



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



Best Places to Eat in Philly

Philadelphia, 1 Day

Table of contents:

- Guide Description 2
- Itinerary Overview 3
- Daily Itineraries 4
- My List 8
- Philadelphia Snapshot 9

Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Philadelphia is known for its innovative cuisine and excellent chefs. This selection of restaurants highlights some excellent neighborhood BYOB's (Pumpkin, Mercato, and Lolita), two Stephen Starr dining experiences (Buddakan and Morimoto), the famous Reading Terminal Market, where you can find any type of food you'd like, and a Moroccan restaurant (Marrakesh) that serves an eight-course meal. Of course, no list of Philadelphia restaurants would be complete without Le Bec Fin, the famous French eatery that has led the way in fine dining since 1970. You're sure to get an excellent meal at any of these restaurants.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Philadelphia

	Morimoto Iron Chef Morimoto is cutting-edge
	Le Bec-Fin Five-star French dining
	Buddakan Pan-Asian food with an upscale bar and delicious desserts.
	Pumpkin Nouveau American cuisine
	Xochitl Upscale Mexican/Native American cuisine with a comprehensive tequila bar
	Lolita Delicious Mexican BYOB
	Marrakesh Intimate 8-course Moroccan experience
	Friday Saturday Sunday Tiny romantic restaurant
	Mercato Nouveau-Italian BYOB
	Reading Terminal Market Farmers market in Center City

Day 1 - Philadelphia

QUICK NOTE

contact:
tel: 1 215 413-9070
www.morimotorestaurant.com

location:
723 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia PA 19102

hours:
Monday – Friday: 11:30am
– 2:00pm; Dinner: Sunday –
Thursday: 5:00pm – 10:00pm,
Friday - Saturday: 5:00pm
12:00am

1 Morimoto

DESCRIPTION: Morimoto is a cutting-edge restaurant serving contemporary Japanese cuisine. Chef Masaharu Morimoto of Iron Chef fame prepares traditional dishes with a modern flair. Reservations will be accommodated at the sushi bar or a table; both options are fabulous! Special requests are encouraged but not guaranteed; please call the restaurant to discuss your special requests well before your reservation date.



Morimoto

contact:
tel: 215 567 1000
fax: 215 568 1151
http://www.lebecfin.com

location:
1523 Walnut St
Philadelphia PA 19102

hours:
Lunch: Monday - Friday:
11:30am - 2:00pm; Dinner:
Monday - Saturday: 6:00pm -
10:00pm, Sunday: CLOSED

2 Le Bec-Fin

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
The gold standard for fine dining in Philadelphia. If you can't afford a full dinner here but want to say you went there anyway, try hanging out at the downstairs bar!

DESCRIPTION: Dining experiences worthy of Louis XVI consist of six-courses, prix fixe menu with a savory stream of dishes including a triple-tiered dessert cart containing over 40 freshly made selections. Since 1970 Le Bec-Fin has been acquiring regional and national accolades for their innovative cuisine and original French cuisine. The restaurant is consistently rated of five star quality by the Zagat Survey and named "The Best French Restaurant in America" by Esquire Magazine. Chef George Perrier's specialties—such as Cailles Farcies au Foie Gras et Ris de Veau, Le Bec-Fin and Eventail d'agneau et son chutney au curry de Madras—fill the menu. © wcities.com



citysearch

contact:
tel: 1 215 574 9440
fax: 1 215 574 8994
http://www.buddakan.com/

location:
325 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia PA 19106

hours:
Lunch: Monday - Friday:
11:30am - 2:30pm; Dinner:
Monday - Thursday: 5:00pm
- 11:00pm, Friday - Saturday:

3 Buddakan

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
Buddakan offers an upscale twist on the pan-Asian cuisine. Patrons go there not just for the over-the-top decor, but also for consistently excellent food and fun drinks. If you're a chocolate-lover, be sure to get dessert here!

DESCRIPTION: This Pan-Asian nightspot centers around a 10½-foot gilded Buddha. Buddakan features glistening decor accented by wasabi-colored booths, two full bars, plenty of



citysearch

5:00pm - 12:00am, Sunday:
4:00pm - 10:00pm

sofas for lounging, along with a 20-person community table where you can share food and conversation with friends. Chef Scott Swiderski has created a whirlwind tour of the Pacific Rim in menu form, from Garlic Grilled Shrimp with Long Life Noodle to Wok Smoked Salmon to Szechuan-crust Tuna with wasabi sour cream. © wcities.com

contact:
tel: 215-545-4448
www.pumpkinphilly.com

4 Pumpkin

location:
1713 South Street
Philadelphia PA 19146

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
It can be hard to get a seat at this wonderful little BYOB, so be sure to call ahead and make a reservation.

