

THE BEST OF THE BRONX

The most northern of New York City's boroughs, the Bronx and its diverse neighborhoods are only a subway ride away from Manhattan — and well worth the trip. Travel writer **Stacey Zable** shares her picks for the top stops.



FOLD

SHOPPING

1 ARTHUR AVENUE RETAIL MARKET ▶

The real Little Italy of New York is Arthur Avenue, and this indoor market houses all sorts of delicious goodies to eat or bring home. Stop by Mike's Deli and get an eggplant parmigiana; the sandwich beat celebrity chef Bobby Flay in a "throwdown" on the Food Network television program. • **2344 Arthur Ave.** • **718-295-5033** • arthuravenuebronx.com



JOE BUGLEWICZ/NYC & COMPANY

2 BORGATTI'S RAVIOLI & EGG NOODLES

Another must-buy among the small family-run shops on Arthur Avenue is the delicious ravioli at Borgatti's. The bakery has been making fresh pasta since 1935. • **632 E. 187th St.** • **718-367-3799** • borgattis.com

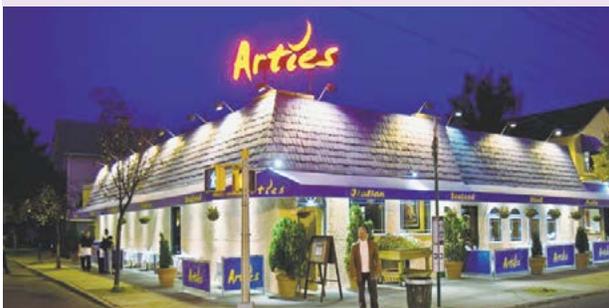
3 CITY ISLAND NAUTICAL MUSEUM

Shop for unique nautical gifts here when the museum is open on weekends, and check out the exhibits to discover more about this area of the Bronx that's surrounded by the western Long Island Sound and Eastchester Bay. • **190 Fordham St.** • **718-885-0008** • cityislandmuseum.org

RESTAURANTS

1 DOMINICK'S

Come for the family-style Italian food. Sit at the restaurant's long tables next to other diners. Tell the waiters, who have worked here forever, what you want and they will tell you how much to order. Cash only. • **2335 Arthur Ave.** • **718-733-2807** • facebook.com/pages/Dominicks-Restaurant/102210239822815



ARTIE'S STEAK & SEAFOOD

2 ARTIE'S STEAK & SEAFOOD ▲

Located in the Bronx seaport village of City Island, Artie's is a favorite of locals looking for traditional Italian fare and of course, fresh seafood. • **394 City Island Ave.** • **718-885-9885** • facebook.com/pages/Arties-Steak-Seafood/173683236052754

3 PATRICIA'S

A family-run neighborhood place, Patricia's offers southern Italian dishes with an extensive wine list and a seasonal menu. • **1082 Morris Park Ave.** • **718-409-9069** • patriciasnyc.com

ATTRACTIONS

1 BRONX ZOO ▶

Stroll through the 265-acre urban zoo, home to more than 6,000 animals. The zoo has a cuddly-cute addition this year — two western lowland baby gorillas born in the spring to mothers Tuti and Julia. • **2300 Southern Blvd.** • **718-220-5100** • bronxzoo.com



MARLEY WHITE/NYC & COMPANY

2 NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

A National Historic Landmark, the 250-acre New York Botanical Garden is a four-season treasure of more than a million plants and endless events. On display through Jan. 19, 2015, the Holiday Train Show features model trains chugging around handcrafted replicas of NYC landmarks, including the Statue of Liberty and Radio City Music Hall. • **2900 Southern Blvd.** • **718-817-8700** • nybg.org

3 WAVE HILL

Set on 28 acres overlooking the Hudson River and Palisades, Wave Hill's public gardens and cultural center boast a lovely landscape, art workshops, lectures, concerts and more. • **West 249th Street and Independence Avenue** • **718-549-3200** • wavehill.org

NIGHTLIFE



LEHMAN CENTER

1 LEHMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS ▲

Set on the campus of Lehman College, Lehman Center plays host to a range of music, dance, comedy and cultural events. Parking available for \$5. • **250 Bedford Park Blvd. W.** • **718-960-8833** • lehmancenter.org

2 BRONX ALE HOUSE

The bar has a large beer selection and a typical bar menu, but the neighborhood feel makes it a popular spot to watch the game, hang with friends and play trivia. • **216 W. 238th St.** • **718-601-0204** • bronxalehouse.com

3 STARVING ARTIST CAFE & GALLERY

This cozy performance space/coffee house sells handmade jewelry and crafts. Musicians (aka starving artists) play acoustic rock, blues and more. • **249 City Island Ave.** • **718-885-3779** • starvingartistonline.com

HIDDEN GEMS

1 NEW YORK CHRISTMAS HOUSE ▶

An over-the-top free holiday tradition literally fills the front and side yards of a festive family home on Pelham Parkway. Animated figurines and mannequins, many wearing floor-length gowns and jewels, move and dance to holiday music. Among the "celeb" mannequins are Cher, the Rockettes and Cinderella and her life-size carriage and horsemen. Don't come during rain or snow; the beauties stay inside. • **1605 Pelham Pkwy. N.**



STACEY ZABLE

2 PELHAM BAY PARK

At three times the size of Central Park, making it the largest park in New York City, Pelham Bay features miles of hiking trails, horseback riding, two golf courses, sports fields and courts and a 13-mile shoreline. • **Hutchinson River, Long Island Sound between Bronx County line and Middletown Road, Watt Avenue** • **718-430-4685** • nycgovparks.org/parks/pelham-bay-park

3 VAN CORTLAND HOUSE MUSEUM

The oldest building in the Bronx, the Van Cortland House in the Fordham area was built in 1748. Tour the house and see how families lived in the 18th century. • **Broadway at West 246th Street** • **718-543-3344** • nscdny.org/headquarters-dumbarton/van-cortland