

PHILADELPHIA

FALL & WINTER GUIDE 2011 – 2012



The best places to eat, sleep and play
in Philadelphia this fall and winter

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INTRODUCTION



TripAdvisor, the most trusted source for where to eat, sleep and play in thousands of destinations around the world, has collected the best insider tips from its 50 million monthly visitors to produce a unique series of travel guides. In addition to the best hotels, restaurants and attractions for every type of traveler, you'll get great advice about what to pack, how to get around and where to find the best views. Be sure to check out the guides at www.tripadvisor.com.



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PACKING TIPS

1. BYOB or C or T. "BYOB means 'bring your own booze,' whatever your preference is." So pack the **pinot, champagne or tequila**.—TripAdvisor Member, Philadelphia
2. Fill your wallet or go hungry. A large number of the city's eateries accept **cash** only.
3. "Just bring your **walking shoes** and you'll be fine. Also, keep in mind that cabs are relatively cheap here."—TripAdvisor Member, Philadelphia

Inside

PHILADELPHIA

A city with an illustrious past, the birthplace of the United States is a stimulating vacation spot. Historic Philadelphia has dozens of essential sites: from the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall, where the Constitution and Declaration of Independence were signed, to lesser-known sites like Elfreth's Alley. The City of Brotherly Love boasts outstanding museums such as the Franklin Institute Science Museum, honoring the city's most famous ambassador, Benjamin Franklin, and the impressive Rodin Museum.

However Philadelphia is not all monuments and museums. A vibrant performing arts scene wins acclaim. Several distinct neighborhoods offer diverse fun, from the fancy townhouses of Society Hill to the funky shops of South Street. Exciting shopping beckons from funky South Street, upscale Rittenhouse Square and the vast King of Prussia Mall, and a mind- and palate-boggling bounty awaits at Reading Market. Chilly but festive in the winter and hot and sunny in the summer, the city has something to offer all year long.

Once you've had your fill of shopping, science and matters of state, make sure you still have room for all-important matters of steak: Don't miss out on a Philadelphia cheese steak—it's a slice of culinary history sure to keep you coming back for more.

Top VIEWS



PHILADELPHIA'S BEST VIEWS



“**City Hall** is the third-tallest building in the city. One can go to the top, where there’s an observation deck. That gorgeous city view is thrilling.”—TripAdvisor Member, Edison, N.J.

City Hall, Broad and Market streets, 215 686 2840

“Make sure you set aside time to walk over the **Benjamin Franklin Bridge**. Its sheer size will leave you breathless, and the views are superb, especially from the south walkway. As an added extra, at night the whole thing is lit up beautifully with lots of red and white lights.”—TripAdvisor Member, Nottingham, U.K.

Benjamin Franklin Bridge, 5th and Vine Sts.

Experience Philadelphia up close by walking (or taking a trolley, bus or carriage ride) around **Independence National Historical Park**. The one-square-mile park includes the Liberty Bell, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and Independence Hall. “The walking is so pleasant that the various tour buses and trolleys, which are usually packed to the gills in other cities, have a harder time rounding up passengers in Philadelphia.”—TripAdvisor Member, Buffalo, N.Y.

Independence National Historical Park, 143 S. 3rd St., 215 597 8787

Where to PLAY

TOP 10 Attractions

1. National Museum of American Jewish History, Independence Hall, 55 N 5th St., 215 923 3811
2. Please Touch Museum, 4231 Avenue of the Republic, 215 963 0667
3. Philadelphia Museum of Art, 26th Street and Benjamin Franklin Parkway, 215 763 8100
4. Eastern State Penitentiary, 2124 Fairmount Ave., 215 236 3300
5. Smith Kids Play Place (Playground & Mansion), 33rd St & Oxford St., East Fairmount Park, 215 765 4325
6. Independence Hall, Chestnut Street between 5th and 6th streets, 215 597 8787
7. Independence National Historical Park, 143 S. 3rd St., 215 965 2305
8. National Constitution Center, 525 Arch St., Independence Hall, 215 409 6600
9. Todd House, 401 Walnut St., 215 597 8974
10. Morris Arboretum, 100 E. Northwestern Ave., 215 247 5777

FAMILIES



Home to the Philadelphia Phillies and the always kooky Phillie Phanatic mascot, “**Citizen’s Bank Park** is a fun place. Ashburn Alley is great fun for the kids (and adults) with free games to play.”—TripAdvisor Member, Royersford, Pa.

