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## Travel Black Book: New York - the city that never sleeps



Ms Bee Tham, private art dealer and founder of The Bee in the Lion ([www.beeinthelion.com](http://www.beeinthelion.com)). The Bee in the Lion is a gallery in New York's Gramercy Park neighbourhood. She represents contemporary artists and provides a space for them to experiment and collaborate. Ms Tham, who declines to reveal her age, specialises in modern, post-war and contemporary art. Her husband, Mr Tham Khai Meng, is worldwide co-chairman and

chief creative officer of marketing agency Ogilvy and Mather. The couple moved to New York in 2009. PHOTO: BEE THAM

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## New York City, known for its arts and culture, pulsates with energy every moment

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🕒 PUBLISHED: APR 1, 2018, 5:00 AM SGT

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**Destination:** New York City is diverse, creative and liberal. It is a gem in so many ways, known for its cutting-edge arts and culture.

The best of the best come here from all over the world to work, live and play, and the city pulsates with energy every moment.

There is really no other place like it.

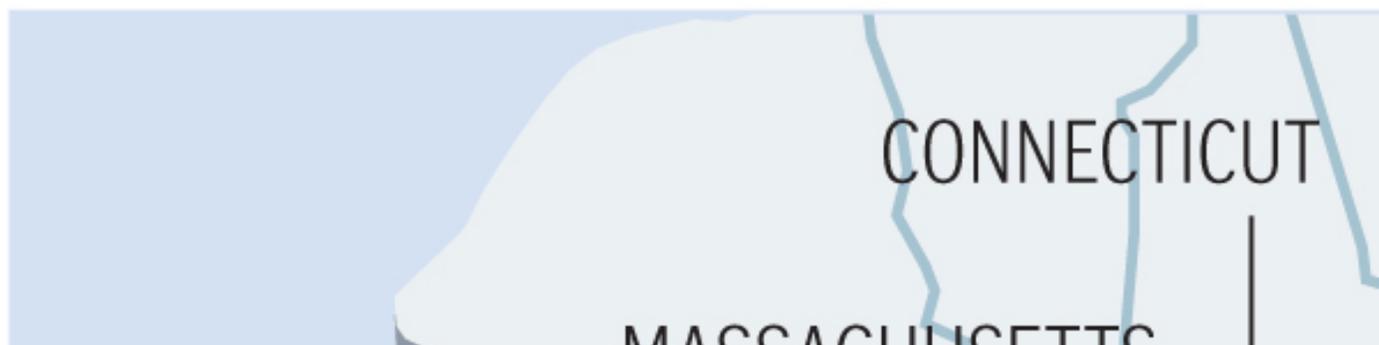
### SEE

For the best views, go to Central Park or the Brooklyn Bridge.

The light in New York City is special in many ways and, over the years, it has inspired countless artists to paint the way the light falls on the cityscapes and across the river.

The institutions I visit often, which house important monuments and artworks that inspire me, are the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Guggenheim Museum, Museum of Modern Art, The Brooklyn Museum and The Frick Collection, to name a few. They are the cultural gems of the city.

### GETTING THERE





# SUNDAY TIMES GRAPHICS

The quickest routes to New York are via Tokyo with Japan Airlines, via Hong Kong with Cathay Pacific or via Taipei with Eva Air. These flights are all under 21 hours.

Singapore Airlines also flies to New York via Frankfurt, and Norwegian Air and British Airways via London, and Turkish Airlines via Istanbul.

## TIPS

- Stay seven days and visit in autumn, when the city is at its prettiest.
- If you want to get to know New York like a local, ride the subway. It is not the most comfortable ride, but it is the best way to experience the city at its best and worst. I also recommend that people read *Here Is New York* by E.B. White ([tinyurl.com/y7q76wbu](http://tinyurl.com/y7q76wbu)). It gives you a good sense of the city and its people.
- Just like in any city, travellers should be aware of their belongings and surroundings.
- Be prepared to be amazed. New York truly is a city that never sleeps and throbs with people from all walks of life. Be open to the various experiences it has to offer.

I also visit Lincoln Center ([www.lincolncenter.org](http://www.lincolncenter.org)), home to many world-class performing arts organisations, including the New York Philharmonic, Metropolitan Opera, New York City Ballet and New York City Opera.

I'm excited about the opening of The Shed ([theshed.org](http://theshed.org)), located where the Hudson Yards office building meets the High Line, a 2.3km-long elevated park and greenway, which was created along the former New York Central Railroad.

It will be the first multi-arts centre designed to commission, produce and present all types of performing, visual arts and popular culture events when it opens in spring next year.

The Shed is run by a good friend, Mr Alex Poots, the founding chief executive and artistic director, who is also a leading impresario of cross-discipline art movement.

It has an ambitious line-up for next year, which includes *Reich Richter Part*, a collaborative work between artists Steve Reich and Gerhard Richter; *Dragon Spring Phoenix Rise*, a production by New York-based theatre director Chen Shi-Zheng; and work by conceptual artists, Hungary-born Agnes Denes and American Trisha Donnelly.

My favourite place to go when I have a few hours to spare is Central Park on the Upper East Side.

It's the perfect respite from the business of the city and it's fantastic for people watching. You will see all walks of life there.

## EAT

The fare in New York City is international. Everything is good if you go to the right restaurants.

