Brooklyn - ARLIS Local Guide

Brooklyn may just be New York City’s trendiest borough. The neighborhoods have changed drastically over the years and new pockets of industry, shopping, restaurants, and cultural attractions are constantly popping up. The Williamsburg neighborhood is a hot bed for hipsters and trendy restaurants, while Dumbo provides you with an amazing view of the Manhattan skyline. The iconic Brooklyn Bridge, built in 1883, is still in use today connecting Brooklynites to Manhattan and is one of the most iconic landmarks in the state of New York. Many celebrities such as Barbara Streisand, Michael Jordan, Jay-Z, Neil Diamond, and Jimmy Kimmel are all native Brooklynites. Visit this borough for a refreshing break from the hustle and bustle of Manhattan but also for its eclectic communities and diverse attractions.

Libraries and Archives | Museums and Galleries | Other Cultural Institutions/Attractions | Theatre/Music/Nightlife | Food and Drinks | Shopping | Post Offices and Business Centers | Transportation tips for Brooklyn

Libraries and Archives

Brooklyn Museum Libraries and Archives
https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/opencollection/archives/ 
200 Eastern Parkway Brooklyn, New York 11238-6052
This library is located inside the Brooklyn Museum and is currently open by appointment. The Libraries’ collections parallel that of the Brooklyn Museum, so they are encyclopaedic in nature, ranging from ancient Egyptian art to contemporary art. The library has a fantastic artist book collection specializing in Brooklyn based artists. The Archives hold the institutional records of the Brooklyn Museum and are also available by appointment.

Brooklyn Art Library
https://www.brooklynartlibrary.com/
28 Frost Street, Brooklyn, NY, 11211
Over 36,000 sketchbooks, from 100+ countries live within the walls of Brooklyn Art Library. Our exhibitions and projects are interactive, allow anyone to participate and create an approachable museum setting that inspires creation, discussion and education. Submit a sketchbook to the library and leave your legacy. Anyone, from anywhere can sign up to receive a blank sketchbook, fill it up and submit it to join the permanent collection. (brooklynartlibrary.com)

**Brooklyn Public Library**
https://www.bklynlibrary.org/

*Central Branch*

10 Grand Army Plaza Brooklyn, NY 11238

There are many branches throughout Brooklyn, but one of the largest and most beautiful is the Central Library Branch conveniently located in Grand Army Plaza right near Prospect Park, the Brooklyn Museum, and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The library's design evokes an open book, with its spine on Grand Army Plaza and two wings opening like pages onto Eastern Parkway and Flatbush Avenue. Its 50-foot-high entry portico, set into the concave limestone façade, reflects the elliptical configuration of Grand Army Plaza. The dramatic entrance features fifteen gilded figures from American literature ([identify them here](#)), framed by columns with gold-leaf etchings that depict the evolution of art and science through the ages. (bklynlibrary.org)

**Brooklyn Historical Society**
http://www.brooklynhistory.org/

*BHS Pierrepont Location:*

128 Pierrepont Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 (corner of Clinton Street)

*BHS Dumbo Location:*

55 Water Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 (enter at 55 Water Street or through Brooklyn Bridge Park)

Founded in 1863, Brooklyn Historical Society is a nationally recognized urban history center dedicated to preserving and encouraging the study of Brooklyn's extraordinary 400-year history. Located in Brooklyn Heights and housed in a magnificent landmark building designed by George Post and opened in 1881, today's BHS is a cultural hub for civic dialogue, thoughtful engagement and community outreach. (brooklynhistory.org)

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**Museums and Galleries**

**Brooklyn Museum**
https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/

200 Eastern Parkway Brooklyn, New York 11238-6052

The Brooklyn Museum is one of the oldest and largest art museums in the United States. Similarly to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Brooklyn Museum's collection is encyclopaedic ranging from Ancient Egyptian to contemporary art. The Brooklyn Museum has a history of diversity and inclusion, and often displays exhibitions of underrepresented artists or subjects.
The Museum has a lovely new restaurant called the Norm as is most definitely kid-friendly. If you want to visit a Museum with many different types of art but want to avoid the overwhelming crowds this is the place to visit. It is also located directly off the ⅔ Subway line.

