

HOME PAGE MY TIMES TODAY'S PAPER VIDEO MOST POPULAR TIMES TOPICS

The New York Times

# Travel

WORLD U.S. N.Y. / REGION BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY SCIENCE HEALTH SPORTS OPINION ARTS

AUTOS

Search

Go

Plan Your Trip

Select a Region or Country



NEWARK-CURACAO on Continental Airlines from \$378 ROUNDTRIP

CURACAO real. different.

NORTH AMERICA > UNITED STATES > NEW YORK > NEW YORK CITY

WEEKEND IN NEW YORK

## The Bronx Is More Than Just Yankee Stadium

Travel



Robert Caplin for The New York Times

The newly opened Gallery Lounge on Bruckner Boulevard.

By **SETH KUGEL**  
Published: June 8, 2008

### New York City Travel Guide

[Where to Stay](#)

[Where to Eat](#)

[What to Do](#)

[Go to the New York City Travel Guide](#)

»

### The Neighborhood of the House That Ruth Built

THIS season is your last chance to catch a game in the old Yankee

SIGN IN TO E-MAIL OR SAVE THIS

PRINT

REPRINTS

SHARE

ARTICLE TOOLS

BOOK

FLIG

CAR

Leaving

Departur

6/27/2008

Stadium, before the House That Ruth Built is replaced by its modern cousin across 161st Street, the House That Steinbrenner and Taxpayer Subsidies Built.



Adults: 2

That means a lot of first-timers will be heading into town and up to the South Bronx, and they might have no idea what else there is to see and do around the stadium. They shouldn't feel bad: most lifelong Yankees fans who have been up there hundreds of times don't know, either.

**MOST PO**

E-MAILEE

1. Tr
2. In
3. 36
4. W  
Ya
5. Ri  
La
6. Th
7. Fr  
Fr.
8. 31
9. Fr
10. Ex  
Su

Go to Co

That's in part because the area still suffers the hangover of decades of bad press. But Howard Cosell is dead, the Bronx isn't burning, and sticking around after the game does not have to mean crowding into beer-soaked bars across the street from the stadium.

You don't even have to go very far; you're only three blocks away from the Grand Concourse, the once-stately, still-impressive thoroughfare that in its day was a most desirable address. It's working-class these days, but you can still sense the grandeur in the sheer width of the 11-lane road and the [architecture](#) that lines it.

Not far from the stadium, at the intersection of 161st and the Concourse, are the Bronx County Courthouse (a handsome but imposing fortress), Joyce Kilmer Park (a spot to picnic on jerk chicken from the nearby Feeding Tree restaurant or a bresaola panini from the Press Cafe) and the former Concourse Plaza Hotel (once full of Yankees and politicians).

But the Concourse is best known architecturally for what is often called the biggest concentration of Art Deco buildings outside [Miami](#). Walking north from 161st Street you'll find at least one gem every few blocks, but be sure you walk at least the half-dozen blocks to 1150 Grand Concourse, the apartments known as the Fish Building for its aquarium mosaic. It's enough to make you think (for a moment, anyway) that you're in South Beach, not the South Bronx.

Ambitious Art Deco buffs could keep going for miles (on foot or by bus), all the way to Fordham Road past the old Loew's Paradise, and cut east to eat in the Bronx's Little Italy. Or keep going to the [Edgar Allan Poe](#) Cottage, the slightly relocated original house where the poet retreated in what was, in the mid 19th century, bucolic hinterlands.

Your other option is to head south from the stadium down to Mott Haven, home to an ever-growing artists' colony. (The closest train from Manhattan is the 6 train to 138th Street, but from the stadium take the 4 to 138th and walk east to Alexander Avenue.) The

The

**Wha**  
Also in  
[Home](#)  
[Home](#)  
[Home](#)

ADVERTI  
**INSIDE**

area has long been known for its antiques shops, which attract visitors from Westchester County and beyond, but now there are also arts spaces to check out, places to eat and even a new place to party.

Art makes its way into weird places in Mott Haven. Haven Arts recently moved into a 2,500-square-foot space in a former linoleum store (check out the freight scale built into the floor) and is currently showing “NY Press,” an exhibition of New York photojournalists from The New York Times, The Daily News and other publications. It also holds free painting classes from 5 to 8 p.m. on Thursdays, usually with a nude model.

There’s also an annex of the Bronx Museum that is generally unmanned and can be viewed only through plate glass windows. But perhaps the oddest art space in the neighborhood is in Blanka Amezkua’s bedroom. Ms. Amezkua, a Mexican-American artist and art teacher who specializes in embroidery, has turned her blue-walled bedroom into a public art space. It’s open weekends by appointment; just give her time to stuff her bed into the closet.

The bedroom “opened” in March with a display of her own work, and has changed every month, now featuring the mixed media work of Gabriela Alva Cal y Mayor. It’s also a chance to enter one of the ancient brownstones in the Mott Haven Historic District, although in this case the interior has been redone in the Boring White Sheetrock style.

