

Things To Do in Philadelphia



Museums

Art Focus

[Philadelphia Museum of Art](#)

Best known as the famous setting where “Rocky Balboa” ran up and down the steps training for his big fight, the Philadelphia Museum of Art offers much more than symbolism of the indistinguishable human spirit. Described as a “neoclassical temple on a hill,” the Museum houses an impressive collection of art.

[The Barnes Foundation](#)

Explore the legendary locally-based collection featuring Renoir, Cezanne, Matisse, Picasso, Van Gogh and more. Tours, workshops and events for all ages are available.

[Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art](#)

An architectural jewel located in the heart of Center City, PAFA boasts a large collection of American art and treasures by local and national luminaries such as Charles Willson Peale, Thomas Eakins and Violet Oakley. Be sure to hit their cool gift shop too.

[Rodin Museum](#)

As one of the most essential museums of Philadelphia, the Rodin is home to some of the most inclusive public collections of Rodin’s work outside Paris.

Interesting and Unusual

[The Mütter Museum](#)

America’s finest museum of medical history, the Mütter Museum displays its beautifully preserved collections of anatomical specimens, models, and medical instruments in a 19th-century “cabinet museum” setting. The museum helps the public understand the mysteries and beauty of the human body and to appreciate the history of diagnosis and treatment of disease.

[Chemical Heritage Foundation](#)

Very walkable from our hotel, CHF collects, preserves and exhibits notable historical artifacts. They actively engage communities of scientists, engineers and the curious public. This interesting museum is about telling the stories of the people behind breakthroughs and innovations. You can actually trace specific progress in the laboratory, the factory and the home at this museum.

[The Wagner Free Institute of Science](#)

The Wagner Institute's nineteenth century exhibit hall – a soaring three-story space – houses an extraordinary collection of natural history specimens including mounted birds and mammals, fossils, rocks and minerals, insects, shells, dinosaur bones, and the first American saber-toothed tiger. Gathered largely by founder William Wagner and Institute curators and faculty during the nineteenth century, the collections are displayed in cherry-wood and glass cabinets dating from the 1880s and maintain their original “systematic” scheme, providing a rare view of a Victorian science museum.

Cultural Museums

[National Museum of American Jewish History](#)

Rising five stories above Independence Mall in the heart of historic Philadelphia, the National Museum of American Jewish History brings to life the 360-year history of Jews in America.

[The African-American Museum](#)

Built on land that once belonged to a historic black community, this 35-year-old museum pays tribute to African Americans -- with a special focus on local history. The AAMP is easy to get to and it showcases African American heritage and culture through a variety of fascinating exhibits.

[Penn Museum \(Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology\)](#)

Come see the 15-ton Egyptian sphinx — it is just one jaw-dropping attraction in a collection of nearly a million objects at the Penn Museum—one of the world's finest archaeological and anthropological museums.

Museums for Kids

[The Franklin Institute](#)

An innovator in creating interactive exhibits before ‘interactive’ was well-known. The Franklin Institute is as innovative as its namesake. It's highly touchable attractions explore science in various categories from sports, space and human biology.

[Please Touch Museum](#)

A quick cab ride away (10-mins average), visit the city's award-winning children's museum that's truly a visual delight for all ages. Ride on a pretend Septa bus, explore the high hedges of Alice in Wonderland, take a step back in time and take a look at early trains and so much more.

[Academy of Natural Sciences](#)

Founded in 1812, the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University is a leading natural history museum dedicated to advancing research, education, and public engagement in biodiversity and environmental science. Don't miss the *Outside In* permanent exhibit where you can touch live animals and learn about various habitats.

[Independence Seaport Museum](#)

Located next to the Hilton Philadelphia at Penn's Landing, the Independence Seaport Museum is the region's primary repository of art, artifacts and archival materials documenting the diverse maritime history of the Greater Delaware Valley, and the history of the Port of Philadelphia and the other major urban ports of the Delaware River.

[Fireman's Hall Museum](#)

Very walkable from our hotel, The Fireman's Hall Museum presents and preserves the history of firefighting in Philadelphia, paying tribute to its firefighters, both paid and volunteer, through the museum's exhibits, public programs and award ceremonies. Little boys love this one!

[The Mummers' Museum](#)

Chronicling the history of Philadelphia's annual folk parade (held on January 1) with past costumes and featuring a fun gift shop since 1976, this fanciful and highly visual outing is just minutes away in an Uber.

[Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum](#)

The Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum is one of the world's greatest collections of racing sports cars. The museum celebrates the history and evolution of truly magnificent machines. Assembled over 50 years, the Collection contains over 65 historically significant cars including Ferrari, Alfa Romeo, Bugatti, Mercedes, Jaguar, Bentley, Porsche, Aston Martin, Corvette, Ford and more.

Historical Focus

[The Philadelphia History Museum at the Atwater Kent](#)

This is the place to come to discover the finer points of Philadelphia's history. The small Atwater Kent Museum occupies an 1826 John Haviland building. With more artifacts than the Independence Visitor Center, this museum does a great job in showing what Philadelphia was like from 1680 to today.

[National Constitution Center](#)

The National Constitution Center inspires active citizenship as the only place where people across America and around the world can come together to learn about, debate, and celebrate the greatest vision of human freedom in history, the U.S. Constitution. See Freedom Rising, Signers' Hall and more. Step inside and be inspired by interactive exhibits, live performances, rare artifacts, and hands-on activities.

[National Liberty Museum](#)

Located in the heart of historic Philadelphia, the National Liberty Museum is dedicated to preserving America's heritage of freedom by encouraging people to find their own place in the story of liberty. Visitors will enjoy an inspiring and entertaining experience, as they interact with incredible stories of heroes and a collection of contemporary art. Core themes for young people and adults include leadership and good character; diversity and inclusion; peaceful conflict resolution; and civic engagement. The museum's primary art form is glass art, as it makes the point that freedom is as fragile as glass. Tours available.

[Museum of the American Revolution](#)

NEW!

The Museum of the American Revolution will tell the dramatic story of our nation's founding through immersive gallery experiences, object theaters, and recreated historical scenes. From the early stirrings of unrest in Boston to the opening shots of the War of Independence, and from signing of the Declaration of Independence to the creation of the American Republic, the Museum's permanent exhibition explores the ideas, events, and legacies of America's Revolutionary beginnings.

For more information and to learn how you can obtain a 'Philadelphia Pass' [click here](#). For city-wide savings and special offers, check out phillyfunguide.com.