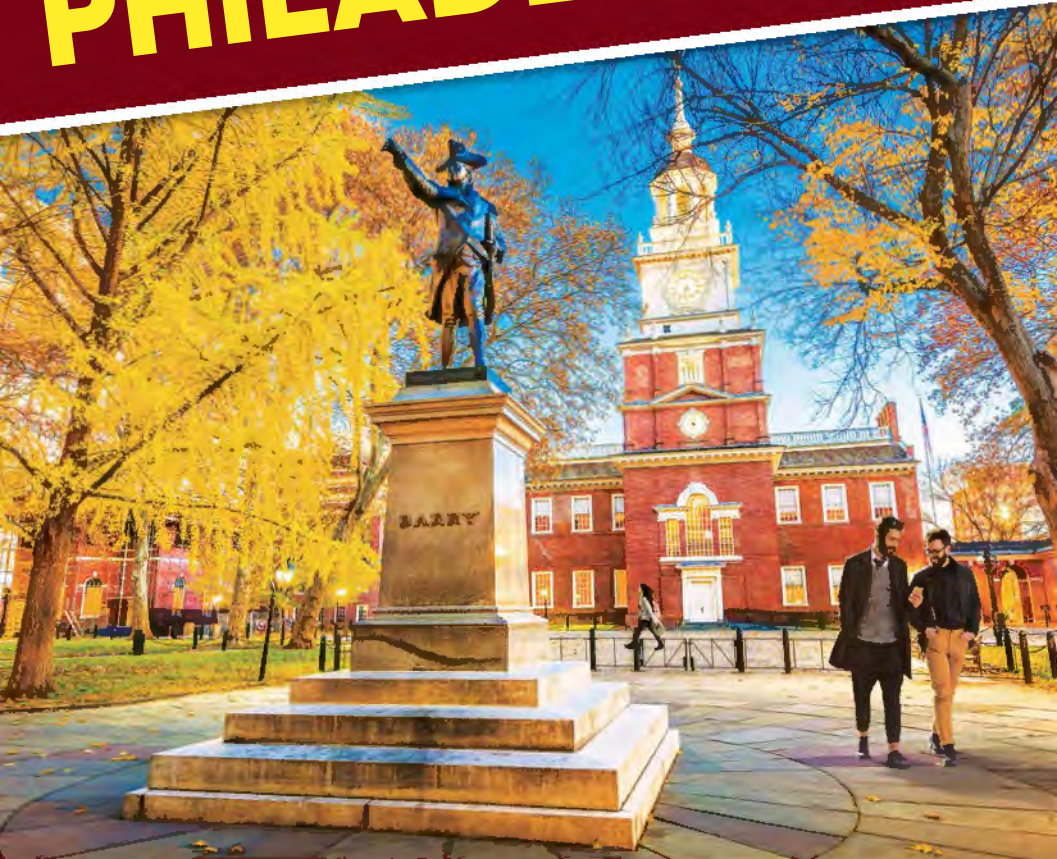


WALKING PHILADELPHIA



30 Walking Tours Exploring Art, Architecture, History, and Little-Known Gems

Natalie Pompilio and Tricia Pompilio

WILDERNESS PRESS





WALKING PHILADELPHIA

30 Tours of Art, Architecture, History,
and Little-Known Gems

Second Edition

Natalie Pompilio and Tricia Pompilio



WILDERNESS PRESS . . . *on the trail since 1967*

Walking Philadelphia: 30 Tours of Art, Architecture, History, and Little-Known Gems

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Dedication

For Mom, Patricia Pompilio, January 24, 1944–July 18, 2014

When next we meet, we'll walk together.

Acknowledgments

From Natalie: One advantage of writing about Philadelphia is the wealth of information easily found online and in the library. Writing this guide would have been much less enjoyable if I hadn't had Hidden City Philadelphia, Naked Philly, and the Association of Public Art. *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and *The Philadelphia Daily News*, both found at inquirer.com, were also essential. I found some lovely snark published in *Philadelphia* magazine. The Free Library of Philadelphia was a great resource/makeshift office. Please see the bibliography at the end for further reading. I apologize if I forgot anyone.

Thanks to everyone at AdventureKEEN—Holly Cross, Steve Jones, Annie Long, and Emily Beaumont—for editorial, production, and marketing.

Thanks to Dante Zappala, Christy Speer LeJeune, and Fon Wang for sharing their local expertise. Ellen McCusker, you're the proofreader and friend I've always dreamed of. Cara Schneider Bongiorno, let's have another nerdy history lunch soon.

My father, Lou Pompilio, promised to buy multiple copies of the book, but he did so when he thought photos of him were included. Look, Dad! I got your name in! I'm thrilled that my sister, Tricia Pompilio, could use this outlet for her fabulous photos. I hope this leads to endless opportunities. I had the support of Team Barnett/Fletcher, Katie's kettlebell class, and too many others to list. Rocky and Spike, you were faithful companions/obstructions throughout the writing process. Lisa Wathen read the finished tours and called them brilliant when they weren't.

A big shout-out to my faves: Fiona, Luna, and Poppy Savarese and Will, Maddie, and Nora Paxson. It's hard to be stressed when talking about Noisette and the No Nut Shop, playing Mr. Bowl, or making up another story about the Chewys. What would life be without Popco, Ratface's diary, and "Well, that didn't go as planned?"

Finally, I want to thank my husband, Jordan Barnett. During the mad push to finish, he made maps, made dinner, and made me laugh. Jordo, our relationship's truly special.

From Tricia: First, thank you to my talented older sister, Natalie, for making this happen. Although you were less than thrilled at my arrival 40+ years ago, you have never wavered in your support. Thank you to Rochelle Litman, my friend and neighbor. You listened patiently when I was overwhelmed, drove me around the city for hours, and acted as a constant cheerleader as I began my new career.

My kids: Fi, Lu, and Poppy. You inspire me every day. I love you more than all the stars in the sky. And thank you to my husband, Vince. Your unwavering support, love, and patience are astounding. You never complain when I disappear into my office for hours, run off on weekends for sessions, or throw my heavy camera bag on your back. I'll back you up always.



Author's Note

There are a lot of great things about living in Philadelphia. Being able to walk almost everywhere I need to go is one of them. The gym, the post office, the doctor and dentist, the grocery store, the open-air market, the pharmacy, my sister's house, my nieces' school, and more restaurants and bars than I can quickly count—none of those places is more than 1 mile from my home.

This city has hosted some of my life's biggest milestones. I thought I knew a lot about it, too, having worked here as a professional journalist and lived here as a non-professional nosy person since November 2002. I was so wrong.

Researching different neighborhoods and buildings, and the people behind them, I often found myself falling down the rabbit hole, digging deeper and deeper because it was all so interesting and new. More than once, I'd emerge from reading an original historic-designation nomination form or news clipping from the 1920s to find I'd spent more than an hour on a single stop on a single tour. I couldn't stop myself: I love tidbits and odd facts, and I'd get so excited by each one.

I was also constantly distracted because I kept thinking how tour 31—"Natalie Pompilio"—might read. One of the tours will take you within a block of my home. Another passes the hotel where my husband and I married. A third brings you to my nieces' school, and a fourth passes in front of my sister's house. I should probably include her address in case you need a bathroom.

I tried to write a walking guide that I would like to read, one that's not only fun and funny but also educational with a lot of "Wow, I didn't know that" moments. I like to imagine readers stopping in their tracks, in the middle of Rittenhouse Square or in Fishtown, and calling a friend to say, "I have to tell you about the cool thing I just read."

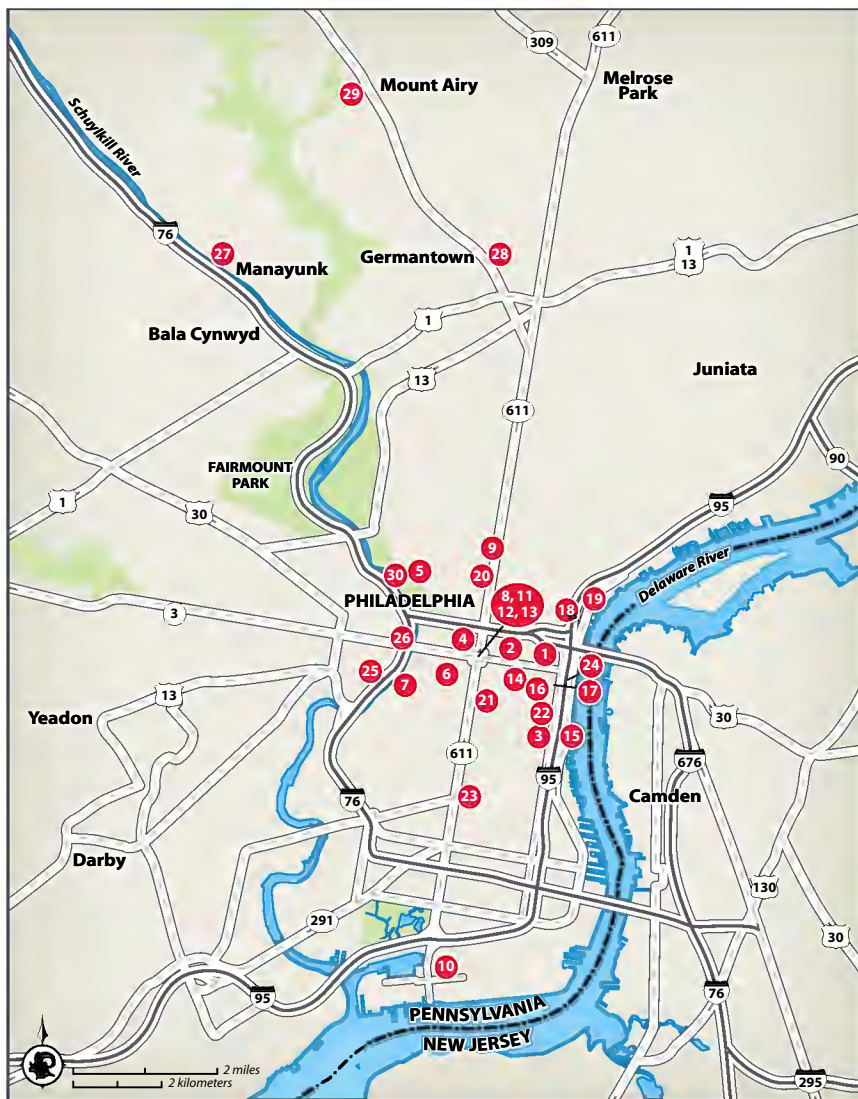
This book is not the definitive Philadelphia walking guide. It's a good one, yes, and a great introduction to the city. But to be definitive, it would need to include more of the city's famed neighborhoods. I started plotting my tours at the city's center and never reached the edges. Perhaps in a third edition? Until then, enjoy.

—Natalie

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Introduction

A lot has changed in the five years since *Walking Philadelphia: 30 Walking Tours Exploring Art, Architecture, History, and Little-Known Gems* was published. That's the thing about dynamic cities like Philadelphia: Change is constant.

The global pandemic, a presidential election, and a growing social justice movement have also altered the city and its institutions. Christ Church can no longer say it has hosted an on-site Sunday service every weekend for more than 300 years. Thousands of people received COVID-19 vaccinations at the Theatre of the Living Arts and the Pennsylvania Convention Center. A statue and a mural of a controversial mayor are no longer on public display.

To update this guide, I rewalked each tour, removing places that no longer existed and changing routes to give walkers more sites to see. In the first edition, I highlighted stores and restaurants. This revised version removes most of these, giving me more room to tell stories.

In this updated version, you'll learn about a bronze bust of Benjamin Franklin made from 1,000 keys and 1.8 million pennies; America's first ransom note; and the *meschianza*, the over-the-top party that may have helped Washington's Army win the Revolutionary War. You'll explore the city's new Fashion District, stroll America's oldest residential street, and take an extended look at Girard College.

For years, many have viewed Philadelphia as New York's little sister. But consider this: The travel experts from *Travel+Leisure*, *Conde Nast Traveler*, *Fodor's*, and *Frommer's* all named Philadelphia a "must-visit destination" in 2021, noting the city's diverse neighborhoods, abundance of public art, and local restaurants that have garnered international praise.

