

## Secret Attractions to Explore in New York City

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It's no secret that New York City is one of the most visited in the world. That's why you'll find its most popular attractions to be always crowded with tourists, regardless of the season. But it's a large city, and thus it has more to offer than the usual landmarks. For a more exciting adventure, walk the off-beaten track and discover some of NYC's best hidden gems.

### THE ELEVATED ACRE

Somewhere between two corporate buildings in the Financial District, you'll find a public plaza called the Elevated Acre. It's an area with plenty of gardens and plants. Situated three stories above ground, it's the perfect place to retreat to if you want to take a break from the hustle and bustle below. Additionally, it offers sweeping views of the Brooklyn Bridge and the East River. Stay until evening so that you can also enjoy the acre's beer garden, where craft beers are served on tap.

### MUSEUM AT ELDRIDGE STREET

You would not expect to see a Jewish attraction in the heart of NYC's Chinatown, but that's exactly what the Museum at Eldridge Street is. In fact, the building happens to be the oldest Eastern European Orthodox Jewish synagogue in the United States. Thanks to the efforts of a [volunteer movement spurred on by NY University professor Gerard Wolfe](#), the place was restored and is now the museum it is today. Here, you'll find evidence of the city's Jewish immigrant past, as well as artifacts that chronicle the building's history.

### SNUG HARBOR CULTURAL CENTER

Instead of the New York Botanical Garden, why not opt for Snug Harbor instead? It has nine distinctive gardens, including the Chinese Scholar's Garden which has a koi-pond, bamboo forest, and rock formations inspired by the works of Chinese monks. There is also the Connie Gretz Secret Garden, an intricate maze of boxwoods. Snug Harbor is more than its gardens too as the entire area is filled with a number of buildings in old architectural styles. Some of these structures now function as art galleries and museums.

### TANNEN'S MAGIC SHOP

In Midtown Manhattan lies the [oldest operating magic shop that is Tannen's Magic Store](#). It sells all kinds of magic items, from invisible paint, to multiplying billiard balls, and various versions of the rabbit-producing hat. Every famous magician from the last 90 years has bought items from this store. It's funny because you would think Midtown Manhattan has no more surprises to offer, being home to famous landmarks like the Empire State Building, the Grand Central Terminal, and Times Square.

Because of these attractions, the area has become one of the most in-demand and congested places in the world. In fact, as [real estate expert James McGrath writes on Yoreevo](#), the average cost of homes in this highly valued area is at a whopping \$2 million. Even if you apply for mortgage, the taxes are also incredibly high. But perhaps even residents aren't aware of the district's best-kept secrets, since they're not always publicized. Tannen's may be popular among magician circles but it remains to be a hidden attraction for only the most adventurous of tourists.

## **GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY**

Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery is one of the largest burial grounds in the United States. It is no ordinary cemetery either, as [Business Insider comments it looks more like a beautiful city park](#). This is because of the numerous beautiful monuments, four glacial ponds, and lavish tombs fit for ancient kings. Even the cemetery gates are a marvel, since they're an impressive remnant of the Gothic Revival style. If you don't mind strolling through thousands of burials, give Green-Wood a go.

New York City isn't the only city with secrets. There are hidden gems all over United States, some of which can be found within popular attractions. To know more about one such example, do listen to [Go the Podcast's episode on Mt. Rushmore](#).