# GREAT VALKS

New Yorkers disagree about plenty, but the vast majority concur:
The best way to see the city is by using your own two feet.
Get moving with these pop-culture–centric strolls.
Edited by **Sarah Bruning** 

# **Punk-rock walk**

# **GOOD FOR: ASPIRING BAD-ASSES**

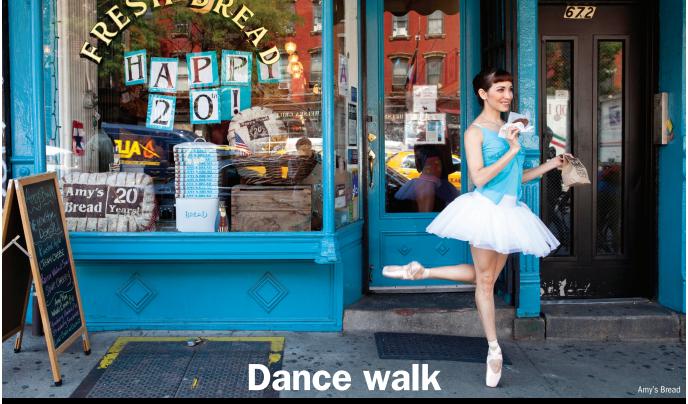
**Start:** Bowery at 2nd St **End:** 99 Ave B between 6th and 7th Sts **Time:** 2 hours **Distance:** 1.1 miles

- It's impossible to explore New York City's punk history without mentioning CBGB (315 Bowery at Bleecker St, cbgb.com), the legendary club that hosted shows from the likes of the Ramones, Television, the Dead Boys, Bad Brains and more. The venue closed in 2006 (Alan Rickman will soon immortalize late owner Hilly Kristal in the film CBGB), and a John Varvatos store replaced the formerly grotty space. But a tribute to one of the genre's biggest names remains: East 2nd Street off Bowery was renamed Joey Ramone Place in 2003, two years after the singer's death.
- 2 As you walk north along the Bowery and then Third Avenue, you'll pass Continental (25 Third Ave between St. Marks Pl and Stuyvesant St), which opened in 1990 and hosted performances from Iggy Pop, Lenny Kaye and other punk progenitors. Now it's simply a really cheap dive bar—you can get five shots for a ten-spot at any time. Afterward, duck into St. Mark's Bookshop (31 Third Ave at 9th St; 212-260-7853, stmarksbookshop.com), which has been a neighborhood institution since the 1970s.

- Leaf through the latest issue of punk zine *Maximumrocknroll* (\$4) or look for Patti Smith's memoir *Just Kids* (\$16), which chronicles her early years, many of which were spent in the East Village. (The book is primarily set in Chelsea and Brooklyn.)
- 3 Though you'll mostly see teenage crust-punks and tourists hanging around St. Marks Place these days, the three-block stretch's punk history is storied. It was once home to venues like Coney Island High (where Joey Ramone held a few of his birthday concerts), and notorious rocker GG Allin (who frequently started fights and flung his own feces into crowds during shows) lived in the building that houses the St. Marks Hotel. One vestige of the old St. Marks is still there: Pop into clothing shop Trash and Vaudeville (4 St. Marks Pl between Second and Third Aves; 212-982-3590, trashandvaudeville.com), which opened in 1975 and has been frequented by members of Blondie and the Ramones. (Should you choose, you can chat with buyer Jimmy Webb, at right, to get style advice, or shell out a decidedly unpunk \$58 for a pair of black skinny jeans.)
- Continue to the end of St. Marks and hang a right onto Avenue A. Outside of Niagara Bar (112 Ave A at 7th St, 212-420-9517), you'll find a colorful mural depicting Joe Strummer, the frontman of the Clash. Street artists Zephyr and Dr. Revolt did the piece in 2003 to commemorate Strummer after his death in 2002, and its creation was documented in a posthumous video for "Redemption Song" by the musician's last band, the Mescaleros. (Fun fact: The clip features cameos from other neighborhood luminaries, including filmmaker Jim Jarmusch and musician Jesse Malin, who owns Niagara.)
- **⑤** End your trek at Manitoba's (99 Ave B between 6th and 7th Sts; 212-982-2511, manitobas.com). Opened in 1999, the watering hole is owned by "Handsome" Dick Manitoba, lead singer for '70s punk band the Dictators, who immortalized the old 'hood with 2001's "Avenue A." During the lengthy happy hour (every day from 3 to 8pm), you can down pints of Coney Island Lager for a mere \$4 each; use your extra cash to play a few songs on the eclectic jukebox, curated by Manitoba himself.—Amy Plitt



