

Greenpoint Self-Guided Tour

Explore 30+ coolest off the beaten spots + 1 Bonus

BEHIND
THE
SCENES
NYC

"Strengthening the local community and disrupting the status quo of NY tourism far from the touristy scene!"





Hi there!

Welcome to our **Behind the Scenes NYC (BTSNYC)** world!!! We're soooo excited to share with you some of our top secret, off-the-beaten-track, local spots in Greenpoint, Brooklyn! Some are our personal favorites!

We've hand-picked 30+ of the best restaurants, bars, galleries, coffeeshops, stores and historical places so you can explore a bit of what this amazing neighborhood has to offer...and a special bonus recommendation at the very end!

We're certain you will enjoy it all and don't forget to share your feedback with us.

Have fun!!

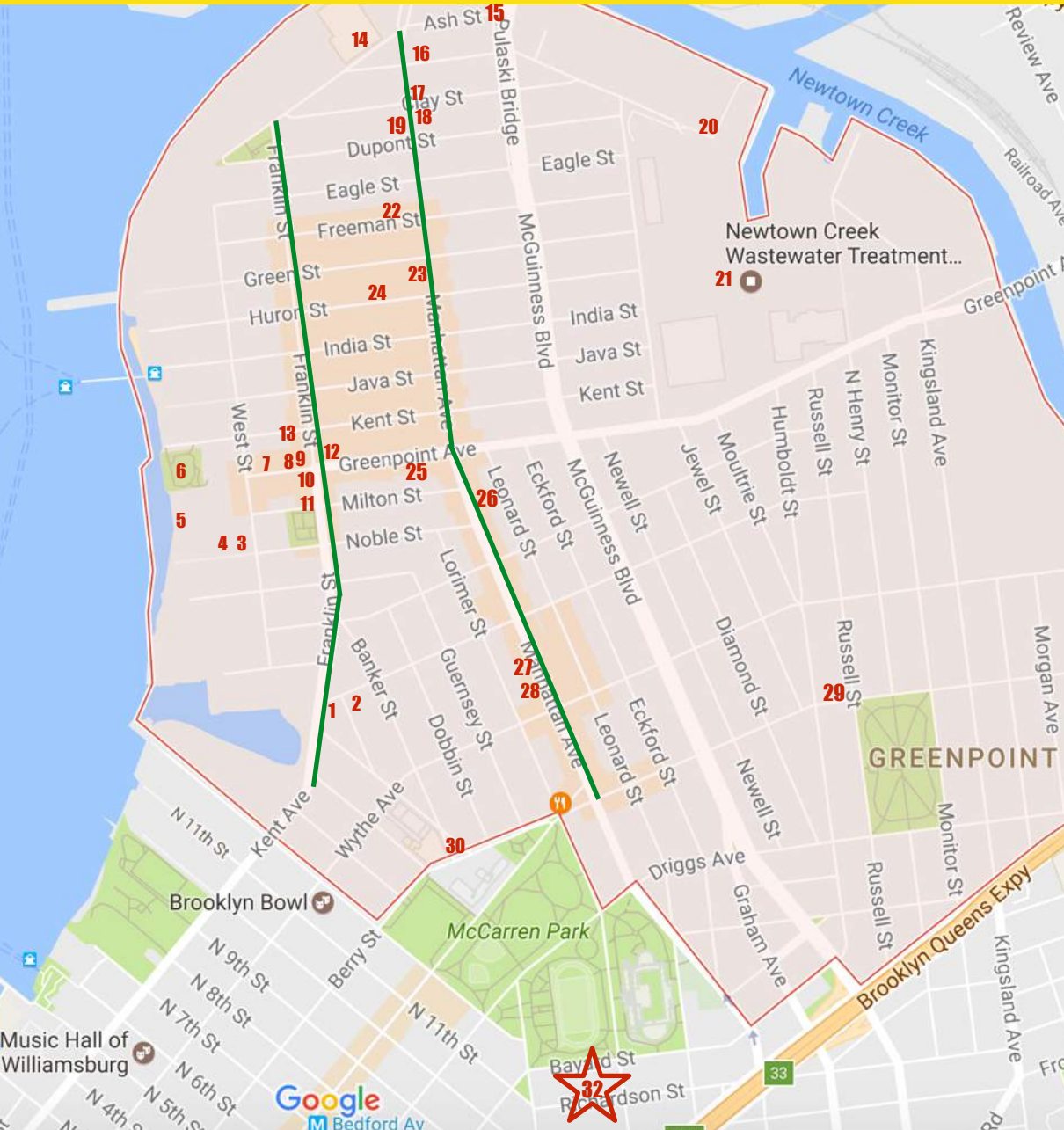
Kindly,
Fê Paronetto (Founder & CEO) & BTSNYC Team

Here are a few considerations and additional tips on how to use this guide!

- » This guide was **designed to be used on several days** to fully explore Greenpoint. So, make sure you divide the experiences so you can fully enjoy this neighborhood;
- » Make sure to **check days and hours** of operation of all venues. A few of them are only open to the public on weekends or specific hours;
- » We recommend **calling for reservations** at the restaurants (they get pretty full);
- » This guide was **updated on January 2018** and will be updated every now and then, so we apologize if any venue (in between updates), has closed;
- » This is the home of some great, kind-hearted folks, which are happy you're visiting. So make sure you **visit this neighborhood with an open heart.**
- » If you find anything super cool, we'd love to know! Please share with us tagging our IG **[@BehindTheScenesNYC](https://www.instagram.com/BehindTheScenesNYC)** or feel free to send us an email: **Contact@BehindTheScenesNYC.com**);

Enjoy! Enjoy! Enjoy!