It used to be the tacos on 138th Street were the best eating around, but things have gone relatively upscale. The Bruckner Bar & Grill, practically under the Third Avenue Bridge, has been a community gathering spot since it opened in 2003, serving burgers and fancy salads and sandwiches and the like, and now houses gallery space and hosts evening programs. Alexander’s Cafe is much newer and smaller, serving a \$16 prix fixe brunch — that followed by a gallery visit at Haven or an antiques shop or two, should fit in nice and snugly before a 1 p.m. Sunday start. (And shh, you can park around here and hop the subway to the game.)

But for those headed down after the game and staying into the evening, or coming by after a night game), there is a just-opened option: the Gallery Lounge, which bills itself as (here we go again) “bringing South Beach to the South Bronx.” At the very least, it’s slick and different, brightened with colors from the backlit light boxes by the artist John Fathom. They also have a pretty cool audio-video mixing system called the Pioneer SVM-1000, which allows the D.J. to create all kinds of wacky effects on the video screens. The owner claims to be one of the first in America to have the new system; whether that’s true or not, he’s certainly the only one in the neighborhood.



LAST M

[Millenn](#)

[Excelsi](#)

[Warwic](#)

[Wyndh.](#)

[The Br](#)

[The Pe](#)

## VISITOR INFORMATION

**Feeding Tree**, 892 Gerard Avenue, north of East 161st Street; (718) 293-5025.

**Press Cafe**, 114 East 157th Street; (718) 401-0545.

**Edgar Allan Poe Cottage**, 2460 Grand Concourse, at East Kingsbridge Road; (718) 881-8900; [www.bronxhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.bronxhistoricalsociety.org). Open Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., adult admission, \$5.

**Haven Arts**, 50 Bruckner Boulevard (Building A), between Alexander and Willis Avenues; (718) 585-5753; [www.havenarts.org](http://www.havenarts.org).

**Bronx Blue Bedroom Project**, 309 Alexander Avenue (Apartment 3A), between East 140th and 141st Streets; (347) 776-7504; [www.bronxbbp.com](http://www.bronxbbp.com).

**Bruckner Bar & Grill**, 1 Bruckner Boulevard, under the Third Avenue Bridge; (718) 665-2001; [www.brucknerbar.com](http://www.brucknerbar.com).

**Alexander Café**, 129 Alexander Avenue, between Bruckner Boulevard and East 134th Street; (718) 993-5281; [www.alexanderstogo.com](http://www.alexanderstogo.com).

**The Gallery Lounge**, 26 Bruckner Boulevard, between Lincoln and Alexander Avenues; (718) 402-1400; [www.thegallerybx.com](http://www.thegallerybx.com).

[More Articles in Travel »](#)

**Need to know more? 50% off home delivery of The Times.**

Ads by Google

[what's this?](#)

**[Fly First Class](#)**

People who sit up front don't have the money. They have the brains.  
[FirstClassFlyer.com](http://FirstClassFlyer.com)

**[Accurate Lie Detection](#)**

Offices in NYC, L.I. or On-Site - Infidelity, Theft, Crimes, Abuse, etc  
[www.InDepthPolygraphs.com](http://www.InDepthPolygraphs.com)

**[Free Trip to French Open](#)**

Enter to Win a 5-Day Trip to Next Year's French Open.  
[TennisChannel.com](http://TennisChannel.com)

### Past Coverage

WEEKEND IN NEW YORK | URBAN ARCHIPELAGO; Island Hopping Without Leaving the City (February 17, 2008)

WEEKEND IN NEW YORK | MP3 NARRATED TOURS; Your Ear Can Be Your Guide (September 30, 2007)

New TV Campaign Stars Bronx as a Tourist's Delight (June 13, 2007)

WEEKEND IN NEW YORK | THE BRONX BY NIGHT; Sleep French, Eat Caribbean (May 20, 2007)

**Related Searches**

[Travel and Vacations](#)

[Add Alert](#)

[Bronx \(NYC\)](#)

[Add Alert](#)

[Yankee Stadium \(NYC\)](#)

[Add Alert](#)

**Mentioned in This Article**

[Edgar Allan Poe](#) | [Miami](#)

ESCAPES »



[In Utah, Rafting Through Prehistory](#)

POLITICS »



[The Feminine Face of the McCain Campaign](#)

OPINION »

### Primary Days of Yore

David Brooks and Gail Collins reminisce about the season that has just passed, and what to expect in the general election.

ARTS »



[New York's Big Backyard](#)

OPI



[Lett Mos](#)

[Home](#) | [World](#) | [U.S.](#) | [N.Y./Region](#) | [Business](#) | [Technology](#) | [Science](#) | [Health](#) | [Sports](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Arts](#) | [Style](#) | [Tra](#)

[Copyright 2008 The New York Times Company](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Search](#) | [Corrections](#) | [RSS](#) | [First Look](#) | [He](#)