary housing in NYC is available to give participants time to find verified long-term rentals.

Email: info@nymoorehostel.com

Website: Participants must secure housing through verified, reputable websites.

Housing assisted by: Must Arrange Own

Is student required to sign a separate housing contract? Yes

If so, contract details: All participants must have written proof of housing terms before arrival. This can be a lease or a booking confirmation from a verified rental platform such as Airbnb, VRBO, or June Homes. The document should clearly outline:

Rent amount and payment schedule

Duration of stay

Deposit amount and refund terms

Included utilities and amenities

Rules or conditions of stay

CHI cannot recover deposits, negotiate refunds, or represent you in disputes.

Always review cancellation and refund policies carefully before sending any payment.

Type of housing: Dormitory

Number of people to a room: 4 +

Bedrooms: 4 +



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Job Description

Bath: 1 +

Cost Type: Month

Cost Amount: \$1,100.00

Cost Details \$1,100 to \$2,500 per month

Is housing cost deducted from paycheck? No

Is housing deposit required? Yes

Deposit amount: \$750 to \$2,500 per month

Housing deposit due date: Use reputable sites that guarantee refunds.

Instructions for deposit payment: Fake Listings: Scammers post attractive, low-priced rentals copied from real ads.
Upfront Payment Requests: They ask for deposits or fees through untraceable methods like PayPal "Friends and Family," Western Union, or gift cards. Legitimate landlords do not request payment before signing or viewing.
Wire Transfer Scams: Never send money internationally or through wire transfer—these funds cannot be recovered.
No Viewing Allowed: Avoid anyone who refuses to show the property or pressures you to decide quickly.
Fake Rental Agencies: Some scammers create professional-looking websites and request large fees. Always research reviews before paying.
Too-Good-to-Be-True Deals: Low prices in New York usually indicate fraud.

Best Practices:

Use verified platforms that protect payments and offer refunds.
Avoid all untraceable payment methods.
Book short-term housing through verified sites such as Airbnb or June Homes.
View your long-term housing in person before paying deposits.

Is housing deposit refundable? Yes

Conditions for deposit refund: We recommend reserving a short-term Airbnb or verified rental upon arrival. This allows you to visit potential long-term housing options in person before paying a security deposit. The return of your deposit depends on the terms of your lease or rental agreement. If you leave before the end of your lease or violate the terms, the landlord may keep your deposit. Program Coordinators cannot assist with recovering deposits or negotiating refunds if the agreement is broken. Always read and understand the refund and cancellation policies before sending payment.

Utilities included: Yes

If so, utilities details: Utilities vary by accommodation. Air conditioning is not standard in most New York City apartments. Many older buildings were built without central air systems, and window or portable units are often not included.

Participants should understand that New York's summer is hot and humid for about four to six weeks, while the rest of the season is warm and comfortable. Always ask the landlord for permission before purchasing or installing an air conditioner, as some buildings prohibit them or charge additional electricity fees. Bring a fan for comfort if needed.

Utilities estimated cost per month: Varies

Is the housing mandatory? No

Can students find alternative housing during their stay? No

Public



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Method of transportation from housing to work site:

Transportation details: Most participants will travel to work using public transportation, primarily through the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). The MTA runs the New York City Subway and Bus System, which operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across all five boroughs. It is the most reliable and affordable way to get around the city.

A single subway or bus ride costs approximately \$2.90, and participants can purchase Unlimited MetroCards for 7-day or 30-day periods, which offer unlimited rides for a fixed price. MetroCards can be purchased at machines inside subway stations or by using OMNY, the city's tap-to-pay system. You can use a debit or credit card by tapping it at the turnstile. Always keep your MetroCard or payment card in a safe place and budget for daily transportation costs.

Walking and taking public transportation are the safest and most practical ways to get to work. Rideshare services such as Uber or Lyft are available but can be expensive due to heavy city traffic and surge pricing. These should be used only when public transportation feels unsafe or when traveling very late at night.

Do not purchase or use electric scooters or e-bikes. These devices are a serious safety and fire hazard. The lithium batteries used in them can explode or catch fire while charging, and New York City has reported multiple deaths and apartment fires caused by these devices. Storing or charging one indoors can violate fire codes and your lease agreement.

Scooter and e-bike accidents are also a major cause of severe injuries and fatalities in New York City. The traffic is dense, unpredictable, and unsafe for riders. Many participants have been injured because they underestimated the risk. For your safety and the safety of others, do not buy, rent, or ride scooters or e-bikes during your program.

Plan all travel using Google Maps, Moovit, or www.rome2rio.com to estimate time and check route updates. Subway delays and crowds are common during rush hours, so plan to leave early for every shift.

Additional housing features: CHI will create WhatsApp groups approximately two months before your arrival to help you connect with other participants who are also looking for shared accommodations. This is a safe way to find potential roommates and exchange reliable housing information.

If you are uncertain about a listing or suspect a scam, trust your instincts—it likely is. Always confirm details with your CHI Coordinator before sending any money or signing any agreements.

All housing information must be verified in your CHI portal at least two weeks before arrival. Verification ensures your housing meets program standards and helps prevent unsafe or fraudulent situations.

Comments: University & School-Run Summer Housing (Open to All Interns)

Stevens Institute of Technology Intern Housing — stevens.edu/summer-guest-and-conference-services/summer-intern-housing
(Hoboken, NJ — 10-minute PATH train to Manhattan; open to all interns; fall extensions available)



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Dedicated Student/Intern Residences (Year-Round, All-Inclusive)

Educational Housing Services (EHS) — studenthousing.org

Student-only and intern-friendly housing in multiple NYC neighborhoods with fully furnished rooms and amenities.

FOUND Study — foundstudy.com/nyc

Modern student housing with flexible leases, furnished units, and convenient locations across Manhattan and Brooklyn.

International House — ihouse-nyc.org

Global community residence in Morningside Heights for graduate students and interns; meals and programming included.

The Webster Apartments (women only) — websterapartments.org

Historic residence offering affordable rooms, meals, and amenities for professional women and interns.

92nd Street Y Residence (women only) — 92ny.org/residence

Upper East Side residence offering furnished rooms, community programs, and short-term intern housing.

Kolping House — kolpingny.org

Affordable Catholic-affiliated residence in Midtown; basic dorm rooms with meals included.

The Brandon Residence for Women — brandonresidence.org

Greenwich Village residence offering supportive, affordable housing for students and interns.

Coliving & Roommate Marketplaces (Month-to-Month, Furnished)

SpareRoom — spareroom.com/rooms-for-rent/nyc

Roommate matching and sublets with verified listings.

Outpost Club — outpost.me

Co-living homes in Manhattan and Brooklyn with flexible leases, shared kitchens, and furnished rooms.

Harrington Housing — harringtonhousing.com

Intern/student co-living with no credit checks and utilities included.

June Homes — junehomes.com

Fully furnished rooms in shared apartments with flexible mid-term leases and virtual tours.

Nooklyn — nooklyn.com

Brooklyn-based roommate finder for verified shared apartments.

RoomGo — roomgo.net

Roommate and short-term rental platform popular among international students.



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Intern Housing NYC — interns.nyc

Intern-specific co-living network with shared apartments, flexible leases, and community events.

Common — common.com

Modern co-living homes across NYC; furnished rooms with utilities and cleaning included.

Node2 (by Common) — live-node.com

Premium co-living spaces with work areas, flexible terms, and furnished rooms.

Bungalow — bungalow.com

Curated shared homes for young professionals; month-to-month flexibility.

Cohabs — cohabs.com

Co-living housing with fully furnished rooms and flexible leases in safe NYC neighborhoods.

Furnished 30-Day+ Apartments (Studios / 1BR)

Blueground — theblueground.com/furnished-apartments-new-york-usa

Premium furnished apartments with flexible 30-day minimum leases.

Leasebreak — leasebreak.com

Short-term sublets and lease takeovers (30–365 days), often cheaper than traditional rentals.

