

Rediscovering Philly

The AAO meets again in Philadelphia for its 113th annual session, to be held May 3-7 in the recently renovated Pennsylvania Convention Center. As a major hub of travel, culture, history, and commerce, the City of Brotherly Love has tons of attractions and opportunities for sightseeing, education, shopping, and dining. Many websites have recently added free apps to help you find your way smoothly around town using your mobile device.

Weather and Transportation

Spring is generally mild in Philadelphia, with May daytime temperatures in the mid-60s. Rain is always a possibility, and evenings will be chilly.

Philadelphia International Airport is about seven miles from downtown. SEPTA rail service, accessible from most of the baggage-claim areas, makes four stops in Center City, two within a few blocks of the convention center (Suburban Station and Market East); one-way fare for the 30-minute ride is \$7 (cash only). Taxis, departing from Zone 5 of the airport's Commercial Transportation Roadway, charge a flat rate of about \$30 to Center City locations. Sedan and limousine services are found in Zone 6, shared-van services in Zone 7. Amtrak's 30th Street Station is about two miles from the convention center, across the Schuylkill River in the University City neighborhood.

Tickets for tours and many attractions can be purchased at Philadelphia Visitor Centers in the convention center, at Sixth and Market (**Independence Visitor Center**), in **Philadelphia City Hall**, and in LOVE Park's Fairmount Park Welcome Center (www.phlvisitorcenter.com). Philadelphia Pass (www.philadelphiapass.com) and Philadelphia City Pass (www.citypass.com) offer discounted entry to top venues.

Tours

If the weather is pleasant, try a walking tour or simply stroll around the pedestrian-friendly Center City, bordered on the west by the Schuylkill River and on the east by the Delaware River. Walk! Philadelphia! directional signs are color-coded by district. For quick and easy transportation around Center City on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, take the



Elfreth's Alley in historic Old City Philadelphia.
Photo © Hblamb, www.dreamstime.com.

bright-purple Philly Phlash trolley, which stops at 19 of the city's most popular sites; an all-day pass allows hop-on/hop-off access for \$10.

Known as the Mural Capital of the World (3,000 and counting), Philadelphia boasts one of the nation's largest collections of public art. Guided and self-guided art tours by foot or public transportation are offered by the **Mural Arts Program**, **Context Tours**, and **Museum Without Walls** (walking-tour map at www.museumwithoutwallsaudio.org).

Guided city and historic tours by foot, bike, Segway, bus, and horse-drawn carriage are widely available. Options include **Urban Adventures Presents** "History in HD", "Soul of Center City", and "Philly on Tap"; **Historic Philadelphia's** "Independence After Hours" (dinner and debates by actors portraying the Founding Fathers) and

Boldface names in this article are listed in the Directory on pp. 134-136 with their telephone numbers and street addresses. The online version of this article (freely accessible) includes live website links; see the JCO Online Archive at www.jco-online.com.

“Tippler’s Tour” (a “colonial pub crawl”); and the top-rated **Awfully Nice Tours** (with guides specializing in architecture, history, and the arts).

Architecture buffs may note the addition of the super-“green” Comcast Center to the skyline since the 2002 AAO meeting. The “Emergence of a Modern Metropolis” guided tour, led by the Center for Architecture, highlights local architecture from the 1870s to the present; purchase tickets at the **Art Institutes of America (AIA) Bookstore and Design Center** in the Comcast lobby. Guided and self-guided walking tours of the oldest and most notable buildings and neighborhoods are offered by the **Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia**.

Bike rentals and tours are available from **Wheel Fun Rentals** (rental kiosk on Boathouse Row) and **Philadelphia Bike Tours** (who will deliver and pick up bicycles at your hotel). For a scenic view of the city and neighboring New Jersey, take the **RiverLink Ferry** between Penn’s Landing and the Camden Waterfront (12 minutes each way).

Food tours range from the trademark local cheesesteaks, scrapple, and big pretzels to ethnic delicacies. **Taste of Philly Food Tours** focus on the Reading Terminal Market; reserve a spot early, then check out their blog to learn the important nuances of “How to Order a Philly Cheesesteak”. **City Food Tours** feature Philly-centric as well as gourmet tasting tours; the new, 21-and-over “Prohibition Cocktail Tour” is usually sold out several weeks in advance. **Chew Philly Tours** add cultural and historical context to family-owned restaurants on strolls through the 300-year-old Manayunk neighborhood. Chocolate lovers won’t want to miss the **Philadelphia Chocolate Tours** of sweets shops and cafes.

