

Published 00:13, August the 19th, 2009



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Tourists snapped pictures of the sights on Wall Street yesterday.
Photo: J.B. NICHOLAS/METRO

City from a tourist's view

Visitors give advice to locals on the things they're missing out on in their hometown

You see them in squares, parks and museums. They fumble with unfolded maps and force you to zigzag past as they stop for a photograph in the middle of the sidewalk. They're tourists. And as the summer travel season draws to a close, they've got some recommendations for sights the locals should check out.

"Everyone should see the Statue of Liberty — its history is the history of America. It's what this country is all about," said My Vo, 21, of Austin, Texas.

"They should go to Ellis Island," opined Michael Jaffre of Pasadena, Calif. "If they want to understand where their city — a city of immigrants — came from, that's the place."

Mitchell Moss, director of the Taub Urban Research Center, said that New Yorkers could learn from tourists' fresh perspective on the city.

"Every person in America wakes up and sees Central Park and Rockefeller Center on their television. We take it for granted but they've never been there," said Moss.

“The great irony about New York is there are so many things to do here and residents are just gradually realizing you don’t have to go anywhere else to have a great time.”