



Grand Prix New York 2016 Travel Guide

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Photo: Dimtry Avdeed

Tournament venue location

[Meadowlands Expo Center](#)

355 Plaza Drive

Secaucus, New Jersey 07094

[Directions to Venue](#)

Bus: The 320 NJ Transit bus from the Port Authority bus Terminal (42nd st) stops outside the venue. Check [here](#) for NJ transit routes & schedules. Leave plenty of extra time if coming by bus, the route may be congested.

Train: NJ Transit rail to Secaucus junction is roughly 3 miles from the venue. Either walk from there, or catch a local cab/livery car to the venue. NJ Transit Rail is available at New York Penn Station or throughout New Jersey.

Driving: See the link above. There are parking garages in the area, and the convention center claims ample free parking in the area. I'd expect that to be stretched thin for the GP, so leave extra time to find a spot, arrive early, or both. Carpool if possible!

Taxi/Hired car: If coming from NY, take a livery car (UBER/Lift, etc), not a yellow cab if possible. IF YOU TAKE A YELLOW CAB FROM NYC->NJ OR NJ->NYC YOU WILL BE CHARGED DOUBLE THE NORMAL FARE! Coming from Manhattan will cost roughly \$20-30 by Uber. This is the fastest way to the venue.

[Airports](#)

There are three major international airports around NYC--Newark, LaGuardia, and JFK. If your intention is to travel from the airport to the area around the venue, I strongly recommend selecting Newark as your destination.

Newark: Take New Jersey Transit rail from the airport to Secaucus junction. From there, take a cab/livery car to the venue. Check with your hotel--they may run a shuttle to the airport.

For access to Manhattan, take New Jersey Transit rail (likely transferring at Newark Penn Station to a New York Penn Station bound train) or check with your hotel for available shuttle busses to midtown.

LaGuardia: To the venue, it is easiest to get an Uber (avoid yellow cabs unless you like paying double to get to the venue). This will be expensive (\$45-75). Otherwise, take a

M60-SBS to the N at Astoria BLVD, take that to 42nd Times Square, and walk to Port Authority bus Terminal (42nd st) to get the NJ Transit 320 bus.

For access to Manhattan, take the M60 or Q70 bus, and transfer to the subway system. Routes will vary depending on precisely where you're heading. Shuttle busses may be available to hotels, particularly for midtown.

JFK: To the venue, JFK has slightly better mass transit options, but even more expensive if taking a cab (\$68-91 estimated on UBER). Take the AirTrain to the E subway line to the Port Authority Bus Terminal (42nd st), and take the NJ Transit 320 bus from there.

To Manhattan, take the AirTrain to the E subway line. Shuttle busses may be available to hotels, particularly for midtown.

HOTELS

There are an immense number of options to stay in and around New York City. There are major hotel chains all surrounding the tournament venue in Secaucus, many large hotels in NYC itself, and many AirB&B or other rooms for rent as well.

One universal truth for hotels around NYC--expect your room to be much smaller than you are used to for equivalent hotels. PAY ATTENTION TO ADVERTIZED OCCUPANCY LIMITS. It's not uncommon for travelers to struggle to find floor-space for their luggage in NYC hotels--don't expect multiple judges to be able to sleep there!

Hotels around the Venue

Courtyard Secaucus Meadowlands

The Plaza at Harmon Meadow, 455 Harmon Meadow Blvd, Secaucus, NJ 07094

Embassy Suites by Hilton

The Plaza at Harmon Meadow, 455 Plaza Dr, Secaucus, NJ 07094

Hyatt Place Secaucus

The Plaza at Harmon Meadow, 575 Park Plaza Dr, Secaucus, NJ 07094

Restaurants/Entertainment around the Venue

Food options around the venue are similar to many major American malls. Breakfast options may be limited--check your hotel for options, or consider bringing something. Most locations open around 11AM and close between 11PM-1AM.

There is a movie theater within walking distance, and some basic shopping. Expect to travel for fun--NYC has actual whatever you'd want, not a long trip away.

Tips & Tricks for Having a Great Trip in NYC

New York City is massive, and there are many, many tour books that barely scratch the surface of what's going on. If you're passionate about anything, do a bit of digging, and you'll be able to find something for you.

Plan ahead, and leave extra time in your schedule. NYC isn't a cheap city, and if possible put some extra \$\$s in your budget. Being able to afford a last-minute UBER or cab fare to get to where you need to be is huge. Or, being able to take advantage of that awesome museum or restaurant you stumbled over is awesome! Below we've included some tips for getting around in NYC, and some of our favorite spots (mainly focused on things that don't require lots of \$\$).

My advice for staying safe is simple--be aware of what's around you, know where you're going (or pretend to), and don't interact with people you don't know on the street. Those 3 people dressed up as Elmo in times square? They're not out there to have fun--they're there to harass tourists for money.