Attractions

To the east of the convention center lies the Old City/Historic District, full of historic sites as well as modern boutiques, galleries, and restaurants. **Independence National Historical Park**, run by the National Park Service, is known as “America’s Most Historical Square Mile”. Free timed tickets can be reserved for **Independence Hall** tours online

(www.recreation.gov) or by phone. In the west wing of Independence Hall, the “Great Essentials Exhibit” displays surviving copies of the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution of the United States. Nearby are the **Liberty Bell Center**, **Graff House** (where Thomas Jefferson lived while drafting the Declaration of Independence), **Carpenters’ Hall**, and **City Tavern**. National Park Service sites are free except for the **National Constitution Center** (interactive exhibits, live performances, and daily presidential trivia contests). A cellphone audio tour for more than 20 locations is accessible through a local number, (267) 519-4295. Note that many attractions, including those on Independence Mall, close by 5 or 6 p.m., and others around town are closed on Sunday.

Also in the Old City are **Franklin Court** (park, fountain, and carousel); **Elfreth’s Alley** (the nation’s oldest residential street); the iconic City Hall, with its spectacular view from the public observation deck (reservations required); **Fireman’s Hall Museum** (a restored 1902 firehouse); and the **Betsy Ross House**. The **American Philosophical Society Museum** (open to 8 p.m. on May 3) showcases rare and intriguing examples of art, science, and history. The **Chemical Heritage Foundation Museum** is showing the surprisingly beautiful “X-Ray Vision: Fish Inside Out”. A bit farther from the convention center are **Rodeph Shalom Synagogue**, the 1920s-era Byzantine-style home of the Philadelphia Museum of Jewish Art, and the **Mütter Museum**, celebrating its 150th anniversary as a storehouse for the “anatomically strange”.

Just a few blocks east of the Historic District, on the Delaware River waterfront, the World War II submarine *Becuna* and 1892 Cruiser *Olympia* are on display at the **Independence Seaport Museum**. Inside the museum, the exhibit is called “Disasters on the Delaware: Rescues on the River”. Across the river, the **Battleship New Jersey** is docked on the

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Download a printable high-resolution map from www.visitphilly.com.



A gallery in the Barnes Foundation. Photo by R. Kennedy for GPTMC.

Camden Waterfront.

In the museum district along Benjamin Franklin Parkway, the **Barnes Foundation** has opened its striking new building with a world-renowned collection of French Impressionist and post-Impressionist paintings (evening hours on May 3). May exhibitions at the **Philadelphia Museum of Art** will include “Journeys to New Worlds: Spanish and Portuguese Colonial Art” and “The Art of Golf”. At the **Franklin Institute**, “Spy: Secret World of Espionage” opens May 4, and the **Fels Planetarium** is showing “Space Junk” in the Tuttleman IMAX Theater.

The **Philadelphia Zoo** unveils its new KidZooU, a combined education center and children’s zoo, in May. Another kid-friendly venue is the **Please Touch Museum** in Fairmount Park, also the site of a restored 1908 carousel. In the University City neighborhood, the **University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology** is hosting the final stop of the world’s largest and best-preserved ancient floor mosaic, excavated from Lod, Israel.

A visit to **Cliveden**, north of downtown, is recommended for Revolutionary War buffs. The grounds are the site of the Battle of Germantown, and rare colonial furnishings and decorative arts are on display in the mansion. The nearby **Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion**, Philadelphia’s only Victorian house museum, offers a May 3 tour on women in Victorian America, called “Upstairs Downstairs”.

The countryside around Philadelphia should be green and blooming in May. Amish country is within a few hours’ drive, and Revolutionary and Civil War sites abound. In Bucks County, each of the 44 differently shaped rooms in archeologist Henry Mercer’s 1916 concrete castle, now the **Fonthill Museum**, is thickly decorated with hand-crafted tiles from the adjacent **Moravian Pottery and Tile Works**, a working history museum. Parts of Mercer’s extensive collection are also housed in the nearby **Mercer Museum**, which will be exhibiting “Turning Points: Civil War, 1863-1864” during the convention. **Longwood Gardens** in Kennett Square and **Winterthur Museum and Gardens** in Wilmington, Delaware, both within an hour’s drive of Philadelphia, will be in all their spring glory; the 175-room Winterthur mansion showcases decorative and fine-arts collections of the DuPont family.