Citizen’s Bank Park, One Citizens Bank Way, 215 463 1000

“Move one step closer to that Mom of the Year award and take your child to the **Please Touch Museum**. They’ll never forget and they’ll always love you for it (and don’t forget your camera).”—TripAdvisor Member, Queens, N.Y.

Please Touch Museum, 4231 Avenue of the Republic, 215 963 0667

Not for every urchin, but fascinating to some, **Mutter Museum** “is a museum of Physicians College and it shows, well, medical stuff: skeletons and diseased tissue and other ‘gross’ things.”—TripAdvisor Member, Philadelphia

Mutter Museum, 19 S. 22nd St., 215 563 3737

ROMANCE



Arader “is the quaintest gallery I have ever been in. It’s like stepping into 19th-century Philadelphia, with drawers of old maps and huge Audubon prints everywhere.”—TripAdvisor Member

Arader Galleries, 1308 Walnut St., 215 735 8811

Longwood Gardens is “an absolute treasure! There were conservatories with desert plants, ferneries and an exquisite orchid room. Just gorgeous!”—TripAdvisor Member, Melbourne, Australia

Longwood Gardens, 1001 Longwood Road, Kennett Square, 610 388 1000

At the **Morris Arboretum** “thousands of rare and lovely plants are set in a romantic Victorian landscape garden of winding paths, streams and gardens.”—TripAdvisor Member, Kissimmee, Fla.

Morris Arboretum, 100 E. Northwestern Ave., 215 247 5777

Where to **PLAY**



BUDGET

"This one will cost you - \$5 for adults and \$2 for kids - under 6ers are FREE, though!" **Elfreth's Alley** is "America's oldest residential street, dating back to 1702. Comprised of 33 homes, it's old, cobblestone-laden and it's gorgeous. And yes, people still live there."—TripAdvisor Member, Haverford

Elfreth's Alley, Second St., between Race and Arch, 215 574 0560

"My children were so excited to actually see the **Liberty Bell** in person that they were tingling with excitement." Entry to Liberty Bell Center is free.—TripAdvisor Member, Chicago, Ill.

Liberty Bell Center, Chestnut Street, Between 5th and 6th streets, 215 597 8787

"Don't miss the **Rodin Museum**, a hidden gem of a museum! Just learning about 'The Thinker' is very interesting."—TripAdvisor Member, Philadelphia

Rodin Museum, Benjamin Franklin Parkway at 22nd Street, 215 568 6026

TripAdvisor members have posted more than 8,000,000 traveler photos on the site. The good, the bad and the very candid. It's almost like being there!



ADVENTURE

Hike Fairmount Park's **Forbidden Drive**, along the Wissahickon. "Historic landmarks line the Drive along with informational placards," including one marking "the only covered-bridge remaining in a major U.S. city."—TripAdvisor Member, Princeton, N.J.

Forbidden Drive, Fairmount Park, 215 683 0200

"Jogging, Rollerblading, biking, and walking enthusiasts will enjoy their workouts along **Kelly Drive**. At the Twin Bridges, by crossing the Falls Bridge, those feeling more adventurous can make the return trip on the West River Drive, making it about a six-mile circuit trip."—TripAdvisor Member

Kelly Drive, Fairmount Park, 215 683 0200

"At over 4000 acres, **Fairmount Park** is the country's largest landscaped park. It contains over 215 miles of trails, enjoyed by hikers, walkers, bikers and horseback riders."—TripAdvisor Member, Meadowbrook, Pa.

Fairmount Park, 215 683 0200



EDUCATIONAL/HISTORICAL

"Visit historic **Valley Forge National Historical Park** where George Washington and his troops camped."—TripAdvisor Member, Princeton, N.J.

Valley Forge National Historical Park, 1400 N. Outerline Dr., King of Prussia, 610 783 1077

Try **Eastern State Penitentiary**, former home of Al Capone. "It was very creepy walking those stark corridors, cells and yards, and seeing the intimidating fortress walls."—TripAdvisor Member, New York

Eastern State Penitentiary, 22nd Street and Fairmount Avenue, 215 236 3300

Philadelphia Museum of Art "is a world-class, unpretentious museum that is worth traveling to Philadelphia for all by itself."—TripAdvisor Member, Washington D.C.

Philadelphia Museum of Art, 26th Street and Benjamin Franklin Parkway, 215 763 8100

"...a perfect place to take a walk, and people watch."