But if you can't find time to visit until 2023 or 2024, even 2030, don't worry. Philadelphia will be here waiting—with even more to see and do.



1 Independence National Park

America's Most Historic Square Mile

Above: Independence Hall is where the Declaration of Independence was signed and the US Constitution was ratified.

BOUNDARIES: Chestnut St., Race St., N. Sixth St., Front St.

DISTANCE: 1.3 miles

DIFFICULTY: Easy

PARKING: There are multiple pay lots in the area.

PUBLIC TRANSIT: The subway has a stop at Fifth and Market Sts.

Philadelphia is where the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution were signed and ratified, where Benjamin Franklin operated a printing press and ran the local post office while experimenting with electricity, and where George Washington lived and worked during his presidency. The city is proud of its role in the shaping of America.

2 Independence National Park

Walk Description

Begin at the ❶ **Free Quaker Meeting House** at the corner of Arch and Fifth Streets. Philadelphia founder William Penn, who lent his family name to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, was a Quaker. Quakers, also called Friends, are pacifists who believe in simple lives of service. Persecuted in England, Quakers were welcomed to Philadelphia.

Free Quakers are Quakers who took up arms in the Revolutionary War and were then asked to leave their congregations, thus making them “free.” They built this Georgian brick worship hall in 1783.

Look across Arch Street. The ❷ **National Constitution Center** is the only museum dedicated to the US Constitution. Its live theatrical performance, *Freedom Rising*, presents US history and the country’s development since the Constitution’s 1787 ratification. Many exhibits are interactive. Guests can vote on Supreme Court cases or swear the presidential oath of office. The main exhibition ends in Signers’ Hall, which has 42 life-size statues of the Constitution’s signatories. While towering in thought, these men were short in life.

Walk east on Arch Street, crossing N. Fifth Street. ❸ **Christ Church Burial Ground** is the resting place of prominent Colonial leaders, including five Declaration of Independence signatories and the founders of the United States Navy. Benjamin Franklin’s grave is near the fence. Visitors throw pennies onto Franklin’s flat stone, a nod to the proverb he made famous: “A penny saved is a penny earned.” About 75,000 coins are tossed each year.

Look across Arch Street. The US Mint stands where the Female Anti-Slavery Society had its headquarters. Cofounded by Lucretia Mott in 1833, the organization’s constitution stated, “We deem it our duty as professing Christians to manifest our abhorrence of the flagrant injustice and deep sin of slavery by united and vigorous exertions.” The society disbanded in 1870 after the 15th amendment granted African American men the right to vote.

Continue east, crossing N. Fourth Street. The Arch Street Meeting House property has been actively used by Quakers since 1682. A historic marker acknowledges that it hosted the 1979 meeting of LGBTQ activists that planned the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. Quakers embraced the LGBTQ community, considered “toxic” at the time.

In front is a water basin installed by the Philadelphia Fountain Society in 1867 at the request of “a lady.” The city once had more than 100 such fountains. About 12 remain. In the early 1870s, almost every horse in the country was infected by equine influenza, and Philadelphia was particularly hard hit because it had “one of the most extensive horse-drawn street railway systems in the nation . . . heavily reliant upon horse labor for everything from intra-urban transport of both

people and goods to powering machines on construction sites,” author Jeffrey Michael Flanigan writes in *On the Backs of Horses: The Great Epizootic of 1872*. An October 1872 *Philadelphia Inquirer* article said that in 15 minutes, its reporters had counted four animals “that all had the greenish colored discharge from the nostrils which indicates a development of the complaint into a somewhat serious stage.” As many as 10% of the city’s 50,000 horses died.

Cross Arch Street, continuing east. Sculptor James Peniston’s *Keys to Community* is a 1-ton bronze bust of Benjamin Franklin made with 1,000 keys and 1.8 million pennies (\$18,000) collected by local schoolchildren. It marks the entrance to Girard Fountain Park and the *History of the Philadelphia Fire Department* mural.

Continue on Arch Street, passing the former Klosfit Petticoat Factory (309–313 Arch St.). Built in 1875, it became the Hoop Skirt Factory Condos in the 1980s.

Cross N. Third Street. At the **4 Betsy Ross House**, a costumed Betsy reenactor works in the upholstery shop and recounts the adventures of the entrepreneur who made the nation’s first flag. Nicknamed the Little Rebel, Ross also produced munitions here. Questions about the veracity of the flag claim were quashed in 2014 when curators at George Washington’s Mount Vernon estate found a receipt showing Ross’s shop made beddings for Washington’s home, thus linking the two. Washington reportedly asked Ross to create a flag with six-pointed stars. Instead, she folded a piece of paper and, in one snip, created the five-pointed star used today.

At N. Second St., turn left. At **5 Elfreth’s Alley**, the country’s oldest continuously inhabited residential block, turn right. The 32 buildings on this narrow cobblestone street, constructed between 1720 and 1830, housed tradespeople, including furniture builders, glassblowers, and smiths. The museum here is “one of the few landmarks dedicated to the every day American,” the tourism board notes. Residents open their homes to the public twice a year.

Elfreth’s Alley is the oldest continuously inhabited street in the country.



Before the end of the alley, detour onto Bladen's Court on the left, which dead-ends at a small courtyard where the neighborhood's "privies" once stood.

At the end of Elfreth's Alley, turn right at N. Front Street, walking along the barrier separating I-95 traffic from downtown. At Arch Street, turn right. Pass Smythe Stores Condominiums (101–111 Arch St.) and the National (121 N. Second St.), two former industrial buildings converted to residences.

At N. Second Street, turn left, walking south. Pass Arden Theatre Company (40 N. Second St.) to reach **6 Christ Church**. Once called "the nation's church," it was founded in 1695, with notable early worshippers including George Washington. Until the COVID-19 shutdown of 2020, church leaders boasted that there had been a Sunday service here every weekend for more than 300 years. The 1938 children's book *Ben and Me* tells the story of Amos, a church mouse who contributed to Ben Franklin's career. Visitors still ask about the prayer book Amos allegedly nibbled.

Continue south, crossing Market Street. Stop at Chestnut Street. Ahead is the U.S. Custom House (200 Chestnut St.), the country's oldest federal agency. Many call it the *Ghostbusters* building because it resembles the Central Park West structure featured in that film.

Turn right on Chestnut Street. The Museum of the American Revolution (101 S. Third St.) sits across from Alexander Hamilton's First Bank of the United States (120 S. Third St.). Hamilton's ghost allegedly haunts the bank. After a 1902 renovation, a priest blessed the building in the hope of dispelling the spirit. Some say Hamilton's ghost is here because of guilt over the tremendous debt he'd accumulated before death that became his survivors' problem.

Continue west. Across Chestnut Street is an entrance to the **7 Benjamin Franklin Museum and Franklin Court**, built on the site of Franklin's home. Franklin, founder of the US Postal Service, was appointed the first Postmaster General in 1775. Cards and letters mailed here are still hand-stamped with the B. Free Franklin seal.

Continue on Chestnut Street to **8 Carpenters' Hall**, which in 1771 hosted the First Continental Congress, aka "the one that didn't get anything done." (The Declaration of Independence was adopted during the Second Continental Congress in 1772.) Look at the tourism placard, which shows men talking as a cat enters from the bottom right-hand corner. The First Continental Cat?

Also here is the New Hall Military Museum, a reconstruction of the first Secretary of War's office. Its exhibits trace the founding of the different branches of the Armed Forces.

Continue west. The **9 Second Bank of the United States**, one of the country's first Greek Revival buildings, houses a free portrait gallery.

Continue on Chestnut Street, passing Signers Garden, to **10 Independence Hall**, where both the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution were signed. Its bell tower holds the

Centennial bell, made to celebrate the nation's 100th birthday. It weighs 13,000 pounds—or 1,000 pounds for each original colony—and contains metal from Revolutionary and Civil War cannons. Portraits of France's King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette hang inside the hall, gifts from the monarchs after the Revolutionary War. The pair knew Ben Franklin, who was in France as a diplomat during most of the war. Historian Geri Walton said the 71-year-old Franklin was very popular with French women because "he was a ladies' man with a big libido."

Today, the hall is a centerpiece of the city's July Fourth celebrations. After the U.S. Supreme Court's 2015 ruling for marriage equality, lead plaintiff James Obergefell addressed a crowd here. That same year, Pope Francis spoke about immigration on its steps.

At S. Sixth Street, turn right. **11 Liberty Bell Center** is at the corner. The bell was cast in London and took its place atop the Pennsylvania State House—now Independence Hall—in 1753. During the Revolutionary War, Philadelphians feared the British would melt the city's bells to make munitions, so a group took that bell and 10 others to Allentown, hiding them under a church's floorboards. The bells were returned to the city in 1778. It's unclear when the Liberty Bell began to crack—some say the fissure began soon after it arrived in Philadelphia—but it is known that the crack worsened in February 1846, when it was rung to celebrate Washington's 114th birthday.

Continue to Market Street. The brick mansion that stood on this corner housed George Washington for seven years and John Adams for three before the capital moved to Washington, D.C. In 2007, an excavation uncovered the foundations of slave quarters. Exhibits in the open-air President's House pavilion feature these enslaved workers. The walk ends here, across from Independence Visitor Center.

Christ Church is sometimes called the nation's church.





Independence National Park: America's Most Historic Square Mile

Points of Interest

- 1 Free Quaker Meeting House 500 Arch St., 215-629-5801, nps.gov/inde
- 2 National Constitution Center 525 Arch St., 215-409-6600, constitutioncenter.org
- 3 Christ Church Burial Ground Arch and N. Fifth Sts.
- 4 Betsy Ross House 239 Arch St., 215-629-4026, historicphiladelphia.org/betsy-ross-house/what-to-see
- 5 Elfreth's Alley N. Second St. between Race and Arch Sts.
- 6 Christ Church 20 N. American St., 215-922-1695, christchurchphila.org
- 7 Benjamin Franklin Museum and Franklin Court 317 Chestnut St., 267-514-1522, nps.gov/inde
- 8 Carpenters' Hall 320 Chestnut St., 215-925-0167, carpentershall.org
- 9 Second Bank of the United States 420 Chestnut St.
- 10 Independence Hall 520 Chestnut St., 215-965-2305, nps.gov/inde
- 11 Liberty Bell Center S. Sixth and Market Sts., 215-965-2305, nps.gov/inde



2 Chinatown

A Bustling Yet Tight-Knit Community

Above: Chinatown's Friendship Gate was a gift from Philadelphia's sister city of Tianjin, China.

BOUNDARIES: Vine St., Arch St., N. 11th St., N. Eighth St.

DISTANCE: 1.1 miles

DIFFICULTY: Easy

PARKING: Street parking in this area is difficult. There are pay lots nearby.

PUBLIC TRANSIT: SEPTA bus lines that stop in Chinatown include the 23, 47, 48, and 61. The SEPTA Chinatown subway stop is also nearby.

Philadelphia's Chinatown was established in the 1870s when Chinese immigrants from the West Coast moved east to escape growing anti-Chinese sentiment and violence, a migration known as The Driving Out.

Today, this is the East Coast's third-largest Chinatown. Residents have battled multiple government attempts to upend it and have largely avoided the gentrification that has occurred in the Chinatowns of New York and Boston. About 3,000 people live here, the vast majority of Asian

descent, including those of Korean, Vietnamese, Burmese, Japanese, and Malaysian origin. It's a tight-knit group. They say if you bring any 20 neighbors together, 5 of them will be related—or at least as close as family.

Walk Description

Start at **1 Chinatown Friendship Gate**, which rises four stories and then curves over North 10th Street at Arch Street. This 40-foot-tall authentic Chinese gate, dedicated in 1984, was a gift from Philadelphia's sister city, Tianjin, China. The multicolored carvings include dragons and a phoenix. The four Chinese characters spell "Philadelphia Chinatown." In 2008, artisans from Tianjin spent four months restoring the gate. They used traditional Chinese methods, including fresh pigs' blood as paint primer.

Walk north on North 10th Street. The sidewalk panels bear the Chinese symbol for prosperity in red outlined in black. These can also be seen on the low wall separating Chinatown from the Vine Street Expressway.

