

Philadelphia Beyond the Museums



Miscellaneous & Interesting Things to Do in Philadelphia

Beyond the museums: markets, neighborhoods, parks, waterfronts & unexpected Philly experiences

Philadelphia rewards curiosity. Beyond its major museums and historic landmarks, the city offers lively markets, distinctive neighborhoods, public art, waterfront parks, scenic trails, unusual historic sites, and plenty of ways to experience the city like a local. This guide focuses on activities that are easy to mix into a day of sightseeing.

Planning note: Some attractions and outdoor spaces are seasonal, and hours or programming can change. Check the attraction's official website before visiting.

Markets, Food & Neighborhoods



★★★★★

Food • Browsing •
People-watching

Reading Terminal Market

51 N. 12th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

One of the city's essential experiences and one of the nation's oldest and largest public markets. Explore more than 80 vendors offering prepared foods, baked goods, Pennsylvania Dutch specialties, fresh produce, gifts and much more.

★★★★★

Food • Neighborhood
atmosphere • Shopping

9th Street Italian Market

919 S. 9th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147

A lively South Philadelphia market district stretching for roughly 10 blocks, with Italian butcher shops, bakeries, specialty stores, Mexican restaurants and neighborhood food destinations.

★★★★☆

Dining • Walking •
Exploring

Chinatown

Around 10th–11th & Arch/Race Streets

Wander the compact Chinatown district around Arch and Race Streets for restaurants, bakeries, markets, colorful storefronts and a different side of Center City.

★★★★☆

Shopping • Street life •
Nightlife

South Street

South Street, Philadelphia, PA

A classic Philly street experience with independent shops, restaurants, murals, music venues and an eclectic mix of old-school and contemporary culture.

★★★★☆

Strolling • Cafés •
People-watching

Rittenhouse Square

18th & Walnut Streets, Philadelphia, PA

Spend time in one of Center City's most elegant public squares, surrounded by restaurants, cafés, boutiques and beautiful historic architecture.

Iconic City Experiences

Philadelphia Beyond the Museums



★★★★★

Photos • Short stop •
City views

LOVE Park

16th Street & JFK Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19102

Visit Philadelphia's iconic LOVE sculpture, relax around the fountain and enjoy the park's position at the entrance to the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. It is especially good for a quick photo stop between attractions.

★★★★☆

Architecture • People-
watching • Events

Philadelphia City Hall & Dilworth Park

Broad & Market Streets, Philadelphia, PA

Walk around the massive City Hall complex, then relax in Dilworth Park. The area is especially lively during seasonal events, markets and public programming.

★★★★☆

Families • Outdoor fun •
History

Franklin Square

200 N. 6th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

One of William Penn's original five squares, this family-friendly park features a historic fountain, playground, mini-golf and the Parx Liberty Carousel.

★★★★★

History • Architecture •
Photography

Elfreth's Alley

126 Elfreth's Alley, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Stroll along one of the nation's oldest residential streets and admire the preserved historic homes that give this small Old City lane its distinctive character.

★★★★★

Views • Walking •
Photography

Benjamin Franklin Bridge Walkway

5th & Race Streets, Philadelphia, PA

For a memorable city view, walk or bike the pedestrian/bikeway portion of the Benjamin Franklin Bridge. The elevated perspective offers striking views of Philadelphia and the Delaware River.

Waterfronts, Parks & City Views



★★★★★

Outdoors • Waterfront •
Relaxing

Spruce Street Harbor Park

301 S. Christopher Columbus Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA

A seasonal Delaware River destination featuring hammocks, floating gardens, food vendors, a boardwalk and a relaxed waterfront atmosphere. It is particularly enjoyable in warm weather.

★★★★☆

Art • Waterfront •
Casual exploring

Cherry Street Pier

121 N. Columbus Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA

A revitalized historic pier filled with artist and maker spaces, food and drink vendors, community programming and unusual creative installations.

★★★★☆

Picnics • Views • Quiet
time

Race Street Pier

Race Street & N. Christopher Columbus Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA

A landscaped waterfront park beneath the Benjamin Franklin Bridge with terraces, lawns and river views. Bring a picnic or simply enjoy the scenery.

★★★★★

Schuylkill River Trail & Boathouse Row

Walking • Biking •
Photography

1 Boathouse Row / Schuylkill River Trail, Philadelphia, PA

Walk or bike along the Schuylkill River for one of the city's best combinations of skyline views, greenery and water. Boathouse Row is especially photogenic around sunset and after dark.

