

48 HOURS IN NEW YORK

IN ASSOCIATION WITH **opodo.co.uk**
let the journey begin

It's the perfect time to shop for bargains in the Big Apple. Spend the money you save on exploring the city that never sleeps, says **Cathy Packe**

WHY GO NOW?

The weak dollar makes New York excellent value at the end of the sales, and recent mild weather in the city has left many stores with surplus winter items they are desperate to offload, so there is even more choice than normal.

TOUCH DOWN

There is plenty of choice of flights from Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester, Birmingham and Glasgow to JFK and Newark airports. Fares starting at £245 are available through www.opodo.co.uk. The newest operator is Silverjet, with a business-class only service between Luton and Newark offering flat beds. Frequent bus services link JFK with **Grand Central Station** (1), **Penn Station** (2) or the **Port Authority Bus Terminal** (3) - which is also served by buses from Newark airport.

GET YOUR BEARINGS

New York City is made up of five boroughs, but most visitors spend all their time in Manhattan. A grid system makes the streets easy to navigate: avenues run north-south, streets run east to west. Broadway runs diagonally through the city.

The main Visitor Information Centre (4) is at 810 7th Avenue (001 212 484 1222; www.nycvisit.com), and opens 8.30am-6pm Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm at weekends.

Public transport is easy to use. Bus and Subway (underground) rides cost \$2 (£1.10), but it is cheaper to buy a Metrocard from a Subway station: \$10 (£5.55) will buy you six rides, \$24 (£13) covers you for a week's unlimited travel.

CHECK IN

The **London NYC** (5) at 151 West 54th Street (001 212 307 5000; www.the.londonnyc.com) opened last autumn as a "luxury urban resort" - the luxuries including Gordon Ramsay's first US restaurant and a state-of-the-art fitness studio. Double rooms here start at \$453 (£252). **Hotel57** (6), at 130 East 57th Street (001 212 753 8841; www.hotel57.com) is a boutique establishment in the heart of midtown; doubles start at \$301

(£167). At 155 East 50th Street, the refurbished **Affinia 50** (7) (001 212 751 5710; www.affinia.com) has comfortable suites from \$225 (£125). These prices exclude breakfast.

TAKE A HIKE

Explore Greenwich Village starting in **Washington Square** (8), whose entrance is dominated by a triumphal arch carved with figures of George Washington. Continue into the East Village and turn right down the city's longest thoroughfare, Broadway. Turn right into Bleeker Street into the West Village, a relaxed but rapidly changing neighbourhood of cobblestones and brownstone houses. Number **75A Bedford Street** (9) is the narrowest house in the Village - the width of a

single room and three storeys high. Back on Bleeker, at the corner of West 11th Street is one of the most popular landmarks in the neighbourhood: the **Magnolia Bakery** (10). Fans queue for hours to buy the legendary cup cakes. Loop back on to Christopher Street; end in the oasis known as **Christopher Park** (11).

TAKE A VIEW

The "Top of the Rock" (12) at West 50th Street (001 212 698 2000; www.topoftherocknyc.com) eclipses the taller Empire State building with its breathtaking 360-degree view of New York. From

the 70th floor of the Rockefeller Center you see the whole city, from the Statue of Liberty to Central Park way below. It opens 8am-midnight daily; tickets cost \$17.50 (£9.70), with a \$5 (£2.70) discount from 8-10am each day.

LUNCH ON THE RUN

The **Time Warner Center** (13) at Columbus Circle is an excellent place to pick up a light lunch. Head to **Wholefoods** in the basement. As well as a vast supermarket, it has counters selling takeaway

dishes, everything from soup to sushi, which you can eat at one of the tables nearby or, as the weather improves, take for a Central Park picnic.

