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## This Queens Hotel Offers More Than Just Manhattan Views

*Written by Lilit Marcus · July 10, 2015*



Long in the shadow of Manhattan and Brooklyn, New York City's most populous borough is on the rise. Now, a new boutique hotel is banking on travelers coming to check out the on-the-verge Long Island City neighborhood.

Long Island City is the Queens neighborhood just across the river from midtown Manhattan, and its waterfront views and convenient subway access to the city have been appealing to the locals for years. But now, with new bars and restaurants opening seemingly every day and both Lonely Planet and the New York Times calling the borough out as a must-visit destination for 2015, plenty of



non-New Yorkers are also taking notice too. Condé Nast Traveler’s guide to Queens calls out attractions like up-and-coming comedy clubs and a Michelin-starred restaurant. Now, people are talking about Queens with the same kind of excited curiosity that Brooklyn got a decade ago.

Though Long Island City has already passed from “up and coming” to “legitimately cool” for locals, the brand-new Boro Hotel, which opened in late June, is now gambling on hopes that savvy travelers will be willing to give Queens a chance. The neighborhood’s proximity to LaGuardia Airport has meant plenty of hotel development in the past few years, but most of them are impersonal mega-chains. The Boro, however, is a boutique hotel that would be just as well placed in Manhattan or Brooklyn. Its front is a sleek black reworking of the building’s existing concrete and cinderblock structure, helping it blend in with the neighborhood, and it’s located on quiet, mostly residential 27th Street. The 108 rooms and suites have sweeping views over either Midtown Manhattan or the surprisingly picturesque residential Queens, and nearly all have small terraces perfect for Instagramming the skyline, and the bathrooms contain the first-ever hotel amenities from cult Greek brand Apivita.

The Boro’s team knows that Queens might feel overwhelming for visitors, even ones who have been to New York before. Their credit card-style room keys have mini-maps of the neighborhood, with directions to the closest subway stops printed on the back: the N and Q trains are just two blocks away and the Queensboro Plaza hub a ten-minute walk. And while the access to public transit makes this hotel a great option for commuters, the Boro has enough amenities to keep you from ever leaving the borough—there’s Wi-Fi throughout, including in the roomy, inviting lobby, where guests are encouraged to co-work. A rooftop bar and restaurant and basement gym will both open this fall; in the meantime, there’s a hearty breakfast with Greek yogurt, fresh bread and fruit, and Paromi teas that guests can enjoy while sitting in tall copper chairs, and delivery from several local restaurants, like local favorite Burger Garage.