**New York Transit Museum**
http://www.nytransitmuseum.org/
*Boerum Place & Schermerhorn St, Brooklyn, NY 11201*
Founded in 1976, the New York Transit Museum is dedicated to telling and preserving the stories of mass transportation – extraordinary engineering feats, workers who labored in the tunnels over 100 years ago, communities that were drastically transformed, and the ever-evolving technology, design, and ridership of a system that runs 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Housed underground in an authentic 1936 subway station in Downtown Brooklyn, the Transit Museum’s working platform level spans a full city block, and is home to a rotating selection of twenty vintage subway and elevated cars dating back to 1907. (nytransitmuseum.org) There is also an annex Gallery and gift shop located in Grand Central Terminal.

**The Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts (MoCADA)**
http://mocada.org/
*80 Hanson Pl., Brooklyn, NY 11217*
MoCADA was founded in 1999 by Laurie Angela Cumbo in a brownstone owned by the Bridge Street AWME Church in the Bedford-Stuyvesant community of Brooklyn, New York. The concept of the museum grew from Ms. Cumbo’s graduate thesis at New York University, which focused on the feasibility of an African diaspora museum contributing to the revitalization of central Brooklyn economically, socially and aesthetically. The museum began with socially and politically charged exhibitions and public programs focused on contemporary issues impacting people of the African diaspora. Seventeen years later, MoCADA has grown to serve both adults and youth throughout the diaspora, with an emphasis on underserved communities of color, through a diverse range of exhibitions, education and community programs. (mocada.org)

**Bldg 92 Brooklyn Navy Yard Center**
http://bldg92.org/
*63 Flushing Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11205*
The Brooklyn Navy Yard Center at BLDG 92 is an exhibition, visitors and employment center that is operated as a program of the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation (BNYDC). BNYDC is the non-profit corporation that manages the Brooklyn Navy Yard on behalf of its owner, the City of New York. BNYDC’s mission is to promote local economic development and job creation, develop underutilized areas and oversee modernization of the Yard’s infrastructure and assets while maintaining its historical integrity.

**The City Reliquary**
http://www.cityreliquary.org/
The City Reliquary is a not-for-profit community museum and civic organization located in Williamsburgh, Brooklyn. Through permanent displays of New York City artifacts, rotating exhibits of community collections, and annual cultural events, The City Reliquary connects visitors to both the past and present of New York. The museum’s permanent collection includes Statue of Liberty postcards, terracotta fragments of landmark buildings, subway tokens, geological core samples, paint chips from the L train platform, a “very old shovel,” and countless other artifacts that tell unique stories of New York City’s past. (cityreliquary.org)

Brooklyn Children’s Museum
http://www.brooklynkids.org/
145 Brooklyn Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11213
A pioneer in education, Brooklyn Children’s Museum was the first museum created expressly for children when it was founded in 1899. Its success has sparked the creation of 300 children’s museums around the world. With award-winning, hands-on exhibits and innovative use of its collections, the Museum engages children from pre-school to high school in learning adventures. It is the only children’s museum in New York City, and one of few in the country, to be accredited by the American Association of Museums. (brooklynkids.org)

The Jewish Children’s Museum
http://www.jcm.museum/
792 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11213
With hands-on exhibits focusing on Jewish holidays, biblical history, the land of Israel, contemporary Jewish life and more, the Jewish Children’s Museum celebrates and explores many aspects of Jewish culture. Through innovative multi-media technology, Jewish history, values and culture come to life at the Museum. The Museum features multi-media marvels, an art gallery, two state-of-the-art computer labs, a game show studio, a 75-seat audiovisual theater, a miniature golf course and a craft workshop. These are but some of the wonders within the museum’s 50,000 square foot multi-media wired structure. (jcm.museum)

Galleries: Forget Chelsea-The 15 Brooklyn Galleries You Need to Know Now (Artnet, 2015)

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Other Cultural Institutions/Attractions

Brooklyn Botanic Garden
https://www.bbg.org/
*There are three different entrances:
150 Eastern Parkway (2 and 3 Subway line)
455 Flatbush Ave (B/Q/S Subway line)
990 Washington Ave (4 and 5 Subway line)
Brooklyn Botanic Garden is an urban botanic garden that connects people to the world of plants, fostering delight and curiosity while inspiring an appreciation and sense of stewardship of the environment. In the Garden, in its community, and well beyond, BBG inspires people of all ages through the conservation, display, and enjoyment of plants; with educational programs that emphasize learning by doing; and with research focused on understanding and conserving regional plants and plant communities. (bbg.org) Be mindful that while the Garden is open year round, many of the plants will not be in bloom during the month of February.

