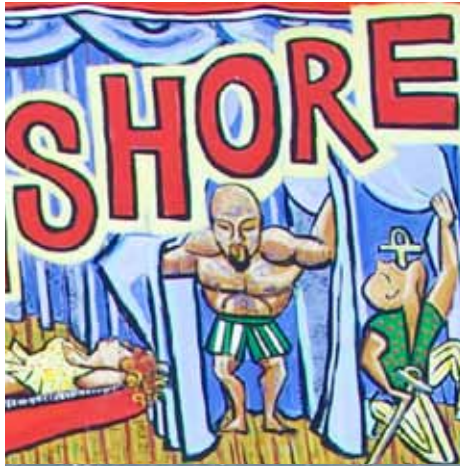


Big Apple Greeter welcomes you to New York City!



Big Apple Greeter
New York City

www.bigapplegreeter.org



The Big Apple Greeter Guide to

Coney Island

ONCE A MAJOR RESORT AND AMUSEMENT AREA, Coney Island has been rebuilding its reputation as a premier center of entertainment in New York City. Beloved by locals and visitors alike, Coney Island offers a respite from hot city streets and a wide expanse of beach that is open to all. As Brooklynites like to say, Coney Island is Summer.

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THE BEACH AT CONEY ISLAND

Where is Coney Island?

Located in southernmost Brooklyn, Coney Island is bordered on the south by the Atlantic Ocean, on the north by Gravesend and Gravesend Bay, on the west by Seagate, and on the east by Brighton Beach.


About Coney Island

Once home to the Nyack and Canarsie Indians, Coney Island in the 18th century became associated with rumors of pirates and buried treasure. The development of a streetcar line and steamboat company following the American Civil War precipitated the growth of major hotels, race courses and amusement parks, as well as illicit gambling establishments. The addition of a subway station in 1915 opened the area to the general public and ushered in Coney Island's busiest period as a place of entertainment. Following World War II, other attractions began to lure visitors away, but recent plans to revitalize the area are bringing around a Coney Island Renaissance.

It's Easy to Get to Coney Island

M BY SUBWAY: F or Q trains to W. 8th Street—New York Aquarium. D, F, N or Q trains to Stillwell Avenue. **BY BUS:** Bus lines that service Coney Island include the B36, B64, B68, B74 and B82.

Things to See and Do in Coney Island

1  **THE NEW YORK AQUARIUM** at Surf Avenue and W. 8th Street is operated by the Wildlife Conservation

GREETER'S SECRET:

Coney Island was once considered both the horse racing and boxing capitals of the world.

Coney Island is an adaptation of the Dutch name Conyne Eylandt, meaning Rabbit Island.

Society and is known for its exhibits on whales, sharks and penguins. Site of the first birth of a beluga whale born in captivity, the Aquarium has an Aquatheater which hosts much beloved sea lion shows. Penguin, otter and walrus feedings remain popular

activities. Open year round, check for hours and special events at <http://www.nyaquarium.com>.

2 **DENO'S WONDER WHEEL AMUSEMENT PARK**

on the Boardwalk at Deno Vourderis Place has the greatest kiddie park in the city as well as 25 rides, 2 arcades, and an old-fashioned Sweet Shoppe. In season, entertainment is also available. To learn more, see <http://www.wonderwheel.com>. Don't miss riding the Wonder Wheel itself. Built in 1920, the Wheel was designated an official city landmark in 1989. Standing 150 feet high with a diameter of 140 feet, the Wheel holds 144 passengers at a time. The ride has 16 swinging cars and 8 stationery cars that offer a view of the Atlantic Ocean, the Jersey Shore and the New York City Skyline.

3 **THE CYCLONE** at 834 Surf Avenue between near

W. 8th Street is one of the most famous attractions in Coney Island and one of the great roller coasters in the world. In operation since 1927, the Cyclone offers summer visitors a rousing experience not to be missed. Aviator Charles Lindbergh described the 2-1/2 minute ride as "more thrilling than flying solo across the Atlantic".



