

Ryan Maharaj

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Dr. Glaser

Roosevelt Avenue is a very diverse city, with lots of different cultures and ethnic groups. Located in the heart of the borough of Queens, immigrants that have emigrated here did so for a variety of reasons. Whether it was due to financial troubles, rampant social and political issues, or to escape disease, all immigrants that did arrive here generally seek to create a better life for themselves and their family. Despite migrating here, and having most pathways of employment closed off to them, immigrants serve the community around Roosevelt Avenue with a pleasant and genuine demeanor. As the National Geographic article suggests, Roosevelt Avenue is home to over 300 languages and cultures adding to Queens' reputation of being a diverse and culturally accepting borough.



Roosevelt Avenue is so diverse that as soon as you exit the train into the Roosevelt Avenue train stop, there are little stands with ethnic clothing from different countries and different foods. Once I walked up the stairs to get to the train exit I could smell the aroma of fresh cinnamon. As I continued to walk, there it was a churro stand with fresh churros, the aroma was so unbelievable I knew I had to stop and try some. The taste was so fresh and the dough was crisp on the outside and soft in the inside. The woman was so nice and so happy to serve me her delicious churros. The Roosevelt Avenue train station is filled with a very diverse crowd which made it very interesting to see all these different ethnic backgrounds coming together at this one train stop. What was a real eye catcher was to see all these different ethnic groups coming together trying these different foods and clothing.



What's better than a food truck? How about a taco food truck! Food trucks are the biggest trend in the food industry right now and attract foodies like myself. I think food trucks are one of the best ways to serve and distribute food. The food is hot right off the grill or stove and you can eat it right away, doesn't get better than that! This taco food truck serves chalupas, tacos, burritos and cemitas which is a Mexican sandwich. I loved the colors of this food truck because it represents the Mexican flag colors which are red, green and white but also there is a picture of the American flag on the truck as well which represents diversity and shows that at the end of the day we are all one. I love burritos and tacos so I had to try one of each, the burrito was filled with meat, cheese and the perfect ratio of lettuce and rice. The carnitas taco was tender and the taco shell was crispy on the outside and what made the experience even better was the genuine customer service that was received. Overall, this was a great taco experience and I will definitely be visiting again.



While walking down Roosevelt Avenue making my way through various streets I stumbled upon this beautiful building. This building is called the United Sherpa Association Inc which is a Tibetan Buddhist temple and cultural center serving community members and people of all diverse backgrounds and cultures. This is a non-for-profit organization helping to spread the culture and teachings of Buddhism and Tibetan culture along with some Hindu traditions. This association provides community events, workshops, cultural functions and a meditation center for senior citizens. In the National Geographic article, it talks about the United Sherpa Association and how



the Tibetans created this temple and organization to continue their culture and spread the teachings to the community. Being able to see this building in person felt really surreal because I thought back to the article and felt that it is great how the community came together to create this beautiful Temple and organization to not only protect their community but to bring more opportunities to the community. Having a center to provide cultural teachings is a huge help in my opinion because I personally learned a lot through my temple and going to church as a child. I think it is a great opportunity for children to learn about their background and religious culture.



Fay-Da Bakery has become the most iconic Chinese bakery in New York City. This Chinese bakery is throughout the borough of Queens and Manhattan. This bakery is known for their quality pastries and breads. Once I entered the bakery it had so many options to choose from such as sweet buns, coconut buns, taro buns, raisin and cheese buns, sachima, a wide assortment of loaf breads and puff pastries. It was so difficult to choose what to try because I felt like having one of everything in the store. I decided to try the traditional sweet bun, a coconut bun and a Horlicks drink. Everything was so fresh, warm and tasty. This bakery has so much to offer, I will definitely visit again. Aside from the aroma and delicious bakery items, what stood out to me the most was the ambience. There was so much beautiful décor of the Chinese culture in the bakery from Chinese red lanterns hanging from the ceiling to beautiful dragon centerpieces with bamboo plants inside. It allows you to feel embraced and very welcomed. I have been to a different Fay-Da Bakery in Chinatown, but it was not decorated like this one, you can tell the bakery wants to keep the Chinese culture alive bringing delicious desserts with an inviting ambience to the community.



Samosas are a very popular South Asian snack commonly served with tamarind chutney or a green chutney sauce. This snack is very commonly found in countries such as India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and in the Middle East. Samosas are deep fried triangular shaped pastries filled with Indian spices, potatoes, onions and peas. This is the most traditional way it is made and served. There are different types of samosas to try such as chicken, cheese, beef and vegetable. My ultimate favorite samosa is the traditional kind served with tamarind chutney. This south Asian snack is a staple in a south Asian restaurant. In my opinion, without samosas in an Indian restaurant, it's just not complete. This tasty snack is the best way to start off your dinner or

when wanting a savory snack. While walking down 74<sup>th</sup> street, I saw a bunch of stores selling Indian clothing, a few take out restaurants serving Indian street foods such as samosas, kebabs, dosas and kati rolls. As I continued to walk I saw the Jackson Diner and from reading the article which stated it was a famous diner, I knew I had to try it. I had the samosas with tamarind chutney and it was so delicious. When eating samosas, I get such a warm and comforting feeling and it reminds me of my culture since I have family that has originated from India.

Visiting Roosevelt Avenue was such a great experience, being able to explore so many different cultures and ethnic backgrounds in just one area made it very unique. I enjoyed walking around seeing all the different restaurants, tasting all the different ethnic foods and smelling all the amazing aromas. Roosevelt Avenue serving as the home for so many cultures add to the borough of Queens as a vibrant melting pot where anyone can experience foods, languages and cultures from around the world. This experience showed me that even though we may all be made up of different ethnic groups and backgrounds, we all can still come together as one community just like Roosevelt Avenue.