

24 Travel

ERIC LAIGNEL



looking out across the hipster streets of Queens. The menu is Latin-meets-Mediterranean at Mundo, the restaurant/bar, which has live music. It's ten minutes by subway to Manhattan. **Details** Doubles are from £160 (001 718 392 7200, paperfactoryhotel.com), 37-06 36th Street

4 1 Hotel Central Park, Manhattan

Opened in August, this eco hotel is one block from Central Park, with furniture made from reclaimed wood, wardrobe hangers consisting of recycled cardboard, and five-minute egg timers in showers (so guests don't waste water). Computer tablets in rooms allow you to check how much of a carbon footprint you are creating during your stay. The restaurant serves locally grown and sustainably raised food; it's headed up by the renowned chef Jonathan Waxman. Rooms come with window seats with throw-cushions and panelled walls. **Details** Doubles are from £265 (001 877 288 1111, 1hotels.com), 1414 Avenue of the Americas

5 Ace Hotel New York Midtown

Part of the lively Ace Hotel chain this is a hipster magnet with avant-garde art, lounges with bars and DJs, plus cafés with wi-fi and tables to plug in laptops. It describes itself as being a "hotbed of start-ups, freelancers and people who just want to kick it" (ie, kick back and relax). Rooms have a Manhattan-loft style, and they come in seven categories ranging from a tiny room with a bunk bed to a loft suite with vintage furniture, a turntable and a dining table. Even if you don't stay, the bar is worth a visit. **Details** Doubles are from £170 (001 212 679 2222, acehotel.com/newyork), 20 West 29th Street

6 Nu Hotel Brooklyn

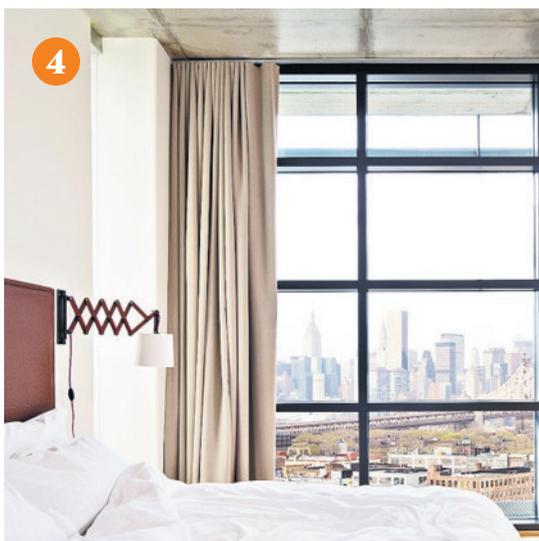
Some of the rooms at Nu Hotel, which opened last year, have hammocks as well as beds — so you can literally hang out in New York during your stay. Contemporary local artists have decorated much of the hotel, adding bright murals in rooms, some of them in street-style graffiti. Expect retro furniture (1970s-style chairs), designer lights and the occasional sheepskin rug. The restaurant/bar Misdemeanor serves burgers and cocktails, and it opens on to the street, creating one of the biggest sidewalk cafés in Brooklyn. **Details** Doubles are from £165 (001 718 8528585, nuhotelbrooklyn.com), 85 Smith Street

7 The Jane Hotel West Village

Down by the Hudson River in West Village, this 1908 red-brick building once sheltered Titanic survivors and was originally built as a hotel for sailors. Now it is a stylish budget hotel run by the people behind the more upmarket Bowery (theboweryhotel.com) and the Maritime (themaritimehotel.com). There's a slightly unusual arrangement as many of the cheapest rooms (called "cabins"), have communal bathrooms down the hall. However, if you opt for a Captain's Cabin, you get an en-suite bathroom. The look throughout is eclectic but warm, with wood panels, Chesterfield sofas and patterned, old-fashioned wallpaper. **Details** Cabins are from £63, Captain's Cabins are from £146 (001 212 924 6700, thejanenyc.com), 113 Jane Street

8 The Standard High Line Meatpacking District

Soaring above a former elevated train track — from which the hotel gets its name — the Standard High Line is an



eye-catching, relatively new addition to New York's Meatpacking District (the tall building was completed in 2009). It's the brainchild of the hotelier André Balazs, who also runs the Mercer hotel in the Big Apple (mercerhotel.com), Chateau Marmont in Los Angeles (chateaumarmont.com) and London's hip Chiltern Firehouse (chilternfirehouse.com). All of the 338 sleek, minimalist rooms have floor-to-ceiling windows with views of either the Hudson river or the city. There are several restaurants (including the Standard grill-steakhouse, and a pizzeria), plus a German-style biergarten serving sausages and pretzels. Take a stroll along the old high line, which is now a popular park. **Details** Doubles are from £300 (001 212 645 4646K, standardhotels.com/high-line), 848 Washington Street

9 Roger Smith Hotel Midtown

Former guests at the Roger Smith, a few blocks north of Grand Central station, include the late Kurt Cobain, who stayed when performing with Nirvana in New York. It's a family-owned hotel with 138 smart rooms spread over 16 floors. Henry's Rooftop Bar, open during summer months, is a popular spot for a drink, with a tucked-away terrace that's lit by candles at night. There's also the lively downstairs Lily's Bar & Lounge, which serves cocktails. Both are open to non-guests. There is no restaurant, but plenty of good places for a burger are near by, such as the Ginger Man (gingerman-ny.com) and the Galway (galwaypubnyc.com). **Details** Doubles are from about £175 (001 212 755 1400, rogersmith.com), 501 Lexington Avenue

10 Aloft Harlem

Jazz musicians and DJs bring the

popular bar alive at this decent-value hotel, a short walk from Harlem's famous Apollo Theater, where the likes of Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong, the Jackson Five and Jay-Z have played over the years (you can book tours of the theatre: apollotheater.org). Bedrooms are colourful, with pictures of vinyl record players on the walls, retro furniture and Bliss Spa products in bathrooms. There's a room with a purple-baize pool table, which is free to use. Aloft Harlem is close to the 125th Street subway station and it's a quick journey to Central Park and Times Square. **Details** Doubles are from about £160 (001 212 749 4000, aloftharlem.com), 2296 Frederick Douglass Boulevard

11 Sanctuary Hotel Midtown

The Sanctuary has an ostentatious nightclub style with chandeliers, black lacquer walls and pink neon lights in Tender, its signature restaurant-bar, where steaks and sushi are served. There's also a polished-brass cocktail bar and a rooftop terrace. The lighting throughout is subdued, and gas fires keep corners of side lounges warm. Rooms have padded tan leather headboards, chandeliers and minibars with champagne. **Details** Doubles are from about £190 (001 212 234 7000, sanctuaryhotel nyc.com), 132 West 47th Street

12 Gansevoort Park Avenue Meatpacking District

The highlight of the sleek, chic Gansevoort is its great little rooftop pool, which is heated year round and has views across Manhattan. The hotel also has a popular nightclub, the Provocateur, with leather booths, chandeliers with disco balls attached, and a line-up of