The Brooklyn Bridge and Park
http://www.brooklynbridgepark.org/
Brooklyn Bridge Park is a world-class waterfront park with rolling hills, riverfront promenades, lush gardens, and spectacular city views. Our list of amenities continues to grow as we work each day to revitalize this previously deteriorated industrial space and build a park that allows New Yorkers to rediscover the waterfront. (brooklynbridgepark.org) Walking across the bridge is totally free and open to both pedestrians and bicyclists, which have a separate level for crossing that is safely away from vehicle traffic. The bridge connects the Dumbo neighborhood of Brooklyn with the City Hall area of Lower Manhattan. Check out this guide from Explore Brooklyn, which helps you figure out where to get on and off the bridge.

Prospect Park
What Central Park is to Manhattan, Prospect Park is to Brooklyn. There are several entrances to Prospect Park and the best way to navigate the space is to use this handy map created by the Prospect Park Alliance.

Greenwood Cemetery
http://www.green-wood.com/
500 25th St, Brooklyn, NY 11232
Green-Wood is 478 spectacular acres of hills, valleys, glacial ponds and paths, throughout which exists one of the largest outdoor collections of 19th- and 20th-century statuary and mausoleums. Four seasons of beauty from century-and-a-half-old trees offer a peaceful oasis to visitors, as well as its 560,000 permanent residents, including Leonard Bernstein, Boss Tweed, Charles Ebbets, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Louis Comfort Tiffany, Horace Greeley, Civil War generals, baseball legends, politicians, artists, entertainers and inventors. (green-wood.com)

New York Aquarium
http://nyaquarium.com/
Surf Avenue & West 8th Street in Brooklyn, New York 11224
The New York Aquarium fulfills the wider goals of the Wildlife Conservation Society by raising public awareness about environmental issues facing the ocean and its ecosystem. The Aquarium’s Osborn Laboratories of Marine Sciences (OLMS) has been involved in studies looking at dolphin cognition, satellite tagging of sharks and coral reefs. The Aquarium also is home to one of Coney Island’s most important public artworks, the 332-foot long, ten-foot tall cast-concrete “Symphony of the Sea” sculpture wall by artist Toshio Sasaki (one of the eight
finalists of the Ground Zero Memorial competition) that was installed on the boardwalk outside the Aquarium in 1992. Today's version of the Aquarium is home to over 350 species of aquatic wildlife and over 8,000 specimens. (nycgovparks.org)

****Please note that the famous Coney Island and Luna Park in Brooklyn is only open in the warmer months from April-October. So come back and visit when the sun is out!

Theatre/Music/Nightlife

Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM)
http://www.bam.org/
Peter J. Sharp Building:
30 Lafayette Ave Brooklyn, NY, 11217
BAM Harvey Theater:
651 Fulton St Brooklyn, NY, 11217
BAM Fisher:
321 Ashland Pl Brooklyn, NY, 11217
BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music) is a multi-arts center located in Brooklyn, New York. For more than 150 years, BAM has been the home for adventurous artists, audiences, and ideas—engaging both global and local communities. With world-renowned programming in theater, dance, music, opera, film, and much more, BAM showcases the work of emerging artists and innovative modern masters. (bam.org)

Music Hall of Williamsburg
http://www.musichallofwilliamsburg.com/
66 North 6th St. Brooklyn, NY 11211
As the primary outpost for Bowery Presents in Williamsburg, this is the place to go for marquee names and reliable set times. From indie rock to electronic, folk and country, Music Hall offers you the chance to stick in Brooklyn to see the larger/better-known bands who come through New York. Multiple levels, balcony seating, and a plush basement outfitted with its own bar and enormous screens broadcasting the show guarantee that you'll be comfortable here wherever you choose to watch the show. Best For: When you want to watch a band you love from a balcony vantage point. (bkmag.com)

Rough Trade
http://www.roughtradenyc.com/
64 N 9th St, Brooklyn, NY 11249
An outpost of London’s flagship independent record store, the Williamsburg location has managed to hold its own in a digital world by incorporating a large selection of vinyl exclusives, and a space where small and intimate live shows can take place. You have to head to the back
to get into the cave-like venue, which boasts a large floor space and seats that rise in tiers above the stage. Whether you’re seated or jamming out on the floor, the sense that you’re part of something bigger than the moment tends to settle over you like a mantle. Let it. There won’t be many more record stores like this existing in our TIDAL and Beats Music-saturated future.

