



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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LOOK OUT NEW YORK HERE COME THE ACTUARIES

BY LARRY RUBIN, LIFELONG NEW YORKER

ON OCTOBER 17 – 20 more than 2,000 risk management specialists will descend upon New York City for the Society of Actuaries' Annual Meeting. As professionals skilled in averting risk, many may choose to play it safe, perhaps by seeing a Broadway production, having dinner at Lindy's and maybe even taking a ride to the Statue of Liberty or Ellis Island. For others seeking reward for taking a risk, New York offers a plethora of adventures that will please even the most cautious among us. As a native New Yorker and Annual Meeting planning committee member, I encourage you to consider making a quick calculation about the returns and don't delay getting your feet wet in NYC.

New York City offers some of the finest museums in the country. The American Museum of Natural History should fascinate anyone with a scientific outlook on life. Located at 79th Street and Central Park West, it features enough exhibits to be intriguing for weeks on end. Be sure to visit its website and download a personal GPS for the museum at www.amnh.org/apps/explorer.php. Right next door is the New York Historical Society. For Boston actuaries, if you're lucky, you may get to see its famous exhibit featuring Bucky Dent, Bill Buckner and David Tyree.

Of course not all actuaries have a scientific outlook on life. I hear there are a minority of actuaries who actually prefer aesthetic pleasures (how they ever passed their exams we will never know). For these actuaries, New York offers world-renowned art museums including the Guggenheim and the Museum of Modern Art. Farther off the beaten track is the New Museum, which is a leading destination for new art and new ideas.

Unlike many other cities, New York has four seasons and the fall is one of the most pleasant times to be in the city. The Manhattan Waterfront Greenway encircles New York offering a pleasant bike ride along the Hudson and East rivers. (Go to www.nycbikemaps.com/maps/manhattan-waterfront-greenway-bike-map/ to see more details.) Besides, anyone who has driven a car in New York will tell you it is a strange feeling to be moving faster than five miles an hour. For the less adventurous, a stroll through Central Park is an enjoyable way to spend an afternoon. Located in Central Park is the Central Park Zoo (www.centralparkzoo.com), a smaller cousin of the more famous Bronx Zoo.

Or consider a visit to Chelsea Piers. It has the only driving range in Manhattan

(New Yorkers consider this to be their golf course), disco bowling, the Sky Rink ice skating gallery and more. (Visit www.chelseapiers.com/ for more information.)

A truly unique experience is available at the Alvin Ailey School of Dance. The school offers open dance classes in a variety of techniques for levels from novice (the absolute beginner) to advanced for less than \$20 for 1 1/2 hours. (Visit www.alvinailey.org/.)

New York is famous for its cuisine. Some of the world's finest restaurants are in New York. But to really know the New York cuisine you need to go off the beaten track. You should not leave New York without experiencing a New York kosher deli. Two of my favorites are Wolf and Lamb and 2nd Ave. Deli—which is famous for its apple strudel. For an interesting take-home of New York's dining excellence, consider a stop at Guss' Pickles at 85 Orchard Street and pick up a few quarts of their famous pickles, although you may be too full from the free samples to enjoy dinner that evening. The Hungarian Pastry Shop near Columbia University offers some of the finest pastries in the city.



Larry Rubin

Entertainment opportunities are abundant in the city that never sleeps. While Broadway plays initially come to mind, some of the more interesting opportunities occur under the radar. For those coming for the weekend before the meeting, the National Comedy Theatre offers a hilarious night of improvisational comedy for \$15 (however, given the area of the city where the theatre is located, a risk-averse actuary may not want to travel there alone). Visit www.manhattancomedy.com/index.html. There are numerous jazz clubs that offer an opportunity to mellow out and feel the rhythm of the city. Try the Blue Note Jazz Club, www.bluenote.net/live/index.html.

New York's professional sports teams attract a loyal following that makes attendance at one of their games exciting. On Sunday, October 17, the New York Giants will be playing the Detroit Lions at the new Meadowlands football stadium (future home of the next cold-weather Super Bowl), which is only a short train ride from midtown Manhattan. The New York Rangers and the New York Knicks play at Madison Square Garden, a short walk from the Annual Meeting host hotel. Of course, this being October, you'll be able to attend the World Series held annually at Yankee Stadium.

All this excitement should result in an unforgettable trip to New York City. While you're here you may even want to check out the Society of Actuaries' Annual Meeting being held at the Hilton New York. A lot of planning has gone into making this a great meeting. It would be a shame to miss it! **A**

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