The building at 125 N. 10th Street, constructed in 1831, housed the Chinatown YMCA. Its owner, Chinese-born T. T. Chang, was known as "the mayor of Chinatown" for his work improving residents' lives. Inscribed to the door's right is "1970" and the corresponding Chinese calendar year of "4668." That year the building exterior was given Mandarin Palace accents by C. C. Yang, an influential 20th-century architect. Changes included a jade-colored glazed tile awning on the first floor, red balconies, a gabled roof, and red entry doors with lion's head door knockers.

Turn left onto Cherry Street. **2 Fo Shou Buddhist Temple** features red columns of coiling dragons and flying eaves. Open daily, the first floor features three golden Buddhas, while the top has an ancestral shrine, a nod to the Chinese practice of combining ancestor worship and Confucianism. (Other businesses have similar altars.)

Return to North 10th Street. For a beverage, stop at **3 Tea Dó**, a contemporary teahouse offering bubble teas and snacks. Across the street, the Philadelphia Fire Department's Engine 20/Ladder 23 is called the House of Dragons. Why would a flame-spewing animal be the symbol of an organization dedicated to fighting fires? Because in Chinese mythology, dragons control water, including rain and the flow of water from a hose. Dragons bring life-giving water to the people who honor and respect them while punishing enemies with hurricanes and floods.

Continue north, turning left on Race Street. Note the Chinese characters spelling out the road's name. **4 David's Mai Lai Wah** is one of the neighborhood's original late-night dining spots, open most days until 4 a.m. The owner has admitted he sometimes closes the shop and goes to South Philly for a cheesesteak.

Continue on Race Street. The building at 1010–1014 formerly housed the Heywood Chair Factory, which began operation in 1892. The factory, known for its high-quality products, is now condominiums and another example of how buildings from the city's manufacturing days have been repurposed.

5 Dim Sum Garden specializes in *xiao long bao*, or soup dumplings from Shanghai. Owner Shizhou Da says she is descended from the first chef to make soup dumplings and hers is an original recipe passed down through five generations. Da worked in restaurants in China for 30 years and has made dumplings here since 2013. Fans recommend the Shanghai crab or pork soup dumplings.

Turn right on North 11th Street. Pass **6 Yakitori Boy**, an *izakaya* (a Japanese pub serving small plates and alcohol) and upscale karaoke lounge. Across the road, Chinatown Beer Garden (210 N. 11th St.) has a menu offering more than 25 Asian-made brews, including Vietnam's Bia Saigon, Korea's Kloud, Thailand's Singha, and Japan's Otaru.

At Spring Street, make a right for a quick detour to see the happy, hand-holding children featured in *A Thousand Children Playing* on the east wall of the Chinatown Learning Center (1034–36 Spring St.), aka the Bird Building. Hidden City Philadelphia details the building's commercial history; in 1917, for example, it housed the Deluxe Brush Company, the Fletching Printing Company, and the Walter F. Ware Company, a medical supply firm known for the Mizpah, a continuous suction breast pump considered a technological marvel.

Return to North 11th Street. Walk north to Winter Street and turn right. The 6th Police District, at North 11th and Winter Streets, has a mural dedicated to Officer Daniel Faulkner, who was killed on duty in 1981.

At North 10th Street, turn right. The bronze sidewalk medallions represent the animals of the Chinese zodiac. The **7 Chinese Christian Church** sits at the corner with Mitzi Mackenzie Place/Spring Street. Maribelle "Mitzi" Mackenzie, who died in 2009 at age 88, was an American Baptist Home missionary. In 1941, she founded a center to aid Chinese immigrants and is credited with helping thousands of immigrants find their way. This church grew from that ministry.

Continue, passing On Lok House (219 N. 10th St.), which has provided low-income housing and social services for seniors since 1985. It exists in part thanks to Rev. Dr. Yam Tong Ho, whose personal papers, housed at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, show "the challenges he faced in trying to find affordable housing for elderly couples living in attics without heat in the winter or air-conditioning during Philadelphia's sweltering summers and for old men with no relatives in the country trying to get by in small rooms with no readily accessible cooking or bathroom facilities," according to hsp.org.

At Race Street, turn left. In 1870, Chinese immigrant Lee Fong opened a laundry at 913 Race Street. It was the neighborhood's first Chinese-owned business. A few years later, one of Fong's relatives opened a restaurant on the building's second floor. That was followed by a few Chinese groceries and so on and so on. . . .

At North Ninth Street, turn right. At Arch Street, turn left where four dragons twist in the air. These 1,500-pound bronze beasts were installed in 2009. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation building (801 Arch St.) was a brothel in the mid-1800s. According to *A Guide to the Stranger or Pocket Companion for the Fancy*, a collection of reviews of city brothels published in 1849, this business "had a reputation of being A No. 1 in terms of cleanliness, quietness and privacy."

Across the road is Francis House of Peace (810 Arch St.), opened in 2015 and named for Pope Francis. The building has 94 affordable housing units and offers social services in English, Mandarin, and Cantonese. The words "None of us are home until all of us are home," written in English and Chinese, is local nonprofit Project HOME's motto.

At North Eighth Street, turn left. **8 How We Fish** (125 N. Eighth St.) honors the history of work in Philadelphia. The placement is significant: this building was originally constructed for children of workers of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and the Amalgamated Men's Clothing Union. The garment industry is highlighted in the mural, as is denim, considered the fabric of the working class. The title comes from the proverb, "Give a man a fish, he eats for a day. Teach a man to fish, he eats for a lifetime." The eye-catching work spans 3,156 feet and includes 400 square feet of glass mosaics and the words "Work unites us."

Continue north. The Philadelphia Police Administration Building (750 Race St.) is called "the Roundhouse" and has been a polarizing structure since its completion in 1963. As public radio station WHYY asked in 2016, "Is the Roundhouse a cruel, handcuff-shaped structure with bad baggage, or is it a proud example of Philadelphia modernism, optimistic and sculptural?"

Cross Race Street. Metro Club condominiums (201 N. Eighth St.) was Metropolitan Hospital before the medical center closed in 1992. It was reborn as condominiums in 2004 after a \$30 million investment.

At Vine Street, turn left. Cross North Ninth Street, passing **9 Sang Kee Peking Duck House**. In 2017, the restaurant's founders, Michael and Diane Chow were the first Chinese-Americans to win the Philadelphia Welcoming Center's "Realizing the American Dream" award.

Continue west. **10 History of Chinatown**, at North 10th and Winter Streets, was commissioned in 1995 for Chinatown's 125th anniversary. Its placement is defiant, a staking of territory after city officials divided the neighborhood with the Vine Street Expressway. At top is a laundry worker—the first Chinese settler here in the 1800s opened a laundry business at 913 Race Street.

The water drops flow to show families, a highway, and protesters carrying signs that say HOMES NOT HIGHWAYS in front of bulldozers.

Cross Vine Street Expressway's eastbound lanes to reach 10th Street Plaza, where two 7-ton Chinese foo dogs stand guard. When the plaza was dedicated in 2011, a Buddhist monk dabbed red ink on the lions' faces to awaken them as neighborhood protectors. The female rests her paw on a cub. The male's paw is on a globe. An Asian-style pergola provides shady seating.

The statue of Lin Zebu honors the scholar known for his opposition to opium smuggling. In 1838, he supervised the destruction of 20,000 chests of opium marked for Britain, sparking the first opium war between Britain and China.

The mural covering the plaza's ground, including play spaces with bilingual prompts and a neighborhood map, was completed in 2021.

Cross the Vine Street Expressway's westbound lanes. At left is the 20-story **11 Crane Chinatown**, a community and recreation space opened in 2019. In a WHYY op-ed, community planner Sarah Yeung said the building provided a gymnasium for schoolchildren who formerly played in a parking lot, a large practice space for elders who once did tai chi in a cramped room, and a rooftop event space where locals could host events with citywide views. "Celebrate with us," Yeung wrote, "because for the first time, our community will have a place to call its own."

Turn right. The walk ends at **12 Holy Redeemer Chinese Catholic Church**. The first Western Hemisphere church built specifically for Chinese Catholics, it opened in 1941. In 1939, Bishop Nankin, China's vicar, Paul Yu Pin, visited Philadelphia and asked to meet with its few Chinese-Catholic residents. The Philadelphia Archdiocese then focused recruitment efforts on the community, with its vice chancellor immediately gathering 15 Chinese immigrants and teaching them the sign of the cross. According to the church's website, nine Chinatown residents were baptized in October of 1939. A few months later, more than 50 others were ready for confirmation. Today, about 200 people attend Masses conducted in English, Cantonese, and Mandarin. The church school has about 250 students.



Points of Interest

- 1 **Chinatown Friendship Gate** N. 10th and Arch Sts. For more information, contact the Chinatown Development Corporation 215-922-2156, chinatown-pcdc.org.
- 2 **Fo Shou Buddhist Temple** 1015 Cherry St., 215-928-0592
- 3 **Tea Dó** 132 N. 10th St., 215-925-8889, tea-do.com
- 4 **David's Mai Lai Wah** 1001 Race St., 215-627-2610
- 5 **Dim Sum Garden** 1020 Race St., 215-873-0258, dimsumgardenphilly.com
- 6 **Yakitori Boy** 211 N. 11th St., 215-923-8088, yakitoriboy.com
- 7 **Chinese Christian Church** 225 N. 10th St., 215-627-2360, cccnc.org
- 8 **How We Fish** 125 N. Eighth St., Mural Arts Philadelphia, 215-685-0750, muralarts.org
- 9 **Sang Kee Peking Duck House** 238 N. Ninth St., 215-925-7532, sangkeechinatown.com
- 10 **History of Chinatown** N. 10th and Winter Sts., Mural Arts Philadelphia, 215-685-0750, muralarts.org
- 11 **Crane Chinatown** 1001 Vine St., 215-922-1156, facebook.com/CraneCommunityCenter
- 12 **Holy Redeemer Chinese Catholic Church** 915 Vine St., 215-922-0999, holyredeemer.cc



3 African American Philadelphia

A Long and Complex Relationship

Above: The Liberty Bell is an icon of independence and freedom, which is why abolitionists adopted it as a symbol.

BOUNDARIES: Arch St., South St., Front St., Seventh St.

DISTANCE: 2.4 miles

DIFFICULTY: Easy

PARKING: Metered parking is available along both South and Front Sts.

PUBLIC TRANSIT: SEPTA's 40 bus stops about three blocks away.

The first Africans in Philadelphia arrived in chains. Records show Dutch and Swedish settlers in the Delaware Valley imported enslaved Africans as early as 1639. The founder of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, William Penn, believed in equal rights for people of different religions, an anomaly for his time, but he also owned slaves.

But it was here in Philadelphia and in Pennsylvania that the earliest movements to break those chains began. The Germantown Quaker Petition Against Slavery, published in the city in

1688, was the colonies' first antislavery protest. Pennsylvania was the first state to pass a law ordering the emancipation of enslaved individuals within its borders.

This tour showcases people and places integral to African American history, beginning where Mason and Dixon began their land survey. It features sites where abolitionists worked, slaves took shelter, and freed African Americans made their marks.

Walk Description

Start at Front and South Streets, near I-95's overhead pedestrian crossing. Here, in 1763, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon began surveying work to end a land dispute between William Penn and Baltimore's Calvert family. Mason and Dixon spent four years evaluating 244 miles of land, then created their "line." Less than a century later, this imaginary marker would divide free states from slave-holding states.

Turn left on Front Street. Walk four blocks north, paralleling the Delaware River. A sign marks where Thomas Paine founded the Society for the Relief of Free Negroes Unlawfully Held in Bondage in 1775. The organization became the Pennsylvania Abolition Society, and its president, Benjamin Franklin, petitioned the new US Congress to ban slavery. After the Civil War, the organization was a model for groups seeking equal opportunities for African Americans.

Cross Spruce Street. The **1 Philadelphia Korean War Memorial** at Penn's Landing contains details about the United States' role in the conflict between 1950 and 1953. In 1951, the all-Black 24th Infantry Regiment, which had served in the Spanish-American War and World Wars I and II, was disbanded, essentially ending segregation in the US Army. About 100,000 African American soldiers served in Korea at the start of the war—rising to more than 600,000 by the time it ended.

