



New York City's Greenwich Village
November 1, 2019

Summary

- A long day. From 7:45am departure to catch the commuter bus, to home mid-evening, it was good to be home.
- A review of Greenwich Village where we've toured before but didn't know squat. Probably still don't but we learned a lot.
- Home of the famous Stonewall Inn, home of the beginnings of gay and lesbian freedoms, home of some pricey real estate in a vibrant old, old area of Manhattan. Did you know that Stonewall Inn and the adjoining park were named by Obama a National Monument? Learn more at :
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stonewall_National_Monument. Marie and I were fortunate to attend the Gay Rights Parade the year marriage rights were granted in NYC.
- Food and more food. An okay food and history tour but not one I'd give top ratings. OK and worth going. There are better ones such as www.ParisByMouth.com. Even www.BigOnion.com Multi Ethnic Eating Tour.
- The tour included us three then 9 others who were a party from Amsterdam visiting NYC for the NYC Marathon. They were professional, fun and having a great time so they were good company.



Tom, Kathy and I were off to www.SecretFoodTours.com:

On Secret Food Tours New York, we eat our way through the charming, iconic and extremely delicious neighborhood of Greenwich Village; simply "the Village", located on the lower west side of Manhattan. The Village is one of the oldest areas in the entire city; as we walk and eat you will see vestiges of the original Dutch settlement and early British influences still visible today. Your three-hour (3 ½ to 4 hour) tour will unlock secret food havens nestled throughout this beautiful enclave and you will discover the hidden history found around every corner. As we take a stroll back through time, we will uncover the origins of some of New York's quintessential foods and how they have evolved into the delicious morsels we will indulge in today. Food, sweets, and an in-depth tour of the Village are all included in the price. This tour will feed your body and mind.

In addition, as with all of our tours, there is our Secret Dish, which will be revealed on the day of your tour. Upgraded drinks package - For those 21 and over with a valid ID we are pleased to offer a drink package including El Cocktail Secreto was made to pair with the decadent smoked Pastrami Reuben.

With a crisp grapefruit base, tequila and a sparkling finish this drink pairs with the succulent bites better than any other.

When you join us for our New York City Secret Food Tour, you will have the opportunity to enjoy some of New York's most iconic food items... evolved.

- *To begin, your native New York guide will teach you what to look for when choosing a classic New York-style bagel and, of course, you will get to eat it too!*
- *We will continue our walk to a local alehouse and indulge in the iconic Reuben sandwich.*
- *Your tour will include a stop at a local cupcake bakery, where you can take a trip back to your childhood, as you admire the charming schoolhouse fixtures, vintage board games, and lunchbox collections. They also make the sweetest little treat this side of the Hudson.*
- *After the bakery, you will get to try the very best "regular slice" of pizza in the city, and this Brooklyn girl agrees!*
- *After exploring some of the most beautiful and winding streets of the Village, we will check out one of the hottest gourmet doughnut shops in the city!*
- *Along the way, your guide will share with you some of the Village's secret history and what makes it such a unique enclave of New Amsterdam and Old New York.*
- *Oh, and, of course, there is our amazing Secret Dish, as well!.*

We chose the Groenwijck Village district for our New York City food tour because of the district's diverse restaurant scene, deep-rooted history, architecture, and its timeless charisma. While the rest of the city was subject to the 1811 grid system, the Village was able to escape this fate because of its charming, meandering streets.

The powers that be could not be bothered to try to reroute the winding streets found here. But their loss was our gain! This was a big win, both for those residents and for us because we get to take a step back into time and stroll outside of city life without actually leaving the city!

Per Wikipedia: **Greenwich Village** often referred to by locals as simply "the Village", is a neighborhood on the west side of Lower Manhattan, New York City. In the 20th century, Greenwich Village was known as an artists' haven, the Bohemian capital, the cradle of the modern LGBT movement, and the East Coast birthplace of both the Beat and '60s counterculture movements. Groenwijck, one of the Dutch names for the village, was Anglicized to Greenwich. Two of New York's private colleges, New York University and the New School, are located in Greenwich Village. More at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greenwich_Village



We are near to Washington Square yet there are a number of smaller squares with park benches, sculpture and happy people. "Wok On In" was at our start though we didn't go inside. It was next to

our first bagel stop: a window onto the street and then inside a zillion types of cream cheeses that were displayed like an Italian Gelato shop. Tom is with Laurie our tour guide, who at 72 years old, really had some energy and a lot of information.



