



Brooklyn Botanic Garden's Sakura Matsuri (©Ratliff)

## 5 Top Spring Activities in NYC

BY MACKENZIE ALLISON (/USERS/MACKENZIE-ALLISON) ON 04/11/16

From picnicking in the city's sprawling green spaces to chowing down at outdoor food fests, the amount of fun things to do in NYC nearly doubles this time of the year. Here Vanessa Torruellas, Chef Concierge at **The Iroquois New York** (<http://www.wheretraveler.com/new-york-city/iroquois-new-york>), shares her top five recommendations of ways to enjoy spring in New York City.



📍 Vanessa Torruellas, Chef Concierge at The Iroquois New York (Courtesy The Iroquois New York)

Each spring, the **Brooklyn Botanic Garden** (<http://www.wheretraveler.com/new-york-city/brooklyn-botanic-garden>) hosts Sakura Matsuri, the attraction's popular Cherry Blossom Festival.

"Aside from marveling at the beautiful flowers, you can enjoy traditional Japanese music, tea ceremony and watch people in cosplay, among other activities for the entire family," Torruellas said.

Now in its 35th year, the festival will take place April 30 and May 1 from 10 am to 6 pm.

With locations in trendy Brooklyn enclaves like Fort Greene, Williamsburg and DUMBO, as well as an outpost in Manhattan's South Street Seaport District, **Smorgasburg**

(<http://www.wheretraveler.com/new-york-city/smorgasburg>) is an open-air food fest that spotlights the savory, sweet and sometimes unusual offerings of several NYC restaurants and food trucks.

"Going to this food market is one of my favorite things to do during warm months," Torruellas said. "This year, visit Prospect Park Breeze Hill for outdoor fun and delicious food."

At Smorgasburg's Prospect Park location, marketgoers can sample "donuts, ice cream, burgers, tacos and everything in between," Torruellas said, adding that the location is also a great place to bring your pooch.



📍 Nothing says spring like a trip to Central Park.  
(Courtesy Central Park)

Back on Manhattan Island, nothing says spring like a trip to **Central Park**

(<http://www.wheretraveler.com/new-york-city/central-park>). If you're looking for things to do in the 843-acre, world-famous attraction, Torruellas suggests a peaceful picnic.

"You can find a perfect quiet spot in the North Meadow and grab a picnic basket from Chelsea Market or Telepan," Torruellas said. "This is the perfect Sunday afternoon activity in New York."

Visitors to the park can also take in views of the surrounding cityscape from Sheep Meadow or get in a little cardio with an invigorating bike ride around the park's many meandering paths.



📍 Take in beautiful views with a nice stroll along The High Line. (©Iwan Baan)

For a nice stroll with beautiful views of Manhattan's west side, take a walk on **The High Line** (<http://www.wheretraveler.com/new-york-city/high-line>) —the city's more-than-mile-long elevated park

The park has “special programs such as Stargazing—where astronomers guide visitors to see the stars,” Torruellas said. “There are also food vendors, and the proximity to Chelsea Market makes it also a great date spot.”



📍 Bar SixtyFive is the perfect spot for a romantic spring rendezvous. (©Evan Joseph)

If you want to take the romantic spring rendezvous to the top of the world, **Bar SixtyFive** (<http://www.wheretraveler.com/new-york-city/sixtyfive>), located on the 65th floor of 30 Rockefeller Plaza (a stone's throw away from the historic Rainbow Room), “offers one of the best views of the Big

Apple, paired with great cocktails and a menu of small plates,” Torruellas said. “This is a perfect spot for a first-time visitor but also an amazing place for locals to unwind and remember why we love New York City.”

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