

Shutter Bug Excursion Central Park Meetup October 31, 2009

Our Meetup will start at Bethesda Fountain in Central Park. We'll gather between Noon and 12:45pm. Bring lunch and eat with us around the fountain.

If you're taking a bus or train to Penn Station in NYC, here's how to get there

Walk to the corner of 34th Street and 7th Avenue – on the southwest corner, you'll see a building that says "Subway" in large red letters. That's the entrance to the station.

You can buy Metro passes from the machines you'll see in the station. You'll probably need at least two rides, so buy a pass for at least that much.

Take the **Uptown** Number 1, 2, or 3 subway line



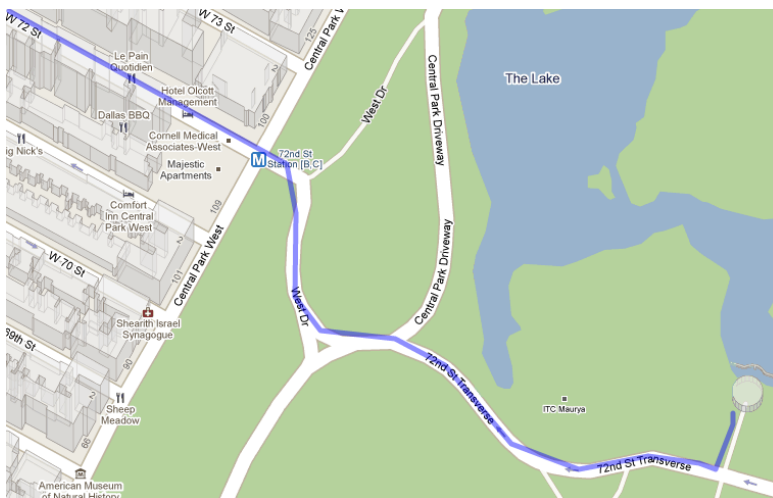
1 – Broadway Local

2 – 7th Ave Express

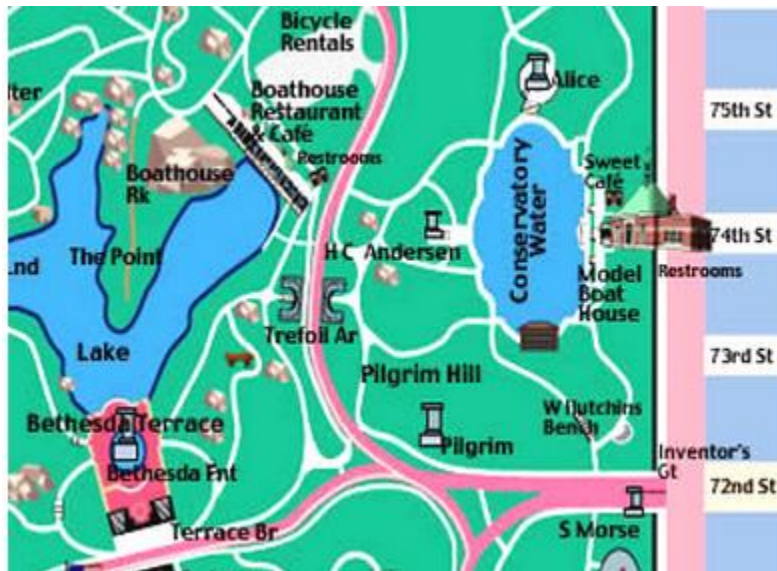
3 – 7th Ave Express

Take any of the trains above to the 72nd Street/Broadway stop.

When you leave the station, make your way East on 72nd Street toward the Park, and follow the route below.



Hanging Around Bethesda Terrace



There's plenty to see and do right at Bethesda Terrace. The split-level terrace was envisioned as the heart of the Park by its architects Frederick Law Olmstead and Calvert Vaux. If it looks familiar to you, that's because you've seen it many times as a movie location. In fact, the centerpiece of Bethesda Terrace, the large fountain, is the most-photographed fountain in the world.

You could spend the entire afternoon without leaving Bethesda Terrace and still have lots of fun and tremendous photo opportunities.

People-watching is the prime pastime for a Saturday afternoon. Watch for all the cute kids and interesting characters that gravitate to the fountain.

Climb the magnificent stairway to the 72nd Street level for an amazing view of the lower terrace and boat lake. Don't forget to look at the carved details in the sandstone stairway- they'll make great close-up photos.

Over the course of the afternoon, there will inevitably be some street entertainment. In the past, these have included "The Afrobats," a comic-acrobatic act, and S.K. Thoth, a violinist who is... well, different – you have to see him to understand.

Rowboat Rental: You may want to rent a rowboat for a waters-eye view of the Lake. Rentals are cash only, and require a \$20.00 deposit. It's \$12.00 for the first hour plus \$2.50 per additional quarter-hour. You can have up to 4 in a boat.

Bike Rental: Walk around the back of the Loeb Memorial Boathouse (the long white building across the Lake from the Fountain area) for bike rentals. You'll need to leave a credit card or cash deposit of \$200. Rentals are from \$9.00/hour up, depending on the style of bicycle.