Continue north. At Walnut Street, look right toward the river where enslaved Jane Johnson and her two sons sought freedom in 1855. The three had been brought to Philadelphia from North Carolina by John Wheeler, who intended to take them overseas. Pennsylvania was a free state, and Johnson called for help, escaping with the help of two local abolitionists. One of the men was jailed, accused of kidnapping. Johnson, a fugitive who knew she could be arrested if she came back to Philadelphia, returned to refute that claim during the man's trial, testifying that she'd left willingly, adding "I would rather die than go back." The Johnsons settled in New England. One son served with the US Colored Troops during the Civil War.

Continue to Market Street. At right is a statue of Tamanend, chief of the native Lenni Lenape nation. His name is synonymous with affable, and settlers considered him their patron saint. Tamanend said the Lenni Lenape and the settlers would "live in peace as the waters run in the rivers and creeks and as long as the stars and moon endure."

The London Coffee House stood at the corner. Here, captured Africans were dragged from ships docked on the Delaware River and sold at auction. Census data from the 1760s shows one out of every six households had at least one slave. Thomas Paine wrote one of the first editorials condemning slavery while living in a nearby room.

Head west on Market Street. At **2 Franklin Fountain**, bow-tied staff serve homemade ice cream in a parlor with a 19th-century vibe. During a Black History Month celebration, a company blog post highlighted the role soda and ice-cream counters played in the Civil Rights movement. One of the country's first sit-ins was at Durham, North Carolina's Royal Ice Cream Parlor in 1957, when seven African Americans entered via the "Whites Only" entrance, sat in a booth, and ordered ice cream. Each was arrested and fined \$10. They appealed, and theirs was the first court case challenging the legality of segregation.

Cross North Second Street and turn right.

3 Christ Church, founded in 1695, hosted George Washington and other founders. It also has a role in early African American church history: Absalom Jones, the Episcopal Church's first African American priest, was ordained here. Jones also cofounded the Free African Society with Richard Allen and Cyrus Bustill.

Continue north. At Arch Street, turn left.

4 Cyrus Bustill's bakery stood at 210 Arch Street. Born enslaved in 1732, Bustill was sold to a baker, who taught him his trade and then released him. Bustill baked bread for Washington's troops; he was one of 5,000 freed African Americans who aided the patriot cause. After the war, Bustill opened his bakery and was active in the Underground Railroad. Bustill's great, great-grandson was Civil Rights activist Paul Robeson.

Continue on Arch Street to the **5 Betsy Ross House**, where a reenactor plays Phillis, a freed African American who worked as a domestic in

The Korean War memorial at Penn's Landing



Colonial Philadelphia. It's likely Ross hired someone like Phillis, as she was too busy running her upholstery shop to do housework.

Continue on Arch Street, crossing North Third Street. In 1775, Quaker leaders at the **6 Arch Street Meeting House** asked members to free their slaves. By 1778, most area Quakers had done so. The term *Quaker* was originally meant as an insult, referring to the way some members shook with emotion during services.

Continue to North Fifth and Arch Streets, passing Ben Franklin's grave. Cross Arch Street to the United States Mint, where the headquarters of the **7 Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society** once stood. Founded in 1833 by Lucretia Mott and others, the society was interracial, enraging the pro-slavery crowd. Members sold baked goods, needlework, and pottery to raise money for causes, including the Underground Railroad. The society also ran a school for children of African descent and called for a boycott of products made with slave labor.

Continue on Arch Street, passing the Constitution Center and the Free Quaker Meeting House. Turn right on North Sixth Street. Public radio station WHYY's headquarters stands on the former site of **8 Pennsylvania Hall**. Financed by abolitionists seeking a safe meeting space, the hall formally opened on May 14, 1838. A letter from former president John Quincy Adams, read at the building's dedication, said, "I learnt with great satisfaction . . . that the Pennsylvania Hall Association have erected a large building in your city, wherein liberty and equality of civil rights can be freely discussed, and the evils of slavery fearlessly portrayed. . . . I rejoice that, in the city of Philadelphia, the friends of free discussion have erected a Hall for its unrestrained exercise." Four days after it opened, a mob burned the hall to the ground.

Return to Arch Street, continuing west. Across North Seventh Street is the **9 African American Museum**, founded in 1976. Its permanent collection includes more than 500,000 photos by Jack T. Franklin, who did work for *The Philadelphia Tribune*, the nation's oldest African American newspaper, and captured images during the 1963 March on Washington, the 1965 Selma to Montgomery March, and the first major Black Power rally in 1966. A sculpture outside honors Crispus Attucks, an escaped slave killed during 1770's Boston Massacre, the first casualty of the War for Independence.

Turn left on North Seventh Street, passing the Federal Detention Center (700 Arch St.). Museum officials initially opposed the building's construction, saying it would be a reminder of the African American community's disproportionate incarceration rates. Local businesses said the presence of prisoners would drive away customers. To appease critics, the facility, completed in 1997, is connected to the James A. Byrne US Courthouse via underground tunnel.

Continue south on North Seventh Street. The block-long Victorian structure before Market Street is actually 33 buildings, constructed between 1895 and 1907, with a common interior.

Now housing multiple businesses, this was the Lit Brothers Department Store, an affordable alternative to Wanamaker's. Its slogan: "A Great Store in a Great City." Lit's was known for its millinery department; the building's ghost signs still promise, "Hats Trimmed Free of Charge."

Cross Market Street. **10 Declaration House** is a reconstruction of the home where Thomas Jefferson rented a room while writing the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson's original draft contained a 168-word section condemning slavery as one of the evils of King George III who "waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating its most sacred rights of life & liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating & carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere," according to history.com. In Jefferson's autobiography, he blamed southern states for the removal of the passage but noted that northern states also had no wish to upset the status quo. Jefferson is thought to have enslaved more than 600 people during his lifetime, including the six children he fathered with Sally Hemings, a biracial woman born into slavery and believed to be the half-sister of Jefferson's wife, Martha.

Facing Declaration House, turn left, walking east. Stop at South Sixth Street. Across Market Street, on the south side of the Independence Visitor Center, is Alison Sky's *Indelible*. The work features sections from the Declaration of Independence, including the antislavery passage that was later removed. From certain angles, that passage is blurry, as if erased, forcing the viewer to move to see it clearly.

Cross South Sixth Street, renamed Avenue of Freedom in 2019 to mark key events in African American history. (Intersecting Market Street was rechristened "Avenue of Our Founders" at the same time.)

The first White House features an exhibit remembering enslaved people who worked there.



11 The President's House was the nation's first executive mansion, home to Presidents George Washington and John Quincy Adams. The exhibit remembers the nine slaves Washington kept here. (His letters show he went to great lengths to subvert a Pennsylvania law that freed slaves who lived in the city for an unbroken six-month stretch by sending them on day trips to New Jersey.) Among the enslaved was Oney Judge, a gifted seamstress who was Martha Washington's personal maid. Judge escaped. Washington twice sent mercenaries to recapture her. Twice they failed. She was still considered a fugitive when she died more than 50 years later.

Turn right, heading south on South Sixth Street, passing the **12 Liberty Bell Pavilion**. The bell, commissioned in 1751, is inscribed with the Biblical quote, "Proclaim Liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof." Before the 1830s, Philadelphians called it the old bell. Then abolitionists adopted it as a symbol of their movement, and New York Anti-Slavery Society dubbed it the Liberty Bell, telling their Philadelphia counterparts, "the bell has not obeyed the inscription and its peals have been a mockery, when one sixth of 'all inhabitants' are in abject slavery."

Continue south, crossing Chestnut Street, to Independence Hall. In the 1800s, recaptured slaves went on trial here. An 1851 newspaper article details the case of "two alleged fugitives, Helen and Dick." One man testified that, "Helen had been his slave; his father had owned her mother Charity, whose mother he had bought . . . they were made a present about six months after the marriage."

Across South Sixth Street is the Public Ledger Building, the former headquarters of the city's first "penny paper," which began publishing in 1836. (Most newspapers cost a nickel at the time.) The paper's motto was "Virtue Liberty and Independence." The editorial staff favored abolition.

Continue south, crossing Walnut Street, here called World Heritage Way. The Penn Mutual Tower (510 Walnut St.) rises where the Walnut Street Prison stood from 1775 to 1835. Before that, Reverend Richard Allen, a former slave turned minister, had a blacksmith shop here. Allen moved the shop to land he owned at South Sixth and Lombard Streets, where he founded the country's first African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Across South Sixth Street is **13 Washington Square**, one of the city's five original green spaces. In early days, this was a graveyard for slaves and the very poor and a popular gathering place for enslaved Africans, earning it the name Congo Square. During the Revolutionary War, soldiers from both sides were interred here, prompting John Adams in 1777 to say the graves "are enough to make the heart of stone melt away." The square also holds victims of disease outbreaks, including the 1793 yellow fever epidemic. The Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War soldier is marked by a statue of George Washington and an eternal flame.

Continue south on South Sixth Street. **14 Athenaeum of Philadelphia**, a member-supported museum and library, is the go-to resource for information about architecture and interior design from 1800 to 1945.

Continue to Spruce Street. Holy Trinity Church was built in 1789 by the city's German Catholic community. In 1797, the church opened the country's first Catholic orphanage for children whose parents died from yellow fever.

Cross Spruce Street. The building on the right was the home of actor Joseph Jefferson (1829–1905), one of the most famous comedians of his time. He was four when he went on stage for the first time, in black face, with an adult actor playing a character called “Jim Crow.”

The historically designated home at 538–540 Spruce Street was for sale in 2021 for \$1.95 million. This neighborhood has one of the country's largest concentrations of original 18th- and 19th-century buildings.

Continue south. **15 Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church** was founded in 1794 by Richard Allen, mentioned earlier. This is the world's first A.M.E. church, sitting on the oldest parcel of land in the United States continuously owned by African Americans. Original congregants came here because of forced segregation at other churches. A devoted abolitionist, Allen began helping newly freed slaves arriving in the city in the 1790s. The church became part of the Underground Railroad.

The current church, built in the late 1800s, includes a museum with items belonging to the 2,500 black soldiers Allen rallied to fight in the War of 1812. Allen, who died in 1831, is entombed here. One admirer called him “one of the greatest divines who has lived since the apostolic age.”

At South Sixth and Lombard Streets, a marker refers to the 1842 Lombard Street riot. On August 1, about 1,000 members of an all-Black abolitionist group paraded to commemorate the anniversary of slavery's end in the West Indies, carrying a banner reading “How grand in age, how fair in truth, are holy Friendship, Love and Truth.” There'd been low-simmering tension between Irish Catholic immigrants and the freed African Americans as they competed for jobs and housing. During three days of conflict, one church was burned down and several homes were looted.

Continue to South Street. Turn right to see *Mapping Courage: Honoring W. E. B. Du Bois and Engine #11*. Du Bois, a Harvard University PhD, conducted a door-to-door survey of African Americans. His research resulted in *The Philadelphia Negro*. Du Bois famously asked, “Would America have been America without her Negro people?”

Engine #11 was the city's first and only fire company composed of African American firefighters, who were known as “leather lungs” because they took on the most dangerous blazes. The Philadelphia Fire Department was desegregated in 1952.



African American Philadelphia

Points of Interest

- 1 **Philadelphia Korean War Memorial** Penn's Landing, between Dock and Spruce Sts.
- 2 **Franklin Fountain** 116 Market St., 215-627-1899, franklinfountain.com
- 3 **Christ Church** 20 N. American St., 215-922-1695, christchurchphila.org
- 4 **Cyrus Bustill's bakery** 210 Arch St. (not open to the public)
- 5 **Betsy Ross House** 239 Arch St., 215-629-4026, historicphiladelphia.org/what-to-see
- 6 **Arch Street Meeting House** 320 Arch St., 215-413-1804, historicasmh.org
- 7 **Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society (now the United States Mint)** 151 N. Independence Mall E., 215-408-0112, usmint.com
- 8 **Former site of Pennsylvania Hall (now WHYY headquarters)** 150 N. Sixth St., 215-351-1200, whyy.org
- 9 **African American Museum** 701 Arch St., 215-574-0380, aampmuseum.org
- 10 **Declaration House** 599 S. Seventh St., 215-965-2305, nps.gov/inde
- 11 **The President's House** 524-30 Market St., 800-537-7676, phlvisitorcenter.com
- 12 **Liberty Bell Pavilion** S. Sixth and Market Sts., 215-965-2305, nps.gov/inde
- 13 **Washington Square** Walnut St. between Sixth and Seventh Sts., 215-965-2305, nps.gov/inde
- 14 **Athenaeum of Philadelphia** 219 S. Sixth St., 215-925-2688, philaathenaeum.org
- 15 **Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church** 419 S. Sixth St., 215-925-0616, motherbethel.org



4 The Museum District

From Love Park to the Rocky Steps

Above: One of pop artist Robert Indiana's Love statues, located in a park by City Hall, is perfect for The City of Brotherly Love.