★★★★★

Hiking • Nature • Quiet
escape

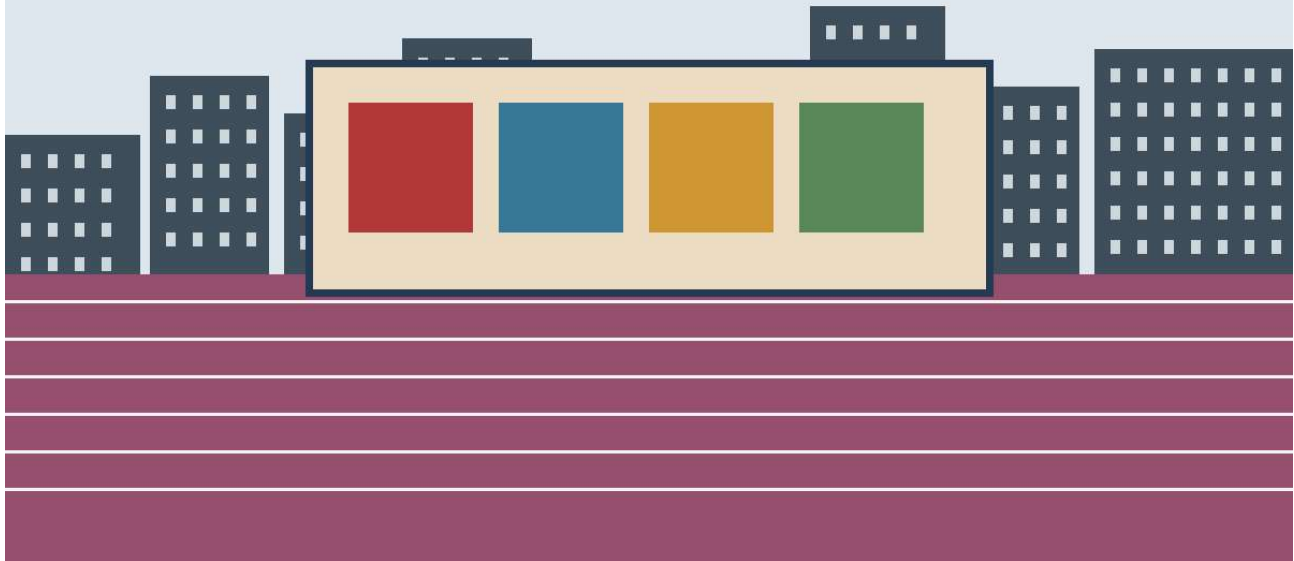
Wissahickon Valley Park

Valley Green Road, Philadelphia, PA

Escape the city without leaving Philadelphia. The park offers wooded trails, creeks, historic sites and a very different landscape from Center City.

Offbeat & Unexpected Philly

Offbeat & Unexpected Philly



★★★★★

History • Architecture •
Something unusual

Eastern State Penitentiary

2027 Fairmount Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19130

Explore the enormous former prison's preserved cell blocks, historic architecture, exhibits and stories of incarceration. It is one of Philadelphia's most distinctive experiences.

★★★★☆

Architecture • Guided
tours • History

Masonic Temple

1 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

Take a guided tour of the spectacular Masonic Temple, whose richly decorated interiors represent a variety of architectural styles and are easy to miss from the outside.

★★★★☆

City views • Relaxing •
Photography

Cira Green

30th Street & Chestnut Street area, Philadelphia, PA

A rooftop park above a parking garage offering an unusual elevated perspective over University City and the Schuylkill River. It is a fun, low-key place for a break and photos.

★★★★★

Mural Arts Philadelphia

Street art • Walking •
Neighborhoods

Various locations throughout Philadelphia

Look beyond the major attractions and explore Philadelphia's enormous collection of public murals. Guided tours and self-guided routes provide a deeper look at the city's neighborhoods and artists.

★★★★☆

History • Architecture •
2026 experiences

First Bank of the United States

116 S. 3rd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

In 2026, this historic site reopened to the public for the first time in 50 years with new exhibits, making it an especially timely stop during America's 250th-birthday year.

Entertainment & Local Flavor

Philadelphia Beyond the Museums



★★★★★

Sports • Evening
entertainment • Local
culture

Catch a Philadelphia Sports Game

Various venues throughout Philadelphia

Depending on the season, see the Phillies, Eagles, 76ers, Flyers or Union. Philadelphia's sports culture is a major part of the city's personality and a fun way to spend an evening.

★★★★☆

Walking • Views •
Outdoor sightseeing

Ride the Riverfront & See the Skyline

Penn's Landing / Delaware River waterfront

Combine the Delaware River Trail with Penn's Landing, waterfront parks and views of the Benjamin Franklin Bridge for an easygoing afternoon outside.

★★★★★

Independent exploring •
Shopping • Dining

Explore Philadelphia by Neighborhood

Various neighborhoods

Instead of moving from attraction to attraction, devote a few hours to one neighborhood—Old City, Rittenhouse, Fishtown, Northern Liberties, Queen Village or University City—and explore its cafés, shops, architecture and street life.

A Few Easy Ways to Build Your Day

Classic Center City Day

Start at Reading Terminal Market → walk through City Hall and Dilworth Park → LOVE Park → Benjamin Franklin Parkway → finish with dinner in Rittenhouse Square.

Old City + Waterfront

Explore Elfreth's Alley → wander Old City → Franklin Square → walk toward Penn's Landing → continue along the waterfront toward Cherry Street Pier or Spruce Street Harbor Park.

Neighborhood Explorer

Choose one neighborhood—South Street/Queen Village, Fishtown/Northern Liberties, Chinatown or Rittenhouse—and spend a few hours simply walking, shopping, eating and photographing the streets.

Outdoor Escape

Walk or bike the Schuylkill River Trail → see Boathouse Row → continue into Fairmount Park, or head to Wissahickon Valley Park for a longer nature break.

Research note: This guide was developed using current Philadelphia tourism information, with particular reference to Visit Philadelphia's guides to essential experiences, hidden gems, off-the-beaten-path attractions, neighborhoods, markets and the Delaware River waterfront. Seasonal attractions and programming should be checked before visiting.