

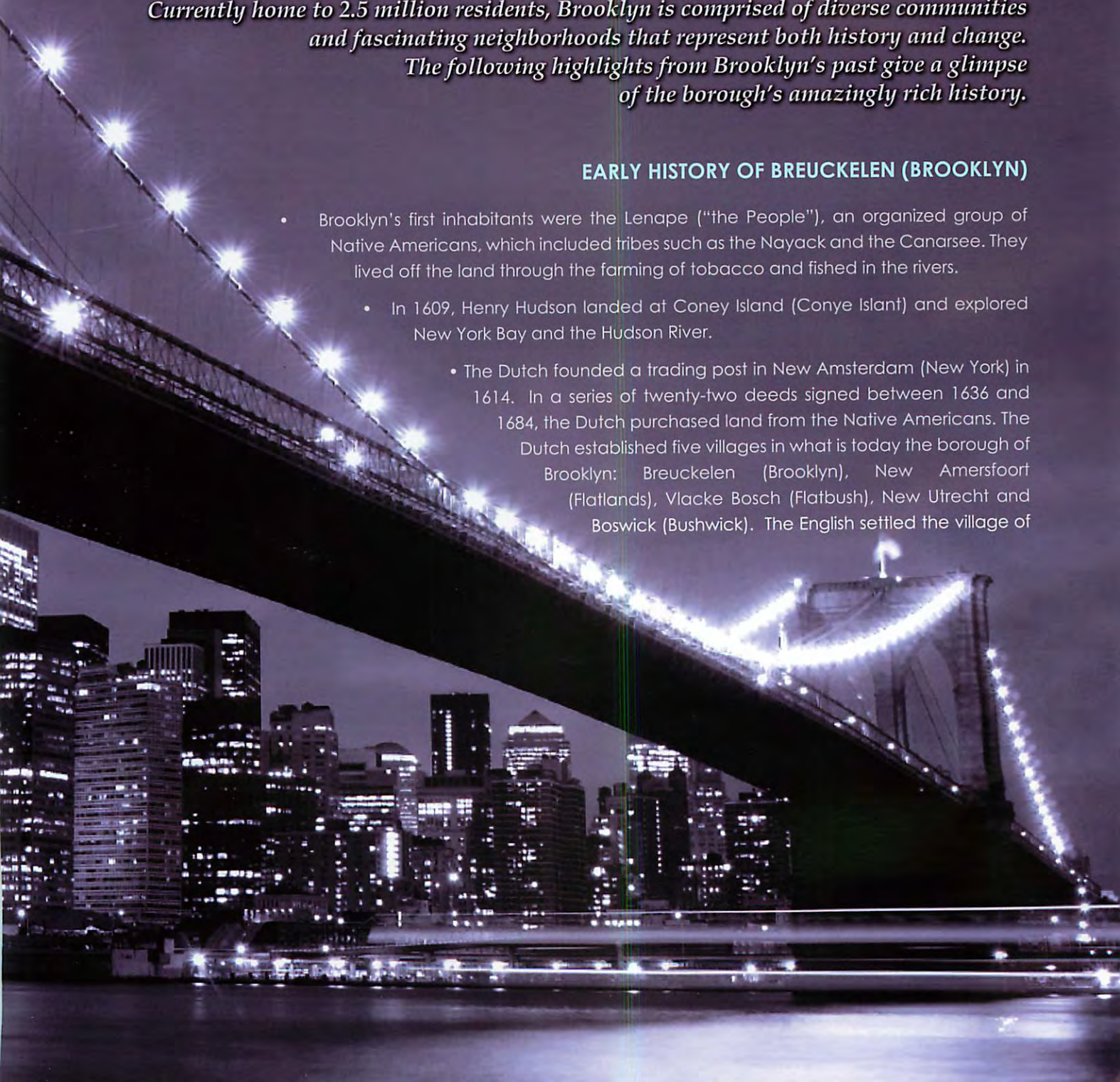
A Story of BROOKLYN

Courtesy Of Brooklyn Historical Society

Currently home to 2.5 million residents, Brooklyn is comprised of diverse communities and fascinating neighborhoods that represent both history and change. The following highlights from Brooklyn's past give a glimpse of the borough's amazingly rich history.

