

Thursday, August 03, 2006 -  
MET Museum, Manhattan Island, Staten Island

Today went to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, or known as the MET for short. This is one of America's most famous art museums, and contains artwork of all sorts, paintings, sculptures, handicrafts, etc, from all over the world. We spent 5 hours in there and lunch at the museum café. The building in which the museum is located is itself an incredible work of art and looks like something out of ancient Greece.



After the museum we took the subway to the south end of Manhattan Island. There, we took the Staten Island Ferry to Staten Island. The ferry passes by Liberty Island, and hence the Statue of Liberty. We got more pictures of the statue this way.





Afterwards, we had dinner at Fraunces Tavern. This small, wooden restaurant sits right in the middle of the financial district with all the skyscrapers. Fraunces Tavern dates from the 1770s and was used by George Washington as a meeting place for his officers and soldiers during the Revolutionary War. It serves old fashioned American food, like pot roast and beef wellington. The prices were quite extravagant but considering its location right by Wall Street, were actually quite reasonable.



We saw a car accident today, the only one we saw in our entire stay in NYC. It was in Times Square; a bus scraped the side view mirror of the car beside it. This is the most amazing thing we find about this city; the rarity of car accidents. Pedestrians dodge across streets all the time, the roads are used by pedestrians, bicyclists, taxis, buses, SUVs, motorcycles and trishaws, people parallel park on every street, and covered garages exit to the streets randomly and haphazardly. Yet, we never once saw a wrecked car, a broadside, a pedestrian hit by a car, etc... The worst traffic incident we saw was a bus scraping the side view mirror of a car beside it! Ordered chaos is the only way we can describe it.

