Heading to the Whitney? Here’s Your Ideal Day in the Meatpacking District

by Laura Itzkowitz  June 3, 2015
New York City’s Meatpacking District is far from up-and-coming, but the opening of the Whitney Museum of American Art’s new $760 million building means the southwest Manhattan neighborhood is reveling in a visitor resurgence. And the new arrivals don’t stop at the Whitney: there are plenty of boutiques, restaurants, and other worthwhile detours to keep visitors busy. Ahead, our ideal itinerary for a day spent in and around the new Whitney.

Breakfast at Gansevoort Market

Start your day at the 6-month-old Gansevoort Market, where 24 vendors serve up everything from coffee to Basque tapas. The recently renovated food hall is on the site of the original Gansevoort Market, which was the country’s largest outdoor trading post in the 1800s. Grab a cappuccino from Champion Coffee and a brioché-muffin filled with savory treats at the Bruffin Café. Or stop at Yiaourti Greek yogurt bar, where the yogurt is made on-site. Mismatched tables and chairs provide seating under a skylight, and vines snaking up the walls add to the ambiance.
Whitney Museum of American Art

After breakfast, head up the street to the Whitney’s new Renzo Piano-designed home on the waterfront. Since it re-opened on May 1, this 85-year-old art institution has claimed its place as the neighborhood’s largest draw. The inaugural exhibit, a survey of American art from 1900 to the present, culls from the museum’s holdings to bring new light to familiar icons and obscure works hidden away in storage for decades. Take the elevator to the top floor and work your way down, making sure to head outside and admire the sweeping views from the terraces. The exhibit is organized by theme and unfolds chronologically. The section devoted to identity, race, and gender—with works by Nan Goldin, Mike Kelley and others—feels especially poignant today.
Lunch at Untitled

By the time you reach the ground floor of the museum, you may have worked up an appetite. At Untitled, Danny Meyer's newest restaurant, Gramercy Tavern alum Michael Anthony pushes the limits of farm-to-table sourcing, not only getting produce from the Union Square Greenmarket and local farms, but also participating in a dock-to-dish community-supported program. Dishes that seem simple on the menu, like the smoked clams, arrive with red onion, yogurt, braised kombu, and perfectly square cubes of Persian cucumber. The small plates format works whether you just want a quick bite or several share plates. Don't leave without ordering the warm chocolate chunk cookie, served with a mini bottle of vanilla milk.
Pick up a Souvenir at Artists & Fleas

Tucked inside Chelsea Market, Artists & Fleas houses indie vendors selling everything from jewelry to screen-printed t-shirts. With a few exceptions, everything in here is affordable, making it a great place to pick up a unique souvenir or gift. Among our favorites: Pamela Barsky’s canvas clutches adorned with cheeky word art, Cycling Industry’s jewelry, and Brooklyn-based artist Kevin Marcell’s paintings stenciled onto New York City maps.
Get a Contemporary Art Fix at Milk Studios & Gallery

There are hundreds of galleries in Chelsea, and if you’re not an art world insider, choosing which ones to visit can be a daunting task. For big-budget shows, Gagosian and David Zwirner can’t be beat, but for cutting-edge photography at the intersection of fashion, music, and film, check out Milk Gallery. Past exhibits include Richard Corman’s 1980s photographs of Madonna, Tom Kelly’s nude portraits of 20th-century icons like Marilyn Monroe, and a retrospective of work by Burt Glinn, who documented the 20th century’s most important cultural and political happenings and figures from Fidel Castro to Andy Warhol. Currently on view are Tim Richardson’s futuristic photos.
Stroll on the High Line

Friends of the High Line recently mounted two new art installations that will remain until spring 2016 and there’s another one coming in June. Rashid Johnson’s *Blocks* is a mixed media work composed of steel black grids that will house a variety of objects and intertwine with the plants on the High Line. Especially exciting is *Panorama*, which features works by eleven international artists examining the concept of vistas and vantage points. Pieces will range from Olafur Eliasson’s imaginary cityscape made with two tons of white LEGO pieces to Belgian artist Kris Martin’s steel replica of the Van Eyck brothers’ Ghent altarpiece with the religious paintings removed, framing the views surrounding the High Line instead.
Window Shop at Chamber

Tucked under the High Line at 23rd Street, it’d be easy to miss this concept store opened last fall. Inside, you’ll find limited edition art and design objects curated by a different design influencer every year, plus rotating capsule collections. (Currently it’s the Belgian duo Studio Job’s turn, and a capsule collection by Gala Fernández Montero and Sung Jang has just been released.) Inspired by the idea of a cabinet of curiosities, owner Juan Garcia Mosqueda has created a hub for collectors that’s become one of New York’s most stylish design boutiques.
Dinner at Santina