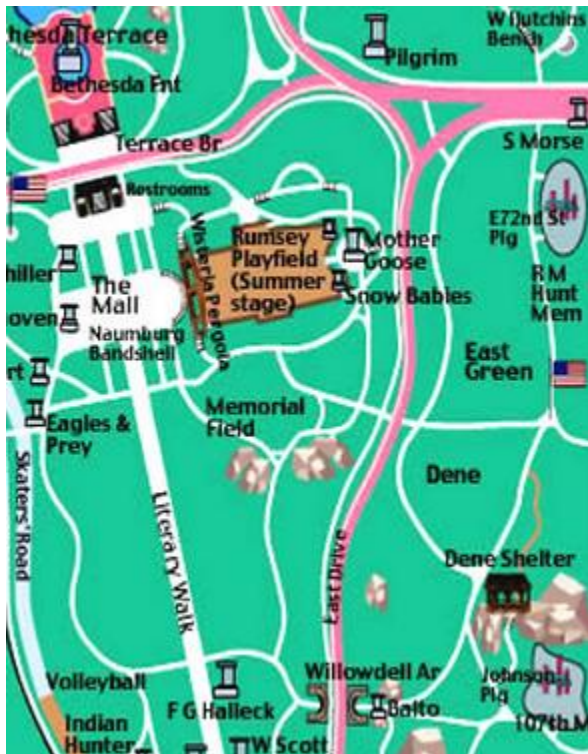
Locations Near Bethesda Terrace

Conservatory Water

This is a large model boat basin. With any luck, there will be lots of model boats, from tiny to impressively large, scooting around the basin. The Alice in Wonderland statue at the north end often attracts children who love to climb all over it. Try climbing Pilgrim Hill at the south end of the basin for a good overall view of the area. If the fall foliage is out in full color, it might also provide a good background for photos of the Pilgrim statue.

Boathouse Rock

Walk behind the Loeb Boathouse and circle back to the giant outcropping of Manhattan Schist. You'll get great views of the lake back towards Bethesda Terrace.



The Mall/Literary Walk

The Naumberg Bandshell has been the scene of famous performances in the past, such as Diana Ross's concert in the Park. Not used much anymore, you may still see a performance of some type there.

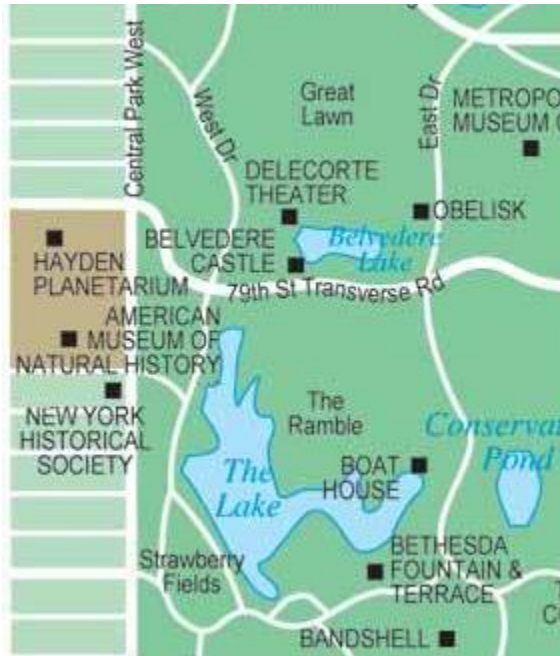
Literary Walk is a long promenade that heads towards the lower east side of the Park (towards the Zoo.) It's lined with large trees and statues of famous writers.

Photo opportunities include skaters, dog-walkers, and lots of kids.

Dene Rock/Dene Shelter

Climb Dene Rock to see a great view of the skyline to the South!

Upper East Side Tour



From Bethesda Terrace, walk to

Conservatory Water (see above)

Leave the Park and walk North on Fifth Avenue to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The front of the Museum is a place where people gather and watch street performers, so plenty of photo opportunities there. If you decide to go into the Museum, the *recommended* admission is \$20, although you can pay whatever you want. Be sure to go to the roof, where you can get great views across the park and towards midtown.

Walk up to 84th Street, then walk around the back of the Museum towards the Obelisk (Cleopatra's Needle.) This is the oldest object in Central Park, dating back more than 2000 years. It was a gift from the ruler of Egypt in the late 1800's.

Walk to Belvedere Lake (also called Turtle Pond.)

Walk around the Delectable Theater and back towards the South through the Shakespeare Gardens.

Climb the Shakespeare Gardens to Belvedere Castle. You'll have magnificent views of the northern part of the Park and the Upper East Side.

Leave Belvedere Castle by the steps on ramble around The Ramble. Try to stay you along the west side of the Lake.

Cross the Bow Bridge and walk back to



the south end and on the paths that take

Bethesda Terrace.

The Central Park Zoo



Walk South on Literary Walk (see above) and cross the street at the end. Walk along East Drive (there's no traffic on weekends except for cyclists and horse-drawn carriages.) around the Zoo to its south end, where the entrance is. Admission for adults in \$10.00

Along the way, you may want to take a quick side trip to these locations for some good photo opportunities(see the map at left):

The Dairy

Chess and Checkers House

Wolman Rink

Gapstow Bridge

Besides the Zoo, if you continue heading southeast, you'll arrive at Central Park South (59th Street) and Fifth Avenue. Check out the Plaza Hotel across the street. The world-famous toy store F.A.O. Schwartz is in the General Motors Building, the white skyscraper on 59th Street.