

Queens

LONG ISLAND CITY | ASTORIA | FLUSHING | CORONA | WOODSIDE

Neighborhood Top Five

1 Finding inspiration and provocation at **MoMA PS1** (p298), the Museum of Modern Art's cross-river sibling. From painting and sculpture to site-specific installations, this cultural 'It kid' serves up some of the world's edgiest artwork, not to mention lectures, per-

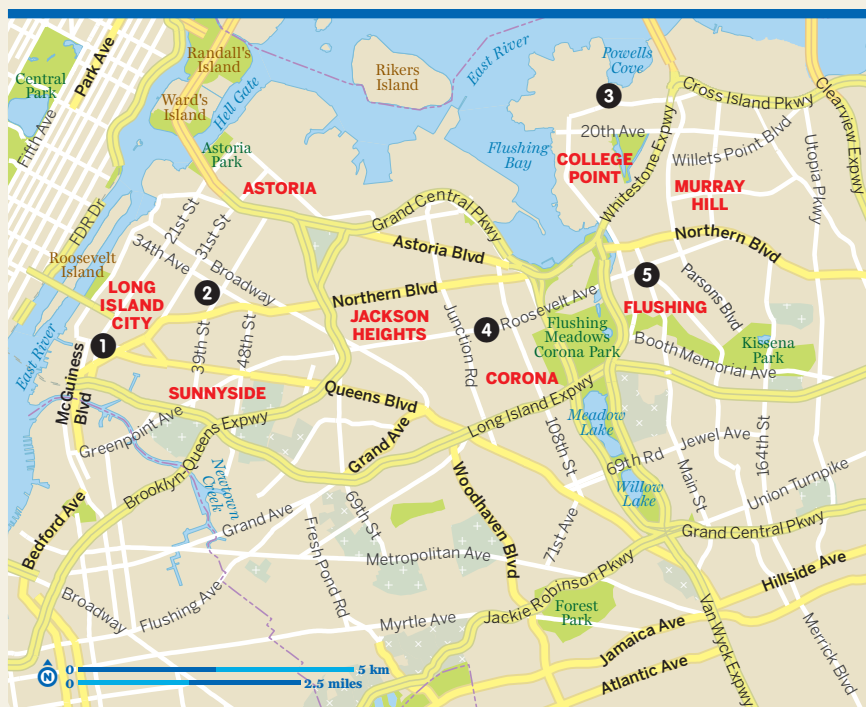
formances and an electric summer party series.

2 Reliving your favorite screen moments at the better-than-ever **Museum of the Moving Image** (p301).

3 Working up a sweat at aquatic wonderworld **New York Spa Castle** (p308).

4 Late-night Latino food truck crawling on **Roosevelt Ave** (p395).

5 Diving into the frenetic tide of Asian street life in Flushing.



For more detail of this area, see Map p454 ➔

Explore Queens

Of the city's five boroughs, Queens is top dog in size and runner-up in head count. Anywhere else, it would be a major city in its own right. So where to begin? Assuming it's not Tuesday or Wednesday (when most of the galleries are closed), start your explorations with two days in Long Island City (LIC). It's packed with contemporary art musts like MoMA PS1, 5 Pointz and the lesser-known Fisher Landau Center for Art. Watch the sun set over Manhattan from Gantry Plaza State Park, and sip-and-sip in locally loved restaurants lining Vernon Blvd.

Spend a day or two exploring neighboring Astoria, taste-testing its ethnic delis and nosh spots, downing Czech beers at the Bohemian Hall & Beer Garden, and getting a cultural fix at the brilliant Museum of Modern Art and Noguchi Museum. Further out, Flushing (home to NYC's biggest Chinatown) also merits a full-day adventure, with enough hawker-style food stands, exotic grocery stores, kitschy malls and reflexology therapists to keep you purring for hours.

If it's hot and you feel like a splash, consider hitting the surf at up-and-coming Rockaway Beach. It has the city's best beach and finest fish taco.

Local Life

- ➔ **Hangouts** LIC locals relish cocktails, comfort food and gossip at El Ay Si (p304), while hipsters *sans* attitude down single-origin Joe and craft beers at Queens Kickshaw (p308).
- ➔ **Culture** Take an aerial tour of New York City without leaving the ground at the Queens Museum of Art (p301) – one of the city's true under-the-radar cultural gems.
- ➔ **Flushing** Snack on lamb dumplings in the Golden Shopping Mall (p304) basement, then fire up the palate at Hunan Kitchen of Grand Sichuan (p304) or Fu Run (p304).

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Subway** Twelve lines service Queens. Useful lines from Manhattan include the N, Q, R and M to Astoria, the 7 to Long Island City, Jackson Heights, Sunnyside, Woodside, Corona and Flushing, and the A to Rockaway Beach. The E, J and Z trains reach Jamaica, while the G directly connects Long Island City to Brooklyn (including Williamsburg).
- ➔ **Train** Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) has a handy connection from Manhattan's Penn Station to Flushing.
- ➔ **Bus** Useful routes include the M60, which runs from La Guardia Airport to Harlem and Columbia University in Manhattan, via Astoria.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Don't miss the Fisher Landau Center for Art (p300) for modern art without the crowds and admission fee. Occupying two floors of an old parachute harness factory in Long Island City, the core of its stellar collection of painting, photography, sculpture and installation art spans the 1960s to the present day. The rotating exhibitions feature key works from A-listers like Robert Rauschenberg, Cy Twombly, Jenny Holzer and Jasper Johns. Get in quick before the secret is out.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Sripraphai (p304)
- ➔ Fu Run (p304)
- ➔ Rockaway Taco (p301)
- ➔ Roosevelt Ave

For reviews, see p303 ➔

Best Places to Chill Out

- ➔ Rockaway Beach (p301)
- ➔ New York Spa Castle (p308)
- ➔ Gantry State Park
- ➔ Bohemian Hall & Beer Garden (p308)

Best Places for Culture

- ➔ MoMA PS1 (p298)
- ➔ Fisher Landau Center for Art (p300)
- ➔ SculptureCenter (p300)
- ➔ 5 Pointz (p300)