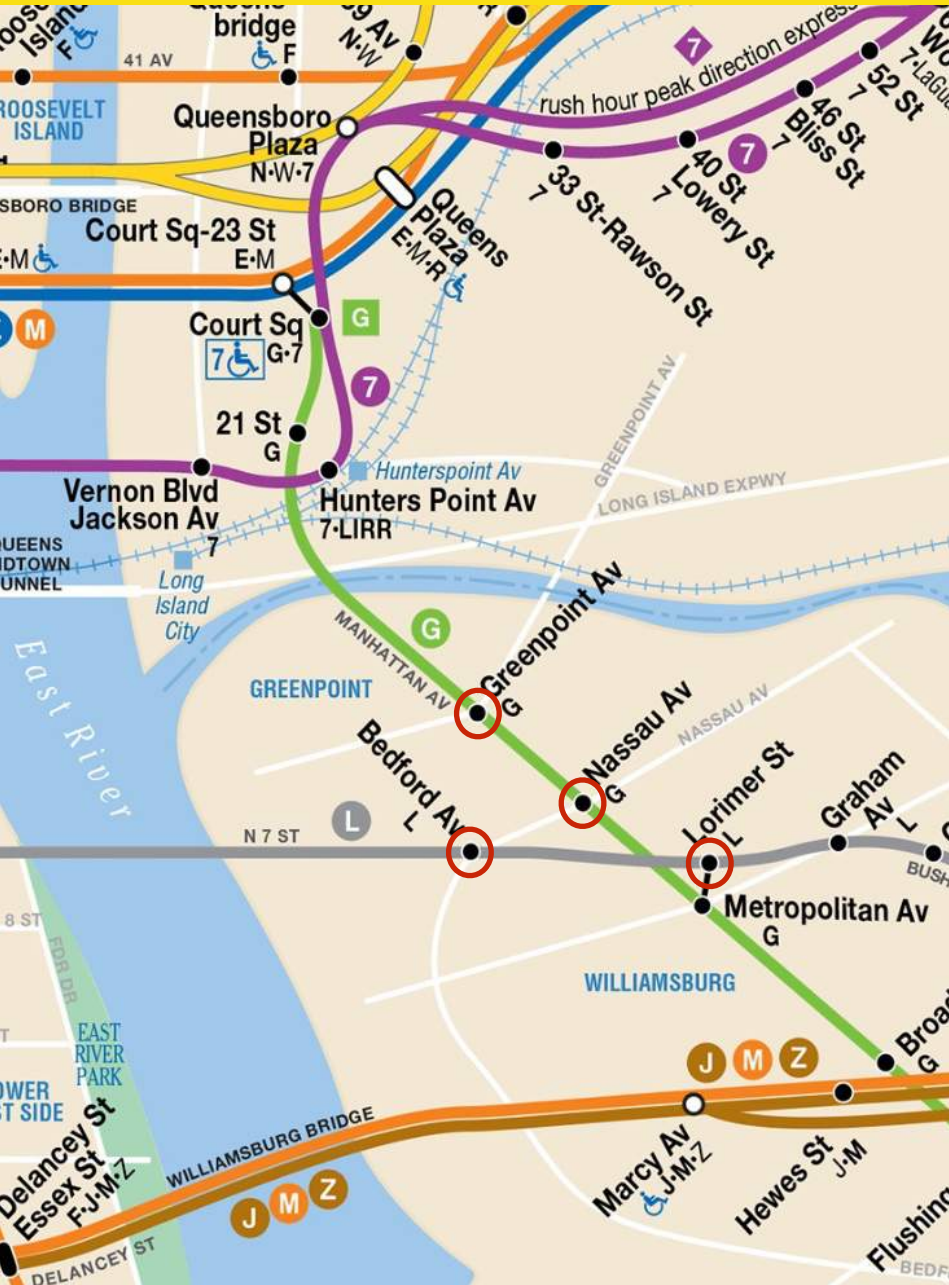
Greenpoint Map



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Subway Map to Access Greenpoint



There are 2 subway stations on the G line (light green color) that are located in Greenpoint:

- Nassau Avenue station is located at the very tip of the neighborhood
 - Greenpoint Avenue station is located at the heart of the neighborhood
- *The G line serves people coming from Brooklyn, Queens and Long Island City.*

However, the easiest way to come from Manhattan is taking the L line (grey color).

You can either stop at Lorimer Street and take the G line (light green color), or stop at Bedford Avenue and walk North.

It's quite a pleasant walk and Williamsburg is an amazing neighborhood to.

Head North and follow the map on the previous slide to #UnCover Greepoint.

WUHU!



Northern Territory: Rooftop Bar and Restaurant (#1)



Named after Australia's north-central federal territory, known for its Outback desert landscapes, **Northern Territory** (@northernterritorybk) is a super hype Australian rooftop and restaurant, with an incredible view of Manhattan's skyline!

The place was founded by Jamie Toll, a native Aussie, and it quickly became one of our favorite spots! We love going there, especially during the Spring/Summer season!

Their food menu is pretty great and they have a curated selection of Aussie beer and some signature cocktail drinks!

Don't forget to make a reservation for the rooftop area. It gets pretty crowded and finding a table becomes an impossible task.

The staff, as in most parts of Brooklyn, are super friendly, but they'll be able to do just so much for you during the busy hours...!

It's a great place not only for brunch, but for dinner and drinks!

Hours:

Happy Hours: 'till 7pm

Monday - Friday: 4pm - close

Saturday & Sunday: 11am - close

Location: 12 Franklin Street (b/w North 15th and Maserole Avenue)

www.northernterritorybk.com

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Northern Territory

Acme Smoked Fish: Traditional Seafood Market (#2)



If you don't live in NY, this might not be as appealing to you. But if you're one of those lucky people that lives in this goooooorgeous city, then **Acme Smoked Fish** (@acmesmokedfish) is a low key place to shop for fresh seafood.

To start, they are family owned and operated for four generations, since their launch in 1954.

The location? Well ... Williamsburg used to be one of the sketchiest neighborhoods in Brooklyn and its waterfront was an industrial zone with huge warehouses, factories and home to some of the busiest loading docks in New York.

Gentrification, which started in the 1990s, completely changed the neighborhood. Restaurants, bars, and local retailers started spreading throughout the streets. And, with that, Williamsburg began attracting more people to it.

What to expect going there? Deliciously-fresh smoked salmon, salads, specialty smoked fish, sturgeon, white fish, herring and so much more!

Hours:

Note They are only open to the public Friday mornings from 8am - 1pm, and they are cash only....but, you can expect reduced wholesale priced items!