DESCRIPTION: This BYOB serves innovative American cuisine, with an emphasis on seafood. The dishes here were so popular that the owners opened up a market for take-out, just a block east on South Street. © NileGuide



Pumpkin

contact:
tel: 215-238-7280
xochitlphilly.com

5 Xochitl

location:
408 South 2nd Street
Philadelphia PA 19147

hours:
Dinner: Monday - Thursday
5pm to 10pm, Friday &
Saturday 5pm to midnight,
and Sunday 5pm to 9pm Bar:
5pm to 2am (Happy Hour
Monday - Friday 5pm to 7pm)

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
If you're a fan of tequila, this is the place to try some. Bartenders are very knowledgeable and will offer you an experience unlike one anywhere else in the city.

DESCRIPTION: Xochitl's menu could be called upscale Mexican, but the theme of the restaurant is based on the Native American Toltecs, who, legend has it, invented the predecessor of tequila. Xochitl offers fresh dishes that will amaze you with their taste and presentation. They also offer a well stocked tequila bar, where you can taste a wide range of tequilas, from the standard bar fare to very high-end sipping tequilas.



citysearch

contact:
tel: (215) 546-7100
http://www.lolitabyob.com

6 Lolita

location:
106 South 13th Street
Philadelphia PA 19107

hours:
Sun-Tue 5pm-10pm Wed-
Thu 5pm-10:30pm Fri-Sat
5pm-11pm

DESCRIPTION: Lolita, opened by Chef Marcie Turney, actually bills itself as a BYOT -- bring your own tequila, and add as much as you want to the restaurant's delicious mixers. Lolita consistently pleases patrons with its upscale Mexican food. © NileGuide



Photo courtesy of Lolita

contact:
tel: 215-925-5929
www.marrakesheastcoast.com

location:
517 Leithgow Street
Philadelphia PA 19147

hours:
M-Sun 5-11, seatings at 6 and 9 (call to confirm)

7 Marrakesh

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Be sure to leave a couple of hours for this meal and also to wear something relatively comfortable; the cushions (seats) are low to the ground and perfect for lounging!

DESCRIPTION: Marrakesh is a cultural and culinary experience. From the moment you enter the restaurant, tucked away in a poorly lit alley with barely a sign decorating the outside, you'll feel like you've been whisked away to Morocco. Once your eyes adjust to the dim lighting, you'll see groups of people sitting on low cushions around silver platters, eating with their hands and lounging between courses. The menu is a fixed 8-course menu (with a few choices of meats) featuring Moroccan salads, lemony couscous, expertly spiced chicken or lamb, "b'stella" (a delicious spiced chicken pastry), and baklava. © NileGuide



Photo courtesy of Marrakesh

contact:
tel: 1 215 546-4232
frisatsun.com

location:
261 South 21st Street
Philadelphia PA 19103

hours:
Dinner: Monday - Saturday:
5:30pm - 10:30pm, Sunday:
5:00pm - 10:00pm

8 Friday Saturday Sunday

DESCRIPTION: "Best tiny romantic restaurant" - Philadelphia Magazine "at F.F.S. the focus is on intimate conversation & splendid food" - Philadelphia Weekly "still satisfying after all these years" - Craig Laban, Philadelphia Inquirer Wine lovers: Every bottle of wine just a notch over cost.



citysearch

contact:
tel: 215-985-BYOB
fax: 215-985-2961
www.mercatobyob.com

location:
1216 Spruce Street
Philadelphia PA 19107

hours:
M-Th: 5-10:30pm; Fri-Sat:
5-11pm; Sun: 5-10pm

9 Mercato

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Try the olive oil samples, and, if they're offering it, the special grilled artichoke -- amazing!