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THE NEW LUNA PARK



MCU PARK


4 LUNA PARK at 1000 Surf Avenue near W. 10th Street is the reincarnation of the famous Coney Island attraction that closed in 1944 due to fire damage. Boasting all new rides, the new Luna Park offers a roller coaster, giant pendulum swing and airplane race rides, among others. To learn more, see the website at <http://www.lunaparknyc.com>.



THE BOARDWALK

5 THE CONEY ISLAND MUSEUM at 1208 Surf Avenue near W. 12th Street is on the second floor of an historic building and offers a fascinating look at Coney Island memorabilia. The only museum in the world dedicated to interpreting and preserving the history of Coney Island, the museum has knowledgeable staff who can answer questions about the history of the neighborhood. To learn more about hours and exhibits, see the website at <http://www.coneyisland.com/museum.shtml>.

GREETER'S SECRET:
The Parachute Jump on the Boardwalk behind MCU Park was originally erected in 1939 for the New York World's Fair. When the Fair ended, the ride was moved to Coney Island in 1941. The Jump is the last remnant of the now-defunct Steeplechase Park.

6  **MCU PARK** at 1904 Surf Avenue near W. 17th Street is home to the Brooklyn Cyclones, the minor league Short Season Class A team affiliate of the New York Mets. When the Cyclones began playing in 2001, it marked the return of major league baseball to Brooklyn which had ended when the beloved Brooklyn Dodgers left for California in 1957. A day at MCU Park offers not

only a great day of watching baseball, but the opportunity to rub elbows with real Brooklynites – the most loyal baseball fans in the world. Games are well attended and the upper levels of the park offer wonderful views of the ocean and the free Friday night fireworks. To learn more about schedules and seat availability, see the website at <http://www.brooklyncyclones.com>.

7  **THE BROOKLYN BASEBALL GALLERY** at MCU Park is the only museum dedicated to the history of baseball in Brooklyn and houses a unique collection of memorabilia of the Brooklyn Dodgers. To learn more about hours and exhibits, see the website at <http://www.brooklyncyclones.com/keyspan/brooklyn>.

8 THE BOARDWALK that runs the length of Coney Island and beyond into neighboring Brighton Beach has been around since 1923 and is the widest and longest boardwalk in the world. Stroll the boardwalk to find eateries, true Coney Island-style entertainment and to gain access to the wonderful beach that is open to everyone free of charge. Make sure to dip your feet in the ocean for a real Coney Island experience. Or take a run under the famed palm tree sprinklers.



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Shopping

9 For a real taste of old Coney Island, visit **WILLIAMS CANDY** at 1318 Surf Avenue between Stillwell Avenue and W. 15th Street. For over 75 years, Williams has been famous for their candy apples and freshly made candies, including marshmallows and fudge. Candy may also be ordered online at <http://www.candytreats.com>.

10 **THE BROOKLYN CYCLONES TEAM STORE** at MCU Park offers Brooklyn Cyclones-themed clothing and novelties, including Brooklyn Dodgers memorabilia. Merchandise may also be ordered online at <https://secure1.infinityprosports.com/virtual/brooklyncyclones.com/sites/200801/www/en/merchandise>.

11 **THE CONEY ISLAND BEACH SHOP** at 3018 Stillwell Avenue between Surf Avenue and the Boardwalk is a family-owned institution and the area's largest venue for Brooklyn souvenirs. If you need a day at the beach and are caught unawares, this is also the place for swimsuits, beach towels and sunblock! Items may also be ordered online at <http://www.coneyislandbeachshop.com>.



GREATER'S SECRET: Considered the birthplace of the hot dog, legend has it that Charles Feltman invented the hot dog in 1867 in Coney Island.

When It's Time to Eat

12 **GARGIULO'S RESTAURANT** at 2911 W. 15th Street between Surf and Mermaid Avenues has been a mainstay in Coney Island since it opened in 1907. Offering Neopolitan cuisine and hospitality in an elegant setting, make sure to take a look at the lobster tank in the lobby and the custom-designed dessert cart. To learn more, see their website at <http://www.gargiulos.com>.