Location: 30 Gem Street (b/w North 15th and Maserole Avenue)

<http://acmesmokedfish.com>

Photo Credit: Credit of Acme Smoked Fish



Greenpoint Galleries: Art & Culture (#9)



The neighborhood is filled with exceptional galleries, some amazing artists, and cool exhibition spaces. Many are walking distance from each other, so it's a good idea to just take time and visit them all!

We decided to focus on 4 galleries that are within 2-3 blocks from each other to make it easier! (We will launch a guide listing all the galleries in the near future!)

You can start off by visiting these:

Gallery AWA (@galleryawa) "showcase socially relevant art from the under-represented parts of the world." Their idea is to bring a little bit more of the world to New York City, which is pretty cool, right?

Besides being a gallery, they also organize very interesting events with talks, discussion on themes that are socially relevant, a few lectures and even a space to showcase world cinema!

Hours:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday - Sunday: By appointment only, so be sure to call contact them: +1 (917) 460-6920, curator@galleryawa.com.

Location: 61 Greenpoint Avenue #306, Buzzer at entrance: 934 (b/w West and Franklin)

www.galleryawa.com

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Gallery Awa



Greenpoint Galleries: Art & Culture (continuation) (#4 & #8)



Owen James Gallery (@owenjamesgallery) "is a contemporary art gallery focusing on emerging and mid-career artists from an international perspective. The gallery is a showcase for the crossroads of America, Asia and Europe, with a special interest in Southeast Asian contemporary art."

They work with a perfect balance of methods, genders and different perspectives. Be sure to check out their event schedule with lectures, publications and film screenings.

Hours:

Wednesday - Sunday: 11am - 6pm or by appointment contacting Owen Houhoulis at +1 (718)-395-4874, owen@owenjamesgallery.com.

Location: 61 Greenpoint Avenue #315 (b/w West and Franklin)

www.owenjamesgallery.com

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The **Greenpoint Terminal Gallery** (@greenpointterminalgallery) was founded by Brian Willmont and is "an artist run space located in the historic former American Manufacturing Corporation rope factory, on the Brooklyn waterfront."

Be sure to check with upcoming events before your visit!

Hours:

Saturdays: 1pm - 6pm, or by appointment through info@greenpointterminalgallery.com.

Location: 67 West Street #320 (b/w Nobel and Milton)

<http://greenpointterminalgallery.com>

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Greenpoint Terminal Gallery

Greenpoint Galleries: Art & Culture (continuation) (#3)



Calico Brooklyn (@[calicobrooklyn](https://www.instagram.com/calicobrooklyn)) was founded in 2012 by the artist Scott Chasse that has also organized numerous public and private installations, commissions, and curatorial undertakings.

The gallery is a “small exhibition space tucked away on the second floor of the historic Greenpoint Terminal Warehouse. Its mission is to present emerging, mid-career, and non-career artists in a venue that offers ‘white cube’ presentation with a DIY approach.

With just over 300 sq/ft, Calico focuses on inventive exhibits that allow artists to explore concepts and refine ideas.”

Hours:

Fridays & Saturdays: 12pm - 5pm, or by appointment through +1 (347) 450-3639, calicobrooklyn@gmail.com.

Location: 67 West Street #203 (b/w Noble and Milton)

www.calicobrooklyn.com

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Greenpoint Terminal Gallery



Brooklyn Barge: Restaurant, Bar and Manhattan's Skyline (#5)



With one of the most astounding views of Manhattan's skyline, **The Brooklyn Barge** (@thebrooklynbarge), is one of our favorite go-to spots. The place is totally off-the-beaten-track, just like we looove.

Getting there (at night) looks a bit sketchy since you need to walk through a long, dark alley, with huge warehouses on both sides and old abandoned cars. We even found an abandoned yellow cab that reminded us of the movie "The Bone Collector". Funny ... The place is quite big, with huge communal wooden tables that accommodate big parties.

Drinks are served on a floating deck that looks like a boat. If you pay attention, you can slightly feel the rocking of the platform on the water. Don't worry, it won't make you feel sick!

They serve a few dishes like: Tacos with different fillings (garlic shrimp/adobo chicken/chipotle pork/grilled fish/marinated skirt steak), one of the most amazing fries you will ever eat, guacamole with pickled jalapeño, grilled and chilled corn in a cup (yummy!), hotdogs, harpooned shrimp, a couple salad options, a few sandwiches including a veggie burger for Vegetarians (like us!) and to finish in great style...churros for dessert!

During the Summer days, they offer super cool kayak and stand up paddle boarding lessons (from 10am - sunset).

Sunsets there are a-m-a-z-i-n-g, so you can go during the day, and if you're the type that can continue having fun for hours and hours, stay there to check out their nightlife!

Hours: (They are opened 7 days a week!)

Monday - Tuesday: 4pm - close

Wednesday - Sunday: 11am - 1am

Location: 3 Milton Street, Greenpoint (a short walk from the Greenpoint Avenue, G Line)

www.thebrooklynbarge.com

Photo Credits: Courtesy of The Brooklyn Barge

WNYC Transmitter Park: Waterfront Park (#6)



Want to find one of the best spots to see the Manhattan's skyline?

Well, right beside The Brooklyn Barge (that we've also written about in this suuuper cool guide that you guys are loooving, lol), is the **WNYC Transmitter Park**, launched in 2012.

It's a waterfront park with a breathtaking-insta-perfect view of Manhattan.

All your followers will definitely ask where your pics were taken from!

"Once the working home of the WNYC radio transmission towers, the park is now a stunning green space, with both natural areas and also places for fishing, play, and active recreation."

The park has a beautiful waterfront esplanade, seating spaces to simply enjoy the view, a large lawn and natural gardens to enjoy a bit of green, a separate space for kids to run around in safety, spray shows for the super-hot summer days, a spot at the end of Kent Street where you can go and enjoy some fishing and so much more!

Location: At the very tip of Greenpoint Avenue, cross with West Street.

www.nycgovparks.org/parks/transmitter-park

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Stu Brooks



Eberhard Faber Pencil Company Historic District: Historic Spot (#7)



Yeah, we have to confess that we are addicted...to pencils! Crazy right, but to prove our obsession, we've already written about a pencil store we love ([here](#)).

The **Eberhard Faber Pencil Company Historic District** "consists of eight buildings and one freestanding wall incorporating the remaining portions of the facades of three largely-demolished nineteenth-century buildings that occupy parts of two blocks along Greenpoint Avenue, West Street, and Kent Street.

