

GREENPOINT / WILLIAMSBURG, BROOKLYN

# GREENPOINT TO WILLIAMSBURG WATERFRONT

A MUSEENYC WALKING TOUR · FREE, AND NOT SPONSORED BY ANYONE

|                                               |                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DISTANCE<br>3.3 miles                         | TIME<br>3 hours                                                                                                                  |
| STOPS<br>12, 4 private (sidewalk only)        | START<br>WNYC Transmitter Park (G to Greenpoint Av)                                                                              |
| END<br>Williamsburg Bridge pedestrian walkway | MAP<br><a href="https://museenyc.com/tours/08-greenpoint-williamsburg/map">museenyc.com/tours/08-greenpoint-williamsburg/map</a> |

*Greenpoint was Polish shipbuilding and oil refining; Williamsburg was German brewing, then Hasidic and Puerto Rican, then the most photographed gentrification story in America. The walk runs north to south down the East River with the best skyline views in the city, cutting inland for the parts people skip.*

## ROUTE CARD

Screenshot or tear off this page. Full detail for each stop follows.

|                                                                                                     |                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> WNYC Transmitter Park                                                                      | <b>7</b> Williamsburg Houses<br>PRIVATE — VIEW FROM THE SIDEWALK ONLY          |
| <b>2</b> Greenpoint Historic District, Milton Street<br>PRIVATE — VIEW FROM THE SIDEWALK ONLY       | <b>8</b> Domino Park                                                           |
| <b>3</b> Manhattan Avenue                                                                           | <b>9</b> Grand Ferry Park                                                      |
| <b>4</b> Russian Orthodox Cathedral of the Transfiguration<br>PRIVATE — VIEW FROM THE SIDEWALK ONLY | <b>10</b> Wythe Avenue and North 11th<br>PRIVATE — VIEW FROM THE SIDEWALK ONLY |
| <b>5</b> McCarren Park and the Bathhouse                                                            | <b>11</b> Marsha P. Johnson State Park                                         |
| <b>6</b> Bedford Avenue                                                                             | <b>12</b> Williamsburg Bridge pedestrian walkway                               |

Private stops include people's homes: no gates, no doorways, no photographing into windows.

## GETTING THERE AND BACK

**START** G to Greenpoint Av, six minutes to the park. Or NYC Ferry East River route to India St.

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>FINISH</b>          | Walk the bridge into Manhattan for F/M/J/Z at Delancey-Essex. Or J/M/Z at Marcy Av without crossing.                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>ALONG THE ROUTE</b> | G train up the middle at Greenpoint Av, Nassau Av, Metropolitan Av. L train at Bedford Av and Graham Av. J/M/Z at Marcy Av and Hewes St. Buses: B62 on Manhattan Ave, B43 on Graham, B32 on Kent Ave, B24 on Greenpoint Ave, B48 on Lorimer. NYC Ferry stops at India St, N 6th St and S Williamsburg. |

## Cutting it short

Every walk here has exits. Good ones on this route:

- After stop 4 (Cathedral): G at Nassau Av, three blocks.
- After stop 6 (Bedford Ave): L at Bedford Av, right there. One stop to Manhattan.
- After stop 7 (Williamsburg Houses): L at Graham Av or Grand St.
- After stop 10 (Wythe Ave): NYC Ferry at N 6th St, or L at Bedford Av.

# THE WALK

## 1 WNYC TRANSMITTER PARK

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The city's municipal radio station broadcast from towers on this site from 1937 to the 1990s. It became a park in 2012. The pier gives you midtown straight on across the river, and it is far enough north that almost nobody is on it.

[Open in maps](#) · 40.72975, -73.96100

## 2 GREENPOINT HISTORIC DISTRICT, MILTON STREET

PRIVATE — VIEW FROM THE SIDEWALK ONLY

**Walk:** East on Greenpoint Ave to Franklin St, north to Milton St.

Milton, Noble and Kent between Franklin and Manhattan Avenue are the core. Greenpoint got rich on shipbuilding, the Monitor was built here, and the row houses reflect it: mansards, brackets, cast-iron stoops. St. Anthony of Padua's white spire at Manhattan and Milton is the neighborhood's landmark.

[Open in maps](#) · 40.73000, -73.95510

## 3 MANHATTAN AVENUE

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**Walk:** East on Milton St to Manhattan Ave.

**Heads up:** St Anthony's white spire at Manhattan and Milton is the neighborhood marker.

Bakeries, butchers and Polish delis mixed in with new coffee shops. Greenpoint has held the largest Polish community in the city since the 1950s and the street signs, church notices and shop windows still show it. Get a paczki.

[Open in maps](#) · 40.72700, -73.95450

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## 4 RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

PRIVATE — VIEW FROM THE SIDEWALK ONLY

**Walk:** South on Manhattan Ave to Driggs Ave, then east to N 12th St. About 12 minutes.

**Or ride:** B43 or B62 bus south on Manhattan Ave, or G train Greenpoint Av to Nassau Av.

North 12th and Driggs. Built for a congregation of Russian immigrants, with five copper-clad onion domes that turn up in the background of half the movies shot in Williamsburg. It was designed by Louis Allmendinger and is a landmark from three blocks away.

[Open in maps](#) · 40.72500, -73.95050

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## 5 MCCARREN PARK AND THE BATHHOUSE

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**Walk:** South on Driggs Ave three blocks into the park. The bathhouse is on the Lorimer St side.

The pool held 6,800 people when Robert Moses opened it in 1936, one of eleven built in a single summer. It closed in 1984, sat derelict, hosted concerts in the empty basin in the 2000s, and reopened as a pool in 2012. The park straddles the Greenpoint-Williamsburg line and everyone uses it.

