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Javits Convention Center, NYC

Newsletter 3
27 Months and Counting!

February, 2014
In this Issue ...

- A Basic Geography Lesson • Getting There
- Ground Transportation • Where to Stay
- The Jacob Javits Convention Center & Environs
- Food, Glorious Food • Ethnic Neighborhoods
- So Much to See and Do • Coupons and Discounts
- Last Minute News • Social Media Links

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You Can't Miss Our Show!

Fellow collector,

We think you'll enjoy this issue that we nickname "The Frugal Philatelist." With the show a little over two years away, it's time to start making your plans to attend World Stamp Expo-NY 2016. We realize some of you trying to decide if a trip to the Big Apple is affordable, especially with your family. With some advance planning you can make your stay in this area both enjoyable and financially possible!



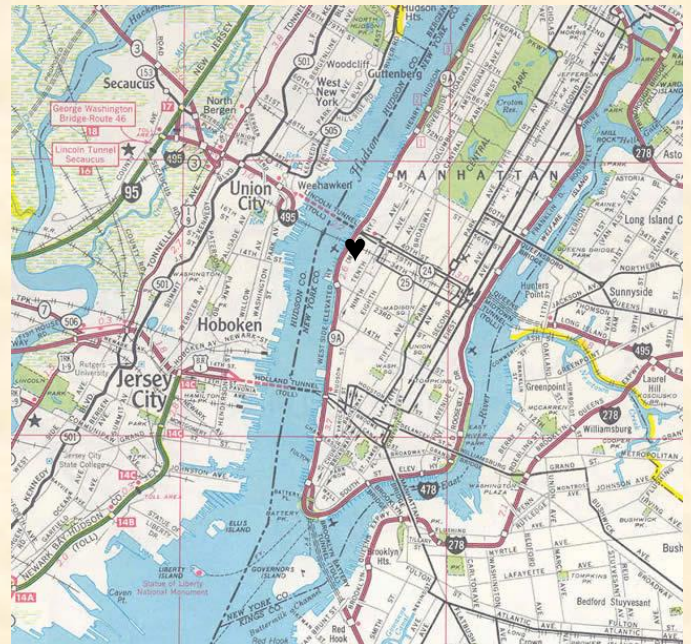
Wade

Wade Saadi
President
WSS-NY 2016

A Basic Geography Lesson



The City of New York consists of five boroughs that consolidated in 1898 forming one of the world's greatest metropolitan areas. It linked the nation's largest city, Manhattan, with its northern neighbor, the Bronx, along with southern neighbors Queens, Staten Island and Brooklyn, which at the time was the fourth largest US city.



What is commonly referred to as "greater New York" typically includes Connecticut and the nearby surrounding communities of Union City, Hoboken, and Jersey City across the Hudson River in New Jersey. Our show site, the Jacob Javits Convention Center (♥) is just south of the Lincoln Tunnel.

Getting There

Visitors have several transportation options to get to New York.

There are three major airports in the region. International passengers have the option of coming

in via John F. Kennedy International Airport in Queens or Newark Liberty International in neighboring New Jersey. Both airports and LaGuardia Airport also cater to domestic air travelers and additionally service budget airlines like AirTran, Southwest, Frontier, Spirit and WestJet. JetBlue and Virgin America fly into JFK, the latter also servicing Newark.

Generally flights are discounted the most when booked a few months in advance. The show takes place in between flying seasons when airlines start up their summer itineraries and typically offer some of the best pricing of the year. Consult each airlines' web site or popular travel sites like Hotwire, Priceline, Kayak and the like for the best deals.

Train and bus service in and around New York City is convenient and frequent. It is less expensive and, depending on the time of day, a less time consuming transportation option than a taxi. Amtrak has several train routes to NYC. Bus options include Greyhound, Trailways and Megabus, along with regional carriers like Coach USA and Chinatown Bus. A few blocks away from the show are Penn Station, Amtrak's and NJ Transit's NYC headquarters and commuter rail hub, and the Port Authority Bus Terminal where NJ Transit buses deliver their passengers to Manhattan. Grand Central Station acts as a hub for bus and rail service from the North. All three are hubs for subway service throughout the region. Travelers can take a train or bus from JFK and Newark Airports to both Penn Station and the Port Authority. There also are different Ferry services with different starting and ending points.

