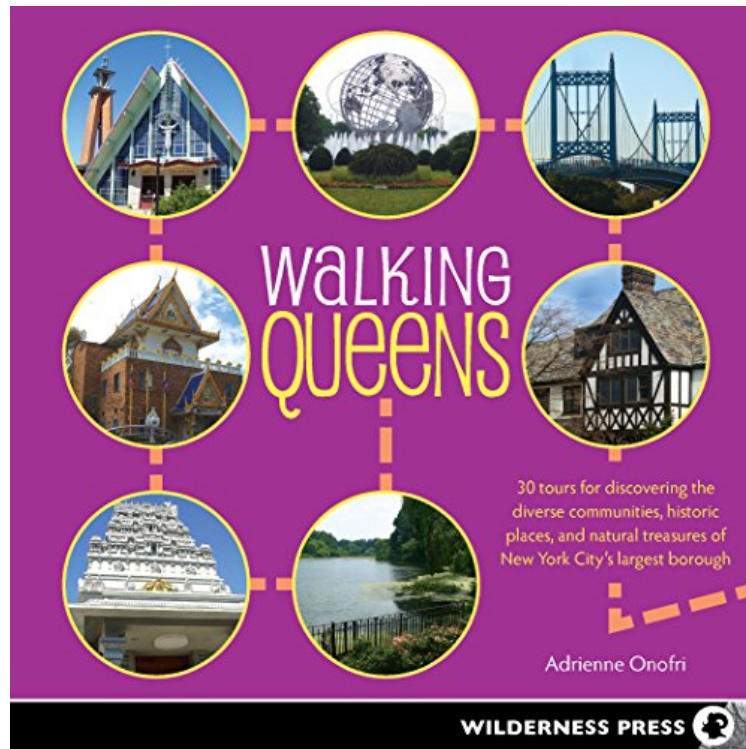


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## Walking Queens: 30 Tours for Discovering the Diverse Communities, Historic Places, and Natural Treasures of New York City's Largest Borough

Adrienne Onofri

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**Adrienne Onofri : Walking Queens: 30 Tours for Discovering the Diverse Communities, Historic Places, and Natural Treasures of New York City's Largest Borough** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Walking Queens: 30 Tours for Discovering the Diverse Communities, Historic Places, and Natural Treasures of New York City's Largest Borough:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Though there is nothing better to offer at this moment if you are determined ...By StripesI would have rated this book more highly except there weren't very many walking tours included that would be very pleasant. Queens is up in coming according to some but for the most part we have not seen any major changes in a large-scale way that would validate what they are talking about. perhaps in a decade it would bear a return but until then the neighborhoods are extremely limited But at the moment a large portion of the walks were at best gritty and not very pleasant. A few areas where devoid of any bathroom facilities within the entire area. If using a train or subway most of the walks do not make the hassle of public transportation worthwhile. If you are determined to explore queens there is nothing better that is available at this moment than this book. The writer did her best to promote Queen's - she did her very best and lacked nothing as far as the details she gave see her book of