DESCRIPTION: Mercato made its mark immediately on the BYOB scene, quickly becoming known for its delicately and expertly prepared food. While the restaurant bills itself as Italian, it really offers traditional Italian food with a modern and wordly twist. © NileGuide



Mercato

contact:

tel: 1 215 922 2317

fax: 1 215 922 2040

<http://www.readingterminalmarket.org/>

location:

12th & Arch Sts

Philadelphia PA 19107

hours:

M-Sa 8a-6p



Reading Terminal Market

DESCRIPTION: Regarded as the best farmers' market in America (at least by Philadelphians), the Reading Terminal Market is a terrific place to sample all the culinary grandeur Philadelphia has to offer. Experience the traditional cheesesteak, a custom-made deli sandwich, or an authentic Pennsylvania Dutch hearty home cooked breakfast prepared by Amish farmers. Aside from the prepared foods, over 80 food merchants purvey fresh fish and meats as well as an assortment of exotic and local fruits and vegetables. © NileGuide



Reading Terminal Market

contact:

tel: +1 215 569 8300

fax: +1 215 564 7452

http://www.sofitel.com/sofitel/fichehotel/gb/sof/2741/fiche_hotel.shtml

location:

120 S 17th St

Philadelphia PA 19103

1 **Sofitel Philadelphia**

DESCRIPTION: The Sofitel Philadelphia hotel blends French elegance with American style - providing a refined environment for upscale business and leisure travel. Experience this sophisticated downtown Philadelphia hotel, which serves as the cornerstone of the new French Quarter, steps from Rittenhouse Square. Offering the height of contemporary comfort and convenience, this downtown Philadelphia Pennsylvania hotel provides the ideal setting, just minutes from the convention center and historical attractions. © wcities.com



Hotels.com

Philadelphia Snapshot

Local Info

One thing you will never hear about Philadelphia is that it lacks character. Philadelphia is chock full of character: you'll find it while you're walking the cobblestone and brick streets of Old City; you'll find it in the thousands of murals that decorate Philadelphia's public walls; you'll find it in the classic Philly cheesesteak you eat for lunch and the adorable BYOB restaurant you patronize for dinner. Whether you run the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art and pose for a Rocky-style photo, watch the Phillies at Citizens Bank Park and partake in the rowdy behavior that makes Philadelphia sports fans notorious, or visit historic homes in Germantown, you'll leave with a sense that Philadelphia and its inhabitants really are unique.

Philadelphia's uniqueness was partially planned: William Penn, who founded Pennsylvania, established the colony as a haven for religious minorities who were being persecuted in England. He designed Philadelphia as a simple grid with four central squares or circles (parks, really). The numbered streets run north to south; east-west streets are named after trees.

That means getting around downtown is a cinch once you figure out the system. And what makes it even better is that "Center City" is completely walkable and almost unbearably charming, with its brick rowhouses (Philadelphians' name for what other cities usually call townhouses), tiny restaurants and boutiques, and, in Society Hill, cobblestone streets. Photographers and laymen alike will agree that the sight of dappled sunlight falling on a three-hundred-year old brick home, complete with shuttered windows and a hitching post in front, is awe inspiring. Add some snow and a horse-drawn carriage, which you can hire through 76 Carriage Company, and you'll feel like you might just stumble upon Benjamin Franklin.

One of the best ways to understand what makes Philadelphia tick is to visit the many distinct neighborhoods that comprise the city. Center City offers classic culture, innovative dining, and the beauty and functionality of Rittenhouse Square (described in Jane Jacobs' *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* as the prime example of successful urban planning). South Philadelphia, made

famous by the Rocky movies, serves as an example of how different immigrant groups throughout U.S. history shaped their new communities. Germantown, once a rural getaway for colonial Philadelphia's leading families, is the home of now-historic mansions and thousands of murals. Destinations in Old City and Society Hill, including Independence National Historical Park, the Constitution Center, and Elfreth's Alley, one of the only intact colonial streets in the country, will satisfy any history buff's curiosity about colonial life. If you want to picnic amongst scenic hills, Valley Forge National Historic Park and other beautiful suburbs are an easy ride away.

