



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New York City's culinary landscape supports more than a dozen eating tours. But only one is conducted on wheels: Famous Fat Dave's Five Borough Eating Tour. "Famous" is a real New York City yellow cab driver, and each time he takes a fare, he inquires as to where to eat in the neighborhood. From this priceless research, he has compiled an extraordinary catalog of the city's hidden food treasures. With this unique knowledge of where real New Yorkers eat, Dave offers tourists and New Yorkers alike a variety of private, personalized eating tours. Word of mouth, the [FamousFatDave.com](http://FamousFatDave.com) website, the hilarious [Hungry Cabbie Blog](#), and mounting [press coverage](#) has led to the tour's success. Dave is writing a book and pitching the tour as a series on Food Network.

### Praise for Famous Fat Dave

"Dave Freedenberg is a rolling encyclopedia of unheralded-but-treasured neighborhood food joints."

–Pete Donohue, *The New York Daily News* article on ["A Bite Of The Apple"](#)

"Freedenberg knows his city and its fare, from pastrami sandwiches to hummus, better than just about anybody else."

–Michelle Golden, *Saveur Magazine's* #15 on ["The Saveur 100"](#) favorite foods, restaurants, drinks, people, places, and things of 2007

"[One of] The people who make New York fabulous."

–Nina Lalli, *The Village Voice's* ["Best Of NYC"](#) 2006 Edition

For more information on Famous Fat Dave's Five Borough Eating tour, or to book a tour with Famous Fat Dave, please contact David Freedenberg at (646) 496-6540 or [dave@famousfatdave.com](mailto:dave@famousfatdave.com). Please visit his website at [www.famousfatdave.com](http://www.famousfatdave.com)

“Dave Freedenberg is one of those individuals with no boundaries. . . He sees no limits to life. [The tour] is totally worth experiencing. With Dave as your guide, not only will you find some good eats at great bargains, but you’ll also get lots of entertainment along the way.”

–Celia Cheng, *FindYourCraving.com* feature [“Everyone’s Talking About...”](#)

“A truly weird night. Weird, I said. Yes. But also recommended, *highly*.”

–Andrew Krucoff, *Gawker.com* article on [The Midnight Munchies Tour](#)

“Famous Fat Dave has an absolutely ridiculous knowledge of the most obscure, most delicious eateries in the city. Every real New Yorker should take this tour.”

–Ben Bray, NYC Book Listings Editor, *Not For Tourists Guidebook*

“Dave is a charismatic young guy. . . with a mental Rolodex of good eats in the five boroughs.”

–John T. Edge, Director of the Southern Foodways Alliance, *Attaché Magazine’s* [“The Big Pickle”](#) article on *The Pickle Tickle Tour*

“One gluttonous afternoon riding the wheels of steel with him will make it achingly clear to you exactly how Famous Fat Dave got so incredibly. . . uh. . . famous”

–Mark Phillips, *WNYC Radio*

“Famous had my sides aching from kielbasa, prosciutto, and laughter. The Cased and Cured Meats Tour was like traveling through New York City on a flying salami named Bliss.”

–Greg Smeck, *Famous Fat Dave’s Cased and Cured Meats Tour customer*



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## About Famous Fat Dave

Famous Fat Dave was always Dave. He wasn't always famous and fat. Dave proudly added the "fat" early in life while growing up in Maryland. Bottomless cones of Thrasher's french fries doused in apple cider vinegar and countless bushels of blue crabs steamed with Old Bay Seasoning began a lifetime of eating good food until it hurt.

He enrolled at New York University mostly to be near the city's myriad culinary institutions. The first job he applied for after graduation was as counter help at Coney Island's original Nathan's Famous. Told he was overqualified, Dave didn't get the gig, but in the next five years he landed a number of dream jobs deep inside New York's food world.

Dave drove a bread truck for Orwasher's Bakery, delivering Black Russian Ryes and Challahs to the likes of Tavern on the Green, the Russian Tea Room, and the World Trade Center. He prowled a stretch of Orchard Street sidewalk behind an aromatic row of 500 pound barrels as a pickle man at Guss Pickles. He translated his pickle skills into the cheese world as a sample-happy cheesemonger at Murray's Cheese Shop. He even managed to sell his beloved Nathan's hot dogs in Coney Island, doing so as a bellowing vendor in the stands at the minor league Brooklyn Cyclones ball park.

In the meantime, Dave moonlighted as a New York City yellow cab driver, followed his belly across five continents, and worked as a freelance food writer. His food writing has appeared in *Time Out New York*, *Not For Tourists Guidebook*, *Attaché Magazine* (the in-flight magazine for US Airways), and *Gothamist.com*. But it is his critically acclaimed and wildly popular eating tour that is putting the "famous" in Famous Fat Dave.

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## Q and A with FFD

**Q Where did you get the idea to do the eating tour?**

A I do a lot of traveling, and I noticed that in a lot of countries it is generally accepted that cab drivers are the best tour guides. I took an amazing tour in a Cairo black and white cab of the twenty two ancient pyramids of the lower Nile region. My driver, Ibrahim, who had a gigantic stomach, looked at my burgeoning pot belly and said if I keep driving a cab I could have a belly like his. I thought, why not have a tour like his too?

