

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**QUALITY WALKING TOURS THROUGH CHINATOWN OFFER INSIGHT INTO A
NEIGHBORHOOD WITH A RICH HERITAGE AND REMARKABLE PAST**

Updated for 2006: Walking Tours Dedicated to the History and Culture of Chinatown

NEW YORK, NY – February 10, 2006 - *Smell* Chinese herbs in a local herbal shop, *see* the largest Buddhist temple in New York, *taste* the wonderful flavors of dim sum, *hear* Chinese dialects being spoken on the streets and *touch* the statue of Confucius.

Experiencing all this and much more is possible when taking a walking tour through Chinatown. Discover the rich history of a neighborhood that has been home not only to early Chinese immigrants, but also to Irish, Jewish and Italian immigrants. Several different tour operators offer experienced tour guides that lead groups through Chinatown's bustling streets. Learn about legendary figures in New York's history, visit notable landmarks and witness the vivaciousness of one of New York's most culturally fascinating neighborhoods. For more information on Chinatown walking tours, please visit www.explorechinatown.com.

Following is an updated list of historical and cultural walking tours through Chinatown New York.

Exploring Historic Chinatown

Join historians Michelle and James Nevius for an exploration of the cultural, architectural and historical layers of Chinatown. This tour traces the development of the area from its days as bucolic Dutch pastureland through the rise of the predominantly Irish Five Points neighborhood and on to its present life as the largest Chinese community in America. Highlights include the burial ground of Congregation Shearith Israel, the first Jewish congregation in America; Mott Street, the first Chinese Street in New York, and still the center of "old" Cantonese Chinatown; the Church of the Transfiguration—where Irish, Italian and Chinese cultures merge; typical tenement apartment housing, including the city's oldest; and East Broadway, the spine of "new" Fujianese Chinatown.

This heavily illustrated tour uses maps, drawings and photographs to show the changes that have taken place, as well as the things that remain unchanged, in this neighborhood over the last 400 years.

Duration: 2 hours

Departure Location: varies according to individual arrangements

Reservations: Call 877-572-9719, fax 877-572-9719 or e-mail info@walknyc.com

Website: www.walknyc.com/chinatown

Rates: Adult: \$12.50; Child: 7-or-Under Free; Senior: \$12.50; Groups of 4 people: \$50; Groups larger than 15 people: various group rates

Experience Chinatown Walking Tour

The Museum of Chinese in the Americas (MoCA) is pleased to offer walking tours of Chinatown, one of New York City's oldest neighborhoods. MoCA guides, who have family or personal roots in the community, offer an inside look at Chinatown's transformation from a "Bachelor Society" to the diverse community it is today. The tour ventures through the historic center of Chinatown, including stops such as the Church of the Transfiguration, Columbus Park, Confucius Plaza, former sites of Port Arthur Restaurant and Doyers Street Chinese Theatre. Enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of this dynamic community while learning about the area's roots and the various people who have settled here throughout the centuries.

Duration: 90 minutes

Departure Location: Museum of Chinese in the Americas, 70 Mulberry Street, 2nd Floor

Reservations: Call 212-619-4785 or e-mail info@moca-nyc.org

Website: www.moca-nyc.org

Rates: Adult: \$12; Child: 5-and-Under Free; Senior: \$6; Student: \$6

Toro Associates Walking Tours

Toro Associates offers an interesting series of walking tours of Chinatown where participants will explore historic buildings, learn about the traditional Chinese heritage, and hear interesting stories that reveal the daily life of the Chinese community and how this area has changed throughout the years. Itinerary of the walking tour may include the following: fortune readings at the Buddhist temple, stops at jade and crystal shops, introduction to Chinatown tea houses and much more.

Duration: 90 minutes

Departure Location: Corner of Grand and Bowery

Reservations: Call 212-625-9977 or e-mail info@chinatowninfo.com

Website: www.chinatowninfo.com

Rates: Adult: \$15; Child: \$12

Chinatown NYC

Chinatown NYC offers a half-day walking tour conducted by Jami Gong, a Chinatown resident and licensed NYC tour guide. Jami brings a sense of humor and intrinsic knowledge of the Chinatown neighborhood to his walking tours, which feature history, landmarks, personal stories, legends and anecdotes that date back to the 17th Century when the Dutch settled New York.

Duration: varies depending on tour

Departure Location: varies according to individual arrangements

Reservations: Call 917-282-1922 or e-mail jami@chinatownnyc.com.

Website: www.chinatownnyc.com

Rates: Tour described above: \$18/ person

Tour plus a 20-minute tea ceremony at Chinatown's *Ten Ren* tea house: \$25/ person

Tour plus 8-course lunch at *Mandarin Court* (minimum 10 persons): \$30/ person

Tour plus 8-course dinner at *Mandarin Court* (minimum 10 persons): \$40/ person

Historic & Contemporary Chinatown

Discover Chinatown, a diverse neighborhood settled by people from many provinces of mainland China, as well as Taiwan, Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia. Learn in-depth about Chinese immigration during tours stops at the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, the Church of the Transfiguration, the Lee Family Association, Hip Sing Tong and the Lin Ze Xu and Confucius statues.

