

## BSL CLASSROOM LOCATION GUIDE WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK

### *A BIT OF HISTORY FIRST!*

A marsh. A cemetery. A parade ground. A gathering spot for avant-garde artists. A battleground for chess enthusiasts. A playground for canines and children. Washington Square Park has served various roles for its community throughout the years, adapting to meet its needs. Well-known for its arch, honoring George Washington (who was inaugurated in New York City as the first President of the United States on April 30, 1789), the man for whom the park is named, and its fountain, the arch's elder by 43 years and a popular meeting spot.

The land was once a marsh fed by Minetta Brook located near an Indian village known as Sapokanikan. In 1797 the City's Common Council acquired the land for use as a "Potter's Field" and for public executions, giving rise to the legend of the "Hangman's Elm" in the park's northwest corner.

Used first as the Washington Military Parade Ground in 1826, the site became a public park in 1827. Following this designation, prominent families, wanting to escape the disease and congestion of downtown Manhattan, moved into the area and built the distinguished Greek Revival mansions that still line the square's north side.

Washington Square Park was redefined socially and culturally throughout the 20th century. During this period the park became a renowned haven for performers and protestors. It is one of the best known of New York City's public parks, it is an icon as well as a meeting place and center for cultural activity. Today Washington Square Park, rich in history, serves as a dynamic commons for local residents, chess players, students, performers and tourists from around the globe.



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### ***THE BARE ESSENTIALS***

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

#### **Morning coffee**

Irving Farm NY coffee\*\*  
Caffe Reggio\*\*  
Think Coffee  
Mille Feuille cafe\*\*  
Stump Town Coffee Roaster

#### **Lunch options**

Bareburger\*\*  
Citizens of Bleecker\*\*  
The Waverley Diner (old school!)\*\*  
GMT Tavern  
Galanga Thai  
The Malt House  
Tre Giovani Trattori

#### **Something sweet!**

Van Leeuwen Ice Cream  
Posh Pop Bakeshop\*\*  
Magnólias Bakery

#### **Grocery stores & pharmacies**

Morton Williams marketplace  
Duane Reade (Broadway)\*\*

#### **Nearest subway stations and lines**

West 4th St-Wash Sq (A, C, E, B, D, F, M) - 5-min walk  
8th st Station (N, Q, R, W) – 5-min walk  
Christopher St station (1, 2) – 5-min walk

#### **Nearest public restrooms**

-On-site\*\*

### ***PLACES TO VISIT NEARBY***

#### **Less than a mile (0-10 mins walk)**

- Greenwich Village
- West Village
- Union Square
- Soho

#### **A little bit further (1 mile – 25-min walk)**

- Flat Iron building and district
- The Highline Park and Whitney Museum
- The Meatpacking district
- Nolita
- The East Village

### ***7 COOL THINGS TO DO AFTER YOUR ENGLISH CLASS***

1. Stroll through the lovely streets of the West Village, checking out the gorgeous homes and boutique shops. End your afternoon with a cupcake at the famous Magnolia's bakery (from Sex in the City fame!) (5 mins walk from Washington Square Park)
2. Take a tour through the meat-packing district, visit the Whitney museum of American Art (great building!) and then walk New York's only urban park, the Highline. End your day at the city's newest attraction, the Vessel, for great sunset views. (20 mins walk from Washington Square Park)
3. Head to Soho for some shopping! Then walk the streets exploring Nolita, and Little Italy. End in Chinatown at the vintage Dim Sum Parlor, Nom Wah Tea Parlor, and eat their famous Pan-Fried Pork dumplings. (10 mins walk from Washington Square Park)
4. Walk North up 5th Avenue to the Flat-Iron building, and onwards to the Empire State Building. Take in the city from the top of NYC's most famous Art Deco building. (15 mins walk from Washington Square Park)
5. Put your walking shoes on and head directly uptown to explore the cool neighborhood of Chelsea, walk west from there to take in the new Hudson Yards development which includes the new attractions of the Vessel and the Edge for great city views. (25 mins walk from Washington Square Park)
6. Take the subway uptown to Bryant Park, and then have lunch amid the skyscrapers surrounding the park. In the afternoon walk a few minutes to Times Square for the lights and then later it's a Broadway show. Showtime! (10 mins by subway from Washington Square Park)
7. Walk through the West Village to the Hudson River Park. Take a break and enjoy the views on a sun lounger at Pier 26, the newest of the parks. Then stroll south to Battery Park and walk to the bottom of the Island. End your day with a FREE trip on the Staten Island ferry or in the Observatory at the top of No 1 World Trade Center. (25 mins walk from Washington Square Park)

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