CULTURAL AFTERNOON

The Museum Mile, a stretch of 5th Avenue from 79th Street to 91st,

contains enough culture to satisfy most people for months. Start at the vast **Metropolitan** (14) (001 212 535 7710; www.metmuseum.org; open 9.30am-5.30pm daily except Monday, until 9pm Friday and Saturday; entrance \$20/£11). The **Guggenheim** (15) at 89th Street (001 212 423 3500;

www.guggenheim.org; open Saturday-Wednesday 10am-5.45pm, Friday until 7.45pm; entrance \$18/£10) is housed in a building designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. The galleries are reached via a ramp that curves from the bottom of the space to the top. Often overlooked is the **Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum** (16) at East 91st Street (001 212 849 8400; www.cooperhewitt.org), housed in an exquisitely ornate mansion that once belonged to Andrew Carnegie. It opens 10am-

5pm daily (until 9pm Friday, until 6pm Saturday, and noon-6pm on Sunday), \$12 (£6.70).

WINDOW SHOPPING

Browse along West 14th Street in the Meatpacking District. Established names such as Alexander McQueen and Stella McCartney have opened up across the street from the lesser-known but equally cool Yigal Azrouel and Carlos Miele. Around the corner on Washington and Gansevoort Streets you find lower prices, plus hip bars and restaurants.

AN APERITIF

The **World Bar** (17) at 845 United Nations Plaza

(001 212 935 9361; www.theworldbar.com) is a sophisticated cocktail bar whose drinks menu reflects the international clientele from the UN HQ across the road.

DINING WITH THE LOCALS

The **Modern** (18) is right next to the Museum of Modern Art at 11 West 53rd Street (001 212 333 1220; www.MoMA.org). The formal dining room serves a three-course menu, featuring local ingredients like Long Island Duck Breast, for \$85 (£47). There is also a Bar Room, with tapas-sized portions of modern American dishes from \$10 (£5.55) each. The small burger joint at the **Parker Meriden Hotel** (19) at 118 West 57th Street (001 212 245 5000; www.parkermeriden.com) has superb burgers for just \$6 (£3.30).

SUNDAY MORNING: GO TO CHURCH

St Paul's Chapel (20) on Broadway (001 212 233 4164; www.saintpauls.chapel.org) is one of the oldest buildings in Manhattan, attended by George Washington in 1798 as part of his inauguration celebrations, and used continuously since. In 2001, following the terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre on September 11, it became a shelter and community centre. The events of that time are remembered in a moving exhibition of photos, drawings and oral reminiscences. As you leave the building, walk around the churchyard to Church Street, opposite Ground Zero, and marvel that the church itself remained undamaged.

OUT TO BRUNCH

Sarabeth's serves one of the best brunches in town, as the queues that form outside might suggest. There are branches on the Upper West and Upper East sides, as well as the latest

WRITE A POSTCARD... Manhattan's main **Post Office** (23) on 7th Avenue is an impressive building whose main hall is decorated with coats of arms - one from France, on whose postal system the US mail is modelled.

THE ICING ON THE CAKE

Treat yourself to a Broadway show with a discounted ticket from the **TKTS booth** (24) (www.tdf.org) which is temporarily located just off Times Square at 46th Street, in front of the NY Marriott Marquis Hotel. The booth opens before matinee and evening performances to sell tickets for that day's shows, which must be paid for with cash or travellers' cheques only.



Graphics: John Bradley
Tree-mendous: the huge, green expanse of Central Park is an oasis for New Yorkers
Associated Press

A WALK IN THE PARK

Central Park is an attraction for locals and visitors alike, with its grass, woodland, lakes and gardens covering 50 blocks of the city. Until April, the main attraction is skating at the **Wollman Ice Rink** (22) (001 212 439 6900; www.wollmanrink.com). Sessions cost \$9.50 (£5.30) or \$12.50 (£7) at the weekend. Skates can be hired for \$5 (£2.80). The rink opens 10am-2.30pm Monday and Tuesday, until 10pm Wednesday and Thursday, until 11pm Friday and Saturday, and until 9pm on Sunday.



Be a part of it.

Return flights to New York from **£245**

Departs from London Gatwick. Outbound travel between 3rd February & 31st March 2007. Book by 8th February 2007.

To book visit www.opodo.co.uk.

opodo.co.uk
let the journey begin