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The Travel Tip

Forgo fashion in favor of comfortable walking shoes when you travel to a city well known for being a "walking" city. One blister in a miserable location will spoil the stroll. Always bring Band Aids and try mole skin as a way to prevent friction and unhappy feet.

Travel Guiders Invites You to Napa Valley



Welcome to this edition of Passages. Now is the time to think about doing some weekend getaways while the weather in most parts of the country is pretty nice. Anywhere you travel in late summer is almost always warm if not hot - and sometimes hot and humid, which most people do not enjoy.

We are planning a **Napa Wine Country Getaway** that includes a limo ride through Wine Country, a ride on the Napa Valley Wine train, and an overnight stay at the Hilton Gardens. We would like to get a minimum of six people per trip, which would cost \$340 per person. If you are interested in joining one of the groups (we will set some specific dates and send out a News Flash), please email me at etaylor@worldlesstraveled.com. I will add your name to the list and let you know the selected dates.

In the meantime, we thought it would be fun to highlight the famous City of New York as a world-famous vacation and tourist destination sure to please the whole family.

Best,
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*The location changed to Roseville Raley's and we realize this has been confusing. We will try to keep it here, but it's subject to room availability, and since it's free we can't really complain.

We All "Heart" New York



New York City has been made famous for any number of reasons — and most of these reasons provide the perfect reason to visit for your summer vacation. Now if you intend to relax on vacation, New York City is definitely not relaxing. The overall atmosphere is one of move or "be" moved. In a city filled with millions of people, little patience exists for those who stand still too long and gawk, so be prepared to get caught up in the stream of rapidly moving bodies while your jaw perpetually drops to the ground as you stare at famous streets, stores, locations and things.

First, we recommend you find a central hotel in the heart of the city - one that makes it easy to move across town with the snap of an outstretched arm and a nimble finger to catch a fast-moving and hopefully empty taxi. We suggest the **Hotel Bentley**, a very reasonably priced hotel located right along the Hudson River. Now prices vary, but during our stay we paid roughly \$99 a night, but we did stay six nights. It is probably by New York standards a three-star hotel; but if you're very lucky you will have a sublime view of the Hudson. Additionally, the hotel offers a rooftop restaurant and bar where you have an absolutely stunning view of Manhattan - and at night it's completely glorious. Now the food was nothing to get excited about so we suggest you go upstairs to enjoy a Cosmo or cocktail.

The thing about New York City is that everything is close enough that you can hail a cab and just be dropped off at famous streets such as 5th Avenue and you are within blocks of so many well-known attractions, including the Empire State Building. As you stroll along 5th Avenue, notice every famous designer name - Gucci, Prada, Dior, Saks - lining the street. The average shopper doesn't have the bank account for these stores; but it's a lot of fun to peer inside and dream about the day when you might be able to pick up some of the most exquisite clothes and shoes in the world.



Then head up to Wall Street and check out the famous bull. One small note, Wall Street isn't a major thoroughfare. It's actually a rather subdued and small side street, but in the middle of the Financial District sits that bull where tourists from all over team around it to snap a photo with the well-known bovine. You may or may not want to try and squeeze in, but it's very interesting to see it.

You can then walk several blocks to Battery Park to get a landside view of the famous **Statue of Liberty**. Now you can schedule a ferry ride out to see Lady Liberty or you can be satisfied to see it from the shoreline. It depends on whether or not you can get seasick — although on the day we were there it appeared to be calm waters. Before or after you get on the ship, you can also enjoy some of NYC's famous hotdogs right from the dozens of vendors. It makes a quick snack — and what would a trip to NYC be without eating a hotdog?

Now when it comes to New York, it's all about the great eats. If you want to taste authentic flavors from other parts of the world, make sure you travel over to Little Italy or China Town. Little Italy is lined with dozens of Italian eateries, all offering a small glimpse into what it might be like if you visited Italy. Stop at one of the restaurants where you can sit out on the street and sample the antipasto and a glass of wine. It's great fun to eat appetizers at one restaurant and find your main entree, say in China Town, which is just a few blocks away from Little Italy. And if there is one thing you can say about New York, great aromas waft through the air as you pass open-air restaurants, bakeries, and cafes. You will want to eat all day long, and you should definitely taste some New York famous treats such as the pizza, bagels and pastrami. What is a visit to New York without those tasty treats?



Now one thing about taking your entire family, you may want to focus more on the education aspects of the city. Maybe take in some museums or a Broadway Play like Mary Poppins. You will not want to try your hand in places like the subway — as fun as that may seem it becomes very crowded and uncomfortable. Little ones may not enjoy the ride at all. However, the overall trip can be customized to keep the under 18 set highly occupied and entertained. A note about traveling in spring and summer, watch out for the heavy humidity. It can become uncomfortable to walk around in the afternoon heat and humidity. No worries though. You can always slip into a great air conditioned store or restaurant and beat the heat.