EARLY HISTORY OF BREUCKELEN (BROOKLYN)

- Brooklyn's first inhabitants were the Lenape ("the People"), an organized group of Native Americans, which included tribes such as the Nayack and the Canarsee. They lived off the land through the farming of tobacco and fished in the rivers.
- In 1609, Henry Hudson landed at Coney Island (Conye Islant) and explored New York Bay and the Hudson River.
- The Dutch founded a trading post in New Amsterdam (New York) in 1614. In a series of twenty-two deeds signed between 1636 and 1684, the Dutch purchased land from the Native Americans. The Dutch established five villages in what is today the borough of Brooklyn: Breuckelen (Brooklyn), New Amersfoort (Flatlands), Vlacke Bosch (Flatbush), New Utrecht and Boswick (Bushwick). The English settled the village of





Gravesend in 1643. The town of Brooklyn was chartered by the Dutch West India Company in 1646.

- In 1683, after constant power and land struggles between the English and the Dutch, the towns were united under the rule of the English, establishing Kings County.
- By the 18th century, farming was the main source of income for Brooklyn families. The Lefferts Historic House, located on Flatbush Avenue, is one of the last standing Dutch farmhouses in Brooklyn that represents life during the 18th century.
- In August 1776, General Sir William Howe led a British invasion army in the Battle of Long Island (Battle of Brooklyn), the first military conflict of the Revolutionary War following the Declaration of Independence. A key American defense that delayed the British occurred at the site of the Old Stone House (Vechte-Cortelyou House), a 1699 Dutch farmhouse that has been reconstructed as an interpretive center, at 3rd Street and 5th Avenue. General George Washington staged a tactical retreat and moved the American army across the East River to Manhattan.



19TH & 20TH CENTURY BROOKLYN

- The Brooklyn Navy Yard was established on Wallabout Bay by the U.S. Navy in 1801.
- Steamboat ferry service began in 1814, connecting Brooklyn and New York, and turning Brooklyn Heights into a fashionable suburb.
- The Village of Brooklyn was incorporated as the City of Brooklyn in 1834.
- In 1838, eleven years after New York State abolished slavery, free African American James Weeks purchases a plot of land that would become Weeksville, a thriving independent African American community in central Brooklyn.
- Green-Wood Cemetery was incorporated in 1838, becoming a major attraction for its beauty, and is still operating as the final resting place for nearly 600,000 people.
- Prospect Park was developed over a thirty year period (1865-1895), by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, the designers of Central Park. Beloved by Brooklynites, Prospect Park is home to one of the last indigenous forests, wetlands, a zoo, a carousel, and an ice rink.
- Brooklyn's population surged in the 19th century with waves of immigrants, many of whom came through Ellis Island to the vast lands of Brooklyn. There was an influx of German and Irish immigrants in the 1840s to 1850s and a second wave of immigrants in the 1880s from southern and eastern Europe.
- The Brooklyn Bridge opened on May 24, 1883 with a fireworks celebration, after thirteen years of construction. Now one of the most iconic structures in New York City and a popular tourist attraction, the Brooklyn Bridge connected Brooklyn to Manhattan, changing commuting patterns and spurring real estate



development.

- In 1884, one of the world's first roller coasters was built in Coney Island. The Switchback Railway was an instant success, attracting masses of visitors to Coney Island. In 1920, a subway line connected Coney Island to Brooklyn and Manhattan.
- The Brooklyn Academy of Music, established in 1861, is the oldest performing arts center in America.
- In the 1870s, Brooklyn became deeply involved in the brewing industry. German immigrants brought the technology of lager-brewing to Brooklyn, causing an influx in beer producers. In the 1880s, there were thirty-five established breweries.
- The City of Brooklyn was consolidated into New York City in 1898.
- The Brooklyn Children's Museum, founded in 1899, became the world's first museum dedicated to children.
- Famous Coney Island attractions opened: Steeplechase Park in 1897, Luna Park in 1903 and Dreamland in 1904.
- The Brooklyn Navy Yard contributed significantly to World War I and World War II, building and launching many famous battleships, including the USS Iowa, the USS Missouri, and the USS Arizona, which was destroyed at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. During World War II, its workforce reached 70,000 and women were hired as mechanics and technicians.
- In 1947, the Brooklyn Dodgers signed Jackie Robinson to their team. This was an incredibly momentous event, as Robinson was the first African-American baseball player in the major leagues. The Dodgers won the World Series against the New York Yankees in 1955. In 1957, the Dodgers played their last game at Ebbets Field, and the team made a heartbreaking move to Los Angeles.
- The Verrazano Narrows Bridge was completed in 1964, becoming the longest suspension bridge in the world.
- The Brooklyn Navy Yard closed in 1966 and was later transformed into an active industrial park.
- The West Indian/American Day Carnival began parading along Brooklyn's Eastern Parkway in 1969 (formerly held in Harlem) and continues to this day.

