Self-Guided Greenwich Village Walking Tour

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New York City’s Best Walking Tours... And They’re Free!

The Stonewall Inn: Living as a “gay” man or woman in New York City was like banging your head against a stone wall prior to 1969. The site of the first Gay Riots and Gay Pride Parade, The Stonewall Inn proudly displays its history.

Arthur’s Tavern and Marie’s Crisis Cafe: If you want to hear some good jazz or blues, come on down to Arthur’s Tavern, the oldest, consistently used Jazz Club in New York City. Marie’s Crisis Cafe is named after The Crisis Papers written by Thomas Paine, who died at that location — not of food poisoning.

Grove Court: One of the Village’s best secrets. A group of shuttered brick row-houses, they were originally built for workers. Today, this is a sought after quiet Manhattan corner with units costing over $2 million. It’s so quiet, you can almost forget the hustle and bustle of the city.

The Friends Apartment: It’s impossible to believe that an oft-unemployed actor, a barista, a masseuse and a graduate student all lived in this impossibly expensive part of town, but that’s Hollywood for you.

Chumly’s: Once a speakeasy catering to the wealthy and the artistic residents of the Village, this now-under-renovation restaurant is attributed with coining the term “86” in the industry.

Cherry Lane Theatre: Barbra Streisand was a production assistant in this 180-seat Off-Broadway theater started by Edna St. Vincent Millay.

75.5 Bedford Street: Check out the fat price on this skinny house. And learn about the famous people who resided within.

The Cosby Show House: Not in Brooklyn (as the TV show indicates), and not wide enough to accommodate the living room as depicted on the TV program... this house was used as the exterior version of a Brooklyn Brownstone.

Rocco’s Pastry Shop: Several generations of Italian families have created delightful pastries for the Village’s residents at this tasty location. Walk on the other side of the street to be able to resist!

Our Lady of Pompeii: Offering Masses in Italian and English, this beautifully appointed church was built in the early 1900’s to serve the Italian community of the South Village.

Cafe Wha and McDougal St: If walls could talk or sing... the clubs and houses along this street hosted the famous to the infamous of the 20th Century, making Greenwich Village synonymous with Haight-Ashbury.

Washington Square Arch and Washington Square Park: Between 10,000 and 20,000 worked to create this park, which became one of the City’s archetypical monuments, and the site of many TV and movie scenes over the years. From the character who designed the arch to the characters who frequent it, Washington Square Park is not to be missed.

NYU: The first public university in New York City... walk the streets with more than 50,000 students who study in the area.

Triangle Shirtwaist Factory: Site of the worst workplace disaster prior to 9/11, this fire resulted in many changes to workplace rules and building codes.

Cooper Union

Bleecker Street Pizza

Washington Mews: Former stables behind the row-houses on Washington Square North, these lovely buildings now house departments and offices for NYU.

Jefferson Market Library: Once an outdoor marketplace for the residents of the Village, then a courthouse and women’s detention center, the building was home to Mae West one night when her stage act became too bawdy.

Magnolia Bakery: Made famous by the ladies of Sex in the City, the cupcakes of this bakery draw long lines. Everyone says: “Try their banana pudding.”

White Horse Tavern: You won’t want to drink 18 straight whiskeys as poet Dylan Thomas did, but stop in for an afternoon repast and visit the tavern’s historical past.

Carrie’s Stoop: We are in Greenwich Village, not the upper West Side where Carrie Bradshaw’s building is supposed to be located, but this location is more romantic, anyway.