[Open in maps](#) · 40.72150, -73.95200

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## 6 BEDFORD AVENUE

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**Walk:** South through the park to N 12th St, west to Bedford Ave, then south.

**Or ride:** L train Bedford Av.

**Heads up:** Walk with your eyes up. The ground floors changed; the buildings did not.

From North 12th down to Metropolitan. Bedford Avenue in 2000 and Bedford Avenue now are two different streets, and both versions still show through if you look above the ground floor. Worth walking with your eyes up.

[Open in maps](#) · 40.71750, -73.95700

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## 7 WILLIAMSBURG HOUSES

PRIVATE — VIEW FROM THE SIDEWALK ONLY

**Walk:** East on Metropolitan Ave to Graham Ave, south to Maujer St. About 20 minutes and worth it.

**Or ride:** L train one stop Bedford Av to Graham Av, or B43 bus.

**Heads up:** A real detour east, away from the waterfront. Skip it if you are short on time.

Maujer Street area, a detour east. Designed with Swiss architect William Lescaze, the buildings are turned 15 degrees off the street grid to catch light and air, in white glazed brick with ribbon windows. It was the most expensive and most architecturally ambitious public housing in America when it opened, and it is a New York City landmark.

[Open in maps](#) · 40.70950, -73.94500

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## 8 DOMINO PARK

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**Walk:** West on Grand St to Kent Ave, then north to S 5th St. About 25 minutes.

**Or ride:** B32 bus north on Kent Ave, or L back to Bedford Av and walk west.

The refinery processed over half the sugar consumed in the United States in the 1880s and was the site of a 20-month strike in 2000. The park keeps the syrup tanks, gantry cranes and a section of elevated catwalk you can walk. The 1884 refinery building itself now has a glass volume inserted inside the brick shell.

[Open in maps](#) · 40.71410, -73.96730

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## 9 GRAND FERRY PARK

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**Walk:** North on Kent Ave to Grand St, then west to the water.

**Heads up:** Tiny park, lone brick smokestack, best low-angle Empire State view in the city.

A tiny park at the end of Grand Street where the ferry to Manhattan ran before the bridge. It has a lone surviving brick smokestack and possibly the best low-angle view of the Empire State Building across the water. Rarely more than a handful of people.

[Open in maps](#) · 40.71750, -73.96900

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## 10 WYTHE AVENUE AND NORTH 11TH

PRIVATE — VIEW FROM THE SIDEWALK ONLY

**Walk:** North on Kent Ave to N 11th St, then east to Wythe Ave.

The industrial core of north Williamsburg: brick and timber warehouses, many now hotels, offices and studios. The Wythe Hotel building was a 1901 barrel factory. Look at the ground floors and the loading bays still in the facades.

[Open in maps](#) · 40.72170, -73.95800

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## 11 MARSHA P. JOHNSON STATE PARK

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**Walk:** West on N 8th or N 9th St back to Kent Ave.

**Heads up:** Smorgasburg runs here Saturdays in season. Original rail tracks are still in the lawn.

Previously East River State Park, on the site of a 19th-century shipping terminal; the original rail tracks and cobbles are still embedded in the lawn. Renamed for the activist and Stonewall figure in 2020. Smorgasburg runs here on Saturdays in season.

[Open in maps](#) · 40.72300, -73.96350

## 12 WILLIAMSBURG BRIDGE PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**Walk:** South on Kent Ave, then Wythe Ave to Broadway, east to the walkway entrance near Bedford Ave and S 5th Pl. About 20 minutes.

**Or ride:** NYC Ferry from N 6th St if you would rather cross by boat, or J/M/Z at Marcy Av.

**Heads up:** About 25 minutes across. Wide, separated from traffic, and the best ending this walk has.

Opened 1903, the longest suspension bridge in the world at the time, and built in raw steel with no stone towers because it was meant to be cheap and fast. The walkway is wide, separated from traffic, and puts you over the middle of the East River. About 25 minutes across, and the best possible ending to this walk.

[Open in maps](#) · 40.71000, -73.96600

## COMBINING THIS WITH OTHER TOURS

- [Tour 3 \(East Village to LES\)](#) picks up right where the Williamsburg Bridge lands you. Walk off the bridge at Delancey and Clinton and you are two blocks from Essex Market, stop 9.
- [Tour 2 \(Brooklyn Heights\)](#) is 20 minutes south on the G plus the A/C, if you want a two-waterfront Brooklyn day.
- [Tour 10 \(Williamsburg Bridge\)](#) is this tour's mirror image: it crosses the bridge the other way and shares the Domino, Grand Ferry, Marsha P. Johnson and Bedford Ave stops. Pick a direction, do not run both in one day.

## WALKING NAVIGATION LINKS

Google caps a directions link at ten points, so the route is split. Open a segment on your phone and it starts walking navigation.

- [Stops 1–10](#)
- [Stops 10–12](#)

## THE MAP

Open the MUSEENYC map for this walk at [museenyc.com/tours/08-greenpoint-williamsburg/map](https://museenyc.com/tours/08-greenpoint-williamsburg/map). Every pin carries its own walking directions, transit alternative and notes.

-  **Green pin** = open to the public.
-  **Orange pin** = private, look from the sidewalk. Several are people's homes: no gates, no doorways, no photographing into windows.

The orange line is a straight-line guide between stops, not the walking route. Use the navigation links for turn-by-turn.

## MUSEENYC

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Questions about a stop, a closure, or anything else on this walk? Reach MUSEENYC at [museenyc.tours@gmail.com](mailto:museenyc.tours@gmail.com) or [@museenyc](https://www.instagram.com/museenyc) on Instagram. More walks at [museenyc.com/tours](https://museenyc.com/tours).