Brooklyn and Manhattan Walks both are great because for the most part there are great areas in which to walk. I have given her book Brooklyn Walks as gifts. I wish the borough of Queens would be more self promotional and start taking the bull by the horn's as far as promoting their area. We have tried googling, yelp, but very little information is available to give an adventurous tourist a point in the right direction other than a few already well-known areas. All of her suggestions were spot on just wish there had been more of a reason to want to stay, explore and be glad when the day was down that we did so. I guess the lack of stars is not due to the writer but the lack of what Queens actually has to offer Queens should be a little more proactive towards tourists themselves. In many neighborhoods the shops were not very welcoming actually some went out of their way to make visitors feel unwelcome very perplexing. It was obvious some of the bakeries, shops and other businesses could use a few extra customer dollars thought it was odd that in some cases people behind the counter were out right rude very taken aback. We were just friendly tourists looking to experience A day in the life of Queens with money to spend. 90% of the walks in Queens lacked the charm, interesting things to do and friendly business owners on every corner The walks in Brooklyn were informative, fun with business owners so glad that you took the time to hunt them down to sample their wares whilst passing through we loved everything we did and will do them again. Sadly we will probably not be visiting Queen's again other then to get a great sandwich at Sal, Kris Charlie's. - they alone embodied many of the positive experiences we have had in Brooklyn and Manhattan they should have been one of many and not the only one.6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Big fan of her Brooklyn book; first try with this was greatBy Frank LynchI am a big fan of this author's book "Walking Brooklyn" (also 30 walks) and I went through two copies as well as ordered it for the Kindle. I think I went on at least 27 of the 30 walks in it. I found her navigation directions easy to follow (unlike "Walking Chicago," by another author), as well as informative, and not overly directive. By "not overly directive" I mean that she never wrote anything like "veer from this route and you die." If I recall correctly I think she also suggested not limiting yourself? (Note however that in both the Brooklyn and Queens books there is an upfront note advising you to be careful, author and publisher have done all they can, but are not liable, don't be stupid, etc.)Today I took my first walk using this book. I chose one of the Astoria walks, because I lived in Astoria for 6-7 years (20 years ago), and I figured that with a walk through a neighborhood I was at least semi-familiar with, I could decently judge whether she was bringing in both the "must includes" as well as other sites, and being informative as she did so.On the walk I took she hit it out of the park. It took me past the churches I expected, the huge pool in Astoria Park, and the Socrates Sculpture Garden. Along the way she pointed out former mansions I'd encountered on other walks with friends, churches I'd never given a second's thought to, and was just as informative about sites along the way as I'd seen in her Brooklyn book.She also, interestingly, made no mention of some adjoining blocks which have been deliberately given over to graffiti, the Welling Court Mural Project (on more streets than just Welling Court). I figure her silence can possibly be explained by each of these: 1) she doesn't need to point out something so visible, and may be leaving it as a surprise; 2) if it's like the former project 5 Pointz in Long Island City, you can't guarantee its permanence and so unlike a city park you shouldn't promise it being there. I knew I would be nearby, so I was alert; but I can't imagine anyone needing it pointed out to them.And, another plus, she mentions places to stop for a bit of refreshment along the way.I was very pleased with this walk. And based on her Brooklyn book, as well as this walk, I'm very much looking forward to the other 29 in this book.Update, March 13 2016. I have now been on several of the walks in this book, and while I continue to feel this book is every bit as good as her Brooklyn book and still deserves the five stars I've given it, I feel it's important to point out that Queens and Brooklyn are very different boroughs, and content of the walks are dramatically different. It's my sense that the Queens book tilts heavily on the residential aspects of the neighborhoods, while the Brooklyn neighborhoods often have a more industrial history to them. Regarding the Queens book itself, Onofri does a great job of laying out the neighborhoods' residential characteristics and histories and anecdotes of the churches and synagogues; but there are points where the inclusion of, say, a 9/11 memorial seems forced and the memorial itself not particularly overwhelming or worth crossing the street for. Your mileage may vary.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating and UsefulBy dave strasburgQueens is something of a forgotten borough, at least where tourists are concerned. Most tourists spend most or all of their time in Manhattan, and for good reason. Those tourists who are intrepid enough to venture outside that island, usually seem to walk the Brooklyn Bridge to that borough, and nothing else. Brooklyn has some utterly gorgeous neighborhoods, and for those who have seen a lot of Manhattan, the same author's book Walking Brooklyn is recommended. But few people, even New Yorkers, know just how much there is to see in Queens, and this excellent book goes a long way in rectifying this misconception. This book serves New Yorkers just as well as out-of-towners; and for everybody, walking in all sections of New York City is highly recommended. New York is the safest large city in the country. Each of the 30 walking tours described here has a lot of interest. The sites and sights mentioned range from interesting old neighborhoods to spectacular views of Manhattan's iconic skyline, from Hindu and Sikh temples to beautiful parks, from beachside boardwalks to stirring war memorials, from whimsical Victorian dwellings to surviving Colonial houses, from forgotten seafont "villages" to lovely nature trails. A large number of architectural wonders are thoroughly described. Each walk is about 3-4 miles (5-6 km) long. By the way, it is to be hoped that a similar book, preferably by the same author, will be released about walking in the Bronx, an even less-known but equally interesting

area to explore. If a small gripe may be added, the descriptions of buildings do not always include the year of construction. Therefore, while it is strongly recommended to buy this book, it should best be used in conjunction with the equally superb architectural guide, AIA Guide to New York City.

Home to more than 2.3 million people who speak at least 150 different languages, Queens is heralded as the most multicultural place on Earth. People go there to watch Major League Baseball or the U.S. Open. Perhaps they venture just across the river from New York City to check out a trendy new restaurant, bar, or performance space in Long Island City or Astoria, or ride the train all the way out to the beach on a summer's day. Now, with *Walking Queens* by local author Adrienne Onofri, readers get to know the whole borough. Each walk tells the story of a neighborhood: how it developed originally and how it's transformed over the years. Readers are pointed to distinctive architecture, landmark buildings, popular eateries, ethnic enclaves, celebrity residences, art and performance spaces, and natural scenery. There are tours that reveal forgotten moments in Queens history, or position you for a stunning view, or immerse you in all the sights, scents, and sounds of a melting pot. Maps and transportation directions make it easy to find your way. Whether you're looking for an afternoon stroll or a daylong outing, grab this book and start walking Queens!

**About the Author** Adrienne Onofri is a native New Yorker who's lived in Queens for the past 25 years. Her previous book, *Walking Brooklyn: 30 Tours Exploring Historical Legacies, Neighborhood Culture, Side Streets, and Waterways*, helped launch Wilderness Press' urban trekking series. A licensed NYC sightseeing guide, Adrienne has led tours in Queens, Brooklyn, and Manhattan by foot, bus, car, and trolley. She has been a staff editor at several travel industry publications and is currently a freelance editor for national consumer magazines. She is also a theater writer and member of the Drama Desk.