

The MONOCLE Travel Guide Series



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... Taxi! Take a journey through the city's outposts of good food, design, retail and more ...

Hotels

— At home in
the Big Apple

Let's face it, arriving at your hotel room in New York (and Manhattan in particular) can be a bit of a shock to the system. "You can't be serious," is a common refrain, upon entering what turns out to be your tiny home for the next few days.

Population density and sky-high property prices can have that effect on a city's hotels and New York is a prime example.

Just bear in mind two key things and you'll be onto a winner: firstly, book well in advance (rooms get snapped up) and make sure you know what you're after. Broadly speaking there are two categories of hotels: the industrial, slightly sparse look that goes with the area (LES or Brooklyn) and the more traditional places (the West Village or UES perhaps). Hotel bars and restaurants are destination venues in this city whether you're a guest or not (which can be a bonus) but make sure you check the late-night and weekend scene if partying isn't your thing.

The Ludlow Hotel, Lower East Side
Diamond in the rough

Though the youngest hotel on our list, The Ludlow bears comparison with some of the top in New York's hospitality scene. As little brother to properties such as The Bowery and The Marlton, its pedigree ensures guests are in good hands. Discreetly situated in the narrow Lower East Side, The Ludlow's stylishly dark entrance and lobby bar are an upscale tip of the hat to the once gritty rock'n'roll neighbourhood. Public space, which includes the 1980s-inspired Dirty French restaurant, is confined to the first floor, giving guests complete privacy upstairs. There, 187 guest rooms offer a calming oasis without losing their cool Lower East Side vibe.

Much like its compact surroundings, rooms are petite – barring custom Indo-Peruvian four-poster beds as the centrepiece. With plenty of mid-rise buildings around, opting for a room above the seventh floor, complete with a glass-fronted sitting room, means unadulterated city views. It's perfect for overlooking busy downtown while relaxing in one of the custom Martin Margiela robes. *180 Ludlow Street, NY 10002*
+1 212 432 1818
ludlowhotel.com

MONOCLE COMMENT: A hotel true to its roots in the former tenement district of New York. The Ludlow retains the industrial look of the building it is housed in – and with it some of the history of the neighbourhood.

