

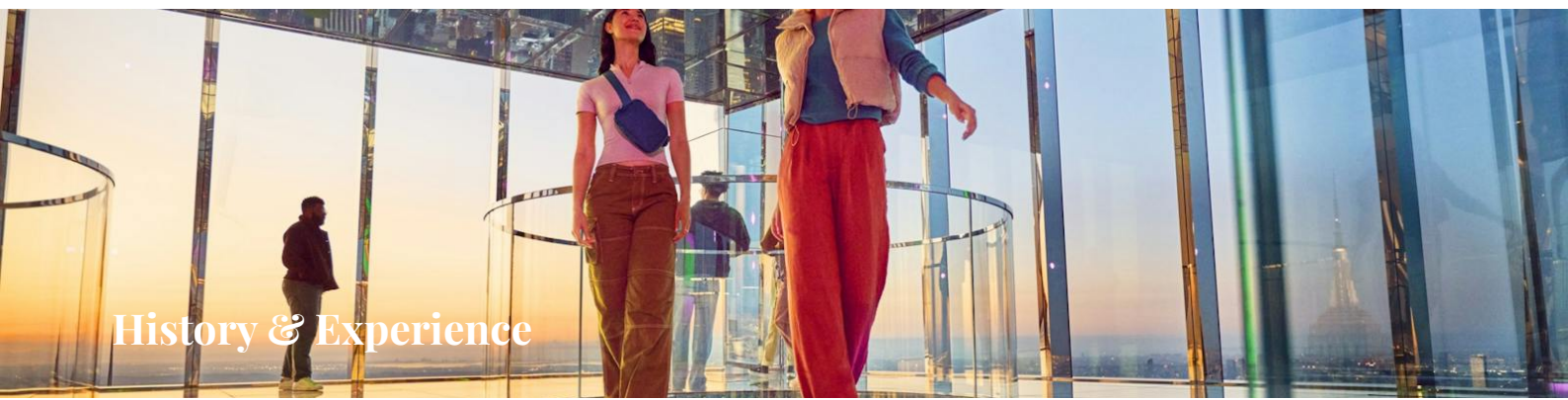


OFFICIAL VISIT GUIDE 2026

the SUMMIT One Vanderbilt

New York · From 47,60€

<https://summitovvisit-tickets.com/en/> · Skip-the-Line Tickets & Official Prices



History & Experience

ORIGIN & HISTORY

Rising Above Midtown: A Modern Legacy

GOOGLE **4.7** ★★★★★ 35 520 reviews

TIQETS **4.7** ★★★★★ 5 733 reviews

The story of **One Vanderbilt** begins not with steel and glass, but with a bold political vision. In the early 2010s, Mayor **Bill de Blasio** and developer SL Green Realty proposed a transformative rezoning of Midtown East. This initiative aimed to modernize the area surrounding Grand Central Terminal while preserving its historic integrity. The project was controversial yet ambitious, seeking to create a new landmark that would redefine the Manhattan skyline without overshadowing its neighbors.

Construction commenced in 2017 under the architectural firm **Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates**. The tower rose rapidly against the backdrop of a city adapting to new urban challenges. Remarkably, the structure was completed two months ahead of schedule in September 2019. This efficiency allowed the building to open its doors in September 2020, marking a swift transition from construction site to iconic destination amidst a changing global landscape.

Standing at **427 meters** with its spire, One Vanderbilt ranks as the fourth tallest skyscraper in New York City. It sits just behind One World Trade Center, Central Park Tower, and 111 West 57th Street. Its massive surface area of over 150,000 square meters houses offices, retail spaces, and the observatory. The design carefully steps back near the top to minimize shadow impact on Grand Central, showcasing a blend of engineering prowess and urban sensitivity.

Beyond architecture, the tower became a culinary milestone when French chef **Daniel Boulud** opened his restaurant there in May 2021. Named best restaurateur in 2021, Boulud added a gastronomic dimension to the vertical experience. Today, the SUMMIT One Vanderbilt stands not just as an office tower, but as a cultural hub where art, technology, and dining converge high above the bustling streets of Midtown.

THE EXPERIENCE

Stepping into the lobby, you are immediately enveloped by a sense of **modern elegance** and anticipation. The air feels crisp, charged with the promise of elevation. As you ascend in the sleek elevators, the city below shrinks, transforming into a grid of light and movement. The transition from street level to skyward heights is seamless, preparing your senses for the immersive journey that awaits on floors 91 through 93.

Upon reaching the summit, the atmosphere shifts from corporate to **artistic wonder**. The space is not merely a viewing platform but a curated gallery of reflections and perspectives. Light dances across mirrored surfaces, creating illusions of infinity and weightlessness. Visitors often describe a feeling of floating above the city, detached yet deeply connected to the pulse of New York below. It is a sensory awakening that redefines how one perceives urban space.



PREPARING FOR YOUR VISIT

Practical Information

ADDRESS

Midtown East • Subway: Grand Central-42nd St (Lines 4, 5, 6, 7, S) exit Vanderbilt Ave or Lexington Ave.