Of course, a car can get you there, too! Driving through New York can be a challenge for the uninitiated and parking charges can be shocking. Consider park and ride options available throughout the area, especially in New Jersey, some as low as \$3 per day in addition to a \$2.10 bus or light rail fare. Bridge and tunnel car fares can range from \$10-\$13 heading into the city, free leaving the city.

Ground Transportation

Moving around the greater New York area may at first seem overwhelming to visitors when you start comparing subway and bus routes, and don't forget the ferries. You'll soon discover that there may be too many options for getting around!



A great place to start is by checking out the maps on the New York Metro Transportation Authority web site (<http://web.mta.info/maps/>) that detail the subway and bus routes in the five New York boroughs. Current subway and bus fares are \$2.50 one way flat rate (no zones). Express busses are more. NJ Transit (<http://www.njtransit.com>) has similar information on their web site. There are common hubs connecting lines from both states for easy transfer back and forth.

For those who prefer taxis, current rates are basically \$2.50 plus 50 cents per 1/5 mile travelled, plus 50 cents state tax. Evening fare is surcharged an additional 50 cents.

Where to Stay



We all know hotel costs will probably take the largest chunk out of your vacation budget. Our show's hotel consolidator is actively negotiating discount hotel deals with several properties that will be finalized and announced in mid-2015.

How about a Manhattan hotel rate starting as low as \$120-\$140 per night within blocks of the show? Those are the kinds of rates we're investigating now and we expect will be available. Really!

Even more affordable options may be across the Hudson in New Jersey, especially around Newark Airport. See a listing of them here: <http://www.panynj.gov/airports/ewr-hotels.html>. The Newark Airport Railway System stops there with direct service to Penn Station from where you can catch connections to the Convention Center.

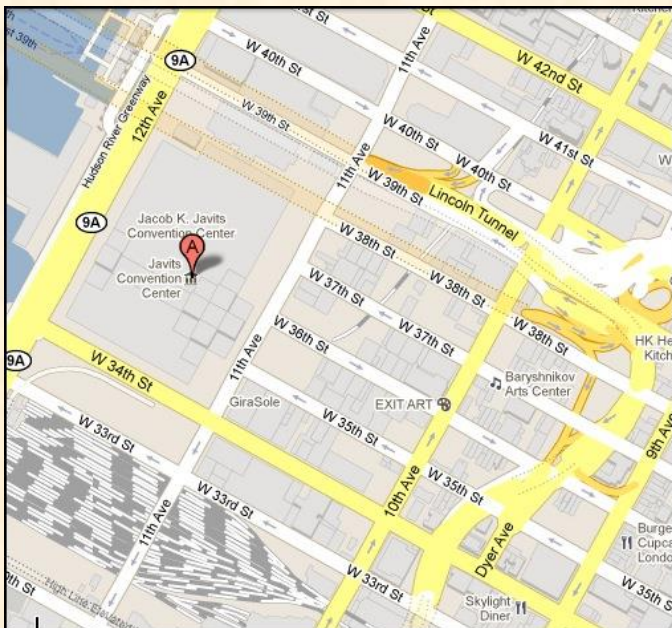
Here is a sample of May 2014 hotel prices:

Two hotels on Frontage Road at Newark International Airport are offering prices of \$71 and \$106 per night.

A little further north closer to the Lincoln Tunnel and Meadowlands also on the New Jersey side are Columbia and Tonnelle Avenues. Prices for hotels in that area are a little more expensive, but still affordable at a low of \$115 to \$139 nightly.

Finding a reasonably priced hotel near a train station or bus stop is certainly possible. Visit www.njtransit.com for bus and rail station locations. Don't forget to check out discount sites like Hotwire and Priceline mentioned earlier. "Bed & Breakfasts" and hostels are alternatives that can lower your prices further.

The Jacob Javits Convention Center & Environs



Occupying several city blocks bordered by 11th and 12th Avenues on the east and west near the waterfront and 34th Street through 39th Street from the south to the north is the Javits Center (<http://www.javitscenter.com>).

It's easy to find on any map by looking just south of the Lincoln Tunnel. The whole area is undergoing a 5 year renovation project known as "Hudson Yards" and covers 45 acres of land formerly filled with rail yards and parking lots. Of special note is a

new subway stop on the High Line currently being built on the south side of the Convention Center with completion expected when the show opens.



