

## Soho Neighborhood Tour

### **Meet at Broome St. Residence Hall, 400 Broome St. between Centre St. and Mulberry St.**

1. *Looking across the street:* The grandiose building located across from Broome Street Residence Hall opened the headquarters to the city's **Police Department** in 1910. The rooftop had an observation deck and the basement housed a pistol range. The police moved out in 1973 and the building was converted to luxury condominiums in 1987. It is said that Leonardo DiCaprio owns an apartment in the building.

**Broome Street Residence Hall** was the annex to this police station. It housed the Bureau of Criminal Investigation and, for a short period, a branch of the police laboratories. It opened as a residence hall in 1996.

**Lemast Deli** located on the ground floor of the building is open 24 hours and accepts Campus Cash, separate from the Declining Dollars used in the Residence Halls.

And for some street naming history: **Broome Street**, itself, was named after John Broome, the city's first alderman after the revolution and lieutenant governor of New York State in 1804.

### **Turn left out of Broome St. Residence Hall and continue on Broome St. until Mulberry St.**

2. **Umberto's Clam House (178 Mulberry St.)** Was once located at 129 Mulberry St. (at the corner of Mulberry St. and Hester St.). On April 6, 1972, 129 Mulberry St. was the site of the assassination of mobster Joe Gallo. He was shot 3 times while celebrating his 43<sup>rd</sup> birthday at the restaurant. It moved to its new location at 178 Mulberry shortly after. Martin Scorsese and Robert DeNiro have both dined here on a few occasions. Also at this corner, in 1922, mob boss Joey Masseria was arrested after an unsuccessful attempt to kill Umberto Valenti, his rival.

### **Turn left (north) on Mulberry Street. Continue on Mulberry Street until Kenmare St.**

3. **Little Italy** is thought of as comprising Mulberry Street from Canal Street until Spring St. The neighborhood was once larger but has shrunk with the growth of Chinatown from the South. A new neighborhood called NoLiTa (which stands for "North of Little Italy") has also replaced some of the old neighborhood. However, the **San Gennaro** festival, which happens every September runs on Mulberry Street from Canal Street all the way to Houston Street.

**Mulberry Street** was named for the mulberry trees that once lined the street. Mulberry Street has been the heart of Little Italy since the 1880s.

**Kenmare Street** was named by Big Tim Sullivan, a Lower East Side politician and a Tammany Hall leader. Sullivan lived from 1863 to 1913. He named the street after his mother's birthplace in Ireland.

### **Continue on Mulberry Street until the Amy Chan Store - 247 Mulberry Street (between Spring Street and Prince Street).**

4. **247 Mulberry St. – former Ravenite Social Club.** This was the former hangout of the Gambino mob. The entire building was bugged with recording devices from the FBI. Thinking he could outsmart the Feds, John Gotti stopped discussing "business" in the club and moved it to the hallway behind an apartment above the club. Soon, however, these two locations were also bugged and Gotti and his men were arrested in 1992. The location is now an **Amy Chan** store selling bags worn by celebrities like Claire Danes and Kate Moss.

Right next door is **Met Foods (251 Mulberry)** a small grocery store that has all your basic necessities.

### **Continue on Mulberry until Prince Street.**

5. **263 Mulberry St.– Old St. Patrick's Cathedral.** Was founded by Irish immigrants in 1809 and consecrated in 1815. It is the oldest Roman Catholic church building in New York City. It played an important role in the lives of young Irish immigrants, helping them to adapt to America. In 1836, there was an attempted attack on the cathedral but defenders cut holes in the walls for their muskets and posted sentries outside. There was no damage to the cathedral. However, in 1866 a fire destroyed the old cathedral and it was rebuilt and rededicated in 1868. In 1879, the new St. Patrick's Cathedral was erected on Fifth Avenue and the old St. Patrick's Cathedral became a parish church.

### **Continue on Mulberry until Houston Street.**

6. **Houston St.** pronounce HOW-ston was named after William Houstoun, a Georgian delegate to both the Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention. He married Mary Bayard, whose father was the landowner who cut the street through his estate. Over the years the spelling of the street name changed to what it is today. A street widening project in the 1950s left the long walls of apartment buildings exposed, making them an easy spot for advertising.