RELAXATION

Put on your sunscreen and head to **Rittenhouse Square Park**, "a perfect place to take a walk, enjoy a cup of coffee and people watch."—TripAdvisor Member, Dublin, Ireland

Rittenhouse Square Park, 18th and Walnut streets, 215 683 0200

"Wander the charming cobblestone streets of **Chestnut Hill**, located in the northwest section of Philadelphia. Listed in the National Historic Register, it's a hidden gem and definitely worth a visit."—TripAdvisor Member, Atlantic City, N.J.

Chestnut Hill

Shopaholics delight at vast **King of Prussia**, two connected malls. Choose from "eight anchor stores, plus a multitude of small stores on both sides, as well. You can easily spend a day there."—TripAdvisor Member, Haverford, Pa.

King of Prussia Mall, Route 202 at Mall Boulevard, King of Prussia, 610 265 5727

What's the **TOUR**

How to Get Around



SEPTA's RI rail line links the airport to Center City. It stops at every airport terminal and runs every 30 minutes from 6 a.m. to midnight.

To make full use of SEPTA public transit, including buses, trolleys and subways, purchase a **\$7.00 Convenience Pass**.

SEPTA, 215 580 7800, <http://www.septa.org>

The purple **Phlash bus** whisks visitors round major attractions for a day rate of \$5 or a family day rate of \$10.

Philly Phlash Bus, <http://www.phillyplash.com>

To gauge distance in Center City, figure **10 blocks to the mile**.

Want more information on Philadelphia? TripAdvisor.com offers free weekly e-mail updates filled with new deals, reviews and articles for Philadelphia or any other destination you choose.

WHERE to eat

TOP 10 Restaurants

1. Reading Terminal Market, 12th and Arch Sts., 215 922 2317
2. Talula's Garden, 210 W. Washington Square, 215 592 7787
3. Capogiro Gelateria, 119 S. 13th St., 215 351 0900
4. Butcher & Singer, 1500 Walnut St., 215 732 4444
5. Tinto, 114 S. 20th St., 215 665 9150
6. Alma de Cuba, 1623 Walnut St., 215 988 1799
7. Buddakan, 325 Chestnut St., 215 574 9440
8. Honey's Sit n' Eat, 800 N. 4th St., 215 925 1150
9. Amada, 217-219 Chestnut St., 215 625 2450
10. Kanella, 10th and Spruce, 215 922 1773

FAMILIES

Consider family-run **Villa di Roma** for "great, solid Italian food... It doesn't get much more authentic than this—however, remember, cash only!"—TripAdvisor Member, Haverford, Pa.

Villa di Roma, 936 S. Ninth St., 215 592 1295

The perfect place to go with a ravenous group, **Sang Kee** has "the best pan-fried dumplings I have ever had, and their entrees are just as amazing. You get a lot of food for a good price."—TripAdvisor Member

Sang Kee Peking Duck House, 238 N. 9th St., 215 925 7532

Brunch at **Sabrina's** "is a Philadelphia institution. Their stuffed French toast (with marzipan, almonds, strawberries and more) is a mile-high pile of deliciousness."—TripAdvisor Member, Philadelphia

Sabrina's Café, 910 Christian St., 215 574 1599

ROMANCE

Alma de Cuba is "a cute little place, with an atmosphere that makes you forget you're in Philadelphia. I felt like I was on a tropical island."—TripAdvisor Member, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Alma de Cuba, 1623 Walnut St., 215 988 1799

"**R2L** is a great place for a romantic dinner. The view is spectacular with large windows surrounding the room, the decor is seductive, and the food is delicious."—TripAdvisor Member, Philadelphia

R2L, Liberty Two, 50 S. 16th St., 37th Floor, 215 564 5337

"Dining at **Vetri** is like a vacation in and of itself and you'll never have Italian food like that again."—TripAdvisor Member, Philadelphia

Vetri, 1312 Spruce St., 215 732 3478

BUDGET

Budget friendly and an integral part of the Philadelphia experience, the concoctions at **Jim's Steak Center** are "hands down the best cheese steaks you can get in the free world!"—TripAdvisor Member, Hackettstown, N.J.