The Cornelia Street Café would be our last stop, on our own for wines and an Aperol Spritz. It has quite the history with the more notable one being Lady Gaga having waitressed there.

Barrow Street Ale House gave us pastrami type sandwiches (cut in quarters) and fries, as well as the optional house drink.

On to Washington Square, home of the huge marble arch which is a bit of a replica of the Paris Etoile. It wasn't marble at first, and only designed for temporary use, but it was so popular that it was rebuilt in marble. There were street musicians in the center square and despite it being Thursday it was very full. Wasn't this one of the sites of Occupy Wall Street?



Caffè Reggio is well known for their cappuccino but we only looked in and were given the suggestion that we return.

Wha? Known for all the famous singers and comedians who got their start here. From www.cafewha.com - Cafe Wha? hosts the best live music in New York City 7 nights a week. Many music legends, such as Bob Dylan, Jimi Hendrix, and Bruce Springsteen, have all had graced the stage at Cafe Wha? and the club continues to host the best up and coming talent and house bands in New York City. Café Wha? Is on Minetta Alley, home of more well knowns. We were on our way to Molly's for cupcakes.



We all had a laugh at the sign in Molly's window and more grins at the seats that were swings.

Then onto The Doughnut Project which reminded me of VooDoo Donuts in Portland where folks line up for blocks.



Some gal had just ordered some gooey delight plus a long donut with bacon on top. Uck.

We had half an 'everything' donut, cut in two with scissors by guide Laurie. Also gooey.

Onto the small cobblestone side streets quite unlike the rest of New York City's grids. Its easy to get lost. For example, suddenly we were back at Au Pain where we'd had coffee earlier and I wondered how it got there. Theatres and small restaurants abound.



Laurie showed us how many doorways were round at the top for the carriages, some big and some just big enough for horse carriages. This one was like an old speakeasy, without a sign, but known

as Chumley's. The neighbor must have gotten tired of answering the door: see the sign "Not Chumley's."

From <https://www.theinfatuation.com/new-york/reviews/chumleys> : The original Chumley's was a speakeasy that opened during Prohibition, and the West Village bar was a great a place to hang. Then the building fell apart, they had to close it, and Chumley's reopened in 2017 as a restaurant, and it's just fine.

Laurie didn't mention it, but I was interested in these "Drinking Water Sampling Stations". New York City used to be known for their great quality of water. I wonder if that holds?

That last building on the street corner? I guess many recognize it since the street corners were full of tourists taking pictures. Home of the TV show "Friends"?

Grove Court - Around the corner, in this small village, a street opened up to Grove Alley – where there's said to be this huge magnificent home.

www.forgotten-ny.com/2013/04/grove-court-greenwich-village - Grove Court Greenwich Village - The Village is full of narrow alleys that lead to back houses (buildings that don't front on the street but instead stand in back of houses that face the street and can be reached only by gates with key access). From the website: *The Village is full of narrow alleys that lead to back houses (buildings that don't front on the street but instead stand in back of houses that face the street and can be reached only by gates with key access). Grove Court, in the bend of Grove Street just east of Hudson Street, is probably the best-known of these. It too requires key access by the residents of the brick townhouses in the back of the court. Way back in 1999 at the Dawn of Forgotten NY I was lucky enough to be taking a walk past when one of Grove Street's denizens was letting himself through the gate, I asked politely if I could get in, and I got a few pictures. That was 14 years ago and time has flown! The court goes back to 1848 when local grocer/tavern owner Samuel Cocks built it to house tradesmen who would likely frequent his establishment. A frequent trope in NYC housing is little alleys filled with housing for people with modest means that, over the decades and now centuries, became exclusive hideaways for the wealthy. Grove Court is one of those.*



One can't go to New York City without having pizza and this stop was at Rivoli's. Our two big slices were bundled together sandwich style and packed away for later at home. Way later.

Even the next stop at the unusual food marriage of Mexican and Indian, we packed away our tacos. One was curry hot spiced chick peas. Umm.

Yet we did have room for another stop at the Cornelia Street Café for drinks before heading back to the Port Authority for our bus ride home. It had been unseasonably warm so here is Ton with an Aperol Spritz, always a favorite since he found them in Capri.

The End – until the next adventure.

