



Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

OVERVIEW

Introduction

Old City, the most hip neighborhood in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is today much as it was when Benjamin Franklin walked its streets. One of the most progressive citizens of his time, city-father Franklin would surely approve of the many art galleries, trendy shops and vibrant restaurants that dot the downtown Philadelphia landscape.

The rich history of Philadelphia is still visible today in the superb Historic District: Independence Hall, where the nation's Constitution was hotly debated, and the Liberty Bell, which became a symbol of the new government, are there. The city's museums—more than a dozen, including the excellent Franklin Institute and the Philadelphia Museum of Art—are world-class institutions that mix old and new in surprising ways.



Must See or Do

Sights—Independence Hall; the Liberty Bell; the Betsy Ross House and Elfreth's Alley in Old City; the Fairmount Water Works and Victorian boathouses in Fairmount Park; Rittenhouse Square; the Alexander Milne Calder statue of William Penn atop City Hall; the Mikveh Israel Synagogue, with the oldest congregation in Philadelphia and the second-oldest in the country.

Museums—Asian, European and contemporary American art and furniture at the Philadelphia Museum of Art; cultural artifacts at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology; the remarkable impressionist collection at The Barnes Foundation; sculpture at the Rodin Museum; science and learning at The Franklin; Grover Cleveland's tumor at the Mutter Museum.

Memorable Meals—Upscale French cuisine at Le Bec-Fin; anything on the menu at Amada; Philly cheesesteaks at Pat's or Jim's; soft pretzels topped with mustard, a street tradition dating from the 1820s; a megasteak at Union Trust.

Late Night—Upscale alternative rock at the World Cafe Live; blues at Warmdaddy's; loud live rock at The Khyber; cool DJs at Transit.

Walks—Through Independence National Historical Park to see the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall and the National Constitution Center; Penn's Landing (along the Delaware waterfront); in and around City Hall; through the Italian Market below South Street along Ninth; along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway to some of the city's best museums; in and around Rittenhouse and Washington squares for a step back in time; Society Hill to see Pennsylvania Hospital's majestic 19th-century operating-room amphitheater; taking in public art along the Schuylkill on Kelly Drive.

Especially for Kids—The Philadelphia Zoo; interactive exhibits at the Please Touch Museum; touching a shark at the Adventure Aquarium; the USS *New Jersey*, the most decorated battleship in the U.S., along the Camden Waterfront; Camden Children's Garden; the walk-through model of the human heart at The Franklin; a visit to "Cockroach Kitchen" at the Philadelphia Insectarium.

Geography

The second-largest city on the East Coast and sixth-largest in the U.S., Philadelphia lies 100 mi/160 km south of New York City and 55 mi/90 km inland from the Atlantic Ocean. Its eastern boundary, the Delaware River, separates Pennsylvania from New Jersey and provides access to the Atlantic, making Philadelphia one of the most important commercial ports in the country. The city's western boundary is the Schuylkill (pronounced *SCHOOL-kill*) River.

Compact and easy to navigate, Center City (downtown) is surrounded by the Avenue of the Arts, Old City, the Parkway and Museum area, Fairmount Park, University City, the Convention Center and Chinatown.

Thanks to William Penn's decision to plan Philadelphia as a grid, it's one of the easiest cities to navigate in the eastern U.S. You do have to understand the numbering and naming system, though. In Center City, all numbered streets are one-way. East of Broad Street (also known as "14th Street" and the "Avenue of the Arts"), odd-numbered streets run south to north, even-numbered streets north to south. West of Broad Street, odd-numbered streets run north to south, even-numbered streets south to north. Market Street is the dividing line between north and south addresses.

In the downtown area, most major streets running east to west are named after trees (for example, Chestnut, Walnut, Locust, Spruce). They, too, alternate directions as one-way streets. (Locating an address is simple: 1918 Locust, for instance, would be between 19th and 20th streets.)

History

William Penn established Philadelphia, the City of Brotherly Love, in 1682—his "holy experiment," demonstrating the Quaker ideal of religious tolerance, creating a city without walls or neighborhood borders. Because of its excellent location near the Atlantic coast and accessible port facilities, Philadelphia grew rapidly in the 1700s until it was the second-largest English-speaking city in the world. It was called the "Athens of the Americas" and the cultural center of the New World.

The U.S.'s heritage began in Philadelphia with a concentration of key events in the area that is now Independence National Historical Park. The U.S. Constitution was written there, and the Declaration of Independence was signed and presented to the citizenry on that historic plaza. Following the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and ratification of the U.S. Constitution in 1788, the city served as the nation's capital from 1790 until 1800, and the infant U.S. Senate, the House of Representatives and the Supreme Court all met on that block.

During the 19th century, the city grew, annexing parts of the countryside, including Fairmount Park—where wealthy Philadelphians built beautiful mansions to escape yellow fever.

The city also became an industrial force in the early 1900s, but its industrial growth began to decline after World War II. Philadelphia experienced a cultural resurgence in the 1970s, spurred in part by the country's 1976 bicentennial celebration. The city still pursues its renewal programs in neighborhoods such as Old City, which booms with burgeoning residential property, shops and cultural venues.

Philadelphia's historical legacy continues to attract tourists even as it benefits from an infusion of new business and economic energy, thanks to the high-tech and pharmaceutical industries. And the economy holds its own among the nation's major cities.

Potpourri

Philadelphian M. Night Shyamalan has set many of his films—*The Sixth Sense*, *Signs*, *Unbreakable*, *The Village*, *Lady in the Water* and *The Happening*—in and around the city and region.

A city of firsts, Philadelphia is home to the nation's first grammar school, public library, volunteer fire department, hospital, university and zoo.

Philadelphia's "Get your history straight and your nightlife gay" was the first tourism campaign to promote a U.S. city to the gay market. The campaign won national accolades.

