

# BROOKLYN

## THE NEIGHBORHOODS

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**Brooklyn has more diversity in its neighborhoods than any other borough in New York City.**

**And those neighborhoods define it: from the new and lively Dumbo just below the Brooklyn Bridge, to vibrant and artsy Fort Greene. The cool bars and restaurants of Park Slope and the antique stores of Atlantic Avenue. The famous brownstones of Brooklyn Heights and it's promenade with the views of Manhattan just over the water to up and coming Prospect Heights and Vanderbilt Avenue. The supremely hip Williamsburg and Greenpoint, the next big thing...**

And in the middle of it all, sits beautiful Prospect Park which has the unique feel of an English Common at times: ar away from the crowds; the perfect place to spend a lazy afternoon in the sun.

Like the other boroughs of the city, Brooklyn is also ethnically diverse. This diversity, which has been carefully maintained and protected throughout the years, typifies many of the neighborhoods.

Brooklyn has a rich history as a center for the arts, most notably the famous BAM, Brooklyn Academy of Music, which is located in Fort Greene. And in recent years too, the borough has produced some of the finest up and coming artists and musicians. It is progressive and independent, and adds credence to its recent

emergence as the hip place to be. The recently opened Barclays Center, which sits between Park Slope, Prospect Heights and Fort Greene, has also given the borough a world class music and sports venue, which can definitely rival iconic Madison Square Garden in Manhattan. Looking beyond this tag though, Brooklyn is also a very sophisticated district that contains experimental and innovative galleries as well as rare and valuable collections in famous museums.

The only way to really experience and get the best from Brooklyn is to walk or cycle its streets. Soak up the diversity, the different neighborhoods and the feeling of being part of a big community.

# BROOKLYN

## BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

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**Originally known as Brooklyn Village, Brooklyn Heights was New York City's first suburb. It stretches from the Brooklyn Bridge, south to Atlantic Avenue and from the East River east to Court Street and Cadman Plaza.**

The Promenade, is a favorite spot among locals, offering magnificent vistas of the Statue of Liberty, the Manhattan skyline across the East River, as well as views of the Brooklyn Bridge, Manhattan Bridge, and spectacular fireworks displays over the East River. It is a popular tourist destination, a fine termination point, with its stunning views, after a breath-taking walk over the Brooklyn Bridge.

The neighborhood is largely composed of picturesque townhouses and a few mansions. A great range of architectural styles is represented, including a few Federal-style houses from the early 19th century in the northern part of the neighborhood, brick Greek Revival and Gothic Revival houses, and Italianate brownstones. A number of houses, particularly along Pierrepont Street and Pierrepont Place are authentic mansions. Situated so close to Manhattan, Brooklyn



Heights is serviced by numerous subway services, specifically the A, C, F, R, 2, 3, 4, and 5. In fact, Brooklyn Heights, along with the adjacent Downtown Brooklyn area, are served by more subway lines than just about any other area in New York City.

# BROOKLYN

## DUMBO

**Dumbo is an acronym for ‘Down Under the Manhattan Bridge Overpass’ and located between the Manhattan and Brooklyn Bridges, which connect Brooklyn to Manhattan across the East River. It continues east from the Manhattan Bridge to the Vinegar Hill area.**

The area has emerged as one of New York City’s premier arts districts, with a cluster of for-profit art galleries such as the Klompching Gallery. Chef Jacques Torres opened a chocolate factory in Dumbo in December 2000. Other culinary businesses in the area include the famous pizza restaurant, Grimaldi’s, the Brooklyn Ice Cream Factory, and The River Café. The area also includes the newly-completed Brooklyn Bridge Park, which offers great views of Manhattan just over the water.



