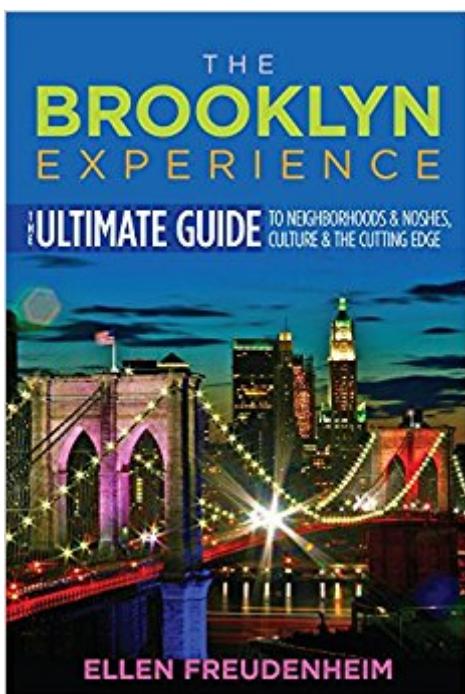


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# The Brooklyn Experience: The Ultimate Guide To Neighborhoods & Noshes, Culture & The Cutting Edge (Rivergate Regionals Collection)



## Synopsis

From Paris to Rio, everyone's curious about hot, new Brooklyn. The Brooklyn Experience, Ellen Freudenheim's fourth comprehensive Brooklyn guidebook, offers a true insider's guide, complete with photographs, itineraries, and insights into one of the most creative, dynamic cities in the modern world. Walk over the Brooklyn Bridge at dawn or sunset, discover thirty-eight unique Brooklyn neighborhoods, and experience the borough like a native. Find out where to go to the beach and to eat great pizza, what to do with the kids, how to enjoy free and cheap activities, and where to savor Brooklyn's famous cuisines. Visit cool independent shops, greenmarkets, festivals, and delve into the vibrant new cultural scene at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Barclays Center, and the lively exploding neighborhoods of DUMBO, Williamsburg, and Bushwick. Included in the book are essays and the pithy, sometimes funny comments of sixty cultural, literary, and culinary movers and shakers, culled from exclusive interviews with experts from the James Beard Foundation to the cofounder of the famous Brooklyn Book Festival, as well as MacArthur "genius" award winners, to young entrepreneurs, hipsters, and activists, all of whom have something to say about Brooklyn's stunning renaissance. Neighborhood profiles are rich in user-friendly information and details, including movies, celebrities, and novels associated with each neighborhood. There are also 800 listings of great restaurants, bars, shops, parks, cultural institutions, and historical sites, complete with contact information. Targeting the independent, curious traveler, The Brooklyn Experience includes a dozen "do-it-yourself" tours, including a visit to Woody Allen's childhood neighborhood, and amazing Revolutionary and Civil War sites. Freudenheim draws clear—and sometimes surprising—connections between old and new Brooklyn. Written by an author with an astounding knowledge of all Brooklyn has to offer, The Brooklyn Experience will guide both first-time and repeat visitors, and will be a fun resource for Brooklynites who enjoy exploring their own hometown.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Full review from Library Journal: "Awesome Brooklyn deserves a book as inclusive as the borough itself is, and this title delivers. A nifty map, "Brooklyn at a Glance," presents an overview of the area. The five sections include: "Welcome to Brooklyn," "Old Brooklyn and New Brooklyn," "The Neighborhoods," "Where To Go and What To Do," and "Visitor Information." There are only a few (but very good) pictures, such as a seasonal factory that produces handmade matzo for Orthodox Jews. A staggering list of festivals includes: the Brooklyn Book Festival, AfroPunk Fest, and Grand Comics Festival. The "Neighborhoods" section features maps, accommodations, events, and tips. In addition to restaurants, "Eating and Drinking" lists food trucks, farmers' markets, and the cookbook shelf (a list of Brooklyn-oriented books). "Shopping" mentions an impressive 25 bookstores, not counting six specialist shops! "Visitor Information" offers DIY tours such as the Battle of Brooklyn and Revolutionary War sites by neighborhood. Also included is an impressive monthly calendar and the usual accommodations suggestions, transportation and safety information, and blogs. An amusing and helpful glossary contains 30 words (e.g., slice: a slice of pizza, not an entire pie). The closing bibliography of 75 works set in Brooklyn is the perfect conclusion. VERDICT Even those readers who think they know everything about this New York City borough will probably find a surprising tidbit in these pages. --(Library Journal)"For those who can never get enough of Brooklyn." (New York Times)"Awesome Brooklyn deserves a book as inclusive as the borough itself is, and this title delivers." Even those readers who think they know everything about this New York City borough will probably find a surprising tidbit in these pages." (Library Journal)"The Brooklyn Experience provides a comprehensive guide to all things BK. From a 'Welcome to Brooklyn' overview with 20 great reasons to fall in love with the borough, to looks forward and back, Freudenheim shows off some serious neighborhood savvy." Take The Brooklyn Experience with you. You'll find a wealth of photos, both historical and current, to whet your appetite for your own Brooklyn experience. You'll find chapters on Brooklyn's cultural scene, eating and drinking, shopping, waterfront and parks, and DIY