The neighborhood’s most buzzed-about opening is Santina, a glass cube sprouting palm trees under the High Line. Mario Carbone and Rich Torrisi found inspiration in Italian coastal villages, which shines through in details like the Venetian glass chandeliers and colorful painted plates imported from the Amalfi Coast. Menu highlights include octopus spiedini and melt-in-your-mouth tortellini stuffed with sheep’s milk ricotta and served with basil pesto in a puddle of barely cooked marinara. Even the music transports you to Italy with a soundtrack featuring Sophia Loren and Fred Buscaglione. Oh, and don’t forget the cannoli, fried to order and filled with cherry, coconut, and pistachio-flavored ricotta—a playful reference to the colors of the Italian flag.
Check in at the High Line Hotel

Entering the Gothic brick High Line Hotel feels a bit like stepping into a Wes Anderson film. The landmarked building—formerly part of the General Theological Seminary—was reimagined by legendary design firm Roman & Williams. For the 60 rooms and suites, the design team sourced Victorian or Edwardian antiques, taxidermy, Oriental rugs, and 1920s rotary phones, which combine to create a sophisticated throwback vibe. This month, the seasonal bar and restaurant Alta Linea opens in the front garden serving Italian aperitivi, perfect for those warm nights ahead.

New York City

The Big Apple is undergoing yet another hotel building boom, with a wave of openings across the city, from leafy Greenwich Village to skyscraper-packed midtown. Historic refurbishments; glitzy towers; high-end boutique properties—here, our list of Manhattan’s most exciting arrivals.

1 The Marlton

Hip hotelier Sean MacPherson’s urbane inn has a rich literary past: Jack Kerouac and Lenny Bruce were once guests at the former Greenwich Village flophouse. Behind the original brick façade, weathered herringbone floors line a library filled with Beat novels, and the 107 diminutive rooms—most a snug 150 square feet—have ornate moldings and lighting fixtures that pay homage to the early-20th-century industrial designer Serge Mouille. Thoughtful details, such as products from Provençal perfumer Côte Bastide, complete the picture.

5 W. Eighth St.; 212/321-0100; marltonhotel.com
Jade Hotel

A 1920’s-Paris sensibility defines this brick-clad Georgian-style building on a prime block in Greenwich Village. Inspired by legendary French designer Émile-Jacques Ruhlmann, the 113 rooms have Art Deco details (old-school rotary phones; clubby leather chairs) and vintage photos of pop icons such as the Rolling Stones. Art aficionados won’t want to miss the dimly lit lobby lounge, which is stocked with a collection of design books curated by Maker magazine. For dinner, reserve one of the red velvet booths at the hotel’s subterranean Grape & Vine restaurant and feast on cocoa-cinnamon-braised short ribs with mac and cheese.

High Line Hotel

Blink and you might mistake Chelsea’s latest debut for an old-world university campus. Housed in a wing of the General Theological Seminary, which stands on a former apple orchard, the 1895 Gothic-style structure has stained-glass windows and cloistered courtyards that give it a stately, collegiate feel. But modernity isn’t far away—hipster favorite Intelligentsia Coffee Bar opened its first East Coast shop in the mosaic-tiled lobby; cult bakery Mah Ze Dahr serves caramel-oatmeal bars from the hotel’s 1963 Citroën van parked by the entrance; and it’s just a short walk east to the High Line park.

52 W. 13th St.; 212/375-1300; thejdenyc.com

180 10th Ave.; 212/929-3888; thehighlinehotel.com
Refinery Hotel

This 1912 edifice once housed hat factories on its top floors and a ladies-who-lunch tearoom in the lobby; now it's one of midtown's trendiest additions, thanks to Stonehill & Taylor, the architects behind the NoMad and Crosby Street hotels. The look? Distressed hardwood floors and 12-foot-high concrete ceilings; writing desks designed to resemble old sewing machine stands and factory-cart coffee tables. At dusk, the terrace draws fashionable Manhattanites with a cocktail menu conceived by a molecular biologist and former NASA consultant.

63 W. 38th St.; 646/664-0310; refineryhotel newyork.com. SSS
The Quin

When you check in to the Quin, a stylish newcomer in Midtown West, you get much more than the key to an airy, 600-square-foot room. Fancy a private trunk show at Bergdorf Goodman or an after-hours tour of the Guggenheim? Personal travel attachés are on hand to curate bespoke experiences. Don’t feel like leaving your custom Duxiana bed to change the music? Grab the bedside iPad mini, which you can also use to order room service or change the temperature settings. Bonus: the lobby-level art gallery showcases local talent such as graffiti artist Nick Walker and multimedia installations on a 14-foot video wall.

