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## Staycation offers perfect antidote to surging gas prices

With gas prices hovering near \$4 a gallon, this could be the summer of staycations for New Yorkers looking for an affordable getaway. But don't fret, a train ride into the City That Never Sleeps is a small price to pay to rediscover its many gems.

Those looking to upgrade after saving on travel expenses can find deals at even the most opulent hotels. At the <u>Lotte New York Palace</u>, the Pinstripe Package will get you a nice seat at Yankee Stadium and some Bronx Bombers swag when booking a two-night stay (a superior room costs \$344 a night in late July), for instance.



Steve Cohen performs magic at Lotte New York Palace. (Lotte New York Palace)

The Madison Ave. hotel overlooking St. Patrick's Cathedral— at one time Leona Helmsley's Palace—has a grand architectural history. Serving as the entranceway to the 55-story, 909-room glass tower is the Gilded Age-era Villard Mansion, which boasts the two-story Gold Room. This most famous of the mansion's rooms was designed by Stanford White, and these days houses the Villard Restaurant, which serves as an ideal setting for a Sunday brunch or special occasion. One other highlight not to miss at the Palace is the magic of Steve Cohen, whose illusions, sleight-of-hand tricks and mind-reading abilities will mesmerize fans of any age.