Furnished Quarters — furnishedquarters.com

All-inclusive, fully furnished apartments with flexible monthly leases.

Sonder (Extended-Stay Aparthotels) — sonder.com/extendedstay

Hotel-style apartments with full kitchens and self check-in.

Mint House — minthouse.com

Aparthotels offering discounted 30-day+ stays in Midtown and the Financial District.

Zeus Living — zeusliving.com

Fully furnished homes with 30-day minimum stays and simple extensions.

Anyplace — anyplace.com

Remote-worker and intern-friendly monthly furnished housing with high-speed Wi-Fi.

Corporate Housing by Owner (CHBO) — chbo.com

Owner-direct furnished apartments for 30-day+ stays.

Furnish Finder — furnishedfinder.com

Short-term furnished rentals for students and travel professionals (often monthly options).

VRBO — vrbo.com

Vacation rentals offering flexible stays; verify 30-day legality before booking.

Budget & Community Options



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YMCA NYC Residences (Vanderbilt, West Side) — ymcanyc.org/residences
Affordable rooms with shared facilities; 30-day stays available for young adults and interns.

Hostelling International NY — hiusa.org/hostels/new-york/new-york-city
Short-term, budget-friendly housing for students; verify 30-day compliance.

Student Housing Works — studenthousingworks.com
Affordable, furnished short-term housing for students in Manhattan.

NYC Intern — nycintern.org
Intern-focused housing with amenities like Wi-Fi, laundry, and furnished rooms.

J1Accom — j1accom.com
Popular option for J-1 participants; Upper East Side shared housing for over 200 J-1 students each summer.

These listings can be very affordable but come with higher risk. You may find good opportunities if you are cautious and verify everything in writing.

Search and join groups such as:

"NYC Chinese Student Housing" / "NYC Chinese Student Housing"

"NYU Chinese Housing"

"NYU Chinese Housing"

"Columbia CSSA Housing" / "Columbia CSSA Housing"

"Brooklyn Chinese Roommates" / "Brooklyn Chinese Roommates"

Daily posts often come from outgoing students subletting rooms for the summer.

Proceed carefully:

Always verify the listing, location, and landlord identity.

Never pay through untraceable methods or before a written agreement.

Confirm the rental is legal for 30-day or longer stays to avoid eviction or fines.

Use video calls or ask for a real-time tour before sending any deposit.

Important Advisory

Only use verified platforms and written agreements that clearly state rent, duration, and refund policies.

Avoid wire transfers, unverified payment links, or listings that seem too good to be true.

Most NYC housing is legally restricted to 30-day minimum stays under Local Law 18.

CHI requires all participants to complete housing verification in the CHI Portal at least two weeks prior to arrival.

Location Area Information

Location type: Metropolitan area

Location of work site best described as:



CHI WORK AND TRAVEL

255 West End Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901 USA

1-800-432-4643 x2
1-415-459-5397 x2

chiwt@chinet.org

wt.chinet.org

Job Description

The Battery Park Ticket Office is located inside Castle Clinton National Monument in New York City, and the Liberty State Park Ticket Office is located within the Central Railroad of New Jersey Terminal in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Participants employed by Statue City Cruises may work at either of these departure locations or aboard the company's vessels, which ferry passengers between Battery Park, Liberty State Park, the Statue of Liberty National Monument, and Ellis Island.

This role may require daily ferry travel between sites, so participants should plan their schedules and transportation accordingly.

Location details:



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Job Description

Participants may be scheduled to report to either Battery Park (New York) or Liberty State Park (New Jersey), depending on operational needs. Both locations are accessible by public transportation. Plan your commute in advance and allow extra travel time, as ferry boarding and security screening are required before shifts.

To Battery Park – New York, NY

Address: Castle Clinton National Monument, Battery Park, New York, NY 10004

By Subway:

Take the 4 or 5 train to Bowling Green Station

Take the R or W train to Whitehall Street–South Ferry Station

Take the 1 train to South Ferry Station

By Bus:

M15 and M20 lines stop near Battery Park.

By Ferry (from New Jersey):

NJ PATH train to World Trade Center → transfer to subway or walk south (approx. 20 minutes).

To Liberty State Park – Jersey City, NJ

Address: 1 Audrey Zapp Drive, Jersey City, NJ 07305

By Train:

Take the PATH Train from Manhattan (World Trade Center) to Exchange Place or Grove Street Station.

Transfer to the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail toward West Side Avenue and exit at Liberty State Park Station.

From the station, it is about a 15–20 minute walk to the CRRNJ Terminal.

By Bus:

NJ Transit buses serve downtown Jersey City. Use the NJ Transit App or www.njtransit.com for real-time schedules.

By Rideshare or Taxi:

Uber, Lyft, and local taxi services are available in both New York and New Jersey.

Travel Tip:

Download the following transportation apps before arrival for easier navigation:

NJ Transit: <https://www.njtransit.com>

MTA Subway: <https://new.mta.info>

Rome2Rio: <https://www.rome2rio.com>

Google Maps: <https://maps.google.com>

Public transportation in the New York metropolitan area is extensive, but delays and route changes can occur. Always check schedules before commuting, and plan to arrive at least 30–45 minutes early for your shift to allow time for ferry boarding and security screening. If you ever feel unsafe or lost, go to a police officer, transit worker, or uniformed staff member for assistance.

Average daily temperature: Min average t° in June: 60°F (+15°C), Max average t° in August: 90°F (+32°C)



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Job Description

Community or regional website: www.nyc.gov; www.nycgo.com

Nearest cities: Jersey City and New York City

Distance to nearest cities: Traveling between them takes 15–30 minutes by PATH train (5 miles / 8 kilometers).

What to wear: For participants coming from warmer climates, early summer in New York can feel unexpectedly cool, especially in May and early June, when temperatures often fluctuate from mild to chilly. Pack layered clothing such as light jackets and sweaters for cooler mornings and evenings. By July and August, the weather becomes hot and humid, so lightweight, breathable clothing is best. Comfortable, closed-toe shoes are required for work. Most housing does not have air conditioning, so it can feel very warm indoors during the summer. Lightweight sleepwear and a fan are recommended.

Available public transportation: Uber, Taxi, MTA New York City Transit, NJ Transit

Public transportation access: New York City's extensive public transportation system—subways, buses, and commuter trains—makes it easy to travel between boroughs and reach work locations without a car.

Accessible amenities (by walking or public transportation)

Food market: Yes

Shopping mall: Yes

Post office: Yes

Movie theater: Yes

Restaurants: Yes

Fitness center: Yes

Laundry: Yes

Internet café: Yes

Public library: Yes

Suggested Travel Information

Nearest international airport: John F. Kennedy International (JFK), LaGuardia (LGA), Newark Liberty International (EWR).

Nearest airport: John F. Kennedy International (JFK), LaGuardia (LGA), Newark Liberty International (EWR).

Transportation from airport to employer and / or housing: Transportation options include train, bus, or taxi. Visit www.rome2rio.com

Nearest bus station (to the airport): Port Authority Bus Terminal (625 8th Ave, New York, NY 10018).

Bus information (web site): <https://www.njtransit.com>

Nearest train information (to the airport): NJ Transit

Train information (web site): <https://www.njtransit.com>

If participant arrives after hours suggested, overnight accomodation: www.nymoorehostel.com; www.hostelworld.com

Cost per night: \$70+

Transportation to overnight accomodation: Train, Bus, or Taxi, www.rome2rio.com

Transportations cost: JFK is connected to the NYC Public Transportation Network: \$11.15 (AirTrain Exit + Subway Fare).

Travel Instructions:



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Job Description

The best way to reach your destination in New York City depends on your arrival airport and the location of your accommodation. Below are convenient and reliable options for each major airport.

From John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK):

AirTrain and Subway: Take the AirTrain from your terminal to Jamaica Station, where you can transfer to the subway system (E line or Long Island Rail Road) to reach your destination. This is the most cost-effective option.

Taxi or Rideshare: Yellow cabs and rideshare services such as Uber and Lyft are available outside each terminal for direct transportation to your accommodation.