**Turn left (west) onto Houston Street. Continue on Houston until Lafayette St.**

7. **Puck Building – 295-309 Lafayette Street.** Built in 1885. Architect Albert Wagner designed it for the publishers of the humor magazine *Puck*. Statues of the Shakespearean character that the magazine (and building) was named for can be seen perched about the entranceway and on a third-floor ledge at the northeast corner of the building. The façade of the building serves as Grace Adler’s studio on *Will & Grace*. It now houses the NYU Wagner School, the graduate school of public service, and several NYU functions throughout the year are put on in this building.

**Turn left (south) onto Lafayette Street. Continue on Lafayette until Prince St.**

8. **Guggenheim Soho (575 Broadway)** is a smaller space than one may imagine upon hearing the name Guggenheim. Located in the brick building on the corner of Prince St. and Broadway, the museum takes up only one floor. The permanent exhibit in the museum is Andy Warhol’s series of paintings, *The Last Supper*. Admission to the museum is free.

**Turn right (west) onto Prince Street until Greene Street.**

9. **112 Prince St. – Richard Haas mural** Completed in 1975, this mural is meant to imitate the cast-iron facades found on most Greene Street buildings.

**Continue on Prince Street until 141 Prince Street – Louis K. Meisel Gallery.**

10. **Louis K. Meisel Gallery (141 Prince St.)** calls itself “The Home of Photorealism and The Great American Pin-Up.” The Gallery has featured such photorealists as Patrick Hughes, Jud Nelson, and David Parrish. For more information on exhibits, visit [www.meisलगallery.com](http://www.meisलगallery.com).

**Continue on Prince until West Broadway. Turn left (south) on West Broadway. Continue on West Broadway until 429 W. Broadway – Nancy Hoffman Gallery.**

11. **Nancy Hoffman Gallery (429 W. Broadway)** Opened in 1972. Many of the artists exhibited have been represented by the gallery since 1972. The gallery exhibits contemporary painting, sculpture, drawing, prints and photography from such artists like Rafael Ferrer and Mark Calderon. For more information on exhibits and artists visit [www.nancyhoffmangallery.com](http://www.nancyhoffmangallery.com).

**Agora Gallery (415 W. Broadway)** houses exhibits from both national and international contemporary artists. The gallery also displays both sculpture and painting. For information on current and upcoming exhibitions, visit [www.agora-gallery.com](http://www.agora-gallery.com).

**Continue on West Broadway until Spring St. Turn left (east) onto Spring St. Continue on Spring St. until Wooster Street. Turn right (south) onto Wooster St. Continue on Wooster St. until Broome St.**

12. **Brooke Alexander Editions (59 Wooster St.)** A gallery for exhibiting print work opened by Brooke and Carolyn Alexander. Originally located on the Upper East Side, the gallery promotes contemporary print work. For more information on current exhibits, visit [www.baeditions.com](http://www.baeditions.com).

**Turn left (east) on Broome St. Continue on Broome St. until Greene St.**

13. **Greene Street** was named after General Nathanael Greene, a Quaker, known for revolutionary war campaigns in North and South Carolina.

**Turn left (north) on Greene St. Continue on Greene St. until Spring St. Turn right (east) on Spring St. Continue on Spring St. until 119 Spring St. – Eleanor Ettinger Gallery**

14. The **Eleanor Ettinger Gallery (119 Spring St.)** was founded in 1975. The gallery is dedicated to the exhibition of representation art, exploring both the natural and man-made world surrounding us. The work includes exhibits featuring figurative, landscape and still life imagery. For more information, visit [www.eegallery.com](http://www.eegallery.com).

**Continue on Spring St. until Mercer St.**

15. **105 Mercer St.** Built in 1831, this house was doing business as a brothel starting in 1832. In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, SoHo was New York’s largest red-light district. Mercer St. was lined with houses of pleasure. By the

end of the Civil War, the red-light district had moved uptown. The building is one of Manhattan's oldest former brothels still standing and is now a private home.

**Continue on Spring St. until Broadway.**

- 16. St. Nicholas Hotel (521-523 Broadway)** was a luxury hotel built in 1853. The original building cost more than \$1 million to construct, stretched from number 507 to 527, and contained 1000 beds. In 1863, it was the headquarters for the Mayor's efforts to suppress the Draft Riots. At one point during the Civil War, it served as the Union Headquarters. Its doors closed in the 1870s.

