nileGUIDE
ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP

Favorite Kid-Friendly Activities in Philadelphia

Philadelphia, 3 Days

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Guide Description

AUTHOR NOTE: Guide written by Dana Rebmann for Ciao Bambino.

I was born and raised less than half an hour outside of Philadelphia. I grew up going to Phillies games, watching “Rocky” movies and eating cheese steaks and soft pretzels. It’s easy to see why I loved Philly as a kid. Now, as an adult, I love taking my kids.

As a parent, if you want to take your kids on a city vacation, it’s easy to forget about Philadelphia. Think about the competition. There’s New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco, just to name a few. Philadelphia is the 5th largest city in the country. And there’s a lot more to it than just historical landmarks. Plan it right and your family can get a vacation and history class all rolled into one.

Note: Be sure to read the Day Notes for the kid-friendly details on recommended attractions.

Ciao Bambino provides tips and advice around all things related to traveling with kids and is a guide to the best kid friendly hotels.

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Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Philadelphia

DAY NOTE: Independence Hall

Once you figure out when you're going to Philadelphia, buy your tickets for Independence Hall. You need a timed and dated ticket to take the tour. It costs $1.50 per ticket to reserve them online, but once you pay, you're guaranteed a spot. You can grab same-day tickets for free at the Independence Visitor Center, but they go fast.

Whether you make a reservation, or take the risk, you'll have to pick up your tickets at the Visitor Center. It's the perfect place to start your day. There are plenty of folks from the National Park Service on duty to answer questions, help you book tours or even find a great cheese steak for lunch. Take advantage of the free wi-fi, grab a map, get a list of special events, meet Ben Franklin. Okay, not the original, but while you're checking out the center's various exhibits, don't be surprised if you bump into Ben, Betsy or George. The cast of characters definitely gets around.

It's not far, but give yourself plenty of time to walk to Independence Hall. Even though you've got your tickets, there's still a line or two in your future. In order to get to the start of the tour, you'll have to go through security. Once the tour begins, your work is done, just listen and enjoy.

Liberty Bell

Philadelphia's best known landmark is probably the Liberty Bell. It's also one of the easiest to visit. No tickets needed. You'll need to stand in line to go through security, but the line moves pretty fast.Once inside the glass pavilion there's a video and numerous exhibits – more than the kids will want to stand and read – so pick and choose as you go. The bell will be the last stop before you leave the building. There's a good chance someone from the Park Service will be on duty, talking about the bell and its history. Hang around and listen. Some of the spiels can be entertaining and educational.

Independence Hall
Tour this historic building where the Constitution was drafted.

Liberty Bell
Renowned American icon

Day 2 - Philadelphia

DAY NOTE: Betsy Ross House

Grab a soft pretzel to munch on while you make your way a few blocks to the Betsy Ross House. Though often referred to as a seamstress, Betsy Ross was actually a trained upholsterer. The house is believed to be the place where she made the first American flag. It's staged with antiques and some objects that actually belonged to Betsy Ross. Have your kids help you hunt for things like her glasses, her quilted petticoat and bible. Ross is buried in the courtyard garden. On a sunny day, it's a inviting place to take a break.

Ben Franklin's Memorial

If the legs in your family are still going strong, take a couple minutes to walk by Benjamin Franklin's grave. Franklin and 4 other signers of the Declaration of Independence are buried at Christ Church in Philadelphia. You don't have to go into the cemetery. Franklin's grave can be seen through the iron gate at the corner of 5th and Arch Streets. Bring some pennies for the kids to throw. Locals say tossing a penny on his tombstone brings good luck.

Cheese steaks and Tastykakes

To get a true taste of Philadelphia you have to eat! With all the walking you've done, you should have worked up an appetite for the city's most famous food, cheese steaks. Paper thin beef grilled with cheese in a fresh, soft roll. They're made at just about every corner restaurant. If the place is crowded, take that as a good sign and go for it.