Best For: Seeing an artist you love do a packed out underplay, and screaming along with other diehard fans. (bkmag.com)

**Brooklyn Bowl**
http://www.brooklynbowl.com/
61 Wythe Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11249
This bowling alley and live-music venue fully embraces the new mania for local nostalgia. The space takes its design cues from Coney Island with old freak-show posters and carnival-game relics, and all of the beer sold inside—by Sixpoint, Kelso and the Brooklyn Brewery—is made in the borough. This is a great place to kill a few hours with a big rowdy group: You can tackle a pitcher and the stoner-food menu from the Blue Ribbon team (delicious fatty brisket, Old Bay–fried chicken) laneside between frames. The plush tufted couches are the most luxurious alley seating we’ve ever seen. (timeout.com)

**Other Live Music Venues:** Brooklyn's Best Music Venues (Brooklyn Magazine, 2016)

**Food and Drinks**

**The Brooklyn Brewery**
http://brooklynbrewery.com/verify
79 North 11th Street in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, 11249 between Berry Street and Wythe Avenue
Williamsburg's craft-beer facility offers reservation-only small batch brewery tours (Mon–Thu 5–7pm; $15) and free general tours on Friday, Saturday and Sunday (see website for details). You can also sample beer in the tasting room. (timeout.com)

**Spritzenhaus33**
http://www.spritzenhaus33.com/
33 Nassau Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11222
One hundred taps dispense craft brews at this massive Greenpoint gastropub, from owner Robert Shamlian (Spitzer's Corner, Fat Baby). The 6,000-square-foot beer hall features a wood-burning oven and a marble bar. Hopped up drinkers can line their bellies with salty snacks, like sausages and pretzels, from a German-focused menu. (timeout.com)

**Wythe Hotel (Reynard and the Ides)**
http://wythehotel.com/
80 Wythe Ave. at N. 11th Williamsburg, Brooklyn, NY 11249
This trendy Williamsburg Hotel also functions as a hotspot for nightlife. Reynard, a chic restaurant with an eclectic menu, occupies the ground floor, while The Ides is the rooftop bar serving mildly overpriced cocktails. In the summer months the balcony is open to a gorgeous view, which can still be seen on a clear winter day from inside the bar. The Hotel is conveniently located in the heart of Williamsburg with many other restaurants and bars surrounding it.

Cafe Rue Dix
https://www.caferuedix.com/
1451 Bedford Ave @Park Pl, Crown Heights Brooklyn, NY 11216
Cafe Rue Dix is a French and Senegalese cafe, restaurant, and bar located in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. We serve traditional Senegalese cuisine as well as typical french cafe fare. We pride ourselves on using fresh ingredients and bold spices to create some of the best franco-senegalese dishes in NYC. We serve breakfast, lunch, weekend brunch, and dinner. Please join us for Happy Hour daily from 4pm-7pm. (caferuedix.com)

Mayfield
http://mayfieldbk.com/
688 Franklin Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11238
Managing to be rustic yet hip, and dark yet welcoming, this Crown Heights hideaway has won the hearts of nouveau locals with its feel-good soundtrack and crave-worthy comfort food. A mix of distressed brick walls and sleek tiles fill the dining room, while brass mermaid door handles give the look a playful edge. Art deco-inspired fixtures hang over the inviting bar. Tasso ham lends a smoky hint of the South to chewy mounds of hand-rolled linguini and tender coins of braised octopus tossed with a chunky puttanesca sauce of tomato, olives, capers, and garlic. Silky, organic chicken liver mousse is served alongside a stack of toasted baguette slices and fennel-apple salad. A pot de crème spiked with chilies is a welcome twist on the classic dessert. (viamichelin.com)

Katsuei
http://www.sushikatsuei.com/
210 7th Ave (3rd Street) Brooklyn, NY 11215
As far as sushi in Brooklyn goes, Katsuei is a cut above the myriad neighborhood restaurants specializing in crazy rolls and take-out. It’s beloved by the locals, and a review in the Times established its destination status. It’s also one of the more affordable omakases in the city. A tasting menu of sushi costs under $50. If you include sashimi, the price inches up to just under $60. (ny.eater.com)

