



Big Apple Greeter
New York City

A GUIDE TO THE HILLS AND GARDENS OF BROOKLYN

There is in the heart of Brooklyn an undiscovered jewel of an area for walkers, shoppers, gourmets, and all who want to experience the diversity of New York's largest borough. BoCoCa is a mouth-watering acronym for the neighborhoods of Boerum Hill, Cobble Hill, and Carroll Gardens. It offers visitors a constantly evolving cultural experience — part traditional Brooklyn neighborhood, part art district and part Arabian bazaar.

Where Is BoCoCa?

BoCoCa is located in the southern end of *Breukelen*, one of the six original Dutch towns that eventually united to become Brooklyn

It's Easy to Get to BoCoCa:

Easily accessible by public transportation, the nearest subway stations are: the Court Street/Boro Hall station on the 2, 3, 4, 5, M, N, R and W lines; the Jay Street station on the A, C, F lines; and the Bergen Street and Carroll Street stations on the F and G lines.

Information regarding the accessibility of subway stations and buses may be found at <http://www.mta.info/mta/ada/stations.htm>. All Metropolitan Transportation



Authority buses in New York City are accessible. Locations indicated with a wheelchair icon are accessible.

Things to See and Do in BoCoCa

These neighborhoods exemplify New York's rich history and quirky development. The site list which follows will introduce you to BoCoCa's wide-ranging and wonderful attractions.



1 **Brooklyn Borough Hall** — 209 Joralemon Street — Built originally as City Hall when Brooklyn was an independent city, this magnificent structure is located on Court Street near Joralemon Street. Now a designated New York City



Photos:

Rowhouses

An art mural greets visitors

Court Street Station

Brooklyn Borough Hall



Landmark, it is listed on both the National and New York State Registers of Historic Places.

2 George Washington's headquarters — On the front façade of the HSBC bank at the intersection of Atlantic Avenue and Court Street, a plaque marks the site of General George Washington's military headquarters during the pivotal Battle of Brooklyn, fought in the early days of the Revolutionary War. After losing the bloody battle (mainly in what is today Prospect Park,) Washington moved his troops across the East River under cover of darkness to fight another day.

***Greeter's Secret** — A manhole cover at the same intersection conceals a long-abandoned steam railroad tunnel, the Atlantic Avenue Tunnel, built in 1844. It was the first underground rail tunnel in the world. Lost for many years, its existence had been forgotten even by the government of New York City; it was re-discovered several years ago by a railroad enthusiast and is open occasionally for viewing by physically fit visitors. Be alert! Traffic on the intersection is heavy.*



3 Rowhouses, generically known as “brownstones” (though they need not be brown,) line the streets. State Street in Boerum Hill boasts some of the most beautiful examples. Look carefully for the many architectural treasures to be found.

4 Winston Churchill's mother, Jenny Jerome, was born in Brooklyn. Her girlhood home was at 197 Amity Street, just off Court Street.



5 A vestige of the area's industrial past exists in the former **Ex-Lax Building** at 423-443 Atlantic Avenue, between Bond Street and Nevins Street, where the famous laxative got its start. Ex Lax was produced there until the 1970s, when the building was converted to residential use.



6 Williamsburg Clock Tower, 1 Hanson Place. — To Brooklynites, this will always be the name of the world's tallest clock tower (512 feet), but it is now actually the HSBC Clock Tower. It is located at the eastern end of Atlantic Avenue.

7 New York Transit Museum — In an abandoned subway station at the corner of Boerum Place and Schermerhorn Street, is one of the country's largest museums devoted to urban transit, an absolute must for any railroad buff.

8 Brooklyn Bridge — No! It is not for sale. However, walkers will greatly enjoy a stroll over the Brooklyn Bridge before or after a visit. It's a particularly good way to walk off the calories from your meal at one of the area's restaurants and to see the fabulous skyline of Lower Manhattan and Brooklyn! The York Street station on the F line is the most convenient to the bridge from the Boerum Hill/Carroll Gardens area.

Photos:

Plaque commemorating George Washington

The architectural details of Brooklyn's beautiful brownstones

Williamsburg Clock Tower

New York Transit Museum



Shopping

9 Circa Antiques, at 377 Atlantic Avenue, is one of the oldest antique galleries and carries furniture, decorative arts and accessories.

