



A TOUR OF *Brooklyn*

Manhattan is an easy subway or taxi ride across the East River from the conference hotel, but you may also enjoy the slightly slower pace of Brooklyn in the nearby environs of Brooklyn Heights, Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens and Downtown Brooklyn and some spots farther afield.

Here is a brief list of interesting things to do, see and eat by a partial, prejudiced, and ignorant resident of Brooklyn.

The Promenade: Sweeping views of Lower Manhattan, the East River bridges, the Statue of Liberty and Governor's Island. On a clear day, you can see Ellis Island and New Jersey, while cloudy days offer moody, impressionistic light effects.

Brooklyn Bridge Park: Down the hill on Columbia Heights, past the dog park and the monolithic architecture of the Jehovah's Witnesses (whose world headquarters is here) is a different perspective: at water level, see Manhattan, and the old ships across the way at South Street Seaport, loom up impressively across a mass of shining water.

Hungry? At the site of the former Fulton Ferry landing is an esteemed ice-cream shop (www.brooklynicecreamfactory.com). The famous **Grimaldi's Pizza** is also nearby, just a block inland on Fulton Street (www.grimaldis.com/2/Index.htm). People who resist the notion of standing in a long line for pizza, however famous, might want to seek out an equally authentic Italian dining experience at **Pete's Downtown**, just down the street (www.petesdowntown.com).

In Dumbo, with its striking, cobblestone, post-industrial-meets-beautiful-monied-people vibe, you might stop in at the “visionary” chocolate shop **Jacques Torres** (www.mrchocolate.com).

Vinegar Hill: Farther along the waterfront is a little piece of Brooklyn that time forgot (www.forgotten-ny.com/NEIGHBORHOODS/vinegar.hill.09/vinegar.html).

Back in Brooklyn Heights: Admire the wealth of early to mid 19th-century architecture. Stroll the streets at random, or pick up a self-guided walking tour at the Brooklyn Historical Society, which is worth a visit in itself (www.brooklynhistory.org).



Jacques Torres



Court Street

Atlantic Avenue: Falafel and hummus lovers will be delighted by the array of choices at the south edge of Brooklyn Heights, on or near Atlantic Avenue. My favorite is **Fatoosh** at 330 Hicks Street. Not fancy, but delicious.

East from Fatoosh on the north side of Atlantic are various interesting shops and restaurants. Fans of British food, take note of **The Chip Shop** at 129 Atlantic Avenue (www.chipshopnyc.com). The highly curated used bookstore on the block between Clinton and Court Streets is worth a visit; so is Sahadi's (just beyond the bookstore) a temple

of inexpensive but exotic groceries. **Damascus Bread and Pastry**, a few doors down, is equally atmospheric. Try the spinach-and-feta-filled triangle pastries. On the south side of Atlantic Avenue on the same block, those whose interests tend more to fashion than food might enjoy a visit to **Urban Outfitters** or the **Barney's Co-Op**.

Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens: When you get to Court Street, turn right and walk south for a while. BookCourt at 163 Court Street is a fantastic independent bookstore. On Court Street there are reminders of the lingering Italian influence, such as Caputo's Bake Shop at 329 Court Street, home to many mysterious pastries.

Smith Street, which runs parallel to Court, is trendier yet grittier, where newish spots like **Stinky Bklyn** (cheese) and **Smith & Vine** (wine) coexist alongside older neighborhood institutions like dive bars. Smith is also where the F train subway runs, in case of need for a speedy return to the home base of the conference hotel.

Mazzola's! Fans of baked goods should detour west at Union Street, where at the corner of Henry sits the legendary, cash-only, perpetually-crowded-but-totally-worth-it-Mazzola's. Have coffee and a scone and sit outside to watch the passing scene. Get a whole-wheat baguette for the road, or some of those cookies shaped like little men. You won't regret it.

Park Slope: From the hotel, get on the 2/3 train at the Borough Hall stop and go in the Flatbush Avenue/New Lots Avenue direction, deeper into Brooklyn. Get off at Grand Army Plaza and prepare to be confused (by the roundabout), but pleasantly so. This is Park Slope, another leafy, genteel precinct of Brooklyn where Jane Austen might have felt at home. Navigating around the triumphal arch, an impressive monument to defenders of the Union in the Civil War, will bring you to the entrance of Prospect Park (www.prospectpark.org/visit/places/gap). Watch for traffic and heed the "Walk/Don't Walk" signs.



Grand Army Plaza

Prospect Park, like its better-known Manhattan counterpart, was designed by Olmsted and Vaux. Some people consider it even nicer. If you don't go any farther, go in at this point, the north entrance to see the Long Meadow. Take a deep breath. Sit on a bench and enjoy the verdure.



Fallkill Falls, Prospect Park

At this point you have several options. You might go admire the central branch of the **Brooklyn Public library** a little counterclockwise along the Grand Army Plaza circle, with its striking Moderne-style exterior, designed to resemble an open book.

A little farther down Eastern Parkway is the **Botanic Garden**, of manageable size to see in a couple of hours, and a treat for the senses (www.bbg.org).

Right next to the Botanic Garden is the **Brooklyn Museum**, which is never crowded, unlike certain museums in Manhattan. Less famous art, but a pleasant, sleepy quality and a strong collection of decorative arts and Egyptian, Classical and Near Eastern objects.

A walk around Park Slope: Turn south before the entrance to Prospect Park. Prospect Park West, along the park, has urban-rustic views on one side and gracious apartment houses on the other, while the other avenues west of the park are retail. Going west, the shops and restaurants lining the avenues tend to grow less upscale and quirkier. **Cousin John's**, at 70 Seventh Avenue, and **Gorilla Coffee** at 97 Fifth Avenue, are two neighborhood favorites for those in need of refreshment.



Botanic Garden



Brooklyn Museum

BAM: The Brooklyn Academy of Music is a spot for often-avant-garde theater, music, and dance, as well as cinema, both new art releases and older film (www.bam.org). BAM is not far from the conference hotel, at the fringe of the Downtown Brooklyn and Fort Greene neighborhoods.

Written by Kathleen Flynn

Designed by Mollie Stern | www.molliestern.com



New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge (333 Adams St)

- Brooklyn Bridge Park ● Brooklyn Ice Cream Factory (The corner of Old Fulton and Water St)
- Grimaldi's Pizzeria (19 Old Fulton St) ● Pete's Downtown (1 Cadman Plz)
- Jacques Torres Chocolate (66 Water St) ● Vinegar Hill ● Brooklyn Historical Society (128 Pierrepont St)
- Fatoosh, The Chip Shop, Sahadi, Damascus Bread And Pastry, Urban Outfitters, Barney's Co-op
- Book Court (163 Court St) ● Caputo's Bake Shop (329 Court St) ● Stinky Bklyn (261 Smith St)
- Smith & Vine (268 Smith St) ● Mazzola Bakery (192 Union St) ● Grand Army Plaza
- Brooklyn Public Library (1 Grand Army Plz) ● Botanic Gardens (900 Washington Ave)
- Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Parkway) ● Cousin John's (70 7th Ave) ● Gorilla Coffee (97 5th Ave)
- Brooklyn Academy Of Music (30 Lafayette Ave)



There once was a miller
with a daughter as lovely as a grape.

He told the king that she could
spin gold out of common straw.

The king summoned the girl
and locked her in a room full of straw
and told her to spin it into gold
or she would die like a criminal.

Poor grape with no one to pick.
Luscious and round and sleek.

Poor thing.

To die and never see Brooklyn.

Excerpt from Rumpelstiltskin by Anne Sexton.