# BROOKLYN

## PARK SLOPE / PROSPECT PARK

**During the American Revolutionary War on August 27, 1776, the Park Slope area served as the backdrop for the beginning of the Battle of Long Island, also called the Battle of Brooklyn.**

By the late 1870s, with horse-drawn rail cars running to the park and the ferry, bringing many rich New Yorkers in the process, the urban sprawl dramatically changed the neighborhood into a streetcar suburb. Many of the large Victorian mansions on Prospect Park West, known as the Gold Coast, were built in the 1880s and 1890s to take advantage of the beautiful park views. Today, many of these buildings are preserved within the 24-block Park Slope Historic District, one of New York's largest landmarked neighborhoods. By 1883, with the opening of the Brooklyn Bridge, Park Slope continued to boom and subsequent brick and brownstone structures pushed the neighborhood's borders farther. The 1890 census showed Park Slope to be the richest community in the United States. Park Slope is awash with historic buildings, top-rated restaurants, bars, and shops, as well as being close to Prospect Park, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, the Brooklyn Museum, and the Brooklyn Conservatory



of Music. The neighborhood is still considered one of New York City's most desirable places to live. In 2010, it was ranked number 1 in New York by New York Magazine citing the quality of its public schools, dining, nightlife, shopping, access to public transport, green spaces, good housing and safety, among other aspects.

# BROOKLYN

## FORT GREENE

**In the early 20th century Fort Greene became a significant cultural destination.**

After the original Brooklyn Academy of Music in Brooklyn Heights burned down in 1903, the current one was built in Fort Greene, and opened in 1908. At the time, the BAM was the most complexly designed cultural center in Greater New York since the construction of Madison Square Garden 15 years earlier. The neighborhood is also home to the Brooklyn Music School, The Paul Robeson Theater, The Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts, BRIC Arts|Media|Bklyn, UrbanGlass, 651 Arts performing center for African-American presenters, The Irondale Center for Theater, Education and Outreach, and the Mark Morris Dance Center. Spike Lee established his 40 Acres & A Mule Film works company in Fort Greene in the mid-1980s, further strengthening the resurgence of the neighborhood. The Fort Greene Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983 and expanded in 1984.



# BROOKLYN

CARROLL GARDENS / BOERUM HILL / COBBLE HILL

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**A long-standing Italian-American neighborhood of family-run stores, Carroll Gardens is now sprinkled with cafes, boutiques and antique shops.**

Boerum Hill is noted for its creative population, proximity to all transportation, abundant cultural offerings (including Roulette, Issue Project Room, and BAM), the thriving Smith Street restaurant row and Atlantic Avenue Design district. Cobble Hill sits adjacent to Boerum Hill and Brooklyn Heights with Carroll Gardens to the south. The Cobble Hill Historic District covers the majority of the neighborhood, and includes the award-winning Cobble Hill Park.



# BROOKLYN

## WILLIAMSBURG

### In 1898 Brooklyn itself became one of five boroughs within the City of Greater New York,

and its Williamsburg neighborhood was opened to closer connections with the rest of the new city. Just five years later, the opening of the Williamsburg Bridge in 1903 marked the real turning point in the area's history. The community was then opened up to thousands of upwardly mobile immigrants and second-generation Americans fleeing the overcrowded slum tenements of Manhattan's Lower East Side. Williamsburg itself soon became the most densely populated neighborhood in New York City, which in turn was the most densely populated city in the United States. The novel *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* addresses a young girl growing up in the tenements of Williamsburg during this era.

The first artists moved to Williamsburg in the 1970s, drawn by the low rents, large spaces available and convenient transportation, one subway stop from Manhattan. This continued through the 1980s and increased significantly in the 1990s as earlier destinations such as Soho and the East Village became gentrified.

In recent years, Williamsburg has become a mecca for the younger hipster crowd and this is typified by a large number of bars, restaurants, shops and cafes on every corner. It has also become a destination of choice in the evenings and at weekends for crowds of Manhattanites. It is also a home for live music



and new bands. There are now two open air parks beside the East river which host concerts throughout the summer months. And in summer 2012 after decades of closure, the McCarren Park open-air pool re-opened its doors to the public as a free outdoor pool in the summer, and doubling as an ice-rink in the winter months.

Currently regarded by many as one of the 'cool areas' to live, work and play, in the city, Williamsburg typifies where Brooklyn is right now.