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Philadelphia County

[PENNSYLVANIA]



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Clockwise, from top left: Elfreth Alley in Old City is the nation's oldest residential street; carriage rides take visitors back in time outside Independence Hall; Boathouse Row is a hub of athletic activity and home to the 10-club Schuylkill Navy, the oldest governing athletic body in the United States.

Philadelphia is the nation's most historic city. As the birthplace of our country in 1776, it is the city where the American identity was carved; where life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness were first promised. Today, more than two centuries later, Philadelphia has used this identity to grow into an innovative and progressive city — one that overflows with opportunity, culture and character.

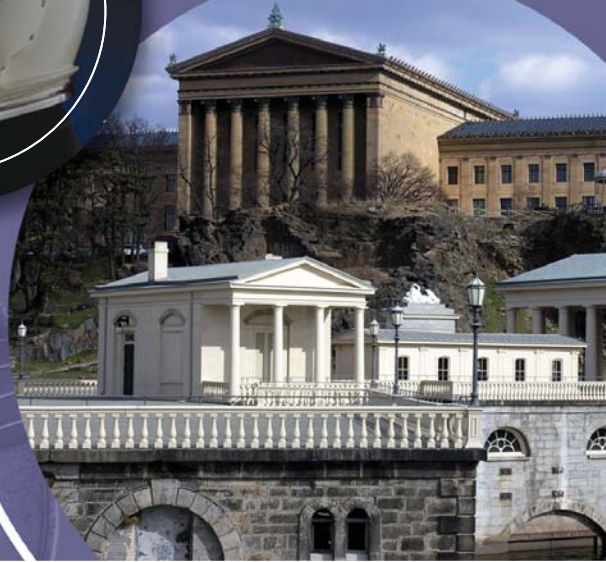
People often use the names Philadelphia County and Philadelphia City interchangeably. That is because the city of Philadelphia represents the only municipality in Philadelphia County. But that doesn't mean the county has any less to offer! As the largest city in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia combines the excitement of a major metropolis with the warmth of a friendly small town. Two main streets, **Market Street** and **Broad Street**, dissect **Center City**, and **Philadelphia City Hall**, the world's largest masonry structure, rests right at the intersection of the two. Market Street is the main east-west artery downtown while Broad Street is the main north-south artery. Numbered streets run parallel to Broad. As two of the busiest streets in the

central business district, Market and Broad streets serve as good focal points for conceptualizing Center City Philadelphia's neighborhoods.

Washington Square West is located a few blocks east of Broad and south of Market in Center City. Although very much an urban community, Washington Square still boasts numerous tree-lined streets filled with 19th-century townhouses. Closer to the waterfront at **Penn's Landing**, you will encounter the neighborhoods of **Old City** and **Society Hill**, where the 2005 median home price was \$447,750. Old City mixes history and modern flare, as historic landmarks and old homes are nestled among contemporary residences, chic bars and restaurants. Old City is one of the most popular hotspots for nightlife. And if you want a taste of the city's happening art scene, check out Old City's **First Fridays** (the first Friday of each month), where art galleries and shops stay open late for exhibits and events. Just south of Old City is Society Hill, an upscale, more tranquil neighborhood with cobblestone streets and sidewalks that lead up to quaint row houses. The sight of horse-drawn carriages, which take tours through the lovely

Arts, Culture & Music

The Greater Philadelphia region is a treasure trove of history, art, culture, music, theater and film. History buffs and music lovers find their niche here, as do art enthusiasts and theatergoers. Not exactly sure what your niche is? Don't worry. Greater Philadelphia offers plenty of attractions that'll stimulate your interest and grab your attention.



Above, from left: Astronomy in the Fels Planetarium and space exploration in the Space Command Exhibit, both located at Philadelphia's Franklin Institute Science Museum, capture the imagination of visitors of all ages; the Philadelphia Water Works, bottom, celebrates technological triumphs, while the Philadelphia Art Museum, top, contains over 3,000 pieces of artwork.

Historical Attractions

Greater Philadelphia puts to rest the notion that history is boring. You can delve into and enjoy American history at the world-class **National Constitution Center** in Center City Philadelphia. This dazzling \$137.5 million facility, completed in 2003, helps visitors gain a better understanding of the U.S. Constitution through interactive exhibits, captivating displays and the *Freedom Rising* show. The hands-on, do-it-yourself museum invites you to actually take part in the whole experience, not just observe it. Admission is inexpensive but worth far more.

To explore where American history got its actual start, check out the **Independence Visitor's Center** and **Independence National Historic Park**. The \$38 million Visitor's Center welcomes travelers as well as locals. Stop by the Visitor's Center to get your free tickets to the historical attractions that make up America's most historic square mile: **Carpenter's Hall**, **Old City Hall**, **Franklin Square**, **Congress Hall** and the **Liberty Bell**. A tour of Independence Hall takes you inside the building where the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution were drafted.

Just around the corner from the Visitor's Center is the **Atwater Kent Museum**,

which specializes in Philadelphia history. Among other attractions, visitors can look at original *Saturday Evening Post* covers, view local artwork, and examine the personal effects of famous Philadelphians like Ben Franklin and William Penn. Continue learning about Philadelphia over at Broad and Market streets, where you can take a free tour of **Philadelphia's City Hall**, the United State's largest masonry structure. You can even give a wave to William Penn, whose statue stands atop City Hall. As you observe the backdrop of skyscrapers that shape Philadelphia's skyline, remember that until 1985 no Philadelphia building was taller than the hat on William Penn's statue!