OPENING HOURS

Open late until midnight. Closed on specific Tuesdays, check the official calendar before your visit.

PRICING

Children under 4 free. {promo}.

VISIT DURATION

Allow about 1h30 to 2 hours to calmly explore the three floors, interact with the artistic installations, and fully enjoy the panorama without rushing.

PHOTOS

Photography is encouraged as the venue is very photogenic. Check restrictions for professional tripods or drones. Selfies in the mirror rooms are particularly p

AUDIENCE

Ideal for all audiences. The Affinity Space with its balloons will delight children and families, while adults will appreciate the artistic immersion and detail

HOW TO GET THERE

Access & Transportation



Subway

: Grand Central Station — 2 min à pied

Grand Central Station (6 min) • New York Moynihan Train Hall At Penn Station (9 min)



Bus

: Grand Central-42 St — 1 min à pied

Grand Central Station (9 min) • New York Moynihan Train Hall At Penn Station (14 min)



Car

Grand Central Station (3 min) • New York Moynihan Train Hall At Penn Station (8 min)



Citi Bike / Bicycle

Grand Central Station (3 min) • New York Moynihan Train Hall At Penn Station (9 min)

LOCALISATION

Où se trouve the SUMMIT One Vanderbilt ?



📍 45 East 42nd Street – NY 10017 New York

🌐 40°45.166' N, 73°58.724' O



ORGANIZATION

Organization

Level 91: The Infinite Mirror Room

This floor features the famous mirror room that creates the illusion of floating above the city. Floor-to-ceiling mirrors reflect the skyline in all directions, blurring the line between interior and exterior. Visitors often spend significant time here capturing photos that make them appear to hover in mid-air. The lighting changes dynamically throughout the day, altering the visual experience.

Level 92: The Affinity Space

Known for its playful and interactive environment, this level hosts the Affinity Space with floating helium balloons. It is designed to delight children and adults alike, offering a colorful contrast to the sleek glass surroundings. The space encourages movement and interaction, making it a favorite spot for family photos. The vibrant colors pop beautifully against the panoramic views of Manhattan.

Level 93: Ascent & Open Terrace

The top floor offers the most direct connection to the sky, featuring the Ascent outdoor elevator ride. Here, visitors can enjoy unobstructed views of the Empire State Building and Chrysler Building. The terrace provides a refreshing breeze and a sense of openness after the enclosed artistic installations. It is the ideal spot to watch the sunset and see the city lights begin to twinkle.

ACCESSIBILITY



Accessibility for people with reduced mobility

Full wheelchair access via modern elevators on all levels.



Families

Playful Affinity Space with balloons, ideal for children and families.



Audio guide

French, English, Spanish



SELECTION

Unmissable Moments at the Summit

01

Level 91

Infinite Mirror Room

The centerpiece of the SUMMIT, this room uses **mirrored floors and walls** to create an infinite reflection of the skyline. It gives the sensation of floating above New York, a unique effect compared to traditional terraces. The interplay of light and reflection transforms the view into an abstract artwork. Visitors often find themselves mesmerized by the disorienting beauty of the space.

💡 Many photographers consider this the **most photogenic spot** in Manhattan due to the surreal floating effect.

02

Level 92

Affinity Space Balloons

A whimsical installation featuring hundreds of **floating helium balloons** in vibrant colors. This space is designed to evoke joy and curiosity, particularly for younger visitors. The balloons drift gently, creating a dynamic and ever-changing visual display. It serves as a playful counterpoint to the serious architectural views outside.

💡 The balloons are carefully weighted to ensure they float at eye level, enhancing the **interactive experience**.

03

Level 93

Ascent Outdoor Elevator

Experience the thrill of riding the world's largest fully glazed outdoor elevator. As you ascend, the city falls away beneath you, providing a **breathtaking vertical journey**. The transparency of the cabin amplifies the sense of height and speed. It is a adrenaline-pumping finale to the indoor artistic installations.

💡 This elevator holds the record for the **largest glass enclosure** in an outdoor lift system.

04

South Windows

Empire State View

From the south-facing windows, the **Empire State Building** appears almost face-to-face. This close perspective offers a rare opportunity to appreciate the scale and detail of NYC's most famous icon. The proximity creates a dramatic dialogue between the two skyscrapers. It is a must-see for first-time visitors wanting to capture the classic skyline.

💡 The view is so clear that you can often see **individual windows** on the Empire State Building.

05

East/South Views

Chrysler Building Spire

The Art Deco masterpiece of the **Chrysler Building** is visible from multiple angles. Its chrome spire catches the sunlight, creating dazzling reflections. This view highlights the architectural diversity of Midtown, contrasting modern glass with historic metalwork. It is a testament to New York's layered history.

💡 The Chrysler Building's spire was assembled in secret to **surpass competitors** in height during the 1930s.

