

CAYMAN AIRWAYS GATEWAY FEATURE

WEEKEND IN THE CITY

Go beyond
New York's
iconic landmarks
and discover a
whole new side
of the city that
never sleeps.

By Christine Borges

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Deciding

what to do on a weekend getaway to Manhattan shouldn't be considered lightly. Without the proper planning, you might just miss that must-see museum exhibit or that off-the-beaten path local attraction. Rather than visiting the tried and true Big Apple standards, heed our advice instead: Explore.

A Couples Getaway

From romantic carriage rides through Central Park to fine dining with breathtaking views, Manhattan really is a couples' city.

For a unique experience, you can see skyscrapers combined with a rooftop park at The High Line. Built on a historic freight rail line elevated above the West Side streets, the park runs from Gansevoort Street in the Meatpacking District to West 34th Street, between 10th and 11th avenues. The newest addition runs between West 20th to West 30th streets. The 1.45-mile space features 300 species of perennials, grasses, shrubs and

trees, as well as art installations and a horticultural preserve.

After a stroll, head toward the air-conditioned environment of Museum Mile. Open since 1870, The Metropolitan Museum of Art offers a large variety of modern and classic art, from Renaissance paintings and Egyptian artefacts to musical instruments, and it even houses the Costume Institute. You'll find every kind of art at The Met, and you can take a piece of culture home if you stop at one of the many gift shops throughout the museum.

Catch tomorrow's jazz heavyweights at The Jazz Gallery at the Salt Space. The non-

profit organisation produces more than 150 performances a year from jazz greats spanning the globe. Dubbed the "Best Jazz Den" by *New York* magazine, you can also chance upon established musicians on any given night, as jazz big shots often team up for never-before-seen musical collaborations.

If you prefer a little comedy, The Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre features some of the best stand-up comedians in the country. Founded by Amy Poehler, many performers who grace the stage here have ended up on shows as notable as "Saturday Night Live," "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" and "30 Rock."

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Conclude your getaway at the four-star The River Café. The perfect setting for romance, its waterfront views of the city are resplendent and mood-setting live music plays regularly. But most importantly, their exquisite menu offers tantalising options like Petrossian caviar and a bevy of delectable entrées. Desserts are presented like works of art. One such case, the Chocolate Marquise Brooklyn Bridge, is handcrafted chocolate with Brooklyn black-and-white ice cream soda served with Richter's raspberries, all shaped to resemble the Brooklyn Bridge.

Just the Girls

If you're opting for a girls' getaway, New York really is your oyster. Start your journey at The Museum of Modern Art (MoMa for short). Starting in October, you'll come across an aptly named exhibit for the occasion: Designing