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### **GOOD FOR: ANYONE FOOTLOOSE AND FLEXIBLE**

Start: 213 W 40th St between Seventh and Eighth Aves End: 20 Lincoln Center Plaza at 63rd St Time: 5 hours Distance: 2.1 miles

- **1** Dancers are notoriously tough on their feet, so prime your peds for a day of busting fierce moves with a deluxe pedicure (\$50) at GC Salon and Spa (213 W 40th St between Seventh and Eighth Aves. second floor; 212-750-0808, gcsalonandspa.com). In addition to the usual polish job, your tootsies and legs will be pampered with a ginger-rice exfoliant and house-made oil blends, as well as a ten-minute reflexology session.
- 2 Tony Award—winning triple threat Sutton Foster recently traded tap shoes on the Great White Way for ballet slippers on TV's Bunheads, but she still frequents one of her favorite Broadway-adjacent eateries: Amy's Bread (672 Ninth Ave at 47th St; 212-977-2670, amysbread.com). Nosh on a few

Foster-approved treats; she's tweeted about her love of the bakery's chocolate Chubbie cookies (\$2.75) and monkey cake (slice \$4.50).

- 3 Whether you're a hip-hop junkie or a lyrical devotee, you'll need the right gear before you can hone your technique. The Capezio flagship store (1650 Broadway at 51st St. second floor: 212-245-2130, capezio.com) supplies practitioners of all levels with footwear (from jazz oxfords to ballroom heels), men's and women's tees, camis and leotards. Just for fun, slip on a pair of pointe shoes and show off your best arabesque at the in-store barre.
- 4 Instead of spending hours staring at Cat Deeley and

Can Dance, perfect your own twists and turns during a class at the Ailey Extension (405 W 55th St at Ninth Ave; 212-405-9000, alvinailev.org), the recreational arm of the renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Instructors cover all skill levels and genres, but African dance and samba, both of which feature live drummers, are among the most popular.

5 Time to let the prostake over. The Paris Opera Ballet performs Romantic masterpiece Giselle through July 22 at Lincoln Center (David H. Koch Theater, 20 Lincoln Center Plaza at 63rd St; 212-721-6500, lincolncenter.org). You might be tempted to use your newfound knowledge to analyze the grand leaps and pliés of the company's 154-member corps, but you won't find much to critique.—Sarah Bruning

studying the lithe contestants on So You Think You

\$195). Don't leave kink item of choice: a pair of Ben Wa balls

6 Now that you're well-supplied and informed, get ready to experiment—or at least watch other people playat Paddles (250 W 26th St

naddlesnyc.com), the city's longestrunning BDSM club. The space is quite literally an underground dungeon, but the vibe is welcoming and laid-back. Owner Michael A. gives all neophytes a tour and sticks around during events to answer any questions. Find a partner to test one of four St. Andrew's crosses, or chat up other kinksters at the alcohol-free bar (legally mandated because of the nudity), which serves cookies (\$1 each) and soda (\$2).

without grabbing Ana's (\$15-\$48).

between Seventh and Eighth Aves;