From LaGuardia Airport (LGA):

Public Bus: Several MTA buses connect LaGuardia to nearby subway stations, including the Q70-SBS to Jackson Heights–Roosevelt Ave for transfers to the E, F, M, R, or 7 subway lines.

Taxi or Rideshare: Licensed taxis and rideshares are available at designated pickup zones outside each terminal.

From Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR):

AirTrain and NJ Transit: Take the AirTrain from your terminal to Newark Liberty International Airport Station, then transfer to NJ Transit trains traveling to New York Penn Station (34th Street and 8th Avenue, Manhattan).

Important: Download the NJ Transit Mobile App from www.njtransit.com

before you travel. You can purchase and store tickets directly in the app. Tickets must be activated before boarding the train. The app also provides real-time schedules and service alerts.

Taxi or Rideshare: Licensed taxis and rideshares are available for direct transportation to your accommodation.

Airport Shuttle Services:

Shared shuttles operate at all three airports and can take you directly to your hotel or hostel. These are convenient for travelers with heavy luggage, but travel times may be longer due to multiple stops.

Safety Tip:

Do not accept transportation offers from anyone inside the terminal. These are often unlicensed and uninsured services. Use only official taxi stands or authorized rideshare pickup zones. For help, visit the Port Authority Welcome Center in the arrivals area, where uniformed staff can assist with legitimate transportation options. Only accept baggage assistance from uniformed airport porters.

Social Security Information

Does the company require students to have Social Security number before arriving to the work place? No

Does the company provide Social Security application assistance? No

If so, details:



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wt.chinet.org

Job Description

A Social Security Number (SSN) is an essential identification number required for income tax reporting and employment verification in the United States.

For participants working at Statue City Cruises, the nearest Social Security Card Center is:

Social Security Administration
325 West Side Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07305

Hours: Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM (Closed weekends)
Phone Number: 1-800-772-1213

Participants staying in New York City may also visit one of the following nearby New York Card Centers:

Manhattan – Downtown Card Center
123 William Street, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10038

Manhattan – Midtown Card Center
237 West 48th Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10036

Queens – Jamaica Card Center
1 Jamaica Center Plaza, 3rd Floor
Jamaica, NY 11432

Bronx Card Center
820 Concourse Village West, 2nd Floor
Bronx, NY 10451

If early appointments are unavailable at one location, you may visit another card center listed above. All offices are authorized to process your application.

After your SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) record has been validated, you must visit a Social Security office—referred to as a card center—within two (2) weeks of arrival in the United States.

You do not need your physical SS card in hand to begin working. However, it is your responsibility to provide a copy of your SS card to your employer within four (4) weeks of arrival in the United States to remain eligible for continued employment.

For the most accurate and up-to-date information, or to confirm your nearest location, visit the Social Security Office Locator at www.ssa.gov/locator.

Where is the closest Social Security office? Locate the nearest SS office based on your ZIP code: www.ssa.gov/locator/
How far is the Social Security office from the work place? Varies

Specific instructions:



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Job Description

Visa Validation (Activating Your Visa)

Upon arriving in the USA, log into your CHI Portal at wt.chinet.org to complete your SEVIS validation and download your I-94 form. If you're staying in temporary accommodations (such as a motel or hostel), use that address for validation. Once you secure permanent housing, update your account with your new address. If you do not have a U.S. phone number, you can use your employer's phone number, (212) 344-7220, on your validation, if needed. After validation, it will take 4-6 days for CHI to process and approve it. Please note that SEVIS is not processed on weekends.

Important: Do not visit the Social Security office until you receive an email from the U.S. Department of State confirming that your visa status is active after completing the SEVIS validation in your CHI portal at wt.chinet.org. Going to the Social Security office before your visa is active can delay your SSN card by 60 days.

Visiting the Social Security Office (Mandatory Within 2 Weeks of Arrival)

Once you receive the active status email, visit a local Social Security Office to apply for your SSN. Be sure to bring the following documents:

- Form SS-5: You can start your application online here, but applying online alone is not enough; you must bring your documents in person for verification.
- Form DS-2019 (Certificate of Eligibility).
- Sponsor Letter (available in your CHI portal under "Program Resources").
- I-94 Record Printout.
- Passport with J-1 visa.
- Job Offer from Evelyn Hill Inc.
- I-901 SEVIS fee receipt.

Before leaving the Social Security office, make sure:

- Your name is spelled correctly.
- You've provided the correct address, including your apartment number (if applicable). Double-check the address on Google Maps to ensure accuracy.
- You receive a receipt for your SSN application. Bring this receipt to your employer as proof of your application.

Wait for Your SSN

It may take up to 3 weeks to receive your SSN by mail, sent to the address you provided on the SS-5 form. If you haven't secured permanent housing yet, you can use Evelyn Hill Inc.'s mailing address:

1 Liberty Island, New York, NY 10004.


Once you receive your SSN, it is your responsibility to provide a copy of your card to your employer.

If you do not receive your SSN within 4 weeks, return to the Social Security office with your passport, DS-2019, and application receipt to check on the status of your application.



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1-415-459-5397 x2

 chiwt@chinet.org

 wt.chinet.org

Job Description



CULTURAL HOMESTAY INTERNATIONAL

Welcome Letter

WORK & TRAVEL

Dear International Adult Participant,

Hello and Welcome! We are so happy that you will be visiting our country. Work & Travel can be difficult, especially in the beginning, but we believe you will find your experience rewarding and unforgettable. CHI is here to help! Please read carefully through this Welcome Letter.

My name is Jennifer Campbell. I am the Senior Regional Manager for the Mid - Atlantic & Ohio Regions for Cultural Homestay International (CHI). My team and I will be happy to answer any questions you might have and we will also be available throughout your stay to assist with any problems that may occur. Please remember to check your email daily for important communications.

You must stay in contact with your CHI representative.

Have the best summer of your life!

Warm Travel Wishes,

Jennifer Campbell

Please read the CHI Participant Handbook, which you should have received at orientation or from your home country agency. You are responsible for following all rules in this handbook.

The rules are in place for your health, safety, and welfare.

Failure to follow the rules may result in a participant's negative program status.

Be Prepared

- Make photocopies of important documents and leave a copy with loved ones.
- Back up your digital photos, in case your phone is stolen or broken.
- Leave things you could not bear to lose at home.
- Bring your welcome letter, your important documents, two extra sets of clothes and your necessary medicine in your carry on luggage. Checked luggage is often lost. The airline will deliver your bag to your US housing or employer once found, but it could take 3 or 4 days.
- *If your luggage is lost, send it to your employers address to ensure delivery.

- You are required to bring \$1000 with you from your country. We recommend you bring \$1200. The first few weeks of Work & Travel you will need these funds to establish yourself in a new country. You will need to pay your housing deposit, pay a week or two of rent, buy a sim card, purchase pillows, sheets, and blankets, food, uniforms, a bicycle, or have transportation money. It takes a few weeks to start working, be trained, become integrated into the schedule and get your first paycheck. You will be nervous and out of money when your first paycheck arrives. Be prepared, you are moving to another country.