101 W. 57th St; 212/245-7846; thequinhotel.com. $$$$  

Viceroy

Style-conscious business travelers have a new stomping ground: the sleek, 29-story brick-and-glass Viceroy, the brand’s Manhattan debut. On-site translators and high-tech wireless printing services are just a few of the office-away-from-home perks. Inside, a sophisticated retro design by heritage-chic specialists Roman & Williams—multipaned windows and brass hardware in the guest rooms; black-and-white tiles with scarlet grouting in the Kingside restaurant—sets the scene. If you're seeking refuge from the city, head to the rooftop bar and take in the bird’s-eye view of Central Park.

120 W. 57th St; 855/647-1619; viceroyhotelsandresorts.com. $$$
Step Inside the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue in NYC and Miami

by Ellie Storck February 12, 2016

Here's the scoop on fan festival events celebrating the new issue in New York City and Miami.
Just because it’s winter doesn't mean the swimwear stays packed: *Sports Illustrated* has announced the return of its popular fan festivals celebrating *SI Swimsuit 2016* in New York City and Miami this month—a series of events that are free and open to the public.

In New York, "Swim City" at the Altman Building takes place February 15 through 16, then the festival heads to Miami from February 17 through 18 for "Swim Beach." Both events run from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m., and feature appearances by this year's models, such as Gigi Hadid, Erin Heatherton, Emily DiDonato, Hannah Ferguson, Nina Agdal, Irina Shayk, and Chanel Iman.

Last year, the SI Swimsuit fan festivals drew more than 65,000 attendees, and this year, it's expected to be even more robust. In addition to seeing the models themselves, expect a live Q & A, autograph sessions, music from DJs, and a host of other fun activities—like the opportunity to get a free shave at a Schick Hydro Barbershop—and maybe from one of the SI Swimsuit models.

For more information and to RSVP to the events, [click here](#). Then, read on for our tips for where to stay and what to do while you're there.

"Swim City": New York City

**February 15 and February 16**

Since the Swim City event in New York City will be at the Altman Building (135 West 18th street), set squarely between Chelsea and Union Square, you'll be in a great spot for food, drinks, and shopping.

**Stay**

Take advantage of your proximity to Chelsea by staying at the **High Line Hotel**—an edgy space on the grounds of the General Theological Seminary, whose interior gives a subtle nod to a Wes Anderson film set.

**Eat**

Just a 10-minute walk from the Altman Building is Union Square's **ABC Kitchen**, helmed by celebrity chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten. Snuggle into this rustic-chic space for some serious farm-to-fork bites—think crispy shrimp salad with mixed grains, grilled chicken paillard with quinoa, and a fresh house-roasted turkey sandwich, making it ideal for a late lunch or leisurely dinner.
Drink

With Swim City ending at 5 p.m., there's no excuse to miss out on the New York happy hour scene. Head to Porchlight on Eleventh Avenue for classic cocktails turned into works of art—it's home to one of the city's best Sazeracs—and a killer value, featuring $5 flasks of punch and the much-loved avocado toast topped with crab.

"Swim Beach": Miami

_February 17 and February 18_

Seeing as January through April is Miami's high season, _SI_ has chosen the perfect time to bring fans down to South Beach. Swim Beach will be hopping at Lummus Park (at Eighth Street and Ocean Drive), giving revelers tented areas and open-air spaces to take in the ocean while hanging at the all-day event.

Stay

Keeping in theme with the trendy beachwear event, head to the Shore Club South Beach for luxurious lodgings right along coastal Miami Beach. Just a short seven-minute drive up Collins Avenue from Lummus Park, this minimalist, white-on-white hotel tends to play host to beautiful people dressed in beautiful swimwear. Just off the beach sit two pristine infinity pools and an impressively stocked Rumbar (with around 75 varieties of the spirit in stock).

Eat

Also conveniently located along Collins Avenue, just a quick jaunt away, is Beachcraft, celebrity chef Tom Colicchio's eco-friendly restaurant on the premises of the luxury 1 Hotel. The restaurant focuses on fresh seafood, and the modern space is graced with elegant petrified wood tables and an exhibition-style kitchen, perfect for getting a peek at what goes on behind culinary doors.

Drink

There's no better place to go people-watching than Miami's South Beach bar scene. Check out The Rum Line, which is only a 15-minute walk from Lummus Park and feels like a chic trip to mid-century Havana—complete with tiki bar, teak furniture, and torches. If you're in the mood for something a little more clubby, head to Mac's Club Deuce, located just a block from the beach. This bustling venue is the epitome of a South Beach dive bar—it's open from 8 a.m. until 5 a.m., Monday through Friday.