So you're prepared, you should know you'll have a couple choices to make. Popular additions to the Philly delicacy include grilled onions, mushrooms, peppers, lettuce and tomatoes. You can also pick the type of cheese. Typical choices include american, provolone, mozzarella or what's called "whiz." What's "whiz?" Think highly processed cheese in liquid form. It's not my favorite, but I have friends who swear by the stuff.

Skip the french fries so you have room for dessert. Chocolate, peanut butter, butterscotch, there's a Tastykake for every sweet tooth. Since 1914 the Philadelphia based baking company has been making tasty goodies. It's like a twinkie, but it's fresh and really good.

If you've got an extra time in the itinerary, leave the city and head toward the water. One of the best things about Philadelphia is that it's close to the Jersey Shore. The beaches. The boardwalks. In the summer they can't be beat for a great family getaway. But that's another post. Stay tuned.

Christ Church Burial Ground
See the resting place of Benjamin Franklin and other famous Philadelphians.

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Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
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Betsy Ross House
Home of the first Old Glory

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Day 1 - Philadelphia

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contact:
tel: 215 965 7676 / 800 537 7676
http://www.nps.gov/inde/

location:
500 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia PA 19106

hours:
Daily 9am-5pm, later in summer. You must take a tour in order to see the interior of the building. Free tours by park rangers every 15 min. 9am-4:45pm.

1 Independence Hall

DESCRIPTION: Independence Hall, completed in 1753, is known to many as the birthplace of America. This building is where the nation's founders issued the Declaration of Independence; where they drafted and signed the Constitution; and where, oddly enough, the new city's stray dogs were kept (in the basement). Independence Hall is located in the heart of the city's historic district and is an essential stop for anyone visiting the city's historic sites or hoping to learn about the founding of the United States. © NileGuide

wcities

contact:
tel: 215/965-2305
http://www.nps.gov/inde/liberty-bell.html

location:
500 Market Street
Philadelphia PA 19106

hours:
Tu-Su 9a-5p; M closed

2 Liberty Bell

DESCRIPTION: The Liberty Bell, located in Independence National Historical Park, rang in 1776 as a summons to Independence Hall, where the Declaration of Independence was to be read publicly. What started as a small crack became an irreparable chasm, and the Liberty Bell never rang out again. While the Bell initially symbolized America's independence from Britain, abolitionists adopted it in the mid-19th century as a symbol of freedom for all Americans, no matter their race. Today, it represents different things to different people, but it is inarguably one of the most important symbols of our nation, and well worth a visit. © NileGuide

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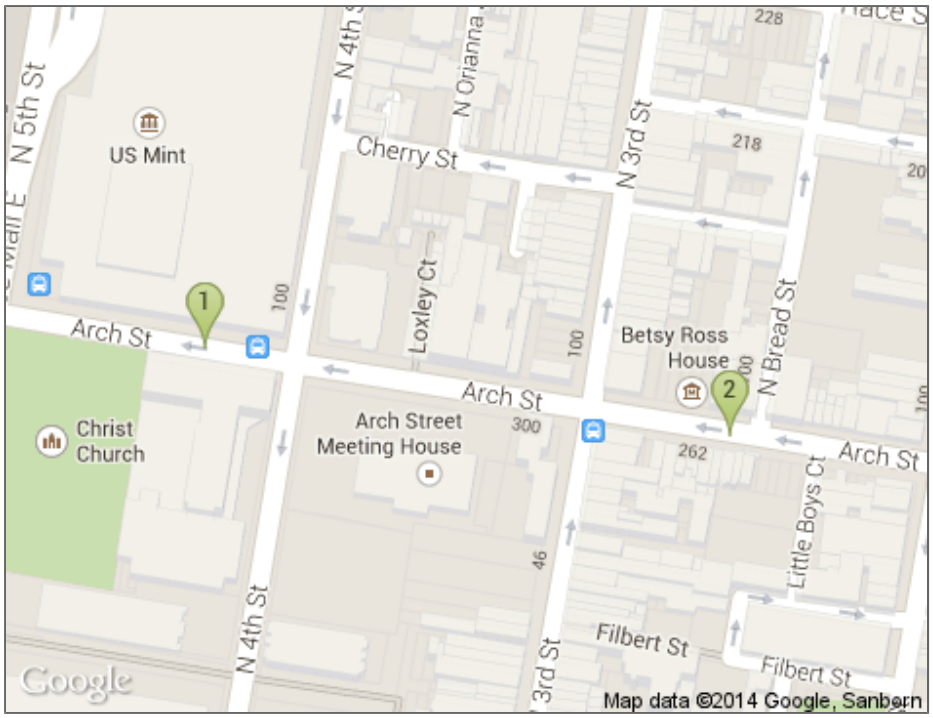
Day 2 - Philadelphia