Famous Philadelphians include actors Kevin Bacon and Will Smith, singers Ethel Waters and Patti LaBelle, comedian Bill Cosby, basketball legend Wilt Chamberlain, and rock 'n' roll musicians Bill Haley and Chubby Checker.

American Bandstand was the first television show set in Philadelphia; it debuted in 1952 and was broadcast for 30 years.

Although the Liberty Bell was cast in 1753, it wasn't called the Liberty Bell until 1853. Abolitionists gave it that name after adopting it as their symbol. The inscription on the bell is taken from the Bible: "Proclaim Liberty throughout all the Land unto all the Inhabitants thereof."

After visiting Philly, Charles Dickens wrote in his *American Notes* (1842): "It is a handsome city, but distractingly regular. After walking about it for an hour or two, I felt that I would have given the world for a crooked street." Even then, Philadelphia always was an easy city to learn.

If you want a taste of nightlife the way our Founding Fathers experienced it, order a glass of Madeira—a Portuguese drink that resembles wine and brandy mixed together. It was flavorful and had a long shelf life, and some of Philadelphia's most elite citizens imported Madeira as a sideline.

SEE & DO

Sightseeing

Independence National Historical Park is probably the most popular reason to visit Philadelphia. The park includes not only the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall and Declaration House but also Franklin Court, Benjamin Franklin's home, where the exhibits offer a view of his life. A city of firsts (first capital of the new nation, first hospital, first zoo, even the first insurance company), Philadelphia and its suburbs are infused with history: historic homes, churches, museums, graveyards and gardens.

It comes as no surprise that Philadelphia, with its proud history, has a number of beautifully restored neighborhoods, including Rittenhouse Square, Washington Square, Old City and Society Hill. Be sure to stroll through at least one of these picturesque sections of town. But the city's history is only one reason to visit. Philadelphia has a wealth of cultural attractions, including a wonderful assortment of museums, with specialties ranging from art to insects to medical artifacts. The city also has Fairmount Park, the country's largest urban landscaped park.

All manner of wildlife is on display at the Philadelphia Zoo, the country's first zoo. Visitors will find more than 2,000 mammals, birds and reptiles housed in natural habitats. The Insectarium has thousands of living and preserved specimens. The Adventure Aquarium, although not in Philadelphia proper, is just a ferry ride across the Delaware River. Kids will love the Academy of Natural Sciences, the natural-history museum, with its "Dinosaurs Galore" exhibit and, on weekends, a chance to "dig" for fossils.

Using CityPass, visitors can get half-price admission to some of the area's most popular cultural and entertainment attractions: The Franklin, the Philadelphia Zoo, Philadelphia Trolley Works and the National Constitution Center, as well as your choice of either The Academy of Natural Sciences or Eastern State Penitentiary. Purchase CityPass at the first attraction you visit or online. It's valid for nine days after the first use. US\$54 adults, US\$37 children. Toll-free 888-330-5008. <http://www.citypass.com>.

The Philadelphia Pass offers admission to more than 30 top attractions, discounts up to 20% at 11 restaurants and retailers, one round-trip on the RiverLink ferry, and lots more. Passes are available for one, two, three and five days, and they can be purchased by phone or online. One-day: US\$55 adults, US\$35 children. Toll-free 888-567-7277. <http://www.philadelphiapass.com>.

For one of Philly's most entertaining diversions, visit the 13 storytelling benches featured in the Once Upon a Nation program. Betsy Ross liked to spin tales in front of her house on Arch Street (between Second and Third); this enterprising gal not only sewed a flag, she made ammo for Colonial soldiers and knew the best gossip in town. At the bench outside Christ Church (on Second Street between Market and Arch), you might hear stories about brave women who fought the system even in colonial days, and preachers who betrayed the Crown. For bench locations and hours—and to hear a story online—go to <http://www.onceuponanation.org>.

Historic Sites

Betsy Ross House

Legend has it that in 1776, Betsy Ross crafted the first U.S. flag in this now-restored home, furnished with period furniture. Daily 10 am-5 pm; closed Monday October-March except holidays. Suggested contribution of US\$3 adults, US\$2 children. 239 Arch St. (at Bread Street), Philadelphia. Phone 215-686-1252. <http://www.betsyrosshouse.org>.

Christ Church

You can sit in pews once occupied by George Washington, Ben Franklin and other patriot leaders. The original eight bells, which proclaimed independence from England in 1776, still ring once a week. Open Monday-Saturday 9 am-5 pm, Sunday 1-5 pm. 20 N. American St. (at Church Street), Philadelphia. Phone 215-922-1695. <http://www.christchurchphila.org>.

Christ Church Burial Ground

This is the final resting place of more colonial and Revolutionary War leaders—including Ben Franklin and four other signers of the Declaration of Independence—than any other nonmilitary cemetery in the country. As a nod to Franklin's proverb "a penny saved is a penny earned," you'll find his grave strewn with pennies that people have tossed there for good luck. Open Monday-Saturday 10 am-4 pm, Sunday noon-4 pm (weather permitting). Guided 35-minute tours are available. US\$2 adults, includes tour. Arch Street (between Fourth and Fifth streets), Philadelphia. Phone 215-922-1695. <http://www.oldchristchurch.org>.

City Hall

Built at the geographical center of William Penn's original plan for Philadelphia, this building was nothing short of a masterpiece when it was completed in 1901. From the six-story spiral staircases to the immense chandeliers that illuminate the mosaic floors, it remains the largest city hall in the country, with nearly 700 rooms. The exterior is also rich with sculptures by Alexander Milne Calder, including the monumental statue of Penn that stands on top. The building affords a terrific view of the city. An elevator makes the ascent to the top of the tower every 15 minutes Monday-Friday 9:30 am-4:15 pm. Tours of the interior are available Monday-Friday at 12:30 pm. Tours are free, but donations are accepted. Broad and Market streets, Philadelphia. Phone 215-686-2840.

