

THE HINDU

A Classy Hotel on Long Island... The Andrew in Great Neck

I was on a book promotion tour in New York and had a number of signings in stores in the Long Island area. While I could have stayed in the city, that would mean having to manage auto traffic each day on the Long Island Expressway, known as the world's longest parking lot!

Most people would have chosen one of the standard chain hotels near the airport or which dot the Long Island area, but I decided to use a hotel with a bit more individuality and comfort as a home-base for the several days I'd be driving around visiting my speaking appointments.

The Andrew Hotel in Great Neck, is a luxury boutique hotel with a superb Long Island location convenient to Manhattan. Upscale Great Neck shopping and restaurants are a short walk from the hotel, and the Long Island Railroad is only a half block away. A short train ride will take you to New York City's Times Square, Central Park and Yankee Stadium and other famous attractions. It is within 12 miles of two major airports.

The hotel will not overwhelm you with luxury, but it will overwhelm you with good taste and excellent style. It is easy to see that they hired some excellent interior designers to create a "hip" upscale, but not pretentious decor for the rooms and the small (spartan) lobby.

My room, which was their best, had a giant king bed and a small sitting area in one very nice sized area. It had a small balcony but not much of a view... not that I was expecting one.

While the bath was clean to a fault, it was a bit on the small side for a hotel in that price range.

I was somewhat surprised to see a rather large, expensive flat-screen TV since most hotels have not upgraded to these yet. It was a joy to watch. The desk was of ample size for my laptop and I had no problems with the internet connection.

Instead of putting the safe in the closet like most hotels, they "hid" it in the min-bar. I must have searched five minutes for it!

The Andrew had all the amenities you expect from a hotel of this class... including the morning paper and a very nice plush robe.

I was impressed with the check-in staff. Even though there was a line, the desk people made short work of getting their guests squared away and to their rooms. When I called down for some extra towels the housekeeping staff were quick to respond.

Not everything was perfect. While the rooms were a nice temperature I found the hallways to be exceedingly warm... and it was only mid-April. The elevators were not the speediest either.

This is a hotel that you should put on your list if you are visiting the area. I think you will like it a lot.

Andrew Hotel, 75 North Station Plaza, Great Neck, NY 11021
Reservations: 516-482-2900
www.andrewhotel.com

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