Roberta’s
http://www.robertaspizza.com/
261 Moore St, Brooklyn, NY 11206
Buzzing with urban-farming fund-raisers, local brewers pouring their ales and food-world luminaries fresh off Heritage Radio interviews, this sprawling hangout has become the unofficial meeting place for Brooklyn’s sustainable-food movement. Opened in 2008 by Chris Parachini,
Brandon Hoy and Carlo Mirarchi, Roberta’s features its own rooftop garden, a food-focused Internet-radio station and a kitchen that turns out excellent, locally sourced dishes, such as delicate bibb lettuce with red-cherry vinaigrette or linguine carbonara made with lamb pancetta. It also doesn’t hurt that the pizzas—like the Cheesus Christ, topped with mozzarella, Taleggio, Parmesan, black pepper and cream—are among the borough’s best.

Habana Outpost
http://www.habanaoutpost.com/
757 Fulton Street (The corner of Fulton & South Portland)
Habana Outpost, located in Fort Greene, Brooklyn, welcomes you to enjoy traditional Mexican and Cuban cuisines. We are New York’s first eco-eatery and community gathering space for families, artist and toddlers. (habanaoutpost.com)

Four and Twenty Blackbirds
http://www.birdsblack.com/
439 3rd Avenue, Brooklyn 11215 (Brooklyn Pie Shop)
There is also a location inside the Brooklyn Public Library Central Branch at Grand Army Plaza!
The two South Dakota–reared sisters who opened Four & Twenty Blackbirds learned pie-baking from their grandma, and her expert instruction is evident in varieties like lemon chess, rhubarb custard and salted caramel apple enveloped in an exquisitely flaky crust. Linger at one of the comfy communal tables long enough, and your kids are bound to request a second slice—but if you want to take home a whole pie, you'll need to order it at least 48 hours in advance.

The 15 Best Inexpensive Places in Brooklyn (foursquare.com)

Shopping

Williamsburg
The best shops in Williamsburg: From TimeOut
Williamsburg is the ultimate destination for semi-affordable vintage clothing shops, all things artisanal, and locally sourced or globally conscious goods. While gentrification of the area has caused prices to increase in these stores, there are still bargains to be had. Be sure to check out Williamsburg Artists and Fleas, a year-long flea market that supports vendors selling everything from handmade jewelry, to vintage fashion pieces, to vinyl records.

Atlantic Terminal Mall
http://www.storesdowntown.com/atlantic-terminal-mall
139 Flatbush Ave Brooklyn, NY 11217
Located in the busy Downtown section of Brooklyn right next to the Barclays Center, the Atlantic Terminal Mall has many of the chain stores you may be familiar with from your hometown. Some of the most popular include: Target, Best Buy, Victoria’s Secret, Payless, Uniqlo, and
DSW. The Atlantic Avenue/Barclays Center train station also provides connection to the Long Island Railroad.

Post Offices/Business Centers

United States Post Offices in Brooklyn

FedEx Locations in Brooklyn

Park Slope Copy Center
http://www.parkslopecopy.com/
123 7th Ave Brooklyn, NY 11215

Flatbush Copy Center
http://flatbushcopycenter.com/
1570 Flatbush Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11210 (Corner of Flatbush Ave. and Nostrand Ave.)

Transportation tips for Brooklyn

By Subway and LIRR
There are many subway lines that take you between Manhattan and Brooklyn, but once you are in Brooklyn, it can be difficult to get from one part to another via subway. If traveling between Williamsburg and Crown Heights, for example, try looking into MTA buses for routes that may get you closer to your destination. To get between Manhattan and northern Brooklyn most people use the L, G, J, Z, or M trains. The A and C lines will take you through the center of Brooklyn and the 4,5,2,3,N,Q,R,D, and F trains will take you through middle and southern Brooklyn. Online subway map

Atlantic Terminal/Barclays Center is like the Grand Central Station of Brooklyn. The 2,3,4,5,N,Q,R,B,D subway lines as well as the LIRR all make stops at Atlantic Terminal.

You can get to Brooklyn from the JFK airport by taking the Airtran to Jamaica station, transferring to the LIRR and getting off at Atlantic Terminal.

*Please keep in mind that construction and service changes often affect weekend MTA service between Manhattan and Brooklyn. Read all posters in the subway stations or look at service alerts online before planning your trip.

*ARLIS/NA does not endorse commercial businesses. Proceed at your own discretion.