Eastern State Penitentiary

Resembling a medieval castle, this prison opened in 1829 as a state-of-the-art penitentiary. Its hub-and-spoke floor plan was designed to minimize contact among prisoners. Well-known "guests" included Al Capone and bank robber Willie Sutton. Closed in 1970, it reopened for guided tours in the mid-1990s. During the fall, a popular Haunted House tour is available in the evening. Open daily 10 am-5 pm. US\$12 adults, US\$8 children ages 7-12 (children younger than 7 not admitted). 22nd Street at Fairmont Avenue, Philadelphia. Phone 215-236-3300. <http://www.easternstate.org>.

Elfreth's Alley

The oldest continuously residential street in the U.S., Elfreth's Alley celebrated its tercentenary in 2002. This small block offers a charming stroll past 33 tiny row houses built in the early 18th century by blacksmith Jeremiah Elfreth. Originally occupied by artisans and seamen, many today are private homes. The alley is also celebrated for its art galleries. Stop by the Mantua Maker's Museum House at No. 26 to see artifacts and exhibits that chronicle the street's past. Open Monday-Saturday 10 am-5 pm, Sunday noon-5 pm; by appointment only November-March. US\$5 adults, US\$1 children. Second Street (between Arch and Race streets), Philadelphia. Phone 215-574-0560. <http://www.elfrethsalley.org>.

Independence National Historic Park

Twelve historic landmarks are located within and around this 1-sq-mi/1.5-sq-km area. Because it's a national park, most of the guides are park rangers. It's a lot to take in; give yourself at least an afternoon to see it all. Begin your visit at the Visitor Center for tickets to tours, maps and advice. Daily 8:30 am-6 pm. All sites are free, but timed tickets are necessary to visit Independence Hall. From Race to Walnut streets (Visitor Center is at Sixth and Market streets), Philadelphia. Phone 215-965-2305. Toll-free 800-537-7676 for the Visitor Center. <http://www.independencevisitorcenter.com>.

Independence National Historic Park: Carpenters' Hall

Built in 1773 by the Carpenters' Company, this rather small brick building was the meeting place of the First Continental Congress, where grievances against King George III were heavily debated. Among those in attendance were George Washington, John Adams, Samuel Adams and Patrick Henry (Benjamin Franklin was out of town). Visitors still can see eight lovely Windsor chairs that the delegates used. Open daily except Monday 10 am-4 pm. Also closed Tuesday in January and February. Free. 320 Chestnut St. (between Third and Fourth streets), Philadelphia. Phone 215-925-0167. <http://www.carpentershall.org>.

Independence National Historic Park: Congress Hall

This is where the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives met 1790-1800, when Philadelphia was the nation's capital. The restored Senate (Upper House) is filled with the seals of the original states. There are also portraits of Marie Antoinette and Louis XVI, gifts from the French government. The House of Representatives (Lower House) is where John Adams was inaugurated in 1797. Open daily, but hours vary by season. Chestnut Street at Sixth Street, Philadelphia. Phone 215-965-2305. <http://www.nps.gov/inde>.

Independence National Historic Park: Declaration House

Also known as Graff House, this is where Thomas Jefferson, the Virginia delegate to the Second Continental Congress, rented a room and began drafting the Declaration of Independence. See the 10-minute film, *Portrait of a Patriot*, that chronicles Jefferson's involvement (screened upon request). Daily noon-2 pm, but call ahead for hours since they vary by season. 701 Market St. (at Seventh Street), Philadelphia. Phone 215-597-8974. <http://www.nps.gov/inde>.

Independence National Historic Park: Franklin Court

A steel "ghost structure" outlines the spot where Ben Franklin's house once stood. There's also an 18th-century printing office and an operating post office. Underground is a museum with displays, interactive exhibits and an excellent film that highlights Franklin's many careers and contributions. You can see some of his widely diverse inventions and browse his pithy comments about almost any subject. You can also pick up a phone to listen to what John Adams, Harry Truman and other historic figures had to say about Franklin. Daily 9 am-5 pm. Free. 318 Market St. (between Third and Fourth streets), Philadelphia. Phone 215-597-8974. <http://www.nps.gov/inde>.

Independence National Historic Park: Independence Hall

This hall is where the Declaration of Independence was adopted and much of the U.S. Constitution written. You'll feel that you're in the presence of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin and other delegates from the 13 original states when you tour these halls and meeting rooms. You can also see an original draft of the Constitution in

the West Wing, as well as the original inkstand used for signing it. Open year-round, but hours vary by season. Free, but timed tickets are required. Starting at 8:30 am, same-day tickets are available at the Visitor Center at Sixth and Market streets. Chestnut Street (between Fifth and Sixth streets), Philadelphia. Phone 215-965-2305. <http://www.nps.gov/inde>.

Independence National Historic Park: National Constitution Center

Start in the circular theater to see *Freedom Rising*—a show depicting U.S. history that is played every 15 minutes. From there, go to the exhibit hall where you can step into voting booths to vote for your all-time favorite president, take the Presidential Oath of Office, try on a Supreme Court robe and even see a pair of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's leg braces. Open Monday-Friday 9:30 am-5 pm, Saturday 9:30 am-6 pm, Sunday noon-5 pm. US\$12 adults, US\$8 children. 525 Arch St. (between Fifth and Sixth streets), Philadelphia. Phone 215-923-0004. <http://www.constitutioncenter.org>.

Independence National Historic Park: Old City Hall

The U.S. Supreme Court met in this Georgian building 1791-1800. (The court heard its first case in August 1791.) Along with such restored furnishings as the prisoner's dock and the jury box are a number of smaller items from the period—spit boxes for those jurists who chewed tobacco, for example. Open daily; hours vary seasonally. Chestnut Street at Fifth Street, Philadelphia. Phone 215-965-2305. <http://www.nps.gov/inde/old-city-hall.html>.

