

Q: We're having a family reunion coming up soon in New York City. Because we get to the Big Apple so seldom, we want to take advantage of all the great restaurants, shopping and, most of all, the Broadway theater scene. The problem is 85-year-old Dad. He was born in New York, is a great storyteller and expert on everything in the city. He was always the life of the party everywhere he went.

However, six months ago he suffered a slight stroke. He's as mentally bright as ever, but can't do much walking without getting very tired. We want to take him along, but he would keep us back from seeing everything we want. If we have to be with Dad, our visit to Manhattan wouldn't be much fun for anyone. Should we leave Dad home?

A: Whoever made the suggestion to dump Dad should stay the hell home! Preferably in a dark room with the shades drawn and a bag over his head. Seriously, if Dad says he can handle the trip, have him get a thorough medical check-up. If his doc approves, take Dad along. The solution can be very simple.



Before you go to Manhattan, check on scooter rentals. Today's little vehicles are quick, maneuverable and comfortable. If you order ahead, a scooter (or if necessary, a wheelchair) can be waiting at the airport or hotel. There are rarely any problems getting today's scooter models around restaurants, museums, theaters, stores and just about anywhere else.

Scooter rentals cost an average of \$60 a day, and wheelchairs about \$35. The per day rentals are cheaper when booked for more than three days. For further information, check with Scootaround New York Wheelchair and Scooter Rentals, 208 West 30th Street, New York NY, toll free 888-441-7575, or online at www.scootaround.com. Also, Big Apple Scooter and Wheelchair Rentals, 401 7th Ave, New York NY, 212-662-4548, or online at www.bigapplescooter.com. Or try Mobility Outlet, 954 Lexington Ave, New York NY, 917-756-7984, or online at www.nyscooterrentals.com