

## BLOCKBUSTERS

More Can't-Miss Attractions

### GOVERNORS ISLAND

An island located off of the southern tip of Manhattan, Governors Island was a strategic military site following the Revolutionary War. Stroll around and gaze at the historic homes and halls. 212-440-2202, [www.govisland.com](http://www.govisland.com).

### LINCOLN CENTER

The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center hosts concerts for teens and musical drama performances for kids ages 6 to 10. The New York City Ballet hosts several programs and shows for young people, and the New York City Opera stages several kid-friendly shows, as well as family workshops. Rounding out the cultural spectrum is the New York Philharmonic, which presents a variety of concerts for children. 70 Lincoln Center Plaza, 212-875-5000, [www.lincolncenter.org](http://www.lincolncenter.org).

### NEW YORK LIBERTY WNBA

There's something about a Liberty game that is an exhilarating and inspiring adventure for young girls (and boys too). For the full schedule, visit [www.nyliberty.com](http://www.nyliberty.com).

### SHOPPING

#### AMERICAN GIRL PLACE

A grand emporium of all things "American Girl," the store includes an in-house theater, a café, and a hair salon for dolls. 609 Fifth Avenue, 212-644-1145, [www.americangirlplace.com](http://www.americangirlplace.com).

#### SCHOLASTIC STORE

Scholastic's retail mecca can be found right in the middle of Soho with activities, toys and, of course, books. The store's Activity Loft hosts craft sessions, organized activities, and Klutz workshops. 557 Broadway, 212-343-6166, [www.scholastic.com/scholasticstores](http://www.scholastic.com/scholasticstores).

#### TOYS R US TIMES SQUARE

In addition to the three stories of toys, books, toys, DVDs and toys, the Times Square location of this kiddie megastore has a giant Ferris Wheel, a two-floor Barbie supply mecca, and an animatronic T-Rex. 1514 Broadway, 646-366-8855, [www.toysrustimesquare.com](http://www.toysrustimesquare.com).

### NATURE

#### BATTERY PARK CITY PARKS

Battery Park City Parks stretch along the Hudson River from the tip of Manhattan, near Battery Place, to just north of Chambers Street. 212-267-9700, [www.bpcparks.org](http://www.bpcparks.org)

#### NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

Clamber around a boulder maze and get up close to aquatic plants, as well as a myriad of other foliage in the Botanical Garden's Children's Adventure Garden. Bronx River Parkway at Fordham Road, Bronx, 718-817-8700, [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org).

#### PROSPECT PARK

Prospect Park features seven playgrounds, including a specially designed toddlers' playground, and a "Children's Corner," home to a carousel, the Prospect Park Zoo and Lefferts Historic House. 718-965-8951, [www.prospectpark.org](http://www.prospectpark.org).

## INDIES

More Under-the-Radar Attractions From Another New and Cool Guide

By Suzanne Reisman

One of the greatest things about living in New York City is the sheer diversity of activities it offers for children and families. Sure, the traditional museums and other venues are fantastic, but once in a while inquiring minds want to get off the beaten track a bit. Here are eight adventurous suggestions.

### CANNONBALL PARK (AKA JOHN PAUL JONES PARK)

Enjoy the great outdoors and massive weaponry at John Paul Jones Park, where a ginormous black cannon and stacks of beach ball-sized cannon balls face the Verrazano Bridge, warning Staten Islanders to keep to their side of the Narrows or else. The 1864 twenty-inch bore cannon was placed in the park in 1900 as a Civil War memorial. (Bounded by Shore Road, Fourth Avenue, 101st Street, and Fort Hamilton Parkway, Brooklyn)

### A WORLD TOUR THROUGH ASTORIA'S BAKERIES

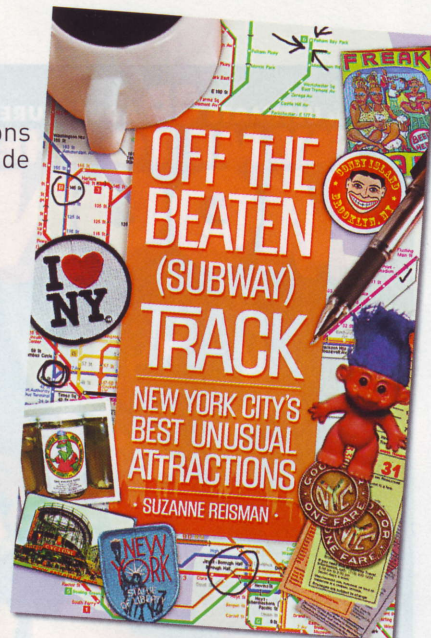
Very possibly the largest concentration of diverse bakeries within a few blocks, there is something for every sweet tooth in Astoria, Queens. For Greek treats, there's Victory Sweet Shop (2169 Steinway Street, 718-274-2087) Patriots can have desserts as American as apple pie and more at Martha's Country Bakery (36-21 Ditmars Boulevard, 718-545-9737). Indulge in Italian baked goods and gelato at La Guli (29-15 Ditmars Boulevard, 718-728-5612), serving the city since 1937.

### ENRICO CARUSO MUSEUM OF AMERICA

This small museum is great for older kids who are interested in music. Cavaliere Ufficiale (the Italian equivalent of Sir) Aldo Mancusi stuffs the second floor of his two-family home with hundreds of opera artifacts, especially those related to turn of the century tenor Enrico Caruso. The museum also has antique phonographs, a player piano with an accordion and drum set in the bottom, and dozens of music boxes from the late 1800s, all of which he demonstrates. (1942 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, 718-368-3993, [www.enricocarusomuseum.com](http://www.enricocarusomuseum.com))

### NATIONAL TRACK AND FIELD HALL OF FAME

Budding athletes will love the interactive National Track and Field Hall



of Fame. In addition to the loud television monitors and computers, displays of athletic shoes, wool bathing suits, and running outfits amply illustrate how much better swimmers, runners, jumpers, and cleat-wearers have it today. Everyone in the family will feel accomplished after completing the scale map of the New York City marathon. (216 Fort Washington Avenue, 212-923-1803, <http://armory-track.tv/index.php?p=hall>)

### FORBES GALLERIES

Kids of all ages will adore the extensive collection of Malcolm Forbes Jr.'s toys on display. Toys boats of all shapes and sizes float on fake waves, and the collection of World War I-era metal boats is particularly rare. (Such toys usually rusted or were "lost at sea" during play in the oceanfront.) Finally, the collection of Monopoly boards throughout time and across cultures befits any pint-size capitalist. (62 Fifth Avenue, 212-206-5548, [www.forbesgalleries.com](http://www.forbesgalleries.com))

### WATERFRONT MUSEUM

This floating museum on a historic river barge is not for those who easily get seasick. Kids will love the barge's pet rabbit as he wanders around the boat, as well as artist George Road's perpetual motion ball machine. During the summer, Captain David Sharps's talented family sometimes performs on-the-fly circus acts for visitors. (Pier 44, 209 Conover Street, Brooklyn, 718-624-4719, [www.waterfrontmuseum.org](http://www.waterfrontmuseum.org))

*Suzanne Reisman is the author of the new book "Off the Beaten (Subway) Track: New York City's Best Unusual Attractions." \**