

Murray Hill: Manhattan's Quiet Center

An insider's guide to a neighborhood of history, diplomacy, and discovery.



First, A Story. Then, A Neighborhood.

Murray Hill began not as a grid of streets, but as the rolling farmland of 18th-century merchant Robert Murray. His estate, “Inclenberg,” sat atop a steep glacial hill that gave the area its name and its character. The hill has since been graded and the farm is long gone, but the neighborhood retains a distinct identity—a polished residential enclave right on the doorstep of Midtown’s hustle.



Where a Cup of Tea (May Have) Saved an Army



Legend holds that on September 15, 1776, Mary Lindley Murray, Robert Murray's wife, delayed British General Howe and his officers by inviting them for tea. This charming act of hospitality purportedly gave General Washington's retreating troops enough time to escape safely. As Continental Army surgeon James Thacher wrote in his journal, "It is a common saying among our officers that Mrs. Murray saved this part of the American army." A plaque from the Daughters of the American Revolution near Park Ave & 37th St commemorates this tale.

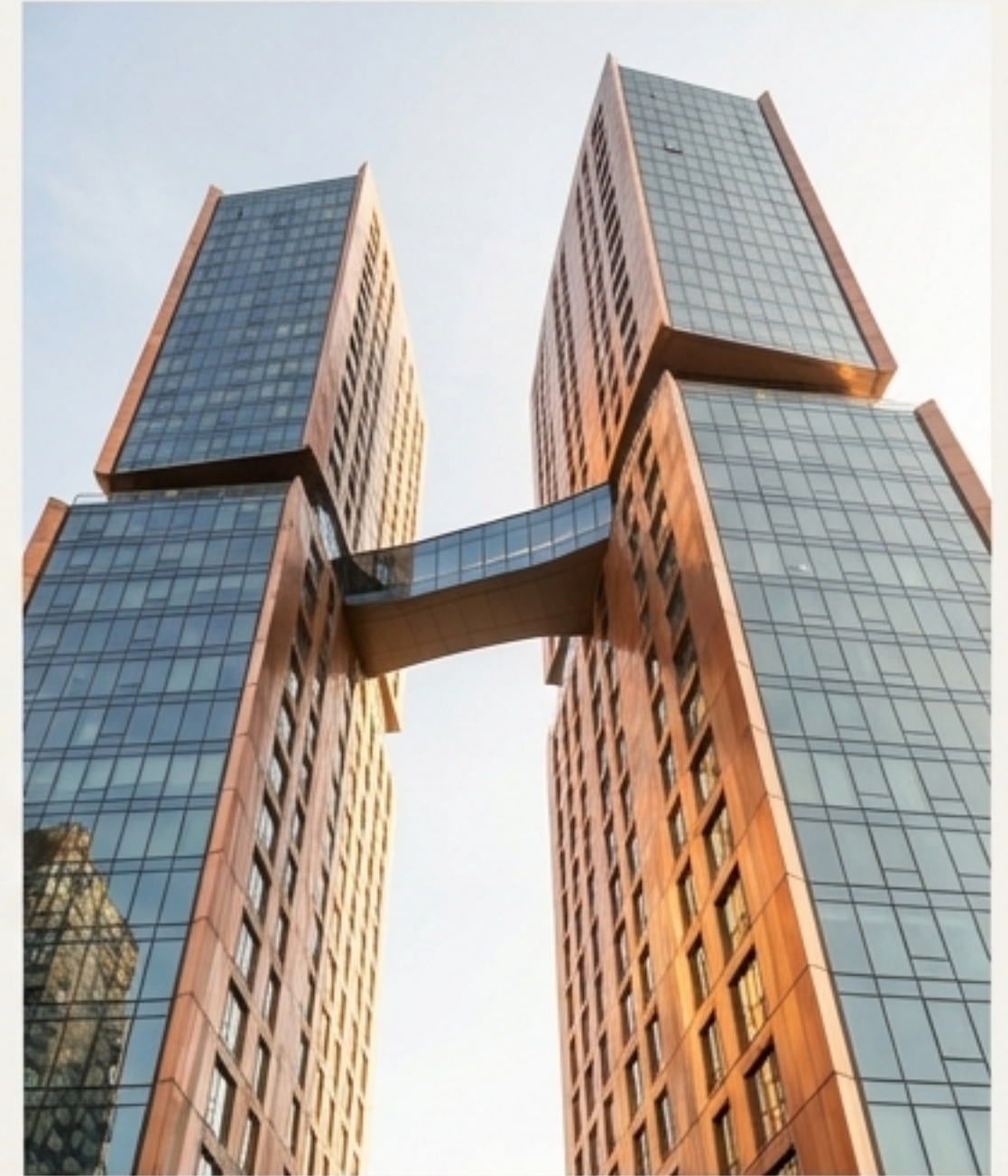
An Architectural Tapestry




Historic District: Beautifully preserved 19th-century brownstones and Italianate rowhouses line the blocks between E 35th and E 38th Streets.