10 Silk Road Antiques, at 313 Atlantic Avenue, highlights Chinese furniture and Asian art and has a beautiful garden in back of the store.

 **11** Astroturf, at 290 Smith Street, offers 1950s antiques and collectibles.

Artists and artisans

Throughout these neighborhoods are artists working in media ranging from clothing to jewelry to decorative arts, as well as merchants who specialize in handcrafted items.

 **12** Kimera, at 366 Atlantic Avenue, is a beautiful multicultural shop with women's clothing and accessories, Asian furniture and home accessories.

Specialty stores

Atlantic Avenue is the main street of a long-established Arab-American community.

 **13** Not to be missed is a stop at Sahadi's gourmet emporium, 187 Atlantic Avenue, specializing in Middle Eastern foods, which has been on Atlantic Avenue for more than 50 years. The old-fashioned store, with its colorful bins of nuts, seeds, dried fruits and olives, plus a vast array of cheeses, olive oils and sweets, boasts prices far below Manhattan levels.

Two other unusual shops may catch your eye.

 **14** Musician's General Store, at 207, 209 & 213 Court Street, prides itself on being a mom-&-pop operation that stays at the forefront of the musical world. It covers the full range of musicians' needs, from sheet music to instruments and accessories.

When It's Time to Dine

After several hours of walking and shopping, you will work up an appetite. Smith Street has become a thriving "restaurant row," where you'll find such

 popular places as Patois 255 Smith Street, and Café Luluc 214 Smith Street.

Greeter's Secret —

 A charming café where you can stop for a pick-me-up is Flying Saucer, 494 Atlantic Avenue.

The tastiest way to experience Brooklyn's Middle Eastern heritage is to dine at one of the many fine ethnic restaurants on Atlantic Avenue. Three excellent options are: Tripoli* at 56 Atlantic Avenue, which is beautifully decorated with murals, and Bedouin Tent, 405 Atlantic Avenue. You may also want to check out the Damascus Bakery*, close to Sahadi's at 195 Atlantic Avenue, for its wide selection of delightfully delectable pastries.



Photos:

Atlantic Avenue street sign

Antique shop

Flower and fruit markets

Barnes & Nobles bookstore

* Wheelchair accessible



Side Trips

The central location of these three neighborhoods enables visitors to enjoy some of Brooklyn's other attractions:



Brooklyn Heights Promenade — A breathtaking view of lower Manhattan across the East River, including the Statue of Liberty and the Brooklyn Bridge, is just a short walk away. Most visitors miss this treat because they never venture off Manhattan Island. From Court Street, turn left onto Montague Street, and stay on it to the river.



Brooklyn Academy of Music, BAM, 30 Lafayette Avenue — This popular performing arts center is located in neighboring Fort Greene near the western end of Atlantic Avenue. Its calendar is filled with dance, theatre, music and cinema events.

Web Links

For more information, including more detailed shopping and activities, check the following websites:

Atlantic Avenue Betterment Association:
<http://www.atlanticavenuebknyc.com>

Brooklyn Academy of Music:
http://www.bam.org/bam_frameset.asp

Brooklyn Borough Hall: For information about tours, refer to the Brooklyn Tourism Visitor's Center:
<http://www.brooklyntourism.org/>

The South Brooklyn Development Corp:
<http://www.google.com/>

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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 United States and the world, Greeters bring visitors to neighborhoods in all five boroughs, promote tourism throughout the city, and help visitors discover the ease of using public transportation. More than 350 volunteer Greeters, speaking over 30 languages, enjoy giving their time and energy back to their hometown. Big Apple Greeter volunteers research, write and distribute the *Neighborhood Information Profiles*, a series of five page feature stories describing a New York City neighborhood in text and photographs. Since its founding, Big Apple Greeter — a free public service — has welcomed over 50,000 visitors and been featured in hundreds of newspapers, magazines, television and radio programs all over the world, reaching an audience exceeding one billion potential visitors to New York City.

Big Apple Greeter is proud of its affiliation with NYC & Company and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. United Airlines is the Official Airline of Big Apple Greeter.

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.

Big Apple Greeter welcomes you to New York.

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