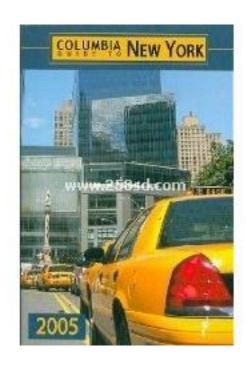
## Columbia Guide to New York 2005 (columbia guide to new york, 2005)



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著者:

出版者:

出版时间:

装帧:

isbn:9781892768322

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subway system<br/>br >each and every day. For a<br/>br >mere two dollars, you can go<br >almost anywhere in New York.<br > Most people would agree that < br > New York s entire transporta-<br/>
-tion system is improving all<br/>
-the time. Despite recent<br/>
-br >budget cutsi¼Œ most subway<br >booths have remained openi¼Œ<br >and the MTA (Metropolitan<br > Transpor-tation Authority) < br > has been cleaning up its act in<br >the formerly dirty stations.<br >On the negative side, having a<br >century-old system translates<br >into frequent repairsi¼Œ delaysi¼Œ<br >and track changes (mostly on<br/>br>done on weekendsi¼Œ check out<br/>br >www.mta.info/nyct/subway/<br>to find out what s going on or<br/>br >call (718) 330-1234, the MTA<br>information line). Service<br>all~rations confuse even sea-<br>so!~ed New Yorkers. Most of<br>the~time, commuters are<br>informed of track or schedule<br >changes through white<br >posters posted throughout<br >subway stations. If you see a < br > white poster at your station i'4 @ < br > make sure to read it. The smell<br/>br >of the subway is not entirely<br>>pleasant either. It is starki'/4Œ a<br >fleshy mix of oil, grime, per-<br >fume, and collective sweat.<br >As for the soundi¼Œ they give<br>construction workers ear-<br>plugs to protect them from < br > the kinds of screeches and < br > howls you will hear on a daily < br > basis. The subway s sc-reechy<br>rhythm will soon have you<br>bringing a book and adopting<br >that patented \"dont bother<br >me\" New York scowl.<br >Overalli1/4Œ the MTA does a great<br/>br >job with the subway system.<br>New Yorkers will complain<br/>
br >about anything and every-<br >thing, and the subway takes a<br >frequent beating. Nonethe-<br >lessi¼Œ more people are riding<br >subways than ever before.<br>Subway trains are the veins<br>that run through the body of<br>the city, and New York grinds<br/>br>to a halt without them. In<br/>fact, the day the city was<br/>br>gridlocked, meaning no car<br/>br>could move a car length<br/>br>unless another car exited the <br >island of Manhattanii¼Œ was <br >because of a transit strike<br>that shut down the subways<br>that morning.<br>Directions<br>In the city, it is always impor-<br>tant to know where you are<br>going. Before setting out on a<br/>br >quest to a new area of New<br >York, make sure to consult a<br >subway or bus map. Always<br >be aware that \"uptown\"<br >means Bronx- or Queens-<br >boundi'4Œ whereas \"downtown\"<br >means Brooklyn-bound. If<br >you accidentally pay your<br >fare and get onto the wrong<br >direction-bound trainii¼Œ try<br >finding an underground pas-<br >sageway leading to the oppo-<br >site track. The station that < br >allows for the most transfers < br >is the Times Square-42nd St.<br>Station. If you cannot find a<br>city living 7<br><br>>

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