## **BROOKLYN WALKS**

Three cool neighborhoods, meant for exploring. Time to lace up your walking shoes.

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• Brooklyn is a borough of neighborhoods, each with its own particular flair and sensibility—and, just like those on Manhattan Island, they can be explored largely on foot. Visitors can see the sights, eat and drink like the locals, and shop, all in a day's excursion. Here are three Brooklyn enclaves worth checking out.

## DOWNTOWN BROOKLYN

Start your tour with lunch at **DeKalb Market Hall** located in the new mixed-use development City Point (445 Albee Square W.). Choose between a pastrami sandwich at the first outer-borough outpost of Manhattan's famed **Katz's Deli** or try something different like a Shanghai-inspired sandwich at **Jianbing Company**, a street-food staple made with a crepe, organic eggs, herbs, chili sauce and your choice of meat (I like the 13-spice pork).

Next, walk a few blocks west to the **New York Transit Museum** (Boerum Pl. & Schermerhorn St.). Inside this decommissioned subway station are restored historic trains, buses and other relics of public transportation.

Take a two-block walk north to **Brooklyn Borough** Hall, the seat of government here, and the adjoining Columbus Park. There's a farmer's market on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and it's always a good place to people-watch.

End your day with dinner and cheesecake at the classic Brooklyn restaurant **Junior's** (386 Flatbush Ave. Extension) or the old-school Italian red-sauce establishment **Queen** (84 Court St.).



Start your day at the gorgeous **Brooklyn Museum** (200 Eastern Parkway), housed in an impressive building on Calvert and Olmsted-designed Eastern Parkway, considered the world's first parkway. The museum is well-known for its permanent collections of feminist art and Egyptian art and artifacts.

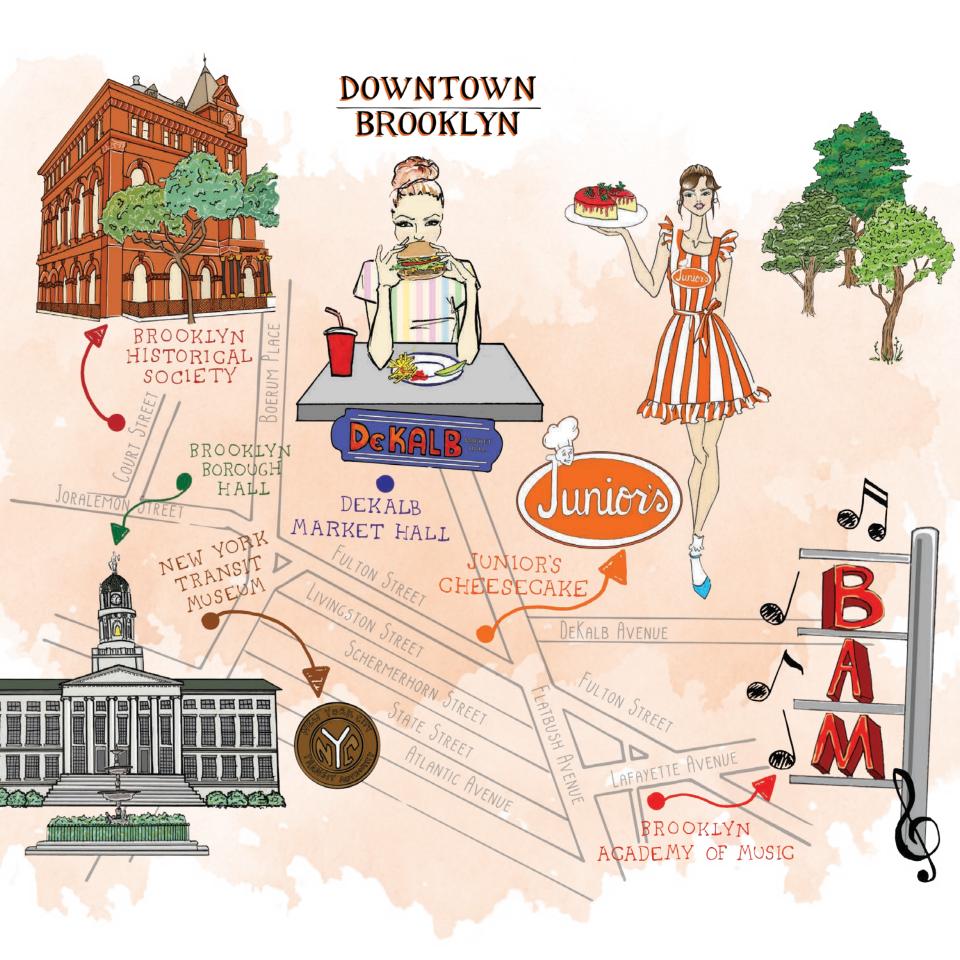
Follow your intake of art with a stroll through some living art. The **Brooklyn Botanic Garden** (990 Washington Ave.) is located just behind the museum and is an oasis in the middle of the borough. The 52-acre garden features a wide array of flora and specimen trees as well as a children's garden. Grab a quick salad or sandwich at the Yellow Magnolia Cafe, inside the garden.