Be Safe

- Exercise adequate discretion, stay aware of your belongings, and avoid putting yourself into risky situations (such as unlit, deserted areas at night).
- Open a bank account, on the first day you check into your US housing, to keep the recommended \$1200 you brought from your country safe and secure. You will need this money. Never keep large amounts of money in your participant housing no matter how much you trust your roommates.
- Once in the United States, never carry large amounts of money. You will have a debit card from the bank, if lost, this can always be cancelled. Do not give your PIN (personal identification number) to anyone. If you lose your cash, it can not be replaced.
- Once in the United States, never carry your important documents or valuables to work. Keep your documents, including passport, safely hidden in your room. Never give your passport or documents to anyone (such as a landlord or employer) to keep. It is illegal for anyone to take your passport or documents from you for any reason.
- Bring an ID from your country to carry with you that can easily be replaced (University ID, residency card, drivers license). Passports are difficult and expensive to replace, and losing your passport can ruin your travel period plans.
- Establish a “do not lose it” discipline. Travelers are more likely to inadvertently lose their bags than to have them stolen. I have heard of participants leaving passports under pillows, bags on the overhead rack on the bus, and documents in the taxi. Always take a look behind you before leaving any place or form of transport.
- When you are out and about, never casually or carelessly set down any small valuable item, such as a phone or wallet. Either hold it in your hand or keep it tucked away. At cafés, do not place your phone on the tabletop or purse on the back of the chair where it will be easy to snatch — keep phones and valuables in your front pocket. Make it a habit to be careful with your things; it will become second nature.
- Stay vigilant in crowds and steer clear of disturbances near you.
- Participants should use common sense, stay with a partner or friend, especially at night. It is recommended participants let a friend know where they are.
- Bicycle riders with helmets had an 85 percent reduction in their risk of head injury and an 88 percent reduction in their risk of brain injury. If you ride a bicycle in the US, wear a helmet.

Communicate Your Arrival Information

- Check your email frequently for important information.
- Plan your flight accordingly: if your final destination is 5 hours away, make sure your flight arrives early in the day OR you have made a reservation at a hotel or hostel to stay overnight.
- Do not arrive late at night! You may not be able to get into your housing after 20:00.
- You must contact your CHI representative, to let them know when you will be arriving.
- You must log into www.sevis.org to enter your flight information, as soon as you book your ticket.

Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) | wt.chinet.org

- You must log into wt.chinet.org to enter your flight information, as soon as you book your ticket.
- You are required to access wt.chinet.org within three days of arrival into the United States to check in, use the SEVIS tab on the left hand side of the wt.chinet.org portal.
- You are required to access wt.chinet.org, every month following your initial check in, for the duration of your program to complete a monthly report.
- Failure to complete SEVIS check-ins, may result in a participant's negative program status.

Arriving at a United States Airport

The following documents you **MUST** have in your possession and present to the U.S. immigration officials upon arrival in the U.S.:

- Valid passport
- DS-2019 Form, the original copy signed with blue ink. Do not accidentally give your loved ones the original copy for safekeeping.
- I-901 SEVIS fee receipt
- J-1 Visa
- Job Offer
- Sponsor Letter

Arrival Tips:

- The immigration officer will review all documents, validate, and place a stamp on your DS-2019 form and your passport. The officer will then return all validated documents to you, including the DS-2019 form.
- Use your “do not lose it” discipline, remember to collect all documents from the immigration officer. This is a place participants often misplace documents. Participants are nervous, excited and fail to check they have received everything back before leaving the area.
- Wait to check-in on social media or take a selfie until you check you have all your documents.
- You should have no problem entering the U.S. as long as you have all the proper documentation, cooperate and communicate respectfully with the U.S. immigration officers at the airport.

Traveling to your Final Destination

- Before you leave your home country map out your trip. www.rome2rio.com is a great website for this research. Your CHI representative will send you exact instructions in a letter prior to your arrival. Check your email daily, it is very important.
 - When estimating your arrival time please add extra time for waiting for baggage, eating, or missing a bus or train connection.
 - Be sure to have a small amount of American currency for regional travel before leaving the airport. Do NOT accept rides from strangers at the airport!
 - Plan accordingly, if arriving late at night, please stay in a hotel or hostel and travel in the morning. (You will not be able to get into your housing if arriving late at night.)
-

Arriving at your Final Destination | What do I need to do now?

- It is very important that you log into the SEVIS system within three days of your arrival. Log into www.sevis.org or if you have no access to the web, call CHI for assistance at 1-800-432-4643. There are SERIOUS consequences if you do not validate your visa, beginning with a cancellation of your visa, so do it as soon as possible!
 - Go to your employer, let them know you have arrived safely. They will provide you with your orientation/start date.
 - 24 hours after entering the United States you will be required to retrieve a document on the internet called an I-94.
 - Wait 5 business days after checking into SEVIS and report to the Social Security office to apply for a Social Security number.
-

I - 94

The I-94 Form is the Arrival / Departure Record that is issued by the immigration officer at the airport to all foreign visitors entering the United States. All I-94 records are created electronically and accessible online 24 hours after arrival.

Retrieval Tips:

- Wait 24 hours following your arrival in the US before you attempt to retrieve your I-94 number.
 - Ensure that the computer you are using is connected to a printer (local library).
 - Go to the <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov>
 - Enter the required information in all CAPITAL letters. Please make sure you enter your name exactly as it appears in your passport
 - Click Submit
 - You must print this document, it is a required document at Social Security
-

Applying for a Social Security Number

You must register with the local Social Security Office to get your card and number. **YOU MUST WAIT TO RECEIVE YOUR S STATUS**, before you apply for a Social Security card! This in most cases, takes 5 business days from the day you first checked into SEVIS.

Required Documents:

- Valid passport
 - DS-2019 Form, the original copy signed with blue ink. Do not accidentally give your loved ones the original copy for safekeeping.
 - I-901 SEVIS fee receipt
 - J-1 Visa
 - I - 94 Form, printed from the internet at your local community library or employer.
-

Second Jobs

- CHI does not provide second jobs.
 - Second jobs are possible. However, your responsibility is to your primary employer. It is the primary employers participation in the Work & Travel program that has afforded you the opportunity to come to the United States.
 - A second job may not conflict with your primary CHI position in anyway.
 - If you are considering looking for a second job, please be reminded the employer must be approved by CHI for your safety.
 - Failure to have any second job approved may result in a participant's negative program status.
 - Your CHI representative will send you exact instructions in a letter prior to your arrival. Check your email daily, it is very important.
-

Health Insurance

It is required that all participants of Work & Travel obtain health insurance.

- Your health insurance provider will email your instructions to obtain your insurance card.
 - Do not leave your home country without accessing the health insurance website and printing your card.
 - In the United States, doctors and hospitals are in different buildings. Doctors generally have offices away from the hospital or work at an urgent care facility or clinic.
 - For a basic illness, you will go to a doctors office, urgent care facility or clinic, free to low cost .
 - For a serious emergency, you will go to the hospital or emergency center, pay \$350 and your insurance will cover any costs incurred after \$350.
 - There is limited coverage for dental emergencies. Please visit your primary care doctor and dentist in your home country before traveling to the United States.
 - Please contact your CHI representative to report any illness or emergency you may have, so they can provide assistance.
-

Know the Law

- In the United States, you must be at least 21 years of age to purchase, possess or consume alcoholic beverages or participate in any gambling. Underage drinking or gambling is illegal and can have severe consequences for young people and for adults who provide alcoholic beverages to those under 21.
-



CPSC Safety Alert



Electric-Powered Scooters

E-scooters are a fun and efficient way to travel, but they can be dangerous. Unsafe riding and collisions can cause serious injury or death.

CPSC recommends the following safety tips when riding an e-scooter:

WEAR A HELMET. Knee and elbow pads can also help to prevent injury from falls and collisions.

CHECK FOR DAMAGE. Before riding, ensure the handlebars, brakes, throttle, bell, lights, tires, cables, and frame are in good condition. Damage to the e-scooter can cause you to lose control and crash.

TEST THE BRAKES. Make sure you know how to use the brakes and how long it takes to stop the e-scooter so you're prepared for an emergency stop. Stopping distance can vary significantly from scooter to scooter.

ALERT OTHERS AND BE SEEN. E-scooters are small, quick, and silent, making it difficult for others to spot you, especially in parking lots and structures.

- Expect vehicles and pedestrians to not see you; slow down, and plan ahead of time.
- Use the bell/horn to alert others.
- Do not make abrupt, unpredictable movements.

WATCH OUT FOR OBSTACLES. Uneven surfaces, cracks, and small objects on your pathway can stop the e-scooter suddenly, throwing you off.

HANDS ON. Always keep both hands on the handlebars and keep items off the handlebars.

SLOW AND STEADY. Slow down and lean back when you have to ride over bumps.