BOUNDARIES: N. 15th St., N. 24th St., Arch St., Kelly Dr.

DISTANCE: A direct walk from Love Park to The Philadelphia Museum of Art is 1 mile. Figure another 0.5 mile for your detours.

DIFFICULTY: Easy

PARKING: Street parking is very limited in this neighborhood, as are public parking lots. Public transportation is the best way to get here.

PUBLIC TRANSIT: Options include taking the SEPTA Market–Frankford or Broad Street Line; any regional rail line; or bus routes including 2, 17, 27, 31, 32, 33, 44, 124, and 125.

Benjamin Franklin Parkway is one of the country's earliest examples of urban renewal, a marked departure from William Penn's grid. This 1-mile stretch has been called Philadelphia's Champs-Élysées, running through its cultural heart. In a downtown of narrow streets and alleys, some impassable by cars, the parkway stands out.

Walk Description

Start at John F. Kennedy Plaza, at 15th Street and John F. Kennedy Boulevard, better known as **1 Love Park** because of pop artist Robert Indiana's iconic red sculpture. Versions of this 1950s work are in cities worldwide, including New York, Indianapolis, and Tokyo.

The fountain honors local philanthropist Ellen Phillips Samuel. City leaders dye the fountain's water to mark specific events, such as pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. A less popular case: the water flowed blood red in 2007 to promote Showtime's *Dexter*, about a serial killer who kills serial killers.

Love Park, opened in 1965, was the brainchild of city planner Edmund Bacon, whose influence is seen throughout Philadelphia. In 2002, when officials talked of banning skateboards in the park, the 92-year-old Bacon strapped on a helmet and, with the help of aides, rolled through. He later said, "My whole damn life has been worth it, just for this."

Walk west on John F. Kennedy Boulevard toward the glass building that looks like a flying saucer. The **2 Love Park Welcome Center** is one of Center City's best examples of mid-century modern architecture. It opened in 1960 as the Philadelphia Hospitality Center. A multimillion-dollar renovation, expected to be completed by late 2022, will add a restaurant and outdoor seating.

Across from the saucer stands Suburban Station (16th St. and JFK Blvd.). When the Art Deco building opened in 1930 for "electrified train operation," about 56,000 people used the trains for daily commutes.

Cross 16th Street and turn right. Cross Arch Street. *Monument to Six Million Jewish Martyrs*, placed in 1964, was a gift from a group whose families fled Europe during World War II. It was the country's first public monument to Holocaust victims. Polish-born sculptor Nathan Rapoport created about a dozen other Holocaust memorials, the most famous being *Memorial to the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising*.

Walk northwest along Benjamin Franklin Parkway. Flags representing 90 nations, installed in 1976, celebrate the city's diversity. In 2022, after

Academy of Natural Sciences scientist Ted Daeschler co-discovered Tiktaalik roseae, the fossil believed to show the link between fish and land animals.



Russia invaded Ukraine, city officials reported multiple thefts of the Russian flag. In summer 2022, a petition permanently removing the Russian flag was in circulation.

Tuscan Girl (1776 Ben Franklin Pkwy.) is a nonworking fountain, installed in 1965 as part of a program requiring developers to spend 1% of their construction budget on public art. It's unclear which figure is the Tuscan girl.

Cross 18th Street. The statue of General Thaddeus Kosciuszko honors the Polish-born engineer who showed revolutionaries how to strengthen their waterfront positions. He also helped build West Point, New York's fortification, later called the American Gibraltar.

Because of the parkway's width, crossing as a pedestrian can be a challenge. To reach **3 Sister Cities Park**, walk to the Swedish flag, use the crosswalk to reach the median, then cross again to reach the far side of the parkway.

Dedicated in 1976, Sister Cities was neglected for decades before a 2012 renovation added climbing rocks, a cafe, and a boat pond. The 1.75-acre park's centerpiece is a fountain with Philadelphia at the center, surrounded by spouts representing its 10 sister cities. Robert Indiana's 6-foot-tall *AMOR*, which means "love" in Spanish and Latin, was acquired for Pope Francis's 2015 visit.

Logan Square, a popular gathering place, features the Swann Fountain.



Two statues here honor European-born men who were essential to the patriots' cause: Irish immigrant Thomas Fitzsimons funded Washington's army and later served three Congressional terms. Don Diego de Gardoqui, the first US ambassador to Spain, secured funds from Spanish banks.

Follow the diagonal path northwest to the corner of Vine Street and the parkway. Turn left. Take the crosswalk under the Botswana flag to the median, then follow the next crosswalk to **4 Logan Square**, one of the city's five original green spaces. The square hosted public executions in the 1700s and public gatherings in the 1800s, including 1864's Great Sanitary Fair, which raised funds for bandages and other medical items for Union soldiers. The Swann Memorial Fountain, installed in 1924, was designed by Alexander Stirling Calder, whose father's statue of William Penn tops City Hall and whose son crafted another nearby work. The three bronze Native Americans represent the city's three main waterways: The Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers and Wissahickon Creek. The water-spouting swans are a pun on the fountain's name, which honors Wilson Cary Swann, the first president of the Philadelphia Fountain Society, which installed public water fountains for humans and animals.

Walk three-quarters of the way around the fountain, then cross the parkway to the **5 Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University**. Founded in 1812 by some of the country's leading naturalists, this is the oldest natural-sciences institution in the Western Hemisphere, housed here since 1876.

The statue closest to the door shows two small, meat-eating dinosaurs reminiscent of *Jurassic Park*'s velociraptors. These are *Deinonychus*, which means "terrible claw." The other statue is Joseph Leidy, the father of American vertebrate paleontology. He holds the jawbone of the Ice Age lion he identified.

Turn right onto Race Street. **6 Moore College of Art & Design** is the county's first and only all-female college of art and design. Its gallery is public.

Continue to 20th Street and turn right. **7 Aviator Park** features Paul Manship's *Aero Memorial*, a monument to World War I pilots. The celestial sphere shows the constellations and the signs of the zodiac. The artist included a carving of himself with a star on his forehead near the Pisces sign.

Turn left and walk around the low wall. *All Wars Memorial to Colored Soldiers and Sailors* depicts real fighters who posed for the artist. Completed in 1934, when the US military was still segregated, the monument was initially placed in an obscure corner of Fairmount Park. It moved here in 1994, almost 50 years after President Harry S. Truman's executive order integrated the military.

At the corner of 20th and Winter Streets, turn left, crossing 20th Street. Founded in 1824 and named for Ben Franklin, **8 The Franklin Institute** is one of the nation's premier museums, as well

as a center for science education and research. The institute accepted its first female scientist for membership in 1833; the first member of African descent was welcomed in 1870. Among the museum's permanent exhibitions are the *Giant Heart* and *Your Brain*. The national monument to Franklin, in the museum's rotunda, features a 20-foot-tall, 30-ton sculpture of the Founding Father.

The institute's scientists are highly respected, so citizens panicked in March 1940 when a local radio station reported the world would end the next day, April 1, as "confirmed by astronomers of The Franklin Institute, Philadelphia." The station had learned of Earth's imminent doom from an institute press release, which specifically noted this was *not* an April Fool's Day joke. It was.

Continue on Winter Street. At 21st Street, turn right. Follow the Vine Street Expressway crosswalk to return to the parkway.

Turn left, crossing 22nd Street, and continue toward 24th Street. The green space below you on the left is Paine's Skateboard Park (Martin Luther King Jr. and Benjamin Franklin Pkwy.), which opened in 2013 as an outlet for skateboard enthusiasts.

At 24th Street, cross to the right median, then cross again to reach the square opposite the art museum.

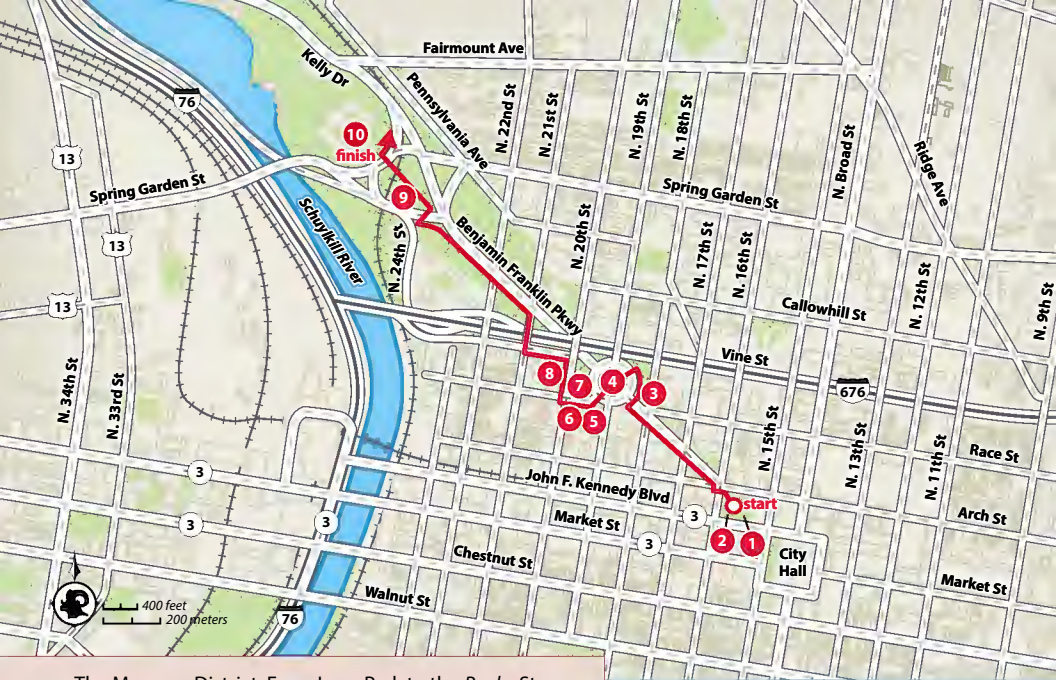
9 Eakins Oval, the "Park on the Parkway," is 8 acres of public space named for painter Thomas Eakins. It has been center stage for numerous events, including Masses led by Pope John Paul II in 1979 and Pope Francis in 2015, 2005's Live 8 Concert, and the city's annual Fourth of July concerts. The largest fountain features George Washington astride a horse. The artist modeled the face on a mask made during Washington's lifetime.

Leave the oval via the walkway nearest the corner of Kelly Drive and the parkway. Cross the street at the crosswalk.

Walk left to the steps of the **10 Philadelphia Museum of Art**. Built in 1928, the museum is not only one of the largest in the country—with works by Henri Matisse, Marcel Duchamp, Paul Cézanne, and John Singer Sargent—but also a well-known movie location. Many visitors charge the steps, as seen in three of the *Rocky* films. In 2011, screenjunkies.com said the steps were the world's second-most-famous movie location. (Grand Central Terminal was first.) To the right of the steps is a statue of fictional boxer Rocky Balboa, originally a movie prop.

Pass Rocky to reach *Charioteer of Delphi*, a bronze cast of an original 5th-century BC work, a gift from the Greek government in 1976. The final stop, *Young Meher*, is a memorial to the thousands of Armenians killed by the Ottoman Empire in 1915, gifted to the city by the local Armenian community. Meher, an Armenian folk hero from the Middle Ages, looks skyward, holding a cross aloft as he prepares for battle.

The second parkway tour (page 28) returns to Love Park.



