

## Family Travel Forum



### Three Hotels, Three Ways To Do New York

One of the joys of visiting New York is its cheerfully chaotic blend of the old and the new. Cutting-edge architecture sits cheek by jowl next to historic properties, many of which have been repurposed into restaurants and hotels.

And while shiny new hotels have their appeal, we thought it would be interesting to descend on a handful of historic properties to see how they fared with families. The verdict on all three was a resounding thumbs up for location, comfort and price.

#### Hotel Belleclaire: Residential, Upper West Side Retreat

##### Hotel Belleclaire

250 West 77th Street  
New York, NY 10024  
212/362-7700

**Rates:** \$\$\$\$ for a family suite

The 240-room **Hotel Belleclaire**, located on Manhattan's upper West Side, is one of six boutique hotels under the Triumph brand, and while not super tall by today's standards, it was once considered one of the city's tallest skyscrapers. The hotel has wisely retained its Art Nouveau style while updating the guestrooms and suites with all of the comforts of home.

We stayed in a Parlor Suite, which was perfect for our family of three. The suite came with a king bedded room with an en-suite bathroom and a separate living room with a pull-out couch. The rooms weren't large, but every inch was used well, and the enormous windows looking out at the city gave a sense of a larger space.

We especially liked the children's amenities in the room when we arrived, like a kids' robe and slippers and a little lunchbox with child-friendly goodies. Other features that work for families include free Wi-Fi, flat-screen HD TVs, a media lounge with arcade games and Macs, and a fitness center where we could shake off the rigors of travel.

**Current Package:** The hotel offers all sorts of packages, including a *City Sights Family Photo Package* that includes a one-hour family photo session with Photo Op NYC at Belvedere Castle or another New York City location of your choice, an in-room movie rental, a \$75 Shake Shack gift card (it's a block away across from the American Museum of Natural History), and daily continental breakfast for four at the Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf. The special also includes a late, 2 p.m. check-out to help sleepy heads get a good start the next day. The package, which is good through Thanksgiving, starts at \$549 per night.