Antique Atlantic Avenue

THE STRETCH OF ATLANTIC AVENUE between the East River and Flatbush Avenue cuts through four distinct historical neighborhoods of Brooklyn and is known as the home to Brooklyn’s Middle Eastern dining and shopping and the best spot in town for antiquing.
Where is Antique Atlantic Avenue?
Antique Atlantic Avenue starts in Western Brooklyn bordered on the west by the East River, on the north by Brooklyn Heights and Downtown Brooklyn, on the south by Boerum Hill and Cobble Hill and on the east by Flatbush Avenue.

**Greeter’s Secret:**
On the southwest corner of Atlantic Avenue and Court Street is a plaque marking what is believed to be the hill where General George Washington observed the Battle of Long Island on August 27, 1776. Of the losing battle, Washington was heard to remark, “My God, what brave fellows I must lose this day.”

About Antique Atlantic Avenue
Starting out in the early 1700s as a private road, by the late 1800s, Antique Atlantic Avenue had become a fashionable shopping street with waterfront commerce and manufacturing firms. In the 1930s, recent immigrants from the Middle East opened restaurants and food shops, some of which are still being run by their descendants. In the 1960s, the City Landmarks Preservation Commission gave Atlantic Avenue from Henry Street to Court Street a historic designation. In 1972, the blocks from Court Street to Flatbush Avenue were made a Special Zoning District to ensure compatible renovation of storefronts and facades.

Things to See and Do on Antique Atlantic Avenue
1. Situated on the island formed by the intersections of Atlantic, 4th and Flatbush Avenues, the Atlantic Avenue Kiosk was built in 1908 to serve as an entrance to the subway. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the kiosk was designed by the firm of Heins & LaFarge, the architects for the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

2. The construction boom fueled by the Civil War and the rise of new technologies for making plate glass gave rise to the first stores with large glass windows that allowed for “window shopping.” A fine example of historically accurate Victorian storefronts can be found between Nevins and Bond Streets at numbers 404 to 416 and 420 Atlantic Avenue.

3. Antiques Row between Bond and Hoyt Streets developed in the 1960s and 1970s when antique stores began to cluster in the area. Some of the Italianate-style buildings feature Victoriana details. Check out the decorative details at numbers 375, 377 and 377A Atlantic Avenue and the facades across the street at 362 to 364A, 394 and 396 Atlantic Avenue for floral, shell and rope designs on doorways, window frames and cornices.

4. Just north of Atlantic Avenue on Boerum Place at Schermerhorn Street is the New York Transit Museum with wonderful displays of full-size old subway cars and historical artifacts. To learn more, see the website at [http://mta.info/mta/museum/index.html](http://mta.info/mta/museum/index.html).

It’s Easy to Get to Antique Atlantic Avenue
**By Subway:** B, D, N, Q, R, 2, 3, 4, or 5 trains to Atlantic Avenue/Pacific Street. A or C trains to Hoyt-Schermerhorn. **By Bus:** Bus lines that service Atlantic Avenue include the B61 and B63.
In the middle of the street intersection of Atlantic Avenue and Court Street is the manhole that leads to the **ATLANTIC AVENUE TUNNEL**, a half mile of tracks connecting Boerum Place to the old ferry boat docks on the East River. Built in 1844, this official oldest subway tunnel in the world was sealed in 1861. Local folklore has it that the tunnel was widely used during prohibition. To learn more and arrange a tour, see their website at [http://www.brooklynrail.net/proj_aatunnel.html](http://www.brooklynrail.net/proj_aatunnel.html).

Just south of Atlantic Avenue at 197 Amity Street between Court and Clinton Streets is the **JENNIE JEROME HOUSE**, birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill’s mother. Further up the street on the southeast corner of Amity and Clinton Streets is the DeGraw Mansion, built in the 1840s. Boasting a large backyard and the first private elevator in Brooklyn, it is one of the rare freestanding homes built in the area.

**PALMETTO PLAYGROUND** between Columbia Place and State Street boasts a wide variety of trees for its small space, including silver linden, London plane, pin oak, sweet gum and Norway maples. In addition to the playground area, there is also a dog run and fitness equipment. To learn more, see the website at [http://www.nycgovparks.org/sub_your_park/historical_signs/hs_historical_sign.php?id=12464](http://www.nycgovparks.org/sub_your_park/historical_signs/hs_historical_sign.php?id=12464).

**Shopping**

**BUTTER** at 389 Atlantic Avenue between Nevins and Bond Streets offers a fashionable selection of women’s clothing and accessories. The warm, friendly sales staff can help you find the exact piece you need. Also check out **BUTTER CONSIGNMENT** at 371 Atlantic Avenue for vintage clothing from the 1930s through 1950s.

**CITY FOUNDRY** at 365 Atlantic Avenue between Bond and Hoyt Streets offers antiques and fine objects, modern furniture, industrial artifacts and old laboratory and medical apparatus. There is also a **CITY FOUNDRY ANNEX** at 435 Atlantic Avenue. To learn more, see their website at [http://www.cityfoundry.com/cityfoundry.com/HOME.html](http://www.cityfoundry.com/cityfoundry.com/HOME.html).