The Museum District: From Love Park to the Rocky Steps

Points of Interest

- 1 **Love Park** 15th St. and John F. Kennedy Blvd.
- 2 **Love Park Welcome Center** 1599 John F. Kennedy Blvd., 215-344-8544, phlvisitorcenter.com/lovepark
- 3 **Sister Cities Park** 218 N. 18th St., 215-440-5500, centercityphila.org/parks/sister-cities-park
- 4 **Logan Square** Vine Street Expressway and Benjamin Franklin Parkway, tinyurl.com/logansquarephilly
- 5 **Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University** 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, 215-299-1000, ansp.org
- 6 **Moore College of Art & Design** 1916 Race St., 215-965-4000, moore.edu
- 7 **Aviator Park** Race and N. 20th Sts.
- 8 **The Franklin Institute** 222 N. 20th St., 215-448-1200, fi.edu
- 9 **Eakins Oval** 2451 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, 215-607-3477, theovalphl.org
- 10 **Philadelphia Museum of Art** 2600 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, 215-763-8100, philamuseum.org



5 The Museum District

From the Art Museum to the Cathedral

Above: The Philadelphia Museum of Art, with the Water Works below, as it looks from across the Schuylkill River

BOUNDARIES: Fairmount Ave., Ben Franklin Pkwy., Pennsylvania Ave., N. 16th St.

DISTANCE: About 2 miles, depending on how many detours you take

DIFFICULTY: Easy. It's a flat walk.

PARKING: There is a parking garage behind the building that you can reach via Art Museum Drive or Waterworks Drive.

PUBLIC TRANSIT: SEPTA bus routes 2, 7, 32, 33, and 48, or take the PHLASH to Stop 13.

This walk covers the north side of Benjamin Franklin Parkway and includes some of the city's most popular museums and some of the amazing statuary that makes Philadelphia an outdoor art gallery. It ends at Love Park.

Walk Description

Begin at the art museum's ❶ **Ruth and Raymond G. Perelman Building**, at Fairmount and Pennsylvania Avenues. This Art Deco structure, built in 1926, was the headquarters for Fidelity Mutual Life Insurance Company. Look for Egyptian-style sculptures of animals representing the attributes of insurance: the opossum of protection, the owl of wisdom, the dog of fidelity, the pelican of charity, and the squirrel of frugality.

The words above the Pennsylvania Avenue entrance read: "In the honor and perpetuity of the family is founded the state. In the nobler life of the household is the nobler life of mankind."

Begin walking southeast on Pennsylvania Avenue. At 25th Street, turn right. The golden *Joan of Arc* statue (Kelly Dr. and 25th St.) shows the medieval French heroine astride a horse and ready to fight the English during the Hundred Years' War. Two other casts of Emmanuel Frémiet's original 1874 statue are displayed in Portland, Oregon, and New Orleans. Some locals call this "Joanie on a pony."

Follow Kelly Drive to *Symbiosis* (24th St. and Kelly Dr.), a 34-foot-tall shimmering silver sculpture installed in 2014. Artist Roxy Paine hand-soldered thousands of pieces of stainless steel pipes, plates, and rods to create what could be a tree or a part of the vascular system. Nearby is *Iroquois* (Benjamin Franklin Pkwy. at Eakins Oval and Spring Garden St.), a 40-foot-tall red steel sculpture installed in 2007. Abstract impressionist sculptor Mark di Suvero describes his works, made of steel I beams, as "paintings in three dimensions with the crane as my paintbrush."

Continue east, passing Von Colln Memorial Park, named for Philadelphia Police Department Sergeant Frank Von Colln, killed on duty in August 1970.

Some visitors are confused to see a copy of Auguste Rodin's *The Thinker* here, but Philadelphia has the largest collection of Rodin's works outside of Paris. The ❷ **Rodin Museum's** collection was a gift from movie theater magnate Jules Mastbaum. He died before it opened in 1929.

The museum honors the artist's French roots with a formal French garden on-site. The building is a scaled-down version of a grand Beaux Arts structure. As noted in the first parkway tour (page 22), the parkway's original architects envisioned it as a grand boulevard, like Paris's Champs-Élysées.

Next is the ❸ **Barnes Foundation**, which houses the extensive art collection of self-made millionaire Dr. Albert Barnes. In 1922, Barnes opened his museum in the suburb of Lower Merion, personally placing each work of art—including pieces by Renoir, Matisse, Picasso, Cézanne, and Seurat—in exhibition rooms that highlighted the relationship between the objects.

Barnes died in 1951, and his will decreed the museum remain in the suburbs. The controversial move to downtown Philadelphia was completed in 2012. Supporters note more than 1 million people visited the Philadelphia location in one year, almost three times the number of visitors who went to the suburban location in five years.

The museum is a low-key, two-storied limestone structure some have called sophisticated, simple, and soulful. Inside, the art is displayed in rooms that are almost exact replicas of the ones Barnes himself decorated.

Continue toward 20th Street. Keep straight, ignoring the parkway's bend. The road becomes Vine Street. The **4 Free Library of Philadelphia**, the cornerstone of the city's public library system, opened in 1927.

Ben Franklin created the country's first library system when he and 50 friends combined funds to buy books for the new Library Company. Years later, Franklin noted that foreign visitors were impressed by Philadelphians' sophistication, which they credited to the locals' love of reading.

The neighboring building at 1801 Vine Street, a New Deal public works project built in 1938, once housed the municipal court system's juvenile and domestic branches. Its exterior reveals

The Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul is the principal church of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Pope Francis performed Mass here in 2015.



its original intentions. Note the two triangular pediments on the upper front corners. At left is *Juvenile Protection*, which includes a seated woman with an olive branch sitting near the scales of justice. At right is *Family Unity*, which shows a reclining woman holding a baby and a reclining man holding a dog.

Continue on Vine Street. Completed in 2016, **5 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** is the local home for 41,000 Mormon faithful. The 197-foot-tall white structure is topped with a gold-leafed Angel Moroni, who led founder Joseph Smith to the golden plates from which *The Book of Mormon* was derived. The temple, open only to Mormons, is used for special ceremonies. The building across the street is for regular worship.

Circle the building to fully appreciate its size, then return to 18th Street and cross the road. **6 Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul** (18th and Race Sts.) is the principal church of the Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Completed in 1864, it's modeled after Rome's Church of Saint Charles. It originally had no street-level windows for fear of vandalism after the anti-Catholic riots in the 1840s. To determine window placement, the architect tossed rocks at the building, then placed the windows above the highest rock strike. Lower windows were added during a 1950s renovation.

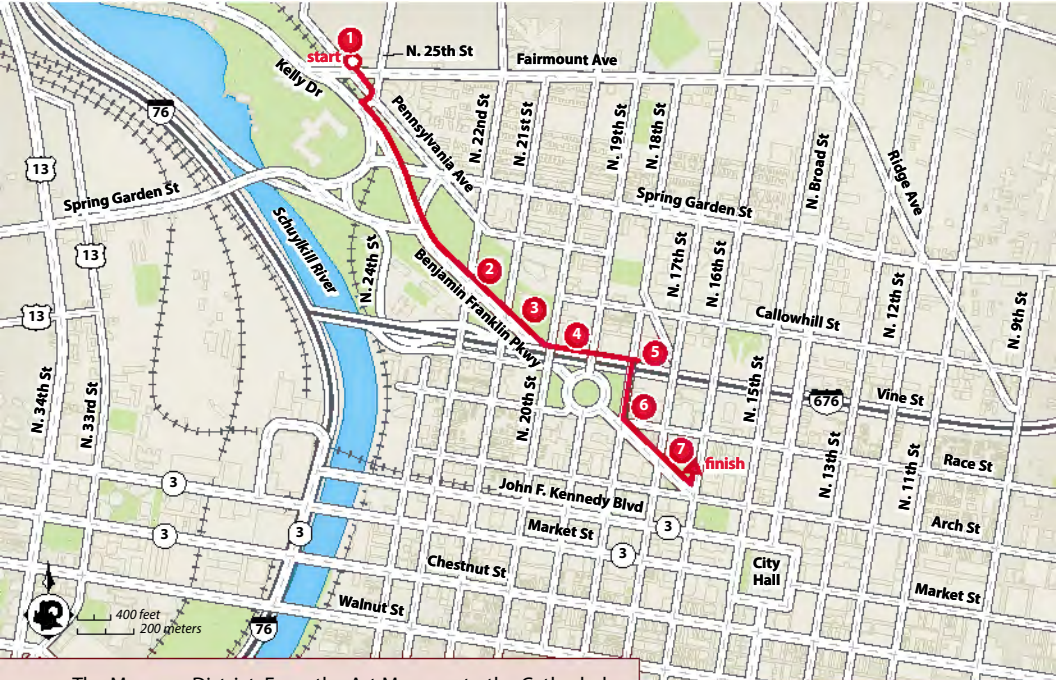
To the right is *Jesus Breaking Bread*, depicting a young Christ holding a broken half of pita bread in each hand. This sculpture caused a stir in 1976, with critics claiming artist Walter Erlebacher's depiction of Christ was inaccurate. (The artist's response: How do you know? Do you have photos?) Supporters said the statue seems to be calling people to church.

Continue to the corner of Benjamin Franklin Parkway and turn left. *Three Disks, One Lacking* is by Alexander Calder of the great Calder family of artists. His grandfather is perhaps best known for the William Penn statue atop City Hall, while his father designed Logan Square's Swann Memorial Fountain; both are visible from here. Look through the sculpture's cutout section. The William Penn statue atop City Hall is perfectly framed within the loop.

Continue to Henry Moore's *Three Way Piece Number One: Points* between 16th and 17th Streets. Installed in 1990, this bronze statue on a black-granite base changes as viewers circle it. The artist said "sculpture should always at first sight have some obscurities and further meanings." Some people see a three-legged animal; others, a giant tooth.

Continue to 16th Street. Jacob Lipkin's *The Prophet* is at the corner. Ahead is Love Park. Consider a stop at **7 Capriccio at Café Cret**, a small coffee bar named after French-born architect Paul Philippe Cret, one of the parkway's principal planners.

This tour ends here. Continue to City Hall to pick up another tour (Walk 8, page 46).



The Museum District: From the Art Museum to the Cathedral

Points of Interest

- 1 **Ruth and Raymond G. Perelman Building** Fairmount and Pennsylvania Aves., 215-763-8100, philamuseum.org
- 2 **Rodin Museum** 2151 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, 215-763-8100, rodinmuseum.org
- 3 **Barnes Foundation** 2025 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, 215-278-7000, barnesfoundation.org
- 4 **Free Library of Philadelphia** 1901 Vine St., 833-TALK-FLP (825-5357), freelibrary.org
- 5 **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** 1739 Vine St., 215-398-3040, lds.org/church/temples
- 6 **Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul** 1723 Race St., 215-561-1313, cathedralphilila.org
- 7 **Capriccio at Café Cret** N. 16th St. and Benjamin Franklin Parkway 215-735-9797, capricciocafe.com



6 Rittenhouse Square

The Heart of the City

Above: Rittenhouse Square is the city's busiest downtown park.

BOUNDARIES: S. 17th St., S. 20th St., Delancey Pl., Walnut St.

DISTANCE: 1.1 miles

DIFFICULTY: Easy

PARKING: Street parking is a challenge near Rittenhouse, and the few paid lots are overpriced.

Public transportation may be the best option.

PUBLIC TRANSIT: SEPTA buses 9, 12, 21, and 42 stopping on Walnut St. The SEPTA subway stop is at 19th and Market Sts., two blocks north of the square.

Rittenhouse Square is one of the city's five original squares, part of William Penn's plan for a "greene country town." The park was once lined with single-family mansions designed by the city's most illustrious architects. In 1953's *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, Marilyn Monroe sang, "A house on Rittenhouse Square wouldn't be so hard to take."

Today, only four of these mansions remain, most replaced by high-end, high-rise residences and hotels. A popular meeting place for locals, the square is constantly bustling and offers great people-watching. It hosts an annual art fair, weekly farmers markets, and occasional concerts. In 2010, the American Planning Association included Rittenhouse on its list of the country's top 10 Great Public Spaces. That's ironic, as in the 1700s the square was a pasture for livestock and for dumping "night soils." It was cleaned and renamed for astronomer David Rittenhouse in 1825.

Walk Description

Begin at South 18th and Manning Streets. The nonprofit Philadelphia Art Alliance (251 S. 18th St.) was founded in 1915 to present a variety of art forms in one venue. It features up to 12 exhibitions a year. It is housed in the former Wetherill mansion, one of only four residential properties still standing.

