

THE ITINERARY

By Justin Goldman



Wheels of Time

Take a tour of Manhattan in a retrofitted classic car

Most New Yorkers don't visit tourist attractions unless they're showing a visitor around. After taking a family friend on just such a jaunt—a double-decker bus ride, no less—Heather Stupi realized how limited tour options were. "I thought there had to be something better," she says, "but there really wasn't."

Looking around Manhattan's early-20th-century landmarks—Grand Central Terminal, the Empire State Building, the New York Public Library—gave Stupi and Jaime Getto, both former tech entrepreneurs, an idea: Why not offer tours of these historic sites in period-appropriate automobiles?

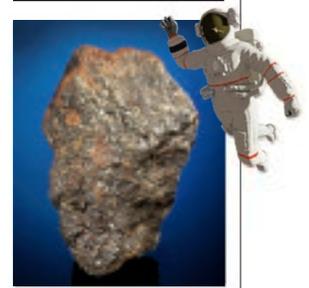
Stupi and Getto raised funds to purchase 12 classic cars—Fords, Buicks, Chevrolets, and Chryslers, all originally built between 1928 and 1934—for their tour company, Nowaday. "These are the cars that were on the road at the time," Stupi says. "It connects you to that history."

In truth, the cars aren't exactly the same, as they've been fitted with modern engines, suspensions, and seats (because no one really wants to feel what it was like to bounce over cobblestones 100 years ago). Drivers wearing three-piece suits and newsboy hats serve as guides, and during the hourlong ride they share fun facts: Did you know that 50,000 people showed up for the grand opening of the New York Public Library? Or that the Empire State Building holds an annual contest for the chance to get married on the Observation Deck on Valentine's Day?

"We want it to be cool enough," Stupi says, "that if you're a local, you'll still want to do it." *One-hour tours \$50 per person, up to four people, nowadays*



THE OPENING

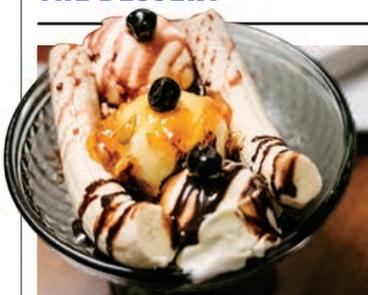


The Maine Mineral & Gem Museum

The new MMGM is out of this world—literally and figuratively. Opened in December in the town of Bethel, it's home to the largest collection of Mars meteorites and the four largest pieces of the moon on the planet; there are more pieces of the moon here than in the world's 10 largest natural history museums combined. And get this: You can touch some of them. Founders (and longtime meteorite collectors) Dr. Lawrence T.P. Stifler and Mary McFadden chose Maine to house the museum—which also features more than 40,000 mineral specimens, 19 interactive exhibits, and a high-tech research lab—because of the state's rich mining history. Having this vast collection is "a bit mind-boggling," says executive director Barbra Barrett. "Visitors will be surprised, if not awestruck, the moment they enter the galleries." mainemineralmuseum.org —EC

Courtesy of Nowaday (cars); Ryan Dearth (dessert); courtesy of the Maine Mineral & Gem Museum (moon rock); SciPro/Science Photo Library/Getty Images (astronaut)

THE DESSERT



A Zero-Waste Banana Split

In the age of multicourse molecular gastronomy desserts, a banana split sounds downright amateur—but not at Denver's Run for the Roses, a new subterranean lounge that aims to be as close to zero-waste as possible. The team begins its eco-sundae with two imperfect bananas (bruised ones are sweeter) and crafts toppings made from kitchen and bar scraps: Leftover citrus rinds and

pulp become marmalade, Luxardo maraschino cherry juice is turned into a bright sauce, and the heels of rye loaves are ground into crunchy breadcrumbs. "Bars and restaurants are so wasteful," says owner Steven Waters, whose crew also candies and dehydrates lemon and lime wheels to create edible cocktail garnishes. "We wanted to minimize our daily footprint." Finally, a dessert you can feel good about ordering. \$13, rftbar.com —Daliah Singer