The Eberhard Faber Pencil Company, originally the A. W. Faber Company, was founded by Eberhard Faber (1822-1879) in 1861. Following a disastrous fire at the Manhattan plant in 1872, Faber moved the factory to Brooklyn, where it remained until 1956. The company is credited with bringing German lead pencil making techniques to the United States and Faber grew to become one of Brooklyn's most important factories, employing hundreds of workers, most of which were women.

Since the eighteenth century, the name Faber has been closely associated with the production of pencils and writing paraphernalia. The Faber family was known to have been engaged in making lead pencils in the village of Stein, Germany, near the city of Nuremburg as early as 1761 when the business was founded by Kasper Faber." ~ Excerpt by NYC.gov

While you pass by, note the beautiful details of huge pencils on the façade near the top floors, as well as huge golden stars...the company's emblem! Sooo unique!

This is a gorgeous place to stroll by and see this breathtaking building until it still stands. Several groups are working to preserve it. With booming real estate prices, there is concern that companies are going to tear it down to shelter massive new residential buildings, with astronomical rents.

We hope it stays there too!

Location: 61 Greenpoint Avenue (b/w West and Franklin)

Text Excerpts by: NYC.gov

Photo Credit: <http://6tocelebrate.org>



Adaptations NY: Shopping (#10)



The first time we bumped into **Adaptations NY** (@adaptationsny) we couldn't leave the store! As they say, Adaptations NY is "an unconventional vintage furniture boutique specializing in Mid-Century, Industrial and Farmhouse Decor."

Their products are very charming, beautiful and will definitely make your Home, a home!

They have everything from furniture to smaller decoration items, so you'll definitely be able to find what you're looking for.

More about them:

"We enjoy reusing and honoring old items to create an eclectic laid back environment. We love all styles of design and we believe that an eclectic home is the best way for people to live. No one thing defines us, so why should our homes be just one style?"

They also have another store just a few blocks down, called Porter James NY, with objects for vintage and modern homes, located on 116 Franklin Street.

Hours:

Tuesday - Sunday: 12pm - 7pm

Location: 109 Franklin Street (b/w Greenpoint Avenue and Milton)

www.adaptationsny.com

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Adaptations NY



Broken Land: Bar (#11)



This 40-seat laid back neighborhood bar called **Broken Land** (@brokenlandbar) is definitely a place to stop by for drinks. To start off, we simply love that their website is made with ASCII art ([here](#) to see what this means).

They offer an amazing full bar with hand-crafted cocktails, draft beers, beer & shot combos and fine wines. Not forgetting to mention their whiskey, amaro, tequila, mezcal and rum selections! Wow, yeah! You'll definitely have a great time figuring out what to try first, but their Piña Colada is pretty famous! Just saying...

Their cozy, rustic ambiance is a highlight! We love their tin ceiling, their huge wooden bar and stools, the plastic chandeliers, worn couches, friendly bartenders....and ahhh...their backyard patio!

During the hot months, their lovely backyard certainly makes everyone smile! We love the mixture of bricks and wood!

They also love to share a little of history about Brooklyn and explain that: "Breukelen ("Broken Land") was the original name the Dutch gave Brooklyn. The English kicked them out in the 1600s and simply anglicized the name. They were lazy." Ha! Love it!

Hours:

Monday - Friday: 4pm - 4am (Happy Hour: 4pm - 7pm)

Saturday - Sunday: 2pm - 4am

Backyard Hours (open year round)

Sunday - Thursdays: Open until 11pm

Friday - Saturday: Open until 1am

Location: 105 Franklin Street

www.brokenlandbar.com

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Broken Land

Home of the Brave: Décor Home & Kitchen (#12)



So, the neighborhood has a great variety of stores, which we are not necessarily the focus of this guide. However, we would like to share a couple of our favorite neighborhood gems that you might want to check out!

A store called **Home of the Brave** is the perfect store for you to purchase some of the best, most unique, made with love items for your home & kitchen! It's a seasonal pop-up and an extension to a concept boutique called **Wolves Within**.

Owned by the couple, Bethany and Max Vogel, the pop-up houses handmade pieces from artists around the US and, of course, Brooklyn-made too!

The décor is pretty clean, giving space for the items to shine! And, oh...do they shine!

From ceramic mugs, cutlery, dishes and pots, to the most gorgeous rugs and pillows. Yup...Brooklyn has become a neighborhood with some of the most outstanding designers and artists, so we're certain you'll enjoy it!

We're sure it'll be hard for you to leave the store without, at least, a small gift (for yourself)!

www.homeofthebravenyc.com

<https://wolveswithin.com>

Locations:

Home of the Brave: 146 Franklin Street (b/w Kent Street and Greenpoint Avenue)

Wolves Within: 174 Franklin Street (b/w Java and Kent Street)

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Home of the Brave



Maman: Bakery, Café and Event Space (#13)



Ohhh...we are c-o-m-p-l-e-t-e-l-y addicted to **Maman** (@_mamannyc_)! Besides the Greenpoint location, they have 2 spots in Manhattan and it's surely one of our top recommendations.

Maman is a New York bakery, café and event space with one of the best, cozy, rustic decors we've seen. It was founded by a cool, entrepreneurial trio: Chef Armand Arnal, Benjamin Sormonte and Elisa Marshall.

They describe themselves: *"We serve family-inspired recipes from the South of France and North America, bringing to life both savory and sweet childhood favorites. The menu features dishes created from the highest quality, locally-sourced ingredients and changes every day to ensure an inspiring, ever-evolving menu. We offer a selection of delicious baked goods, breads, coffee, fresh breakfast and lunch options."*

Plus, if you live in NY, we have great news! They cater large and small events at your office orin your home! We're sure your guests will talk about how delicious the food was for weeks!

And...there's still more! They host some amazing events during the month from a Calligraphy & Canapés workshop, to Mother's Day workshop for kids! So fun and unique!

Be sure to stop by!