13 **NATHAN'S FAMOUS** at 1310 Surf Avenue near Stillwell Avenue is the most famous hot dog eatery in the United States. Nathan Handwerker, an employee at the renowned Feltman's Restaurant, opened his own hot dog stand in 1916 using his fiancée's frankfurter recipe and a loan from famed entertainers Eddie Cantor and Jimmy Durante. The rest has been hot dog history. Enjoy what many consider the best hot dog in the world al fresco and don't forget the fries. If you are in Coney Island on the 4th of July, make sure to attend Nathan's annual hot dog eating contest which draws competitors from around the world. To learn more, see their website at <http://www.nathansfamous.com>.



The Big Apple Greeter Guide to Coney Island



GOURMET TREATS



A LOCAL TRADITION

14 **TOTONNO'S PIZZERIA NAPOLETANO** at 1524 Neptune Avenue near W. 15th Street is considered one of the best pizzerias in the city. No frills, just good, honest handmade pizza is the big draw with the freshest ingredients being used. Only whole pizzas are available. The dough is made fresh daily and when it runs out, no more pizzas are available! To learn more, see their website at <http://www.totonnos.com/Aboutus.html>.

15 **CONEY ISLAND SURF N TURF GRILL** at 1315 Surf Avenue between Stillwell Avenue and E. 15th Street has a tiki bar and smokes its own chickens and ribs. Decorated with photographs of old Coney Island, this is a great spot to try brick oven pizza and crack crab with a mallet. To learn more, see their website at <http://www.coneyislandsurfnurfgrill.com>.

Culture

16 Free concerts are offered on Thursday nights in July and August in **ASSER LEVY/SEASIDE PARK** at Surf Avenue and Ocean Parkway. Held in the bandshell, the free concerts series has been a Brooklyn tradition for over a generation. To learn more about the concert schedule in the summer months, see the website at <http://www.brooklyn-usa.org>.

17 A 100 year tradition, Coney Island's sky is alit with a free **FIREWORKS** display every Friday night during the summer season, weather permitting. Starting at 9:30 PM, you can see the show begin on the Boardwalk between Stillwell Avenue and W. 10th Street.



GREETER'S SECRET:

In its heyday, the midway at Coney Island was a major center for entertainment in the city. Superstars of the past such as Mae West, Cary Grant, Eddie Cantor, Jimmy Durante, Sophie Tucker and Irving Berlin all began their careers in Coney Island.

About Big Apple Greeter

Founded in 1992, Big Apple Greeter's mission is to enhance New York City's worldwide image while enriching the city experience for its visitors. Connecting with business and leisure travelers from all over the US and the world, Greeters take visitors on informal, unscripted walks through one or more neighborhoods in any of the five boroughs, promote tourism throughout the city, and help visitors discover the ease of using public transportation. Over 300 volunteer Greeters speak collectively almost 25 languages and enjoy giving their time and energy back to their hometown. Since its founding, Big Apple Greeter—a free public service—has welcomed over 90,000 visitors and been featured in thousands of newspapers, magazines, and television and radio programs all over the world, reaching an audience of over one billion potential visitors to New York City. Big Apple Greeter is proud to partner with NYC & Company, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Metro New York.

About the Global Greeter Network

Big Apple Greeter is proud to be part of the Global Greeter Network, a voluntary association of welcoming programs around the world, all based on the Big Apple Greeter model: free and open to all visitors; offer greeter services as an individual or very small group experience (no more than 6 visitors); and are characterized by enthusiastic, local residents who love their home city, love to meet people from around the world, and volunteer to conduct these visits.

The Global Greeter Network currently spans seven countries on four continents and includes the following members: Cicerones de Buenos Aires in Argentina; Adelaide Greeters and Melbourne Greeter Service in Australia; Tap in TO! (Toronto) in Canada; VisitBrighton Greeters and Kent Greeters in England; Paris Greeter, Les Greeters de Nantes, Greeters62 (Pas-de-Calais), Lyon City Greeters and Marseille Provence Greeters in France; Den Haag Greeters in the Netherlands; Big Apple Greeter (New York City), Chicago Greeter, and Houston Greeters in the United States.

You may learn more about Big Apple Greeter and its many services on our website:

www.bigapplegreeter.org or by emailing us at information@bigapplegreeter.org



Coney Island