Independence Park: The Second Bank of the United States

Modeled after the Parthenon in Greece, this building features dozens of portraits of famous Americans, many of which were painted by Charles Willson Peale, the most famous American portraitist of that time. Daily 11 am-5 pm. 420 Chestnut St. (at Fifth Street), Philadelphia. Phone 215-965-2305. <http://www.nps.gov/archive/inde/second-bank.html>.

Liberty Bell Center

The cracked bell is one of the nation's most hallowed symbols of freedom and independence. Commissioned in 1751, the 2,000-lb/900-kg bell first hung in the tower of Independence Hall, where it rang out 8 July 1776 to summon citizens to the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence. Its infamous crack was made during its initial testing in 1773. Foreign-language information tapes are available. Daily 9 am-5 pm, but hours can vary by season (you can always see it through the windows in the evening, however). Free. Market Street (between Fifth and Sixth streets), Philadelphia. Phone 215-597-8974. <http://www.nps.gov/inde/liberty-bell-center.htm>.

Mikveh Israel Synagogue

The temple houses the oldest congregation in Philadelphia and the second-oldest in the U.S. Founded in 1740, with financial assistance from Benjamin Franklin and others, it remains unchanged in its traditions and welcomes visitors to its Sephardic services. After several moves over the centuries, the temple relocated not far from its original location on Cherry Street. It's in the same building as the National Museum of American Jewish History. Open daily, but call for times. There are guided tours in July and August. 44 N. Fourth St. (between Market and Arch streets), Philadelphia. Phone 215-922-5446. <http://www.mikvehisrael.org>.

Pennsylvania Hospital

At the nation's first hospital, visit the original surgical amphitheater, where sawdust covered the floor to absorb body fluids and surgery was performed by sunlight entering through the domed ceiling. Pick up a brochure at the welcome desk and take a self-guided tour. Open Monday-Friday 9 am-4:30 pm. Guided tours can be scheduled in advance on Thursday and Friday at 10 am and 1 pm. US\$4 suggested donation for guided tours. 800 Spruce St., Philadelphia. Phone 215-829-3370. <http://www.uphs.upenn.edu/paharc>.

USS New Jersey

The battleship *New Jersey*, the most decorated U.S. battleship, is now a floating museum on the Delaware River. Many of its guides served in active duty on the ship and love to share their personal experiences. Open daily March-December 9:30 am-3 pm; Friday-Sunday February to mid-March 10 am-3 pm. US\$15 adults, US\$10.50 children. Guided tours US\$18.50 adults, US\$14 children. On the Camden Waterfront (across from Penn's Landing and near the Adventure Aquarium), Camden. Phone 856-966-1652. <http://www.battleshipnewjersey.org>.

Museums

Academy of Natural Sciences

Dinosaurs, tropical butterflies, dioramas, a hands-on live-animal center, and various special exhibits abound at this museum. Open Monday-Friday 10 am-4:30 pm, Saturday, Sunday and holidays 10 am-5 pm. US\$10 adults, US\$8 children. 1900 Ben Franklin Parkway (at 19th Street), Philadelphia. Phone 215-299-1000. <http://www.ansp.org>.

Remember, this is a condensed version! The full Weissmann Report for Philadelphia features more than 100 additional interesting things to see and do, including Museums, Parks & Gardens, Zoos, Bicycling, Hiking & Walking, Bars & Pubs, Nightclubs, Theater, Ticket Brokers, Spectator Sports, Shopping Districts, Galleries, Day Tours and more!

DINING

Dining Overview

Since the widely publicized "restaurant renaissance" of the 1970s, this culturally and ethnically diverse city has offered restaurants for every taste and pocketbook. The most recent area of restaurant development is in the neighborhoods of Old City and Northern Liberties.

Philly's hottest trend is the now-ubiquitous BYOB restaurant, prompted by the scarcity of available liquor licenses in the neighborhoods, and the cost of buying a license (which can exceed US\$300,000).

The Rittenhouse Square District is blessed with an abundance of fine restaurants. South Philadelphia, where most of the city's substantial Italian population resides, offers many great Italian restaurants (and is the source of the original Philadelphia cheesesteak).

Chinatown has several Asian restaurants per block—Thai and Vietnamese as well as Chinese. The neighborhood around the Italian Market has also given rise to a crop of Asian restaurants, between Ninth and 11th on Washington Avenue. Near the University of Pennsylvania, there's another cluster of ethnic establishments (Indian, Thai, Mexican, Japanese).

Dining times are generally 6-10 am for breakfast, 11 am-2 pm for lunch and 5-10 pm for dinner.

Expect to pay within these general guidelines, based on the cost of dinner for one, not including drinks, tax or tip: \$ = less than US\$10; \$\$ = US\$10-\$20; \$\$\$ = US\$21-\$50; and \$\$\$\$ = more than US\$50.

Local & Regional

City Tavern

Sup in colonial splendor at this re-created 18th-century tavern in Independence National Historic Park. Once the hub of fine dining in Philadelphia, City Tavern fed the likes of patriot Paul Revere, U.S. President George Washington and both Continental Congresses. The traditionally dressed waitstaff will serve you mugs of beer and early-American dishes such as medallions of venison, turkey stew and lobster pie. Daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. 138 S. Second St. (at Walnut Street), Philadelphia. Phone 215-413-1443. <http://www.citytavern.com>.

Farmicia

Casual but chic Farmicia serves gourmet food that is both good to eat and good for you, with an emphasis on local, seasonal foods provided by artesian-type producers. The menu rotates, but the quality does not, and the Buddhist murals remind diners of the good karma that they are earning. The adjacent Metropolitan Cafe applies the same concept for those just looking for a quick snack. Open Tuesday-Saturday for breakfast, lunch and dinner, Sunday for dinner only. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards. 15 S. Third St. (Market and Chestnut), Philadelphia. Phone 215-627-6274. <http://www.farmiciarestaurant.com>.

