

Basic Rules for Using the NYC Subway

Train Lines

- There are multiple train lines, each with multiple trains on each line. A printed subway map or using an app on your phone are the best options for acquiring the full NYC subway map.
 - If you use an application on your phone, make sure to download the subway map so you can access it offline. Cell phone reception is spotty being that you are beneath street level.
- The best way to learn the subway is to use Google Maps and select the transit feature when searching for directions. This will give you step by step instructions for using the subway system.

MetroCard Use and Entering Subway Station

- You must swipe your MetroCard each time you enter the subway system
- Swipe your MetroCard at a turnstile to enter - Make sure you are entering the correct side, either "Uptown" or "Downtown" (Most stations will allow you to choose after entering through the turnstiles but some require you to make this decision prior to entering. It's important to know this prior to swiping.)
- Hold the MetroCard with the word "MetroCard" facing you, with the black stripe down. Swipe at a normal speed while keeping the card straight through the card reader.
- When the turnstile turns green and reads "GO," push through the turnstile quickly
- If the turnstile says swipe again, don't panic, just swipe it again.

Uptown versus Downtown

- North is "uptown", South is "downtown".
- Make sure you are on the correct train platform for the direction in which you would like to go.
- Follow the signs for your specific train or subway line which will be marked throughout the subway station.

Entering the Train Car and Proper Etiquette

- Each train car will have either three or four doors. A group should split up between multiple doors in order to all get on the same train car.
- When the train arrives and the doors open, leave room for passengers exiting.
- Once they've exited, enter the train and move to the center of the train car to allow other passengers to enter behind you.
 - It's important to remember that the train stays on schedule so there isn't much time to get on and off the train at each stop. **YOU MUST MOVE QUICKLY!**
- If you are seated and an elderly person or mother with children enter the train, it's proper etiquette to offer your seat.
- **HOLD ON!** The trains start and stop abruptly so if you are standing, make sure you hold on to one of the many hand rails aboard the train car.

Three things you should always know before entering the subway

- Which train am I taking and in which direction (uptown or downtown)
- How many stops?
- Which stop is my exit?

For more detailed information regarding the subway system visit:

<https://cityroverwalks.com/how-to-use-nyc-subway-guide/>