

36 Hours on the Brooklyn Water Front

By: Amethyst Alameda Dec. 10, 2015

Where the past is never forgotten



Photo Credit: Google

Down every street of Brooklyn you can find a piece of history. In many ways you can also be a part of it. Restaurants passed down to generations of families, who never let traditions die. Enjoy the same delicious food that people during the early 1900's did. Cobble stone pathways that once lead to an industrial world is now completely transformed. Astonishing views of the Manhattan skyline and inspiring art on every corner. The Brooklyn Waterfront is constantly changing because of the huge impact we have on its culture. Explore this side of the city and discover what you can alter.



Photo Credit: Google

FRIDAY

1. Coffee Empire Lives On, 11am

Begin your day bright and early with a uniquely crafted “cup of joe” at the Brooklyn Roasting Company. An establishment that strives to provide high quality fair trade coffee from all over the world. They even create their own coffee and espresso blends. Its rustic and industrial interior design takes you back in time when Brooklyn was known as the “coffee empire.” During the 1900’s the famous Arbuckle Coffee Factory was roasting and selling up to 25 billion pounds of coffee a month. This allowed Brooklyn to have the powerful title of the coffee capital along with its bragging rights. The Brooklyn Roasting Company holds the history of the Arbuckle Coffee Factory so closely that it was unknowingly built into the same space. In many ways history has repeated itself and has given us the opportunity to be a part of it. They offer freshly brewed coffee from places like, Rwanda which has milk- chocolate notes and Ethiopia which has hints of blueberries. For approximately \$2.00- \$5.00 dollars you have the opportunity to taste great coffee and enjoy the beautiful atmosphere provided by the Brooklyn Roasting Company. (<http://www.brooklynroasting.com/>)

2. Blast from the past, 12pm

Brooklyn holds a huge amount of history and it can be difficult to learn about it without knowing where to go. The Brooklyn Historical Society is a museum, library and educational center. It has provided this learning environment for over 100 years. For only \$10 dollars a ticket you can

experience different exhibits such as the Civil War Brooklyn, Brooklyn Abolitionist, and Brooklyn Sewers. You have the chance to learn how things such as slavery impacted Brooklyn in ways that allowed it to become what it is today. (<http://www.brooklynhistory.org/>)



Photo credit: Brooklyn Grange Web.

3. What Does the Future Hold for Brooklyn, 3 P.M

The Brooklyn Navy Yard Center showcases the navy yards history and enhancements through various exhibits. Although the BLDG 92 exhibits are free to the public they do offer 2 hour public bus tours (\$30 per person) and bike tours (\$24 per person) You can experience exhibits such as Past, Present and Future which features the generations of people who worked at the navy yard over time and the different projects that were created. Designing the Future exhibit consist of different innovating designs made by architecture and engineering students. The Brooklyn Navy Yard is also the home to the Brooklyn Grange, a local rooftop farm. They offer special dining event and workshops such as wreath making and yoga. There is breath taking view that truly rewarding. (<http://bldg92.org/>) (<http://brooklyngrangefarm.com/>)

Shopping at Dumbo, 5pm

4. The Historical Dumbo District was once the home to a major American industrial center filled with warehouses, factories and dock storehouses. Many goods were processed at Dumbo such as coffee teas sugar steel wool and much more. It now hold some of Brooklyn's trendiest retail shops. Pick up a few edgy outfits at NOS Boutique or how about some vintage home goods at Modern Anthology. Every step you take down these cobblestone streets you will find something that meets yours style. The Dumbo District also caters to those who have a large sweet tooth. They can pick up some sweets at the Jacques Torres Chocolate shop.



Photo Credit: Google

5. Best View in Brooklyn, 8 P.M

During the 70's the River Café was a part of "An abandoned neighborhood by the Brooklyn docks." Many people doubted the success of the restaurant because of its location. The River Cafe has made it their mission to provide the world's finest food with exceptional service. They do live up to their reputation along with the providing its guest with a remarkable view of the Manhattan skyline. Get all dressed up to enjoy dishes like lavender and spice crusted duck breast and Nova Scotia lobster with squid ink pasta. The fixed price for dinner is about \$120 and about \$ 55 dollars per person for brunch. They reached one Michelin Star which is a great encouragement for new guest to come a try their delicacies. This hidden treasure can change your outlook on food and the experience you should receive with it. (<http://therivercafe.com/>)



Photo credit: Waterfront Barge Museum Web.

Saturday

6. The One Buck Museum, 1 P.M

The Waterfront Barge Museum brings cultural and educational programs about the waterfront to the public. Step on board to the Lehigh Valley Railroad Barge # 79 that is anchored in the dock for all to enjoy. It was originally purchased for only one dollar in 1985. Experience exhibits like Land in Sea which consist of photographs that documented the recovery of the marine flight of 1549. Their mission is to preserve history and provide free opportunities for the public to be a part of educational exhibits and performance arts. During a visit you can also hear about waterfront stories such as “Home on the Hudson” and “Summer Storm.” You get to experience different forms of history. (<http://www.waterfrontmuseum.org/>)



Photo Credit: Daily News Web.

