



TRAVEL



The beautiful dream hotel pool.

NEW YORK: Have you heard about New York City's most unique hotel pool — The Beach at Dream Downtown?

The famed 4,800-square-foot beach boasts private cabanas, fresh sand imported from the Hamptons, flat screen TVs, lounge chairs and a glass bottom swimming pool looking into the hotel lobby. One side of this upscale 300-room hotel closely resembles that of a cruise ship. Channeling the glamour of the Côte

d'Azur in the heart of New York City's Chelsea neighborhood, my family and I were most fortunate to be invited there to spend the day. We have been to New York in the summer a number of times in recent years and frankly always sought a day at a pool on a hot and steamy day. Well, we hit the jackpot for our chosen date. Community and Social Media Manager Lauren Saxe gave me a tour of the gorgeous facility and then set my family up with some chairs in a perfectly shaded area. Tabitha, a lifeguard who was busy managing

A BEAUTIFUL OUTDOOR POOL RIGHT IN THE HEART OF NEW YORK CITY

By Mike Cohen

the steady stream of sunbathers, was kind enough to get us an umbrella. A restaurant is located next to the pool and servers will bring food and drinks right to your chair. The water was warm and exceptionally comfortable. Any of our troubles seemed a million miles away for that afternoon. The complimentary Wi-Fi provided a good signal.

Pool passes are available to the public Monday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. They cost \$65 a day per person, and guests can purchase them on site from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Hotel guests can access the facility from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

The pool area is wheelchair accessible via an elevator from the main lobby. There is another Dream Hotel in Midtown Manhattan as well as locations in Miami, Hollywood, Nashville, Thailand, and more to come.

Dream Hotel Group is a hotel brand and management company with a rich, 30-year history of managing properties in some of the world's most highly competitive hotel environments. Home to its Dream Hotels, Time Hotels, The Chatwal and Unscripted Hotels brands, Dream Hotel Group encompasses three business lines: proprietary brands; hotel management, dining, and nightlife.

This downtown location opened in June 2011 with a celebrity VIP party which included the likes of actor Leonardo Di Caprio.

Dream Downtown Hotel is located at 355 West 16th Street near 9th Avenue. For more information, call **646-625-4828**, email frontoffice@dreamdowntown.com or visit www.dreamhotelgroup.com. Jay Stein is the CEO.

POUGHKEEPSIE IS A GREAT PLACE TO STOP EN ROUTE TO THE BIG APPLE

POUGHKEEPSIE - When traveling to New York City in recent years, our family has become fond of stopping over in the Town of Poughkeepsie for the night in order to make the most of our first day in the Big Apple. It is just over 90 minutes from New York.

By Mike Cohen

Poughkeepsie, nestled in the majestic Hudson Valley, is home to 45,000 residents. The town is rich with culture and steeped in history and the home of such prestigious institutions as Vassar and Marist Colleges as well as Dutchess Community College. Along with these institutes of higher learning, they also have Locust Grove, the former home of Samuel F. B. Morse (as in the founder of Morse Code).

The 22 parks in the area offer recreational activities such as hiking and walking trails in Peach Hill Park. Fine dining is abundant, while art exhibits, festivals, fairs and farmer markets are bountiful.

There is a new hotel in Poughkeepsie, the perfect stopover en route to New York City. We typically like to stay here overnight, getting us into the Big Apple at a good hour the following day. The arrival of a Homewood Suites by Hilton (Hwpoughkeepsie.homewoodsuitesbyhilton.com) made that decision a lot easier.

This is a beautiful property. The suite we had was very spacious and comfortable.

This hotel offers a combination of spacious studio and one-bedroom suites, featuring fully-equipped kitchens and separate living and sleeping areas. Guests are also provided all the essentials needed for a smart, reliable and convenient stay including complimentary hot breakfast seven days a week, evening social with complimentary beer and

wine served Monday to Thursday, complimentary shuttle service within a five-mile radius and complimentary advanced Wi-Fi.

The hotel makes it easy for travelers to unwind with an outdoor patio area, featuring multiple fire pits, an outdoor kitchen under a large pergola and a putting green. The property boasts a 750-square-foot fitness center with state-of-the-art equipment, including a Peloton bike, indoor saline swimming pool and an outdoor sports court. The property also offers more than 1,000 square feet of flexible space that is ideal for meetings and social events.

Service animals are allowed here. There are accessible guest rooms with mobility features with entry or passage doors that provide 32 feet of clear width. The business centre, exercise facility, public entrance and registration desk are all accessible. There is closed captioning on televisions or closed captioning decoders and a lowered peep hole in the doors of wheelchair accessible rooms.



The new Homewood Suites in Poughkeepsie.

The 180-acre estate of Samuel F. B. Morse includes an Italianate villa designed by Alexander Jackson Davis containing extensive collections of American and European decorative and fine arts. Three miles of carriage roads wind through landscaped grounds, romantic gardens and a shady grove.