

Food Guide to Coney Island

Where to eat at Brooklyn's iconic summer fun spot



Take a ride on the Cyclone, then indulge in some summertime sweets.

At the southern end of Brooklyn, Coney Island is a summertime treat for New Yorkers. It's amusement park, Luna Park, re-opened this weekend for the season. To herald the opening of the rides, carnival games, and food stalls, the 87-year-old Cyclone was doused with a classic **New York egg cream** ^[1] on the morning of April 13.

The iconic soda-fountain drink is made with milk, seltzer, and, traditionally, Fox's U-Bet chocolate syrup.

[See New York City's Top 10 Egg Creams \(Slideshow\)](#) ^[2]

While there aren't too many spots to actually buy an egg cream at Coney Island, there are several dining options among the stalls selling pastel-hued cotton candy, salty popcorn, and sweet funnel cakes.

Start at **Totonno's** ^[3] just off the boardwalk on Neptune Ave. By all accounts, Totonno's shouldn't be around anymore. Consider first that it was opened in Coney Island in 1924 (by Antonio "Totonno" Pero, a Lombardi's alum). Then factor in the fire that broke out in the coal storage area and ravaged the place in 2009. Add to that insult the destruction (and some reported \$150,000 in repairs) incurred in 2012 during Hurricane Sandy when four feet of water destroyed everything inside the family-owned institution. You'll probably agree that Brooklyn (and the country) should be counting its lucky stars Totonno's is still around. And yet it does more than that.

It doesn't just keep a storied pizza name, or nostalgia for simpler times (and perhaps more authentic and consistent pies) alive. No. Owners Antoinette Balzano, Frank Balzano, and Louise "Cookie" Ciminieri don't just bridge our modern era's fetishizing of pizza to the days of

its inception at Lombardi's. The coal-fired blistered edges, the spotty mozzarella laced over that beautiful red sauce... ah, fuggedabout all the teary-eyed try-too-much words, this is Neptune Avenue! This is Brooklyn! This is Totonno's. And this, is how you make pizza and land at #12 on **The Daily Meal's 101 Best Pizzas in America**.^[4]

A stroll along the beach's boardwalk is a must. A recent addition is **Coney's Cones**^[5] ice cream shop. The shop churns homemade traditional flavors like chocolate, vanilla, and strawberry but more daring flavors like bacon and has served more than 100,000 scoops since opening in 2011.

More on Coney Island

- **Coney Island: The Chains Are Coming**^[6]
- **Coney Island May Get a Hooters**^[7]
- **Original Nathan's Famous Hot Dogs Aiming to Reopen in Spring**^[8]
- **Newcomer Predicts Victory in Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest**^[9]

Just as famous as the Cyclone roller coaster, perhaps, is the annual **Nathan's Famous Hot-Dog Eating Contest**^[10] held on the July 4th at the intersection of Surf and Stillwell Ave., where Nathan's Famous Hot Dogs has been in business since 1916. Stop by to have one of the chain's famous frankfurters.

If you haven't had enough of a sugar rush, get some to go at the whimsical **IT'SUGAR**^[11]. The name says it all at this saccharine shop that specializes in gigantic, life-size candy and sweets. Cereal-box size boxes of Nerds, one pound Snickers bars, and lollipops the size of Frisbees ensure you'll never run out of sweets. Opened in 2006 by Jeff Rubin, IT'SUGAR has 70 locations around the world, including New York which has shops from Coney Island to Lincoln Center.

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- [3] <http://www.thedailymeal.com/totonnos-pizzeria-napolitano>
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- [10] <http://www.nathansfamous.com/index.php/hot-dog-eating-contest>
- [11] <http://www.thedailymeal.com/itsugar>
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