



The Financial District

An Insider's Guide to the Heartbeat of New York

Where History Was Made and the Future is Traded.

More Than a 9-to-5

Welcome to the Financial District, or “FiDi”—the oldest developed part of New York, dating back to 1624. It is a neighborhood of dramatic contrasts: where breathtaking “artificial canyons” carved by Gilded Age skyscrapers meet the cobblestone lanes of New Amsterdam, and the global engine of finance coexists with a vibrant, growing residential community.

Bounded by the West Side Highway on the west, Chambers Street and City Hall Park on the north, the Brooklyn Bridge on the northeast, the East River to the southeast, and the Battery on the south.



CHAPTER

The Foundations: From a Dutch Wall to Wall Street



1624: The City of New York is founded as New Amsterdam.

1789: George Washington takes the oath of office as the first U.S. President on the balcony of Federal Hall.

1792: Traders formalize their association under a buttonwood tree, creating the agreement that would become the New York Stock Exchange.

Wall Street was also the location of New York's first official slave market, which operated from 1711 to 1762 at the corner of Wall and Pearl Streets.

The Canyons of Power: An Architectural Journey



Trinity Church

One World Center

Colonial Roots

Gilded Age Ambition

21st Century Resilience

FiDi's architecture is a vertical timeline. The neighborhood's narrow streets, laid out in the 17th century, are bordered by some of the city's tallest buildings. This contrast of old and new creates breathtaking 'artificial canyons' that tell a story of constant reinvention.

Meet the Icons of FiDi



The Birthplace of American Government.

Site of George Washington's first inauguration and the passing of the Bill of Rights.



The Engine of Capitalism.

The world's largest stock exchange by total market capitalization of its listed companies.

An Enduring Sanctuary.

A historic parish dating back to 1697, its graveyard is the final resting place of figures like Alexander Hamilton.



A Symbol of Power.

One of the city's most famous and photographed attractions, representing aggressive financial optimism.



The Engine Room: Inside the World of Finance

'Wall Street' is both a physical eight-block street and a metonym for the entire U.S. financial industry. While many firms have moved to Midtown or New Jersey, the district remains the symbolic and operational heart of global finance.

Key Institutions



New York Stock Exchange (NYSE): The locus of an immense amount of data, requiring 3,500 kilowatts of electricity and 200 miles of fiber-optic cable.



Federal Reserve Bank of New York: One of 12 regional banks in the Federal Reserve System, responsible for executing the nation's monetary policy.



NASDAQ: The other major stock exchange, which moved its headquarters from Washington to New York.



New York's Buried Treasure



Deep beneath the streets of FiDi lies one of the world's largest stockpiles of **gold**. The Federal Reserve Bank's vault rests on the bedrock of Manhattan, 80 feet below street level, **and is reported to hold over \$100 billion** worth of gold bullion.

The vault is secured by a 90-ton steel cylinder that creates an airtight and watertight seal.



The New FiDi: From Commerce to Community

For most of the 20th century, FiDi was a business community that emptied out at night. But thanks to the 1995 Lower Manhattan Revitalization Plan, which offered incentives to convert commercial properties to residential use, the population has boomed. Today, an estimated 61,000 residents call FiDi home.



Upscale residences in converted historic buildings.



Waterfront green spaces like The Battery.

