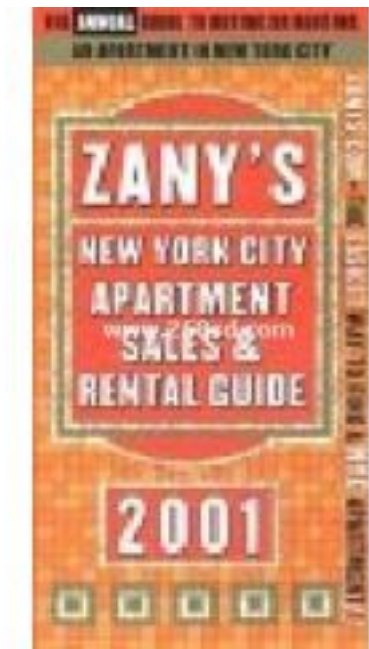


# Zany's New York City Apartment Guide 2001



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m~/k~uo<br>~s~/Xk!dd!ss!ss<br>~H:ljo~uo!~d~3<br>Mo:ls!Hu~a!i~<br>he fact that Queens is looked down upon by<br>Manhattanites¼ is mainly because the borough remains a<br>predominantly working class area¼ is good news for<br>would-be bargain hunters in the housing game. This preju-<br>dice has meant that the surprisingly quaint neighborhood<br>of Astoria has yet to belobbered by the housing boom that<br>has hit most of Brooldyn s boroughs. Consequently¼ if you<br>venture out to Astoria you can still get a sizeable bang for<br>your buck.<br>Astoria has a rich history. In 1652¼ William Halletti¼ an<br>Englishmani¼ purchased 1¼500 acres of land from the<br>Dutch governor¼ Peter Stuyvesant. Though the region s<br>natives did not relish in this sale¼ they were coaxed by<br>t<br>beads¼ seven coats¼ four kettles¼ a blanket and a bit of<br>HaUett s

smooth talking into a peace treaty with the Englishman. By the 1830s this small community had been elevated to the status of a village and named Hallett's Cove. In 1839 a local fur trader named Stephen A. Halsey who dreamt of making Hallett's Cove an affluent and bustling sector proposed that this site be called Astoria in an attempt to lure the wealthy John J. Astor into investing in this developing community. Astor was not impressed by Hallett's sycophantic attitude and contributed nothing to Astoria's development; nevertheless the name stuck. Bound by the East River in the North and the West Grand Central Parkway the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway and LaGuardia Airport in the East and 35th Avenue and Sunnyside in the South most of Astoria's charm has to do with its proximity to Manhattan and its reputation for being a safe yet sprightly neighborhood. The area can boast two major claims to fame: first the penchant of Hollywood film makers for featuring this friendly neighborhood and second the fact that Astoria is often referred to as "Little Athens; houses the largest cluster of low-rise tenements and brick row houses. Dark-suited older men retire to the benches lining the sidewalks and mingle and socialize with their acquaintances. Greek pastry shops and cafes around 31st street and Ditmars Boulevard beckon any passerby -- with goodies pastries and some strong Greek coffee. Although you do not have to be Greek (or Italian) to fit in here it doesn't hurt since there are quite a few exclusive social clubs and many of the shops are lined with alphabets foreign to the American reader. Astoria may be proud of its roots and cultural heritage but it is by no means unwelcoming or xenophobic. The people are always ready to lend a helping hand and once settled one cannot help but love the community of Queens little treasure. Lots of professional amenities everywhere but not entirely clean--it ain't the upper Westside here but it's not awful. Starbucks is coming a sure sign that the neighborhood is being ruined. Also the 1 (Never) and R (Rarely) trains are a big reason

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