

Travel



SPRING FORWARD

Discover new and notable
places to stay, eat, drink and
explore in New York City.

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PHOTO BY JAMES ELLAN



SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

After exploring the must-see attractions, check out these novel adventures in New York City

BY BECCA HENSLEY



FROM THE TOP:
The bustling crowd
at El Colmado; a
luxurious guest
room inside the Park
Hyatt; people enjoy
the view from the
High Line park

The Statue of Liberty. FAO Schwarz. Central Park. Times Square. It goes without saying that **New York City** has a bevy of essential attractions that lure upward of 50 million visitors every year. And, like all iconic cities, it begs you to return to pay homage to these endearing experiences as much as it offers you the thrill of discovering something new. But once tourists have been back a few times, they enjoy dipping beneath the layers. What follows are some new ways to immerse yourself into the immense buzz of the Big Apple.

Insider Tips

To save money, fly into Newark and take the Air Train into Penn Station. It takes just 30 minutes and costs \$12.50, whereas a cab ride from JFK airport to Manhattan is a flat \$50 rate.

Have breakfast in the Emory State Building's majestic lobby at State Grill and Bar. Chef Octavio Peccore puts a whimsical twist on classic morning fare, like rye pancakes, Brooklyn bagels with smoked salmon and grilled New York strip steak and eggs.

STAY: Kitted out with urbane luxury and aesthetic cool, **Park Hyatt New York** opened in Midtown in August. A sleek high-rise designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Christian de Portzamparc, with understated glamour and clean lines instituted by design firm Yabu Pushelberg, the hotel sits across from **Carnegie Hall** and offers some of the most commodious rooms in the city. Not intent on taking itself too seriously, it does such things as celebrate its location by piping Carnegie Hall concerts through the lap pool's underwater speakers. Its tantalizing **Spa Nalai** emphasizes the hotel's global status by drawing on holistic practices from around the world. With a heated sand-quartz massage bed, it offers, for example, a signature treatment that mimics the restorative sense of lying on a beach. To simplify, eat at **The Back Room at One57**, the hotel's contemporary American grill, for a light meal before catching a concert across the street. newyork.park.hyatt.com, carnegiehall.org

EAT: With Mario Batali's popular **Eataly** having jump-started a citywide trend for blockbuster-size, multi-restaurant-

packed, market-style eateries, the city has been looking forward to the development of **Brookfield Place** on the waterfront in **Lower Manhattan's Financial District** for years. Here, a variety of restaurants and shops will continue to open throughout 2015. In the vein of Austin's Domain, Brookfield Place draws upscale crowds, and its **Le District** brings France to Manhattan. Opening this spring, it has food kiosks galore, market shopping areas and libation alcoves. Within its expansive space, culinary aficionados can discover four themed districts: Cafe, offering pastries, cafe au lait, crepes and such; Market, proffering a boulangerie, fromagerie, charcuterie, wine bar, poissonnerie, boucherie and flower shop; Garden, a quick specialty shopping arena; and Restaurant, home of spots such as casual bistro **Beaubourg Brasserie** and **L'Appart**, a gastronomic, Francophone-inspired fine dining concept. eataly.com, brookfieldplaceny.com

Not as Goliath-sized, farther north in the **West Side's Hell's Kitchen**, **Gotham West Market** buzzes with affordable gourmet

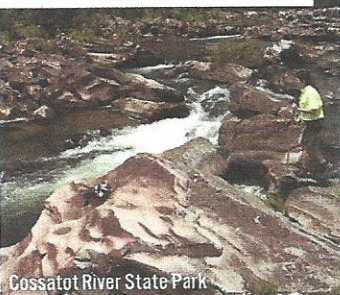
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Plus, THERE'S

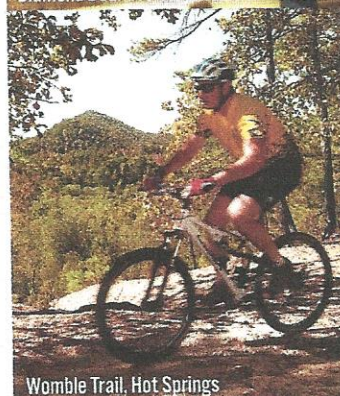
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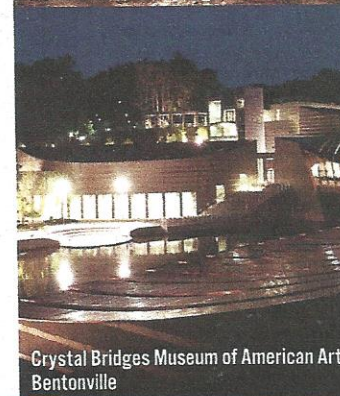
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TRAVEL
NEAR

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fare. A trendy food court for the culinary minded, this retrofitted complex packs a powerhouse of savory options. Composed of eight outposts from some of the city's most beloved chefs and food artisans, the groovy gathering place ensures you'll shop among the locals. Eat ice cream from Brooklyn-based **Ample Hills Creamery** (my daughter likes the salted crack caramel) and stop over at Seamus Mullen's **El Colmado**, which feels like a little market or bar in Madrid and turns out real tapas on Lilliputian plates, just as they are served in Spain. An espresso at **Blue Bottle Coffee** seals the deal. *gothamwestmarket.com*



A bartender makes a drink at Dear Irving

SIP: For potations, travel back in time at **Dear Irving**, a cocktail salon located just behind **Union Square**. Inspired by Woody Allen's *Midnight in Paris*, the bar gets moody with four rooms that each realistically depict a distinct era. Languish with a Gibson in hand in the F. Scott Fitzgerald room, or nip a classic Champagne cocktail in the chandelier-bedecked Marie Antoinette quarter. So cool you'll have to go four times to experience each room, this speakeasy, with table buzzers that work like doorbells to call the waitstaff, will definitely speak to you. *dearirving.com*

EXPLORE: Walk the recently completed **High Line**, an elevated park built on a derelict bit of New York Central Railroad track, which meanders for almost 2 miles. Enter from Gansevoort Street in the Meatpacking District. Like walking on a high wire, the experience draws the crowds day and night. *thehighline.org*

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