Hours:

Monday - Friday: 7am - 6pm

Saturday - Sunday: 8am - 6pm

Brunch: Saturday - Sunday: 9am - 4pm

Location: 80 Kent Street (b/w West and Franklin)

www.mamannyc.com

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Maman

Glasserie: Secret Restaurant (#14)



Dining inside a former glass factory sounds fantastic, right!? **Glasserie** (@glasserienyc) is located inside a former glass factory initially named Greenpoint Glass Works at the northernmost tip of the neighborhood. The building was constructed in 1860 by Christian Dorflinger.

This cut glass supplier was so highly regarded that special pieces were requested for the White House collection. After more than 20 years, the factory changed possession and only in 1902 it was renamed to The Gleason-Tiebout Glass Co.

Today, the building houses Glasserie, a cool restaurant that has Executive Chef, Eldad Shem Tov and Chef de Cuisine, Jeff Kouba in command. Their artful, but effortless dishes are Middle Eastern inspired, with Mediterranean roots.

A few dishes you should try are: the Bulgarian feta & beets the lamb tartare, the Harissa Rabbit Kohlrabi tacos and the carrot kataif, ricotta & spearmint. Desserts? Hum...we like them all!

Since the building is huge, they're also able to host private events for 15 up to 50 people (indoor) and they have an outdoor courtyard area for up to 200 people in the summer months. Great space if you're looking to celebrate an important day!

Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 11:30am - 2:30pm and 5:30pm - 11pm

Friday: 11:30am - 2:30pm and 5:30pm - 12am

Saturday: 10am - 4pm and 5:30pm - 12am

Sunday: 10am - 4pm and 5:30pm - 11pm

Location: 95 Commercial Street (b/w Box and Manhattan Avenue)

www.glasserienyc.com

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Glasserie

North Brooklyn Boat Club: Adventure (#15)



Ok, we were obviously going to write this in our own words, but the **North Brooklyn Boat Club** (NBBC) describes it so well that we decided to use their words to share with you what it's all about:

"The North Brooklyn Boat Club is dedicated to enabling and advocating for human-powered boating on the waterways bordering Greenpoint / Williamsburg.

The organization enables local citizens to be effective stewards of the ecology and so preserve the recreation and freedom that the waterways engender.

The NBBC comprises local kayakers, canoeists, sailors, environmentalists, boat builders, community leaders, and activists.

We are an open group and invite anyone with an interest in boating, open space, environmental education, and nautical recreation to join our public events and open meetings and to consider membership and volunteering."

Location: 437 McGuinness Blvd

<http://northbrooklynboatclub.org>

Photo Credit: Courtesy of North Brooklyn Boat Club



Magick City: Art, Music, Food and Fun! (#16)



It's a curious story how we bumped into this super unique place called **Magick City**. As our Founder, Fê, was hunting for new, secret spots in the neighborhood, she saw a metal door slightly open. As curious as she is, she decided to walk in and take a peek at what was going on behind those doors.

As soon as she walks in she bumps into a great smiling guy. She immediately apologized for being nosey, but she still wanted to know what was going on behind those doors. And who can resist the incredibly charming curiosity of our Founder??? hahaha. He told her all about this place.

Magick City is a mixture of several ideas ... in a 2200 sq. ft space from art and music, to food!

They focus on culinary arts and have a huge industrial kitchen that hosts cooking classes and collective mentorships. They work with local food-based start-ups and offer the spot to bring together a community of like-minded folks and share ideas & inspiration!

They are also music advocates and feature live music performances, lectures, workshops, and karaoke. Plus, of course, if you enjoy film screenings, they transform the space "into a 50-person cinema with vintage wooden folding chairs." A guaranteed fantastic experience!

Last, but surely not least, they have a beautiful blue and white striped awning with a great coffee shop where the most amazing Brooklyn crowd hangs out!

Hours:

Monday: 7am-6pm and 7pm-8pm

Tuesday - Saturday: 7am-6pm

Sunday: Closed

<http://magick.city>

Location: 37 Box Street (b/w Manhattan Avenue and McGuinness Blvd)

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Magick City



Saint Vitus: Gothic-themed Bar (#17)



After playing at the "Rock and Roll Hall Of Fame" on a Thursday night, at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, Dave Grohl, Krist Novoselic and Pat Smear (aka Nirvana) headed to **Saint Vitus** (@saintvitusbar) - a small metal bar, where they played an amazing full set of Nirvana Classics!

As they better explain: "FEARFUL naïfs may assume that heavy-metal bars are cradles of malevolence where depraved longhairs slake their thirst with bats' blood. But Saint Vitus, a gothic-themed bar in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, named after a Black Sabbath song, is actually a welcoming spot for downing cheap beers and listening to Pantera.

Very late on a recent Saturday, metalheads from the neighborhood stuck around after a long and crowded night that included Paul Bostaph, a former drummer in Slayer. From a stool, a dark-haired woman wearing hoop earrings and a high-waisted skirt barked requests at a bartender clicking through iTunes. "Play Skinny Puppy!" she said.

"It doesn't have to be about metal," he said. "It's a fun vibe."

The complete list of upcoming shows are online!

Hours:

Usually opened from 6pm - 4am

Location: 1120 Manhattan Avenue (b/w Box and Clay)

www.saintvitusbar.com

Photo Credit: Courtesy gabethepigeon



Milk and Roses: Restaurant (#18)



Milk & Roses (@milkandrosesbistro) is a fine American cuisine restaurant with a Southern Italian influence. All the ingredients are carefully sourced and they make sure it all comes from the best suppliers.

If you enjoy cocktail drinks, you will have a great time with their mixologists. They are pretty creative! They also offer boutique wines, craft beer and classic cocktails.

Their decor is amazing with a gorgeous garden that will make you stay there for hours. Just perfect for a special night far away from Manhattan's chaos. Inside it looks like an old library, with a wall full of books and a beautiful grand piano.

You can go there for brunch, lunch or dinner.

Plus!! If you're looking for a unique place to celebrate your birthday or even a small, intimate wedding, this can be the right place for you!

It's definitely very charming. We're sure you're going to love the place!

Hours:

Monday - Friday 9am - 12am (kitchen closes at 11pm)

Saturday 10am - 1am (kitchen closes at 12am)

Sunday 10am - 11pm (kitchen closes at 10pm)

Location: 1110 Manhattan Avenue (b/w Clay and Dupont)

<http://milkandrosesbk.com>

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Milk & Roses



Le Fanfare: Restaurant (#19)



The neighborhood of Greenpoint isn't as remote as people think! It's actually only 1 stop away from the trendy Williamsburg, through the G line! It's definitely one of the spots that makes you feel as if you're faaaar away from New York City.