tours— one of which traces the formative haunts of Brooklyn— its own Woody Allen, the kind of quirky element that *The Brooklyn Experience* is packed with that you won't find in other guidebooks." (City Guide NY)"A must read; resource for urban explorers, with fascinating observations by seasoned Brooklynites. Whether you need a dose of the Dodgers and Coney Island, or want to be surprised by lesser known people and places, you'll find both here." (Deborah F. Schwartz President, Brooklyn Historical Society)"If you've lived in Brooklyn for generations, or arrived last month, this book is a splendid companion in the delicious task of exploring the grandest New York borough. From art and architecture to the surprise of urban zoology, everything is here: tenements and mansions, ruined alleys and great boulevards, bridges and tunnels, amazing beaches and beautiful parks, and above all, the sky. Pull up a chair and read. Even better, head for the street, this book in hand, and look around." (Pete Hamill award-winning author and journalist)Ellen Freudenheim, *Abroad in Brooklyn* - from "What I Love" by Dan Shaw (The New York Times)Getting the Full Brooklyn Experience - an interview with Ellen Freudenheim (Metrofocus)Fill in Your Calendars! It's All Brooklyn, All Summer Long - Ellen Freudenheim's tips for taking full advantage of Brooklyn's bustling summer season (Crain's 5 Boros)One to One with Sheryl McCarthy - an interview with Ellen Freudenheim (CUNY TV)BK Stories - Ellen Freudenheim's "The Brooklyn Experience"; Book Signing at Brooklyn Brewery (BRIC TV)"The Brooklyn Experience": Then and now - an interview with Ellen Freudenheim (Brick Underground)

ELLEN FREUDENHEIM is a freelance writer based in Brooklyn, and has published widely. She is the author of eight books including a 2004 award-winning guidebook to Brooklyn and over a thousand articles online to help visitors and residents find their way around the Big Apple— its hippest and most diverse borough. Her books include *Queens: What to Do, Where to Go (and How Not to Get Lost) in New York*— its Undiscovered Borough, and most significantly, *Brooklyn: The Ultimate Guide to New York*— its Most Happening Borough.Â

A good guide to Brooklyn

As a suburban Mom (Connecticut) with kids living in Brooklyn, *The Brooklyn Experience* has made me a whole lot cooler than I actually am - especially in the eyes of my Brooklynite kids. It's been a blast impressing them with my 'insiders' knowledge and my new found ability to propose exciting places to explore, enjoy, and of course, eat! This author has not only assembled tons of usable, up

to the minute information (not just facts but what places feel like.. the character, the crowd, and the overall 'vibe') as to what's hot and what's what.. she also shares the warmth, the traditions, and the history of this enormous borough.. which makes being there all the more sweet. After I'm done impressing my kids, I look forward to giving them their own copies of the book - so they can further discover their new 'home town.' Plus - an extra bonus - Freudenheim is an excellent, passionate writer.. so this is a really good read. I feel she offers real insight as to how to spend a day, a week, or lifetime in a that unweildy place called Brooklyn.

I've been living in Brooklyn since 1991, my wife since 2002. Having lived here that long one would think we wouldn't need a guide book. The fact is whenever we have had guests visiting or wanted to try something new on our own we reached for the author's previous Brooklyn guides. This latest work has set a new bar in terms of breadth and depth of coverage. The neighborhood guides are fun to read and full of good info. It's a big borough and the recommendations on food, culture, shopping and recreation really help prioritize what to see and do based on your likes and preferences. Even for the stuff we already know about "The Brooklyn Experience" goes deeper and gives insights you can't find anywhere else. It's not cheap living in or visiting Brooklyn. If you want to make your time here count, quite frankly you need this book.

