Queens - ARLIS Local Guide

Situated between Brooklyn and Long Island across the East River from Manhattan, Queens is the largest NYC borough in size at 178 square miles. With over 2 million inhabitants, Queens is a city in and of itself, one of the most densely populated in the U.S.; it also is very suburban in feeling, especially the further east one travels. It consists of many more neighborhoods than those listed below, and an abundance of cultural and culinary offerings. Queens County is extremely diverse, with both over 100 countries of origin represented and different languages spoken. The “Queen” in question is Catherine of Braganza (1638-1705), wife of King Charles II of England.

NYC Go Queens
Queens Tribune

Neighborhoods | Astoria | Corona/Flushing | Jackson Heights | Jamaica | Long Island City | The Rockaways | Food & Drinks | Post Offices & Business Centers | Transportation

Neighborhoods

➤ Astoria
Astoria is home to the Steinway & Sons piano company and is known for its cultural diversity. It was historically a Greek community, but now many different immigrant communities call it home.

Kaufman Astoria Studios
http://www.kaufmanastoria.com/
34-12 36th Street Astoria, NY 11106
Many important television shows and movies have been filmed at Kaufmann-Astoria Studios, which opened in 1920.
Museum of the Moving Image
http://www.movingimage.us/
36-01 35 Ave, Astoria, NY 11106
A media museum focusing on the history of film and the digital or moving image as well as the modern and contemporary use of digital media in art and culture.

➤ Corona / Flushing
These neighborhoods have large communities consisting of Latin American, Italian, and Asian heritage residents.

Citi Field (Home of the Mets)
http://newyork.mets.mlb.com/nym/ballpark/index.jsp
123-01 Roosevelt Ave, Queens, NY 11368
Tours are available, which include access to the Hall of Fame and Museum (not otherwise accessible on non-game days).

Flushing Meadows-Corona Park
https://www.nycgovparks.org/parks/flushing-meadows-corona-park
Grand Central Pkwy., Whitestone Exwy. bet. 111 St. and College Point Blvd., Park Drive E.
A public park planned in the 1920s and the largest park in Queens, which was the site of the 1939 and the 1964 World’s Fairs. Includes the iconic Unisphere—symbol of the World’s Fair comprising a large globe and fountains—and the New York State Pavilion, designed for the 1964 Fair by Philip Johnson and Richard Foster. A long-term use for this last structure had not been identified for years, but finally, it will be redesigned with an estimated end date of Fall 2019. The park has an ice rink in the winter.

New York Hall of Science
https://nysci.org/
47-01 111th Street Corona, New York 11368
One of the first science museums to be established in the world.

Queens Museum
http://www.queensmuseum.org/
New York City Building Flushing Meadows Corona Park Queens, NY 11368
A museum featuring a collection with great variety, from Tiffany Glass and works by Salvador Dalí to documents and objects from the 1939 and 1964 World’s Fairs. The Queens Museum proudly displays a to-scale model of all of New York City which has been updated regularly since 1964 called Panorama of the City of New York.

Queens Theatre
http://queenstheatre.org/
14 United Nations Avenue South in Flushing Meadows Corona Park
Also designed by Johnson and Foster and one of the structures that make up the Pavilion, with alterations made in the 1980s and 90s, and a reception hall added in 2008-10. Known as “Theaterama” during the fair. Now used for plays, concerts, film festivals, and other events.

**Queens Zoo**

[https://queenszoo.com](https://queenszoo.com)

*53-51 111th Street Corona, New York 11368*

The zoo is open year-round and is accessible via the number 7 train or the Q58 bus.

**USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center**

[https://ustanew2.gotennissource.com/](https://ustanew2.gotennissource.com/)

*Flushing Meadows - Corona Park, Flushing, NY 11368*

Home of the U.S. Open, which the Center’s website calls “the world’s highest-attended annual sporting event.” Tours are available Oct.-July, space permitting, and courts may be booked for play year-round by members of the public.