Walk north on South 18th Street. Cross Stow-kowski Place, named for conductor Leopold Stow-kowski, who proposed *Fantasia* to Walt Disney and then led the Philadelphia Orchestra through seven of the film's eight musical segments.

At left is **1 Rittenhouse Square**. At right, the former Barclay Hotel (237 S. 18th St.) was the finest hotel in the city when it opened in 1929. It became condominiums in 2005. Unit 6B—a 4,000-square-foot space with 3 bedrooms and 4 baths—was for sale in 2022 for \$2.9 million. The monthly \$3,000 dues include access to a chauffeur-driven 2019 Mercedes S-450.

Continue to the **2 Curtis Institute of Music**, which boasts that 30% of its graduates play with one of the country's "big five" orchestras. Notable alums include Leonard Bernstein and Samuel Barber. Curtis provides full-tuition, merit-based scholarships to all students. Its building was the

Paulanship's Duck Girl in Rittenhouse Square



home of George Drexel, whose grandfather founded Drexel University. Drexel was the owner and editor of the *Philadelphia Public Ledger*, which high society considered “the only newspaper any lady or gentleman should read.”

Turn right on Locust Street to appreciate the Curtis’s architecture. A marker remembers Philadelphia-born Vincent Persichetti, a 1939 Curtis graduate who wrote nine symphonies.

Cross tiny Mozart Place, looking right to see Schubert Lane, then continuing on Locust. The commercial building at 1704 Locust Street is the headquarters of the Vidocq Society, a members-only organization that helps US law enforcement agencies investigate cold case homicides.

At South 17th Street, turn left. Pass the 20-story Warwick Hotel (1701 Locust St.), which was built in 1925 and has hosted four NFL drafts. Continue to Walnut Street. Before turning left, look at the architecture of 1701 Walnut Street, built in 1910 for the Estey Piano & Organ Company.

Continue west on Walnut Street. Two other buildings worth a second look are 1707 and 1709, originally private residences.

At South 18th Street, cross the road and enter Rittenhouse Square. Straight ahead is the Evelyn Taylor Price Memorial Sundial, installed in 1947, honoring a past president of the park-improvement association. One art historian called the statue—which features two children holding a sunflower—a “poetical reminder of the fleeting joys of sunshine.”

Take the right path, passing *Giant Frog*, which is . . . a giant frog. Continue to the guardhouse, then turn right to the cluster of greenery holding a statue of a lion crushing a serpent. This is . . . *Lion Crushing Serpent*, a bronze cast of the original displayed in the Louvre. It’s an allegory for the French Revolution, the lion symbolizing good and the serpent representing evil.

Turn around, passing the guardhouse, to reach Rittenhouse Fountain, designed by Benjamin Franklin Parkway architect Paul Phillipe Cret. Emerging from the water is Paul Manship’s *Duck Girl*, a local favorite.

Continue straight. Descend four stairs and then turn right, following the curving, bench-lined walkway to *Billy*, another local landmark. The goat’s horns have been rubbed to a shine because doing so is said to bring good luck. It’s unclear why the tail has the same luster.

Follow Billy’s right horn to exit onto Rittenhouse Square West. Turn left. Stop at the corner entrance, where *Rittenhouse Square Dogs* once stood (only one dog remains). The art was donated in 1988 by friends of late art collector Henry McIlhenny, whom Andy Warhol once called “the only person in Philadelphia with glamour.”

Look right at 1914–16 Rittenhouse Square West. McIlhenny purchased six lots in 1950 and combined them to create the existing 8,600-square-foot structure. McIlhenny, a Philadelphia

Museum of Art curator and one-time chairman of its board, bequeathed his art collection—which included works by Degas, Toulouse-Lautrec, and Renoir—to the museum.

Ahead is the Philadelphia Ethical Society, 1906 Rittenhouse Square. The Ethical Culture movement is a non-theist alternative to traditional religion, established here in 1885.

Turn left on Rittenhouse Square South, then turn right on South 19th Street. Pass **3 Metropolitan Bakery**, a local favorite. At Spruce Street, turn left.

At the corner of South 18th Street sits the Gothic Revival **4 Temple Beth Zion–Beth Israel Synagogue**, built for a Methodist congregation but repurposed in 1954. Renovations included installing stained glass windows depicting important scenes from Jewish history and worship.

Cross South 18th Street. Most of the mansions on this block have been converted to condominiums or rental units. Continue to 1710 Spruce Street, the former home of the eccentric Harry K. Thaw, an heir to a Pittsburgh mine and railroad fortune who lit cigars with \$5 bills. In 1906, Thaw shot and killed architect Stanford White in New York. Thaw's wife, actress Evelyn Nesbit, had previously dated White, which Thaw believed tainted her. His murder trial was the original trial of the century. Thaw was found not guilty by reason of insanity. E. L. Doctorow included the case in *Ragtime*.

At South 17th Street, turn right. At Delancey Place (also called Delancey Street), turn right again. **5 Plays and Players** is one of the oldest professional theater companies in the country. Actor Kevin Bacon appeared onstage here as a child in 1974.

At S. 18th Street, turn left. The single-family home at 1801 Delancey Street was built in 1857 for Mary Morris Husband, a Civil War nurse and granddaughter of Robert Morris, financier of the American Revolution. Her two sons were Union soldiers.

The home's current owners have kept a gladiator statue in their ground floor bay window since 2012. "Mr. 1801" changes clothes as appropriate, such as a cap and gown in May. A November 2020 post on Mr. 1801's 800-fan-strong Facebook page shows him draped in an American flag with a card that says, "Thank you, Philadelphia. Democracy won!"

Continue on Delancey Street. The homes at 1804 and 1806 have firemarks with a tree image. Homeowners with fire insurance displayed these medallions on their property's exterior to tell firefighters which insurance company would pay them. These tree marks were issued by Mutual Assurance of Philadelphia, aka The Green Tree Company, in the 1820s. Its symbol acknowledged that the company insured properties near trees, which others did not.

Continue west, passing 1813 Delancey, a 5,000-square-foot home with a roof deck, a gym, and garage parking that sold for \$2.8 million in 2015. The private residence at 1827 Delancey Place, with a curved brick facade and an iron balcony, was built in 1861, but it has some distinctly modern touches, including an elevator and a working waterfall. In 2021, its estimated value was \$3.4 million.

Continue west. General George Gordon Meade, who led Union forces to victory during 1863's Battle of Gettysburg, lived at 1836 Delancey Place and died here in 1872. This home was his reward, and his name remains engraved above the door.

Cross South 19th Street. The **6 Horace Jayne House** was designed by Frank Furness, who one critic noted "pushed ugliness to the point where it almost turned to beauty." The National Register of Historic Places says the design anticipates the work of Frank Lloyd Wright while recalling Thomas Jefferson's Monticello.

At South 19th Street, turn right. At Spruce Street, turn left. The **7 Rafsnyder-Welsh House** is a visual delight—or nightmare, depending on taste. Built in 1855 as a flat-roofed, redbrick home like neighboring structures, an 1890 renovation added red sandstone and terra-cotta trim. Note

the different window shapes and the off-center entrance. The redesign inspired other homeowners to remodel similarly.

Continue on Spruce Street. At South 20th Street, turn left, then make a right on Delancey. These Civil War-era mansions remain largely unchanged. The block, one of the city's most picturesque residential stretches, is also its most filmed, featured in at least five movies or TV shows. In 1983's *Trading Places*, Dan Aykroyd's character lived at 2014 Delancey Place. In a scene from 1999's *The Sixth Sense*, Bruce Willis's character stands outside "his" house at 2006 Delancey Place.

The **8 Rosenbach Museum and Library** showcases the collections of Phillip and A. S. W. Rosenbach, dealers of rare books and manuscripts, in their former home. It includes letters written by Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, the only known surviving edition of Ben Franklin's original *Poor Richard's Almanack*, and Lewis Carroll's own copy of *Alice*

The Rafsnyder-Welsh House is a visual delight—or nightmare.



in *Wonderland*. The museum has James Joyce's handwritten *Ulysses* manuscript and celebrates the masterpiece annually on Bloomsday, June 16.

At South 21st Street, turn right. The property at 1752 has a firemark showing four hands holding the others' wrists in a box shape, meaning it was insured by Benjamin Franklin's The Philadelphia Contributionship, the country's oldest property insurance company, established in 1752.

Continue north. At Locust Street, turn right. Some mansions here have been converted into condominiums and apartments.

Cross South 20th Street. At Rittenhouse Square West, turn left. 9 **The Rittenhouse** is a luxury hotel-residence featuring La Croix restaurant, which hosts a weekly \$75-per-person Sunday brunch buffet called "the granddaddy of all Philly brunch spots" by *Philadelphia*. Dinner options include caviar tasting menus starting at \$85.

The 10 **Church of the Holy Trinity** dates to 1857 and has Tiffany stained glass windows. The bell tower rings hourly. In the 1860s, the church's rector wrote "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

At Walnut Street, turn right. Near the block's end, look left at 1811 Walnut Street, built for the Rittenhouse Club, an exclusive men's organization founded in 1874. Members considered themselves more intellectual than those of the older Philadelphia Club. Hidden City Philadelphia shared this member's memory: "At the Rittenhouse Club, one would find Latin commentary scribbled in the margins of the library's books. At the Philadelphia Club, the members would be most concerned with the latest racing news from Saratoga."

The 11 **Barnes & Noble** bookstore is built on what was Dr. John V. Shoemaker's mansion. Shoemaker was a physician who was the National Guard's Surgeon General and Philadelphia's chief health authority.

The 12 **Sarah Drexel Fell-Van Rensselaer House**, now a retail store, was completed in 1901 with a Tiffany glass dome and a ceiling covered in portraits of Italian dogs.

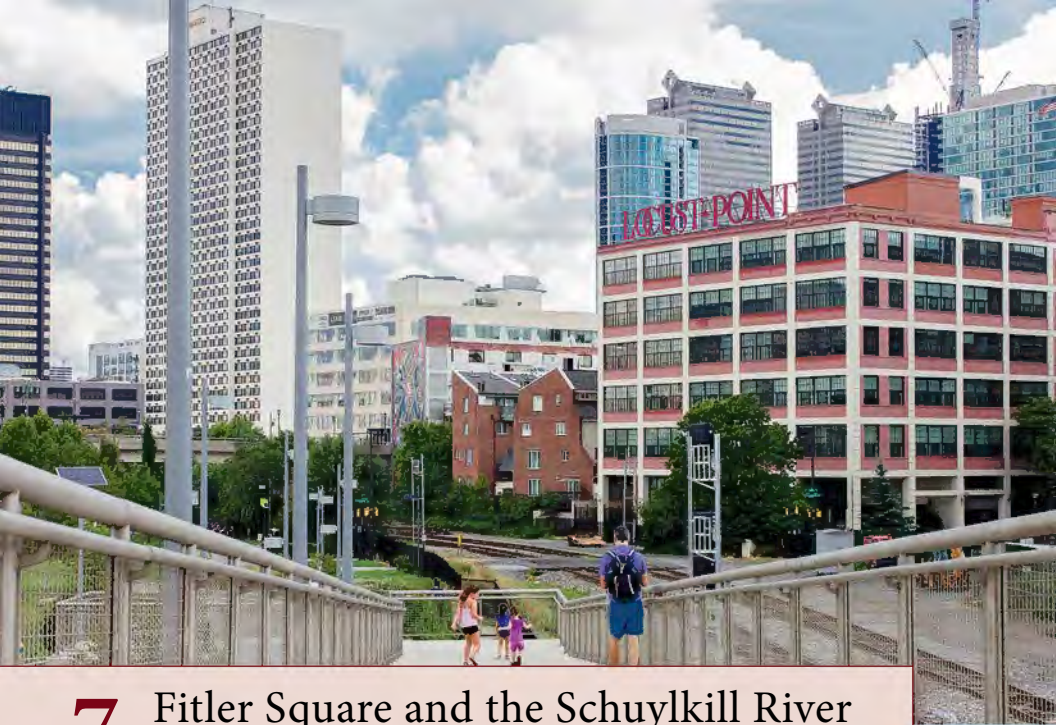
This tour ends here, a few blocks from its beginning.