"You're in Brooklyn! Mix it up!" So writes Brooklynite Ellen Freudenheim in her fourth encyclopaedic guidebook to the borough. It's the perfect exhortation for the most diverse, mercurial, constantly evolving (and sometimes plain frustrating, as Freudenheim is refreshingly happy to acknowledge) destination on the planet, and it's equally apt for this book. The Brooklyn Experience "a Brooklyn collage," as Freudenheim memorably dubs it, is as fascinating, eclectic and surprising as the neighborhoods with which it so thoroughly and entertainingly engages. Brooklyn is no ordinary place, and it requires a guidebook that is out of the ordinary. This is it. Not only will you find all the usual elements - history, landmarks, places to eat, parks and other green spaces, festivals, cultural hubs - but you will also encounter Brooklyn residents describing, in their own words, the things they love and hate about the place, the changes it has undergone in recent decades, the everyday niggles and delights, and the bigger political questions involved in the

ongoing creation of the global phenomenon known as “Brooklyn,” which has become synonymous with creativity, cool, community and enterprise. An underlying assumption of the book “Brooklyn Voices,” and surely a correct one, is that the people really make the borough, not the brownstones, the independent coffee shops, or the organic baby arugula (I had to look that last one up). With this in mind, most sections include “Brooklyn Voices,” an appropriately diverse range of residents sharing thoughts on everything from neighbourhood restaurants to the Chabad-Lubavitch Jewish community. Let me offer a specific example, based on Freudenheim’s discussion of a neighbourhood which, for reasons I don’t need to bore you with here, I have a particular affection for: Bedford-Stuyvesant, or Bed-Stuy. Starting with a general discussion and a side panel of “Basics” (with information about navigation, events and accommodation), the Bed-Stuy chapter continues with “Best Bets,” a quirky list of things to do that allow the visitor fully to experience the neighbourhood, followed by a brief history and a section on “Old/New Brooklyn.” (All the chapters devoted to individual neighborhoods follow a similar structure.) This last topic runs throughout the book. Indeed, one of its key strengths is the honest recognition that Brooklyn has changed and continues to change almost too rapidly to comprehend and catalogue. The “Brooklyn Voices” insert in the Bed-Stuy chapter has Colvin W. Grannum, President and CEO of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation, talking about his neighborhood, “cultural richness” but also about the double-edged nature of gentrification which, he states, is “all about access to capital” and leads in many cases to displacement of long-term residents. It is these kinds of observations that make Freudenheim’s book more than a guidebook: it’s also a social history, with some Brooklyn anthropology thrown in. And it warms this literary critic’s heart to say “there” also an extensive section on literary Brooklyn: not only the ridiculous number of authors who live there these days, but also the astonishing range of novels set in the borough. As someone who claims to know quite a lot about Brooklyn fictions, I have to admit to purchasing some new and previously unknown titles after reading the list of novels included here. There’s Brooklyn and there is, of course, “Brooklyn,” and Freudenheim recognises that self-representation and self-mythologising, in novels, films and TV shows, are important contributors to

Brooklyn's contemporary identity. So much more, too. Disquisitions on the famed Brooklyn attitude, stoop-sitting, the rivalry with Manhattan, the all-important things to do with kids, and lots and lots of high-quality pizza. I want to visit Brooklyn again. Now. And this wittily written, usable and exciting book is the reason why. Don't buy any other guide to Brooklyn.

My husband and I love this book! We have lived in NYC for 13+ years, but in Brooklyn specifically for the last 3. We find it useful ourselves, even while living here, to find fun and new things to do in our own "backyard". However we find it especially useful for when we have friends + family visiting from out of town. Its an easy guide for them to reference to find all the incredible things Brooklyn has to offer nearby. We have lots of kids in our family so we really love the "40 Things to Do with Kids" part! Overall an A+ and highly recommended for anyone looking to learn + explore Brooklyn further, whether you live here yourself or its your first time.

A really valuable guide for residents and visitors alike, this book impressed me with the breadth of its information and its inclusive definition of what Brooklyn means in 2016, creating a kind of timeless zone where colonial history coexists with immigrant dock workers and food trucks, in a way that manages to match the borough's unique character. Well-organized as a resource for any particular need at hand, whether finding a good Italian place for dinner or a nearby park to take the kids to, it is equally enjoyable to sit down with and peruse at length.

Anyone who grew up in Brooklyn will like this book.

We are Swiss and were visiting close family friends in Park Slope and were looking for things to do so we didn't have to get their way all day! This book not only helped us plan our stay, guiding us from neighborhood to neighborhood, but it also gave us a sense of what it FEELS like to live in Brooklyn. We ended up walking up so many unbeaten paths that we otherwise would not have. This is book is a must for any out of town visitor who wants to experience Brooklyn the way it was meant to be. I have to admit we did not have time to visit all the different areas of Brooklyn, so next time we're in Park Slope we will surely be picking this book up again, continuing where we left off!

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