5 A block away, you'll find Gardel's Greene Garden (97 S Portland Ave between Fulton St and Lafayette Ave, Fort Greene, Brooklyn: 917-843-4098). If your pad is anything like the one shared by Winston, Nick, Schmidt and Jess, it could use a plant or two to balance out the super-masculine leather. Take home a few tropical flora. plus tools to keep your new greenery looking fresh.—Samantha Vance

their eyes skyward, searching for Bat Signals and caped crusaders, but your first stop is something more concrete: In Sam Raimi's 2002 Spider-Man film, the Flatiron Building (175 Fifth Ave between 22nd and 23rd Sts) stood in for the headquarters of Peter Parker's newspaper, the Daily Bugle. A less-famous Marvel comic, Damage Control, uses the same

1 Bystanders in comics tend to cast

edifice as the home base for a construction company charged with fixing the havoc wreaked on New York during epic battles between heroes and villains.

2 Newbies and fans looking to expand their horizons can delve into the extensive collection at Manhattan Comics & More (10 E 23rd St between Broadway and Madison Ave, second floor; manhattancomics.com, 212-460-5322), where new arrivals hit the shelves every Wednesday morning. Customers can casually browse the stock of graphic novels and action

figures, but devotees with specific titles in mind often use the store's website or the ComiXology app to make a list of products for staffers to pull from the shelves in advance.

Start: 175 Fifth Ave between 22nd and 23rd Sts End: 225 E 44th St between Second and Third Aves Time: 1 hour Distance: 1.6 miles

3 Any Spidey aficionado should recognize the New York Public Library's main branch (Fifth Ave at 42nd St; 917-275-6975, nypl.org) as the site where a carjacker shot Peter Parker's Uncle Ben in Raimi's version. But step inside: The research section of the picturesque institution also houses more than 35,000 comics, some of which date back to 1896. The delicate pages aren't on public display, but you can fill out a request slip if you want a closer look at 1,300 issues of Spider-Man, works by Walt Disney and more.

4 Several other local landmarks have inspired creators of classic cartoons and recent films: The Empire State Building (350 Fifth Ave between 33rd and 34th Sts; esbnyc.com, 212-736-3100) has long

been a popular hang for Spider-Man, while Thor uses the metal spire of the Chrysler Building (405 Lexington Ave at 44th St) to give his hammer some extra oomph in Joss Whedon's recent megahit, The Avengers. A little farther north is the MetLife Building (200 Park Ave at 44th St), which was reimagined in the movie as Stark Tower, owned by Iron Man's alter ego, Tony Stark.

**5** Pop into Overlook (225 E 44th St between Second and Third Aves; 212-682-7266, overlooknyc.com) for a drink and, more importantly, to scope the unique wall decor: The bar's relationship with cartoonists goes back to 1935, when New Yorker artist James Thurber struck a deal to pay for his food and drink by drawing on the walls. Today, the impromptu gallery includes work by a variety of artists. such as Daily News cartoonist Bill Gallo, Mad's Al Jaffee and Bizarro's Dan Piraro.—Sarah Rammos

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# New Girl 🗑 walk

## **GOOD FOR: DREAMY BOHEMIANS**

Start: 469 Vanderbilt Ave at Gates Ave, Fort Greene, Brooklyn End: 97 S Portland Ave between Fulton St and Lafayette Ave, Fort Greene, Brooklyn Time: 2 hours 15 minutes