Performances

The **Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts** will host the Philadelphia Orchestra, featuring violinist Hilary Hahn and music director Yannick Nézet-Séguin, in Verizon Hall May 3, 4, and 5. In Merriam Theater, the spectacular Shen Yun Classical Chinese Dance Company will present several performances May 3-5. **Center City Opera Theater** offers Verdi’s *La Traviata* at Prince Music Theater May 2-5. **The Pennsylvania Ballet** will dance to Saint-Saëns’ *Carnival of the Animals* May 9-12 at the gorgeous Academy of Music, modeled after Milan’s La Scala.

Chamber-music performances hosted by the **Philadelphia Chamber Music Society** are on schedule in Franklin Hall at the American Philosophical Society on May 2 (cellist Efe Baltacigil and pianist Benjamin Hochman with Beethoven cello sonatas) and May 3 (baritone Jonathan Beyer and pianist Spencer Meyer performing pieces by Tchaikovsky and Zemlinsky). The Tokyo Quartet II presents its final Philadelphia performance (Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and Bartok) at the Independence Seaport Museum on May 5.

Theatrical performances include Shaw’s *Arms and the Man*, in repertory with Martin Crimp’s production of Molière’s *Misanthrope*, presented by

the Quintessence Theatre Group at **Sedgwick Theatre** through May 25. The 29th annual Philadelphia International Children's Festival will be hosted by the **Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts** in University City May 2-4; family-friendly performances and activities include *46 Circus Acts in 45 Minutes* (all ages) and *The Adventures of Alvin Sputnik, Deep Sea Explorer* (ages 10 and up).

Indie and world-music fans may want to visit the Friday "Free at Noon" live broadcast hosted by local radio station WXPX and **World Cafe Live** on the University of Pennsylvania campus (sign up one week in advance at www.xpn.org). On May 5, singer-songwriter Paula Cole will be in concert at the World Cafe performance venue; Lunch Money, a family-friendly indie rock band, plays a morning show May 4.

Dining

Restaurant recommendations are provided by our sister publication, *Sommelier Journal* (www.sommelierjournal.com). Philadelphia continues to be a hub of celebrity chefs, including the original Iron Chef, Masaharu Morimoto. Besides the flagship **Morimoto** in Center City, partner Stephen Starr also operates **Alma de Cuba** (Nuevo Latino, Center City), **Buddakan** (Asian Fusion, Old City), **Butcher and Singer** (steakhouse, Center City), **The Continental** (eclectic, Historic District), **The Dandelion** (gastropub, Center City), **El Vez** (Mexican-American, Center City), **Pod** (Japanese, West Philly), and **Talula's Garden** (farm to table, Washington Square), among others.

Marc Vetri, one of Philadelphia's most decorated chefs, opened the fabulous **Vetri** in the Washington Square District in 1998; since then, he's added the casual **Amis Trattoria** in the same neighborhood, followed by the acclaimed, Tuscan-inspired **Osteria** and a next-door Italian gastropub, **Alla Spina**, in Spring Garden.

A Center City haute-cuisine institution, **Le Bec Fin**, has reopened under new ownership. Michael Solomonov's **Zahav** in the Waterfront District has been lauded for its Israeli-inspired menu. Nearby is celebrity chef Jose Garces's



Looking up Broad Street ("The Avenue of the Arts") toward City Hall from the Academy of Music. Photo by G. Widman for GPTMC.

Amada, serving elegant Spanish tapas. Another outstanding tapas restaurant is chef David Ansell's **Bar Ferdinand** in the Northern Liberties neighborhood. **Barbuzzo** (Mediterranean) and **Jamonera** (Spanish) are excellent wine bars under the same ownership in the trendy 13th Street Corridor.

Also recommended: **Bibou** (casual French, South Philly), **Brauhaus Schmitz** (South Philly), **Fond** (contemporary American, South Philly), **Han Dynasty** (Sichuan, various locations), **Kanella** (Greek Cypriot, Washington Square), **Sansom Street Oyster House** (Center City), and **Vernick Food & Drink** (American, Rittenhouse Square).

Shopping and Galleries

Art lovers will have a First Friday opportunity, with many galleries open into the evening on May 3. Old City houses more than 40 galleries in the quadrangle between Front and Third and Market

and Vine streets; download a map of galleries, museums, and restaurants at www.oldcityarts.org.

For women's clothing and accessories, try **Vagabond** (handmade and vintage designs), **Tselaine** (unique jewelry and gifts), or **Adresse** (designer clothing and accessories) in Rittenhouse Square. Nearby is **Lisa M. Reisman et Cie** (Art Nouveau posters, French crystal jewelry). Rittenhouse Row, stretching from Broad Street to 21st Street between Spruce and Market streets, features a mix of national and local retailers alongside trendy boutiques, salons, and upscale dining.