Jim's Steaks

The art-deco, cafeteria-style setting is just right for sampling that native delicacy, the Philly cheesesteak—thinly sliced grilled beef served on a long Italian roll with melted cheese and accompaniments. One of the best venues to grab this local favorite. The cheese is actually Cheez Whiz, so if you prefer American cheese or provolone, speak up. Daily for lunch and dinner. \$. Cash and traveler's checks only. 400 South St. (at Second Street), Philadelphia. Phone 215-928-1911.

Pat's King of Steaks

Loyal fans say these Philly cheesesteaks are the best in town. See for yourself. Daily 24 hours. \$. No credit cards. 1237 E. Passyunk Ave. (Ninth and Wharton streets), Philadelphia. Phone 215-468-1546. <http://www.patskingofsteaks.com>.

Cuisines

American

10 Arts

Celebrity chef Eric Ripert, who earned three Michelin stars at his restaurant Le Bernardin in Manhattan, is the creative force behind 10 Arts. Ripert works closely with Philly native and chef de cuisine Jennifer Carroll; the pair has conceived a fetching, New American menu, with the emphasis on fresh, seasonal ingredients, swanky comfort food, creative cocktails and an approachable wine list. Standouts on the moderately priced menu include tuna carpaccio, decadent mac and cheese, and a brasserie-worthy grilled flat iron steak. Located in the lobby at the Ritz-Carlton, the restaurant's colorful modern holographic columns strike a dramatic note within the former bank's lofty space. Open Tuesday-Friday for breakfast, lunch and dinner, Saturday for breakfast and dinner, Sunday for breakfast only, Monday for breakfast and lunch. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. 10 Ave Of The Arts (Broad Street, across from City Hall), Philadelphia. Phone

215-523-8273. <http://10arts>.

13

Pull up a chair and get comfortable at 13, the retooled American restaurant in the Marriott across from the Convention Center. Named for the original colonies that were represented in Philadelphia back in 1776, 13 liberates diners from ho-hum pub fare with the likes of lump crab cakes, pulled pork sliders, zippy chicken wings and simply grilled fish. Banks of flat screens make this, and the Circ Lobby Bar, a great place to catch the game. Open daily for lunch, dinner and late night. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards. 1201 Market St., Philadelphia. Phone 215-625-6795. <http://www.marriott.com>.

Fork/Fork Etc.

This gracious American restaurant offers fine dining at reasonable prices and several menus that have something for everyone. Specialties include pan-seared hazelnut-crusted salmon and grilled *chimichurri* hanger steak with spicy aioli. Its unique culinary designs appear like art on your plate. A private dining room is available for larger parties. At the more casual Fork Etc. next door, gourmet fare is offered for takeout. Daily for lunch and dinner, Sunday for brunch. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. 306-308 Market St. (between Third and Fourth streets), Philadelphia. Phone 215-625-9425. <http://www.forkrestaurant.com>.

The full Weismann Report features more than 60 additional restaurants – everything from Asian to Latin American to Continental and Fine Steakhouses.

SECURITY

Personal Safety

In the past few years, Philadelphia's reputation has been tarnished by an increased number of murders. Despite this, however, crime in the major shopping and tourist areas is largely confined to muggings and purse snatchings.

However, as in any large U.S. city, visitors are advised to be cautious. Exercise your common sense after dark. Ask your hotel's concierge or at the front desk for advice about the specific areas you wish to visit.

It is also important to note that, although Philadelphia is a major urban environment, it still closes down by 2 am. Crime issues are relatively insignificant in the Center City section of Philadelphia, with its many restaurants and nightclubs.

Health

Philadelphia has a large number of hospitals, and many of them have fully staffed emergency rooms available daily 24 hours.

The University of Pennsylvania Medical Center, at 3400 Spruce St., is closest to the airport hotels. Pennsylvania Hospital (at Eighth and Spruce streets) and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital (at 11th and Walnut streets) are closest to Independence National Historic Park. The Graduate Hospital (between 18th and 19th on Lombard Street) is near the business district.

CVS Pharmacy is open daily 24 hours and is located at 1410 S. 10th St. (at Read Street). Phone 215-465-2130. Eckerd/Thrift Drug, at 522 S. Second St. (between Lombard and South streets), is open Monday-Friday 9 am-9 pm, Sunday 9:30 am-5:30 pm. Phone 215-625-9840.

Disabled Advisory

A handicapped-access map of all the buildings and sites of Independence National Historical Park is available at Philadelphia's visitors center at the corner of Sixth and Market streets. A relief model of Independence Park, for use by the sight impaired, is located outside the visitors center as well.

For a list of accessible restaurants, museums and entertainment sites, contact the Mayor's Commission on People with Disabilities, Municipal Services Building, Room 900, 1401 JFK Blvd., Philadelphia, PA 19107. Phone 215-686-2798 or 215-564-1782 (TDD). <http://www.phila.gov/mcpd>.

Accessibility information is also available through the Convention and Visitors Bureau. Phone 215-636-1666. <http://www.pcvb.org>.

Dos & Don'ts

Do ask the highly visible members of the Center City District's goodwill ambassador program for directions or help. They wear teal-colored uniforms and are funded by the private sector to assure safety and hospitality for tourists and locals alike. In the University City area, ambassadors are outfitted in yellow.

Don't forget to carry quarters with you to feed the meters if you plan on parking on the street. You can also buy a SmartCard at most 7-Elevens, Acme Markets, and some delis and pharmacies, which works like a debit card and allows you to swipe for meter time. Or buy it online at <http://www.philapark.org>.

Do visit Philly in the fall or winter if you're traveling on a budget; many hotel and restaurant prices drop significantly in the cooler months.

Don't look for wine in supermarkets. In Pennsylvania, wine and spirits are sold only in state stores, while beer and wine coolers are available at bars and some delis.

Do be sure your taxi is metered before you get into it.