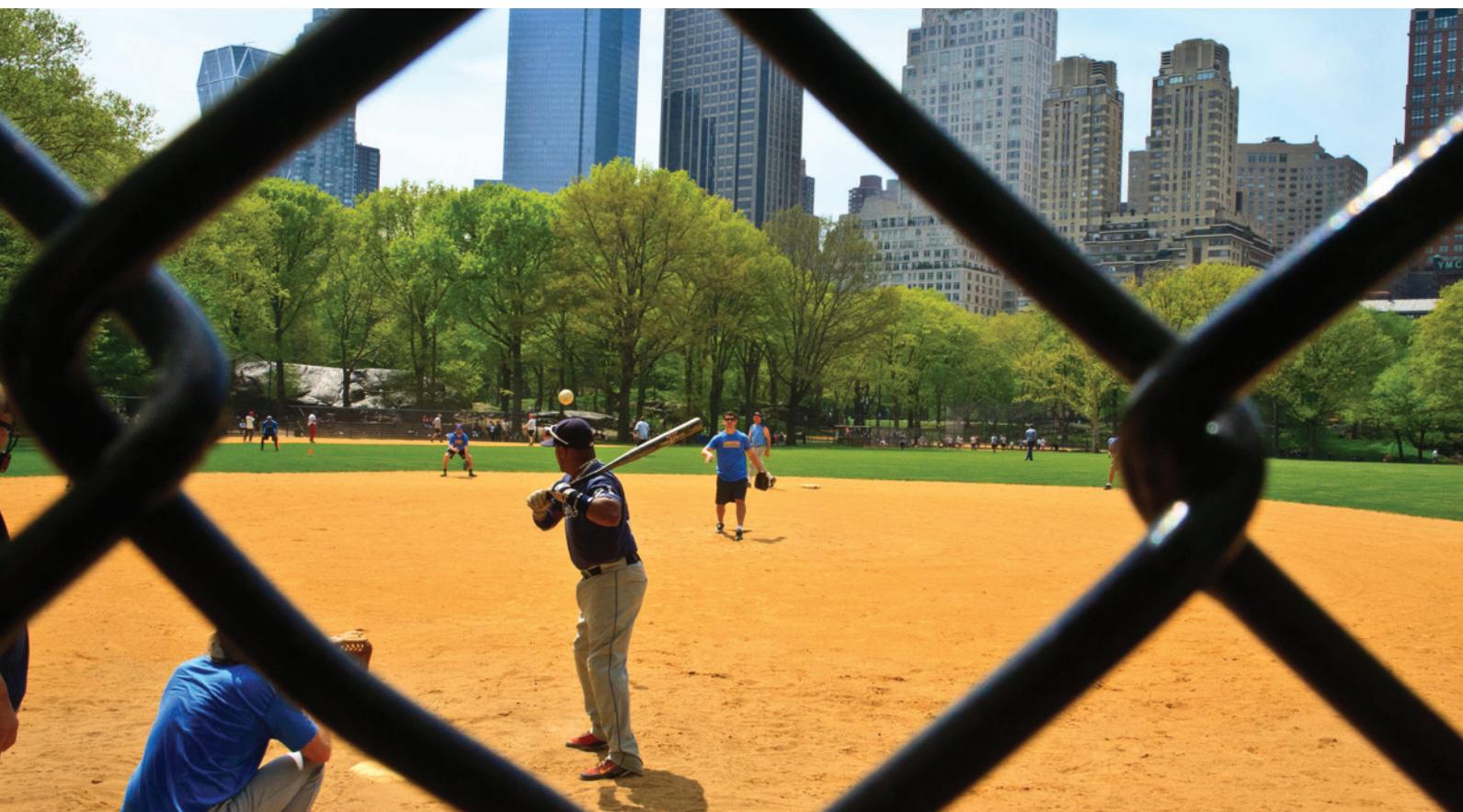
Modern Women from the 1890s–1990s. The installation celebrates the diversity and vitality of individual artists' engagement in the modern world. You'll spot items like a newly conserved kitchen (from 1952); psychedelic concert posters from the 1960s; and recently rediscovered graphic material from the punk era — all designed by women, naturally.

After all of that girl power, head to Soho House New York for a Pretty Party. The afternoon spa session includes two treatments, a goody bag of Cowshed products, Champagne and a three-course wine dinner. It all takes place in Cowshed's private lounge, where you and your gal pals can unwind in plush Egyptian cotton robes. The spa is closed off to outside guests during your party, so amenities can be enjoyed to their fullest extent.

Start off your second day with a unique tour. Inside Broadway Tours offers a behind-

the-scenes look at some of your favourite musicals. Take this walking tour along New York's Theater District to explore its history and hear retellings of the backstage antics that made each musical come alive. Visit historic theatres and learn their secrets from an actor's perspective. Learn how Times Square was transformed from a horse-trading district into a world-famous entertainment capital.

For the ladies, there's a can't-miss alternative to a traditional dinner: Chikalicious Dessert Bar. Here you'll have a three-course dessert menu with expert wine pairings. Sample a Kiwi Tartare with Lavender on Crispy Kataifi and Coconut Sorbet, accompanied by a Malmsey Madeira five year. Or, try a Butternut Squash Ice Cream Brûlée on Spice Genoise Cake with Cranberry Relish and Frosted Pecan, accompanied by a Moscato d'Asti, La Spinetta 2011. Because of its popularity, be sure to



make a reservation. Chikalicious is only open Thursday through Sunday, so you can expect to see a line forming around 4 p.m.