- 1 Your Zooey Deschanel-inspired jaunt commences with a bit of dogoodery at Project Hope Boutique Thrift (469 Vanderbilt Ave at Gates Ave. Fort Greene, Brooklyn; 347-457-5982), a nonprofit store where 100 percent of the proceeds go toward helping sick children. Scour an array of clothes (from vintage Escada to utilitarian Old Navy), plus footwear and jewelry. Keep your eyes peeled for a pair of geek-chic specs to channel your inner manic pixie dream girl-you'll even receive 20 percent off frames and sunglasses if you mention TONY through July 21.
- 2 Wander up Vanderbilt Avenue to get a feel for the eclectic Fort Greene nabe; you're likely to see denizens perched on their stoops with guitars or pooches. Escape the heat with an old-timey treat at the General Greene (229 DeKalb Ave at Clermont Ave, Fort Greene, Brooklyn; 718-222-1510, the general greene.com). Cool down with the decadent saltedcaramel ice-cream sundae (\$8), a hunk of caramel cake topped with the namesake sauce and frozen dessert. plus whipped cream and pretzel brittle.
- 3 Think of shopkeepers Camilla Gale and Rand Niederhoffer as Fort Greene's answer to New Girl BFFs Jess and Cece. The pals run four-year-old boutique Thistle & Clover (221 DeKalb Ave between Adelphi St and Clermont Ave, Fort Greene, Brooklyn; 718-855-5577, thistleclover.com). Baubles by local designers, including students of the nearby Pratt Institute, make up much of the stock. Notable pieces include solitaire rings from Blanca Monrós Gómez and dainty gold pieces from the house line, which we could totally imaging filling Zooey D.'s jewelry box.
- 4 Allow your imagination to wander as you amble along South Oxford Street, and admire some of the area's picturesque brownstones, many of which were erected in the 1850s. Another notable site: Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church (85 S Oxford St at Lafayette Ave, Fort Greene, Brooklyn; 718-625-7515, lapcbrooklyn.org), which was a stop on the Underground Railroad.

# Fifty Shades of Grey walk

### **GOOD FOR: FETISHISTS AND FIRST-TIMERS**

Start: 79 Greene St between Broome and Spring Sts End: 250 W 26th St between Seventh and Eighth Aves Time: 3 hours Distance: 2.6 miles

1 Though it's filled with salacious prose, E.L. James's novel has been widely criticized for its inaccurate portrayal of dominance and submission—not to mention questionable phrasing (does any woman actually refer to her "inner goddess" every other minute?). Pick up a more true-to-life tome at McNally Jackson Books (52 Prince St between Lafayette and Mulberry Sts). The indie retailer

stocks genre classics, including Story of O by Pauline Réage (\$8) and The New Bottoming Book by Dossie Easton and Janet W. Hardy (\$15).

2 Continue your kink exploration at erotic boutique Kiki de Montparnasse (79 Greene St between Broome and Spring Sts: 212-965-8070, kikidm.com). The dimly lit shop stocks decadent fetish goods. including leather cuffs with silk ties (\$175) and silver-tip riding crops (\$195), as well as sexy but tasteful sleepwear, such as cotton-and-silk tanks with attached garters (\$175). If you don't have billionaire dom Christian Grev's bank account, an array of lower-priced bath and body goods will allow you to take home a little bit of luxury; we like the massage candles (\$45) and extra-lathering soap (\$20).

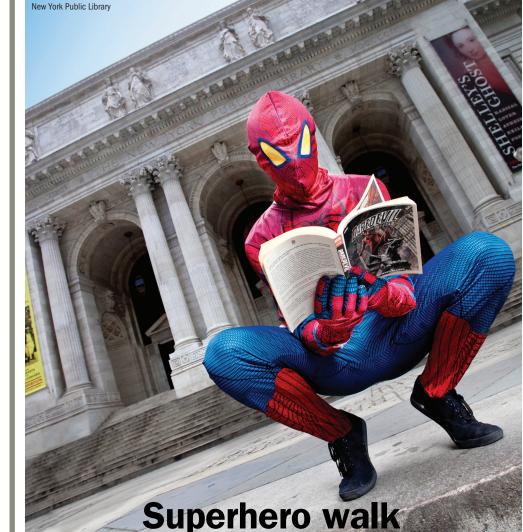
3 Christian and sexual neophyte Anastasia bring their ice cream—vanilla,

on the quintessentia flavor, made with aromatic Madagascar bourbon vanilla. at West Village gelateria Amorino 60 University Plat 10th St: 212-253-5599, amorino.com). The only thing that'll be deflowered here is one of the signature rose-shaped scoops(\$5.25-\$8), but that's afternoon delight enough.

