

MAY 2015
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4 SPRING FESTIVALS

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OUR SUMMER FUN GUIDE

→ Philadelphia where now

The month's best sightseeing, dining and shopping

ON THE TOWN

Philly Five Ways

Philadelphia is having a moment. Recently recognized in the press for its thriving dining scene, its world-class shops, and its sheer beauty, this centuries-old city is just hitting its stride. Philadelphia appeals to travelers of all ages and interests, but with so many exciting options, it's hard to know where to start. Check out our suggestions, choose the itinerary that's right for you, and then set out for an exciting day in the City of Brotherly Love. BY AMY GORDON



JUST FOR KIDS

1 Families flock to Philadelphia for its many accessible attractions. Youngsters love the **Please Touch Museum** (4231 Avenue of the Republic, 215.581.3181), where they can run and play amidst rocket ships, giant tree houses, storybook characters and one of the best vintage toy collections this side of the Delaware River. **The Franklin Institute** (222 N. 20th St., 215.448.1200) proves that science can be both educational and fun. The “Your Brain” exhibition, the newest permanent exhibit in The Nicholas and Athena Karabots



Please Touch Museum

Pavilion, features more than 70 interactive experiences, and includes a two-story, movement activated climbing structure that simulates a neural network with dynamic lighting and sound effects. Another favorite spot, **Franklin Square** (200 Sixth St., 215.629.4026) is home to the historic Parx Liberty Carousel and an 18-hole miniature golf course inspired by popular local landmarks. Stephen Starr's Square Burger serves up casual fare on site; don't forget to save room for the signature Cake Shake, which is blended with TastyKake Butter-scotch Krimpets, a classic Philly favorite.

BUDGET-CONSCIOUS

2 You don't need to spend a lot of cash to experience some of the best sites in the city. If you're low on funds, stop by the **Independence Visitor Center** (1 N. Independence Mall West, 800.537.7676) in Old City, where you can score free tickets to **Independence Hall** (Chestnut Street, between Fifth and Sixth streets), consult with local tourism experts or simply sit and relax between sightseeing stops. Nearby,



LOVE Park

the **Liberty Bell** (Sixth and Market streets, 215.965.2305) is not just an international symbol of freedom, it's open to the public at no charge. As you meander around the neighborhood, keep an eye out for **Once Upon A Nation Storytelling Benches**, where actors in period costumes recount true tales of the city's history to all who will listen. When hunger strikes, head west to **LOVE Park** (16th Street and JFK Boulevard). After you pose for an Instagram-worthy photo in front of Robert Indiana's iconic LOVE statue, sample fresh, affordable cuisine from the wide variety of food trucks stationed nearby.

FOOD-FOCUSED

3 If you like to eat, you'll love sampling your way through town. Don't miss **Reading Terminal Market** (12th and Arch streets, 215.922.2317), an indoor foodie paradise where 80 vendors hawk everything from fresh fish to loose teas to hard-to-find cookbooks. In South Philly, you'll find the famous Philly cheesesteak



Reading Terminal Market

joints, **Pat's King of Steaks** (1237 E. Passyunk Ave., 215.468.1546) and **Geno's Steaks** (1219 S. Ninth St., 215.389.0659). For dinner head to East Passyunk, named one of the best foodie streets in America by Food and Wine Magazine. Do your best to snag a reservation at Top Chef Nick Elmi's **Laurel** (1617 E. Passyunk Ave., 215.271.8299) and Joncarl Lachman's Northern-European stand out **Noord** (1046 Tasker St., 267.909.9704).

ARTISTICALLY INSPIRED

4 Take a stroll through the galleries and exhibitions at the **Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts** (118-128 N. Broad St., 215.972.7600), the country's first fine arts school and museum, which houses iconic works of American art. The institute is also the starting point for the popular **Mural Mile Walking Tours** (215.925.3633), where visitors learn about the magnificent public art along North and South Broad Street. At **Philadelphia's Magic Gardens** (1020 South St., 215.733.0390), which Fodor's recently named one of the top ten under-the-radar attractions in the U.S., visionary artist Isaiah Zagar uses everyday items to create multi-dimensional, larger-than-life mosaic sculptures. Zagar's work also graces several buildings throughout the nearby neighborhoods. When hunger strikes, grab a bite at **Le Chéri** (251 S. 18th St.,

215.546.7700), an elegant French eatery located inside the **Philadelphia Art Alliance**.



Philadelphia's Magic Gardens

RETAIL THERAPY

5 If your ideal day involves a healthy dose of spending, get your credit cards ready. In ritzy Rittenhouse Square, Walnut Street is home to outposts for some of the world's best-known brands, from **Anthropologie** (1801 Walnut St., 215.568.2114) to **Zara** (1715 Walnut St., 215.557.0911). For a quainter, edgier shopping scene, try Old City. Alongside a wide range of celebrated eateries, this charming section of the city is packed with progressive stores, vintage shops and art galleries like **Smak Par-lour** (219 Market St., 215.625.4551), **Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction** (116 N. Third St., 215.922.2600) and the **Artists' House Gallery** (57 N. Second St., 215.923.8440). Most of these spots are locally owned or sell one-of-a-kind, handmade products that you won't find anywhere else.