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MARCH/APRIL 2024

NEW YORK CITY

Delights of
The Big Apple

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ON TAP

The Sweetness
of Maple Syrup

THE APRILE ENTRIES

The Moonshine Café

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Crafting Beauty in the Outdoor Realm

NEW YORK CITY

THE ALL-ENCOMPASSING DELIGHTS OF THE BIG APPLE

By Linda Barnard

If it's been more than a New York minute since your last trip to the Big Apple, here's some what's new inspiration for your next getaway to one of the world's great cities.

LIFE ON THE EDGE

In a city fond of superlatives and thrilling views, Edge, on the 100th floor of the 30 Hudson Yards skyscraper, covers both. Opened in 2020, it's the highest outdoor observation deck in the Western Hemisphere at 344 metres — about the height of the Eiffel Tower. A glass floor adds to the fun. If that's not enough, suit up in safety gear to scale the outside of the skyscraper.

ABOVE IT ALL

Recreate a 91-year-old photo and get a daredevil's-eye view across Manhattan from the top of Rockefeller Center with the city's newest attraction, The Beam, which opened in December.

The gentle, 90-second ride on The Beam provides the same perspectives, with a safe 69th-floor viewpoint. A replica steel girder rises 3.5 metres and slowly rotates 180 degrees, stopping for a



Photo Courtesy of Diane Bondareff
AP Images for Tishman Speyer

Hudson Yards outing led by Like A Local Tours combines sampling great food with local history on a three-hour walking tour.

Chelsea Market has a good mix of food vendors, fun shops and interesting history in the block-long, circa-1898 former National Biscuit Company (later Nabisco) building.

You'll also take a tasty tour of the city's newest food building, Market 57. Opened last spring, it's curated by The James Beard Foundation and built on the waterfront site of Pier 57. Beside it, the grand iron arch leading to Pier 55 still stands (and was the slip where the Titanic was supposed to arrive in April 1912).

The High Line, a former elevated industrial rail line, is now one of New York's most popular outdoor attractions. It's just under a kilometre long and dotted with public art, ending at Manhattan's newest neighbourhood, Hudson Yards.

photo op before settling back down. The photo makes it appear like you're sitting on steel in mid-air with the city far below.

Also new is the two-hour Top of the Rock VIP Tour at Rockefeller Center, a guided, behind-the-scenes exploration of one of America's most celebrated Art Deco buildings. Small-group tours start in a

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private lounge before touring the historic building, going into areas the public can't typically access, like the famed Rainbow Room. A private elevator ride to the observation deck and the Top of the Rock skips lineups and crowds.

The \$200 U.S. tour includes The Beam, a free download of your photo and 20% off in the gift shop. In warmer months, visit the famous rooftop gardens.

EAT LIKE A LOCAL

A food tour is a delicious way to get to know a part of New York that may be new to you. The Chelsea Market, High Line and

herbal teas, CBD oil, melatonin and hemp patches. Or try a pre-mixed Negroni from the well-stocked snack and cocktail bar.

LET'S EAT

George Motz's newly opened smash burger joint offers quality beef and delivers on every level at Hamburger America. Sit at the Formica counter and watch the cooks at work. Add fries and a chocolate egg cream for a fine meal.

You can't come to New York and skip having a slice. A new favourite is Brooklyn's L'industrie Pizzeria, which opened a West Village location last fall. The burrata slice is a decadent delight. Soft-serve olive oil gelato topped with sea salt is a revelation.



Photo Courtesy of Linda Bernhard

There are two new tasty additions to Hudson Yards. There's a new location of 110-year-old business Russ & Daughters, where luscious lox and cream cheese on a house-baked bagel is a must-try. Mercado Little Spain is a Spanish food market with bars and food kiosks from El Bulli alumni José Andrés and brothers Albert and Ferran Adrià.

SLEEP WELL

The five-star Equinox Hotel opened in 2020 in Hudson Yards with a focus on health, wellbeing and restful sleep. Guests get a free membership to the Equinox fitness centre next door during their stay. There are also indoor-outdoor pools and a spa.

The hotel promises "your best sleep here." A touch of a button at bedtime lowers blackout shades as the room temperature lowers to 67 F (optimal for sleep). Triple-glazed windows ensure silence. The well-stocked amenity cupboard has a Sleep Well menu with

BOOKMARK

The Morgan Library & Museum on Madison Avenue marks its 100th anniversary this year. The centrepiece is the magnificent Gilded Age library of financier, and avid collector of prints, books and documents, J. Pierpont Morgan.

The museum will celebrate Morgan's remarkable personal librarian, Belle da Costa Greene, with a special exhibition beginning in October. You may know her story as the Black woman forced by circumstances to pass as white from the best-selling 2021 novel *The Personal Librarian*.

BAD ROMAN/GOOD FOOD

Billed as "a playful, maximalist Italian restaurant," Bad Roman draws a crowd that has followed a trail of social media



Photo Courtesy of Christian Harder

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to Manhattan's buzzy, noisy "it" spot in the Shops at Columbus Circle.

Try the 'Roni Cups & Ranch, a platter of thick-sliced pepperoni rounds baked to chewy, melty goodness with house-made ranch dressing. The winner is a mousse-like lemon cheesecake encased in a yellow-white chocolate coat, presented on a bed of buttery graham cracker crust crumbs. Crack the exterior and dig in.

OLD STALWART/NEW START

Delmonico's brags it's America's first restaurant, founded in 1827, having drawn many celebrities, writers and presidents through its doors. The Wall Street temple, with its classic fine dining, re-opened in September with a refreshed décor. Namesake 18-ounce boneless Delmonico Cut ribeye steaks are thick, juicy and lavishly marbled. This charred beauty easily feeds two, and even three, with a few sides. Lobster Newburg, Eggs Benedict, Chicken à la King and Baked Alaska were all invented here.



Photo Courtesy of Morgan Library & Museum