7. The Lunch Bells Are Ringing, 4pm

Feast your eyes on the biggest sandwiches you can eat at Defonte's Sandwich Shop. It was originally owned by Nick Defonte during the 1920's when Red Hook, Brooklyn was filled with hundreds of factory and dock workers. Those workers would head straight Defonte's Sandwich Shop for lunch at 12. Enjoy the same authentic Italian sandwiches that people did years before. Try out their famous "Nicky Special" which consist of capicola ham, salami, provolone cheese, fried eggplant, marinated mushrooms and so much more for only \$9.90. Defonte's Sandwich Shops is even considered one of celebrity chef Guy Ferrari's "Triple D stop." This old school Italian shop was featured in his show Diners, Drive- In` Dives. (<http://defontesofbrooklyn.com/storemenu.html>)



Photo Credit: Google

8. Express Yourself, 6 P.M

The Kentler International Drawing Space first opened up during the 90's. It is a no profit organization that acknowledges all forms of art. They offer the public an opportunity to be expose to contemporary art and making efforts to contribute you to the art society. Exhibits such as Solo Shows, where up to 5000 artists come together to showcase their drawing on paper. The Art Education Programs allows children from different school to travel to Red Hook and attend workshops with art educators. This gallery is free to the public. The building was built in 1877 and belonged to the Kentler family, which were made up of Brooklyn's seaport business workers. (<http://www.kentlergallery.org/pages/about.html>)



Photo Credit: Van Brunt Still House Web.

9. Bottoms Up! , 8 P.M

Brooklyn has a harsh history with whiskey, during the late 1800's many illegal moonshiners and distillers raised taxes on their products. This made people extremely upset therefore they created an army that attacked the neighborhood. They destroyed "250 barrels of liquor- worth \$5,000 in taxes." This eventually demolished these underground operations and it was only until 2012 that whiskey making returned to Brooklyn. The Van Brunt Still house is one of the few places in Red Hook, Brooklyn that is making traditional whiskey, moonshine and rum. Visit their tasting room on the weekends for a chance to taste high quality whiskey and the cocktail of your choice

(<http://www.vanbruntstillhouse.com/>)



Photo Credit: Google

Sunday

10. Museum of Unity, Sunday 1PM

The WAH Center was founded by Yuko Nii, a Japanese artist on a mission to bring art diversity to Brooklyn. Because of art we have the ability to understand each other which is where the name WAH Center comes from. The word “WAH” in Japanese means unity. At the Williamsburg Art & Historical Center people can come together and freely express themselves. There are exhibits such as WAH Bridges Man’s Best Friends: “Dog” which features different art styled portraits of dogs. Several artists come together to showcase their four legged best friends. The WAH center building was once the Kings County Savings Bank. During the 1860’s this location was considered to be one of the “most historically significant areas and an economic development.” The WAH center is a historical landmark and is open to the public.

(<http://wahcenter.net/>)



Photo Credit: Google

11. Sugar is Art, 3pm

During the 18th century enslaved African Americans in Brooklyn had risen to 25 % of the population. “Kings County, BK was a committed slave society.” Even after the Emancipation of slavery, it was difficult for free people to survive in a world where they still weren’t accepted. Soon after the free black community was formed. It was this history that inspired a company called Creative Time to take over the Domino Sugar Factory and create a historic project. The artist Kara Walker and her production team created sugar sculptures to open the public’s eyes to slave trade and migration. You can visit this exhibit for free on the weekends. There are molasses sculptures shaped into small African American children holding large baskets. It’s truly a magnificent sight. (<http://creativetime.org/projects/karawalker/>)



Photo Credit: Free Tours by Foot Web.

12. Street Art at Its Finest! (Williamsburg Street Art Edition) 5 P.M

Graffiti can be traced back to ancient civilizations but it can also be found in the old streets of Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Sign up with free tours by foot for a courageous guided trip through art history. You have the opportunity to see street art of the 21st century. During this tour you will learn about the different graffiti artists that make up a huge part of Brooklyn's street art. Through this experience you can come to an understanding of the various perspectives in art.

(<http://www.freetoursbyfoot.com/new-york-tours/brooklyn-tours/williamsburg-street-art-tour/>)



Photo Credit: Google

13. Brooklyn is the new Italy, 6 P. M

Bamonte's restaurant is considered to be the best part of old Brooklyn. After settling in Williamsburg from Salerno, Italy the Bamonte family open up Liberty Hall during the 1900's. It was later named Bamonte's Restaurant where they created traditions that continue to be legendary. Enjoy classic Italian food such as linguine with white clam sauce (\$16.50) and veal parmigiana. (\$22.95) you will become a part of their history. Bamonte's restaurant has been in Brooklyn for 100 years and they continue to provide everyone with comfort. They were also featured in the American crime television series "The Sopranos." Bamonte's restaurant is vital to Brooklyn's food culture.

Lodging

The Sheraton Brooklyn New York Hotel has easy access to all the major NYC attractions such as the Barclays center. Their rooms offers accommodation for various types of travelers. A traditional 200-250 sq. ft. guest room comes with a sweet sleeper bed full sized work desk 42" high definition television and so much more (about \$252 per night). For the more luxurious traveler they offer the 190-487 sq. ft. guest suite which comes with a separate lounge area with double sofa beds upscale bath amenities (about \$676 per night). The Sheraton Brooklyn New York Hotel is prepared to create a stress- free visit with their highly equip technology, fitness center and Sheraton store. Explore the food culture through their restaurants, bars and in room menus. (<http://www.sheratonbrooklyn.com/>)

BPM Hotel is a contemporary view of the hospitality industry. They offer exclusive information about the Brooklyn's biggest attractions. The standard 170 sq. ft. room come with one king sound sleeper bed, bathroom sound system, rainfall shower and so much more (about \$159 per night). The deluxe king room comes with over-sized windows, full length mirrors, smart HD TV and so much more (about \$189 per night). They have several package deal such as the champagne package for \$209. The Lower Level Lounge has free breakfast for all guests and special drinks. (<http://www.hotelbpmbrooklyn.com/>)

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