

the good life



PHOTOGRAPH: MATTEO DE SANTIS/EYEEM/GETTY IMAGES.

NOT-SO-OBVIOUS NEW YORK

THESE OFF-THE-GRID DESTINATIONS ARE ERUPTING WITH ENOUGH ENERGY AND SURPRISE TO CAPTIVATE EVERYONE FROM NEWBIE TOURIST TO GOTHAM VETERAN.

BY AMANDA CARGILL

SPANISH HARLEM, MANHATTAN ▶

A symphony of sensory delights—from tricked-out bikes to fragrant Caribbean street food to *bomba* beats wafting from open windows—awaits visitors to this bustling neighborhood, whose proud Puerto Rican history dates back before World War II. For a look at New York's best-known Latino community:

- Visit the **Museo del Barrio**, the city's foremost institution dedicated to Hispanic heritage. A center of political life during the civil rights movement, it now boasts acclaimed exhibitions, creative and performing arts series, and cultural celebrations.
- Grab a bite at **La Marqueta**, the landmark center of Latino life whose new retail venues include a patisserie, an urban garden center, and the **Hot Bread Kitchen** and **Almacén**.
- Take a stroll through the **Modesto "Tin" Flores Community Garden**. Its mosaic fountain sculpture, reading garden, and gazebo create an ideal space for quiet reflection.



For more travel guides, visit latina.com/travel.

RED HOOK, BROOKLYN ▶

Once one of the country's largest shipping ports, Red Hook is beloved today for its old-school charms. Among these are Belgian-block and cobblestone streets, colorful graffiti and mural art, and warehouses turned shops, galleries, and gardens. For a day trip foodies will love:



- Tour the **Cacao Prieto Chocolate and Bourbon Distillery** for demonstrations of production methods and samples of best-selling products.
- Snack on pupusas, huaraches, tacos, and more at the **Red Hook fútbol fields**. The food trucks dotting the perimeter have been here since 1974, and proof of their deliciousness is the four Vendy Awards—the Oscars of street food—among them.
- Indulge your sweet tooth with a Swingle, a frozen, chocolate-dipped key lime pie on a stick, from **Steve's Authentic Key Lime Pies**. They say it's one of only two shops in the world that uses fresh-squeezed key lime juice.
- Pick up tasty souvenirs at **Fairway**, a New York grocery institution.

LONG ISLAND CITY, QUEENS ▶

Best known for its iconic Silvercup Studios sign and stunning Gantry Plaza State Park, LIC's evolving identity changes from block to block. New cafés, bars, and art galleries sit beside auto repair shops and classic diners. For a peek at New York's ever-changing urban landscape:



- Head to **MoMA PS1**, a creative outpost for experimental and emerging artists. Its spectacular site-specific installations and popular Warm Up music festival are housed in former abandoned spaces.
- Test your problem-solving skills in one of **Komnata Quest's Room Escape Adventures**, where groups are given one hour to solve horror-themed, fairy-tale, adult-oriented, or kid-friendly mysteries.
- Pull up a chair at **Casa Enrique**, New York's only Michelin-starred Mexican restaurant. The 40-seat eatery specializes in the traditional cuisine of Chiapas and features decor by local artists.



RIDE THE WAVE *Escape the hustle and bustle of the city streets and enjoy a view of the NYC skyline via a boat cruise!*

- **Spirit Cruises** sails the Hudson year-round, offering up-close views of the Brooklyn Bridge plus dining, dancing, and a rooftop lounge.
- Spirit's **Latin Moonlight Cruises** will have you dancing the night away to bachata, salsa, and merengue hits. For a romantic break, head to the rooftop bar and enjoy classic and modern cocktails, a late-night buffet, and a stunning 360-degree view.



- Looking for something a bit more chill? Check out Spirit's **Quiet Storm Moonlight Cruises** for a night of sultry R&B, or **Laughs on the Hudson Comedy Cruises** for an evening of humor and drinks.