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## **LOWER EAST SIDE—MANHATTAN'S LIVELY MIXTURE OF NIGHTLIFE, SHOPPING, LUXURY LIVING AND CASUAL CLASSIC WALKUPS**

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Photography Loop\_oh

New York's famous garment industry began in the Lower East Side and the area is a large neighborhood that's roughly bounded by Canal and Houston Streets and FDR Drive.

This large space was once considered a predominately working-class neighborhood, but as many areas of Manhattan, it's undergone enormous change since its beginnings. Once the largest Jewish center in the United States, generations since then have ensured that cultural landmarks have remained true to their origins. The Lower East Side's present-day population is a diverse mixture of populations and one of the best places to shop, enjoy an lively night on the town or eat at some of New York City's best

delicatessens, the most famous being Katz's at 205 East Houston. It's the largest and oldest (founded in 1888) in the city.

A walk down Orchard Street is perhaps one of the best definitions of the New York City experience—a hodgepodge of restaurants, bars, and boutiques line the street and it's always busy, bringing in neighbors from Manhattan's East Village, Brooklyn and nearby Little Italy and Chinatown. Vendors display their goods on this street and nearby Delancey and Grand Streets—from designer goods to bargain basement—it's a shopping paradise for those who like a vibrant, hip ambiance. Young American designers have set up shop in this section which creates a wonderfully quirky and cool combination of old and new. To get a sense of what this section of New York was like, stop in the Tenement

Museum at 97 Orchard Street, once a tenement building that was home to 7,000 immigrants.

There's annual events such as New York City Apple Day that celebrates the rich history of the area. Delancey, a French farmer once owned an apple orchard in this area and the celebration brings in a plethora of apples, some from upstate. Neighborhood bars and restaurants get in the spirit using apples in many of their dishes and drinks. International Pickle Day celebrates the days of pushcart vendors that were prevalent in the 1800 and 1900s in the Lower East Side. The free event brings in 15-20,000 people that sample pickles from all over the world. This event is one of New York's most popular foodie celebrations and local vendors and the New York Food Museum make it an educational, fun and delicious experience with exhibitions, live music and cooking demonstrations.

For cultural sustenance, there's plenty of museums displaying contemporary and traditional art forms. The New Museum at 235 Bowery is Manhattan's only dedicated contemporary art museum

and its designers, the architectural firm, SANAA received the 2010 Laureate of the Pritzker Architecture Prize for this structure and other worldwide designs. The unmistakable building has been referred to as a “sculptural stack of rectilinear boxes dynamically shifted off-axis around a central steel core,” which translates to stunning.

There’s affordable housing in Lower Manhattan but the area is home to New York luxury apartments as well. Ultra-modern BLUE at 105 Norfolk Street was built in 2007 and has spectacular views from its 8,000 square feet of terraces, overlooking the Williamsburg Bridge and Downtown, plus double exposures in every apartment.

Co-ops such as 264 Broadway offer residents affordable sales and rental options. There’s 55 contemporary apartment homes at 38 Delancey, minutes away from Nolita, Chinatown, the East Village and residents have great views of the Sara Delano Roosevelt Park.

The Bowery area nearby is becoming more and more a draw for professionals that want luxury living—penthouse, condos and duplexes with lots of light and space are nestled among Manhattan’s oldest thoroughfare.

Nolita Place at 199 Bowery is a mid-rise condo building that has 65 studio, one and two bedroom units offering great views and close access to Soho. Nearby, gorgeous, light-filled lofts and half and full-floor apartments are in 195 Bowery at Spring Street, a 16-story apartment building.

The Bowery Mission is a New York City icon that opened in the late 1800s when the neighborhood was defined as “skid row.” Skid Row no longer defines this hip, fashionable neighborhood of New York City, but the Mission remains as a proud testament and a

welcome neighbor to luxury condos, upscale retail shops, eateries and world-class museums of the Lower East Side.

Manhattan's Lower East Side is a state and national historic district. Its historical traditions of a thriving center of merchants and home to a diverse population still define

its parameters. Combining the best of old and new, grit and glamour, it's a popular and exciting urban oasis that many New Yorkers call home.