



HOLIDAY GIVING AND TAKING

GIVE WALKING TOUR GIFT CERTIFICATES

Give memorable experiences this year, in the form of gift certificates for Municipal Art Society walking tours led by New York City's best guides. Enable colleagues, friends and family to explore an unfamiliar section of the city with other intellectually curious participants or gain a deeper appreciation of a neighborhood close to home.

Each gift certificate costs \$15 and can be used for any regular, unreserved walking tour, weekday or weekend. For more information or to order gift certificates (payable by check or credit card) call Tamara Coombs at 212-935-3960 x294 or e-mail tcoombs@mas.org.

TAKE HOLIDAY WALKING TOURS...

Whether you're entertaining guests or expanding your own knowledge of architecture, art, history (and more) come along on a memorable walking tour. Take festive tours in Chelsea and Brooklyn; see magnificent stained glass; fabulous art deco. Get an insider's look at preparations for New Year's Eve in Times Square and celebrate New Year's Day with an invigorating walking tour of Long Island City.

Sunday, December 17, 11:00 a.m.

DOWNTOWN BROOKLYN AT CHRISTMASTIME

Learn about the history of Brooklyn's shopping and civic centers, and the changes that have happened since the tour leader was a kid growing up in the borough. Planning and preservation issues will be discussed as you enjoy the decorations of New York's third largest shopping district, the Fulton Mall. View some of the grand old department stores, commercial buildings and theatres. End at Junior's Restaurant, noted for its famous cheesecake. Leader: Joe Svehlak, urban historian. Meet on the steps of Borough Hall by Court and Remsen streets. (Transit: #2, 3 trains to Borough Hall; R train to Court St.)

Tuesday, December 19, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

St. Michael's is one of the architectural gems of the Upper West Side, a Romanesque Revival church by the underrated New York architect Robert W. Gibson. Built in 1891 for a parish with a long history in the area, dating back to when this was the country village of Bloomingdale, the church is most famous for its stained glass windows, including a magnificent suite of windows designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany himself, and others by J. & R. Lamb, Maitland Armstrong, and Charles Connick. Leader: Francis Morrone, architectural historian. Meet at St. Michael's Church, 225 W. 99th.

Sunday, December 24, 2:00 p.m.

DECO DENIZENS OF MIDTOWN SOUTH

A walk down the spine of Manhattan Island, from 44th to 24th streets. Major monuments visited include Shreve, Lamb & Harmon's Empire State Building (still the world's tallest Deco skyscraper), Raymond Hood's American Radiator Building (his first NYC skyscraper), Harvey Wiley Corbett's Metropolitan Life North Building (originally meant to rise 100 stories above Madison Square), and Ely Jacques Kahn's 2 Park Avenue (his great multi-color marvel). We also take in several of Kahn's garment district loft buildings and other off-the-beaten-track Deco Denizens of the side streets of Midtown South. Meet in front of the Film Center Building at 630 Ninth Ave. (east side of Ninth, between 44th and 45th streets).

Friday, December 22, 11:00 a.m.

ART DECO IN THE FABULOUS FIFTIES

We start with the spectacular and beautifully restored General Electric Building; continue with the Waldorf=Astoria, New York's preeminent skyscraper hotel; visit the delightful Goelet Building, New York's best kept Deco secret; and finish at Midtown's miraculously urbane urban wonderland: Rockefeller Center. Meet at the Urban Center, 457 Madison Avenue (between 50th and 51st streets, across the street from the rear of St. Patrick's Cathedral).

Saturday, December 23, 3:00 p.m. MEMBERS ONLY

CHRISTMASTIME IN CHELSEA

The Chelsea neighborhood was once the country estate of Clement Clarke Moore, best known as author of "Twas the night before Christmas," and it still retains much of its original character and architecture. After visiting St. Peter's Gothic Revival Church, we will view the peaceful inner campus of The General Theological Seminary, then stroll along historic streets that once ended at the Hudson River. As twilight approaches, participants will step inside two festive house interiors, one in the famed Cushman Row, followed by a visit to Chelsea's oldest dwelling (1830), replete with wood-burning fireplace, Christmas collection, and artifacts from archeological digs. Refreshments. Leader: Lesley Doyel, art historian and lifelong resident of Chelsea. Cost: \$30. Reservations required: 212-935-2075.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday, December 25, 2:00 p.m.

ROCKEFELLER CENTER: ART DECO MASTERWORK

Rockefeller Center — New York's urbane urban wonderland — is full of surprising history, remarkable art and stunning architecture. Conceived as a new home for the Metropolitan Opera, but built instead as Radio City, Rockefeller Center is a private real estate venture that has evolved into the public square of Midtown Manhattan. Explore the past, present and future of this 1930s Art Deco monument. Leader: Tony Robins, architectural historian. Meet at the S.E. corner of Fifth Ave. and 49th St.

Wednesday, December 27, 11:30 a.m.

ON THE EDGE OF THE COUNTDOWN

In cooperation with Times Square Alliance

A repeat of last year's memorable tour. First, join Bob Esposito, Times Square Alliance Vice President of Operations, to learn the inside story of how the "Crossroads of the World" prepares for their biggest night of the year. Then tour the area with architectural historian Matt Postal to view recent projects and hear how contemporary architects and designers are enhancing the character of this unique place. Meet at the offices of Times Square Alliance, 1560 Broadway (entrance on 46th St. between Sixth and Seventh avenues). Check in at the lobby security desk, and proceed up to the Alliance offices on the 8th floor.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

January 1, 2007, 1:00 p.m.

THE GEOGRAPHY OF LONG ISLAND CITY

Originally wetlands, Long Island City came into its own as a satellite city during the railroad era. Recently, zoning and cultural change have attracted a surge of redevelopment. We'll see the effects on foot and from the #7 train. (Tour requires one subway fare which is also used as departure). Leader: Jack Eichenbaum, urban geographer. Meet in the middle of the Queens-bound platform of the #7 and N trains (the uppermost platform).