“History continues to be made every day. Today's Brooklyn communities and neighborhoods thrive and offer much to discover and explore, revealing evidence of the past and building toward the future.”



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BROOKLYN

Attractions

Heart of Brooklyn is a must-see destination comprised of six cultural attractions in the "House of Brooklyn," where arts, nature, and culture come together.

THE NEW YORK AQUARIUM

602 Surf Ave., Coney Island, NY 11224

at W. 8th St. 718-265-4740

<http://www.nyaquarium.com/>

Since its 1896 opening, the city's only aquarium—and the oldest in continuous operation nationwide—has grown from 150 to 8,000 specimens and moved from a modest home in Battery Park to 14 seaside acres in Coney Island. An affiliate of the Wildlife Conservation Society, the aquarium furthers the study and preservation of nautical life through events and classes, laboratory research, and special interactive exhibitions.

GRAND ARMY PLAZA

Grand Army Plaza is formed by the intersection of Flatbush Avenue, Eastern Parkway, Prospect Park West and other streets.

Designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux in 1867 this 11-acre plaza serves as the majestic entrance to Prospect Park, connecting the world's first parkway, Eastern Parkway along with Flatbush Avenue, Vanderbilt Avenue, Prospect Park West, and Union Street. Highlights include the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial, dedicated to the defenders of the Union, Bailey's Fountain, and the John F. Kennedy monument. The Plaza is also the site of the second-largest open air Green Market in New York City. Distance from the hotel – 1.38 miles

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC

Peter Jay Sharp Building

30 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11217

BAM Harvey Theater

651 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, NY 11217

718.636.4100 | <http://www.bam.org>

BAM is America's oldest continuously operating performing arts center, founded in 1861. BAM features the 2,109-seat Howard Gilman Opera House, the 874-seat Harvey Lichtenstein Theater, the art house BAM Rise Cinemas, and BAMcafé Live, which features up to 75 free performances annually. Enjoy year round dance, opera, theater, and musical performances including Next Wave Festival and the Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra. Distance from hotel – 1.3 miles.

THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE

Adams and Tillary Streets

New York's premier historical landmark completed in 1883 stretches 5,989 feet across the East River



connecting Brooklyn to Lower Manhattan. Designed by engineer John Augustus Roebling and completed by his wife, Emily Roebling, it is considered one of the greatest engineering feats of the 19th century. An elevated pedestrian path provides spectacular views of Manhattan's downtown skyline. Distance from the hotel – 5.33 miles.



BROOKLYN BOTANICAL GARDEN

1000 Washington Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11225

718.623.7200 | www.bbg.org

The 52-acre Brooklyn Botanical Garden is New York City's natural wonder. It includes many specialty gardens, including the Children's Garden, Cranford Rose Garden, Native Flora Garden, Alice Recknagel Iveys Fragrance Garden, Japanese-Hill and Pond Garden, the Steinhardt Conservatory, containing tropical, desert, and temperate pavilions, and the C.V. Starr Bonsai Museum. Distance from hotel – 2.05 miles.

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

145 Brooklyn Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11213

718.732.4400 | www.brooklynkids.org

Discover world culture and natural science in an attractive learning adventure at the world's first museum for kids! An interactive world of fun awaits in the Museum's nine exhibit galleries where children can meet live animals, play musical instruments from around the world, study plants, run a pizza shop, or learn about faraway lands through a permanent collection of over 30,000 objects and specimens.

THE BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

128 Pierrepont Street. Brooklyn, NY 11201-2711

(718) 222-4111 | www.brooklynhistory.org

Founded in 1863 as the Long Island Historical Society, it

now houses the most comprehensive library of Brooklyn's 400 year history. One in seven Americans can trace their family roots to Brooklyn, making this research center an important national resource. Visitors can enjoy the permanent exhibit featuring the history of African-American, White, Latino, Asian, and Native American Brooklynites. Distance from the hotel – 1.48 miles.

BROOKLYN MUSEUM

200 Eastern Parkway. Brooklyn, NY 11238-6099

(718) 638-5000 | www.brooklynmuseum.org

Opened in 1897, this 560,000-square-foot Beaux-Arts building is one of the oldest and largest art museums in the country with more than 1.5 million objects including Ancient Egypt masterpieces, African art, and 14th through 17th century pieces from around the globe. More than half a million art enthusiasts visit this Park Slope treasure. Audio and group tours are available. Distance from hotel – 1.71 miles.

