**New York City Boroughs**

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*"Five Boroughs" redirects here. For the Mercian area of this name during the tenth and eleventh centuries, see* [*Five Boroughs of the Danelaw*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five_Boroughs_of_the_Danelaw)*.*

The Five Boroughs of New York City: [**1: Manhattan**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manhattan)[**2: Brooklyn**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brooklyn)[**3: Queens**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queens)[**4: The Bronx**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bronx)[**5: Staten Island**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Staten_Island)

The percentage of New York City population residing in each borough: [**Manhattan**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manhattan), [**Brooklyn**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brooklyn), [**Queens**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queens), [**The Bronx**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bronx) and [**Staten Island**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Staten_Island)

[New York City](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City), one of the [largest cities in the world](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Largest_cities_in_the_world), is segmented into five boroughs. A **borough** is a unique form of government that administers the five fundamental constituent parts of the [consolidated city](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_New_York_City_%281898-1945%29). Technically, under New York State Law, a "borough" is a [municipal corporation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Municipal_corporation) that is created when a county is merged with the cities, towns, and incorporated villages within it. It differs significantly from other [borough](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borough) forms of government used in other parts of the [Tri-State Region](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tri-State_Region) and [elsewhere in the United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borough_%28United_States%29).

**Background**

New York City is often referred to collectively as the Five Boroughs; the term is used to refer to New York City as a whole unambiguously, avoiding confusion with any particular borough or with the [greater metropolitan area](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_metropolitan_area). It is often used by politicians to counter a focus on [Manhattan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manhattan) and to place all five boroughs on equal footing. The term Outer Boroughs refers to all the boroughs excluding Manhattan (although the geographic center of the city is along the [Brooklyn](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brooklyn)/[Queens](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queens) border).

Unlike most American cities, which lie within a single [county](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/County_%28United_States%29), extend partially into another county, or constitute a county in themselves, each of New York City's five boroughs is coextensive with a county of [New York state](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York):

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| **New York's** [**Five Boroughs**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five_Boroughs) **at a Glance** |
| **Jurisdiction** | **Population** | **Land Area** |
| *Borough of* | *County of* | *estimate for1 July 2009* | *squaremiles* | *squarekm* |
| [**Manhattan**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manhattan) | New York | 1,629,054 | 23 | 59 |
| [**The Bronx**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bronx) | Bronx | 1,397,287 | 42 | 109 |
| [**Brooklyn**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brooklyn) | Kings | 2,567,098 | 71 | 183 |
| [**Queens**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queens) | Queens | 2,306,712 | 109 | 283 |
| [**Staten Island**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Staten_Island) | Richmond | 491,730 | 58 | 151 |
| [**City of New York**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City) | **8,391,881** | **303** | **786** |
| [State of New York](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York) | 19,541,453 | 47,214 | 122,284 |
| *Source:* [*United States Census Bureau*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Census_Bureau) |

All boroughs were created in 1898 during consolidation, when the city's current boundaries were established. The Borough of Bronx was originally the parts of New York County that had been previously ceded by [Westchester County](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Westchester_County), until Bronx County was created in 1914. The Borough of Queens originally consisted of just the western part of a larger Queens County, until [Nassau County](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nassau_County%2C_New_York) was created by the secession from Queens County of the three eastern towns in 1899. The Borough of Staten Island was officially the Borough of Richmond until the name was changed in 1975 to reflect its common appellation.

Each borough is represented by a [Borough President](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borough_President) and, with the exception of Manhattan, has a borough hall (the same functions, and others, reside in the [Manhattan Municipal Building](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manhattan_Municipal_Building)). Since the abolition of the [Board of Estimate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City_Board_of_Estimate) in 1990 (due to a [1989 ruling](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Board_of_Estimate_of_City_of_New_York_v._Morris) of the [U.S. Supreme Court](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Supreme_Court)) the borough president now has minimal executive powers, and there is no legislative function within a borough. Most executive power is exercised by the [Mayor of New York City](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mayor_of_New_York_City), and legislative functions are the responsibility of the members of the [New York City Council](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City_Council). Because they are counties, each borough also elects a [District Attorney](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/District_Attorney), as does every other county of the state. Some civil court judges are also elected on a borough-wide basis, although they are generally eligible to serve throughout the city.

**Marble Hill**

[Marble Hill](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marble_Hill%2C_Manhattan) is a small [enclave](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enclave_and_exclave) on the North American mainland that appears to be part of the Bronx, but is really part of Manhattan. After an increase in ship traffic in the 1890s, the Army Corps of Engineers constructed the [Harlem River Ship Canal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harlem_River_Ship_Canal), making Marble Hill an island. The old river channel was filled in 1914, linking Marble Hill to the mainland.