

A Day Trip Guide to Bloomfield, New Jersey

Bloomfield is a town rich in history, nestled in Essex County amongst Montclair, Glen Ridge, Belleville, East Orange, Nutley, and Newark. Over almost six square miles, with about 54,000 residents, Bloomfield prides itself on community and diversity. The town welcomes visitors with beautiful parks, multiple cuisines, historical sites, and unique activities for all to enjoy. **Read on for a guide to spending the day in Bloomfield, New Jersey.**



History

In 1666, Dutch and English Settlers bought land from the Yantecaw Indians, which they named Newark, New Jersey. Wardsession, a ward of Newark, was renamed Bloomfield in 1796 in honor of Joseph Bloomfield, a significant general during the Revolutionary War who later served two terms as governor of New Jersey. Throughout the Revolutionary War, the town of Bloomfield acted as a supply source and meeting location for the Patriots fighting against the British army. In the 1830s, Bloomfield grew to be one of the largest producers of paper, wool, and cotton. The cotton mills provided all the cloth for soldiers' uniforms during the Civil War.

The Bloomfield Green Historic District is home to Sanctuary On The Green. It was originally used as a training field for the military and houses Bloomfield Presbyterian Church On The Green, named after Joseph Bloomfield. In 1978, Sanctuary On The Green was placed on The National Register of Historic Places.

Bloomfield Steak + Seafood House, built in 1676, is the oldest home in Essex County. The structure began as a farmhouse and served as a hospital, church, and meeting space for generals, including George Washington. There are tunnels in the basement that were used to help women and children escape during the Revolutionary War. These tunnels later became part of the Freedom Route for the Underground Railroad.

To learn more about Bloomfield's vast history, visit the Museum of The Historical Society at 90 Broad Street, Wednesday and Saturday, 11AM-2PM, or by appointment.

Things to Do + Where to Eat in the Bloomfield Historic District

The Bloomfield Historic District is 100 acres and is located in the center of Bloomfield. Here, you can visit Sanctuary On The Green and Bloomfield Presbyterian Church On The Green, located at 30 Park Place.

Amazing Escape Room | 281 Liberty Street

The Amazing Escape Room has five different, immersive escape rooms. It is fun for all ages, and the Shipwreck Room is a blast.

BGR Bloomfield | 56 Broad Street

BGR Bloomfield raises the bar for superior burgers and unique recipes. The pretzel and bacon cheeseburger is a Bloomfield favorite, and the teriyaki tuna burger with grilled pineapple is a must. There are also gluten-free buns, lettuce wraps, and vegetarian options.

Bloomfield College of Montclair State University | 467 Franklin Street

Bloomfield College is home to buildings and houses that date back to the late eighteenth century. In 1810, the first private school opened in New Jersey, The Bloomfield Academy. It grew to become a seminary and eventually provided a four-year degree after World War I. There are lovely grounds to promenade, as well as buildings, monuments, and churches to explore.

Bloomfield Skatepark | John F. Kennedy Drive North

Bloomfield Skatepark, located in Foley Field on John F. Kennedy Drive North, has ramps and rails for skateboarding, scooters, and bikes. On any given day, kids and adults can enjoy this facility.

Bloomfield Steak + Seafood House | 409 Franklin Street

Bloomfield Steak + Seafood House is within walking distance of the college. Visitors can enjoy a drink at the bar while soaking in the history or eat lunch and dinner in the stately rooms or outdoor igloo dining.

Brandon's Coffee Shop | 32 Broad Street

Brandon's Coffee Shop is a favorite among college students and locals alike. The Taylor ham, egg, and cheese sandwich is a New Jersey staple and one of *The Montclair Girl's* preferred breakfast sandwiches. Stop in for coffee and breakfast before exploring Bloomfield's historic sights.

Bury The Hatchet | 672 Bloomfield Avenue

Bury the Hatchet Axe Throwing is an exciting and guaranteed fun time with friends that may encourage the release of your inner warrior.

Manouche + Co | 176 Broad Street

Manouche + Co serves Lebanese and Mediterranean cuisine. The atmosphere is inviting and family-friendly. We suggest the family meals for four or six people, which include a choice of two appetizers, one hot appetizer, one salad, and nine skewers of chicken, beef, and kafta served with rice. This is a great menu to be enjoyed with friends or family.

Where to Eat in the Bloomfield Business District

The Bloomfield Business District is located on Broad Street, the main street that runs from the northern to the southern side of town. It includes restaurants, small stores, and services.

Colias Cafe | 391 Broad Street

The cafe sits on Broad Street down the block from Bloomfield's Town Pub. Colias Cafe serves everything from cookies to coffee cakes. With the exception of the croissants, which are brought in from Le French Dad in Montclair, all goods are baked by owner Jackie Spiteri.

Gencarelli's Bakery was established in 1975 and has been a staple for generations in New Jersey. The cannolis are known far and wide and should not be missed when visiting Bloomfield.