4 There's no better place to find Christian's favorite impact toys than 21-year-old fetish store Purple Passion (211 W 20th St between Seventh and Eighth Aves: 212-807-0486, purple passion.com). Proprietor Hilton Flax and his knowledgeable staff will help you find everything from cotton rope (32-foot

of course—to the bedroom. Whether length \$13) and bondage tape (\$7.95 per roll) to leather paddles (\$35 each) or not you're planning to mess up the and braided-handle floggers (\$78--Elizabeth Denton sheets, head uptown for a refined take

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**GOOD FOR: COMIC-BOOK JUNKIES** 

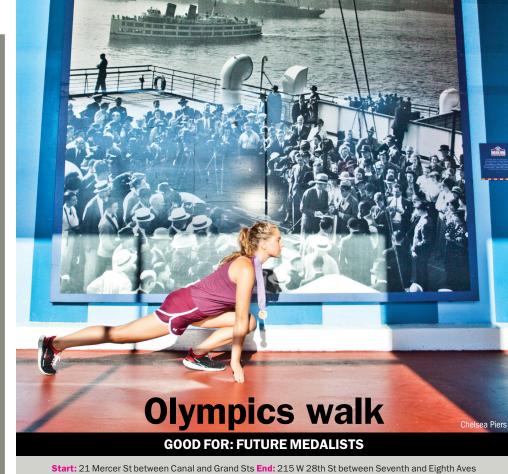


Start: 450 W 43rd St between Ninth and Tenth Aves End: 611 Fifth Ave at 49th St

Time: 4 hours Distance: 1.6 miles

**DAPPER DUDES** 

- Big-shot lawyer and stylish man-abouttown Harvey Specter prides himself on the ability to kick ass in and out of the office. Before you exercise your brain, tone your muscles at the Manhattan Plaza Racquet Club (450 W 43rd St between Ninth and Tenth Aves; 212-594-0554, mprcnyc.com), where you can rent a private tennis court (nonmembers \$105 per hour, members \$44-\$67 per hour) if you're rolling as deep as a Pearson Hardman attorney. For access to a broader range of sports, spring for a one-day pass to sister venue Manhattan Plaza Health Club (482 W 43rd Stat Tenth Ave; 212-563-7001, mphc.com; day pass available Mon-Fri \$35.12). You'll have full run of the facilities, which includes a rock-climbing gym, cardio and weight equipment, a pool and a roof deck.
- 2 Make a quick stop at Discovery Times Square (226 W 44th St between Seventh and Fighth Aves: 866-987-9692 discoveryts .com) to check out the latest exhibit—a look at the slick field of espionage. You'll be able to inspect actual declassified CIA gadgets, navigate a laser field, and disguise your face and voice. Maybe Harvey's protégé. Mike, wouldn't have been expelled from college if he'd used these skills during his shady test-selling escapade.
- 3 It's time for a swanky power lunch at the Lambs Club (132 W 44th St between Sixth and Seventh Aves: 212-997-5262. thelambsclub.com). Get comfortable in one of the red leather chairs and consider which of chef Geoffrey Zakarian's refined American dishes to order. We like the classic gyro (\$24) on a house-made pita, but if you're not one to get your hands dirty, try the steak salad (\$36), which pairs slices of sirloin with arugula, Romano cheese and a red-wine vinaigrette
- 4 Any dapper gent who wants to impress—whether it's a client, boss or lady friend—should own a three-piece suit. The master craftsmen at Imparali Custom Tailors (608 Fifth Ave at 49th St, suite 310; 212-245-5555, imparali.com) can sew you a polished-yet-affordable look (prices start at \$750) from one of 10,000-plus fabrics. It's best to call ahead to make an appointment, but the results are well worth the effort.
- 6 As he's always perfectly coiffed, Harvey would be disappointed if we didn't send you for a little grooming, too. Whether you need the full-service (scalp-massaging shampoo, conditioning treatment, hot towel, haircut, manicure, shoe shine: 45mins \$68) or a beard trim (\$15), treat yourself to some manly TLC at John Allan's (Saks Fifth Avenue, 611 Fifth Ave at 49th St, seventh floor; 212-940-2210, johnallans .com). Kick back with a complimentary beer or espresso, and let the staff pamper you as you ponder the next step in your quest for world domination.—Rega Jha