**Q Why all the wage slave jobs in food?**

A I take those jobs mostly so I can eat the food. I work at my favorite places so I can take the food home free, and, more importantly, so I can down it while I'm working. When I worked at Guss', I used to eat around fifty pickled products a day. I'd stand on the sidewalk waving a big sour pickle at passersby, all the while popping garlic stuffed olives, sweet peppers, sour tomatoes, pickled celery... Then I'd take a quart home with me and polish it off before I got back to work the next day. I'm going to live forever; my insides must be pickled.

**Q An entire tour of fried chicken? How different can they all be?**

A On a tour like that, we do sample a couple of places that make fried chicken in a way the Colonel would recognize. But we also try them Harlem style with waffles and syrup, we go to Woodside to taste Thai fried chicken wings in lime and fish sauce, and we share a smashed, garlic fried chicken from an Uzbek restaurant on the Brighton Beach boardwalk. Trust me, this city is up to the task. Your mouth will never get bored.

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**Q Why do you drive a taxi?**

A Hacking really is a great way to get to know the city, especially parts people don't normally visit because they're rough or there's no subway. I do have to put up with vindictive cops and obnoxious fares. But it's all worthwhile when that one guy out of thirty with likeminded taste buds and a rent-controlled apartment in Queens lets me in on a neighborhood secret about soup dumplings.

**Q Has the latest health craze affected your business?**

A Usually people who obsess about their bodies don't do eating tours. And I don't offer a health food tour. But I say, what better way to give in to your cravings than to just take one or two bites of the most delicious samples of each of your favorite foods, spacing it out over a period of many hours. Deep fried twinkies sprinkled with powdered sugar and drizzled with strawberry sauce isn't bad for you if you just take one bite to save room for just one bite of fifteen other things.

**Q Why do you write The Hungry Cabbie Blog?**

I started writing the blog in an attempt to drive food-loving traffic to my eating tour website. But the more I wrote, the more I enjoyed writing about food and the people who eat it, make it, and serve it. I've been a freelance food writer for years, but the blog allows me to write on whatever interests me. Usually, that means I focus less on the food itself and more on the cab stories or the neighborhood history or the story the grill man tells me about the old country that surrounds the food.

**Q Tell us about the series you are pitching.**

A That project is a labor of love I'm undertaking with a friend from NYU who was in the film school and occasionally works for the Food Network. We thought the tour would make perfect sense as a half hour show. The network's slogan is "Way More Than Cooking," and this show would be ideal for people who live to eat, but don't cook. Even if they wouldn't watch *Emeril Live*, they might love this.

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## A Taste of Famous Fat Dave's 5 Borough Eating Tours

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|--------------------------|---|--|
| Latino Tour              | Rice And Beans, Roasted Chicken, Maduros, Ropa Vieja, Tostones, Cuban Sandwich, Taquito, Huerta   | South Bronx, Washington Heights, Jackson Heights, Chelsea, Astoria   |
| Sweet Tooth Tour         | Belgian Waffle, Cream Ice, Spumoni, Ricotta Cheesecake, Cannoli, Fried Candy Bar, Ice Cream, Sweet Cheese Knish, Soft Serve, Milkshake, Black And White Cookie, Ruggalach | Prospect Heights, Windsor Terrace, Bensonhurst, East Village, Red Hook, Ridgewood, Park Slope, DUMBO, Lower East Side                |
| Midnight Munchies Cruise | Hot Bagel, Cuban Sandwich, Korean BBQ, Falafel, Biryani, Raw Oysters, Chimichurri, Pizza, Egg Cream, Taquito, Broccoli Rabe, Hamburger                                    | Upper West Side, Washington Heights, Flushing, The Village, East Village, SoHo, Harlem, Alphabet City, Hunt's Point                  |
| Soul Food Boogie Down    | Fried Chicken, Devilled Eggs, Jerk Shrimp, Fried Whiting Sandwich, Sweet Bread, Banana Nilla Wafer Pudding, Chicken And Waffles, Peanut Soup, Mashed Potatoes             | Harlem, Hamilton Heights, Inwood, South Bronx, Downtown Brooklyn, Williamsbridge, Crown Heights                                      |
| Real Little Italys Tour  | Pizza, Hero, Manhattan Clam Chowder, Spumoni, Prosciutto di Parma, Baked Clams, Fresh Mozzarella, Sicilian Rice Ball, Cannoli, Gnocchi                                    | Howard Beach, Fordham's Arthur Avenue, City Island, East Harlem, Williamsburg, Middle Village, Bensonhurst, Canarsie, Sheepshead Bay |
| Sushi Bar Hop            | Nigiri, Maki, Hand Roll, Miso Soup, Black Cod, Green Tea Truffles, Azuki Bean Ice Cream   | Brooklyn Heights, Carroll Gardens, SoHo, The Village, East Village, Turtle Bay   |



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