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contact:
tel: +1 215 922 1695
http://www.christchurchphila.org/Historic_Christ_Church/Burial_Ground/59/

location:
430 Arch Street
Philadelphia PA 19103

1 Christ Church Burial Ground

DESCRIPTION: This 1719 expansion of the original graveyard of Christ Church contains the graves of Benjamin Franklin and his wife, Deborah, along with those of four other signers of the Declaration of Independence and many Revolutionary War heroes. There are always pennies on Ben's grave; tossing them there (through an opening in the enclosing wall) is a local tradition that is supposed to bring good luck. © Frommer's

Photo courtesy of Christ Church Philadelphia.

contact:
tel: 215 686 1252
fax: +1 215 686 1256
http://www.betsyrosshouse.org/

location:
239 Arch St
Philadelphia PA 19106

hours:
Daily: 10a-5p

2 Betsy Ross House

DESCRIPTION: The Betsy Ross House in Old City is where Betsy supposedly sewed the flag that became the official flag of the United States. The building at the time housed several small businesses, and Betsy's descendants claimed that she (and perhaps others) also lived there. The building might have been torn down in the late nineteenth century, as most others on the block were, had it not been for the efforts of concerned citizens hoping to preserve some of America's history. Today, the small colonial house is an anomaly in a neighborhood of large factory and warehouse buildings, just a few blocks away from Independence National Historical Park. © NileGuide

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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 thePhiladelphia Museum of Art and pose for a Rocky-style photo, watch the Phillies atCitizens Bank Park and partake in the rowdy behavior that makes Philadelphia sports fans notorious, or visit historic homes inGermantown, 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 through76 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 ofRittenhouse 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 theRocky 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 inOld City and Society Hill, includingIndependence National Historical Park, theConstitution Center, andElfreth'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 asLe Bec-Fin andFriday 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, thePhlash 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 theVisitors' 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.
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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 wholsome." 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

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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.
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Hotel Insights

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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 theChestnut Hill Hotel or theAncestry Inn. Both of these neighborhoods have shopping areas and restaurants that make them feel like small cities unto themselves.
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Restaurants Insights

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restaurants likeBuddakan,Barclay Prime, andContinental. Iron Chef Jose Garces has recently given Stephen Starr a run for his money, opening up popular places likeAmada,Village Whiskey, andGarces 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(likeMercato, in Midtown Village) or part of a Victorian home(likeMarigold 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.
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Nightlife Insights

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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, tryPhiladelphia 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, atPenn'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 upscaleUnion 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 theTrocadero on Arch Street, theTLA on South Street, theTower Theater in Upper Darby(a subway away from Center City), and hosts of other smaller venues. For dancing,Silk City andFluid never fail to satisfy; local newspapers will point you to specific DJ's and genres on different nights of the week.
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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)

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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.bigleaguetours.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://

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travelregistration.state.gov and for helpful, practical advice about traveling technicalities and safety standards check outhttp://travel.state.gov/.
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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.
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