For Jewish deli classics, I would go to Katz's Delicatessen ([katzsdelicatessen.com](http://katzsdelicatessen.com)) for its pastrami, and to Russ & Daughters ([www.russanddaughters.com](http://www.russanddaughters.com)) for its bagels and lox (smoked salmon). Both are New York City institutions.

Of course, New York pizza is a must. Ask any New Yorker who makes the best pie and you'll get a different response from each person.

Much like chicken rice, it's a personal choice. My favourites include Paulie Gee's ([pauliegee.com](http://pauliegee.com)), Di Fara Pizza ([www.difarapizzamenu.com](http://www.difarapizzamenu.com)) and Roberta's ([www.robertaspizza.com](http://www.robertaspizza.com)), which are all in Brooklyn.

If you're up at 3am and looking for good food, check out The Halal Guys ([thehalalguys.com](http://thehalalguys.com)) in midtown, although there are a few outlets around the city.

For breakfast, go to Le Coucou ([www.lecoucou.com](http://www.lecoucou.com)), where the pancakes are delicious, and Sullivan Street Bakery ([www.sullivanstreetbakery.com](http://www.sullivanstreetbakery.com)) for its excellent croissants.

For coffee, head to Blue Bottle Coffee ([bluebottlecoffee.com](http://bluebottlecoffee.com)) or Toby's Estate ([tobysestate.com](http://tobysestate.com)). The Freehold ([www.freeholdbrooklyn.com](http://www.freeholdbrooklyn.com)) is a great watering hole with a backyard where you can hop in on a game of ping-pong with some Brooklynites.

My favourite restaurants are Loring Place ([www.loringplaceny.com](http://www.loringplaceny.com)) in Greenwich Village and Upland ([www.uplandnyc.com](http://www.uplandnyc.com)) near Madison Square Park. Both serve great modern American cuisine.

For special occasions, I like Per Se ([www.thomaskeller.com/perseny](http://www.thomaskeller.com/perseny)), a three-Michelin-starred French-American restaurant by American chef Thomas Keller.

## PLAY

If you're here in summer or autumn, check out the open-air weekend food market Smorgasburg ([www.smorgasburg.com](http://www.smorgasburg.com)) in Brooklyn.

For art outside the city, I love Dia Art Foundation ([www.diaart.org/collection/collection](http://www.diaart.org/collection/collection)) in Beacon, on the banks of Hudson river in upstate New York and an easy train or car ride away.

It has an amazing post-war art collection from the 1960s to present day. My favourite installation there is by Dan Flavin. The architecture of the building and the installation of the artworks are a sight to behold.

Equally fascinating is Storm King Art Center ([stormking.org](http://stormking.org)), located in the Hudson Valley. It is an open-air museum set across 200ha of fields, hills, and woodlands and is one of the world's top sculpture parks, with works from leading artists such as Richard Serra, Alexander Calder, Louise Bourgeois and Maya Lin.

Other worthwhile side trips outside the city include Griffis Sculpture Park ([griffispark.org](http://griffispark.org)) in upstate New York, about a six-hour drive from the city, and The Berkshires, the mountains of western Massachusetts, which have many picturesque towns, abundant walking trails and vibrantly coloured changing leaves in autumn.

Fans of contemporary, rock and indie music can check out Rockwood Music Hall ([rockwoodmusichall.com](http://rockwoodmusichall.com)), which has free cover on most days. For jazz, I like to stop by Small's Jazz Club ([www.smallslive.com](http://www.smallslive.com)) in Greenwich Village over the weekend, but you need to go there early to get a spot.

For something more experimental, I like Nublu 62 ([nublu.net](http://nublu.net)), an East Village institution founded by Swedish-Turkish saxophonist Ilhan Ersahin.

If you like electronic dance music, make your way to Output ([outputclub.com](http://outputclub.com)) or The Good Room ([www.goodroombk.com](http://www.goodroombk.com)) in the Williamsburg neighbourhood.

## SHOP

Any visitor to New York should spend an afternoon admiring the designer stores along Madison Avenue, Fifth Avenue or in the SoHo neighbourhood.

There is Rei Kawakubo's Dover Street Market ([newyork.doverstreetmarket.com](http://newyork.doverstreetmarket.com)), a multi-label concept store in Lexington Avenue.

For local and eco-friendly designers, check out In Support Of ([www.insupportof.us](http://www.insupportof.us)), a speciality boutique in the Meatpacking District. Each year, a portion of its proceeds is donated to a different charity.

For a unique souvenir, buy a book from Strand Book Store ([www.strandbooks.com](http://www.strandbooks.com)).

Commonly known as The Strand, this landmark bookshop at the corner of 12th Street and Broadway carries more than 2.5 million used, new, rare and unique books.

## STAY

The classically luxurious but low-key Lowell Hotel ([www.lowellhotel.com](http://www.lowellhotel.com)) is located near Madison Avenue and a block from Central Park.

For something with contemporary flair, check out The Public Hotel ([www.publichotels.com](http://www.publichotels.com)) by American hotelier Ian Schrager, near the New Museum and Rockwood Music Hall.

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 Getting there

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It's not easy for reporter

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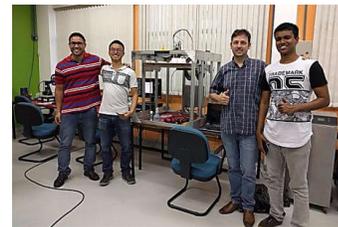
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