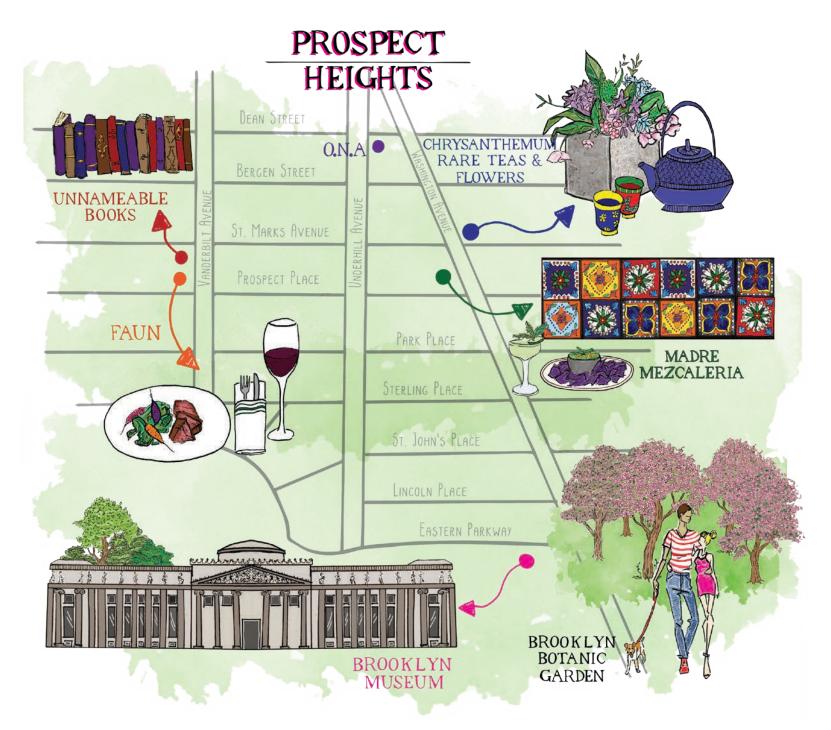
Prospect Heights features some of the most beautiful brownstone architecture in the city; wandering through the side streets between Vanderbilt and Washington avenues (Park Place and St. Marks Avenue, in particular) will inspire serious real estate envy. In between apartment peeping, check out some local boutiques: bookworms, Unnameable Books, (600 Vanderbilt Ave.), tea and flower lovers, Chrysanthemum Rare Teas & Flowers, (669 Washington Ave.); and for fashion fiends, O.N.A NYC (593A Vanderbilt Ave.) for hip and colorful local and sustainably produced designs.