Another way in which Philadelphia sets itself apart from other cities is its cuisine – and by cuisine, we're not just talking about cheesesteaks and soft pretzels. In the 1970s Philadelphians witnessed a "Restaurant Renaissance," with such highly acclaimed restaurants as Le Bec-Fin and Friday Saturday Sunday first opening their doors. In the decades since then, Philadelphia bolstered its reputation as a restaurant city. Hosts of new restaurants open every year, each offering more daring and refined cuisine than the last – and, particularly in Stephen Starr's restaurants, some awe-inspiring décor as well. BYOBs, where patrons can bring their own liquor and save on the bill, are especially popular (and especially diminutive, often occupying just the first floor of a rowhouse), since getting a liquor license in Pennsylvania is notoriously difficult. On a weekend night in the spring or summer, crowds of people will wait hours for a coveted table at the newest BYOB.

As a visitor to Philadelphia, getting around the downtown area is quite easy, since Center City only stretches about a mile from east to west, between the Schuylkill (pronounced "Skoo-kill" by locals) and Delaware Rivers. Most of the main historic and cultural destinations are within walking distance of any downtown hotel. For those who would rather ride between destinations, the Phlash bus (a bus that travels between popular tourist destinations), Septa (the local bus and subway system) and cabs are all available. Septa's regional rail lines travel to neighborhoods further away from downtown, such as Germantown and any suburbs you might want to visit. For tips on

navigating Septa, ask at your hotel or at the Visitors' Bureau.

Finally, if you want to feel like a true Philadelphian, try some of the local brews that you can find at most bars in the area. Victory, Flying Fish, Stoudt's, Yards, Philadelphia Brewing Company, and Yuengling (pronounced "Yingling") are all popular local breweries. Yuengling Lager is the standard beer that nearly all bars have on tap; if you're going to order a pint, just ask for a "Lager," and nobody will ever know you're not from Philadelphia.

© NileGuide

History

When the American colonies were founded in the 1600s, the guiding principle for the New England colonies was freedom to practice religions not popular in England; for the southern colonies the aim was agricultural development extending the holdings of British landowners. There were two exceptions. New York, established by Dutch companies, has always been a place for trade. The other exception was Pennsylvania, and the town of Philadelphia.

William Penn (1644-1718) arrived in 1681 from a London that had recently burned and was just discovering sanitary plumbing. He wanted Philadelphia to be "a greene Country Towne, which will never be burnt, and allways be wholesome." Founded on Quaker principles of tolerance and harmonious living, Philadelphia had a religious foundation like its New England neighbors, but welcomed other beliefs and races. Like its southern neighbors, it started with an agricultural economy, but slave auctions were banned early. A community of ex-slaves grew, centered around the Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, the cornerstone of the A.M.E. movement. By 1790, there were 300 slaves in Pennsylvania and 7,579 free blacks. By 1860, there were 22,185 free blacks and Philadelphia was an important stop on the Underground Railroad, the secret network that helped slaves escape from southern slave states.

Instead of sprawling mindlessly, streets were laid out on a grid system with five public squares (the present day Washington, Rittenhouse and Franklin Squares, Logan Circle and City Hall). The town was built

Philadelphia Snapshot continued

with no fortifications. Native Americans were welcome. Even the name of the town demonstrated peace; while most other colonial towns were named for founders or expedition sponsors, Philadelphia is Latin for "City of Brotherly Love."

Of course, when you invite everyone in, there's the likelihood of disagreement. By 1690, scarcely nine years after the first Quaker Meeting House went up, arguments over the direction of the city had turned into formal ideologies. Philadelphians have been arguing ever since.

Penn had originally envisioned his colony as a "wholesome" farming community, but the port quickly became one of the most important trading spots in America, rivaled only by New York. The rising merchant class wasn't terribly interested in the simple Quaker lifestyle. Pubs, theaters, circuses, dances and races soon entered the scene. The tolerant attitude attracted many immigrants. British Quakers were followed by German immigrants as early as the 1690s.

In 1723, Benjamin Franklin arrived from Boston. He eventually started his own publishing house, producing several newspapers and an annual farm guide, Poor Richard's Almanac. In his spare time, he invented the Franklin stove, the glass harmonium and bifocals. He helped write the Declaration of Independence. He was a founding member of the University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Hospital, the first public library, a fire insurance company, the Post Office and the Constitutional Congress. His 1751 book, Experiments and Observations in Electricity, was considered the most important scientific work in the world in its time. His name is on everything here.

This is where the Congress met and founded the nation on July 4th, 1776.

