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THE “GREENEST NEW YORKER” TO VISIT THE CAPITAL REGION

Visit is part of I LOVE NEW YORK’s “Green Heart NY” tourism initiative

The Greenest New Yorker will visit the Roosevelt Baths & Spa, one of NYS’s Iconic Green Destinations

Albany, N.Y. – New State’s “Greenest New Yorker” is hitting the road, in an ecological way, and heading upstate to check out green travel opportunities in the Capital-Saratoga region. Kaity Tsui, winner of the first-ever “Greenest New Yorker” award, and a guest will be touring the region September 25-27. Among her stops will be the Roosevelt Baths & Spa in Saratoga, one of I LOVE NEW YORK’s Iconic Green Destinations (<http://www.iloveny.com/what-to-do/reasons-to-love-ny/green-destinations.aspx> .) In addition, she will be staying at two of the region’s green-certified hotels.

“As the Greenest New Yorker, Kaity has been doing a terrific job promoting all that each of us can do in our daily lives to protect and preserve our natural resources,” said Peter Davidson, Executive Director of Empire State Development, which administers the I LOVE NEW YORK campaign. “She recognizes that conserving our environment is something that doesn’t stop at your front door, but includes all aspects of our lives, including travel. We are pleased to have Kaity’s support in our initiative to promote green-certified restaurants and hotels, and New York’s parks, beaches, waterways and mountains. We’re sure that she will be delighted with the great choices for green travel and lodging awaiting her in the Capital region.”

In recognition of the 40th anniversary of Earth Day in April, I LOVE NEW YORK, along with EscapeMaker.com, introduced the “Greenest New Yorker” contest to honor individuals who were doing their part in keeping the Empire State green and making earnest efforts to preserve the environment. As the Grand Prize winner, Tsui was awarded an I LOVE NEW YORK Green Getaway, which includes a three-day, two-night package for two people to her choice of one of I LOVE NEW YORK’s ten iconic green destinations.

“Kaity is a passionate and influential advocate for New York’s open spaces,” said Darin Johnson, NYRP Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, Marketing and Policy. Her ‘green thumb’ is contagious and her work at New York Restoration Project has made New York City a more sustainable place for all residents.”

Tsui will arrive in Albany via Amtrak on Sept. 25.

“Passenger rail is an energy efficient mode of transportation and Amtrak has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions from diesel fuel by over 6 percent from 2003 to 2010,” said Roy Deitchman, Vice President, Environmental Health and Safety at Amtrak. “We are pleased to transport Ms. Tsui on her trip and provide her with a significantly reduced carbon footprint.”

Amtrak is currently featuring a “Go Green” 20 percent discount for travel in NYS. For more information, visit Amtrak.com or call 1-800-USA-RAIL. She will spend her first night at Albany’s 74 State Street and the next night at the Gideon Putnam in Saratoga. Both hotels are Green Heart NY hotels and have been certified green by Audubon International/Green Leaf. For more information on the certifications, visit www.iloveny.com/what-to-do/reasons-to-love-ny/green-travel-choices.aspx.

While in the region, Tsui will attend Lark Fest, Albany’s famous autumn street festival, and take a walking tour of the sights of New York State’s capital city. In Saratoga, she will relax at the Roosevelt Baths and Spa at the Gideon Putnam and will enjoy the natural beauty of Saratoga Springs State Park. Her final day in the region includes her return to Albany and a visit to the Albany Pine Bush Preserve, one of the best remaining examples of an inland Pine Barrens ecosystem in the world and home to unique and diverse animals and plants, including 20 rare species and two rare natural communities.

Tsui’s winning accomplishments include serving as Tree Care Coordinator for MillionTreesNYC; being co-chair of the New York University (NYU) Green Alumni Network Steering Committee; serving as Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Green City Challenge; and serving as a contributing writer for One Earth Network, Inc. Additionally, Tsui volunteers for organizations such as Green Drinks NYC, Just Food, New York Cares, the New York City Office of Recycling Outreach and Education, Trees New York and Teens Turning Green — all while completing her Master Composter and Citizen Pruner certificates.

To hear about her trip, go to Kaity’s new blog next week for her recap, photos, and more: [Diaries of the Greenest NYer](#).

Green Heart New York

In April, Empire State Development unveiled a new “green heart” in its famous I LOVE NEW YORK logo as part of an initiative that promotes green-certified restaurants and hotels, as well as the State’s parks, beaches, waterways and mountains. I LOVE NEW YORK chose ten must-see iconic green travel destinations for 2010 spanning the State’s 11 tourism regions. The destinations include national icons such as Niagara Falls State Park, the Catskill Scenic Trail, Adirondack Park’s high peaks, and the Empire State Building. The list also includes scenic State Parks such as Taughannock Falls and Letchworth, as well as diverse locales such as the Fire Island National Seashore, Storm King Arts Center, Waterways of the Thousand Islands, and Roosevelt Baths and Spa. Information about these destinations can be found on the Green Heart NY Web site at www.iloveny.com/greenheart.

About New York State

New York State features 11 beautiful vacation regions. New York’s attractions span from landmarks such as Niagara Falls, to the wine trails of Hudson Valley and treasures like the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. Whether it’s wide-ranging outdoor activities for the whole family like fishing, hiking and boating, culinary wonders and farm-to-table fresh foods, or the rich history and culture of one of the 13 original colonies, New York State offers diverse activities for all travelers. For more information visit <http://www.iloveny.com/>. Press releases and more are available at thebeat.iloveny.com.

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