Jim's Steak Center, 400 South St., 215 928 1911

"If you can't find something to eat at **Reading Terminal Market**, it probably doesn't exist." You'll find Italian pastry, Amish pretzels, sushi, Polish perogies, homemade ice cream, organic produce, cheeses, meats and so much more."—TripAdvisor Members, Haverford, Pa. and Dublin, Ireland

Reading Terminal Market, 12th and Arch streets, 215 922 2317

The tiny **Morning Glory Diner** "will amaze you with ambiance and taste. Weekend brunch is delicious," and there are "special touches on every plate."—TripAdvisor Member, Dublin, Ireland

Morning Glory Diner, 735 S. 10th St., 215 413 3999

WHERE to eat



HEALTH-CONSCIOUS

Worth a trip to Temple University, “**Patterson’s** food is like a big hug from your best friend. It is THE BEST vegetarian food I have found in Philadelphia. You’ll be thrilled!”—TripAdvisor Member, Philadelphia

Patterson’s Palace, 1621 Cecil B. Moore Ave., 215 236 3902

“**Horizons** is vegan food done right! The grilled/smoke seitan with yukon potatoes was out of this world. Probably the best single vegan dish I’ve ever had!”—TripAdvisor Member, New York City, N.Y.

Horizons, 611 S 7th St., 215 923 6117

“**Friday Saturday Sunday** is a great choice. One of my favorite restaurants in the city. If you like cream of mushroom soup, make sure you get it there—it is delicious and legendary (well, as legendary as mushroom soup can be!).”—TripAdvisor Member, Haverford, Pa.

Friday Saturday Sunday, 261 S. 21st St., 215 546 4232

“...like a big hug from your best friend.”

HIDDEN GEMS

“The menu at **White Dog Cafe** was filled with unique and tasty selections, such as an heirloom apple salad, buttermilk pancakes with cinnamon mascarpone and toasted almonds, chihuahua steak and eggs and orange ginger tofu. All of the meat, eggs and poultry come from local family farms and most of the ingredients are organic.”—TripAdvisor Member, Sleepy Hollow, N.Y.

White Dog Cafe, 3420 Sansom St., 215 386 9224

Black lobster ravioli, clam linguini and tableside Caesar come highly recommended at **Bistro Romana**. Reserve well ahead! “Housed in an 18th-century granary,” this “unique” bistro is “very good and reasonably priced.”—TripAdvisor Member, Haverford, Pa.

Bistro Romano, 120 Lombard St., 215 925 8880

If you are looking for “Mexican food, but not your standard burrito and taco place,” check out **Lolita**. “You can bring your own tequila...They sell delicious margarita mix.”—TripAdvisor Member, Philadelphia

Lolita, 106 S. 13th St., 215 546 7100

SPECIAL EVENTS



Racing down shopping streets, through university neighborhoods, over bridges and past some of the country’s oldest neighborhoods, the annual **Philadelphia Marathon** and half-marathon are a great way to see the city of brotherly love. (November 18 – 20)

Philadelphia Marathon, Starts 22nd Street & Benjamin Franklin Parkway, 215 683 2122, <http://www.philadelphiamarathon.com>

Bundle up and join throngs of onlookers welcoming in the New Year with the spectacular **Mummers’ Parade**, featuring colorful and farcical frolickers in outlandish costumes parading and performing for the crowd. (January 1)

Mummers’ Parade, Broad Street, <http://www.phillymummers.com>

Volunteer with the thousands of citizens who take part in the annual **Martin Luther King Day of Service**, when various groups celebrate the life of the civil rights leader with service to the community. (January 16)

Martin Luther King Day of Service, Various venues, 215 665 2475, <http://www.mlkdayofservice.org>

Fill your belly with some of Philly’s best eats at the **Philadelphia Center City Restaurant Week**. The city’s best restaurants offer prix fixe menus to tempt your palate. (January 22 – 27, January 29 – February 3)

Philadelphia Center City Restaurant Week, Various venues, 215 440 5500, <http://www.centercityphila.org/life/RestaurantWeek.php>

Wake up and smell the aroma of thousands of blooms at the **Philadelphia Flower Show**, or find a new vacation read at the accompanying book fair. (March 4 – 11)

Philadelphia Flower Show, Pennsylvania Convention Center, 12th & Arch streets, 215 988 8899, <http://www.theflowershow.com>

Blow the froth off a few brews at the **Philly Craft Beer festival**, where microbreweries offer up over 100 beers to thirsty visitors. (March 3)

Philly Craft Beer festival, Philadelphia Cruise Terminal, 5100 S. Broad St., 631 940 7290, <http://www.phillycraftbeerfest.com>

Where to **STAY**



FAMILIES



Two blocks from Reading Market, **Residence Inn Philadelphia Center City** is “the perfect place to stay if you’re in Philly for more than a night and need some space to move.”—TripAdvisor Member, Wellington, New Zealand


Residence Inn Philadelphia Center City, 1 E. Penn Square, 215 557 0005

“The kids and I were VERY comfortable at the **Seventh Street B&B**. The innkeeper is very hospitable and generous with his knowledge of the city. The kids enjoyed the array of breakfast cereal and I was quite satisfied with coffee, yogurt, fruit and toast.”—TripAdvisor Member, Los Angeles, Calif.