The city is filled with reminders of the colonial period. Fairmount Park is dotted with colonial homes that were moved there as museums. Elfreth's Alley is the oldest continually occupied neighborhood in the country. Old Swede's Church offers a perfect example of the "public" architecture typical at the country's founding. Delegates to Congress were astounded at the wealth and beauty they saw here. Because of the active seaport, food and fabrics from the Indies and China were readily available, even with the difficulty of getting past British

warships. There were some of the finest examples of colonial silversmith, textile work and furniture in the homes.

In 1800, the nation's capital moved to Washington, DC. New York began to overshadow Philadelphia as a financial and cultural center. Also in the 1800s, Irish, Polish and Italian immigrants came in waves, drawn by employment on massive projects like the new turnpike system, the canals and the railroad. Coal mining upstate created more jobs and the coal provided steam power for the factories of the Industrial Revolution that made Philadelphia a major manufacturing center. The Centennial Exhibition of 1876 brought 100,000 people to Fairmount Park to see the wonders of industrialism.

By the end of World War II, things were looking up again. While heavy industries moved out, the economy stayed robust. Always known for its hospitals, medical schools and research facilities, Philadelphia is now leading bioengineering research and development, and the city has become a popular film location thanks to innovators like M. Night Shyamalan.

The Philadelphia of the present has achieved what previous generations had thought impossible: New Yorkers come for a quick visit, fall in love, and decide to look for a house, hearkening back to the year 1776, when Congressional delegates were bowled over by the quality and comfort of this city.

©

Hotel Insights

Normal.dotm 0 0 1 140 803 The Philadelphia School 6 1 986 12.0 0 false 18 pt 18 pt 0 0 false false false/* Style Definitions*/ table.MsoNormalTable{mso-style-name:"Table Normal"; mso-tstyle-rowband-size:0; mso-tstyle-colband-size:0; mso-style-noshow:yes; mso-style-parent:""; mso-padding-alt:0in 5.4pt 0in 5.4pt; mso-para-margin:0in; mso-para-margin-bottom:.0001pt; mso-pagination:widow-orphan; font-size:12.0pt; font-family:"Times New Roman"; mso-ascii-font-family:Cambria; mso-ascii-theme-font:minor-latin; mso-fareast-font-family:"Times New Roman"; mso-fareast-theme-font:minor-fareast; mso-hansi-font-family:Cambria; mso-hansi-theme-font:minor-latin; mso-bidi-font-family:"Times

New Roman"; mso-bidi-theme-font:minor-bidi;}</p></div>
<div data-bbox="650 108 945 470" data-label="Text">
<p>Philadelphia has a range of hotels to suit all kinds of travelers. Look east of Broad (especially in Midtown Village or Society Hill) for more romantic boutique hotels and bed and breakfasts. These hotels will put you right in the middle of the action, close to historic sites and a wealth of restaurants and bars. West of Broad Street, in the Rittenhouse Square area, you'll find swankier hotels, some of which cater to the stars when they're shooting in Philadelphia. University City, while it usually caters to students and families of students, also offers some charming bed and breakfasts, as well as a unique culture that makes its residents proud to live west of the Schuylkill. If you want a quiet escape away from the action, look for a room in historic Germantown or Chestnut Hill, perhaps at the Chestnut Hill Hotel or the Ancestry Inn. Both of these neighborhoods have shopping areas and restaurants that make them feel like small cities unto themselves.</p>
<p>© NileGuide</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox="650 507 853 525" data-label="Section-Header">
<h3>Restaurants Insights</h3>
</div>
<div data-bbox="650 528 952 883" data-label="Text">
<p>Normal.dotm 0 0 1 197 1128 The Philadelphia School 9 2 1385 12.0 0 false 18 pt 18 pt 0 0 false false false/* Style Definitions*/ table.MsoNormalTable{mso-style-name:"Table Normal"; mso-tstyle-rowband-size:0; mso-tstyle-colband-size:0; mso-style-noshow:yes; mso-style-parent:""; mso-padding-alt:0in 5.4pt 0in 5.4pt; mso-para-margin:0in; mso-para-margin-bottom:.0001pt; mso-pagination:widow-orphan; font-size:12.0pt; font-family:"Times New Roman"; mso-ascii-font-family:Cambria; mso-ascii-theme-font:minor-latin; mso-fareast-font-family:"Times New Roman"; mso-fareast-theme-font:minor-fareast; mso-hansi-font-family:Cambria; mso-hansi-theme-font:minor-latin; mso-bidi-font-family:"Times New Roman"; mso-bidi-theme-font:minor-bidi;}While Philadelphia is most famous for food that helps you pack on pounds, since the 1970's it has worked hard to distinguish itself as a city of fine and innovative cuisine as well. Stephen Starr is probably the city's best-known restaurateur, with popular fine-dining theme</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox="53 916 234 954" data-label="Page-Footer">
<p>n NileGUIDE</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox="247 923 351 937" data-label="Page-Footer">
<p>www.nileguide.com</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox="657 938 952 952" data-label="Page-Footer">
<p>Copyright ©2000-2010 Nile Project. All rights reserved.</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox="918 895 952 914" data-label="Page-Footer">
<p>10</p>
</div>