BROOKLYN PHILHARMONIC

55 Washington Street #656. Brooklyn, NY 11201

(718) 488-5700 | www.brooklynphilharmonic.org

Since 1954, the Brooklyn Philharmonic has played a leading role in the presentation of innovative and thematic programming, receiving 22 ASCAP Awards over the last 25 years for "Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music." Audiences continue to



embrace the Brooklyn Philharmonic's commitment to being a contemporary performance ensemble. The BP's performances feature important present-day music, just as ensembles did in the decades of Beethoven and Brahms.

BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Grand Army Plaza. Brooklyn, NY 11238

(718) 230-2100 | www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org

THE OLD STONE HOUSE

336 3rd Street. Brooklyn, NY 11215

(718) 768-3195 | www.theoldstonehouse.org

This Dutch stone farmhouse is an important landmark rich in American history. Originally built in 1699 by Nicholas Vechte, a prosperous farmer, it was later used as an artillery position by more than 2000 British and Hessian soldiers against the Americans during the Battle of Brooklyn in 1776. Nearly 100 years later it became the first clubhouse for the Brooklyn team of the National Baseball League, later known as the Brooklyn Dodgers. Distance from the hotel - .039 miles

PROSPECT PARK

95 Prospect Park West. Brooklyn, NY 11215-3709

(718) 965-8900 | www.prospectpark.org

Enjoy a day of biking, boating, birding, sports, and

relaxation at Brooklyn's most treasured park. A 585 acre oasis only six blocks from Hotel le Bleu. Built by the same architects of Manhattan's Central Park, Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, this urban retreat features a 60-acre lake, 90-acre long meadow, Brooklyn's last forest, Prospect Park Zoo, and the country's first urban Audubon Center. During the summer months the park hosts Celebrate Brooklyn with music, dance, and film events. Distance from hotel - .076 miles.

PROSPECT PARK ZOO

450 Flatbush Avenue. Brooklyn, NY 11225

(718) 399-7339 | www.prospectparkzoo.com

The Prospect Park Zoo is home to over 90 species of animals including kangaroos, baboons, sea lions, red pandas, lories, pythons, and more. Three major exhibit areas: The World of Animals, Animal Lifestyles, and Animals in Our Lives, are designed to engage visitors in a deeper understanding of wildlife. The Prospect Park Zoo's education department offers year-round classes and programs for school groups and the general public.

PARK SLOPE

Park Slope is one of Brooklyn's most beautiful neighborhoods, boasting blocks of well-preserved brownstones and gorgeous Prospect Park. It is also characterized by its historic buildings, like the Old Stone House scene of the American Revolutionary War Battle, located right outside of Hotel le Bleu, and landmark 19th

century brownstones nestled along beautiful tree lined streets. Many notable people have lived in Park Slope and many more still call it home.

CARROLL GARDENS

The area is named for Charles Carroll, a Revolutionary War veteran who was also the only Roman Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence. Carroll Gardens is now sprinkled with cafes, boutiques, and antique shops. It shares its northern boundary with Cobble Hill at DeGraw Street and Boerum Hill at Warren Street, while extending south to Hamilton Avenue and

Street to the west.

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

Brooklyn Heights in New York's first historic district. Stroll along the Promenade for breathtaking views of the Brooklyn Bridge and Manhattan. Brooklyn Heights offers dozens of excellent restaurants, historic churches, shops, and the Brooklyn Historical Society. Montague Street serves as the area's main thoroughfare which ends up at The Promenade.



photo credits: Antonio M. Rosario

Red Hook. Before Italian-Americans settled in the area, Carroll Gardens was settled by Irish Americans in the early 19th century and, in the mid-19th century, by Norwegian Americans, who founded the Norwegian Seaman's Church, an imposing brownstone structure that was once visited by the King of Norway during an official visit to the United States. The Carroll Gardens Historic District, which includes some of the finest examples of brownstones with large front gardens, is bounded roughly by Carroll Street to the south, President Street to the north, Hoyt Street to the east, and Smith

DOWNTOWN

Downtown Brooklyn is the third largest central business district in New York City. It is across Court Street from Brooklyn Heights and offers the busy pedestrian Fulton Mall, a draw for shoppers, close to 250 stores, and famous Junior's known for its world-class cheesecake.