Don't drive in the bus lanes in Center City; the police are constantly on the lookout and will ticket you.

Do check out <http://www.buyphilly.com> for Philadelphia items from wearable art to gourmet foods. It's perfect for those who want to take home a bit of the city but don't have time to go shopping.

HOTELS

Hotel Overview

Hotels are concentrated near the airport, along the waterfront, in the business district and in the Independence Park area. Wonderful bed-and-breakfasts and inns are scattered throughout Center City, as well.

Philadelphia is always crowded with visitors at the usual vacation times, including New Year's Eve and Day, when thousands journey to the city to see the fabulously wacky Mummers Parade. The Pennsylvania Convention Center can draw thousands during big events, so it's wise to book hotel rooms well in advance.

Hotel Listings



Crowne Plaza Philadelphia Downtown

1800 Market St 19103

salesphiladelphiacrowne@ichotelsgroup.com <http://www.crowneplaza.com/philadelphia-centercity>
445 Guest Rooms • 14 Meeting Rooms • Restaurant[s]

Phone: (1) 215-561-7500

Fax: (1) 215-561-4484

Toll Free: (1) 866-618-0410

The full Weissmann Report features more information on this hotel, and information on dozens of additional top-tier hotels.

FACTS

Geostats

Passport/Visa Requirements: All U.S. citizens must have a passport when traveling by air to or from Bermuda, Canada, the Caribbean, Central and South America and Mexico. Citizens of Canada, Mexico and the British Overseas Territory of Bermuda also must have a passport or other designated secure document to enter the U.S.

Beginning 1 June 2009, passports are required for land crossings at the Canadian and Mexican borders with the U.S. and for cruise passengers returning to the U.S. from Mexico, the Caribbean, Canada or Bermuda. Reconfirm travel-document requirements with your carrier prior to departure.

Population: 1,449,634.

Languages: English.

Predominant Religions: Christian (Roman Catholic, Protestant), Jewish.

Time Zone: 5 hours behind Greenwich Mean Time (-5 GMT). Daylight Saving Time is observed from the second Sunday in March to the first Sunday in November.

Voltage Requirements: 110 volts.

Telephone Codes: 215, area code; 267, area code; 610 and 484 for some nearby suburbs; and 609 and 856 for south New Jersey suburbs;

Money

Currency Exchange

Most ATMs accept major bank cards (and credit cards with a PIN) and dispense U.S. currency at the going rate of exchange. ATMs are readily available around the city, at convenience stores and at area banks.

Bank hours vary but generally are Monday-Thursday 8:30 or 9 am-3 or 4 pm, Friday 8:30 or 9 am-5 or 6 pm. Some banks are open Saturday 9 am-noon.

Taxes

City sales tax is 7% (though not for most apparel). The hotel occupancy tax is 14%. Meals in restaurants are taxed 7%; liquor is taxed 10%.

Tipping

A 15%-20% tip is customary in restaurants. Tip 15% for cabs and tours.

Weather

Philadelphia has four distinct seasons, with spring and fall the most beautiful and pleasant. The city's climate is moderated by its proximity to the Atlantic Ocean: high humidity in summer, frequent high winds and moderate cold in winter.

January's average temperature is 33 F/1 C. Temperatures tend to dip below freezing in the evening. July's average temperature is 75 F/24 C with sunny, humid days that sometimes exceed 90 F/32 C with more than 90% humidity. April and October average temperatures are in the 50s F/10-15 C.

Annual rainfall is 41 in/104 cm, with the heaviest rain in July and August. Annual snowfall is 21 in/53 cm.

What to Wear

Many Philadelphia companies have instituted casual-dress policies. However, some segments of Philadelphia's business community still adhere to a more conservative dress code—suits or sport jackets and ties for men and their counterparts for women. On a first visit to a company, you may want to wear more conservative business attire.

Leisure travelers will have an easier time matching their attire to the weather. A more formal dress code applies in some finer restaurants, nightclubs and dance clubs. As in most Eastern cities, a dark palette—blacks, grays, browns—is the norm for fine dining and cultural events.

In Philadelphia, dressing for the seasons is a predictable matter—but remember that this is an East Coast city, and summers can be extremely hot. Be sure to take light-colored, lightweight clothes in summer, as well as plenty of sunscreen and a hat. In winter, the wind off the rivers can go right through you, so dress in warm layers.

Communication

Telephone

Philadelphia has pay phones available on many street corners, and they do take coins. The pay phones at the airport also take credit cards. Area codes are required for all calls, including local calls.

Cell phone coverage is adequate throughout metro Philadelphia, though it might get spotty when you reach the hilly regions about two hours west of the city.

Internet Access

Thanks to the "Wireless Philadelphia" initiative, Philly is attempting to becoming a totally wireless metropolis—all 135 sq mi/350 sq km of it. Most of Center City and some outlying neighborhoods are Wi-Fi, and the project to create a totally wireless city continues. However, because the project has had a few technical glitches, you shouldn't count on its availability.

Ants Pants Cafe

Free Wi-Fi. 2212 South St. (at 22nd Street), Philadelphia.

Bucks County Coffee

4311 Main St. (30th Street Station, in Manayunk), Philadelphia.

Free Library of Philadelphia

Free Wi-Fi. 1901 Vine St. (Logan Square), Philadelphia.

Hausbrandt Cafe

Free Wi-Fi. 207 S. 15th St. (at Locust Street), Philadelphia.

ING Direct Cyber Cafe

Free Wi-Fi. 1636 Walnut St. (at 17th Street), Philadelphia.

Old City Coffee

Free Wi-Fi. 221 Church St. (off Third Street), Philadelphia.

Woody's CyberBar

Free Wi-Fi. 202 S. 13th St. (at Chancellor Street), Philadelphia.