**Flushing Town Hall**


*137-35 Northern Boulevard (at the corner of Linden Place)*

Features theatre performances, concerts (notable for jazz), exhibitions in its gallery, and a shop. Managed by the Flushing Council on Culture and the Arts. The building is a landmarked 1862 Romanesque Revival structure. The website features lots of cultural events and activities taking place in this neighborhood.

**Louis Armstrong House Museum**

[https://www.louisarmstronghouse.org/](https://www.louisarmstronghouse.org/)

*34-56 107th Street Corona, NY 11368*

A museum dedicated to Louis Armstrong in the house where he lived for almost thirty years with his wife. Located close to LaGuardia Airport.

**Queens Botanical Garden**


*43-50 Main Street Flushing, NY 11355*

Queens’ famous botanical garden, featuring a wide array of flora both local and foreign.

**Queens College, City University of New York**

*Kupferberg Center for the Arts*

*153-49 Reeves Ave Flushing, NY 11367*

Art Center and Art Library

**Queens Historical Society**

14335 37th Avenue, Flushing, NY 11354
The QHS oversees the Kinglands Homestead (in 18th-century Long Island half-house style), and the c. 1733 Moore-Jackson Cemetery in Woodside. Rotating exhibitions are on view.

Voelker Orth Museum
http://www.vomuseum.org/
149-19 38th Avenue Flushing, NY 11354
Bird Sanctuary and Victorian Garden. An 1890s German immigrant home and grounds offering period rooms and changing exhibitions and events throughout the year.

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➤ Jackson Heights
“One of the most diverse neighborhoods in the country—167 languages are said to be spoken here.” (unidentified magazine article)

➤ Jamaica
A transportation hub and very diverse community.

Queens Library
http://www.queenslibrary.org/
Central Library, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432
The Central Library branch is located here, which is part of a library system with one of the highest circulation rates in the U.S. The system includes some 65 local branch library locations.

➤ Long Island City
On the East River, and within close proximity to Midtown Manhattan, a center for art with former industrial buildings that are now art institutions.

MoMA PS1
http://momaps1.org/
22-25 Jackson Avenue, Long Island City, NY 11101
An offshoot of the Museum of Modern Art which is dedicated exclusively to contemporary art, this museum was founded in 1971 in an old public school building.

Noguchi Museum
http://www.noguchi.org/
9-01 33rd Road (at Vernon Boulevard), Long Island City, NY 11106
A warehouse-turned-museum founded by and dedicated to famous Japanese-American 20th century sculptor Isamu Noguchi.
Socrates Sculpture Park  
http://socratessculpturepark.org/  
32-01 Vernon Blvd, Long Island City, NY 11106  
A sculpture park on the East River with a variety of contemporary sculpture and views of Roosevelt Island and Manhattan, as well as film screenings and events in the summer.

➤ The Rockaways  
Where local residents go to the beach.

Fort Tilden  
https://www.nps.gov/gate/learn/historyculture/fort-tilden.htm  
Breezy Point, NY 11697  
A former U.S. Army post eventually converted to veteran housing and now under the National Park Service’s jurisdiction.

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Food & Drinks

Queens is a food mecca: Greek food in Astoria, Mexican food in Corona (or Indian or Colombian), Irish food in Woodside, Italian in Long Island City, Chinese and Korean in Flushing, and much more . . . .

Queens Dining 101 (2015)  
Hottest Restaurants in Queens (2017)  
Serious Eats: Queens

Post Offices & Business Centers

Queens has close to 70 local post office locations, and FedEx Office has locations in Forest Hills, Jamaica, Astoria, and elsewhere.

Transportation

The 7 subway train runs elevated in much of the borough, so a good ride to observe the changing neighborhoods and residents. The Long Island Rail Road also stops in Queens en route to Manhattan or Long Island. Express buses stop in places where the subway doesn’t run. The Q32, Q60, and Q101 buses run to/from Midtown Manhattan, and the M60 goes to upper Manhattan—just outside Columbia University, etc.—to/from LaGuardia Airport.

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