

Brooklyn

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS | DUMBO | DOWNTOWN BROOKLYN | FORT GREENE | CLINTON HILL | BOERUM HILL | COBBLE HILL | CARROLL GARDENS | RED HOOK | GOWANUS | PARK SLOPE | PROSPECT PARK | PROSPECT HEIGHTS | BEDFORD-STUYVESANT | CROWN HEIGHTS | CONEY ISLAND | BRIGHTON BEACH | WILLIAMSBURG | BUSHWICK



Neighborhood Top Five

- 1** Taking in the incredible views of Lower Manhattan from the new **Brooklyn Bridge Park** (p264) in Dumbo. Tucked between the Brooklyn and Manhattan Bridges, this East River green space has good spots for picnicking and a magnificent vintage carousel.
- 2** Seeing the impressive collections at the **Brooklyn Museum of Art** (p265), strong on Egyptian, American and feminist works.
- 3** Riding the rickety **Cyclone roller coaster** (p266) in Coney Island, one of America's oldest amusement parks.
- 4** Admiring the historic turn-of-the-20th-century architecture on **Montgomery Place** (p274) in Park Slope.
- 5** Poring through New York ephemera at the **City Reliquary** (p268).

For more detail of this area, see Maps p446 and p452 ➔

Explore Brooklyn

If Brooklyn were its own city, it'd be the fourth largest in the US – bigger than Houston, Philadelphia and Phoenix. It is home to more than 2.5 million people and is a rambling 71 sq miles (easily three times larger than Manhattan). It is split in two, with one set of subway lines servicing the north end of the borough, and another set traveling to points south. So if you think you can see it all in a day, as the locals say: 'Fuhgeddaboutit!'

For day-trip purposes, it is best to pick a neighborhood and stick to it. South Brooklyn, especially brownstone-studded Brooklyn Heights, offers lots of history and great Manhattan views. Fans of vintage amusement parks should head to Coney Island. For the night owls, the trendy enclave of Williamsburg lies just a single subway stop from Manhattan and is loaded with bars and restaurants.

If you are interested in other parts of town, ask around first. The borough may be all the rage, but it's not without its sketchy parts.

Local Life

- ➔ **Rock and roll** Hit the hot music spots in Williamsburg and Bushwick to hear the latest indie sounds. Bonus local points if you go on a weeknight.
- ➔ **Roller girls** Watch the Brooklyn Bombshells roller derby squad tear up the track in competition.
- ➔ **Park sloping** Join the stroller brigade for a lap or two around Prospect Park.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Subway** Sixteen subway lines travel between Manhattan and Brooklyn, with an additional line (the G) connecting the Park Slope area of Brooklyn to Williamsburg and Queens. For southern Brooklyn, you'll want the A/C line that stops in Brooklyn Heights, downtown and Bed-Stuy. Park Slope and Coney Island are serviced by the D/F and the N/Q. Brooklyn Heights, downtown and Prospect Heights can be accessed by the 2/3 and the 4/5. In north Brooklyn, Bushwick and Williamsburg are reached primarily on the L.
- ➔ **Bus** If you have a lot of time on your hands, the B62 bus travels within Brooklyn between downtown and Williamsburg. In downtown, find a stop at the intersection of Smith and Fulton Sts. In Williamsburg, look for stops along Driggs St.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

If you want to get a sense of what old New York was like, be sure to wander around Brighton Beach. Under the elevated tracks on Brighton Beach Ave, the bustling Russian district known as 'Little Odessa' is packed with greengrocers and emporiums dispensing smoked fish and pierogis. On the street, you'll find a cross section of humanity – from grandmas to sulky teens – chattering in a million different languages as the trains rumble overhead. It's unmistakably New York.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Roberta's (p283)
- ➔ Vinegar Hill House (p279)
- ➔ Lot 2 (p281)
- ➔ Varenichnaya (p283)
- ➔ Mile End (p280)

For reviews, see p278 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Freddy's (p286)
- ➔ Commodore (p286)
- ➔ Ruby's (p267)
- ➔ Pine Box Rock Shop (p287)
- ➔ 61 Local (p285)

For reviews, see p285 ➔

Best Places to Channel Your Inner Hipster

- ➔ Bell House (p288)
- ➔ Beacon's Closet (p294)
- ➔ Mermaid Parade (p267)