Mail & Package Services

Post Office

The main U.S. Post Office is at 2970 Market St. near the 30th Street Station (phone 215-596-5577). The Penn Center Suburban Station, on John F. Kennedy Boulevard between 17th and 18th streets, is open Monday-Friday 7 am-6 pm and Saturday 9 am-noon (phone 215-496-9679).

If you'd like to use the post office that Ben Franklin once used, go downstairs at Franklin Court at 316 Market St. (between Third and Fourth streets). For other branches and hours of operation, phone 215-895-8000. <http://www.usps.com>.

Newspapers & Magazines

The Philadelphia Inquirer is a morning daily paper. On Friday, it publishes a special weekend section with a comprehensive entertainment guide and calendar of events. *The Daily News* is published afternoons, daily except Sunday, with an exceptionally large sports section and a weekend guide on Friday called "Yo." Both papers are available at curbside vending machines, newsstands and hotel gift shops.

In addition to the *Inquirer's* weekly entertainment guide, two free weekly newspapers offer events listings: *Philadelphia Weekly*, published Wednesday (found in bars and cafes), and *City Paper*, appearing on Thursday. *34th Street Magazine*, the arts-and-entertainment subset of the University of Pennsylvania's *The Daily Pennsylvanian*, draws a large readership because of its extensive coverage of the local entertainment scene.

While the two free weeklies probably are the best sources for current entertainment and nightlife information, *Philadelphia Magazine*, Philly's monthly city magazine, offers restaurant, book, performance, nightlife and other reviews and in-depth information. Its award-winning profiles, political analysis and investigative reporting are recognized nationwide.

The *Philadelphia Gay News*, *Al Dia* (a weekly Spanish-language newspaper) and the daily *Philadelphia Tribune* (the voice of the local African-American community) are also widely available. The *Philadelphia Business Journal* is the source for business news.

Most hotel gift shops, newsstands and bookstores carry major U.S. newspapers such as *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times* as well as some foreign publications. At the Chinatown and Italian markets, you can usually find vendors who sell international publications, but availability and location are subject to change.

Transportation

Because on-street parking is difficult to find and parking lots in the tourist areas can be expensive, walking or using the bus is advised if you are going sightseeing.

The Independence Park area is easily covered on foot, by subway or by using the Phlash shuttle service, which makes a continuous loop around most tourist attractions. The convention center, hotels, restaurants and shopping are within easy walking distance of one another and of the historic area.

Air

Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) is served by most major airlines. It's located 8 mi/13 km from Center City—20-25 minutes away by car. <http://www.phl.org>.

If you're flying in from another country, you'll land at Terminal A-West, which has nearly doubled Philadelphia's capacity for overseas flights. More than a dozen daily flights are available to cities west of the Rockies.

A recently opened 14-lane security check point serves the passengers traveling from terminals D and E. This is the first phase of a US\$300 million project, which will include 23 additional ticket counter positions and a 50,000-sq-ft/4,645-sq-m baggage area, along with other features that will add an additional 222,000 sq ft/20,624 sq m to the airport by 2010.

Connecting transportation

Best way:

Taxi stands are located outside each baggage claim. The flat-rate fare to Center City is US\$28.50.

Lady Liberty shuttle service (phone 215-724-8888) operates 5 am-midnight, picking up passengers outside baggage claim. The fare is US\$10 to Center City hotel stops, US\$12 to South Philly and the Art Museum area and US\$15 for hotels along City Line Avenue. Travel time is approximately 30 minutes, depending on traffic. Reservations are not needed from the airport but are needed from city locations back to the airport. <http://ladylibertyshuttle.com>.

Most airport hotels offer complimentary van service with pickup points outside the baggage claim. There's a hotel phone board near the baggage claim in each terminal building.

Other options:

Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority (SEPTA) buses offer service on Routes 37 and 108 from the airport to the Greyhound Bus Terminal at Filbert and 10th streets and the 30th Street Station for US\$2.

The R1 SEPTA Airport Line (electric train) connects five Center City stops (University City, Eastwick Station, 30th Street Station, Suburban Station and Market East Station) with all airport terminals. This is the economical means of getting into Center City, but it's a hassle if you're traveling with heavy luggage. The train costs US\$6. Tickets can be purchased on the train. The train operates daily 5:25 am-11:25 pm, every 30 minutes, and travel time is approximately 20 minutes to Center City. Phone 215-580-7800. <http://www.septa.org>.

Car rental agencies are located in all baggage claim areas. For rates and other information, contact agencies directly.

Bus

Intercity bus service is frequent. The Greyhound Bus Lines Terminal is in Center City at 11th and Filbert streets (toll-free 800-231-2222). Martz Trailways (toll-free 800-233-8604) and Bieber Tourways (toll-free 800-243-2374), though separate operations, are both located in the Greyhound terminal and provide service between Philadelphia and outlying Pennsylvania cities, such as Reading, Bethlehem, Allentown and the Pocono Mountains.

New Jersey Transit, with offices also in the Greyhound Terminal, serves Philadelphia from neighboring New Jersey cities and Atlantic-shore points (phone 215-569-3752). Peter Pan Trailways connects Philadelphia to Atlantic City and major East Coast cities from a terminal adjoining Greyhound's at 11th and Filbert (toll-free 800-343-9999). Greyhound also provides service to Atlantic City and other points outside the state. **Bolt Bus**

Operating between Philadelphia and such destinations as New Jersey's Cherry Hill Mall, New York City and Washington, D.C., this well-lit and comfy bus offers Wi-Fi and plenty of leg room. Fares start at US\$10, but depending on when you reserve, can be as little as US\$1. Online only. The bus stops just across the street from the Post Office next to 30th Street Station. A BoltBus sign on a light pole marks the waiting point. <https://www.boltbus.com>.

