

Elmhurst and Corona: Where the Orient meets the Occident

Elmhurst and Corona's communities are building their lives in America, one immigrant step at a time...

By Divya Gupta
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Elmhurst, a neighborhood in northern Queens, is one of the more ethnically diverse neighborhoods in New York City. Located in northern Queens, it is flanked by Jackson Heights in the northeast, Woodside in the southeast and Maspeth in south.

Take a walk down Broadway; one of the main streets in Elmhurst and the sights, sounds and smell of the strip directly transports one to the oriental world. There are large immigrant populations from China, Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Burma, Nepal and Guyana.

The row of Asian bars and restaurants, a Korean bakery and supermarket and the Honk Kong and Asian banks, are interlaced with convenience stores and newspaper stands owned Bangladeshis, Pakistanis and by Gujarati's from India.

Elmhurst does have its share of Hispanic population that is equally diverse, particularly in the residential interiors; it is in Corona where they really make their presence felt. Located northwest of Elmhurst, Corona also falls under Queens, and is bordered by Jackson Heights in the east and Flushing Meadows- Corona Park in the north and northwest. Originally an Italian American neighborhood, Corona (which is Italian and Spanish for crown) is today predominantly Latin American, with people from the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Guatemala, Peru, Bolivia, Mexico and Ecuador. There are a smaller number of Asian Americans from Korea, Philippines and China, a small assortment of Arabs and also the remnants of the original Italian American community.

As one approaches the end of the restaurant line on Roosevelt Avenue, in about half a mile further west, you come upon Corona Park and Flushing Meadows. Corona Park is one of the largest parks in New York City and became famous as the site of the World Fairs held in 1939 and 1964.



Newtown Public High School, Corona Avenue, Elmhurst, Queens.

Photo: Divya Gupta