**Welcome to Chinatown and Little Italy!**

New York City is known for its cultural diversity among the five boroughs. It is a city of neighborhoods. Within the five boroughs, there are hundreds of neighborhoods, each with their own character. Chinatown and Little Italy both located in downtown Manhattan, have so much to offer in just the few street blocks that make the actual neighborhoods. Let’s take a closer look at what exciting places you may definitely want to check out.

**Chinatown**

# Columbus Park

Columbus Park was named in 1911 after Christopher Columbus (1451-1506). It is situated in the heart of one of the oldest residential areas in Manhattan next to the infamous “Five Points”. Bordered by Bayard, Baxter, Worth and Mulberry Streets, this particular site has had multiple names such as Mulberry Bend Park, Five Points Park, and Paradise Park. After a long history of dangerous and difficult living conditions, immigrants who began to arrive used Five Points as a stepping stone to a better life in a new land. Columbus Park (then called Mulberry Bend Park) was planned in the 1880’s by Calvert Vaux, co-designer of Central Park.

He saw this park as an opportunity to bring new life and order into the depressed neighborhood. Today, Columbus Park offers a variety of activities for those looking to keep themselves busy. There are basketball courts, playgrounds for the children as well as spray showers.It is also just a peaceful setting for those looking to have a relaxed and enjoyable day.

# Bloody Angle

In the late 1800’s to early 1900’s in New York City, Doyer St. located in Chinatown earned a nickname that would never be forgotten. Through thrilling bloodshed and intense economical affairs, they survived by accustom to, and helping to shape, the change of Chinese America. Pell Street is one of the most iconic and most filmed street however branching off midway through the block is Doyer Street that curves to Bowery. There you will view historical buildings such as the Ting gift shop and Chinese Opera house. Get an exclusive view and visualize the site of numerous gang street battles and murders. Get to see an alleged network of tunnels connecting several buildings also made for easy getaways. The street got its name by Hendrick Doyer, who ran a distillery in the 1800’s. Groups like the Hip Sings and On Leongs, these organizations represented an impressible period in New York’s Chinatown and the Chinese American community. Today it is quiet and filled with hair salons around the angle.

# The Church of Most Precious Blood

The Roman Catholic Church, Located in the heart of Chinatown and Little Italy Historic District on 109 Mulberry Street New York. This institution also known as Church of the Most Precious Blood was the first Catholic Church was built was built that retained Italian Catholic traditions in 1891. Three years later the church was purchased by the Franciscans of the Immaculate Conception province, who were already engaged in building St. Anthony of Padua on Sullivan Street in the heavy Italian South Village.

This oddly suburban-looking structure is actually the administrative offices of the church, which is on Baxter Street. The blood is that of Saint Januarius, San Gennaro, whose feast is annually celebrated on this street. In Naples, a substance thought to be the saint's 1,700-year-old blood regularly liquifies in what is said to be a miraculous fashion. The church was barred from operating the popular feast, since it was being used as a front by the Genovese family.

# Elizabeth Street Garden

The size of Elizabeth Street Garden is 20,000 sq-ft . It is located between Prince and Spring Streets. Elizabeth Street Gallery was leasing the Garden since 1990 on a month-tomonth basis. In January 2014, in support of preserving the Garden, this lot was transferred to the NYC Parks Department. The Little Italy has an open space ratio of 0.07 acre per 1,000 residents. The Garden holds 30 free public activities and events each warm-weather month which includes Movie Night, Music Sundays, poetry readings, and community gardening workshops. **Little Italy**

Immigrants from Naples and Sicily began moving to Little Italy in the 1880s. The area once stretched from Canal to Houston Streets, between Lafayette Street and the Bowery, but these days a strong Italian presence can only truly be observed on the blocks immediately surrounding Mulberry Street.

Little Italy is also the site of several notorious Mafia landmarks. The brick-fronted store now occupied by a shoe boutique (247 Mulberry St between Prince and Spring Sts) was once the Ravenite Social Club, where Mafia kingpin John Gotti made his deals until his arrest in 1990. Mobster Joey Gallo was shot and killed in 1972 while celebrating his birthday at [Umberto’s](http://www.timeout.com/newyork/restaurants/umbertos-clam-house) Clam House, which has since moved around the corner.

There are plenty of restaurants to explore throughout Little Italy as well as a major event that goes on each September, the San Gennaro Festival. This festival is filled with classic Italian dishes and desserts all while witnessing live musical performances as well as your participation in carnival games. The celebration starts after a religious procession takes place at the Most Precious Blood Church on Mulberry Street.