ALCOHOL OR DRUGS. Never ride under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

RIDE SOLO. Only one person per e-scooter; additional riders can increase the risk and severity of collisions.

AVOID DISTRACTIONS WHILE RIDING. Listening to music while riding is distracting and prevents you from hearing your environment. Same goes for talking on your phone, even with a hands-free device, because it can result in distracted operation of the scooter

NO STUNTS. Jumps and bumps can damage the e-scooter and make it unstable. This can pose a risk not only to yourself but also to people around you and to the next rider.

FOLLOW ALL MANUFACTURER DIRECTIONS. Check the e-scooter's safety information, such as weight and age limits. Many e-scooters are designed specifically for adults because of the size and speed of the scooter.

PARK CORRECTLY. The e-scooter should be parked upright and away from pedestrian and motorist traffic so that it's not a tripping hazard.

REPORT PROBLEMS. Use the service's app to report any issues, such as signs of damage. You could end up saving the next rider's life. Report any incidents with e-scooters to CPSC at [Saferproducts.gov](https://www.saferproducts.gov).

RIDE RESPONSIBLY FOR YOU AND OTHERS. Remember, many accidents can be prevented by simply slowing down! Always be aware of your surroundings and be prepared to stop. [Click here](#) to watch CPSC's e-scooter PSA.

COST OF LIVING



This guide helps participants understand real costs before arrival. Exchange rates fluctuate. Prices are estimates based on 2026 projections.

Category	Item / Example	USD (2026)	BGN	RON	JOD	MYR	PHP	RSD	THB
FOOD	Lunch menu (business district)	\$32	58	146	23	150	1,825	3,750	1,170
	Combo meal (fast food)	\$16	29	73	11	75	910	1,875	585
	1 lb boneless chicken breast	\$9.50	17	44	6.7	45	540	1,110	350
	1 qt whole milk	\$2.10	4	10	1.5	10	120	240	78
	12 large eggs	\$10.50	19	49	7.4	50	600	1,230	380
	Bread for 2 people (1 day)	\$5.50	10	26	3.9	26	315	645	200
HOUSING	Shared room (outer borough)	\$750 / mo	1,360	3,420	540	3,570	42,700	87,600	27,000
	Shared/private (central area)	\$2,000 / mo	3,630	9,120	1,440	9,520	114,000	233,000	72,000
	Internet / Wi-Fi	\$80	145	365	57	380	4,550	9,300	2,900
TRANSPORTATION	30-Day Unlimited MetroCard	\$135	245	615	97	640	7,700	15,700	4,800
	Taxi (5 miles)	\$35	64	160	25	165	2,000	4,000	1,250
PERSONAL CARE	Shampoo (12 oz)	\$9	16	41	6.5	43	510	1,060	330
	Toothpaste	\$3	5.5	13	2.1	14	170	355	110
ENTERTAINMENT	Dinner for two	\$100	181	456	72	475	5,700	11,600	3,600
	Gym membership (monthly)	\$85	154	388	61	405	4,850	9,900	3,000
	Cappuccino	\$6	11	27	4.3	29	340	690	215

Guide to Living and Working in New York City

- *New York City is one of the most exciting and challenging destinations in the CHI Work and Travel program. The experience will look fantastic on your CV and help you grow personally and professionally—but the reality is that it is not easy.*
- *The cost of living in New York is 2–4× higher than most home countries, and life here moves fast. Expect crowds, noise, and constant pressure. Apartments are small, shared, and often do not have air conditioning. Everything—from food to laundry—is expensive.*
- *You should expect to spend \$1,800–\$3,200 per month and arrive with \$2,000–\$3,000 in savings to cover your first month's expenses. Second jobs are difficult to find and must be approved by CHI before starting.*
- *The TikTok or Instagram version of New York is not daily life. This city is full of energy and opportunity, but it demands effort, maturity, and emotional strength. You will face long commutes, unpredictable schedules, and sensory overload—but you will also grow in ways that few other cities can teach you.*
- *If you can make it in New York, you can make it anywhere. Choose this placement for the challenge, the growth, and the story it gives you—not for financial gain.*



NEW YORK, NEW YORK

HOUSING GUIDE

**CULTURAL HOMESTAY
INTERNATIONAL**



TIPS FOR FINDING ACCOMMODATION

1. Do your Research

Start sooner, rather than later and spend a bit of time researching potential areas near your employer. Once you have decided on your location, start your search. Your accommodation should be within a reasonable distance. Or at least with sufficient public transport nearby. Stick to the safe neighborhoods, you get what you pay for, so if you've found cheap accommodation that seems almost too good to be true, it probably is!

2. Where to Find Accommodation

Ask for advice, ask friends or family who have done the J1 program for advice on where to live and if they have contacts for previous landlords.

Use the J1 Facebook groups, these pages are updated regularly with students looking for roommates. But, be careful as anyone can access these pages and may see this as an opportunity to scam students.

Look for accommodation on or near the university campuses. You're guaranteed to be near facilities such as shops, bars, restaurants and public transport lines. As many US students travel for college, they usually move home for the summer months, leaving their student accommodation vacant. This is ideal for J1 students! But, make sure it's all legal, some leases do not allow for sub-letting, so many students illegally sublet to cover their costs for the months they are not living there and their landlord has no idea. If you're caught you'll be evicted.

3. Avoid Scams

Every year a student becomes a victim of a housing scam. Don't let this happen to you.

DO NOT wire transfer big sums of money before seeing the accommodation, trust your gut, if it doesn't feel right, look elsewhere.

Book a hostel or Airbnb for the first week or two for when you arrive, while you search for your accommodation, it's the safest way to find legit accommodation. This way you can go to the housing before you sign or pay anything.

Use reputable websites to find accommodation and check previous reviews. If you must have accommodation before you arrive. Ask the landlord for a video call and tour of the apartment.

A common excuse used is that the 'landlords' are conveniently out of the country when you're planning to arrive and leave you with fake keys for non-existent accommodation.

And, if you think it maybe a scam, let CHI know!

4. Read Your Lease

Like any contract, read through it thoroughly before signing!

Make sure the accommodation is furnished (if that's what you want). Many landlords will show you pictures of the place fully furnished when in fact it's just an empty shell. Now, many students prefer to pay less rent for an unfurnished apartment and just fill it with cheap essentials from Facebook Marketplace and the Dollar Tree etc.

Find out if your utility bills are included in the rent as this might be an added cost, check for electricity, gas, water, Wi-Fi.

Don't sign a lease longer than you intend to stay. You WON'T get your deposit back.

5. Moving In

Like any contract, read through it thoroughly before signing!

Make sure the accommodation is furnished (if that's what you want). Many landlords will show you pictures of the place fully furnished when in fact it's just an empty shell. Now, many students prefer to pay less rent for an unfurnished apartment and just fill it with cheap essentials from Facebook Marketplace and the Dollar Tree etc.

Find out if your utility bills are included in the rent as this might be an added cost, check for electricity, gas, water, Wi-Fi.

Don't sign a lease longer than you intend to stay. You WON'T get your deposit back.

6. Security Deposits

Security deposits are security for the landlord. It is intended to cover damages, professional cleaning services, utilities or pest control beyond normal wear and tear. It is also used to cushion the financial blow if a you fail to pay your rent or leave earlier than agreed. Once you give a landlord a security deposit it is no longer your money. Receiving your deposit back is conditional, meaning all the conditions of the agreement must be met with no problems to see any portion of your security deposit returned.