Seventh Street B&B, 702 S. 7th St., 215 238 9042


The pool at the **Courtyard Downtown** “wasn’t enormous, but was perfect for my kids after full day of sightseeing. A perfect overnight adventure for a mom and her kids.”—TripAdvisor Member, New Jersey

Courtyard Philadelphia Downtown, 21 N. Juniper St., 215 496 3200



Have questions about Philadelphia? Get insider advice from local experts in our forums. The majority of questions are answered within 24 hours.

ROMANCE



The Rittenhouse is an opulent 33-story hotel noted for outstanding service. “The Rittenhouse outperformed all of the other hotels on every level. It’s nice to know some places still believe in customer service.”—TripAdvisor Member, Los Angeles, Calif.

The Rittenhouse, 210 W. Rittenhouse Square, 215 546 9000

Best Western Independence Park is housed in a Victorian building dating from 1856 and has old-world charm and ambiance. “This is a great little hotel. Small and charming in hopping Old City. The staff is great, breakfast is delicious and the location is perfect.”—TripAdvisor Member, Colorado

Best Western Independence Park, 235 Chestnut St., 215 922 4443

“I wanted to surprise my husband with a romantic weekend in downtown Philadelphia—**Rittenhouse 1715** was just what we needed. Tucked away on a small street right of Rittenhouse Square, the best part of Philadelphia, the hotel is magnificent with great attention to detail.”—TripAdvisor Member, Wyndmoor, Pa.

Rittenhouse 1715, 1715 Rittenhouse Square, 215 546 6500

BUDGET



“We loved the **Trade Winds**—the mixed style of design, the comfortable beds and the beautiful paintings on the walls. The owner is a very nice, friendly person; she made us feel like we were at home.”—TripAdvisor Member, Vienna, Austria

Trade Winds Bed and Breakfast, 943 Lombard St., 215 592 8644

Germantown B&B “is nice and cozy. The location is great, the neighborhood is nice, and the surroundings are interesting. A great value!”—TripAdvisor Member, Naples, Fla.


Germantown B&B, 5925 Wayne Ave., 215 848 1375

Alexander Inn is “much better than a traditional boutique hotel. It’s an amazingly great place to stay at an amazingly low price! Super clean accommodations, great pillows, upscale amenities and one of the nicest continental breakfast I’ve ever had.”—TripAdvisor Member, New York, N.Y.

Alexander Inn, 301 S. 12th St., 215 923 3535

“This is a hotel that just WOWs you with service!”

LUXURY



Sofitel Philadelphia “is an outstanding hotel in a great location. The hotel, located in the former PA Stock Exchange building, is decorated in a modern French style.”—TripAdvisor Member, York, Pa.

Sofitel Philadelphia, 120 S. 17th St., 215 569 8300

Omni Hotel at Independence Park has an upscale boutique address, close to historic Independence Mall. “This is a hotel that just WOWs you with service! From the time we checked in until the time we left we felt pampered.”—TripAdvisor Member, La Palma, Calif.

Omni Hotel at Independence Park, 401 Chestnut St., 215 925 0000

“What puts the **Four Seasons Philly** over the top is the impeccable, indulgent service you receive from the minute you arrive until the minute you leave.”—TripAdvisor Member, North Wales, Pa.

Four Seasons, 1 Logan Square, 215 963 1500

Where to **STAY**



HIDDEN GEMS

Penn's View Hotel has "very romantic rooms with fireplace and Jacuzzi, a view of the river, hardwood floors, fine rugs, silky linens and a beautiful bathroom with raised-relief tiling. If you might be bothered by traffic noise, book a room further back from Front Street"—TripAdvisor Member, Wayne, Pa.

**Penn's View Hotel, 14 N. Front St.,
800 331 7634 or 215 922 7600**

"I'm enthusiastic about **La Reserve Center City Bed and Breakfast**. Clean, nice, delicious breakfast, good location. Everyone has been very kind and helpful. Go Go Go!"—TripAdvisor Member, Rome, Italy

**La Reserve Center City Bed and Breakfast,
1804 Pine St., 215 735 1137**

"As soon as we walked into **Morris House**, it was like walking into another time period with the decor. It was so lovely. I did enjoy feeling like we had the run of the house with no bother from anyone."—TripAdvisor Member, Morristown, N.J.

**Morris House Hotel, 225 S. 8th St.,
215 922 2446**

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