Our show takes place on the third level taking up nearly 300,000 square feet of space. The expanse is huge with towering columns some 30 feet tall. Visitors with limited mobility will be pleased to know that power scooters are available for rent on a single or multi-day basis.

Macy's Department Store on 34th Street is a long walk or short bus ride away (M34 bus line) and is a must-see for natives and non-natives alike.

Food, Glorious Food



What food says "New York" more than a hot pastrami on rye?

Food options are plentiful right at the Javits Center. According to their web site they have 22 permanent and temporary food outlets throughout the building and a variety of concession stands outside. Many more restaurants are in the neighborhood, especially along 9th and 10th Avenues.

As you can imagine, the sky is the limit when it comes to what you could spend on the cost for a meal in the Big Apple. New York is a gourmand's delight. Everything from hot dogs to haute cuisine can be found. But you don't need to spend a fortune on meals. Here are some ideas...

Eating Affordably in Manhattan

By Bruce Marsden

If you would never consider visiting New York because you've heard reports of \$25 continental breakfasts and \$195 tasting menu dinners, please follow me and think again.

99% of New Yorkers are not among the 1% for whom those luxury meals are routine and there are plenty of opportunities to obtain tasty food at affordable prices. I would like to share some of my favorite places, by way of example.

One of the emerging trends in New York is an explosion in the variety and quality of "street food" served from semi-permanent sidewalk carts or from vending trucks which vary their locations daily – often twittering their locations to their fans – most frequently in the downtown and midtown office districts. The Javits Convention Center, home of World Stamp Show New York 2016, is located at the southwestern corner of midtown.

#1 favorite – the Biryani Cart (<http://www.biryanicart.com>) at the Southwest corner of West 46th Street and 6th Avenue (Avenue of the Americas) just a couple blocks from Rockefeller Center serves chicken biryani rice platters or a pair of a variety of kati rolls ("Indian burritos") for \$6 to go. Outdoor seating can be had at nearby Bryant Park (42nd Street). If it is raining you can crash indoors at either the Rockefeller Center or Grand Central food courts.

My favorite "street meat" can be found at the Halal Guys (<http://53rdand6th.com>) on corners of West 53rd Street and 6th Avenue (Avenue of the Americas), a few steps from the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA). Look for the servers with uniform yellow T-shirts. Here again \$6 will obtain a platter of chicken or lamb gyro served over rice with a green salad, sauce, and some pita bread.

Both the Biryani Cart and the Halal Guys serve continuously across the lunch and dinner hours.

For an affordable sit down meal near Times Square, I like the Thai restaurant, Pong Sri, at 244 West 48th Street near 8th Avenue (<http://www.pongsri.net>). Lunch specials are available that will get you out for \$10-12 including tax and tip or an affordable a la carte menu is available for either lunch or dinner.

A delicious "Cuban Sandwich" will be made to order for you for \$7 at the front of the Margon Restaurant (<http://margonnyc.com>) at 146 West 46th Street. Or, full entrée lunch meals are available in the back for about \$10.

From the Pescatore fish stand at the Grand Central Market (street level near East 43rd Street) you can find two seafood "spring rolls" for \$6 which make a healthy light meal. Or add a small container of Wakame seaweed salad for \$5-6 more.

Near Grand Central station at the Japanese restaurant Menchankotei (<http://menchankotei.com>), you will find a hearty bowl of ramen noodles for about \$10.

My favorite sandwich shop, Num Pang, is also close to Grand Central at 140 E. 41st Street (<http://www.numpangnyc.com>) and serves Cambodian-influenced sandwiches (pork belly, sausage, fish, many others for about \$10. Num Pang's are the highest rated sandwiches in the Zagat guide.

For a balanced diet, fruit is important and New York's residential neighborhoods host semi-permanent sidewalk vendors offering a wide variety of fruits and vegetables at very competitive prices (bananas 4 for \$1, avocados \$1.25). These are an easy grab for the on-the-go. Other street carts offer coffee, pastries and pretzels.

But there's more!



New York is famous for its Pizza stands – and right now there is a price war going on with plain slices available for as little as 99 cents. But for better quality, expect to pay \$2-3 for a plain slice and up to \$5 with toppings.