7. Additional Notes

- **You should understand that the housing may have specific days and times that you can arrive and check-in and that if you arrive to the US outside of these hours, you are responsible for securing a hotel or hostel until you are able to move into your housing.**
- **You should understand that you will need to bring at least \$1,000.00 for the start of your program to cover housing expenses upon arrival. You will not be able to pay a security deposit when you get your first paycheck. Landlords do not believe you came to a new country without funds. It is not culturally acceptable to ask this of any landlord in the United States.**
- **You should understand that you are responsible for paying your housing expenses on time and in full. Failure to pay in a timely manner is considered theft, may result in my eviction from housing and could jeopardize your program.**
- **You should understand you will be provided with the housing rules upon arrival. You should understand you are obligated to follow the landlords rules just as any American. There is not special privilege because you are on a cultural exchange program.**
- **You should understand that you are financially responsible for any damages that may occur to your housing (including pest treatments) or any excessive utility charges that may be incurred. In addition, if you are sharing housing with other participants and there are damages or excessive utilities, you can be responsible for sharing equal cost of these charges. You should understand that if you do not leave your housing clean and without damages, you will forfeit any pre-paid housing deposits.**
- **You should understand your agreement is between you and your landlord. CHI can not negotiate the return of your security deposits.**

MANHATTAN IS TOO EXPENSIVE!?!

New Jersey

Students should consider looking for accommodation in New Jersey. Hoboken or Jersey City because they share a small subway system with New York called PATH that goes directly into lower Manhattan. The PATH has a connection to a light rail line (called HBLR) that goes to Liberty State Park, where the ferry boat from NJ to the Statue of Liberty is located. Bayonne, NJ is also on this light rail line.

PATH - The Port Authority Trans-Hudson Corporation provides train service from Manhattan to Hoboken, Harrison, Jersey City, and Newark.

The PATH system has 13.8 miles (22.2 km) of route mileage. During the daytime on weekdays, four services operate:

- Newark–World Trade Center, also known as NWK–WTC
- Hoboken–World Trade Center, or HOB–WTC
- Journal Square–33rd Street, or JSQ–33
- Hoboken–33rd Street, or HOB–33

Between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. Monday to Friday, and all-day Saturday, Sunday, and holidays, PATH operates two train services:

- Newark–World Trade Center
- Journal Square–33rd Street (via Hoboken), or JSQ–33 (via HOB)

HBLR - Hudson-Bergen Light Rail

There are 24 stations along the routes within the system. Trains run from approximately 5 a.m. to 1 a.m. daily.

- 8th Street–Hoboken, between 8th Street in Bayonne and Hoboken Terminal
- West Side–Tonnelle between West Side Avenue in Jersey City and Tonnelle Avenue in North Bergen
- Hoboken–Tonnelle between Hoboken Terminal and Tonnelle Avenue (weekdays only)

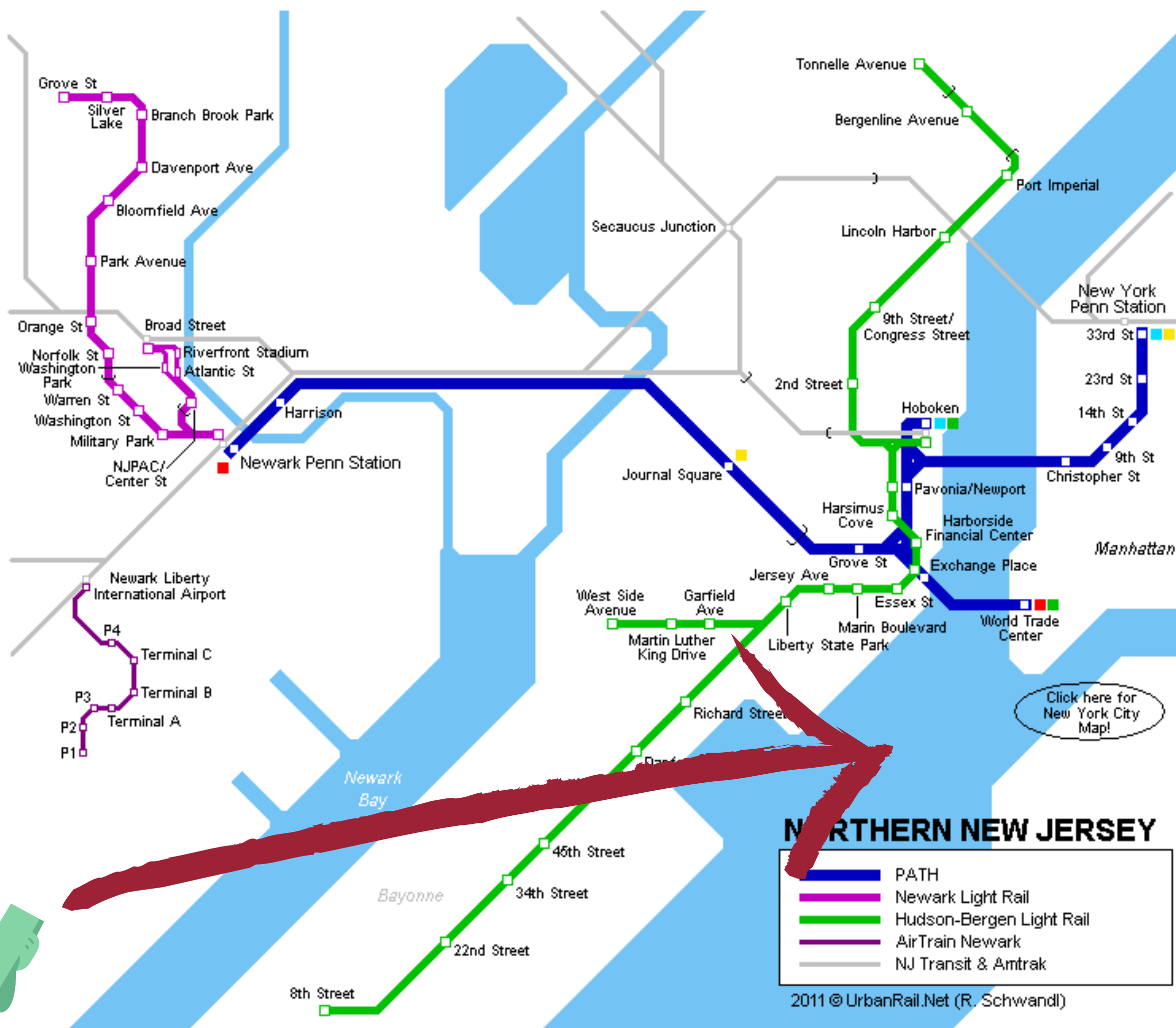
The system operates a weekday schedule along three routes or weekend schedule along two routes, whereby passengers travelling north of Hoboken Terminal are required to transfer at Pavonia–Newport to reach the terminal.

Bayonne Flyer express service operates on the 8th Street–Hoboken route during weekday peak hours, stopping at all Bayonne stations, Essex Street, Exchange Place, Harborside Financial Center, Pavonia–Newport, and Hoboken Terminal.

Paid transfer to the Port Authority Trans-Hudson (PATH) is possible at Exchange Place, Pavonia–Newport and Hoboken Terminal, where connections to NJT commuter rail service are also available. Paid transfer to New York Waterway ferries is also available at some stations. NJT and other buses serve most stations.

Fare Option	Price	Price Per Trip
1-Trip - SmartLink/PATH SingleRide Ticket	\$2.75	\$2.75
10-Trip - SmartLink	\$26.00	\$2.60
20-Trip - SmartLink	\$52.00	\$2.60
40-Trip - SmartLink	\$104.00	\$2.60
Senior SmartLink Card - for riders 65 years or older	\$1.25	\$1.25
SmartLink 1-day pass - unlimited** for 1 day	\$10.50	N/A
SmartLink 7-day pass - unlimited** for 7 days	\$36.00	N/A
SmartLink 30-day pass - unlimited** for 30 days	\$110.25	N/A
Pay-Per-Ride MetroCard	\$2.75	\$2.75

**Can be used only once at the same station within an 18-minute period; good for one person only.



WHAT ARE THE OTHER OPTIONS?

THE FIVE BOROUGHS OF NEW YORK CITY

So what's a "borough" anyway? It's like a smaller city within our massive metropolis. NYC has five of them—the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island—each with dozens of neighborhoods lending their own local flavor.



