

StrawHat New York Travel & Hotel Information

The StrawHat Auditions will be held at The Michael Schimmel Center for the Arts at Pace University, 3 Spruce Street (between Park Row and Gold Street) in New York City. If you need to reach us during auditions, call us at our office at 203-254-8572 only. We check for messages periodically throughout the day. **Do NOT** contact Pace University for information about auditions or accommodations. For automated telephone directions **ONLY**, you may call (212) 346-1133.

BY SUBWAY: Take the IRT Lexington Line (#4, 5, or 6) to the Brooklyn Bridge/City Hall stop. Fare: \$2.25 for a single ride, or buy a MetroCard for multiple rides. When you reach street level, you will see City Hall and a small park. Walk south along Centre Street/Park Row (City Hall will be on your right) and you will see the huge ramps leading onto the Brooklyn Bridge. Just south of the bridge is Pace University. Walk past the front entrance of Pace to Spruce Street and turn left: the entrance to the Michael Schimmel Center for the Arts is at the far end of the block near the intersection with Gold Street. You can also take the Broadway #2,3, J, M, or Z to Fulton Street, the A or C to Broadway/Nassau, or the R or W trains to City Hall, but the walk is longer and may be more confusing. We strongly advise everyone to visit www.mta.info to learn about any planned track repair or station maintenance closings that may be scheduled during the audition weekend so that you can be sure of an alternate way back to your accommodations.

Theoretically, copies of the Manhattan Bus Guide and the NYC Subway Map can be obtained at any token booth, or your hotel may have them. Your best bet, though, is to log on to their web site: www.mta.info.

Major bookstore travel/map sections will also carry "FlashMaps," pocket-size laminated city maps - a good investment for those intending to relocate to the Big Apple.

IF YOU DRIVE: We recommend that you log on to **mapquest** or **google maps**. You can download door-to-door, step-by-step directions and a decent map. There are several parking garages in the area, as Pace is directly across the street from City Hall. Many are open 24 hours, **but be sure to check closing times**. Either side of the law can really ruin your day as a car-owner in New York. First, take absolute care not to park illegally: you can and very likely will get towed away, with a large fine: the minimum is now about \$200! Second, **never** leave anything that might even look to be of value in your car for even a brief period (or even in your trunk) day or night if you park on the street! If you have a radio, not to mention a cassette player, beware of parking on the street after dark. Out-of-state and rental cars are particular targets for trunk thefts. Use a garage, or check with your hotel about parking during your stay, and travel within the city by bus, subway, or taxi.

FINDING HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS: In the days before the Internet, we used to publish an extensive listing of hotels and pricing structures, but the fact of the matter is, you can search any number of web sites from the comfort of your own p.c. and confirm rates and make reservations without too much guidance from us. Only you know what you want to spend, and these web sites make it oh-so-easy to find the price, the location and the special amenities (continental breakfast, health club, pool, parking, what have you) that you desire: Travelocity, Expedia, Hotels.com and Priceline are all good sources; many of these sites will allow you to search for hotels based on proximity to a specific address (i.e. Pace University).

Still, just for old times' sake, on the following page we've listed some of the tried-and-true+ and some of the convenient-and-sounds-promising+hotels we've learned about either over the years or over the web.

For convenience to Pace University, Expedia and Hotels.com list **Club Quarters Downtown**, the **Millennium Hilton**, the **Holiday Inn Wall Street**, and the **Embassy Suites Hotel**, all upper-end in price. But a little further away are **Hotel 31** in mid-town and **Hotel 17** in Grammercy Park, both listed as tourist class and much more reasonably priced.

In the Theatre District, there are innumerable choices and pricing structures. One old faithful is the **Milford Plaza** (800-221-2690) on 8th Avenue at 45th Street. The **Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza** on Times Square boasts "the largest hotel pool in NY" (1-800-HOLIDAY). **Doubletree Guest Suites**, 1568 Bway at 47th & 7th Ave (800-222-TREE) offers you a suite with separate bedroom and living room with sofa bed, fridge, microwave and coffee maker. Other Theatre District options include the nearly historic **Hotel Edison** at 228 W. 47th between Bway and 8th Ave, and the **Belvedere** at 319 W. 48th. The **Travel Inn** at 515 W. 42nd at 10th Ave is convenient for those who need a parking garage overnight. If you're planning to try to see Letterman, the Best Western **President Hotel** is at 234 W. 48th, right around the corner from his studios: 800-826-4667, and even if you're not staying at the ultra-hip **Paramount** at 235 W. 46th, go check out the lobby décor: 800-255-7474.

Especially convenient if you are coming in on AMTRAK, is the Best Western **Hotel Pennsylvania** (\$110) across from Penn Station at 33rd Street and Seventh Avenue. They offer reasonable singles and doubles, and will allow for additional guests for a small extra charge: 800-223-8585. Take the #10 bus to Trinity.

Another alternative would be a bed and breakfast arrangement: look into the offerings at <http://www.bedandbreakfastnetny.com> to inquire about unique accommodations throughout the city.

Always confirm your rate when booking. Like parking, hotel rates are currently subject to high city taxes not always included in the quoted price, and pricing fluctuates drastically at different times of the year.

For further research options, take advantage of the many travel books available: We recommend Frommer's: New York City and Let's Go: The Budget Guide to New York City but there are several out there, all providing extensive information.

New York is a happenin' place to be these days, so rates can change unexpectedly. Watch your pennies by planning ahead. Hope your trip to the Big Apple is great!