For a night to remember, make your way to Sing Sing Karaoke in the East Village. They have a BYOF policy (Bring Your Own Food), so your Chikalicious leftovers are welcome here. If you need some liquid courage before approaching the stage, they offer open bar packages, too. Take advantage of their happy hour deal: Every day until 7 p.m. you can rent out private rooms at half price.

One of the Guys

Rekindle your "bromance" with flair in Central Park. The city's biggest park has plenty of options to toss the ball around. You can play baseball or softball in one of the 26 ballfields; shoot some hoops at one of their many basketball courts; or toss a football on the North Meadow. Handball, tennis and volleyball courts are available, too, but fishing, cycling and cross-country skiing (in the winter months) seem to be favourites.

After you've worked up a thirst, head to the Brooklyn Brewery for one of their free weekend tours. Sample the best their best offerings and learn the process behind their famed brews. If you'd like the VIP treatment, sign up for a small batch tour (by reservation only). Limited to 30 people, the \$8 price of



admission gets you a guided tasting of four of their beers and an in-depth Brooklyn Brewery history lesson. Beer snobs will get to ogle the Brewhouse and Packaging Room and, best of all, they'll leave with a complimentary souvenir stemware glass.

All of that drinking can build up an appetite, so make your way to Dinosaur BBQ's Brooklyn location in Park Slope. The chain's seventh location, this spot features a handful of only-in-Brooklyn dishes, such as brisket and poblano hash with a fried egg. Combos

From top to bottom: © Performance Images/Alamy; Courtesy of Dinosaur Bar-B-Que
Courtesy of Brooklyn Brewery



and platters are big here, and popular, so come hungry. Be sure to take home one of their iconic sauces.

When it comes to music, New York has almost too many options. When deciding which events to attend, Oh/My/Rockness curates show lists throughout the year, recommending the best shows of the weekend, bands they like and just-announced secret shows. Visit ohmyrockness.com and you can search by price, age, music venue, or a wide range of genres.

Tutu's in Brooklyn on 25 Bogart Street offers man-friendly dining options like Grilled Hanger Steak, Wild Boar Sliders and "The Guy" Lamb Burger. If you're there on a Wednesday, partake in their weekly video game night for a true sense of nostalgia. Starting at 11 p.m., the owners cast a projector on a back wall and plug in a Nintendo64 — and every week they offer different gaming options. They also project games (of the sport variety) and offer a manly brunch. Think testosterone boosting sides like applewood smoked bacon, pork sausage and cheddar grits.

Visit New York with Cayman Airways

Non-stop flights to New York's JFK airport depart Grand Cayman every Wednesday and Saturday. Return flights arrive every Thursday and Sunday. To book your flight, call 345-949-2311 or 1-800-4-CAYMAN, visit caymanairways.com, or contact your local agent.

Don't Miss Out

New York City comes alive in the fall

► New York Yankees vs. Boston Red Sox

September 8/America's favourite pastime pits two rival teams against each other in Yankee Stadium. newyork.yankees.mlb.com

► Brooklyn Book Festival

September 16-22/New York City's largest free literary event attracts book lovers of all ages for author readings, meet-and-greets and a literary marketplace. brooklynbookfestival.org

► Dumbo Arts Festival

September 27-29/More than 500 artists show off the best in local, national and international art amidst the breathtaking backdrop of the Brooklyn Bridge and the Manhattan skyline. dumboartsfestival.com

► CMJ Music Marathon

October 15-19/More than 1,400 up-and-coming bands perform in about 80 of New York City's most lauded nightclubs and theatres. cmj.com/marathon

► ING New York City Marathon

November 3/One of the largest marathons in the world, the ING New York City Marathon courses through all five boroughs. Though participation for amateur runners is done by lottery, you can still join the nearly two million cheering spectators. ingnycmarathon.org