Rittenhouse Square

Points of Interest

- 1 Rittenhouse Square S. 18th and Walnut Sts., 267-586-5675, friendsofrittenhouse.org
- 2 Curtis Institute of Music 1726 Locust St., 215-893-5252, curtis.edu
- 3 Metropolitan Bakery 262 S. 19th St., 215-545-6655, metropolitanbakery.com
- 4 Temple Beth Zion–Beth Israel Synagogue 1800–1804 Spruce St.
- 5 Plays and Players 1714 Delancey Place, 215-735-0630, playsandplayers.org
- 6 Horace Jayne House 320 S. 19th St.
- 7 Rafsnyder-Welsh House 1923 Spruce St.
- 8 Rosenbach Museum and Library 2008–2010 Delancey Place, 215-732-1600, rosenbach.org
- 9 The Rittenhouse 201 W. Rittenhouse Square, 215-546-9000, rittenhousehotel.com
- 10 Church of the Holy Trinity 1904 Walnut St., 215-567-1267, htrit.org
- 11 Barnes & Noble 1805 Walnut St., 215-665-0716, stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2850
- 12 Sarah Drexel Fell–Van Rensselaer House 1801 Walnut St.



7 Fitler Square and the Schuylkill River

Life Shaped by the Water

Above: Schuylkill River Park features a waterside trail.

BOUNDARIES: Lombard St., Chestnut St., S. 22nd St., Schuylkill River

DISTANCE: 1.3 miles

DIFFICULTY: Easy

PARKING: There are no paid parking lots here; the only options are metered street parking or limited but free 2-hour street spots.

PUBLIC TRANSIT: If you're coming into the city by rail—including SEPTA and Amtrak—it's easy to exit at 30th Station and cross the Schuylkill River at South Street. By bus, the 40 or 42 will drop you a few blocks from your starting point.

The Schuylkill River wharves made Fitler Square an industrial hub in the first half of the 1800s, with coal pouring in from northern Pennsylvania's mines. Irish immigrants who worked on the water and in nearby manufacturing plants lived here.

As ships grew, business moved to the deeper and wider Delaware River. The neighborhood's fortunes declined. Urban affairs expert Jeanne Lowe described 1950s Fitler Square as a "muddle inhabited by drunks and empty bottles."

Today this neighborhood's homes, dating from the mid-19th to the 20th century, are in high demand. While real estate here costs less than properties in nearby Rittenhouse Square, it's not far off. Some people have dubbed the area between the two parks Rit-Fit or Fittenhouse Square.

Walk Description

Start at **1 The Philadelphia School**, at Lombard and South 25th Streets. This private institution, where tuition ranges from \$27,000 to \$30,500, has creatively adapted existing buildings for modern uses. Part of the main school, established in 1976, was the Philadelphia-based New York Pie Baking Company. Founder William "The Pie Man" Thompson tried to convince the public that his factory-made pies—made with pure ingredients in sterile conditions—were nutritious.

The school converted an asphalt-covered, fenced-in parking lot into a playground with green learning space. A former railroad company building became an early-childhood development center.

Walk north on South 25th Street. At Pine Street, turn right. Joseph Horn lived in the mansion at 2410 Pine Street. He and partner Frank Hardart opened their eponymous Automat chain together in 1888.

Automats operated on the same principle as vending machines. Customers viewed prepared foods behind windows, then inserted coins to lift the glass. An employee then put a fresh offering in the empty space. The country's first Automat, on nearby Chestnut Street, still has "Horn & Hardart" engraved above the doors. In 1922, a company ad boasted that one out of every 16 Philadelphians enjoyed a daily meal at an Automat.

Continue to **2 Fitler Square**, at 24th and Pine Streets, a half-acre park named for former Mayor Edwin Fitler, who owned a rope factory and supported the Union in the Civil War by providing uniforms for employees who served. At its center is a working Victorian-era fountain. Its three sculptures—*Fitler Square Ram*, *Grizzly*, and *Family of Turtles*—are self-explanatory.

Exit the square, continuing on Pine Street.

At South 22nd Street, turn left. The **3 Neill and Mauran Houses**—two residences under one roof—blend Colonial, Queen Anne, and medieval elements. Architect Wilson Eyre, founder of *House and Garden*, designed this structure in 1890. Note the asymmetric windows and the large doors with tiny mail slots. Eyre appears later in this walk.

Appendix I: Walks by Theme

Architectural Tours

Independence National Park (Walk 1)
The Museum District: From Love Park to the *Rocky Steps* (Walk 4)
The Museum District: From the Art Museum to the Cathedral (Walk 5)
Rittenhouse Square (Walk 6)
Fitler Square and the Schuylkill River (Walk 7)
North Broad Street I: From City Hall to “Dixie Hummingbirds Way” (Walk 8)
Market Street West: City Hall and the Skyscrapers (Walk 13)
Society Hill (Walk 17)
Fairmount, the Neighborhood (Walk 20)
Germantown (Walk 28)
Mount Airy and Wissahickon Valley Park (Walk 29)

Arts and Culture

Chinatown (Walk 2)
African American Philadelphia (Walk 3)
The Museum District: From Love Park to the *Rocky Steps* (Walk 4)
The Museum District: From the Art Museum to the Cathedral (Walk 5)
Rittenhouse Square (Walk 6)
North Broad Street I: From City Hall to “Dixie Hummingbirds Way” (Walk 8)
North Broad Street II: Temple University and Urban Renewal (Walk 9)
South Broad Street I: From the Navy Yard to City Hall (Walk 10)
South Broad Street II: From the Avenue of the Arts to
Franklin Delano Roosevelt Park (Walk 11)
Market Street East: The Gayborhood and Reading Terminal Market (Walk 12)
Center City (Walk 14)
Old City (Walk 16)
Society Hill (Walk 17)
Northern Liberties (Walk 18)
The River Wards: Kensington and Fishtown (Walk 19)
Fairmount, the Neighborhood (Walk 20)
Headhouse Square, Fabric Row, and South Street (Walk 22)
South Philadelphia I (Walk 23)
West Philadelphia I: University City, The Woodlands, and Clark Park (Walk 25)
West Philadelphia II: 30th Street Station,
Drexel University, and More (Walk 26)
Fairmount Park (Walk 30)

Family Fun

Independence National Park (Walk 1)
The Museum District: From Love Park to the **Rocky Steps** (Walk 4)
Fitler Square and the Schuylkill River (Walk 7)
South Broad Street II: From the Avenue of the Arts to
Franklin Delano Roosevelt Park (Walk 11)
Market Street East: The Gayborhood and Reading Terminal Market (Walk 12)
Along the Delaware River (Walk 15)
Old City (Walk 16)
Northern Liberties (Walk 18)
The River Wards: Kensington and Fishtown (Walk 19)
Fairmount, the Neighborhood (Walk 20)
South Philadelphia I (Walk 23)
West Philadelphia I: University City, The Woodlands, and Clark Park (Walk 25)
Manayunk (Walk 27)
Mount Airy and Wissahickon Valley Park (Walk 29)
Fairmount Park (Walk 30)

Green Spaces

The Museum District: From Love Park to the **Rocky Steps** (Walk 4)
The Museum District: From the Art Museum to the Cathedral (Walk 5)
Rittenhouse Square (Walk 6)
Fitler Square and the Schuylkill River (Walk 7)
South Broad Street II: From the Avenue of the Arts to
Franklin Delano Roosevelt Park (Walk 11)
Along the Delaware River (Walk 15)
Old City (Walk 16)
South Philadelphia II (Walk 24)
West Philadelphia I: University City, The Woodlands, and Clark Park (Walk 25)
Manayunk (Walk 27)
Germantown (Walk 28)
Mount Airy and Wissahickon Valley Park (Walk 29)
Fairmount Park (Walk 30)

History

Independence National Park (Walk 1)
African American Philadelphia (Walk 3)
South Broad Street II: From the Avenue of the Arts to Franklin Delano Roosevelt Park (Walk 11)

History (*continued*)

Market Street East: The Gayborhood and Reading Terminal Market (Walk 12)

Old City (Walk 16)

Society Hill (Walk 17)

Antiques Row, Jewelers' Row, and Rittenhouse Row (Walk 21)

Headhouse Square, Fabric Row, and South Street (Walk 22)

Germantown (Walk 28)

Appendix II: Sources of Information

Websites

Association for Public Art associationforpublicart.org

Atlas Obscura atlasobscura.com

Billy Penn billypenn.com

Center City District centercityphila.org

City of Philadelphia phila.gov

Constitutional Walking Tour of Philadelphia theconstitutional.com

Curbed Philly philly.curbed.com

The Delaware River Blog delawareriver.net

Delaware River Waterfront Corporation delawareriverwaterfront.com

Discover Philadelphia discoverphl.com

Eater Philly philly.eater.com

The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia philadelphiaencyclopedia.org

Explore Pennsylvania History, part of the Commonwealth's

Department of Community and Economic Development explorepahistory.com

Fairmount Park Conservancy myphillypark.org

Free Library of Philadelphia freephilly.org

Friends of Wissahickon fow.org

Ghost Sign Project ghostsignproject.com

Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance philaculture.org

Hidden City Philadelphia hiddencityphila.org

Historic Houses of Fairmount Park parkcharms.com

Historic Philadelphia historicphiladelphia.org

The Historical Marker Database hmdb.org

Historical Society of Philadelphia hsp.org

Independence Hall Association ushistory.org

Independence Visitor Center phlvisitorcenter.com

Kenneth W. Milano kennethw milano.com
Mural Arts Philadelphia muralarts.org
Naked Philly ocfrealty.com/naked-philly
Newspapers.com
Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts pafa.org
Pennsylvania Heritage paheritage.com
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission phmc.pa.gov
Philadelphia phillymag.com
Philadelphia Business News bizjournals.com/philadelphia
Philadelphia Church Project phillychurchproject.com
Philadelphia Citizen thephiladelphiacitizen.org
Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau discoverphl.com
The Philadelphia Gayborhood Guru thegayborhood.guru.wordpress.com
Philadelphia History Museum philadelphiahistory.org
The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Philadelphia Daily News, and Philly.com philly.com
Philadelphia Public Art philart.net
Philadelphia's Magic Gardens phillymagicgardens.org
PhilaPlace philaplace.org
Philebrity philebrity.com
Philly History Blog phillyhistory.org/blog
PhillyMuralPics.com phillymuralpics.com
Phillyvoice phillyvoice.com
PlanPhilly planphilly.com
Smithsonian smithsonian.org
South Street Headhouse District southstreet.com
Southwark Historical Society southwarkhistory.org
Spirit News spiritnews.org
Streets Dept streetsdept.com
US National Park Service nps.gov
Visit Philadelphia visitphilly.org
Wee Wander wee-wander.com
WHYY why.org
Wooder Ice wooderice.com
Workshop of the World Philadelphia workshopoftheworld.com
YIMBY phillyyimby.com

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About the Author

Freelance journalist **Natalie Pompilio** lives in an alley off an alley in South Philadelphia. A former staff writer with *The Times-Picayune* (New Orleans), *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, and *The Philadelphia Daily News*, she is a frequent contributor to *The Star-Ledger* (Newark), *The Washington Post*, the *Associated Press*, and regional magazines. She and her sister also collaborated on *This Used to Be Philadelphia* (Reedy Press, 2021). Her other books include *More Philadelphia Murals and The Stories They Tell* (with Jane Golden and Robin Rice, Temple University Press, 2006) and *Philadelphia A to Z* (with photographer Jennifer Zdon, self-published, 2009).

Natalie's idea of a perfect night is sitting on her roof deck on a warm night with her husband, Jordan Barnett, and watching the chimney swifts do their nightly dance. Read more of her work at nataliepompilio.com.



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About the Photographer



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Tricia Pompilio is a Philadelphia-based portrait and family photographer. Her favorite subjects are dancers and families, especially her husband, Vince Savarese, and their three daughters, Fiona, Luna, and Poppy. In 2019, *Philadelphia Family* magazine named her the city's best portrait photographer. When she's not behind the camera, she's probably rereading *Harry Potter* while listening to Rob Thomas while her cats, Albus and Clara, sleep at her feet. Follow her work at triciapompiliophotography.com and on Instagram at [triciapompiliophotography](https://www.instagram.com/triciapompiliophotography).

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