

INSIDER

books

This month's pick
of the best travel-
related publications

BOOK OF THE MONTH

New York: Portrait of a City

Reuel Golden (£44.99; *Taschen*)

New York is the ultimate modern city, famous for its bright lights, cab-clogged streets and straight-talkin' natives – the only city, in the words of columnist Russell Baker, where you can be deliberately run down by a pedestrian.

This new photo-history takes in the highs and lows of the last 150 years, from the crowd outside the Stock Exchange after Lincoln's assassination to the excitement of the first sightseers on the observation deck at the Empire State Building in 1931. In some of the most striking images, heavenly shafts of light

illuminate the main concourse of Grand Central Station, while daredevil Philippe Petit walks a tightrope strung between the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in 1974. It is hard to look at the curvaceous, *Mad Men*-style interior of the TWA Building, opened in 1962, without feeling nostalgia for an earlier era of jet travel.

With walk-on parts from familiar names including Harry Houdini, Frank Sinatra and Andy Warhol, there are definitive images of every decade – from Prohibition to Flower Power – making this a richly rewarding tribute to the world's capital.

