

TRAVEL+ LEISURE

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Best Rooftop Bars in NYC

In New York, high-rises, honking traffic, and jammed subways make fresh air a luxury

and rooftops a sanctuary. The best of these sun-drenched, sky-high bars provide a welcome reprieve, mixing a lively atmosphere with well-crafted drinks and expansive views of what *Seinfeld*'s Kramer dubbed the Nexus of the Universe.

And there's an NYC rooftop for every taste: classic or new? Elegant or edgy? Manhattan or Brooklyn? Downtown's cool-kid Jane Hotel attracted buzz in summer 2014 by opening its rooftop overlooking the Hudson River to the public for the first time. SoHo's new Bar Hugo promises to be the Fashion Week party du jour come September, thanks to chic décor and restaurateur Sean Largetta's A-list pedigree (his restaurant Lion is a celebrity magnet).

But you won't find a higher vantage point than Bar 54, atop the Hyatt Times Square, officially the tallest cocktail lounge in town—for now. Yes, that's the gleaming spire of One World Trade Center down there.

Dreamy Manhattan cityscapes and a more laid-back vibe lure locals to the outer boroughs. Why not join them in Brooklyn, where the Wythe Hotel remains as popular as ever for its farm-to-table dishes and Technicolor sunsets. In up-and-coming Greenpoint, Northern Territory has added some Down Under flair to the neighborhood with Australian beers and freshly baked meat pies. Across the canal in Queens, under-the-radar Penthouse 808 at the Ravel Hotel has a spectacular vista of the East River and a lineup of potent tropical drinks.

But really it comes down to an ironclad universal truth: drinking above ground is just more fun.

Spyglass

The Garment District's nightlife resurgence continues with the launch of David Burke's **Spyglass** on the 22nd floor of the new Archer Hotel. Custom, yellow-hued wallpaper by Glen Coben, purple leather-backed stools, and classic cocktails evoke 1950s glam, but the share plates are very much of-the-moment: octopus tacos, avocado panna cotta, and ratatouille and goat cheese parfait, from the ground-level restaurant Fabrick.