The restaurant, **Le Fanfare** (@lefanfare) was founded by the same owners of Epistrophy, that we wrote about a while ago. They have a great Italian menu - created by Chef Adam Ross - and wine list, plus, Jazz music nights that is surely one of the highlights.

We went there for an early dinner and we had: the kale chips, artichoke with peas and onions, a vegan pasta with vegetables, a salad mix and some wine! We tried the house-made bread that was actually the only non-vegan option.

If you are not vegan, they have a great menu with to-die-for pastas and dishes like goffle farm chicken with broccoli rabe, parsnip puree, sage pan sauce and balsamic shortrib sandwich with pear-pumpkin chutney, roasted potatoes or salad.

They have two huge communal tables made with beautiful wood and the ambiance is sophisticated but also cozy, with a cool bar upfront.

Good news! Spring is just around the block and they have a charming outside area which will be greatly appreciated during the beautiful sunny days.

Hours:

Happy Hour Every Night: 5:30 - 7pm

Tuesday - Thursday: 5:30pm - 12am (Kitchen closes at 11pm)

Friday: 5:30pm - 1am (Kitchen closes at 11pm)

Saturday: 11:30am - 4pm and 5:30pm - 1am (Kitchen closes at 11pm)

Sunday: 11:30am - 4pm and 5:30pm - 10pm (Kitchen closes at 10pm)

Location: 1103 Manhattan Avenue (b/w Clay and Dupont)

www.lefanfare.com

Photo Credit: Kim-Julie Hansen



Newtown Creek Nature Walk: Site (20)



After visiting the Newtown Creek Digester Eggs, you're pretty close to a beautiful path, right by the river, that is worth the visit. It's actually right "behind" the Plant.

Newtown Creek Nature Walk is a quarter-mile pathway with a few sitting areas along the way. These are perfect spots to just sit and soak it all in.

You'll be able to see the Newtown Creek that separate Greenpoint from Long Island City (LIC) and you'll also have a few angles of Manhattan!

George Trakas, an environmental sculpture artist, is the designer behind it all. He did an astounding work portraying the story behind NYC's history and information about the Newtown Plant (the process, the water quality, etc)...it's all shown throughout the path!

Please note: No pets are allowed there; there are a few areas with no railing, so if you're with kids they must be close to you at all times; there are no bathrooms close by; no bikes or skates are allowed.

Hours:

Dawn to dusk (weather permitting)

Location: At the end of Paidge Avenue on the very tip of Greenpoint

The Newtown Creek Digester Eggs: Sites (#21)



What in the world is the **Newtown Creek Digester Eggs**? Well, it's the Wastewater Treatment Plant in the neighborhood, which is pretty awesome, we might say!

Ok, it doesn't seem that exciting, but it is!

The reason why it has "eggs" in its name, is because the plant has "eight futuristic, stainless steel-clad digester eggs that process as much as 1.5 million gallons of sludge - the organic material removed from sewage - every day", as the NYC's official website explains.

They also explained that "the lighting designer, Hervé Descottes, used a layer of blue light to identify and unify the water treatment plant and to set it apart from the surrounding city. He also used other lights as well.

Bright white lights define the plant's various functional areas, such as the loading docks, which blaze in contrast to the blue monochromatic field. Shimmering lines, some of them yellow, are used to demarcate pedestrian walkways and to contrast with the blue light."

They offer some tours, so let us know if you're interested in attending in the near future!

Location: 327 Greenpoint Avenue (b/w Provost and N. Henry)

www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/environmental_education/newtown_visitors_center.shtml

Sweetleaf Coffee Roasters: Coffee Shop (#22)



You know that smell of perfectly roasted coffee when you walk pass an unpretentious coffee shop in Brooklyn?

Well, that's exactly what **Sweetleaf Coffee Roasters** (@sweetleafnyc) is! This spot opened in August 2015 and has become the home to their roastery, which you can peek in!

We love all the great natural light that floods into the place. Plus during the summer, they have a few tables outside and the ambiance is super cool - as they explain, *"feels like old world Brooklyn with original wood beams, brick walls and antique furniture from around the globe."*

They explain: *"Our philosophy on brewing is a blend of art and science. Walk into any of our shops and you will see scales everywhere we brew coffee, including on the espresso machine! On any given day you will see us using our refractometer to measure total dissolved solids in our coffees or software to show us our extraction percentages. Yes, we get real geeky, but we also remember that the art is knowing how to make coffee taste extraordinary. Science is what helps us repeat it."*

They have 3 other locations - 1 in Williamsburg and 2 in Long Island City - so be sure to check them out if you're close by! Enjoy!

Hours:

Monday - Friday: 7am - 7pm

Saturday - Sunday: 8am - 7pm

Location: 159 Freeman Street (b/w Franklin and Manhattan Avenue)

<http://sweetleafcoffee.com/greenpoint>

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Sweetleaf Coffee

Troost: Bar (#23)



Troost (@troostnyc) is one of the Greenpoint's treasures and we're always there. Yes...we love it!

They have a great space with a beautiful outdoor garden overflowing with plants and flowers.

At night they get pretty busy, since they have very good music, a great crowd, a full bar, coffee till 2am and the very relaxed outdoor area with lots of green.

It's a very unpretentious low-key place, with lots of charm where you'll have great bites and drinks!

If you like wine, this is the place to go in Greenpoint since the owners, John Ortiz and Jaime Eldredge, opened it due to the lack of a good wine bar in the neighborhood.

They have a no wifi and laptop policy, which we think it's great! It makes people actually talk and enjoy the present moment with friends, right?

Hours:

They open at 4pm and close between midnight and 2pm

Location: 1011 Manhattan Avenue (b/w Huron and Green)

<http://troostny.com>

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Troost



Huron Street Bath House: Historic Spot (#24)



Walking through the streets of Greenpoint you might stumble upon this Roman-inspired construction with the famous iconic columns and arches.

