



GETTING ABOUT Devise your dream itinerary then lie back (literally, there's a backseat bench that converts to a bed) with Brilliant Transportation's (go-brilliant.com) fleet of custom-made Mercedes-Benzes (£140 per hour, including Wi-Fi and the most comfortable leather captain's seats in the business). For aerial visits, charter a flight with Liberty Helicopters (libertyhelicopter.com). A 15-minute Big Apple whizz starts from £115 (and £20 per additional person). Rates for private heligolf, and other personalised tours, on request.

DON'T SHOP TILL YOU DROP...

Joan Kaufman (joan-kaufman.com), New York's selective personal shopper, has an impeccable eye, whether you want a trawl around one-off boutiques, or someone to hold your hand in department stores. From £140 per hour. Kathleen Beckett at Friends of Fashion (friendsoffashion.com) is brilliant at getting access to top designers and the group donates all its profits to workers in need in the fashion industry.

COOL OFF There's the Staten Island Ferry immortalised in *Working Girl* and a classic 80ft schooner with Champagne as the standard onboard tittle. If you'd rather the latter, book with Classic Harbor Line (sail-nyc.com). In two hours you can sail from Chelsea Piers to the Statue of Liberty and back. From £525 per hour (drinks and food extra).

WHERE TO FINE DINE If you book a table at Daniel (danielnyc.com), ask for the Skybox, a space for four suspended over the restaurant (from £700). The menu is custom-made based on a prior consultation, and the eponymous chef will come and eat with you. Highline (nychighline.com) offers contemporary Thai cuisine in a three-storey building packing in a rain tower, huge art installation and 'bed lounge' service – drinks and food brought on trays while you recline. It's a great location for visiting the district's Highline walk (highline.org), a garden and art park created on a disused railroad track.

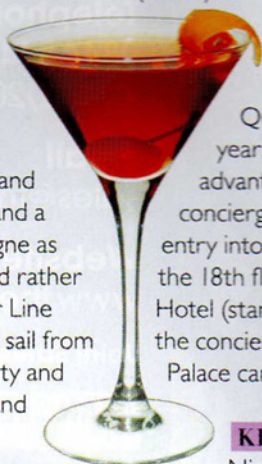


AFTER-HOURS FUN

New York's front of house staff are notoriously difficult to get around. Clubs of the moment include Tenjune (tenjunenyc.com), where you might bump and grind with P Diddy, Beyoncé favourite I Oak (ioaknyc.com) and Provocateur at the Hotel Gansevoort (provocateurnyc.com). Ask your hotel concierge to reserve a table, or join Quintessentially (from £2,500 per year; quintessentially.com) and take advantage of their 24/7 private concierge service. Money can't buy you entry into Top of the Standard (above) on the 18th floor of the Standard Hotel (standardhotels.com), but the concierge at the New York Palace can help.

KEEP IT BEAUTIFUL

Nicknamed beauty's 'queen of mean' Christine Chin's team will leave no pore unexamined in her quest for a flawless complexion (christinechin.com). You can book the lady herself (for an extra 20 per cent). The Mark Hotel (themarkhotel.com) recently reopened following a two-year refurbishment. Frédéric Fekkai, favourite of Claudia Schiffer and Renée Zellweger, is behind the salon,



where you can have highlights and pedicures accompanied by a Champagne lunch from Jean-Georges Vongerichten's The Mark Restaurant. Pedicure from £22 (not including food). There are five branches of über spa Exhale (exhalespa.com) and you can request 'queen of the arch' Eliza Petrescu to transform your eyebrows.

DON'T MISS Monday night is Cast Party at Birdland (castpartynyc.com). It's a cabaret night and impromptu variety show where Broadway superstars such as Billy Stritch and Natalie Douglas hit the stage alongside up-and-comers.

AND ANOTHER THING...

Anna Di Stasi at Pinacoteca (pinacotecanyc.com) is a former Christie's house specialist, and the go-to-girl for curated art. She offers everything from private after-hours views of landmark collections to visits to artists' studios. From £315 per person per day. Call Kitt Garrett at Discover New York (dnykg.com) for behind-the-scenes museum visits and tickets to booked-out Broadway shows. Guests at the Four Seasons (fourseasons.com) can book a private after-hours showaround of the American Museum of Natural History (below) for £7,000, or sleep over for £35,000.

A private tour of Central Park Zoo (centralparkzoo.com) with a top keeper costs £350. Four Seasons guests can get the entire place to themselves for £21,000. Private, one-hour after- and before-hours tours of MoMa (Museum of Modern Art), conducted by a museum lecturer, start at £35 per person for a minimum of ten people (or from £420 per hour). Reservations must be made at least two weeks in advance by calling +1 212 708 9685. 📞

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