Car

The Pennsylvania Turnpike (Interstate 76) connects Philadelphia with the Pennsylvania Dutch attractions of Lancaster (about 90 minutes west), as well as Harrisburg (the state capital) and points west to Pittsburgh. I-95 passes through the city on its run up the East Coast (from Florida to Maine), and the New Jersey Turnpike (I-295) also leads to Philadelphia. The Blue Route, I-476, runs north and south, connecting I-95 to the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

We recommend renting a car only if you plan to visit other Pennsylvania destinations.

Ferry

RiverLink

The Freedom Ferry crosses the Delaware River to the waterfront in Camden, New Jersey, May to mid-September, making it easy to visit attractions such as the USS *New Jersey*, the Adventure Aquarium and the Camden Children's Garden. Ferries for the 10-minute crossing operate daily Memorial Day-Labor Day; Saturday and Sunday only in May and September.

On the New Jersey side, garage parking (US\$1 per hour/US\$8 per day) is available daily 6 am-6:30 pm across from the aquarium. An outdoor lot on Federal Street (between Third Street and Riverside Drive) is available for US\$5 per day. Both facilities are within walking distance of the ferry terminal. Round-trip tickets are US\$6 adults, US\$5 children and may be purchased at both the Penn's Landing and Camden terminals. Phone 215-925-5465. <http://www.riverlinkferry.com>.

Public Transportation

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) is an excellent system of buses, trolleys, subway and elevated lines, and regional trains. Visitors can travel on SEPTA within the entire Philadelphia region, including four surrounding suburban counties and to a handful of cities and towns in Delaware and New Jersey.

Frequent bus service covers the entire business and tourist area, and some operate daily 24 hours, though others stop running after midnight. A good bus to take is Route 33. It will take you close to top attractions (Betsy Ross House, Independence Hall, Penn's Landing, Reading Terminal Market, the Liberty Bell, the Franklin Institute, City Hall and the Philadelphia Museum of Art).

Two subway lines serve the city 24 hours a day. Market-Frankford (also called the "El" because it's elevated) runs east and west, and Broad Street runs north and south.

Trolleys run east and west with limited suburban stops.

The base fare on most bus, trolley and subway routes is US\$2—exact change required—and transfers are US\$0.75 (must be purchased when you board). Tokens are less expensive and cost US\$1.45 each. They're sold in packs of two, five and 10 and can be purchased at all subway stops and at many drugstores. Seniors ride free during off-peak hours on buses and trolleys and for US\$1 on trains.

Consider SEPTA's DayPass, good for a day's unlimited riding on all city transit vehicles, plus a one-way trip on the Airport Line. The DayPass costs US\$6 and can be purchased at the visitors center at Sixth and Market streets.

Bus and commuter train schedules are available at all three Center City train stops (30th Street Station, Suburban Station and Market East Station) and from SEPTA's Information and Passenger Service office at 1234 Market St. Phone 215-580-7800. <http://www.septa.org>.

The city operates a distinctive purple trolley called the Phlash (daily May-October 10 am-6 pm). Running at 12-minute intervals, it makes a continuous loop past many of the city's most popular tourist destinations, including the historic area, the zoo, Franklin Square, South Street, the Pennsylvania Convention Center, the waterfront and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Board wherever you see the Phlash wings. Fare is US\$2 for a single trip. You can purchase a US\$5 day pass or a US\$10 family pass for unlimited travel. Tickets can be purchased at the visitors center, at the RiverLink in Penn's Landing or onboard. Phone 215-474-5274.

The Port Authority Transit Corporation (PATCO) is also a fast, economical way to travel around Center City and to southern New Jersey. Fare for the electric train ranges US\$1.25-\$2.70 among four Philadelphia stops located in the business and historic sections and across the Benjamin Franklin Bridge to New Jersey stops such as Camden, Haddonfield and Collingswood. Purchase Smart Card tickets, which are required, from machines at all PATCO stops. Schedules are also available at all PATCO stops. Phone 877-373-6777. <http://www.ridepatco.org>.

Ship

Ships dock at Pier 1 at the Philadelphia Cruise Terminal at 5100 S. Broad St. Only 10 minutes from the airport and about 15 from Center City, it's accessible via Interstate 76 and I-95. Parking is available for US\$12 per day.

Currently, 22 cruise ships embark out of Philadelphia between early May and late August. As it is mostly a cargo terminal, there are few services and no attractions in the vicinity. Taxis are readily available from the terminal to Center City and the airport (US\$10-\$15). Some cruise companies will arrange shuttle service to Center City for their passengers. Phone 856-968-2052. <http://www.cruise Philly.com>.

Taxi

Cabs can be hailed on the street or ordered at hotels. There are several major cab companies, all of which operate 24 hours a day: United Cab (phone 484-888-8888) and Olde City Taxi Coach (phone 215-338-0838) are two reliable companies. You can hail a cab within minutes from most downtown street corners. Many companies allow passengers to share the cost of a cab going to destinations within the same area.

Taxis from the airport to Center City locations charge a flat US\$28.50 fee, plus tip, and will carry up to four passengers.

Train

Amtrak operates rail service through Philadelphia along the Northeast Corridor from Boston to Washington and is an excellent alternative to driving or flying. All trains arrive at 30th Street Station (at Market Street). Toll-free 800-872-7245. <http://www.amtrak.com>.

For more affordable rail travel, consider using SEPTA (phone 215-580-7800; <http://www.septa.org>) and NJ Transit (phone 973-762-5100; <http://www.newjerseytransit.com>). Fares between New York and Philadelphia are about US\$30, but you must change train systems in Trenton, New Jersey, making the journey about 30 minutes longer. Purchase tickets together at any train station or vendor machine through either line.

For More Information

Convention & Visitors Bureau

Greater Philadelphia Tourism & Marketing Corporation

This nonprofit organization promotes Philadelphia and regional tourism. 30 S. 17th St., Suite 1710, Philadelphia.

The full Weissmann Report features more Convention & Visitors information, and more than 150 additional entries including a complete Calendar of Events so you can plan around festivals and events ranging from major to interesting and obscure.