Philadelphia Snapshot continued

restaurants like Buddakan, Barclay Prime, and Continental. Iron Chef Jose Garces has recently given Stephen Starr a run for his money, opening up popular places like Amada, Village Whiskey, and Garces Trading Company (the only restaurant in Philadelphia that managed to get a license to have its very own liquor store inside the restaurant). There is no shortage of excellent restaurants with creative dishes and colorful drinks in the downtown area.

Because of Pennsylvania's liquor laws, however, a unique breed of restaurant has remade the downtown Philadelphia dining scene, particularly in Midtown Village and Old City: the BYOB (or BYOT – Bring Your Own Tequila – at certain Mexican restaurants!). These restaurants are often smaller, occupying an old store front (like Mercato, in Midtown Village) or part of a Victorian home (like Marigold Kitchen in West Philly), and hungry would-be patrons sometimes willingly wait over an hour for a table. If you plan on trying a BYOB, remember to get to a Wine and Spirits store before 7pm and pick out a bottle of wine to complement your meal.
© NileGuide

Nightlife Insights

```
Normal.dotm 0 0 1 213 1217 The Philadelphia School 10 2 1494 12.0 0 false 18 pt 18 pt 0 0 false false false/* Style Definitions*/ table.MsoNormalTable{mso-style-name:"Table Normal"; mso-tstyle-rowband-size:0; mso-tstyle-colband-size:0; mso-style-noshow:yes; mso-style-parent:""; mso-padding-alt:0in 5.4pt 0in 5.4pt; mso-para-margin:0in; mso-para-margin-bottom:.0001pt; mso-pagination:widow-orphan; font-size:12.0pt; font-family:"Times New Roman"; mso-ascii-font-family:Cambria; mso-ascii-theme-font:minor-latin; mso-fareast-font-family:"Times New Roman"; mso-fareast-theme-font:minor-fareast; mso-hansi-font-family:Cambria; mso-hansi-theme-font:minor-latin; mso-bidi-font-family:"Times New Roman"; mso-bidi-theme-font:minor-bidi;}
```

Philadelphia has nightlife to satisfy anyone, from the person who wants to see an opera to the person who wants to hang out all night at a dive bar. If you're interested in the opera, the ballet, the orchestra, or a play or musical, check the local newspapers for times and shows. If you're looking for

a family activity, try Philadelphia Ghost Tours, Lights of Liberty (a walking tour of Revolutionary-War-era Philadelphia), or Dave and Busters, an enormous indoor arcade and club for children and adults, at Penn's Landing. For those who want to check out the bar scene, Philadelphia offers a wide range of options. If you're looking for a swanky place with a dress code and creative drinks, try somewhere on or near Rittenhouse Square or in Old City. Anywhere in-between, you'll find hundreds of bars, ranging from the upscale Union Trust (situated in a beautiful old bank building on Chestnut Street) to the ultra-divey Oscar's Tavern on Sansom Street. Midtown Village (known locally as "the gayborhood") offers a concentration of great bars and restaurants, including several predominantly gay bars. Philadelphia also has many well-known music venues, including the Trocadero on Arch Street, the TLA on South Street, the Tower Theater in Upper Darby (a subway away from Center City), and hosts of other smaller venues. For dancing, Silk City and Fluid never fail to satisfy; local newspapers will point you to specific DJ's and genres on different nights of the week.
© NileGuide

Things to Do Insights

Like most cities, Philadelphia has invisible layers of history running through the streets. Decide what you're looking for on a particular day and then everywhere you look it will seem there are examples of it to see.