Momoya Ramen | 336 Broad Street

Momoya Ramen is a family-owned business that has earned a reputation in the foodie world. The restaurant is known for its superior ramen, pork buns, and Karage Japanese Fried Chicken. There is a small in-house dining area, or guests can take their food to go and have a picnic at Sanctuary On The Green.

Wabi Sabi | 407 Broad Street

For a modern take on sushi, go to Wabi Sabi. This BYOB Japanese restaurant serves creative twists on sushi and entrees. *MG* recommends the Pink Lady Roll and the Roasted Duck Confit.

Things to Do + Where to Eat in the Brookdale, Broad Street Section of Bloomfield

Brookdale Park is 121.41 acres and is located across Bloomfield and Montclair. It was originally a meeting space for the Lenni Lenape Indians and became a county park in 1931. The grounds now provide a soccer field, multiple baseball fields, tennis and pickleball courts, a track, a playground, trails, a dog park, and a rose garden. There are also concerts in the park during the summer months. Just a short walk from the park is the Brookdale Section of Broad Street, which features a selection of restaurants, bars, and food specialty shops.

Fanny's | 1109 Broad Street

Fanny's, The Brookdale's sister restaurant, serves a modern take on classic Italian dishes. The atmosphere is elegant, and the intimate bar is an inviting space to enjoy a drink before dinner.

Holsten's | 1063 Broad Street

Holsten's Ice Cream, Chocolate, + Restaurant was famously the backdrop of the final scene for *The Sopranos*. For residents of Essex County, it has always been a nod to tradition. Multiple generations have eaten here, ordered birthday ice cream cakes, and purchased homemade chocolates. Holsten's has been open for 83 years and is still going strong. Visit this spot to take a step back in time while enjoying a meal.

Hot Bagels Abroad | 1129 Broad Street

On any given morning, there is a line out the door of Hot Bagels Abroad. Locals cannot get enough of the hand-rolled bagels and varieties of cream cheese flavors. The team also makes fresh sandwiches and paninis, ensuring there is something for everyone.

Ladyfingers Bakery + Bar | 1109 Broad Street

Not to be outdone, The Brookdale's other sister restaurant, Ladyfingers Bakery + Bar, next to Fanny's, provides a playful twist on dessert paired with fun cocktails. The restaurant is also open for breakfast and brunch.

Manhattan Juice Bar + Cafe | 1033 Broad Street

Manhattan Juice Bar + Cafe specializes in protein smoothies, fresh juice, and healthy dining choices. This cafe is ideal before tackling all of the sporting options in the park.

Mastriano's Quality Market | 1058 Broad Street

Mastriano's Quality Market is the quintessential deli and butcher that every town should have. The menu includes prepared foods, Italian specialties, fresh cuts of prime meats, and made-to-order sandwiches. This would be a great stop to pick up lunch before heading to Brookdale Park. *MG* recommends The Signor Roli Poli, which includes a chicken cutlet, prosciutto, broccoli rabe, and fresh mozzarella.

Popolari | 1047 Broad Street

Popolari uses the finest ingredients for its Neapolitan pies. The restaurant's playful vibe is inviting and warm. The wine list complements the extensive Italian menu.

The Brookdale | 1099 Broad Street

The Brookdale is a lively restaurant open for lunch and dinner. It has a large bar with televisions to view sporting events, and the elevated American menu provides something for everyone's palette. The spot is known for its one-pound mozzarella stick

What to Do + Where to Eat in South Bloomfield and Washington Street

To visit the south side of Bloomfield, the New Jersey Transit Train Montclair-Boonton line stops at the Watsessing Avenue Train Station, which is within walking distance of Washington Street and the neighboring areas.

Anthony's Cheesecakes | 71 Washington Street

Anthony's Cheesecakes opened in 1996 on Broad Street. The spot moved to Washington Street in 2010 to expand to a bigger space and has been going strong ever since. *MG* suggests ordering the Dark Chocolate Oreo Cookie Cheesecake. The restaurant is also open for lunch and dinner.

Casa De Flora Bar | 75 Washington Street

For coffee, pastries, and a shot of beauty, try the Casa De Flora, which serves lunch and brunch. The cafe is filled with flowers that enhance every bite of food and sip of coffee.

Hometown Arcade | 85 Washington Street

The new Hometown Arcade has video games for everyone. Children of all generations can come here and connect to a game from their childhood and share that experience with family and friends.

Six Points Pizza | 57 Washington Street

Six Points Pizza has made old-school pizza new again. *MG* recommends the White Mushroom Pie. Six Points Pizza also partners with Hometown Arcade to deliver delicious food to arcade patrons while they perfect their Pacman skills.

Varitage Brew Works | 58 Washington Street

For locally brewed beer, head to Varitage Brew Works. This brewery collaborates with local businesses such as Holsten's and Anthony's Cheesecakes to host local events that are privy to Washington Street with other vendors.