

Travel

## Wrap up New York City for your candy crush

Where to find exotic, bold and bygone sweets across Manhattan

Two days later, I head over to the Upper East Side in the early evening. As I walk up First Avenue, blustery gusts threaten to spirit away my scarf and bring tears to my eyes. I don't care: I'm on a mission. While growing up just a few blocks away, I fell in love with the handmade fruit-shaped marzipan made by Elk Candy, which my mother — sorry, sorry, Mr. Claus — would often put in my stocking. Unfortunately, the store closed in 2006, but the company's peerless almond-rich confections are still available at one place: the Sweet Shop NYC.

Turning onto 73rd Street, the warm light of the store's oval neon sign is a welcome sight. The compact space is packed with novelty candies from bygone eras, a litany of lollipops and holiday-themed sweets: candy canes, handmade marshmallows decorated to look like snowmen. Shelves on the east wall are packed with glass jars each containing a different gummy or chocolaty indulgence.



The Sweet Shop specializes in retro, nostalgic and hard-to-find candies, handmade chocolates, licorice, artisanal ice cream, gelato and desserts. (Virginia Rollison)

The shopper in front of me is ordering a milkshake, which sounds as appealing right now as a pot of chamomile tea at the beach. When he has gone on his way — the sound of his eager slurps swallowed up by the wintry squall as he opens the door — I sidle up to the counter. To my delight, I see a happy jumble of marzipan oranges, bananas and strawberries displayed in the case.

“Is that from Elk Candy Company?” I ask hopefully.

“It is,” the attendant affirms. “You’re lucky. It goes quickly. Especially during the holidays.”