

36 Hours On The Brooklyn Waterfront in Summer

By ANNA NOVOSELOVA Dec.10, 2015

Summer Brooklyn Waterfront attracts visitors from all over the world because of its recreational activities, clean beaches and variety of good restaurants.



Coney Island Beach. Photo taken by Christi Arnold Jul 20th, 2015

Ecotourism is a common type of tourism in the Coney Island and Sheepshead Bay area. In 2012, Hurricane Sandy brought a big damage to the shore, however it pushed people to find new ways to recover from the storm. For the last 3 years, the area has been working on a major face lift. The local establishments updated their interior as well as exterior designs to start from a clean slate.

Friday

1. **BEACH TIME**, 9 A.M.

Start your summer experience at the Brooklyn Waterfront by visiting the Coney Island Beach.

This 3-mile long sandy beach offers its visitors various recreation activities, such as volleyball, handball and basketball. Join one of the non-professional teams or watch how professionals play volleyball. If you don't know how to swim or are afraid of having a sunstroke, don't worry. There are many lifeguards at the beach that will take care of your safety. The beach is pretty clean because of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society Beach Clean Up at Coney Island that takes care of the local environment. It is a volunteer organization that removes all garbage from the Coney Island shore. Go there in the morning before the sun gets strong to swim in the ocean and get a perfect tan.



Summer at Coney Island. Taken from New York Parks official website.

2. PIZZA PARADISE, 2 P.M.

Got hungry after the beach? Go to the Grimaldi's - one of the best chain pizzerias in United States. This place is located at 1215 Surf Avenue and offers brick-oven baked pizza that has a specific flavor that is impossible to recreate in a regular convection oven. Moreover, brick-oven cooking is an environmentally friendly option, as it requires no electricity or gas: just the heat from the fire. Order a Regular Pizza with Fresh Mozzarella, Crushed Tomatoes and Basil (small \$14, large \$16). There are twenty three different toppings, such as Chicken (\$4), Pineapple (\$2) or Anchovies(\$2) that you can add to your pizza (<http://www.grimaldisconeyisland.com/menu/>).



Brick-Oven Pizzeria. Taken from Grimaldi's website.

3. ADRENALINE RUSH, 4 P.M.

Coney Island Luna Park is an amusement park on the Brooklyn Waterfront that has a wide range of attractions. There are four levels of fear that you can experience at the rides: Mild Thrill, Moderate Thrill, High Thrill and Extreme Thrill. Don't waste your time and start with one of the the High Thrill Rides: "Coney Island Cyclone", "Thunderbolt", "Coney Island Raceway", "Zenobio" or "Sling Shot" (one single ride for \$20). All rides are run by electric motors which were replaced after the Hurricane Sandy. Try to finish all rides from your list before 9:30 P.M. when the Friday Night Firework Show begins. Grub some snacks such as cotton candy or popcorn and enjoy the show! (<http://lunaparknyc.com/explore/rides/>)



Fireworks at Luna Park Coney Island, 2012. Photo by Luna Park NYC

Saturday

1. **HEALTHY MORNING, 9 A.M.**

The Wise Espresso Bar is a new cafe located on 3120 Coney Island Ave. It promotes a healthy lifestyle and uses long-lasting LED lights in a whole place that saves electricity and creates a relaxing atmosphere. For early morning runners and bike riders it is a place where they can restore their energy by ordering a refreshing smoothie with berries or tropical fruits (for medium smoothie \$4.95). The Wise serves all day gourmet breakfast that none of the nearby restaurants and cafeterias do (<http://wiseespresso.com>).