**HORSEMAN ANTIQUES** at 351 Atlantic Avenue between Bond and Hoyt Streets has been in business for 50 years and has a large inventory on multiple floors. Rare and one-of-a-kind pieces are available as well as mid-20th century furniture.
SAHADI’S at 187 Atlantic Avenue between Court and Clinton Streets has been offering specialty and fine foods since 1948. In addition to Far and Middle East specialties, a wide variety of goodies, prepared foods and wonderful gift baskets are also available. Online shopping is also available. To learn more, see their website at http://www.sahadis.com.

ORIENTAL PAstry & GROCERY at 170 Atlantic Avenue between Court and Clinton Streets offers all things Middle Eastern. Try the homemade hummus and check out the selection of olives offered in bins and the trays of baklava.

GReETER’S SECRETS: The side wall at the northeast corner of 455 Atlantic Avenue between 3rd Avenue and Nevins Street has been used by sign painter Jerry Johnson since 1982 to display his satiric billboard creations.

When It’s Time to Eat

FLYING SAUCER at 494 Atlantic Avenue between 3rd Avenue and Nevins Street is a bohemian coffee shop offering fair trade coffee, a vegan menu and free wireless internet access. Be sure to try the home baking and soups. An outdoor seating area is available in season.

BACCHUS BISTRO A VINS at 409 Atlantic Avenue between Nevins and Bond Streets is a lively French bistro with an exceptional wine list that includes selections from every major region of France (including organic!). Garden dining is available in season. To learn more, see their website at http://bacchusbistro.com.

JOLIE RESTAURANT at 320 Atlantic Avenue between Hoyt and Smith Streets offers sophisticated French dining. A charming garden is available for dining in season. To learn more, see their website at http://www.jolierestaurant.com.

YEMEN CAFE at 176 Atlantic Avenue between Court and Clinton Streets offers plentiful Yemeni cuisine at fair prices. Try the flatbread and the roast lamb with rice.

TRIPOLI RESTAURANT at 156 Atlantic Avenue at Clinton Street offers traditional Lebanese cuisine in a warm and inviting setting. Be sure to try the excellent hummus and pita bread. To learn more, see their website at http://www.tripolirestaurant.com/index.jsp.

Night Life

DEITY NYC at 368 Atlantic Avenue between Bond and Hoyt Streets is a chic locale to have a cocktail and listen to music or dance to the DJs. Built in a former synagogue, the romantic atmosphere is the place to top off an evening on the town. To learn more, see their website at http://www.deitynyc.com/home.
BRAZEN HEAD at 228 Atlantic Avenue between Court Street and Boerum Place is a neighborhood bar that offers 15 microbrews on tap and “killer cocktails.” Beer and cheese pairing classes are offered on Tuesday evenings and there are daily specials on the menu. To learn more, see their website at http://brazenheadbrooklyn.com/page/nobz/Home_Page.html.

LAST EXIT BAR & LOUNGE at 136 Atlantic Avenue between Clinton and Henry Streets prides itself on its Brooklyn “vibe,” summer tiki garden and eclectic ambiance. Monday is trivia night and there is dancing to the DJ on Saturdays. To learn more, see their website at http://www.lastexitbar.com/lastexitbar/index.html.

MONTERO’S BAR AND GRILL at 73 Atlantic Avenue near Hicks Street is an old-time longshoreman’s bar with a nautical décor and a sense of an earlier era. Operating since 1947, this is the place to play a game of pool or watch a sporting event on the TV. To learn more, see their website at http://monterosbar.com.

Culture
In June, a self-guided tour of open artist studios and art spaces is made available through the ATLANTIC AVENUE ARTWALK. The ArtWalk includes artists across all media and features live music and activities for families and children. Visitors may enjoy the exhibits, meet the artists and buy works of art. To learn more, see the website at http://atlanticavenueartwalk.com/home.

About Big Apple Greeter
Founded in 1992, Big Apple Greeter’s mission is to enhance New York City’s worldwide image while enriching the city experience for its visitors. Connecting with business and leisure travelers from all over the US and the world, Greeters take visitors on informal, unscripted walks through one or more neighborhoods in any of the five boroughs, promoting tourism throughout the city, and help visitors discover the ease of using public transportation. Over 300 volunteer Greeters speak collectively almost 25 languages and enjoy giving their time and energy back to their hometown. Since its founding, Big Apple Greeter—a free public service—has welcomed over 90,000 visitors and been featured in thousands of newspapers, magazines, and television and radio programs all over the world, reaching an audience of over one billion potential visitors to New York City. Big Apple Greeter is proud to partner with NYC & Company, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Metro New York.

About the Global Greeter Network
Big Apple Greeter is proud to be part of the Global Greeter Network, a voluntary association of welcoming programs around the world, all based on the Big Apple Greeter model: free and open to all visitors; offer greeter services as an individual or very small group experience (no more than 6 visitors); and are characterized by enthusiastic, local residents who love their home city, love to meet people from around the world, and volunteer to conduct these visits.

The Global Greeter Network currently spans seven countries on four continents and includes the following members: Cicerones de Buenos Aires in Argentina; Adelaide Greeters and Melbourne Greeter Service in Australia; Tap in TO! (Toronto) in Canada; VisitBrighton Greeters and Kent Greeters in England; Paris Greeter, Les Greeters de Nantes, Greeters62 (Pas-de-Calais), Lyon City Greeters and Marseille Provence Greeters in France; Den Haag Greeters in the Netherlands; Big Apple Greeter (New York City), Chicago Greeter, and Houston Greeters in the United States.

You may learn more about Big Apple Greeter and its many services on our website: www.bigapplegreeter.org or by emailing us at information@bigapplegreeter.org.