Located on Huron Street, a few steps from Manhattan Avenue, **Huron Street Bath House** dates back to 1903 (but opened in 1904) when hot water was not commonly distributed to homes. Therefore, a luxury. Showers were mandatory to maintain public health. You can still spot the date the bath house opened on the stone façade and a sign written Public with a V, instead of a U.

Since having your own shower or bath was not common, people had to use public bath houses for their personal hygiene habits. Unfortunately, by the 1950's, distribution of hot water spread everywhere with indoor plumbing and this beautiful bathhouse closed down (as did the other existing ones).

The bathhouse closed on December 12th of 1960 and was the last one to shut down their doors to their guests, which had drastically reduced guests to only 20-30/day.

The place hosted over 1000 bathers daily, and note: back then New York housed around 25 bath houses! They offered around 25 showers for women, and over 60 for men that obviously had separate entrances.

Today, it's the home of a lucky frame and gilding company that is able to breathe a little bit of what remains of the bathhouse. But wait! On the second floor, some cool artists rent the venue to showcase their art!

Be sure to keep your eyes opened when you walk by Huron Street.

Location: 139 Huron Street (b/w Franklin and Manhattan Avenue)

Photo Credit: NYC Municipal Archives



Karczma: Restaurant (#25)



Our Founder has a special place in her heart for Polish restaurants. But let me tell you why. Back in 2014, she was visiting NYC and having lunch at a Polish restaurant in Williamsburg. Out of the blue, she proclaimed to her sister that she would be living in New York in 1 year.

And guess what? 365 days later, she became a New Yorker! Oh, the power of words. But, let's get back to this great Polish restaurant.

So, when we learned about **Karczma**, we decided to try it out!

Greenpoint is known for its huge Polish community, so we were sure this would be a very traditional spot to try! The restaurant was founded in 2007 by Urszula & Slawek Letowski and Krzysztof Drzewiecki with the mission of offering locals and visitors the best Polish food, at reasonable prices and great service!

As you walk in, you feel like you're literally in Poland! The staff (and gorgeous blond waitresses) are dressed in traditional folk outfits and the music is obviously Polish folk too! Super cool! It's like you've been transported overseas in a glimpse of a second.

We love how the décor of the place reminds us of those old country Polish farmhouses, making you feel very comfortable and "at home".

What to try first? Well, our founder loves the traditional dish: pierogis, but everything there is literally fantastic!

Enjoy your "trip" to Poland!

Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 12:00pm - 10:30pm

Friday - Saturday: 12:00pm - 11:30pm

Sunday: 12:00pm - 10:00pm

Location: 136 Greenpoint Avenue (b/w Franklin and Manhattan Avenue)

<http://karczmabrooklyn.com/en>

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Karczma



Sunshine Laundromat: Laundromat and Pinball (#26)



What the heck is a laundromat spot doing here?!

Well, our mission is to find the coolest, unexpected and unique spots in town, right!? Yeah!

Sunshine Laundromat (@[sunshinelaundromat](https://www.instagram.com/sunshinelaundromat)) is a laundromat that offers three pinball machines for guests to kill time while waiting for their clothes to get washed and dried! To survive this new tech world, skyrocketing rents and a complete global transformation (that tends to make laundromats obsolete), these guys really innovated!

After undergoing renovation in 2016 and putting some huge bucks down, they transformed the place to shelter over 20 pinball machines, a speakeasy bar serving craft beer on tap and even a great mechanical fortune telling monkey, called "The Chimp" that will surely make your boring laundry chore more entertaining with his predictions! Ha! Funny!

Simply walk through a door in the back...hummmm...love the thrill!

You know what's super cool? Peter Rose's mother (Oh, he's the owner!), helped him design the tables, that were inspired on her cutie dogs! We loved the personal touch! Ah! And expect great music too!

Yeah...pinball became an obsession and doing laundry, a mere detail!

Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 7am - 2am

Friday & Saturday: 7am - 4am

Sunday: 8am - 2am

Location: 860 Manhattan Avenue (b/w Noble and Milton)

www.sunshinelaundromat.com

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Sunshine Laundromat

Peter Pan Donuts: Old-School Bakery (#27)



Don't we all love an old school bakery? Ok, so it's hard to start putting into words what this place is all about, just because we're so excited about it!

Founded over 60 years ago when the neighborhood was primarily the home of gorgeous Polish folks, **Peter Pan Donuts** (@peterpandonut) became Greenpoint's dearest local spot. Over 30 years ago, the couple Donna Sifakas and her husband Christos took over the bakery.

Imagine this: an "old-school bakery with counter seating, serving up donuts & pastries, plus shakes & egg creams." And that's not all! They opted for not having table in the place and created a super cool S-shaped counter that actually incentivizes guests to mingle and who knows...even become friends! Our Founder, Fê, certainly talks to everyone when she's around! Such a neighborhood "style".

The girls working there are still mainly Polish, even though Donna and Christos are Italians.

The owners explain that "While the Pan (like it's kindly called by the locals) opens its doors at 4:30am. on weekdays and closes at 8pm, it is basically a 24-hour operation. The first doughnuts for the day are baked around 2am, and Donna says the shop is actually quite busy at 4:30, because people getting off their overnight shifts and many employees of local state departments from around the area drop by then."

Not a donut person? That might change after going to Pan! Really.

Hours:

Monday - Friday: 4:30am - 8pm

Saturday: 5am - 8pm

Sunday: 5:30am - 7pm

Location: 727 Manhattan Avenue (b/w Maserole and Norman Avenues)

<http://peterpandonuts.com>

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Peter Pan Donuts

Rite Aid Pharmacy - The Meserole: Historical Spot (#28)



Ok, so this is just a quick stop we recommend to pass by.

This **Rite Aid Pharmacy** is housed inside the structure of a former 1920s movie theater, named The Fox Meserole. What does Meserole mean? Well, it was the name of a farming family that lived in Greenpoint around the 1700's.

Around 1920's it was a theater that screened only silent movies, then obviously with the modernization of theaters, it started featuring "talkies" It housed up to 2,000 seated guests (wow!) and that lasted until late 1980's, when it was transformed into a disco roller-rink spot, called Laces.

After that it was the home to one of those 99-cent shops, called Liquidator's Arena, then became Eckard Drug and finally Rite Aid decided to house one of their pharmacies.