Duration: 2 hours

Departure Location: The northeast corner of Grand & Chrystie Streets, at Roosevelt Park

Reservations: Call 212-439-1090, fax 718-499-0023 or e-mail info@bigonion.com

Website: www.BigOnion.com

Rates: Adult: \$15, Seniors: \$12, Students: \$10

Adventure on a Shoestring

Regardless of weather, the tour guides take visitors through Chinatown to visit Buddhist temples, stop at the oldest roadhouse in North America, discover the oldest manmade artifact in Manhattan, visit a bean spout farm, learn which restaurants in Chinatown are the most inexpensive and much more. Participants will learn how to explore and enjoy Chinatown without having to break the bank.

Duration: 2 hours

Departure Location: varies according to individual arrangements

Reservations: Call 212-265-2663

Rates: Adult: \$5

Tours are also available that explore Chinatown and its surrounding neighborhoods. These include:

Ethnic NYC: Chinatown, Little Italy & the African Burial Ground

The tour starts in Chinatown, where participants can see, smell and taste from the exotic vegetable and fruit stands, Chinese butcher shops, bakeries, fish markets and Chinese herbal houses. Learn about the history of Chinatown, including the struggles of its first residents in the 1870's and the lifestyles of today's immigrants, stopping at the neighborhood's landmark Church of the Transfiguration along the way.

Duration: 90 minutes

Departure Location: NW corner of Canal and Centre Streets.

Reservations: Call 718-287-6177, fax 718-826-1478 or e-mail Mark@VintageNYTours.com

Website: www.VintageNYTours.com

Rates: Adult/Children: \$15; Group Rate (maximum 25 people): \$185 / 2 hours, \$225 / 3 hours, \$245 / 4 hours

Susan Sez Immigrant Experience Walkabout

Participants in this tour will learn all about one of America's greatest melting pots as they stroll through Chinatown along East Broadway from Seward Park to Chatham Square. Explore the streets of New York's Chinese and Jewish immigrants. See one of NYC's oldest burial grounds, and the Settlement House that transformed many immigrants into U.S. citizens. Visit several historic synagogues as well as the Church of the Transfiguration, First Chinese Presbyterian Church, and Sung Tak Buddhist Temple. Other stops will include Mott Street, Five Points and Canal Street.

Duration: 2 hours

Departure Location: Seward Park - Canal & Essex Streets

Website: www.susansez.com

Reservations: Call 917-509-3111 or e-mail susan.birnbaum2@verizon.net

Rates: Adult: \$15; Child: \$12; Senior: \$12

Immigrant New York

This is a multi-ethnic walking tour through the Jewish East Side, Chinatown and Little Italy. Stops include the African Burial Ground, Mulberry Bend and sites associated with Pierre Toussaint, Padre Valera, Dr. Sun Yat Sen, Mother Cabrini and Abraham Cahan.

Duration: 2 hours

Departure Location: SE corner of Broadway & Chambers Street - City Hall Park

Reservations: Call 212-439-1090, fax 718-499-0023 or e-mail info@bigonion.com

Website: www.BigOnion.com

Rates: Adult: \$15, Seniors: \$12, Students: \$10

Funny, You Don't Look Jewish: Chinatown Meets the Lower East Side

This is a historic tour of the traditional portal to New York City and the U.S. for wave after wave of immigrant groups. Participants will discover the resurgence of Orthodox Jewish residents and the large Fujianese presence in eastern Chinatown, which was once an Eastern European “shetl” (neighborhood) as well as the latest “immigrants:” the young and hip.

Duration: 90 minutes – 2 hours

Departure Location: Russ & Daughters – 179 East Houston Street

Reservations: Call 718-626-7136 or e-mail nydean@verizon.net

Website:

Rates: Adult: \$15; Child: \$7; Senior: \$10

About Chinatown New York City

Chinatown New York City combines authentic Asian-American culture with the energy and influence of the most exciting city in the world. With over 500 restaurants, numerous Asian bakeries and tea houses, jewelry shops, arts and antique stores, an active nightlife and dozens of cultural attractions and landmarks, Chinatown stands as a world within a city. Whether dining, shopping, or strolling down the charming, narrow streets, visitors to Chinatown New York City, will find virtually limitless opportunities for new experiences and added insight.

Located on the east side of Lower Manhattan, Chinatown New York City, is the largest in the United States. The neighborhood has been growing steadily since the mid-1800s, and today stands as a vibrant community offering the opportunity to enjoy and explore Asian-American culture. Chinatown New York City is easily accessible via many New York City MTA subways and buses, as well as several convenient area parking garages. For more information, visit www.ExploreChinatown.com.

Note to editors: NYC & Company, the city's official tourism marketing organization, is a private, membership-based non-profit dedicated to building New York City's economy and positive image through tourism and convention development, major events and the marketing of the city on a worldwide basis.

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