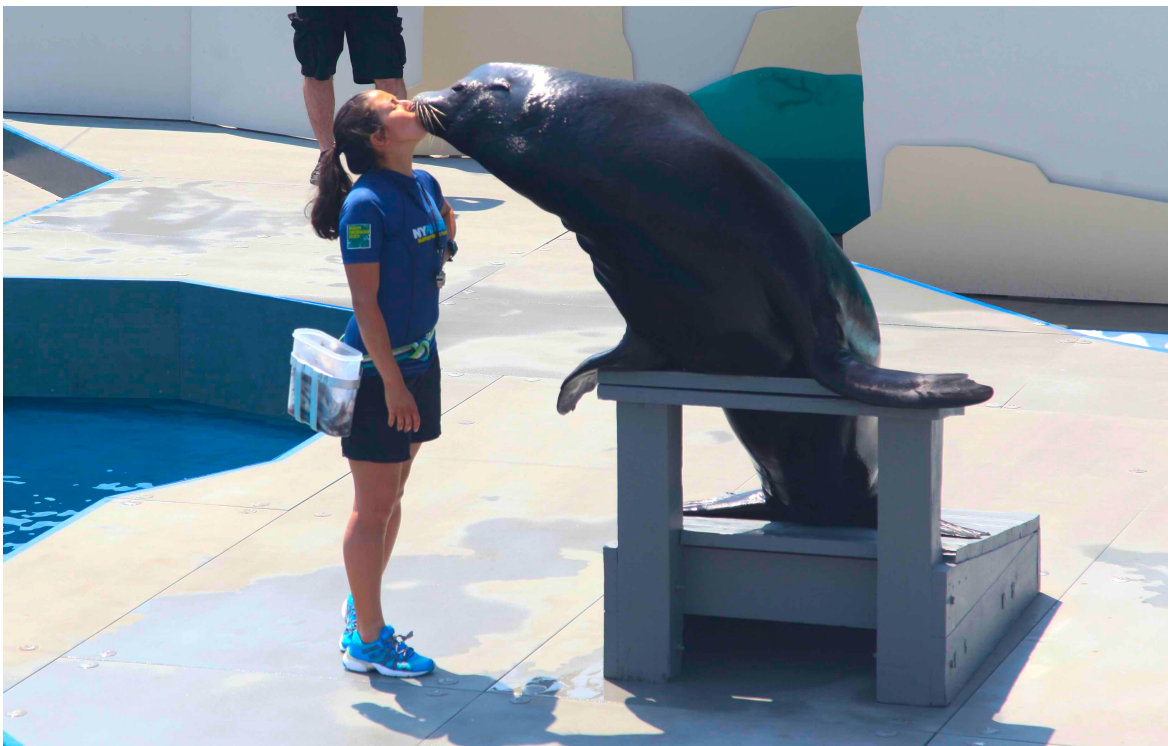


Design of Wise Espresso Bar. Taken from Wise Espresso Bar website.

2. **HELP SEA ANIMALS, 12 P.M.**

After Hurricane Sandy in 2014, The New York Aquarium began a new chapter in its history. All buildings as well as electrical distribution system were renovated, and fishes and sea animals

were back. New York Aquarium is open seven days a week; it has an exhibition of fish, turtles and other sea species, sea animals and fish feeding, 4D movie theatre. Experience the sea lions show that will melt your heart (price for the show is included in admission ticket price; \$10.75 online adult ticket; \$11.95 at the gate). Also, you can donate money for building a new 57,000 square-foot construction that will be home to more than a hundred of sea creatures (<http://nyaquarium.com/activities>).



Sea Lions show. Taken from the NY Aquarium website.

3. **GET RELAXED**, 4 P.M.

During your trip don't miss a chance to visit Mermaid Spa - a traditional Russian Bath located in the Sea Gate area of Brooklyn. The eco-view of the Spa includes offering jobs for the local community, providing for a wellness programs for guests and staff, having a design that made from natural materials. For only \$45, you can enjoy such services as Russian steam room, sauna,

Turkish bath, jacuzzi, tile pools, Korean heated bench and ice sauna. Also, you can have a Swedish, deep tissue, or traditional Russian massage inside of the steam room (\$90 per hour).

There is a 3,500 sq. feet backyard with trees and grass, where you can take a sun bath relaxing on a comfortable beach chair (<http://www.seagatebaths.com>).



Korean heated bench at Mermaid Spa. Taken from the Mermaid Spa website.

4. **A BREATH OF LUXURY**, 8 P.M.

If you like to eat your dinner being surrounded by a luxurious atmosphere, you definitely should go to Vis A Vis Restaurant and Lounge located at 3100 Ocean Parkway. The place has an elegant interior, international contemporary cuisine, and skilled staff that will provide the best service during your stay. Facility's gem is a multi award-winning chef Charles Dianayake from Sri Lanka. Try his famous Foie Gras with caramelized apples and calvados for \$33, and Artisan Bread Pudding for \$14. Moreover, the restaurant serves organic meat and poultry, and purchases fish and seafood from local suppliers. It's better to call to make a reservation, because the facility

is doing events like Jazz performances on Saturdays which attracts many people (<http://visavisny.com>).



Bread Pudding. Taken from Vis A Vis Restaurant and Lounge website.

Sunday

1. BREAKFAST WITH THE VIEW, 9 A.M.

Don't leave The Brooklyn Waterfront without taking a tour to Emmons Avenue in Sheepshead Bay. The best place to have a fresh breakfast and good coffee on Emmons ave. is Cherry Hill cafe. Order a Cherry Hill Omelet (\$8) and coffee (regular coffee \$3) and enjoy a beautiful bay view. After breakfast, grab leftovers of bread and go to the wooden bridge that crosses the bay to

feed swans. You can take a walk to Manhattan Beach passing expensive houses that have been



renovated after the Hurricane Sandy.

2. SHOP VITAMINS, 11 A.M.

There are not many fancy malls or souvenir shops in Sheepshead Bay, but you still can treat yourself. Be creative and do your shopping at the Forces of Nature - the supplement store for “green lovers and health nuts”, where you can find all kinds of organic food, vitamins, minerals and herbs. If you are not sure what supplements you need to buy or can’t find what you are looking for, ask employees any questions (<http://www.eforcesofnature.com>).

Lodging

Unfortunately, there is no lodging in Coney Island. There are a few hotels in Sheepshead Bay, a short cab ride away.

Comfort Inn (from \$144) 3218 Emmons Ave, Brooklyn, NY, US, 11235 Phone: (718) 368-3334

Fax: (718) 368-3963.

Best Western Bay (from \$126) Brooklyn 3003 Emmons Avenue Brooklyn, New York,

11235-2212 Phone: 718-769-5000 Fax: 718-769-5005

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