Buy your own miniature LOVE statue or Frank Lloyd Wright Fallingwater Lego set at the **AIA Bookstore** in the Comcast Center. Other design stores worth a visit include **Bahdeebahdu** (interior design by R.J. Thornburg and sculptural lighting by Warren Muller) and **OLC** (contemporary European lighting and furniture).

A charming collection of independently owned retailers lines the historic Main Street Manayunk in northwest Philadelphia. **RevivalSmith** (vintage and antique furniture), **Martin Pulli Fine Jewelry and Watches** (open Saturdays and by appointment), and **The Spiral Bookcase** are housed in renovated Victorian storefronts and mill buildings.

Other notable shopping venues include the historic-landmark **Macy's** store (housing the celebrated Wanamaker pipe organ); **The Shops at The Bellevue** (selected high-end stores), **The Shops at**

Liberty Place, and **The Gallery at Market East** (connected to the convention center). The biggest suburban centers are **Franklin Mills** (200 outlets and specialty stores) and the **King of Prussia Mall** (400 stores, boutiques, and restaurants).

Sports and Recreation

The **Philadelphia Phillies** host the Miami Marlins in a four-game series May 2-5 at Citizens Bank Park. The **Philadelphia Flyers** may be involved in first-round National Hockey League playoff action at the Wells Fargo Center.

The annual 10-mile Broad Street Run takes place the morning of May 5. Registration is already closed, but spectators can cheer on the 30,000-plus runners along Broad Street, which runs north-south through Center City on the west side of the convention center. (Transportation may be problematic in this part of town until later in the day. See a course map at www.broadstreetrun.com.)

For fans of steeplechase and "ambitious tailgating", the 35th Annual Winterthur Point-to-Point will be held on the Winterthur grounds on May 5.

With some cooperation from the weather, golfers can enjoy a local course just a short drive from the city. Highly rated courses include **The Golf Course at Glen Mills**, **Scotland Run Golf Club** (Williamstown, New Jersey), and **Wyncote Golf Club** (Oxford).

DIRECTORY

Tours	Address*	Phone**
Awfully Nice Tours	(various locations)	280-3746
Center for Architecture/AIA Bookstore	1218 Arch St.	569-3186
Chew Philly Tours	4653 Umbria St.	979-3370
City Food Tours	1625 Chestnut St.	546-1234
Context Tours	2216 South St.	(800) 691-6036
Historic Philadelphia	150 S. Independence Mall W.	629-4026
Mural Arts Program	1727 Mount Vernon St.	925-3633
Museum Without Walls	Fairmount Park Art Association	546-7550
Philadelphia Bike Tours	Seventh and Ranstead Sts.	514-3124
Philadelphia Chocolate Tours	(various locations)	833-0044

*Philadelphia, unless otherwise noted. **Area code 215 unless otherwise noted.

	Address*	Phone**
Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia	1608 Walnut St.	546-1146
RiverLink Ferry System	One Port Center, Camden, NJ	925-LINK
Taste of Philly (Reading Terminal Market)	12th and Arch Sts.	545-8007
Urban Adventures Presents	(various locations)	280-3746
Wheel Fun Rentals	1599 JFK Blvd.	523-5827
Attractions and Performances		
American Philosophical Society Museum	104 S. Fifth St.	440-3400
Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts	3680 Walnut St.	898-3900
The Barnes Foundation	2025 Ben Franklin Parkway	278-7000
Battleship New Jersey	100 Clinton St., Camden, NJ	(856) 966-1652
Betsy Ross House	239 Arch St.	686-1252
Carpenters' Hall	320 Chestnut St.	925-0167
Center City Opera Theater at the Prince Music Theater	1412 Chestnut St.	238-1555
Chemical Heritage Foundation	315 Chestnut St.	925-2222
City Tavern	138 S. Second St.	413-1443
Cliveden	6401 Germantown Ave.	848-1777
Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion	200 W. Tulpehocken St.	438-1861
Elfreth's Alley	Second and Race Sts.	574-0560
Fireman's Hall Museum	147 N. Second St.	923-1438
Fonthill Museum	525 E. Court St., Doylestown	348-9461
Franklin Court	314-321 Market St.	965-2305
The Franklin Institute/Fels Planetarium	222 N. 20th St.	448-1200
Graff House (Declaration House)	4 S. Seventh St.	(800) 537-7676
Independence Hall	520 Chestnut St.	965-2305
Independence National Historical Park/ Independence Visitor Center	599 Market St.	965-2305
Independence Seaport Museum	211 S. Columbus Blvd.	925-5439
Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts	300 S. Broad St.	790-5800
Liberty Bell Center	526 Market St.	965-2305
Longwood Gardens	1001 Longwood Road, Kennett Square	(610) 388-1000
Mercer Museum	Scout Way and Pine St., Doylestown	345-0210
Moravian Pottery and Tile Works	130 E. Swamp Road, Doylestown	345-6722
Mütter Museum	19 S. 22nd St.	563-3737
National Constitution Center	525 Arch St.	409-6600
Pennsylvania Ballet/Academy of Music	240 S. Broad St.	893-1999
Philadelphia Chamber Music Society at the American Philosophical Society	427 Chestnut St.	569-8080
Philadelphia City Hall	Broad and Market Sts.	686-2840
Philadelphia Museum of Art	2600 Ben Franklin Parkway	763-8100
Philadelphia Zoo	3400 W. Girard Ave.	243-1100
Please Touch Museum	Memorial Hall in Fairmount Park	581-3181
Rodeph Shalom Synagogue	615 N. Broad St.	627-6747
Sedgwick Theatre	7137 Germantown Ave.	(877) 238-5596
University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology	3260 South St.	898-4000
Winterthur Gardens and Museum	5105 Kennett Pike, Winterthur, DE	(302) 888-4600
World Cafe Live	3025 Walnut St.	(800) 565-9976