Times Square at night. Photo: Kenny Louie

Getting Around

Subways: [The MTA](#) runs trains 24 hours a day, for \$2.75 a ride (day/week/monthly passes available). Google maps actually does a fantastic job giving routes from within the city. The easiest mistake to make on the subway is getting on a train going in the wrong direction. In Midtown Manhattan, most lines are designated as being uptown or downtown. However, trains will ALWAYS be labeled with their final stop. So take a look at the end of the route, and you know you'll be going in the right direction! Remember that in Manhattan, multiple routes run on the same lines.

Car: Park it and walk away. Parking in Manhattan particularly can be very difficult, and very, very expensive. Don't try to drive from place to place inside of NYC.

Cabs: Yellow cabs can be super convenient! Wave to any with the top center light lit, and you'll soon have a ride to wherever you want to go inside the city. Remember, yellow cabs will double the fare traveling between NYC & NJ. UBER is another convenient alternative.

Bike: NYC is quickly becoming one of the more bike friendly cities in the US. [CitiBike](#) and other bike rentals offer a convenient, fun way to explore the city. Make sure you're comfortable on a bike, wear a helmet, and read up on basic safety tips before braving the NYC streets. If people would be interested in a moderately challenging NYC bikes/bridges ride, contact chase.culpon@gmail.com.

Walking: This is the easiest way to get around in a lot of cases. If you're touring the city, remember that NYC sidewalks are streets--taking photos and admiring the architecture is awesome, just be polite and step out of the way of pedestrian traffic.

Major Destinations

[Broadway](#): One of the highlights of NYC and a spectacle of acting, song, and dance. If you've never been to a Broadway show, it's an experience worth considering. It's expensive though--expect to spend \$100-300 a ticket, and book well in advance if you want to see a particular show (sorry, you're already too late for Hamilton). [TDF/TKTS](#) has last-minute deals for tickets, and is a great option if you're not particular on a specific show.

[Central Park](#): Central Park is an oasis in the middle of the city. It's a pretty remarkable place to wander around. Definitely worth an afternoon if the weather is nice, and it's

free! Some highlights include the John Lennon memorial, the Central Park Zoo, and the Jackie O Reservoir

[The Brooklyn Bridge](#) path is a great walk over truly historic architecture, with fantastic views of lower Manhattan. Expect a crowd on a nice day, and remember to be considerate of those commuting via the pedestrian path. On the Brooklyn side is the [Brooklyn Bridge Park](#), which is pretty much THE location for photos of the NYC skyline.

[MET Museum](#): Speaking of museums, the MET is a favorite. Unlike many other museums, any fees at the MET are suggested donations, so if you're short on cash, you're welcome to experience the museum. Other notable museums around the city: [Museum of Natural History](#), [MOMA](#), [Guggenheim](#), [9/11 Memorial](#). There are many, many more.

New York isn't complete without some skyscrapers! [The Empire State Building](#) and the [Freedom Tower](#) both have viewing terraces for epic views of NYC.

[The Staten Island Ferry](#) is free and is the main way to commute from Manhattan to Staten Island. It happens to feature fantastic views of lower Manhattan, the [Statue of Liberty](#), and [Ellis Island](#) (click the links if you'd like to visit those locations specifically).



Staten Island Ferry. Photo: [InSapphoWeTrust](#)

Hidden Gems

[Barcade](#)-Now with multiple locations throughout the city, the original Barcade in Brooklyn not only has an awesome selection of the best retro arcade games, but also features one of the best bars in the city.

[The High Line](#): A park built on a former overhead train line! Great views of the Hudson, and this newly built park has been a highlight since its opening. While you're there, check out the [new Whitney museum](#)!

[Video Games New York](#)-A small video game store that is also essentially a museum of video game history, where the exhibits happen to be for sale.

[Koreatown](#)-A great place to spend an evening--have a fantastic meal of Korean BBQ at someplace like [Jongro BBQ](#), then finish the evening at any of the nearby bars.

[Chinatown](#)-The place to eat great food on a budget in NYC, and the place to shop for small gifts for friends back home. Spend a few hours to wander--the Chinese bakeries in the area are amazing, and I'd recommend [New York Noodletown](#), [Joe's Shanghai](#), or [Budda Bodahi](#) as places to eat, but it's hard to go wrong wherever you go.



A street corner in Chinatown. Photo: Derek Jensen

Game Stores

[Montasy Comics](#)-Midtown-located in midtown Manhattan, Montasy hosts a variety of weekday and weekend events

[Nebulous Gaming](#)-One of the newest shops in NYC, Nebulous has one of the largest play-spaces and hosts a variety of e-sports in addition to MTG

[Twenty Sided Store](#)-The home of board games, mtg, and D&D in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Expect a VIP experience in their newly renovated play-space.

[Uncommons](#)-A combination coffee shop & game store! Uncommons is an awesome place to play games with friends in the afternoon, or catch a laid-back FNM. Come early though, many of their events sell out quickly!

[Geekery HQ](#)-Another new kid on the block, this Astoria Queens shop is NYC's newest Advanced+ store. Geekery hosts well attended eternal events, with legacy every week, and monthly vintage events.

[Kings Games](#)-A bit farther out than many of the other stores listed, Kings is famous for running regular weeknight IQs.



Photo: Evan-Amos