



DIRECTORIO en Español

Un día en Nueva York

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By BETH J. HARPAZ, The Oregonian

Begin with breakfast in the Dominican Republic: café con leche and mashed plantains. Have the churrasco (barbecued meat) for lunch at a Brazilian buffet. Later, snack on a Colombian fruit shake, then stop at a Mexican taquería for dinner. After dark, hit a salsa club.

"When we have people coming in from out of town, we don't want to just show them Times Square, the Empire State Building, the Statue of Liberty," said Carolina González, who co-authored "Nueva York" with Seth Kugel. "We actually want to show them the real New York, and to us, part of that real New York is all these different great Latin neighborhoods."

Food, museums, shopping

One of the most heavily Dominican neighborhoods in New York is Washington Heights, in northern Manhattan. At a restaurant here called El Malecón, breakfast for four, with eggs, juices, fried cheese and mangú (mashed plantain) runs about \$30, including café con leche ("like a latte at one-tenth the price," Kugel says).

Across the street, at La Plaza de las Américas, an outdoor market, look for bargains on yuca, papayas and avocados. Nearby, Centro Botánico y Esotérico Gran Búa sells perfumes and statuettes to solve any problem. Saleswoman Odette Pichardo says the best-sellers are always love potions – like a fragrance called "Garrapata," which means tick, suggesting its power to latch on. If old-fashioned florals are more your style, bottles of gardenia scent runs just \$5.

For art lovers, there's El Museo del Barrio on Fifth Avenue, at the northern end of Museum Row, and the Taller Boricua galleries at Julia de Burgos Latino Cultural Center, named for the Puerto Rican poet. A mosaic of de Burgos has just been installed on 106th Street, while a mural at Lexington and 104th called "The Spirit of East Harlem" depicts community life, from kids playing basketball to an old man playing guitar.

On Manhattan's Lower East Side, also known as Loisaida, there's the Nuyorican Poets Cafe, still slamming after all these years; and the Parkside Lounge, a bar with a hipster vibe and live salsa.

Culturally diverse

Today Astoria, Queens is home to Brazilianville Grill. Sprinkle farofa, a breadcrumb-like topping, over your rice and beans, and try vinagrete dressing as a condiment. Then choose from the churrasco, an array of slow-roasted meats. The salted beef melts in your mouth; sausages and chicken burst with flavor. Grab a Guaraná Antarctica (a fruity soda) and watch O'Globo, the Brazilian channel blaring live from a TV, while you chow down.

You'll find Ecuadorean seviche (marinated raw fish) sold from a truck, Mexican wrestlers' masks sold from a stall, and Colombian pandebonos (rolls with cheese baked into them) sold hot from a tiny oven wedged inside a money transfer store on 82nd near Ithaca Street.

Would you like to read Dr. Seuss in Spanish? Barco de Papel, a Spanish language children's bookstore, sells "Como el Grinch Robó La Navidad" ("How the Grinch Stole Christmas"), Harry Potter en Español, and a children's version of "Don Quixote."

Try a Colombian cholado (a combination smoothie, fruit salad and SnoCone) at El Palacio de Los Cholados. Or chill out on a comfy sofa in the loft at Terraza Café. Sip an Aguila beer, imported from Colombia, and listen to Mexican rock music, or Todos Tus Muertos, an Argentine punk band. "This place was started by young Latin American bohemians," explained González. "It's very eclectic."

Salsa nights

Your day is winding down, but you still have time to go dancing. Consult the "Nueva York" book for advice on Latin clubs, from dress codes to how good your salsa moves should be before you go public. At the classic Copacabana, things heat up early at the Tuesday after-work parties; if it's a Sunday, try Brazilian Night at Black Betty in Brooklyn. For late-night reggaetón and merengue, there's Arka, a Dominican lounge in Washington Heights, or salsa at LQ in Midtown.

Time to leave Terraza Café and Jackson Heights, and head to a dance floor of your choice. But perhaps you need a little something to eat along the way. As you walk toward the clattering No. 7 train, look for the taco stand. It's right there, beneath the elevated tracks.

• Experience distinctive sounds, sights and tastes by spending a multicultural day in Latino New York City.

• New York City is 27% Hispanic, according to the 2000 Census. Where better to immerse yourself in Latin culture?

