

## BSL CLASSROOM LOCATION GUIDE DOMINO PARK, WILLIAMSBURG

### *A BIT OF HISTORY FIRST!*

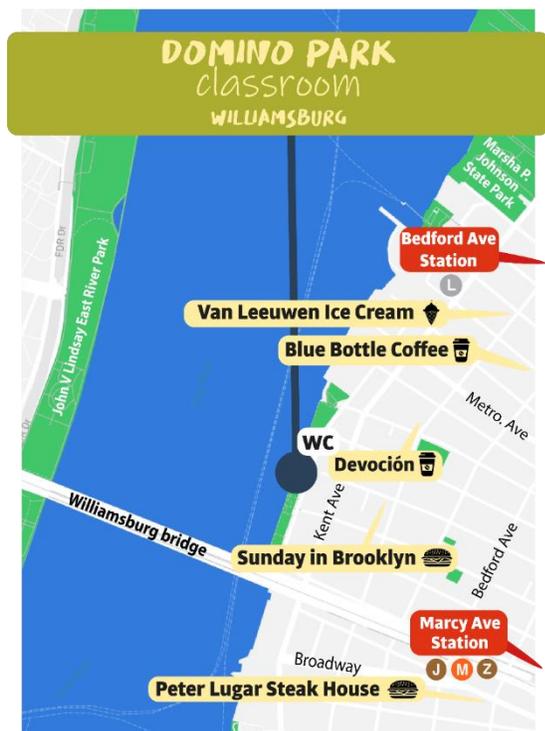
Domino Park is built on the grounds of the former Domino Sugar Refinery, a site of incredible significance to the growth and development of Williamsburg and the entire Brooklyn waterfront. Dating back to 1856, the Domino Sugar Refinery was once the largest and most productive sugar refinery in the world. At its peak of productivity, it refined 4 million pounds of sugar daily. This site was the “jewel in the crown” of the Domino Sugar empire that at one point produced up to 98% of the sugar consumed in the United States. This site was also central to the growth of the surrounding Williamsburg area, to the industrialization of the Brooklyn waterfront and to the rise of New York City as a global economic powerhouse.

As a result of economic, political and global changes, industrial activity in Brooklyn began to drop off dramatically beginning in the 1950s. Closing its doors in 2004, the Domino Sugar Refinery was the last major active industrial operation on Brooklyn’s once bustling East River waterfront.

The park spans a quarter mile along the East River near the Williamsburg Bridge, at the Domino Sugar Refinery site. Along the five-block riverside walk, various salvaged factory equipment is displayed, including four syrup collection tanks, that pay tribute to the history of the Domino Sugar Refinery

An elevated walkway extends much of the length of the park, resembling the interior of the old refinery. The crane tracks that were used in the original refinery now houses gardens with roughly a hundred different species of plants. All wooden structures and chairs in the park were built using reclaimed wood from the refinery. At the southern end of the park are water jets making an illuminated dancing fountain display, shooting eight feet (2.5m) into the air.

As of 2020 the park had seen over 2 million visitors. The park was one of eight spaces nominated for that year's Urban Space Award hosted by the Urban Land Institute.



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## ***THE BARE ESSENTIALS***

*\*\*Find these on the map on page 1*

### **Morning coffee**

- Blue bottle Coffee\*\*
- Devocion\*\*
- Champion Coffee
- Oslo Coffee Roasters

### **Lunch options**

- Tacocina (taco restaurant with outdoor seating)
- Sunday in Brooklyn\*\*
- Marlow & Sons
- Levain Bakery
- Peter Lugar Steakhouse\*\*

### **Something sweet!**

- Van Leeuwen Ice Cream\*\*

- Gelateria Gentile
- 16 handles

### **Grocery stores & pharmacies**

- City Acres market
- Whole Foods market
- The Modern Chemist
- Duane Reade Pharmacy

### **Nearest subway stations and lines**

- Bedford Avenue (L line) 17 mins walk
- Marcy Avenue (J, M, Z lines) 16 mins walk

### **Nearest public restrooms**

- On-site

## ***PLACES TO VISIT NEARBY***

### **Less than a mile (0-10 mins walk)**

- Williamsburg  
(Bedford Avenue)

### **A little bit further (30 mins subway)**

- Lower East Side
- DUMBO
- Chinatown
- Union Square

## ***7 COOL THINGS TO DO AFTER YOUR ENGLISH CLASS***

1. Walk to Bedford Avenue (Williamsburg's main shopping street) and spend the afternoon strolling through this hip neighborhood. There are some great shops, and cafés here. As the sun gets lower in the sky, choose from one of the many rooftop bars and have an evening cocktail watching the sun go down over Manhattan!
2. Take the East River ferry to Dumbo from the South Williamsburg ferry terminal. On arrival in Dumbo, grab an ice cream (there are several great places close to the waterfront), and stroll through Brooklyn Bridge Park for great views of Downtown Manhattan. Then walk along the waterfront in Dumbo to Washington Street. Here you can take great photos of the Manhattan Bridge (one of the most instagrammable shots in NYC!)
3. Walk 20 minutes South to take the East River ferry to Pier 11/Wall Street in Lower Manhattan. Then walk up into New York's financial district to visit Wall Street, the NY stock exchange and the famous statue of the 'fearless girl'. You can end your afternoon by visiting the 911 Memorial and Observatory at the No. 1 World Trade Center for great views of the city.
4. Walk to the Bedford Avenue subway station and take the L train to Manhattan. Ride the subway for just 1 stop before disembarking at the 1st avenue station, and then walk 10 minutes south until you arrive at the East Village. Here you can explore vintage shops and buy a coffee in St Marks place to people watch...(30 minutes by subway from Domino Park).
5. Walk 15 minutes to the Marcy Avenue subway stop, and ride 2 stops on the M train heading to Manhattan. Disembark at Broadway Lafayette and then head to Soho for some shopping! Later in the afternoon walk the streets exploring Nolita and Little Italy.
6. Walk to the Bedford avenue subway station and take the L train to Union Square. Then walk north until you reach the iconic Flat Iron building, New York's 1st skyscraper. Continue walking up 5th avenue past the Empire State Building and the NY public library. End your day in Manhattan's town square, also known as Bryant Park!
7. Walk along the Williamsburg waterfront to the neighborhood of Greenpoint (about 30 mins). Often known as 'Little Poland', due to its large Polish community. Spend the afternoon wandering through its historic district which and diving into New York's best range of vintage shops. You could finish your day by enjoying the amazing views of Midtown Manhattan or checking out some of the best grungy nightlife in the city.

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