



At North Shore public arboretums and gardens, various species of flora are carefully tended.

Long Island's Heritage Trail

Embark on a journey along Long Island's North Shore Heritage Trail (631-951-3900, www.discoverlongisland.com) and take a remarkable trip through the past where the scenic splendor is rivaled only by the historic significance of the area. The North Shore of Long Island, traversed primarily on Route 25A, offers visitors historic sites, quaint harborfront villages, scenic vistas overlooking the Long Island Sound, beachfront parks, castles, and public gardens.

Explore the "summer White

House" of former president Theodore Roosevelt, or visit Long Island's Gold Coast, where neighbors at the upper echelon of high society strove to outdo each other in terms of lavish, castle-like mansions and gardens of European caliber during the Roaring 20s (many now open to the public).

Visit museums that explore Native American heritage, or catch a glimpse of the rich whaling history of Long Island. Stroll public arboretums and gardens where rare species are carefully tended, or visit the birthplace and interpretive center of poet Walt Whitman. ■

Tour Chinatown

Since its origins in the 1870s, New York's Chinatown has become one of America's most popular tourism destinations. Conveniently located in Lower Manhattan and easily enjoyed on foot, Chinatown is an exuberant, immensely appealing, and always welcoming Asian experience in New York City. In addition to unbeatable shopping bargains—whether for authentic souvenirs or high-quality jewelry—there

is no better or more enjoyable place to discover the cultural and culinary traditions of one of the world's most exciting and fascinating places to visit.

Now, Explore Chinatown has compiled all available tour programs for tour operators and group organizers on its Web site, www.explorechinatown.com. Tour planners can pick and choose elements of Chinatown to add to a New York City program or create an entire, multi-dimensional Chinatown tour incorporating some of the most popular restaurants, cultural and educational programs, special events, and shopping. In addition, the site showcases the endless array of restaurants, bakeries, tea houses, markets, antiques, jewelry, fashion and gift shops, landmarks, cultural treasures, and traditions of Chinatown.



Now, all of the tour products available on ExploreChinatown.com and more can be booked seamlessly through Chinatown's newest booking agent, Renaissance Tours. Formed specifically to make it easy to book tours in Chinatown, Renaissance Tours (212-964-2386, www.renaissance-ny.org) is available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to tour operators and group organizers to reserve customized group visits with both specialized and general interests in Chinatown.

Whether booking through Renaissance Tours or by using the information listed on ExploreChinatown.com, planners will have all the information necessary for enriching programs, great group meals, and special experiences in Chinatown.


The programs available include dining packages for groups from ten to a thousand, featuring some of Chinatown's best known restaurants, including the many regional cuisines of China, as well as Thai, Korean, Japanese, Malaysian, Indonesian, and Vietnamese. Programs are available to suit any group from budget-conscious student groups to more deluxe corporate events. Among the restaurants participating are Golden Unicorn, Golden Bridge, Wo Hop, and New Yeah Shanghai Restaurant.

Culinary demonstrations reveal the ancient secrets of China's cooking and food preparation traditions. These

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