HIGH LINE SELF-GUIDED VISIT

The High Line is an elevated freight rail line transformed into a public park on Manhattan’s West Side. It is owned by the City of New York, and maintained and operated by Friends of the High Line.

Founded in 1999 by community residents, Friends of the High Line fought for the High Line’s preservation and transformation at a time when the historic structure was under the threat of demolition. It is now the non-profit conservancy working with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation to make sure the High Line is maintained as an extraordinary public space for all visitors to enjoy.

AT A GLANCE

- The High Line is 1.45-miles long, with one mile currently open to visitors.
- Freight trains ran on the High Line beginning in 1934.
- The last train chugged along the High Line in 1980, carrying three carloads of frozen turkeys.
- CSX Transportation, Inc., a freight rail company, donated the High Line to the City of New York.
- The park was designed by James Corner Field Operations, Diller Scofidio + Renfro, and Piet Oudolf.
- The park’s first section opened in 2009, followed by the second section in 2011.
- More than one-third of the High Line’s original rail tracks are featured in the park’s design.
- There are more than 300 species of perennials, grasses, shrubs, and trees on the High Line.
- More than four million people visit each year, making it one of the city’s most visited public parks per acre.
- Philanthropic funds and private donations from people like you support 90% of the High Line’s annual operating budget.

EXPLORE

Stop by the Field Station to pick up free guides and get information about tours, talks, events, art, kids activities, and more.

Open in the spring, summer, and fall, Thursday, 1:00 PM – 7:00 PM, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM

EAT

Enjoy a cold drink or delicious snack from food vendors on the High Line, or share a meal at Terroir at The Porch, the open-air café with beer, wine, and small plates.

Open daily in the spring, summer, and fall, 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM

CONNECT

Want more High Line? Sign up for the High Line E-News at www.thehighline.org, like the High Line on Facebook, and follow @highlinenyc on Twitter for updates.

GET INVOLVED

From helping tend the plants, to leading walking tours, and assisting at special events, volunteers play a critical role in all areas of the High Line’s operations.

Visit www.thehighline.org to get involved.

SHOP

Browse a selection of park maps, postcards, books, and gifts, like special apparel by Diane von Furstenberg for the High Line.

Open in the spring, summer, and fall, Tuesday – Sunday, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, or visit www.thehighline.org

SUPPORT

Members help provide more than 90% of the park’s annual operating support. Stop by the High Line Shop or visit www.thehighline.org to join or renew your membership.

COMING SOON

Work has begun to turn the third and final section of the High Line into public open space.

When it opens in 2014, the new section, called the High Line at the Rail Yards, will include exciting new features, such as a designated play area for kids, an elevated catwalk, and a simple walkway through the original, self-seeded landscape.

Visit www.thehighline.org to view design renderings.
HIGH LINE AT THE RAIL YARDS

Stand at the High Line’s northern end, and look through the metal fence toward the future. The High Line will soon extend one-half mile north, wrapping around Hudson Yards, a 26-acre mixed-use development built over the yards for commuter trains traveling to and from Penn Station, and connecting the park to the new No. 7 subway station.

26TH STREET VIEWING SPUR

Look to the east as the High Line crosses West 26th Street, and you will see one of the park’s unique design features, the Viewing Spur, which pays homage to billboards that were attached to the elevated railway during its years of disuse in the 1980s and 1990s. Rest on the reclining bench and look through the frame toward the varied architecture of West Chelsea.

WEST SIDE COWBOY

Look through the glass amphitheater windows at West 17th Street to imagine a past where trains ran at street-level. Before the High Line opened in 1934, 10th Avenue was a congested thoroughfare called “Death Avenue” due to collisions between trains and pedestrians. Men on horseback, called “West Side Cowboys,” were hired to safely wave pedestrians out of the way.

NORTHERN SPUR PRESERVE

At West 16th Street, a spur crosses 10th Avenue to connect to the old Merchants Refrigerated Warehouse. Trains once traveled the spur making deliveries, but today, it contains a horticultural preserve, where the High Line’s original tracks are embedded in the wild landscape.

Get free Bloom Lists at the Field Station or www.thehighline.org.

THE RIVER THAT FLOWS BOTH WAYS

Each pane of glass in Spencer Finch’s installation, between West 15th and West 16th Streets, represents a hue from photographs of water taken during a 700-minute journey on the Hudson River. This installation is part of High Line Art, a program that introduces site-specific works that respond to the park’s unique qualities.

Get free art map at the Field Station or www.thehighline.org.

CHELSEA MARKET PASSAGE

When the High Line first opened in 1934, freight trains rolled into this passageway to deliver dairy and produce to the former Nabisco Baking Company’s upper-floor loading docks. In the 1990s, the building was converted into Chelsea Market, but you can still see the bakery’s initials, NBC, engraved above the archways of the red brick building to the west.

END OF THE LINE

Decades ago, the High Line continued farther south, to Spring Street. Between the 1960s and 1990s, portions were demolished to make way for development. Stand at the Tiffany & Co. Foundation Overlook at the park’s southern end, near the Whitney Museum construction site, and look across the street. The green bricks on the building to the south frame the passageway where the railway traveled through the structure.