06

All Levels

Sunset Transition

Witnessing the **day-to-night transition** from the mirrors is a spectacular event. As the sun sets, the reflections shift from bright daylight to warm golden hues, then to twinkling city lights. This dynamic change offers multiple photo opportunities in a single visit. It is considered the peak moment for atmospheric immersion.

💡 Booking a slot one hour before sunset ensures you catch the **golden hour** glow.

07

Exterior View

Grand Central Proximity

Look down to see the **Grand Central Terminal** directly below. The contrast between the historic station's vaulted ceiling and the modern tower is striking. This view connects the past and present of Midtown East. It reminds visitors of the deep roots of this bustling neighborhood.

💡 The tower was designed to cast minimal shadow on Grand Central, respecting its **historic status**.

08

DANIEL BOULUD Tower Interior

Daniel Boulud's Le Pavillon

While separate from the observatory, the presence of **Daniel Boulud's restaurant** adds prestige to the tower. It represents the culinary apex of the building. Dining here extends the vertical experience into gastronomy. It is a perfect way to conclude a day of sightseeing with fine French cuisine.

💡 Boulud was named the **best restaurateur** in 2021, adding star power to the location.

TIPS

Expert Tips for an Unforgettable Visit

TIMING

Book your ticket for one hour before sunset to witness the magical transition from day to night in the mirror rooms.

BILLET

Opt for the flexible ticket if your plans are uncertain; it allows free cancellation, which is useful if weather conditions are poor.

PARCOURS

Start at Level 91 for the mirrors, move to Level 92 for the balloons, and finish at Level 93 for the open terrace and Ascent ride.

PHOTO

Take selfies in the mirror rooms early in your visit to avoid crowds; these spots get busy quickly.

PAUSE

Bring a water bottle to save time waiting in bar lines, especially if you plan to stay for the full two hours.

ENFANTS

Let children play freely in the Affinity Space on Level 92; it is safe, engaging, and highly photogenic.

AUDIOGUIDE

Download the app beforehand to access audio guides in English, French, or Spanish for deeper context on the art installations.

CONFORT

Wear comfortable shoes as you will walk between three levels and interact with various installations.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ

Do I need to book tickets for Summit One Vanderbilt in advance?

Yes, advance booking is highly recommended to guarantee your time slot, especially on weekends or in the evening. This avoids long queues. Cancellation is generally possible within 24 hours.

Does the ticket include access to Daniel Boulud's restaurant?

No, the entry ticket covers only access to the observatory and its art installations. The restaurant requires a separate reservation and payment. It is advisable to check culinary availability independently.

Are there offers for groups or families?

Reduced rates are available for children and teenagers accompanied by adults. For large groups, contact the attraction directly for special quotes. Family tickets often allow one adult to pay for multiple children.

Can I cancel or change my visit date?

Opt for the flexible ticket if your schedule is uncertain. It allows free cancellation up to 24 hours before the visit. Standard tickets are often non-refundable, so check the conditions carefully before purchasing.

What is the difference between Summit One Vanderbilt and Edge or Top of the Rock?

Summit focuses on artistic immersion with its mirror rooms and interactive art, rather than just an open terrace. The experience is more intimate, design-focused, and playful. Edge offers more outdoor space, while Top of

DID YOU KNOW?

Anecdotes & curiosities

Record-Breaking Construction

One Vanderbilt was completed two months ahead of schedule in **September 2019**. This rapid timeline was managed by SL Green Realty, demonstrating exceptional project management. The efficiency allowed the building to open sooner than anticipated, capitalizing on market demand.

Political Origins

The tower exists thanks to a rezoning initiative launched by Mayor **Bill de Blasio** in the early 2010s. This political decision reshaped Midtown East, allowing for taller structures while protecting historic landmarks like Grand Central.

Fourth Tallest Skyscraper

At **427 meters**, One Vanderbilt is the fourth tallest building in NYC. It trails only One World Trade Center, Central Park Tower, and 111 West 57th Street. Its height is a symbol of modern engineering prowess.

Culinary Excellence

French chef **Daniel Boulud** opened his restaurant here in May 2021. Recognized as the best restaurateur in 2021, his presence elevates the tower's status beyond architecture into the realm of fine dining.

AROUND THE MUSEUM

Located in the heart of **Midtown East**, the SUMMIT is perfectly positioned for a comprehensive cultural day. Just across the street lies the iconic **Grand Central Terminal**, where you can admire the celestial vault before ascending. For art lovers, the **Museum of Modern Art (MoMA)** is a short walk away, offering a perfect contrast between modern art and modern architecture. After your visit, relax in the green oasis of **Bryant Park** or dine at Daniel Boulud's restaurant within the same tower. The neighborhood offers endless possibilities for extending your exploration of New York's vibrant core.



Visiting the SUMMIT is more than seeing a view; it is experiencing a **perspective shift**. Whether you are captivated by the sunset's glow or the playful balloons in the Affinity Space, this place leaves an indelible mark. It invites you to see New York not just as a city, but as a living canvas. Come for the height, stay for the **immersive magic** that makes every moment feel suspended in time.