Independence Hall

Tour Independence Hall, the place where the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights were signed. You'll find the Liberty Bell just steps away. Dine at Brasil's. Nearby are the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and Old City Hall are also in this area.

Liberty Museum

The National Museum of American Jewish History is located on Society Hill, close to the Franklin Court, which chronicles Ben Franklin's achievements. Indulge in authentic Italian at Sfizzio. The Liberty Museum focuses on exploring America's

beginnings, while the Graff House preserves the room in which Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence.

Chinatown

The historic George W. South Memorial Church of the Advocate and the Shoe Museum can both be found in Chinatown, but the real draw to this district is the dining. Get tasty dim sum at the nearby Joy Tsin Lau or try the Vietnam Palace, which is just steps from the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

Philadelphia Museum of Art

The Philadelphia Museum of Art has a collection of 19th and 20th-century masterpieces by Renoir, Picasso and more. The Rodin Museum down the road has more of the same. Grab a bite at the nearby London Grill, then stroll along Kelly Drive and admire the ships on Boathouse Row.

Fairmount Park

The nearly 9,000-acre Fairmount Park is also close to the Philadelphia Zoo. Dine at the Adobe Cafe, then stop into the nearby Please Touch Museum and the Academy of Natural Sciences, where interaction with the displays is encouraged.

Walking Tours

Poor Richard's Walking Tours (+1 215 206 1682/<http://www.phillywalks.com>)

Constitutional Walking Tour of Philadelphia (+1 215 525 1776/<http://www.theconstitutional.com/>)

Philadelphia Tours (+1 888 478 1479/<http://www.phillytours.us/>)

Bus Tours

Connective Tours (+1 215 925 8687/<http://www.phillytour.com/service.asp?ID=27>)

Philadelphia Tours (+1 888 478 1479/<http://www.phillytours.us/>)

Helicopter Tours

Sterling Helicopter (+1 866 783 7435/<http://www.sterlinghelicopter.com/>)

Boat Tours

Spirit of Philadelphia (+1 866 455 3866/<http://www.spiritcruises.com/>)

Liberty Belle Cruises (+1 215 757 0800/<http://www.libertybelle.com/>)

Culinary Tours

Chef's Tour of the Italian Market (+1 215 772 0739)

Philadelphia Snapshot continued

Wok and Walk Tour(+1 215 500 9774/http://www.josephpoon.com/toursWokWalk.htm)

Carriage Tours

76 Carriage Company(+1 215 923 8516/http://www.phillytour.com)

Trolley Tours

Philadelphia Trolley Works(+1 215 389 8687/http://www.phillytour.com/)

Sports Tours

Big League Tours(+1 866 619 1748/http://www.bigleaguestours.com)

Ghost Tours

Ghost Tour of Philadelphia(+1 215 413 1997/http://www.ghosttour.com/)

©

Travel Tips

Getting There

Air

Philadelphia International Airport(PHL)
http://www.phl.org/

PHL is seven miles from downtown Philadelphia.

Air Jamaica(+1 800 523 5585/http://www.airjamaica.com)

Air Canada(+1 800 776 3000/http://www.aircanada.ca)

Air France(+1 800 871 1366/http://www.airfrance.com)

America West(+1 800 235 9292/http://www.americawest.com)

British Airways(+1 800 247 9297/http://www.british-airways.com)

Continental(+1 800 525 0280/http://www.continental.com)

Delta(+1 800 221 1212/http://www.delta.com)

Lufthansa(+1 800 645 3880/http://www.lufthansa.com)

Southwest(+1 800 435 9792/http://www.southwest.com)

United(+1 800 241 6522/http://www.ual.com)

US Airways(+1 800 428 4322/http://www.usairways.com)

From the Airport

Car Rental: Alamo(+1 800 327 9633/http://www.alamo.com)

Avis(+1 800 831 2847/http://www.avis.com)

Budget(+1 800 527 0700/http://www.budget.com)

Dollar(+1 800 4000/http://www.dollar.com)

Hertz(+1 800 654 3131/http://www.hertz.com)

National(+1 800227 7368/http://www.nationalcar.com)

Payless(+1 800 729 5377/http://www.paylesscarrental.com)

Another attractive ground transportation option is Zipcar, which operates in certain U.S. cities. This new breed of rental car allows you to rent on an hourly basis rather than a daily basis. Be sure to register online before your trip. Zipcar(+1 866 494 7227/http://www.zipcar.com)

For reliable car hire service in and around the city, contact A&C Transport Car service.(+1 609 573 5163/http://www.actransportonline.com)

Train

Amtrak services Philadelphia daily(+1 800 872 7245; in PA+1 800 562 6960/http://www.amtrak.com) and is located on 30th Street.

