

New York City's Columbus Circle : Yup, it's named after a guy named Chris Columbus

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Columbus Day is over for another year. In fact, it's somewhat of a non-holiday these days. Sure, there is a holiday in the explorer's honor, but it's no longer October 12. It's now the second Monday in October, and I'm sure school kids don't spend time drawing pictures of the Pinta, the Nina and the Santa Maria.

I recently discovered that New York City's Columbus Circle was named for Christopher Columbus. All the times I've walked through or past the famous traffic circle, I had no idea the guy at the top of the column was indeed Mr. Columbus.

Located at the southwest corner of Central Park, Columbus Circle has undergone a renaissance in the past few years. Although I'm not big on shopping malls, The Shops at Columbus Circle in the Time Warner Center are a great mix: Whole Foods, TUMI, True Religion, FACE Stockholm and New York Running Company to name a few. Christi Harris Precision Eyebrow Planing Bar and The Art of Shaving are places for primping, and then there are those fab restos: Bar Masa, Bouchon Bakery, Landmarc, Masa, Per Se, Porter House New York and Stone Rose Lounge. The latest entry is Clo, a wine bar and shop located next to Bar Masa, and offering two-ounce tastes of more than 100 wines.

The Mandarin Oriental, New York is located on floors 35-54 of the Time Warner Center. Enjoy cocktails in The Lobby Lounge, along with stunning views of Central Park and the city's skyline. On weekends this winter, watch the snow fall at The Shops at Columbus Center. From Nov. 14-Dec. 21, the shopping venue will be transformed into a winter wonderland every half hour during a fifteen minute "snowfall" Fridays through Sundays, beginning at 5 PM.

For more info: If you want to see what traffic is like at Columbus Circle, click on the [Columbus Circle Cam](#) from [EarthCam](#).