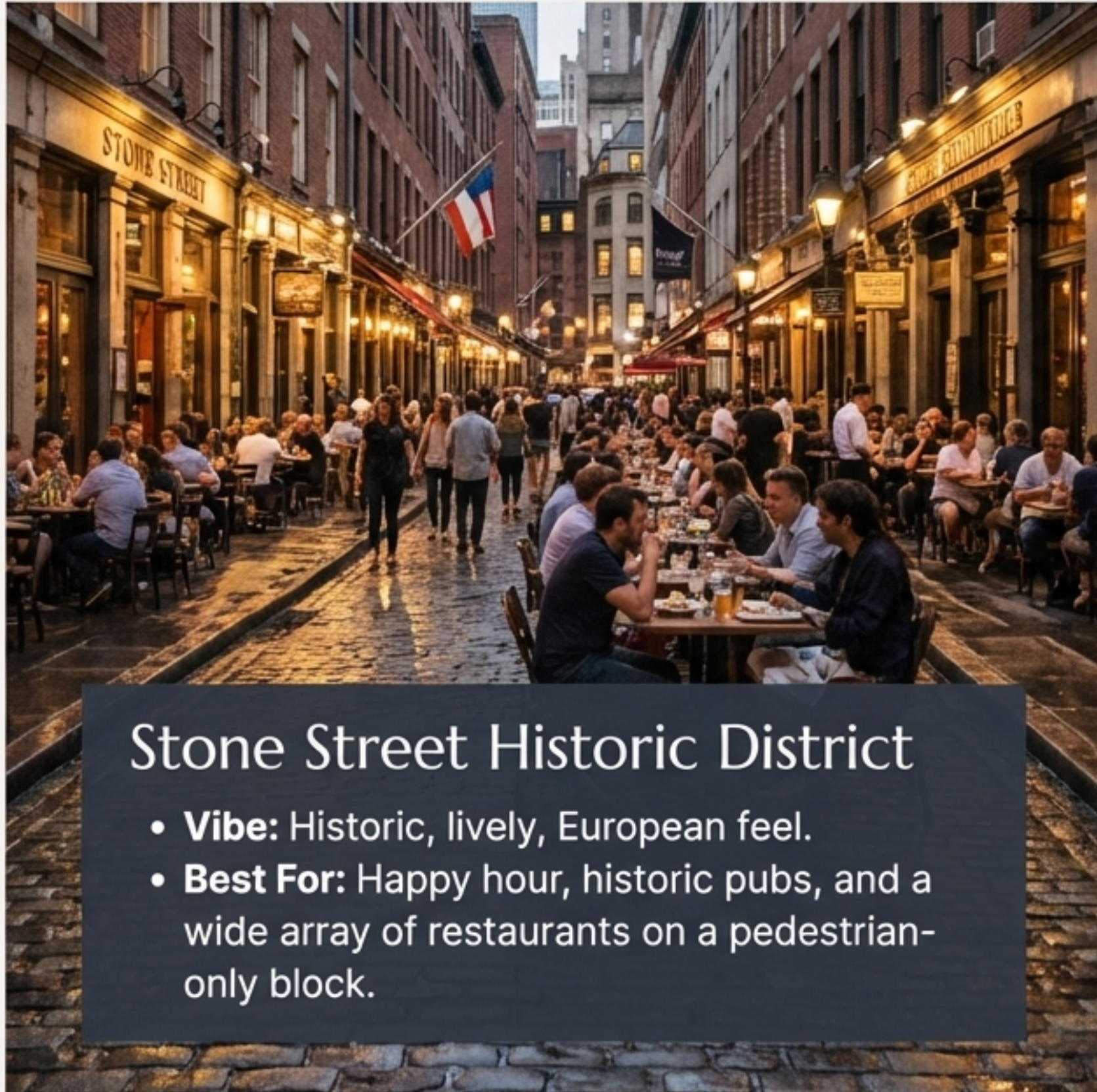


Upscale retailers like Hermès.



A thriving bar and restaurant scene.