Bus

Greyhound(+1 800 231 2222/http://www.greyhound.com) accesses Philadelphia daily.

Highway

Philadelphia can be reached from any direction on I-95 and I-76.

Getting Around

This was the first major city to be designed on a grid system, which means that directions make sense: You can walk from the east end of Market Street to the west end in a straight line. The streets running north to south are numbered from two to 69. On-street parking is generally limited to two hours and some streets have their own peculiar restrictions, so read the signs carefully. There is a lot of construction and street repair going on, but generally these are small projects that only disrupt the traffic flow for a few days at a time in any one spot. There are ample parking garages with rates lower than New York and discounts for all-day parking. The local public transportation, SEPTA, has routes that cover the whole region, including a

light rail from the airport. SEPTA passes are available at day, weekly or monthly rates. Cab drivers here are as peculiar as they are anywhere, but they are all licensed and generally very reliable. In Center City, the wait for a cab should be no more than five minutes.

Public Transit

SEPTA- Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority is in charge of the metro area. The High Speed Rail Line costs \$5.50 one way and serves five downtown locations. It also runs to the Amtrak station and Greyhound bus terminal(+1 215 580 7800/http://www.septa.org/). SEPTA also operates a local bus and subway system and both the Owl bus and subway run 24 hours a day.

Taxi

There is a \$20 flat rate on cabs to Center City Philadelphia. A few of the cab companies include:

Academy(+1 215 333 1111)

Airport Express(+1 215 651 7757/http://www.magicyellow.com/)

Avistar Avistar(+1 800 763 6845/http://www.pnfnetwork.com/)

PHL Taxi(+1 800 936 5111)

City Cab Co.(+1 215 492 6500)

Liberty Cab Co.(+1 215 389 8000)

Victory Radio Dispatch Association(+1 215 225 5000/http://www.victorycabco.com/)

A.C. Taxi and Blue Car Service(+1 609 645 2583/http://www.acblue.com/) offers a variety of transportation needs with a fleet of taxis, minivans and stretch limos. Service is offered to Atlantic City(one hour) and New York(two hours). One day prearranged reservation via phone or email for pickup in Philadelphia or New York City.

Atlantic City Airport Taxi& Lou's Luxury Car Service(+1 609 383 1457/http://www.limolou.com/) serves riders to and from Atlantic City to the region's major airports, Philadelphia, New Jersey and southern New York.

Traffic Information

For up-to-date traffic information, go to:http://www.traffic.com/Philadelphia-Traffic/Philadelphia-Traffic-Reports.html

If traveling overseas, take the safety precaution of registering your trip athttps://

Philadelphia Snapshot continued

travelregistration.state.gov and for helpful, practical advice about traveling technicalities and safety standards check out <http://travel.state.gov/>.
©

Fun Facts

Philadelphia

State: Pennsylvania

Country: United States

Philadelphia By The Numbers:

Population: 5,398,000

Elevation: 10 feet/ 3 meters

Average Annual Rainfall: 41 inches/ 104 centimeters

Average Annual Snowfall: 20.8 inches/ 53 centimeters

Average January Temperature: 32 degrees F/ 0 degree C

Average July Temperature: 77 degrees F/ 25 degrees C

Quick Facts:

Major Industries: Oil, Electronics, Computers, Automobile Manufacturing, Telecommunications, Chemicals, Higher Education, Shipping

Electricity: 110 volts, 50Hz, standard two pin plugs

Time Zone: GMT- 5(GMT- 4 from last Sunday in March to Saturday before last Sunday in October)

Country Dialing Code: 1

Area Code: 215, 267, 445

Did You Know?

Philadelphia has an international reputation for its Rowing competitions such as Head of the Schuylkill. Inter-collegiate and professional rowing teams are a popular sight up and down the Schuylkill River that runs through Philly.

The City of Brotherly Love is also home to the Liberty Bell and the place where the Continental Congress met in 1776 to sign the Declaration of Independence.

©