SUNSET PARK

Sunset Park's second age began with a wave of immigration from Puerto Rico, Mexico, and the

Dominican Republic, as well as other Latin American countries. Many people also immigrated from India and China, centered on an area now known as "Brooklyn's Chinatown", along 8th Avenue from 42nd to 68th street, where the city's third-largest Chinese community (after Manhattan's Chinatown and Flushing, Queens) can be found. Some claim the reason the Chinese settled on 8th Avenue is because in Chinese folklore, the number eight is lucky for financial matters, and "8th Avenue" can be loosely interpreted as "road to wealth". Another explanation is the direct subway ride to Manhattan's Chinatown on the N/R and D lines.



DUMBO

DUMBO stands for "Down Under Manhattan Bridge Overpass". In the fall the DUMBO arts center sponsors a festival promoting the work of the neighborhood's local talent. Giant artist-owned loft spaced have spawned a number of top galleries. Dumbo has now become popular with a richer, trendier crowd. Experience unique and unforgettable views of Brooklyn and Manhattan Bridges as well as the Manhattan skyline.

WILLIAMSBURG

Williamsburg is Brooklyn's artist enclave, especially along busy Bedford Avenue. Originally a mainly Hasidic neighborhood, the new element of East Village types is a contrast to the traditional orthodox Jewish community. There are also strong Latino and Italian presences here making for a true melting pot. One of New York's best known steakhouses, Peter Luger Steakhouse, is located here, as is the Brooklyn Brewery, where you can take a free tour on Saturdays and sample fresh brews. Williamsburg takes the crown as having Brooklyn's coolest bars and lounges with hipster hangouts. Shopping bargains are easily found in Williamsburg as well.

BRIGHTON BEACH

Brighton Beach was dubbed "Little Odessa" by the local populace long ago, due to many of its residents having come from Odessa, a city of Ukraine. Brighton Beach is home to many other ethnic groups. On Brighton 7th Street and Neptune Avenue there is a mosque where Muslims (mostly from Pakistan and Bangladesh) pray. Nearby areas are sometimes called "Pakistani Brighton". There are numerous Polish, Russian, and Georgian residents, but relatively new Italian-Americans or African Americans remaining.

Notable past residents include talk-show host Larry King. Brighton Beach is replete with restaurants, food stores, cafes, boutiques, banks, etc., located primarily along Brighton Beach Avenue and its cross streets. The neighborhood has a distinctively ethnic feel – akin to Manhattan's Chinatown. The proximity of Brighton Beach to the city's beaches (Brighton Beach Avenue runs parallel to the Coney Island beach area and the Boardwalk) and the fact that the neighborhood is directly served by the Brighton Beach Avenue subway station makes it a popular summer weekend destination for thousands of New York City residents.



Manhattan

Diverse cultures are the pulse of Manhattan. Each of these neighborhoods has developed their own features over the year. If time allows, include them in your visit to the city.

Theatre District

Experience the theatres of New York and you'll see some of the brightest stars. There are over 30 playhouses to choose from, all producing marvelous shows. This area has a wonderful array of shopping, restaurants, and services as well.

The Financial District

The Financial District is centered on Wall Street in lower Manhattan. This neighborhood contains the New York Stock Exchange, the American Stock Exchange, the Federal Reserve, and the World Financial Center. Not far from the Financial District are several cultural sites such as the Museum of Jewish Heritage and the National Museum of the American Indian. The World Financial Center overlooks the New York Harbor and is home to a unique collection of specialty shops and fine restaurants. Additionally, the World Financial Center Winter Garden is host to a variety of performances and exhibitions year round. Most events are held indoor but there are special spring/summer events which take place on the outdoor plaza.

Greenwich Village

Take a stroll through "the Village" and enjoy the multitude of art galleries, architecture, cafes, and jazz clubs. One of the few places in Manhattan where the atmosphere is laid back and at times off beat, this is one of New York's largest historic areas. Many famous and talented people have lived in the village such as Mark Twain, Washington Irving, Edgar Allen Poe, David Bowie, and even Madonna.

Little Italy

Where there is every type of Italian food establishment, you will find restaurants, cafes, espresso bars, pastry, cheese, and butcher shops. Take a stroll down Mulberry Street anywhere between Grand and Canal Streets and you will feel as if you are in Italy. Don't forget the festival times in June and September when thousands of people fill the streets eating and celebrating.