New York is also famous for its curbside hotdog and pretzel carts but I prefer Gray's and other similar "Papaya" stands which complement cheap hot dogs with inexpensive fruit drinks. Upscale food courts are available in the basements of Rockefeller Center and Grand Central station with reasonable prices.

Many groceries and delis have self-serve hot buffet and cold salad bars with in-house seating with prices ranging from \$6 to \$10 per pound, as does the Whole Foods in the basement of the Time Warner Center at Columbus Circle.



Traditional American diners are also scattered about all the neighborhoods of New York serving breakfasts, lunch, and dinners. Or find an Irish pub for burgers, fish and chips, and a variety of entrees anywhere throughout the neighborhoods. Their prices may be a few dollars more per person than in other parts of the country, but that is partly a reflection of the high cost of rents in the city.

The city abounds in the national fast food chains (over 100 Subway sandwich shops, for instance) with which everyone is familiar, but I hope I've demonstrated that there is a wide range of affordable eating options in Manhattan.

Please don't let the national press stories about New York's luxury dining scene keep you away from the greatest stamp show of the decade. And for a splurge night out, there are more formal restaurants across a broad price spectrum and many cuisines including French, Italian, New American, and Steakhouses.

One last suggestion for the adventurous... adventure dining.

Instead of a 14 hour flight to Beijing, a 45 minute

ride on the #7 subway train from Times Square to Main Street Flushing (the end of the line) will bring you to New York's largest Chinatown. In the basement of the New World Mall at 136-20 Roosevelt Ave you may feel like a foreigner but you will find a food court with over a dozen independent vendors where a filling and authentic meal will generally run less than \$10.

Of course there are a wide range of more comfortable Asian restaurants in the neighborhood with reasonable prices as well. I think it's delicious!

Ethnic Neighborhoods



New York arguably has the greatest ethnic population of any city. People from virtually every part of the world call this city home.

Here's a great site that lists most of them: <http://www.walkingaround.com/group.html> as well as one that maps them: http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2011/01/23/nyregion/20110123-nyc-ethnic-neighborhoods-map.html?_r=0.

Of course, you'll find some great restaurants, shopping and lodging there, too!



So Much to See and Do



It really is true that New York is the “city that never sleeps,” but you’ll have to after your busy days at the stamp show and visiting the many attractions all around you.

Some of the most popular sites and their current admission charges include:

- Empire State Building 86th Floor: \$27 (\$24 seniors, \$21 ages 6-12), +\$17 to visit the 102nd Floor
- American Museum of Natural History: \$19 (\$14.50 seniors, \$10.50 for children 2-12)
- Guggenheim Museum: \$22 (\$18 seniors/students, children under 12 free)
- Metropolitan Museum of Art: \$25 (\$17 seniors, \$12 students, children under 12 free)
- Museum of Modern Art: \$25 (\$18 seniors, \$14 students, children under 16 free)
- Statue of Liberty Ferry Ticket: \$13 (\$10 seniors, \$5 children 4-12) +\$3 to visit the Crown [Note- The Ellis Island Museum is now closed at this time due to Hurricane Sandy damage]
- Rockefeller Center “Top of the Rock” Observatory: \$27 (\$25 seniors, \$17 children 6-11)
- Radio City Music Hall Tour: \$19.25 (\$15 seniors, \$12.50 children under 12)
- Ripley’s Believe It or Not! Times Square: \$32.61 (\$24 children 1-12)
- Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum: \$31 (\$27 seniors/students, \$24 children 7-17, \$17 children 3-6)
- Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts Tour: \$18 (\$15 students)
- Yankee Stadium Tour: \$25 (\$22 seniors, children under 14)
- Brooklyn Museum: \$12 (\$8 seniors/students)
- New York Botanical Gardens: \$13 (\$6 seniors/students, \$3 children under 12)
- Whitney Museum of Modern Art: \$20 (\$16 seniors/students)

- United Nations Tour: \$16 (\$11 seniors/students, \$9 children 6-12)
- Central Park Zoo: \$12 (\$9 seniors, \$7 (children 3-12)
- Museum of American Finance: \$8 (\$5 seniors/students)

Are you a sports enthusiast? Then we don’t need to remind you that NYC is home to the Yankees (<http://newyork.yankees.mlb.com>) and Mets (<http://newyork.mets.mlb.com>) baseball teams, and the Red Bulls soccer team (<http://www.newyorkredbulls.com>) who play in May.