DIRECTORY (cont.)

Dining	Address*	Phone**
Alla Spina	1410 Mount Vernon St.	600-0017
Alma de Cuba	1623 Walnut St.	988-1799
Amada	217 Chestnut St.	625-2450
Amis Trattoria	412 S. 13th St.	732-2647
Bar Ferdinand	1030 N. Second St.	923-1313
Barbuzzo	110 S. 13th St.	546-9300
Bibou	1009 S. Eighth St.	965-8290
Brauhaus Schmitz	718 South St.	(267) 909-8814
Buddakan	325 Chestnut St.	574-9440
Butcher and Singer	1500 Walnut St.	732-4444
The Continental Restaurant and Martini Bar	138 Market St.	923-6069
The Dandelion	124 S. 18th St.	558-2500
El Vez	121 S. 13th St.	928-9800
Fond	1537 S. 11th St.	551-5000
Han Dynasty	108 Chestnut St.	922-1888
Jamonera	105 S. 13th St.	922-6061
Kanella	1001 Spruce St.	922-1773
Le Bec Fin	1523 Walnut St.	567-1000
Morimoto	723 Chestnut St.	413-9070
Osteria	640 N. Broad St.	763-0920
Pod	3636 Sansom St.	387-1803
Sansom Street Oyster House	1516 Sansom St.	567-7683
Talula's Garden	210 W. Washington Square	592-7787
Vernick Food & Drink	2031 Walnut St.	(267) 639-6644
Vetri	1312 Spruce St.	732-3478
Zahav	237 St. James Place	625-8800

Shopping and Galleries

Adresse	1706 Locust St.	985-3161
AIA Bookstore & Design Center	1218 Arch St.	569-3188
Bahdeebahdu	1522 N. American St.	627-5002
Franklin Mills	1455 Franklin Mills Circle	632-1500
The Gallery at Market East	Ninth and Market Sts.	625-4962
King of Prussia Mall	160 N. Gulph Road, King of Prussia	(610) 265-5727
Lisa M. Reisman et Cie	1714 Rittenhouse Square	735-2781
Macy's	1300 Market St.	241-9000
Martin Pulli Fine Jewelry and Watches	4337 Main St.	508-4610
OLC	152-154 N. Third St.	923-6085
RevivalSmith	4233 Main St.	509-6550
The Shops at the Bellevue	Broad and Walnut Sts.	875-8350
The Shops at Liberty Place	1625 Chestnut St.	851-9055
The Spiral Bookcase	112 Cotton St.	482-0704
Tselaine	1927 Walnut St.	301-4752
Vagabond	37 N. Third St.	(267) 671-0737

Sports and Recreation

The Golf Course at Glen Mills	221 Glen Mills Road, Glen Mills	(610) 558-2142
Philadelphia Phillies	Citizens Bank Park	463-1000
Philadelphia Flyers	Wells Fargo Center	(800) 298-4200
Scotland Run Golf Club	2626 Fries Mill Road, Williamstown, NJ	(856) 863-3737
Wyncote Golf Club	50 Wyncote Drive, Oxford	(610) 932-8900

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