

BSL CLASSROOM LOCATION GUIDE BRYANT PARK

A BIT OF HISTORY FIRST!

In 1686, when the area was still a wilderness, New York's colonial governor, Thomas Dongan, designated the area now known as Bryant Park as a public space. The first park at the site was opened in 1847 and was called **Reservoir Square**. Reservoir Square contained the New York Crystal Palace, which hosted the Exhibition of the Industry of All Nations in 1853 and burned down in 1858. The square was renamed in 1884 for journalist William Cullen Bryant. The reservoir was demolished in 1900 and the New York Public Library was built on the site, opening in 1911. Bryant Park was rebuilt in 1933–1934. After a period of decline, it was restored in 1988–1992.

Now Bryant Park has become a beloved, year-round New York City destination. Known as Manhattan's Town Square, the park is famous for its lush seasonal gardens, free activities, and al fresco dining. Located adjacent to the New York Public Library and surrounded by iconic skyscrapers, it is visited by more than 12 million people each year and is one of the busiest public spaces in the world.



THE BARE ESSENTIALS

***Find these on the map on page 1*

Morning coffee

- Joe Coffee Company**
- Bluestone Lane Bryant Park coffee (Ozzie style coffee)**
- Blue Bottle Coffee (Hip cafe for gourmet coffee)
- Gregory's coffee

Lunch options

- Bryant Park Grill and Cafe**
- Fever Tree Porch
- Grand Central food market**
- Maison Keyser (French baguettes)
- Kobeyaki (sushi, burgers and salads)

PLACES TO VISIT NEARBY

Less than a mile (0-10 mins walk)

- New York Public Library
- Times Square
- Chrysler building
- Grand Central train terminal
- Rockefeller Center/Top of the Rock
- St Patrick's Cathedral
- Empire State Building

7 COOL THINGS TO DO AFTER YOUR ENGLISH CLASS

1. Take lunch on the grass in Bryant Park surrounded by the skyscrapers, and then visit the world-famous NY public library next door. Check out the famous Rose Reading room on the 3rd floor. (5 mins walk from Bryant park)
2. Walk to Grand Central, take lunch in the GC market, visit the whispering gallery, then walk to St Patrick's Cathedral and the Rockefeller Center. Visit Top of the Rock for sunset views of the city. (5-7 mins walk from Bryant Park)
3. Head over to Times Square to see the neon lights. Then walk 25 mins to Hudson Yards and walk the "vessel", the newest NYC attraction. Later walk the Highline Urban Park (both these are FREE). End your day with dinner in the meatpacking district. (5 mins walk from Bryant Park)
4. Explore the great Art Deco architecture of New York by visiting the Chrysler building, the Rockefeller building, and the Empire State Building, amongst many others. (5-7 mins walk from Bryant Park)
5. Walk 20 mins up 5th Avenue to Central Park. Enter the park at the SE end and walk through to Strawberry fields on the west side. Have a late lunch or early evening dinner on the upper west side. Walk down to Columbus Circle and see a jazz show. (20 mins walk from BryantPark)
6. Walk south down 5th Avenue. See the Empire State Building from the outside. Then walk to see the Flat-Iron building. Buy lunch at the famous Eataly Italian market and eat at Madison Square Park. (10 mins walk from Bryant Park)
7. Have a long leisurely lunch al fresco at the iconic Bryant Park Grill and "people watch", and then walk to the United Nations building for an afternoon guided tour of this famous NY landmark. (2 mins walk from Bryant Park)

Ice-cream shops

- Van Leeuwen's (10 mins walk)
- Ben and Jerry's Ice cream (10 mins walk)**

Grocery stores & pharmacies

- Wholefoods market (1 min)
- Duane Reade

Nearest subway stations and lines

- 42nd St-Bryant Park (B,D,F,M) - 2 mins walk**
- 42nd St-Grand Central (4,5,6,7,S) 5 mins walk**

Nearest public restrooms

- On-site**

A little bit further (1 mile – 20 mins walk)

- Central Park
- Washington Square Park
- Flat-Iron Building and district
- The Highline Park
- The MOMA museum