The best thing was that the original structure of the theater still remains intact (inside with the dome, the ramp, etc and out - the façade is still the same)!

You might be lucky enough to find a staff that will take you to a deposit area on the upper floor, where you can see the original balconies too!

If you love architecture, you'll be fascinated by this spot!

Note: The disco ball is still hanging there!

Location: 723-725 Manhattan Avenue (b/w Maserole and Normal Avenues)

Photo Credit: BrooklynPix.com

Goldie's Brooklyn: Bar (#29)



As we've heard people explain that **Goldie's Brooklyn** (@GoldiesBrooklyn) is a great mix of "old-school Las Vegas and new North Brooklyn"! This is maybe the best explanation on what to expect.

The place opened during the 2nd semester of 2016 near McGolrick Park. As you walk in, there is a huge beautiful pool table (we love playing pool!). A long corridor leads to another room in the back.

The opulent décor will surely call your attention with all the faux-leather table booths, the full bar that replicates a horseshoe, leopard statues, the glittery golden table tops, super vintage black and white tiled floors...ah! Sooo cool!

Mix that and the coolest crowd in Brooklyn: you have Goldie's!

It's a perfect late night hang out place for the night owls to enjoy. Plus, it's a type of bar that does not use social media to promote themselves. The owners want it to be a neighborhood bar that invites people through the word of mouth, hence, looooots of locals!

We l-o-v-e that!

Hours:

Monday - Friday: 4pm - 4am

Saturday & Sunday: 2pm - 4am

Location: 195 Nassau Avenue (b/w Humboldt and Russell)

www.facebook.com/GoldiesBrooklyn

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Goldie's

The Lot Radio: Independent Radio & Coffee Kiosk (#30)



"An independent online radio station live streaming 24/7 from a reclaimed shipping container on an empty lot in NYC. Expect a continuous stream of the best and most varied music New York City has to offer."

How cool is this!?!? Last February, 2016, the Belgian music producer, François Vaxelaire, opened the self-funded and independent **Lot Radio** (@thelotradio) and named it after the empty lot (curiously available for lease), he picked to ground his dream! He did confess that it did take a while for the owners to understand what exactly he wanted to do there, but after months and months of conversation, his dream came to life.

We love this place, especially because François decided to open the place with no ads, no sponsorship, just like Behind the Scenes NYC, where our Founder, Fê, works the same way!

One of the partners, DJ Lloydski, explains that his idea is to offer a bit of every music style, from the best hip hop kits to psychedelic rock and traditional rock!

Half of the container houses the radio (where you'll actually be able to see the DJs going live) and the other half a super cool, laid back coffee kiosk where you'll find great coffee, teas, sandwiches and pastries!

If you hang there long enough, you can even get a chance to talk to the guys! Or even better! You can get lucky and see a famous DJ play an exclusive session! Definitely a place with locals only! We love it there, and you will too!

Hours:

Weekdays: 8am - 7pm

Weekends: 10am - 7pm

Location: 17 Nassau Avenue (right off McCarren park, b/w Banker and North 15th)

www.thelotradio.com

Photo Credit: Courtesy of The Lot Radio



Streets to walk through: Strolling by... (#31)



Greenpoint is not a huge neighborhood and it's perfect to just walk around and get lost exploring all the streets and dead-ends that will lead you to the riverside!

But, there are two streets you should look for and just walk through it, which we mentioned a few times throughout this guide!

Franklin Street and **Manhattan Avenue** have so much to offer from charming coffee shops, cool brunch places, laid back bars, some of the best restaurants with so many different cuisines from Italian to Polish.

Plus, it still houses great small local shops featuring home décor, accessories, fashion, etc!

They are parallel to each other, Franklin being the one closest to the East River!

Have fun exploring (and getting lost)!

Location: Franklin Street and Manhattan Avenue

Photo Credit: *Streeteasy*



Did you enjoy our Greenpoint Guide?



We have prepared another a-m-a-z-i-n-g Self Guided Tour, but this time it's all about:

****WILLIAMSBURG****

We are completely in love with this neighborhood and our Founder, Fê, has a special feeling for it, since it was there that she verbalized for the first time that she was moving to NY - she's originally from Brazil!

If you're curious in hearing about her story and how she moved to NY exactly 365 days after saying she would...read [here](#).

Next slide is a teaser with the first Willyb (as we kindly named the hood) spot we love!

Beco Bar: Bar (#32)



We love Saturday brunches at **Beco Bar** (@becobar), a super cool, low-key Brazilian place in Williamsburg. We adore this place! Actually...no....we love every single day, time and reason to go there - breakfast, lunch, happy hour, dinner and late night fun...any time of the week!

The team there is great and always smiling, happy, sharing their Colgate smile with the best energy possible! Henrique, Ale, Anita, Luiz,...just to name a few!

It's a small place (Yup! Just like we like it!), but they do have a few tables outside when the sun is out (and even during some colder days of the year), the music is obviously very good Brazilian and Latin tunes, plus the people there have a sincere and pure happiness that is surely contagious! V-e-r-y Brazilian!

For brunch we usually order the Eggs Florentine that are to die for. We've also tried the famous Rabanada: French toast made w/baguette, cinnamon & sugar, mixed berries, & maple syrup, served w/choice of bacon, linguíça or turkey bacon - but we asked for a vegetarian version.

They have some very traditional Brazilian dishes like the: feijoada, the Prato Feito (PF), pão de queijo, misto quente...curious to know what they are? You should go check it out! Hahaha! If you enjoy good, strong, tasty coffee, you'll surely love their options!

Oh! They have great live bands on Fridays nights from 9pm - 11pm, Saturdays they have DJs from 4pm - 7pm and Sundays another great lineup of live bands from 5pm - 8pm!

Get ready to immerse into the Brazilian vibe...but be careful, it's addictive! They are cash only!

Location: 45 Richardson Street

www.becobar.com

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Beco Bar




Check out our Behind the Scenes NYC Website

Our website is an incredible database with a special and unique curation of the best off-the-beaten-track events, brands and spots in NY! Plus, stay tuned to all our offline exclusive BTSNYC Experiences.

www.behindthescenesnyc.com





Thank you and we hope you enjoyed!!!