All that culture, shopping and walking has surely left you hungry, so finish out your day at critically acclaimed **Olmsted** (659 Vanderbilt Ave.) or the neighborhood Italian-influenced favorite with an impressive natural







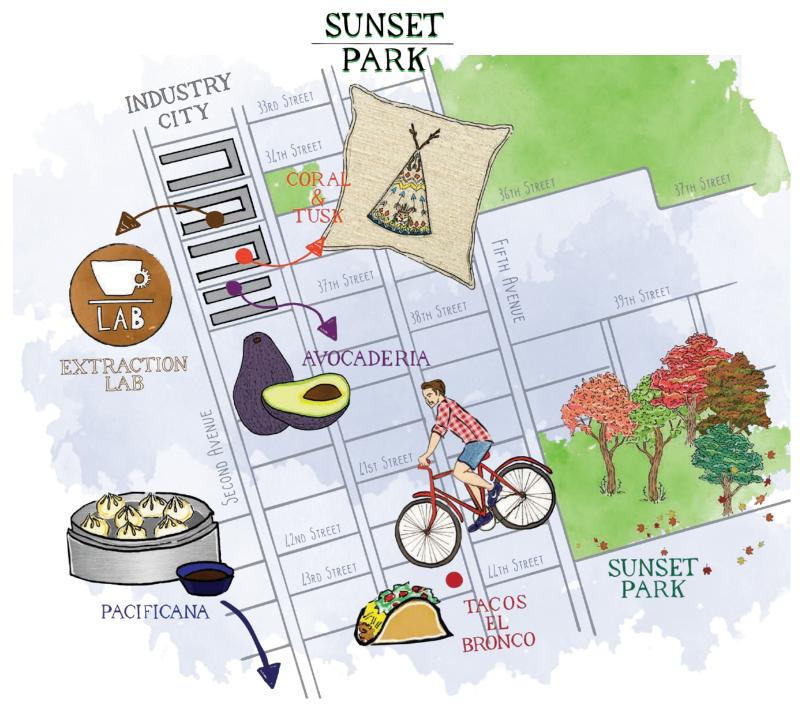


wine list, Faun (606 Vanderbilt Ave.). You could also indulge in authentic Mexican food and mezcal at Madre Mezcaleria (706 Washington Ave.), with over 50 mezcals to choose from.

## SUNSET PARK

Sunset Park is one of the most diverse neighborhoods in Brooklyn, with Chinese, Mexican, Puerto Rican and other ethnicities represented across the large neighborhood. Start your day at **Industry City** 

(220 36th St.), formerly a manufacturing center along the Brooklyn waterfront that over the past handful of years has been converted into a mecca for artist spaces and offices, shopping, dining and food production. Once inside, grab a bite at the very on-trend **Avocaderia** (238 36th St.) and a technologically advanced coffee at the **Extraction Lab** (51 35th St.), which uses custom-made Steampunk brewing machines to create your java. The pioneering cooking school **The Brooklyn Kitchen** (274 36th St.) recently opened a location here as well, where



you can take a class on knife skills or pickling (book in advance). Stop into home decor shops like **Coral & Tusk** (253 36th St.) for earthy pillows and throws, or **Flavor Paper** (65 36th St.) for wallpaper inspiration.

Two avenues east and five blocks south from Industry City is the center of the neighborhood, the eponymous **Sunset Park** (41st to 44th sts., btw Fifth and Seventh aves.), a large city park that boasts unobstructed Manhattan and harbor views thanks to its location on a sloping hill. The park offers a swimming pool, pedestrian walkways, lush

green fields and a living memorial commemorating September 11.

For tasty eats, Sunset Park has you covered. Some of the best tacos in NYC can be found at **Tacos El Bronco** (4324 Fourth Ave.), one block west of the park. This joint also serves breakfast and some seriously good smoothies. Be adventurous and try the popular tripe or lengua (tongue) tacos. If Chinese is more your speed, walk farther east to Eighth Avenue and check out **Pacificana** (813 55th St.), known for its dim sum as well as many other Cantonese classics.