Fleet Week typically takes place the end of May every year (<http://www.fleetweeknewyork.com>). The U.S. Navy has demonstrations and ship tours demonstrating their latest technology.

Free Sites, Tours and “Stuff”

- Central Park
- Brooklyn Bridge
- Grand Central Station
- Staten Island Ferry
- Chrysler Building Lobby
- St. Patrick’s Cathedral
- Federal Reserve Bank of New York Museum
- New York Public Library
- 9/11 Memorial
- Federal Hall National Memorial

Did you know that many of your favorite TV shows tape in New York City? Tickets are free, but many should be requested in advance. Days and times of tapings vary, so check this site for specifics: <http://www.nycgo.com/tv-show-tapings/>. Some of the current shows you can be part of the studio audience include:

- The Colbert Report (Comedy Central)
- The Daily Show with Jon Stewart (Comedy Central)
- Good Morning America (ABC)
- Live! with Kelly & Michael (syndicated)
- The Rachael Ray Show (syndicated)
- The View (ABC)
- The Wendy Williams Show (syndicated, BET)
- The People’s Court (syndicated)
- Who Wants to Be a Millionaire (syndicated)
- Huckabee (Fox News Channel)
- Inside the Actors Studio (Bravo)
- Late Night with Jimmy Fallon (NBC)
- Late Show with David Letterman (CBS)
- Saturday Night Live (NBC)

Family Attractions

Bringing along some younger kids or grandkids with you? New York City has several enticements for them as well.

Most popular sites include the Bronx Zoo, American Museum of Natural History and Empire State Building, as mentioned earlier in this newsletter. But there is much, much more.

Kids of all ages will like a visit to Luna Park on Coney Island (<http://lunaparknyc.com>). It's home to the world famous Cyclone roller coaster and dozens of other thrill rides, games of skill and fining fare.

The Museum of Math (<http://momath.org>) bills itself as, "The Coolest Thing that Ever Happened to Math," featuring over 30 interactive fun exhibits that use math as a learning tool.

Kids 6 and under will especially enjoy the Children's Museum of Manhattan (<http://www.cmom.org>) with exhibits about Dora the Explorer, City Splash water properties, and EatSleepPlay focusing on healthy lifestyles.

Other kid-friendly sites can be found on these sites:

- <http://nymag.com/travel/visitorsguide/46356/>
- <http://mommypoppins.com>
- <http://redtri.com/new-york-kids>

With all these wonderful attractions, just don't forget about everything awaiting you at the stamp show!

Coupons and Discounts



Don't let some of the prices just mentioned scare you. There are deals out there that combine many major attractions at a discount. Check out:

[World Stamp Show-NY 2016](#)

- City Pass: <http://www.citypass.com>
- Explorer Pass: <http://www.smartdestinations.com>
- New York Pass: <http://www.newyorkpass.com>
- Downtown Culture Pass: <http://www.downtownculturepass.org>

You're seen them around and probably have one for your own home town—Entertainment Coupon Books—offering discount coupons for various locales typically for \$35 or less. Save up to 50% or get 2-for-1 deals through these. They even offer mobile app coupons you can use. Their NYC edition is worth considering.

Last Minute News

The World Stamp Show-New York 2016 organizing Committee met on January 13. Among the items:

New Appointments...

- Dona Richardson, New York, NY, Executive Director, taking over for Pat Moeser who resigned unexpectedly due to personal family issues.
- Carol Bommarito, New York, NY, Entertainment and Social Chair.
- Gail Saadi, New York, NY, Functions and Activities Chair.

Design work is nearing completion on the exhibit frame prototype to be manufactured for the show, headed by K. David Steidley.

Society booth and meeting room arrangements will be formally announced in March by Rod Juell.

Social Media Links



- <http://www.facebook.com/ny2016>
- <https://twitter.com/WorldStampShowN>
- <http://www.pinterest.com/wssny2016/new-york-stamps/>
- <http://www.youtube.com/user/worldstampshowny2016>

Listings in this publication are not necessarily endorsements of World Stamp Show-NY 2016