Time: 4.5 hours Distance: 4.6 miles

1 New York may have lost its 2012 Olympics bid to London, but that doesn't mean you have to cross the pond to test your athletic prowess. First, look the part: Cobble together a stylish workout ensemble at Nike Sportswear 21 Mercer (21 Mercer St between Canal and Grand Sts; 212-226-5433, twitter.com/ 21Mercer), where you can snag the brand's swooshemblazoned tees, track pants and jackets. Toward the end of the month, the store will stock podium-ready Team USA gear, too.



3 After taking a break to enjoy the view of Lady Liberty, power-walk (or run) up the breezy waterside stretch of Hudson River Park (Battery Park City to 59th St at the West Side Hwy; hudsonriverpark.org). The paths are usually teeming with hot bodies exercising

while sunbathers laze on the adjacent lawns. Replenish with nutrient-enhanced smoothies, juices and snacks at Elixir Juice Bar inside the Chelsea Equinox (100 Tenth Ave at 17th St; 212-706-4310,elixirjuicebar

4 Continue your training

session at the sprawling rec

River between 17th and 23rd

center at Chelsea Piers (Hudson

Sts; 212-336-6666, chelseapiers .com). For a little inspiration, inspect the History Wall between Piers 60 and 61; photomurals depict the 1936 USA Olympic team sailing to the Berlin Games from Chelsea Piers, as well as track-and-field star Jesse Owens's return with four gold medals. Many of the Summer Olympic sports can be found at this athletic haven, including beach volleyball, sailing, swimming and gymnastics. Check the website for prices and schedules for your activity of choice; dabblers looking to sample a bit of everything can purchase a day pass

5 Congrats, champ—you've earned the right to carboload. End your journey at Smithfield (215 W 28th St between Seventh and Eighth Aves; 212-564-2172, *smithfieldnyc.com*), a three-floor pub that will show nonstop Olympic coverage from networks around the world. Cheer on your home country while satisfying your appetite with protein-packed menu items such as the surf-and-turf burger, a juicy Black Angus beef patty topped with Maine lobster (\$14), and a medalworthy selection of American microbrews and international suds.—Sara Idacavage

Start: 125 Walker St between Baxter and Centre Sts End: 58 Pearl St at Broad St Time: 2 hours Distance: 1.9 miles 1 No journey through the Seven Kingdoms should begin on an empty stomach. At Chinatown's Dragon Land Bakery (125 Walker St between Baxter and Centre Sts, 212-219-2012), a uniformed server will fill your tray from the selection of baked goods. Daenerys Targaryen, the Mother of Dragons, may have eaten a raw stallion's heart, but you can select more palatable options—such as egg-custard tarts, sesame balls and pork buns—for \$1.10 each.

2 Targaryen or not, purchase your own dragonthemed chopsticks at Yunhong Chopsticks Shop (50 Mott St between Bayard and Pell Sts; 212-566-8828, happychopsticks.com). Chinese-zodiac gift sets start at an affordable \$22, but if your pockets are as deep as a Lannister's (the wealthiest of the Great Houses of Westeros), consider splurging on a goldplated red mahogany pair (\$42) or a solid silver duo engraved with a dragon and phoenix (\$216).

3 Like the bastard Jon Snow, who joins the Night's Watch, you are now bound for the Wall (Street, in this case). On the way, pause at the foot of the Brooklyn Bridge (Centre St between Chambers and Spruce Sts) and be grateful you don't have to ally vourself with Walder Frey, Lord of the Crossing, to traverse it. At your back is City Hall Park (Vesey St to Chambers St between Broadway and Park Row, nycgovparks.org). There are chessboard tables near the Warren Street entrance—BYO queens, kings, knights and castles to play your own game of thrones. Also check out the Public Art Fund's "Common Ground," an exhibition of outdoor sculpture and performance (publicartfund.org, through Nov 30).

