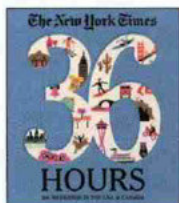


## Hot Type for Savvy Travelers by Jim Gladstone



The gauntlet has been thrown down: Since 2007, no travel book has offered a serious challenge to Patricia Schultz's **1000 Places in the US and Canada To See Before You Die** ([www.1000beforeyoudie.com](http://www.1000beforeyoudie.com)) as the must-have volume for those North Americans with wanderlust and home libraries. Enter **The New York Times 36 Hours: 150 Weekends in the USA & Canada** (Taschen, \$39.99. [www.taschen.com](http://www.taschen.com)). Gorgeously produced with color photography, five bound-in satin-ribbon bookmarks, and dictionary-style thumb tabs dividing its sections, **36 Hours** is not only more beautiful than the reigning champ, it's also more practical. Since 2002, *The Times* has run a weekly column featuring getaway itineraries, which editor Barbara Ireland notes are genuinely practical: "36 Hours lives in the realm of the possible. The framework is the weekend...it really is possible to get from one place to the next easily and in the allotted time." It's about choosing things to do before mid-afternoon on Sunday, not before you're six feet under. The weekend trips outlined here include updated versions of column copy (all fact-checked and revised as of late 2011), along with new itineraries written especially for the book. An excellent feature of these itineraries is their tight geographical focus: To make the most of a weekend trip, you don't want to spend too much time in transit once you've arrived. And so, while there is a whirlwind New York City trip here (best, perhaps for first-time visitors), you'll also find full agendas for digging in deeper to Lower Manhattan, Brooklyn, or Harlem. Other major metropolises are similarly thin sliced. Coming in at 744 pages and 3.5 pounds, ladies and gentlemen, meet your travel library's new heavyweight champion.