SAFEST AND MOST AFFORDABLE NEIGHBORHOODS IN BROOKLYN

- Bay Ridge - Average Resident Commute Time 52 Mins
- Brooklyn Heights - Average Resident Commute Time 32 Mins
- Dyker Heights - Average Resident Commute Time 49 Mins
- Park Slope - Average Resident Commute Time 44 Mins
- Prospect Heights - - Average Resident Commute Time 42 Mins

Brooklyn features extensive public transit. Nineteen New York City Subway services, including the Franklin Avenue Shuttle, traverse the borough. Approximately 92.8% of Brooklyn residents traveling to Manhattan use the subway, despite the fact some neighborhoods like Flatlands and Marine Park are poorly served by subway service. Major stations, out of the 170 currently in Brooklyn, include:

- Atlantic Avenue - Barclays Center
- Broadway Junction
- DeKalb Avenue
- Jay Street - MetroTech
- Coney Island - Stillwell Avenue

The public bus network that covers the entire borough. There is also daily express bus service into Manhattan. Routes prefixed with "B" - run primarily in Brooklyn. B1 - B103

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_bus_routes_in_Brooklyn

SAFEST AND MOST AFFORDABLE NEIGHBORHOODS IN QUEENS

- Woodside - Average Resident Commute Time 42 Mins
- Astoria - Average Resident Commute Time 44 Mins
- Ridgewood - Average Resident Commute Time 45 Mins
- Steinway - Average Resident Commute Time 44 Mins
- Kew Gardens - Average Resident Commute Time 48 Mins

The A, G, J/Z, and M routes connect Queens to Brooklyn without going through Manhattan first. The F, M, N, and R trains connect Queens and Brooklyn via Manhattan, while the E, W, and 7/<7> trains connect Queens to Manhattan only. Trains on the M service go through Queens twice in the same trip; both of its full-length terminals, in Middle Village and Forest Hills, are in Queens.

Long Island Rail Road

The LIRR operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including holidays on about 735 scheduled trains. It is the busiest commuter rail hub in the United States. Most of its branches originate or terminate at Penn Station. All but one of its branches (the Port Washington Branch) pass through Jamaica. The New York City area served by the LIRR is called the City Terminal Zone. Within that zone, Queens has stations in Long Island City, Hunterspoint Avenue (in Long Island City), Bayside, Forest Hills, Flushing, Woodside, and Kew Gardens - 22 Queens stations, in all. There are also several stations where LIRR passengers can transfer to the subway.

The Q70 - terminals B, C, D - through Queens, ending in Woodside at 61st Street and Roosevelt Avenue. Overall, about 100 local bus routes operate within Queens, and another 20 express routes shuttle commuters between Queens and Manhattan, under the MTA New York City Bus and MTA Bus brands.

The public bus network that covers the entire borough. There is also daily express bus service into Manhattan. Routes prefixed with "Q" - run primarily in Queens. Q1 - Q113

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_bus_routes_in_Queens

SAFEST AND MOST AFFORDABLE NEIGHBORHOODS IN THE BRONX

- Spuyten Duyvil, Bronx – Average Resident Commute Time 53 Mins
- Riverdale, Bronx – Average Resident Commute Time 47 Mins
- Mott Haven, Bronx – Average Resident Commute Time 42 Mins

The Bronx is served by seven New York City Subway services along six physical lines, with 70 stations in the Bronx:

- IIND Concourse Line (B and D trains)
- IRT Broadway–Seventh Avenue Line (1 train)
- IRT Dyre Avenue Line (5 train)
- IRT Jerome Avenue Line (4 train)
- IRT Pelham Line (6 and <6> trains)
- IRT White Plains Road Line (2 and 5 trains)

There are also many MTA Regional Bus Operations bus routes in the Bronx. This includes local and express routes as well as Bee-Line Bus System routes.

Two Metro-North Railroad commuter rail lines (the Harlem Line and the Hudson Line) serve 11 stations in the Bronx. (Marble Hill, between the Spuyten Duyvil and University Heights stations, is actually in the only part of Manhattan connected to the mainland.) In addition, some trains serving the New Haven Line stop at Fordham Plaza. As part of Penn Station Access.

The public bus network that covers the entire borough. There is also daily express bus service into Manhattan. Routes prefixed with "Bx" – run primarily in the Bronx. Bx1 – Bx46

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_bus_routes_in_the_Bronx

SAFEST AND MOST AFFORDABLE NEIGHBORHOODS IN THE MANHATTAN

- Washington Heights, Manhattan – Average Resident Commute Time 44 Mins
- Bowery, Manhattan – Average Resident Commute Time 39 Mins

The New York City Subway, the largest subway system in the world by number of stations, is the primary means of travel within the city, linking every borough except Staten Island. There are 151 subway stations in Manhattan.

MTA New York City Transit offers a wide variety of local buses within Manhattan under the brand New York City Bus. An extensive network of express bus routes serves commuters and other travelers heading into Manhattan.

The public bus network that covers the entire borough. There is also daily express bus service into Manhattan. Routes prefixed with "Bx" – run primarily in the Bronx. Bx1 – Bx46

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_bus_routes_in_Manhattan

SAFEST AND MOST AFFORDABLE NEIGHBORHOODS IN THE STATEN ISLAND

- St. George, Staten Island – Average Resident Commute Time 49 Mins
- West New Brighton, Staten Island – Average Resident Commute Time 44 Mins
- Tompkinsville, Staten Island – Average Resident Commute Time 44 Mins

Ferry

The Staten Island Ferry is the only transportation directly from Staten Island to Manhattan, roughly a 25-minute trip. The St. George Terminal. The ferry has been fare-free since 1997. It runs 24/7 every 15 to 20 minutes during weekday rush hours and every 30 minutes at other times. An NYC Ferry route operates between St. George Terminal and Manhattan's West Side since August 2021. This route is operated separately from the Staten Island Ferry and charges a fare.

Staten Island is the only borough not served by the New York City Subway.

MTA Regional Bus Operations provides local and limited bus service with over 30 lines throughout Staten Island. Most lines feed into the St. George Terminal in the northeastern corner of the borough. Three lines (the S53, S93 and S79 SBS) provide service over the Verrazzano Bridge to Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. The S79 SBS is the only Select Bus Service route in the borough. The MTA offers bus service from Staten Island to Bayonne, New Jersey, over the Bayonne Bridge via the S89 limited-stop bus, allowing passengers to connect to the Hudson–Bergen Light Rail's 34th Street station, giving Staten Island residents a route into Manhattan. Despite Staten Island's proximity to New Jersey, the S89 is the only route directly into New Jersey from Staten Island via public transportation.

