

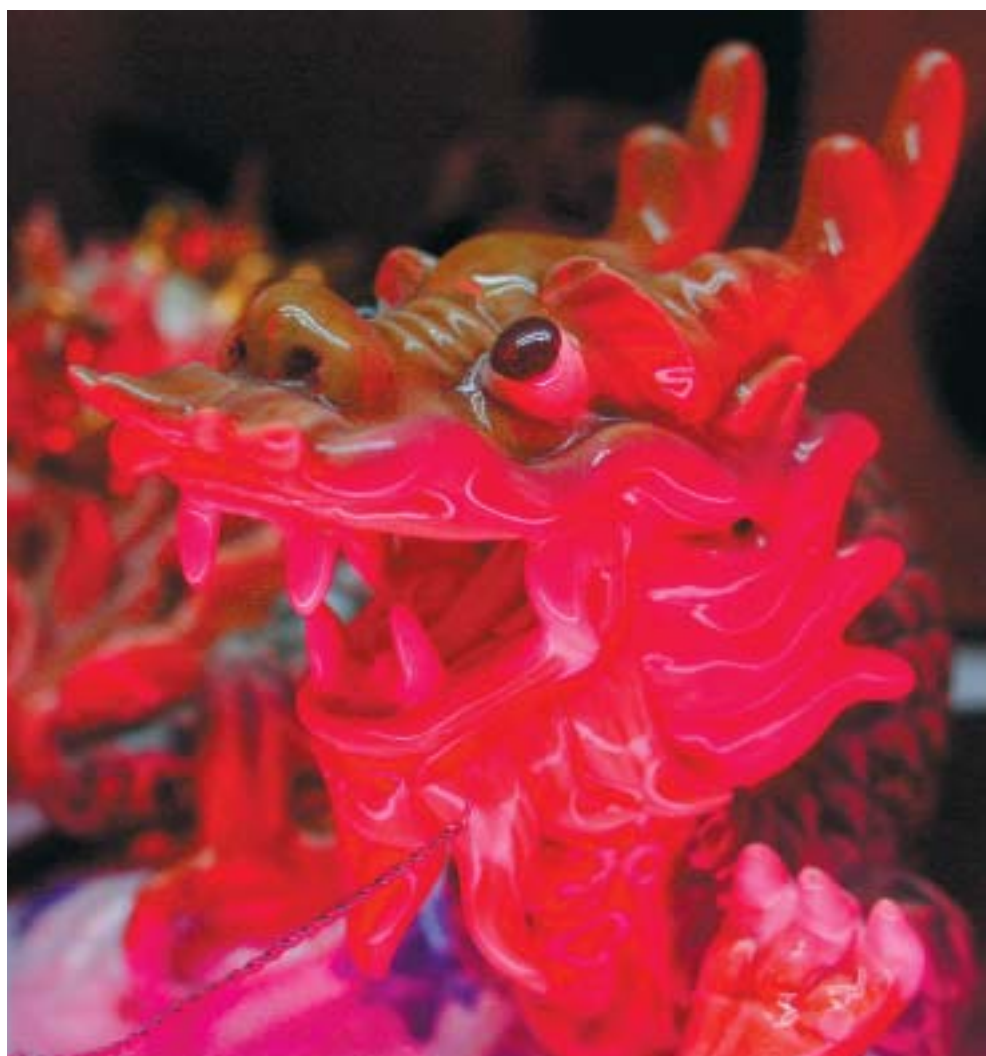
NYC

CHINATOWN



LANE TURNER/GLOBE STAFF

On Mott Street at Ten Ren Tea and Ginseng Co., Yuki Ling, 23, shows off the jasmine tea that sells for \$100 a pound. On nearby Moyers Street, a porcelain dragon leers from a gift shop window; "The Flavor of Shanghai" is one of many that waft toward walkers on Mott; and down the block sits a pail of frogs happily unaware of their fate.



Seeing another world street by street

By George Oxford Miller
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK — Standing on the corner of Chatham and Bowery in New York, I feel more as if I am sandwiched between chapters in a history book than stuck on a busy intersection in Chinatown.

Chatham Square was named after William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, who was twice Britain's prime minister but was also an opponent of the Stamp Act imposed on the American colonists in 1765. Across the street is the oldest surviving Jewish cemetery in the nation, First Shearith Israel, dating to 1683. Down the block, Columbus Park was named after the explorer when the neighborhood was Italian.

Through the centuries, the residents of this area have spoken the King's English, Yiddish, Gaelic, and Italian. Now Chatham Square has a memorial to Chinese-American war veterans and stands in the heart

of the largest Chinatown outside Asia.

To explore it, my wife and I wanted more than guidebook notes to the maze of streets and shops. We joined Jami Gong's ChinatownNYC walking tour for an insider's view that combines history, anecdotes, and a few tasty treats.

"New York City actually has five Chinatowns," Gong says as we walk down Bowery Street. "Brooklyn and Queens each have two. The Manhattan Chinatown covers 15 to 20 square blocks and has about 200,000 people. We're a world within a world."

Besides guiding tours, Gong is past president of the New York chapter of the Organization of Chinese Americans, and he also founded TakeOut Comedy, a club that features Asian-American comedians.

"Did you see the movie, 'Gangs of New York?'" Gong says. "This corner was called Five Points in the
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Where fun and some flimflam still amuse

By Neece Regis
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK — Stepping from the train here, one hour from downtown Manhattan, is a bit disorienting, like Alice tumbling down a rabbit hole and emerging into a parallel universe of carnies and sideshows, brightly painted signs and rides, air redolent with fried food and the salty scent of Lower New York Bay, which, on a sunny day, dazzles on the horizon. It all seems too shiny and hyper-real. One wants to speak in exclamations, to mirror the environment: Nathan's Famous Hot Dogs! The Cyclone! The Wonder Wheel!

CONEY ISLAND

A visit to this outpost of Brooklyn is a step back in time, though it's hard to pinpoint exactly which era you are entering. The newly renovated Stillwell Avenue subway station — end of the line for the D, F, N, and Q trains — is very 21st century, with an elegant, European-style glass and steel canopy over four platforms with eight tracks. (It is one of the largest rapid transit terminals in the world.) On the ground level, artist Robert Wilson's "My Coney Island Baby" features silk-screened images of historic Coney Island on a 370-foot-long glass-brick wall.

Cross the street, and everything high-tech disappears.

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LANE TURNER/GLOBE STAFF

For several years on Coney Island, "Captain Bob" McCoy's tour has been among the attractions, with its own mix of history and humor.

NATIONWIDE

Frightful deals

This being the month of Halloween, it should be no surprise that many hotels and other haunts are offering some pretty scary packages. **M3**

MAINE

Look! There's one!

Spotting a live moose around Moosehead Lake is not as easy as one might think. Guides can often help track them down. **M8**