

# Brooklyn a stop for city tourists? Fuhgeddaboutit

**BOROUGH HALL** Brooklyn might be a nice place to live, but how about to visit?

Yesterday, Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz noted a sharp increase in visitors to the tourist information center at Borough Hall, which received 6,000 people in the last six months of 2005, com-

## Your turn

**Where else should tourists visit?**

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pared to 5,500 for all of 2004.

"It doubled the numbers,"

Markowitz said. "We're becoming a magnet for tourism."

Starting in March, visitors can purchase a two-day pass to 18 of Brooklyn's top destinations for \$25 (\$15 for children). The firm Leisure Pass North America offers similar programs in Las Vegas, Honolulu, New Orleans and Philadelphia, as well as in "the outer borough of Manhattan," explained Markowitz. "Now the city of Brooklyn has its very own cultural pass."

Discounts will be available for tickets to events at the Brooklyn Academy of Music and Barge Music. The

## Kings' crown jewels

- Astroland
- The Brooklyn Museum
- Brooklyn Botanic Garden
- Deno's WonderWheel
- New York Aquarium
- New York Transit Museum
- Prospect Park Carousel

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pass is also good for a free slice of Junior's cheesecake, a free beer at the Brooklyn Brewery and a free lunch with a boat rental in Prospect Park.

Markowitz predicted additional tourism gains from the new Brooklyn Bridge Park, "the plans to turn Coney Island into a year-round attraction," and the upcoming docking of the Queen Mary II in Red Hook. "I've asked Brooklynites this time to welcome the English with open arms."

With such a variety of options, Markowitz said, he felt compelled to quote one of the 1,000 city mottos he's collected in a new booklet: "Brooklyn, it's like an everything bagel." **PATRICK ARDEN**

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