Sniffen Court: One of NYC's most charming hidden gems, this private mews features 10 Romanesque Revival buildings, originally built as stables in the 1860s.



Riverfront Views: Along the East River, sleek high-rises like the American Copper Buildings offer a contemporary counterpoint and stunning water views.

A photograph of the interior of the Morgan Library & Museum. The room is a grand, multi-story library with high ceilings and vaulted arches. The walls are lined with floor-to-ceiling wooden bookshelves filled with books. The ceiling is ornate, featuring gold leaf decorations and several circular medallions. A large, ornate chandelier hangs from the center of the ceiling. In the foreground, there are wooden reading tables with open books. A few people are visible in the background, browsing the shelves.

J.P. Morgan's Gift to the World

Once the private library of financier Pierpont Morgan, this magnificent complex is the cultural heart of Murray Hill. It is not just a museum but a breathtaking collection of rare books, manuscripts, and art housed in an architectural masterpiece that began as Morgan's personal mansion on Madison Avenue. It stands as a testament to the neighborhood's gilded past and its enduring intellectual character.



A Quiet Hub of World Diplomacy

With the United Nations Headquarters just a few blocks away, Murray Hill is a natural home for numerous consulates and permanent missions. Countries from Australia to Uzbekistan have a presence here. This international community lends the neighborhood a uniquely sophisticated and tranquil atmosphere. You're more likely to walk past a diplomat's residence, such as the residence, such as the Polish Consulate in the historic Joseph Raphael De Lamar House, than a noisy tourist attraction.

From Classic Steakhouses to Curry Hill

The dining scene reflects the neighborhood's two sides. Find old-school New York institutions for a classic meal, or explore the lively cluster of bars and restaurants along Third Avenue that attracts a “work-hard, play-hard” crowd. A special highlight is “Curry Hill” on Lexington Avenue, a vibrant enclave of South Asian restaurants and spice shops that is also known as Rose Hill.



Your Urban Oasis



St. Vartan Park

This full-block park on 35th Street serves as a community backyard, offering playgrounds and sports courts.



East River Esplanade

Part of the East River Greenway, this waterfront path is perfect for a run, a walk, or simply watching the boats go by, providing a refreshing escape.

Get Anywhere From Here

Murray Hill's central location is one of its greatest assets. You're not just in Manhattan; you're connected to the entire region.



Subway

The 6 and <6> trains at 33rd Street.



Rail

A short walk to Grand Central Terminal for Metro-North and the Long Island Rail Road.



Bus

Served by multiple crosstown and North-South routes including the M15, M34 SBS, M101, M102, and M103.



Ferry

The East 34th Street Ferry Landing offers a scenic commute to Brooklyn, Queens, and Lower Manhattan.

The Character of the Hill

Murray Hill defies easy categorization. It's a place for those who appreciate the quiet charm of a historic street but need the convenience of being a short walk from Midtown.

Since the late 1990s, its appeal has broadened from its formal, old-money roots to attract young professionals, creating a "work-hard, play-hard" energy, especially along its eastern avenues.

It's a neighborhood that's both established and evolving.



Before Area Codes, There Were Names

For much of the 20th century, New York phone numbers were tied to neighborhood exchange names. If you lived in Murray Hill, your number started with the letters “MU” (the numbers 6 and 8).



The famous Ricardos' number on the TV show *I Love Lucy* was MUrray Hill 5-9975, cementing the neighborhood's name in pop culture history.

A long-exposure photograph of a busy New York City street at night. The street is filled with light trails from cars, with white trails on the left and red trails on the right. Tall buildings line both sides of the street, with many windows glowing with warm light. In the center background, the MetLife building is prominent, with its name visible at the top. To its right, the Chrysler Building's iconic Art Deco spire is visible against the dark blue twilight sky. The overall scene captures the vibrant energy and architectural grandeur of the city.

Discover Your Place in Murray Hill