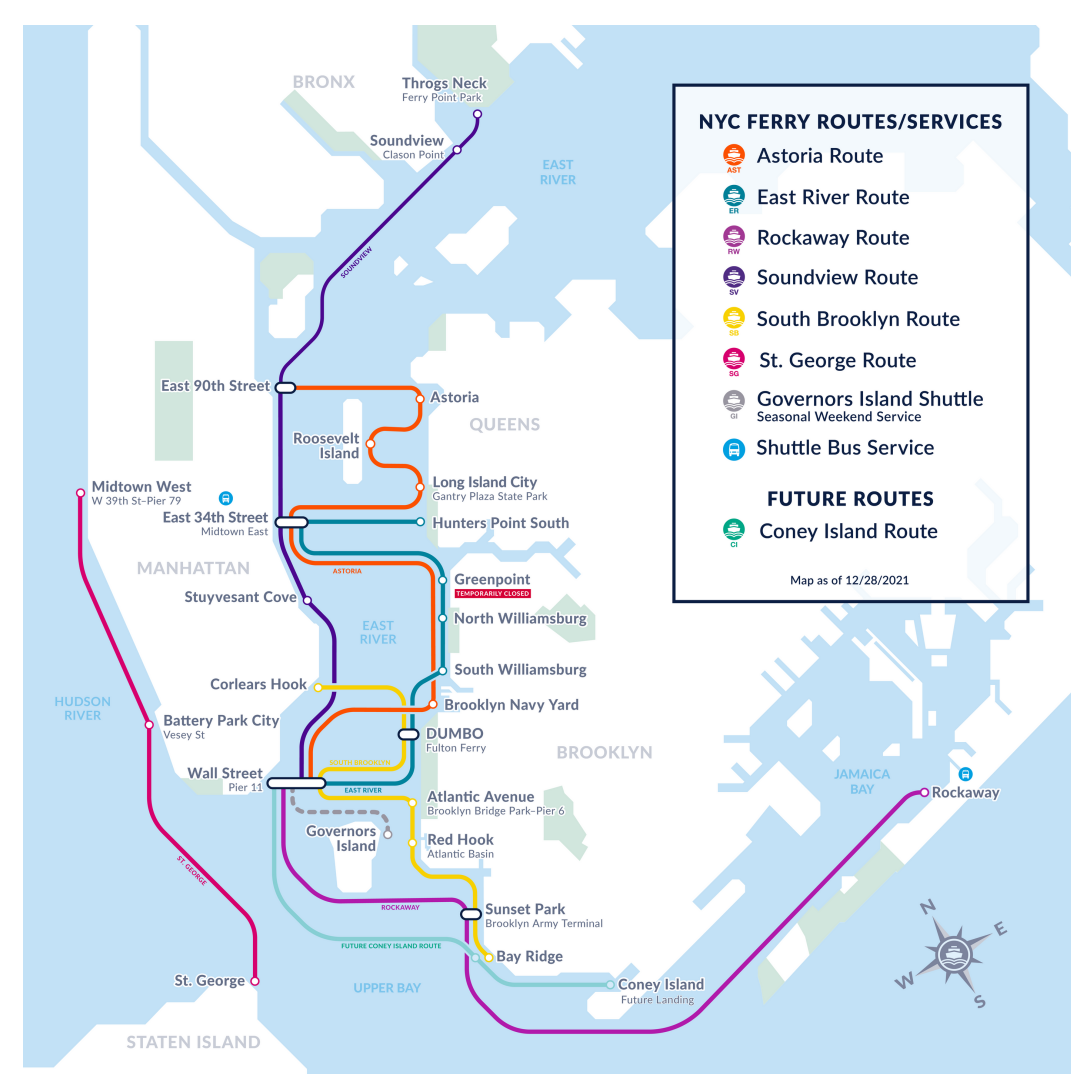
The public bus network that covers the entire borough. There is also daily express bus service into Manhattan. Routes prefixed with "Bx" – run primarily in the Bronx. S40 – S98

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_bus_routes_in_Staten_Island

NYC FERRY

NYC Ferry is a public network of ferry routes in New York City. There are seven routes, as well as one seasonal route, connecting 25 ferry piers in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island.

Single-ride trips on the system cost \$2.75, with monthly and bike fares also available, but there is no free transfer to other modes of transport in the city. NYC Ferry also provides free shuttle buses, connecting to ferry stops in the Rockaways and Midtown Manhattan.



CAN I LIVE WITH MY FAMILY?

Yes, CHI allows participants to live with their family or friends in New York. However it is important to keep in mind the length of the commute time to the job listed on your DS 2019 form.

You should understand that you are required to work at the job listed on your DS 2019 form, as you agreed during your CHI interview process. Claiming you were not aware of the distance and or commute times from the employer listed on your DS 2019 form and your family or friend's home will not release you from your program responsibilities. Failure to report to your job on your DS 2019 form by claiming you could not find suitable housing or family's home was too far from the place of employment may be viewed as visa fraud. You may not be allowed to continue your program and may have to return home immediately at your own expense.

Please visit these websites to map out how long it will take you to travel to your pre-arranged job. Do your research, don't be surprised!

<https://www.metro-manhattan.com/blog/which-neighborhoods-have-the-best-and-worst-commute-times-in-new-york-city/>

<https://moovitapp.com/nycnj-121/poi/en>

<https://www.rome2rio.com/>

<https://www.google.com/maps>

The New York City area is very large. Your family or friends may live in New York City, but the commute times from their home may be impractical. If the commute times are too long and impractical from your family's home, you should look for suitable accommodations closer to the employer listed on your DS 2019 form and visit with your family or friends on your day off.

GOOGLE - COLIVING NYC

- roomrs.co
- sharedeasy.club
- common.com
- crossover.live
- outpost-club.com
- coliving.com
- cohabs.com
- livedwell.co
- node-living.com

GOOGLE - INTERN HOUSING NYC

- websterapartments.org
- studenthousing.org
- interns.nyc
- nycintern.org
- sharedeasy.club/nyc-student-and-intern-living/

GOOGLE - ROOMS FOR RENT NYC

- spareroom.com
- vrbo.com
- airbnb.com
- houfy.com
- hotpads.com
- roomies.com
- cirtru.com
- roomiapp.com
- zumper.com
- roomster.com
- nyhabitat.com
- nestpick.com
- furnishedfinder.com

FACEBOOK

- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/190511834623370>
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1534252743486787>

STAY SHORT TERM

As you have been reading through guide we have mentioned a few tips for finding housing. Every year we have students arrive late at night to their housing and pay their security deposits to the landlord, only to decide they are not comfortable at their housing. These students ask CHI to get their deposit back so they can move to a different house. They are surprised and angry to hear we can not get their money back for them. We can not force a landlord to give you your money back. When we ask the students why they gave the landlord their security deposit and took possession of the housing if they were uncomfortable, they say it was late, we had nowhere to go. Don't let this happen to you. Below is a list of hostels where you can stay short term until you decide on your permanent housing.

West Side YMCA

- 5 West 63rd St., New York, NY 10023
- Phone: 212.912.2625
- \$68-175, Singles, doubles, quads
- Groups (25+ people), RSCgroups@ymcanyc.org

Greenpoint YMCA

- 99 Meserole Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11222
- Phone: 212.912.2264, 212.912.2274
- Emma Isles, eisles@ymcanyc.org
- Francheska Nazario, fnazario@ymcanyc.org • Groups (212) 912-2629,

American Dream Hostel

- 168 East 24th St., New York, NY 10010
- Phone: 212.260.9779
- Weekly rates, \$570-\$1,100 singles, doubles, triples
- Daily rates \$94-\$192 singles, doubles, triples
- Reduced winter rates Jan 1- Feb 29th
- Breakfast included/Kitchen • Americandream24@aol.com

Chelsea Hostel

- 251 West 20th St., New York, NY
 - Phone: 212.647.0010
 - Private or shared rooms
 - Breakfast included/Kitchen
 - reservations@chelseahostel.com
 - Group rates, minimum 20 people, minimum 3 night stay,
- Hostelling International - New York groupreservations@chelseahostel.com

Hostelling International - New York

- groupreservations@chelseahostel.com
- 891 Amsterdam Ave., New York, NY 10025
 - Phone: 212.932.2300
 - Dorms
 - Breakfast included with premium dorms
 - In-hostel café serving food all day
 - Kitchen

International Student Center- Youth Hostel

- 38 West 88th St., New York, NY 10024
- Phone: 212.787.7706
- Winter: Jan 5 to March 31: \$40
- Spring: April 1 to May 31: \$40
- Summer: June 1 to September 30: \$50
- Autumn: October 1 to Dec 15: \$40
- Christmas / Holiday Season: Dec 16 to Jan 4: \$50
- Summer & Holiday Season: June to August & December 16 to January 6

One week maximum stay, based on availability.

- Winter & Spring: November to May
- Two week maximum stay, based on availability.
- Group rates during off-peak seasons (winter and spring), 10 or more.

Jazz on the Park

- 36 West 106th St., New York, NY 10025
- Phone: 212.932.1600
- park@jazzhostels.com
- Starts at \$20
- Maximum stay at Jazz Hostels is 14 days per year.
- Do not accept New York State residents or residents in the Tri-State area
- Group bookings, erick@jazzhostels.com

Central Park West Hostel

- 201 W. 87th St., New York, NY
- Phone: 646.490.7348
- Shared kitchen
- 4 rooms
- \$50 per night
- enquiry@centralparkwesthostel.us