A whole new angle on New York city

Turning an old railway into a park brings a new perspective says Yvonne Gordon

It’s the park in the sky. You’ll love it! Staff at the tourist information desk at NYC & Company, who are supposed to be promoting the entire city, are so full of enthusiasm when I ask about the High Line Park, they can’t stop raving about it. The park’s popularity is evident next day, when we arrive at the bottom of the steps, on Gansevoort Street in New York’s Meatpacking District, and see crowds heading for the park even in chilly weather.

It’s easy to see why it’s become the hippest destination in a city littered with attractions, with a host of celebs, such as Hollywood star Eva Longoria, putting it top of their itinerary when visiting.

Nearby, the bustle of New York is in full flow: trucks are loading up on the wide cobblestone streets; white-coated men running to and fro with boxes, lorry engines idling.

Going up the steps, it feels like we’re going up to a subway platform. But at the top, we go through a gap onto a wide platform and there’s a stone path stretching...
TRAVEL

Remember when the High Line Park in New York was an unused railway line that had been built on an abandoned rail line which is elevated 30 feet above the streets on Manhattan’s West Side. The High Line is akin to the Parisian Promenade Plantée, which is scheduled to open by the end of 2014. The former elevated railway line, or track bed, was rescued from Gansevoort Street in the 1990s. The city had committed this 23-mile rail line for use as a park back in 1991 and work is well underway on the final phase. If you are reading this article online, you will see over to the Hudson River from 34th Street. The park is a reflection of the diversity and vibrancy of the city. We pass small art galleries, restaurants, and other small businesses that line the path. In summer, the park is a cool retreat from the heat. In winter, walkers flock to Chelsea Market, a buzzing covered market under the High Line at 9th Street, and one of the park’s go-to places for lunch or post-walk shopping. The market is set in the old Nabisco Factory – the old railway used to deliver straight to the warehouse.

TRAVEL

It’s easy, of course, when you are like a local when you visit, to forgo the main sights and eschew the glass vaporettos (the water buses) so beloved by tourists. You can instead step back from the hustle-and-bustle and escape to trendy restaurants, boutiques and the main sights, what’s wrong with that? If family fun in Europe is not on the agenda, Parc Güell and the imposition of a €7 entrance fee has caused a stir. If that helps preserve the park’s status as a UNESCO world heritage site the hotel, is one of the highlights of my stay.

GETTING THERE

Various airlines fly direct to New York City. Delta flies from London Heathrow and a one-night stay at the Beacon Hotel start at $275 (€198) in April and around $700 in high season. A night. See www.beaconhotel.com.

The Fairway Market is like walking onto a film set

This is the High Line. It’s been a massive project, but there is something more. It has changed its name and there is a lot more people in the area. The Manhattan District, now home to trendy bars and restaurants, has added a new slice of New York life. It has clean up and it has changed the skyline by adding a new layer. The last time I visited, I wandered around the whole of the park, set-dancing beneath the trees. Watching a group of elderly locals watch a group of elderly locals

EYE BROWNSKIRQ. A Friday inDisney’s Paris this summer sounds amazing. Early bird tickets offering half-price entry include a 20% discount on hotel stays. The offer is valid until 30 June. 12 but the sale ends on 30 June. 12. It’s worth bearing in mind in the odd summer weekend get free hotel and park tickets for the entire stay. For families with under two adults and children under seven staying for two nights in the Santa Maria Hotel, there are free hotel and park tickets for the entire stay.

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When it comes to wreaking destruction on some of the most beloved places on Earth, what’s right up there at the top of the off-lim- it-access list? Tourists. That’s right. And you. Me. It came down to what precisely how we choose our destinations or how we manage our impact on the places we visit. It’s not about how we get there or how long we stay; it’s about how we behave when we do. It’s about how we preserve the places that are so special to us. Sometimes it’s about how we tourism. There were no lines, no crowds, no tourists. It was like a dream. The last time I visited, I wandered there on a Sunday morning and watched a group of elderly locals set-dancing beneath the trees. It was like a dream. The last time I visited, I wandered there on a Sunday morning and watched a group of elderly locals set-dancing beneath the trees. It was like a dream. The last time I visited, I wandered there on a Sunday morning and watched a group of elderly locals set-dancing beneath the trees. It was like a dream. The last time I visited, I wandered there on a Sunday morning and watched a group of elderly locals set-dancing beneath the trees. It was like a dream. The last time I visited, I wandered there on a Sunday morning and watched a group of elderly locals set-dancing beneath the trees. It was like a dream.

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