Game of Thrones walk

**GOOD FOR: FANTASY FIENDS** 

4 A Lannister always pays his debts; if only everyone else did too. "Tracking the Credit Crisis" at the

Museum of American Finance (48 Wall St at William St; 212-908-4110, moaf.org) sheds some light on how we got into our current economic predicament. But it's not all doom and gloom: The institution also has a jewel-encrusted, 18-karat-gold Monopoly set that would impress even the merchants of Qarth.

**5** Your travels end with a well-earned pint of ale (\$6–\$8) at the historic Porterhouse at Fraunces Tavern (58 Pearl St at Broad St; 212-968-1776, frauncestavern.com). Like the Crossroads

Inn on the Kingsroad (where House Stark matriarch, Lady Catelyn, seizes the imp Tyrion Lannister), this storied establishment dates back hundreds of years, George Washington said goodbye to his Continental officers here in 1783, and the pub will be celebrating its 250th anniversary in September.—Sarah Theeboom



Start: 540 W 26th St between Tenth and Eleventh Aves End: 288 Elizabeth St between Bleecker and E Houston Sts Time: 1.5 hours Distance: 2.85 miles

 Whether you're a struggling NYC newbie or a lifer who rolls your eyes at overprivileged, underemployed recent grads half-heartedly pounding the pavement, you can learn a thing or two from how the characters on HBO's hit show embrace life in New York. First, indulge in some gratis culture on a mini gallery tour: Marnie's employer, Lehmann Maupin (540 W 26th St between Tenth

Gallery (521 W 23rd St between Tenth and Eleventh Aves: 212-966-3978, stevenkasher.com) specializes in striking photography including backstage shots of the Rolling Stones taken by Jim Marshall. If you're not in a hurry, peep the color-saturated multimedia collages at Pavel Zoubok Gallery (5.3.3 W 2.3rd St between Tenth

2 Marnie and hot artist Booth Jonathan share a provocative moment on the High Line (Washington St at Gansevoort St to

and Eleventh Aves, 212-675-7490,

pavelzoubok.com).

highline.org), which you can re-create with your S.O. in one of the stairwells. If you're strolling solo, bring a book (or, like Hannah. vour unfinished manuscript) and carve out some space on the 23rd Street Steps.

Tenth Ave at 30th St.

Open the elevated park and refuel at Café Grumpy (224 W 20th St between Seventh and Eighth Aves, 212-255-5511, cafegrumpy.com). Hannah works at the Greenpoint location, but the spacious Chelsea offshoot boasts a shaded outdoor garden where you can contemplate your misspent youth over a cup of cold-brewed iced coffee (\$3.50) and a slice of dense banana bread (\$2.75).

4 On your way downtown, pay tribute to Jessa's British roots at Tea & Sympathy (110 Greenwich Ave between 12th and 13th Sts: 212-989-9735, teaandsympathy newvork.com), where you can snag Cadbury candy and other U.K. treats from the Carry On shop. Or, if you have time and money to kill, kick back with afternoon tea (\$35) complete with finger sandwiches and scones at the sit-down restaurant next door. Shoshanna would love to empty her bank account at Juicy Couture (368 Bleecker St at Charles St; 646-336-8151, juicycouture.com), but we wouldn't blame you for skipping those velour jumpsuits in favor of the well-curated literature at Bookmarc (400 Bleecker St at 11th St: 212-620-4021, marcjacobs.com).

5 Treat yourself to Jessa's drink of choice, a White Russian (\$9), at Tom and Jerry's (288 Flizabeth St between Bleecker and E Houston Sts: 212-260-5045). Allow yourself one last bit of navel-gazing as you debate your biggest baggage, and congratulate yourself on an afternoon well spent. -Esther Shechtman

MORE ONLINE! For dozens more of our favorite strolls—including an indie-nightlife trek, a history-laden amble across the Brooklyn Bridge and a Los Angeles—inspired journey into Soho—visit timeout.com/newyork.

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