



WALK THE AVENUE!

Explore the World on New Hampshire Avenue



The NEW AVE World of Groceries Walking Tour

Do you remember Mr. Cooper from *Sesame Street*? The New Ave is Mr. Cooper to thousands of new Americans.

From late Thursday until Sunday afternoon, the stores pack their cases with fresh vegetables, meat and fish, canned delicacies and cellophane bags of spices for each weekend's shoppers.

This is where you stock up on meat, root vegetables, greens, sauces, spices, and legumes from home. There are whole worlds contained in tightly stocked aisles—worlds of unpronounceable sodas, big fleshy fruits, stringy noodles, and enticing smells. Bon appétit!



PHOTO BY SAM KITNER

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START LOCATION: Begin and end your walking tour on Holton Lane, one block south of University Boulevard and off of New Hampshire Avenue. There is plenty of public parking in front of the EZ Storage building.

1 Malik Grocers / Sadana Grocery

1355 Holton Lane, Takoma Park, 20912, (301) 434-9000

HOURS: M–Sat 10:00 am–8:00 pm, Sun 10:00 am–7:00 pm

This market specializes in Indian, Pakistani, and Bangladeshi foods. Inside Malik, inhale the spice-filled air. Select an incense burner and some incense to change the mood at home. Then shop for ingredients for an Indian dinner. Malik carries a good selection of rices, flours, vegetables and fruits (including green mangos); along with oils and spices, powders and seeds used for flavoring; chutneys, pickles, relishes, and sauces for enhancing your dishes. More of a take-out person? Browse the frozen food cases for your favorite dishes. Indian shampoos, soaps, and oils are available, as well as henna. It's time to try being a redhead! Next door, don't miss Pak-Halal Meats at 1355-B Holton Lane, (301) 408-4590, which is a great source of lamb, goat, beef, and chicken cut to your specification or whole.

(Walk east on Holton Lane to the parking lot behind La Union Mall. The entrance to Bismallah Halal Meat opens from the rear of the building next to the entrance to Tabeer Restaurant.)

2 Bismallah Halal Meat

1401 University Blvd. E., Hyattsville, MD 20783, (301) 434-2121.

HOURS: Sun–Th 10:30 am – 8:00 pm, F–Sat 10:30 am–8:30 pm

Bismallah is under the same ownership as Tabeer, the popular Pakistani restaurant next door. Bismallah specializes in fresh Halal meats (slaughtered according to Muslim law)—beef, lamb, duck, quail, cornish hens, as well as fish. A whole lamb roast accompanied by couscous can be ordered for special occasions. Customers place their orders in a line at the meat counter, then shop for other foods to complete the meal—dried fruit, teas, flours, grains, beans and legumes, and spices. Bismallah also sells cooking pots, Islamic books (including the Quran), and traditional Pakistani clothing.

(Exit from Bismallah to the right walking downstairs through the La Union Mall and outside onto University Boulevard. Walk west towards New Hampshire Avenue. Cross University Boulevard at the first light into the northeast quadrant. Atlantic Supermarket is in the first building in the Langley Park Plaza.)

3 Atlantic Supermarket International Foods

7901 New Hampshire Avenue Hyattsville, MD 20783,

(301) 439-7001. HOURS: Daily, 7:30 am–9:30 pm

This very large, well-stocked grocery store offers foods from around the world. Find papaya, Asian eggplants, bitter melon, mangos, and multiple kinds of malangas in the produce department. Unusual leaves such as sweet potato, chipilín, and

jute lie alongside big, green, spicy poblano peppers perfect for stuffing. The spice section also features unusual finds: dried hibiscus and linden flowers, avocado leaves, and epazote. At the meat counter, go beyond the fresh pork and beef for preserved treats such as Dominican or Chinese sausage. In the seafood section, the store's name takes on real meaning. A variety of whole fresh fish glisten in baskets. Using tongs, hand your selected fish to the staff to expertly clean and filet.

(Go back across University Boulevard. Walk west along University Boulevard four blocks to 937 University Blvd., just past Merrimac Drive.)

4 Angkor Supermarket

937 University Blvd. E., Takoma Park, MD 20912, (301) 445-4174.
HOURS: Daily 9:00 am–9:00 pm.

Cambodian-language signs are on the windows, and statues of Buddha hang out beside mysterious embossed tin boxes. Find cases of watermelons crowding the sidewalk or a box of squashes the size of pumpkins. This medium-size Asian grocery store carries fresh fruits, vegetables, rice and noodles. Angkor's interior is crowded with tall, packed shelves which are a feast for the eyes. The snack aisle has moon cakes, bags of shrimp-flavored chips, and crackers made from the infamous, foul-smelling durian. Angkor's canned goods range from sweet lychee and jack fruit to peppercorns in brine and grass jelly. Pickled products are also popular, and Angkor's selection includes banana blossoms and lotus rootlets. Cookware and tableware abounds, so pick up some plates and bowls, chopsticks, and bamboo skewers for your next satay.

(Walk east along University Boulevard and cross New Hampshire Avenue going one block south to the Takoma Langley Center on the southeast quadrant.)

5 Red Apple Farmer's Market

7645 New Hampshire Avenue (Takoma Langley Center), Takoma Park, MD 20912, (301) 434-1810. HOURS: M–Th 9:00 am–9:00 pm, F 8:30 am–9:00 pm, Sat 8:00 am–9:00 pm, and Sun 8:30 am–7:00 pm

This large Afro-Caribbean grocery store has a meat and fish counter, but the star of the show is the Afro-Caribbean produce including multiple types of malangas—root vegetables such as edo, cassava, various kinds of yams, and a large variety of greens. Also of interest are the variety of mangos, vats of oil of all types, spices and herbs, tropical ice cream, a large frozen-food section, herbal tonics, personal care products, and even natural African sponges.

(Walk south along New Hampshire Avenue, past Holton Lane, to Hampshire Place, 7505 New Hampshire Ave.)

6 Caribbean Market II

7505 New Hampshire Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912, (301) 439-5288. HOURS: M–Sat 9:00 am–9:00 pm, Sun 9:00 am–5:00 pm

This large grocery is located on the ground level of a multi-story commercial building. Caribbean Market carries a large selection of West Indian foods and food products. Shelves of pepper sauces and spicy dressings reflect the tastes of each island. Explore the range of tropical drinks. Find industrial-sized

sacks of rice and baskets of red, yellow, and green peppers. A meat counter offers cuts popular in the Caribbean: oxtail, pig feet, beef tripe, smoked duck, and king fish. Visit Caribbean Market around lunchtime and sample one of their delicious hot food platters—jerk chicken, jerk shrimp, and cow foot soup platters include rice and peas, salad, and fried plantains. West Indian drinks and sodas complete your meal, along with patties and cakes. After you're eaten, browse through the outstanding collection of Caribbean CDs—reggae, soca, calypso, gospel and chutney style music, along with DVDs. Take home some island spirit!

(Walk north along New Hampshire Avenue to Holton Lane, where the tour began.) END

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The NEW AVE Walking Tours invite residents and visitors to explore the world on New Hampshire Avenue. The City of Takoma Park's NEW AVE project renews, revitalizes, and develops the many opportunities along the New Hampshire Avenue Corridor. To learn more, please visit www.theNewAve.com or call (301) 891-7119.

www.theNewAve.com
Takoma's Avenue of Opportunity