

The Kimberly: A Boutique Hotel In NYC That Feels Like Home



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Travel

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[The Kimberly: A privately owned boutique hotel in NYC that makes guests feel at home](#)



Comfy Garden Bar "Upstairs" offers city views THE KIMBERLY

When you enter The Kimberly Hotel & Suites, located on East 50th Street in Midtown Manhattan, you may feel as if you are visiting a wealthy aunt who lives in this Turtle Bay neighborhood. Warmth and courtesy start at the front door as an affable doorman welcomes you so warmly that it makes you question whether you have met Ralph before.

Something old...

Several other factors help create the ultra-homey feel: Foremost, the property was initially constructed as a residential building until the owner reconsidered and decided to operate it as a European-style boutique hotel from the time it first opened in 1985.

The 194 one- and two-bedroom guestrooms and suites (with private balconies) are generously sized and eminently livable—with comfortable, one-of-a-kind antique-style furnishings that ooze charm. Although there's no shortage of coffee shops nearby (and The Kimberly offers 24-hour room service, including a late night menu), each immaculately clean guestroom is fully equipped with its own bar/kitchenette with a microwave, mini-refrigerator and coffeemaker that make you feel like you're staying in an apartment.



A one-bedroom suite at The Kimberly in Midtown East A ONE-BEDROOM SUITE AT THE KIMBERLY IN
MIDTOWN EAST



Balcony with a skyline view of NYC THE KIMBERLY

Beyond the conventional upscale luxury hotel pampering (with Frette bedding, goose down comforters and pillows, cozy robes and slippers, and L'Occitane toiletries), guests will appreciate that management seems to have anticipated every need that someone may have away from home—from the scale under the bathroom sink to the stand with umbrellas inside the front door. New York water, the stuff that creates wonderful New York bagels, is unbeatable but it is nice to find water bottles in the fridge at no extra charge.

Another charming old-school touch: Finding engraved hotel stationary inside the desk drawer and the complimentary delivery of a print copy of the New York Times at your door each morning.

Something new...

The Kimberly keeps up with the times (and the competition of the ubiquitous branded chains in NYC), too. Every guestroom offers wireless, high-speed Internet access, flat-screen TVs, and movies on demand. We were also delighted to find a Handy phone for our use on the desk.

The Kimberly underwrites the cost of a Handy phone subscription so guests can use the device, either in the hotel or off-premises, for free local and international calling and data, destination information, and access to Google Maps—at no-charge. In addition, the device's instant messaging platform allows users to contact hotel staff and services for information via Concierge Chat. It's the kind of amenity that makes both business and leisure travelers choose one hotel over another.



Front desk reception area. JEROME LEVINE

No luxury property can ignore the wellness trend that has pervaded the hospitality industry. In addition to its on-site fitness room on the second floor (open 24 hours), guests at The Kimberly also have complimentary access to nine New York Health & Racquet Club facilities, including one on the same block as the hotel. Weather permitting between May and September, the hotel offers special guest access to the 75-foot [Kimberly Yacht](#) for sails on the East River at a reduced rate of \$30 per person.

Three restaurants under the same roof

Even if it rains, you won't need to use those thoughtful umbrellas left in your room to enjoy a lovely meal. The hotel has three distinct on-site dining venues: Serving lunch, dinner and brunch, [Bistango](#) is an intimate Italian restaurant (right off the hotel lobby) that serves antibiotic-free meats, sustainable seafood and locally sourced seasonal produce. Guests can take advantage of a two-course prix-fixe lunch for \$24.95 or a pre-theater two-course prix-fixe dinner for \$35.95.

Open for lunch, dinner and happy hour, [Empire Steakhouse](#) (also on the street-level) is a partnership between the Sinanaj Brothers and actor Chazz Palminteri. With a wine list of more than 400 bottles, it is known for its USDA Prime Dry-Aged Porterhouse steak and fresh seafood.

Finally, the not-to-be missed rooftop bar and lounge on the penthouse (30th) floor of the building, simply called "Upstairs," claims to be the only rooftop venue in the city with retractable glass ceilings and walls along with ambient heated floors. With 360-degree skyline views of Manhattan (including the Chrysler Building), the 3000-square-foot space offers a delicious buffet breakfast or brunch on weekends. It is also perfect for a romantic after-dark drink under the stars.



Buffet breakfast "Upstairs" JEROME LEVINE

Bottom line

The Kimberly Hotel & Suites offers six different room categories (rates also vary according to the season and length of stay). Its convenient Midtown East location is within walking distance of Grand Central Station, posh boutiques and department stores on 5th Avenue, Rockefeller Center, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Radio City Music Hall, Broadway and the United Nations Headquarters.

During a stay at this property, it quickly becomes evident that almost the entire staff of this privately owned hotel is comprised of experienced long-timers, some of whom have been there since its beginnings. Their pride in the property and commitment to guests make for a relaxed and comfortable stay that will make you want to return again and again—whether for an overnight or extended stay.



A 1912 Ford Model T sits outside The Kimberly - JEROME LEVINE

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