

Travel

NEW YORK

All about Brooklyn

GILLIE HUTCHINSON
Contributing Writer

Brooklyn, New York, home of some 2.5 million people, conjures a variety of images.

There is the Great East River Bridge (aka Brooklyn Bridge), open in 1883, today transports 120,000 vehicles and 4,000 pedestrians daily; Prospect Park's 234 hectares between Park Slope and

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Nathan's Famous Hot Dogs of Coney Island, Brooklyn.

GILLIE HUTCHINSON PHOTO

Flatbush Avenue now home to a brand new \$74-million ice rink; Brooklyn Museum; Brooklyn Botanical Gardens and Barclay's Centre on Atlantic Avenue where 18,000 fans can support the Brooklyn Nets of the NBA and soon the New York

Islanders of the NHL. Indeed, there are many sides to Brooklyn. Not only is it the largest of the five New York boroughs and increasing in popularity as Manhattan realty prices continue to soar, but it has much to offer with its

parks, beaches, diverse restaurants and multi-arts centres.

I have four days to explore and begin with a lunch-stop at Franny's on Flatbush Avenue where home made, thin-crust pizza is de rigueur.

Franny's offered up some good food after an over-night Cathay Pacific flight to reset the body clock, before I venture to Gold's Gym in Brooklyn Heights, the ultimate work-out joint where I break a sweat for an hour alongside some mega-muscled hulks.

Afterwards, I hop on the subway and take the number 2 train to Union and 4th and walk up a block to one of my favourite shops, Brooklyn Industries. I love their cotton T-shirts and sweatshirts at great prices. The store is on Fifth Avenue in Brooklyn, an easy walk up to 7th Avenue and 4th Street where I am staying.

The next day I pass the Squad Co. 1 Fire Station on Union Street just as a fire truck pulls in, Squad 1 emblazoned on its sides. Above the entrance sits a banner bearing the American flag, Squad 1's coat of arms — an eagle behind two crossed swords — and the words "We will not forget them" in bold, red letters.

After a sobering stroll along the snow-lined streets, strewn with uncollected garbage, I find a sports bar at 200 Fifth to watch the Canada/U.S. men's Olympic semi-final hockey game. There are two other tables of Canadian supporters and I find myself high-five-ing complete strangers as the winning goal is scored.

Uplifted, I stop in for a latte at the Tea Room on Union, more of a student lounge, where laptops rest on rickety tables and bodies sprawl out on vintage sofas and low leather chairs.

I dine in Fort Greene in

N.W. Brooklyn, named after an American Revolutionary War-era fort built in 1776 under the supervision of General Nathanael Greene who aided General George Washington in the Battle of Long Island. The Stonehome Wine Bar is tucked into the sidewalk just around the corner from director Spike Lee's film studios. The food is good — chicken liver pate and toast, risotto with green salad and a glass of Fleurie.

The next day I take a drive out to Coney Island in southernmost Brooklyn, its bracing beaches facing the Atlantic Ocean.

After several consecutive snow storms, the sun is shining bright as I step up onto the Boardwalk overlooking the amusement park and famous Cyclone roller-coaster, although the rides are closed today. Coney Island's popularity peaked in the first half of the 20th Century, but declined after the Second World War and is now home to the Brooklyn Cyclones, a minor league baseball team.

I click a photo of Nathan's Hot Dogs, famous since 1916. I move on to Sheepshead Bay for lunch at Roll N Roaster, a cheap and cheerful joint serving fast food for all the family — an experience not to be missed, more for the people watching than the food.

For my last afternoon in Brooklyn, I drive down Flatbush Avenue towards Prospect Park to see the new Le Frak Centre at Lakeside where two adjacent ice rinks — one open, one covered — attract the afternoon crowds.

With slight indigestion from my lunch, I get a bottle of water from Bluestone cafe and sit and watch the skaters as the sun reflects off the lake and through the trees. Quite a ride, Brooklyn, quite a ride indeed.

BC Ferries

Horseshoe Bay/Langdale: December 30, 2013 to March 31, 2014
Earls Cove/Salter Bay: December 30, 2013 to March 31, 2014 **

WEEKLY TIDE TABLE

Reference: Pt. Atkinson – PDT

DATE	TIME	(M)	(FT)
14-Mar	4:38	4.2	13.8
	10:39	2.6	8.5
	16:07	3.8	12.5
15-Mar	22:28	1.7	5.6
	6:02	4.3	14.1
	12:08	2.3	7.5
16-Mar	17:50	4	13.1
	0:02	1.8	5.9
	6:24	4.3	14.1
17-Mar	12:38	2.1	6.9
	18:32	4	13.1
	0:35	1.9	6.2
18-Mar	6:47	4.3	14.1
	13:09	1.9	6.2
	19:14	4.1	13.5
19-Mar	1:09	2.1	6.9
	7:11	4.3	14.1
	13:42	1.6	5.2
20-Mar	19:59	4.1	13.5
	1:45	2.3	7.5
	7:38	4.3	14.1
20-Mar	14:19	1.4	4.6
	20:48	4.1	13.5
	2:24	2.6	8.5
20-Mar	8:07	4.3	14.1
	14:59	1.3	4.3
	21:42	4.1	13.5

LEAVE HORSESHOE BAY

SAILINGS DAILY AT:

7:20 am 3:30 pm
9:20 am 5:30 pm
11:20 am 7:25 pm
1:20 pm 9:15 pm

LEAVE LANGDALE

SAILINGS DAILY AT:

6:20 am 2:30 pm
8:20 am 4:30 pm
10:20 am 6:30 pm
12:20 pm 8:20 pm

Langdale:
Ticket sales & loading end 5 minutes before sailing time for vehicles & walk-on passengers.

Horseshoe Bay:
Ticket sales for vehicles & walk-on passengers end 10 minutes before sailing time.

Visit <http://www.bcferrys.com/schedules> for alternate schedules:
Dec 30, 2013 - Mar 31, 2014.

LEAVE EARLS COVE

SAILINGS DAILY AT:

*5:55 am 3:55 pm
8:10 am 6:10 pm
10:35 am 8:25 pm
12:50 pm 10:30 pm

LEAVE SALTERY BAY

SAILINGS DAILY AT:

*4:50 am 2:40 pm
7:05 am 5:05 pm
9:25 am 7:15 pm
11:40 am 9:25 pm

*Daily except Sundays
Ticket sales & loading end 5 minutes before scheduled sailing time for vehicles & walk-on passengers.

Visit <http://www.bcferrys.com/schedules> for alternate schedule for:
Feb 10, 2014

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