Where to Eat, Drink, and Explore



Stone Street Historic District

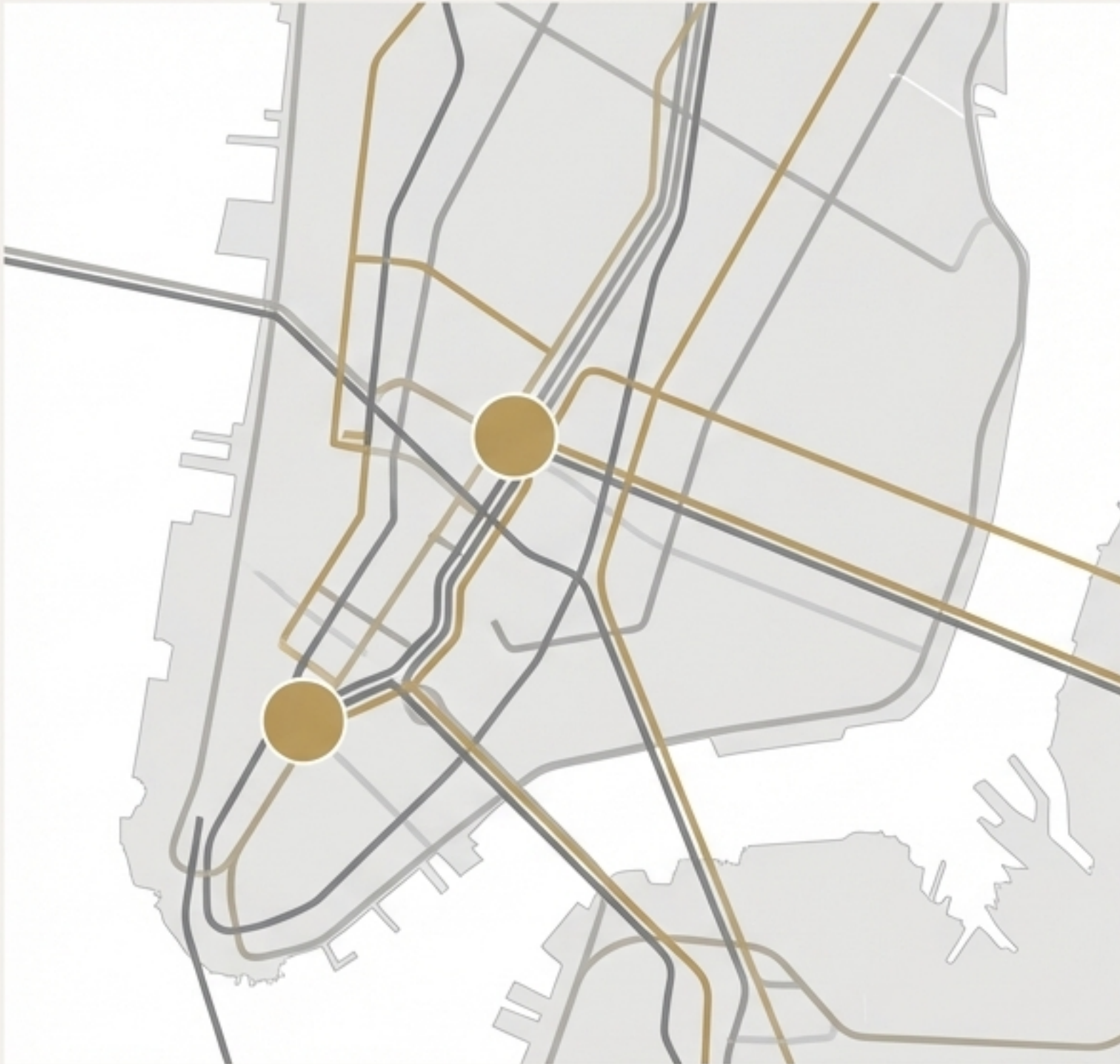
- **Vibe:** Historic, lively, European feel.
- **Best For:** Happy hour, historic pubs, and a wide array of restaurants on a pedestrian-only block.



South Street Seaport

- **Vibe:** Waterfront, modern, entertaining.
- **Best For:** Upscale shopping, concerts at Pier 17, dining with skyline views, and exploring maritime history.

Getting Around: The Crossroads of the City



Key Transportation Hubs

Fulton Center: A \$1.4 billion complex serving 300,000 daily riders and connecting multiple subway lines.

World Trade Center Transportation Hub (The Oculus): A stunning architectural landmark and connection point for the PATH train to New Jersey.

Modes of Transit



Subway

Unparalleled access with nearly every subway line converging in the area. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, A, C, E, J, Z, N, R, W).



Ferry

A major hub for NYC Ferry, the Staten Island Ferry, and service to Governors Island from Pier 11/Wall Street and the Battery Maritime Building.



Bus

Served by numerous local and express bus routes, plus the free Downtown Connection shuttle bus.

Your FiDi Itinerary: Top 5 Experiences

1

Walk the Canyon of Heroes:
Start at Trinity Church, walk down Wall Street, and see the NYSE and Federal Hall.



2

Reflect at the 9/11 Memorial & Museum:
Pay respects at the serene memorial pools on the footprint of the Twin Towers.



3

Rewarding the Skyline:
Start at Trinity Church, walk down at Wall Street, and see the best for the four streets in New York.



4

Discover the Seaport:
Explore the historic ships and modern shops at the newly revitalized South Street Seaport.



3

Uncover History on Stone Street:
Grab a meal or a drink on one of the oldest paved streets in New York.



5

Catch a Ferry for Skyline Views:
Take the Staten Island Ferry (it's free!) from Whitehall Terminal for incredible views of the Statue of Liberty and the Lower Manhattan skyline.



5

Catch a Linton Horthery:
Grab the Staten Church as for Whitehall Terminal Ferry.

A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of several skyscrapers in the Financial District of New York City. The image captures the verticality of the architecture, with older, ornate stone buildings on the left and right, and newer, glass-clad skyscrapers in the center. The sky is a pale, clear blue. The text is centered over the image.

**Financial District, NYC:
Constantly changing.
Forever iconic.
Come feel the pulse.**