As the sun sets, make your way back toward Independence National Park for the **Lights of Liberty Show**. This walking sound and light extravaganza takes evening visitors on a voyage back in time, through the events that led to the American Revolution. From April to October, guides bring history to life by leading visitors along a series of presentations throughout the Park. Inexpensive tickets make this musical light show a bargain.

Across the river from Philadelphia, make sure you come aboard the **U.S.S. New Jersey**. Now permanently docked at Camden's waterfront, the 45,000-ton Battleship New Jersey has guided tours

(some tour guides actually served active duty on the ship) on which you can learn fascinating details about her operations in World War II and her tours in Korea and Vietnam. The ship was first commissioned for service in 1943 and is the nation's most decorated battleship.

In the Pennsylvania suburbs visit **Brandywine Battlefield** in Chester County, a historic Revolutionary War site from which George Washington commanded the Continental Army. Tour his reconstructed headquarters or explore artifacts from the 1777 Brandywine Battle. In Wilmington, Delaware, take a tour of **Hagley Museum and Library**. It contains a large collection of photos, books, manuscripts and pamphlets that chronicle the history of American business and technology.

Artwork

Although Rocky Balboa's intense training made its steps famous, it is what's inside the **Philadelphia Museum of Art** that makes it so spectacular. It is the third-largest art museum in the United States, with more than 300,000 pieces of artwork from the past 2,000 years. Featured works range from paintings and sculptures to furniture and architecture. Renaissance, American,

European, Asian, Impressionist and Modern art are among the many collections exhibited, and artists such as Cézanne, Picasso, Matisse, Manet, and Monet draw large crowds. The museum won further distinction in 2005 as the only U.S. venue to host the major centennial retrospective exhibition devoted to Dalí. It also celebrated Benjamin Franklin's 300th birthday in 2006 with paintings and presentations that helped visitors make a connection with his life. Also make sure to check out **Art After 5**, an event held every Friday night where jazz musicians perform while guests enjoy cocktails and snacks.

The nearby **Rodin Museum** is home to more than 120 of Auguste Rodin's sculptures, paintings and drawings. The collection of Rodin's work is the largest existing outside of France. Admission is free. The **Rosenbach Museum and Library** is housed in a townhouse gallery just a few blocks away. It has a collection of more than 300,000 manuscripts, letters, and rare books from American and British writers, including: Cervantes, James Joyce, Charles Dickens, Dylan Thomas and Lewis Carroll. In addition, the museum showcases fine art, rare photos and antique furniture. And don't miss another Philadelphia treasure, the **Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts**. The oldest art museum and school of fine arts in the country, it exhibits 18th-, 19th- and 20th-century works of American art.

The **Barnes Foundation**, in Merion, Montgomery County, showcases a collection of French Impressionist and post-Impressionist paintings. Artists include Renoir, Monet, Gauguin, Rousseau and Seurat. Plan ahead, though, because advanced reservations are required for all visits to this world-class collection. Bucks County has the **James A. Michener Art Museum**, which celebrates the work of regional artists. The **Brandywine River Museum** in Chadds Ford, Delaware County is actually a converted 19th-century gristmill. The museum is internationally known for its exhibits of work from three generations of Wyeths, and also has a fine collection of American illustration, still life and landscape painting. Travel to New Castle County, Delaware to experience **Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library**. This country estate, set amid the backdrop of a glorious garden,

was Henry Francis du Pont's home. It contains a collection of American art and furniture that dates from 1640 to 1860. Tours are available for a nominal fee, and ticketed visitors are invited to picnic on the beautiful estate grounds.

Sciences

Even if you don't aspire to become a biologist or a paleontologist, Philadelphia's **Academy of Natural Sciences** will fascinate you. Exhibits explore the environment and the creatures that make (or made) their home on Earth. Among the 17 million specimens in the Academy of Natural Sciences, you can see a skeleton of a Tyrannosaurus Rex, pet a snake, watch live butterflies and inspect fossils. Just a few steps away from the Academy of Natural Sciences is another famous Philadelphia attraction: **The Franklin Institute Science Museum**. It's easy to see why it is one of Pennsylvania's most popular museums. You can navigate your way through the planetarium, walk through a giant heart, examine the Wright Brothers collection, take the Sports Challenge or observe satellites in the Weather Center. Make sure not to miss the movie showing at the Franklin Institute's magnificent **Tuttleman IMAX Theater**. Also, in 2007 The Franklin Institute will be the final of four U.S. locations to host

"Tutankhamun and The Golden Age of the Pharaohs," a 10,000-square-foot blockbuster exhibit. And there's the **Mütter Museum** in Center City, which is unlike any other. It is part of the **College of Physicians of Philadelphia** and it showcases pathological specimens, medical instruments and rare artifacts. During a visit you can see an exhibit of conjoined twins, the skeleton of a midget, a gigantic colon or the brain of an epileptic. The museum might not be for everyone, but the unique and unusual displays are incredible.

Performing Arts & Theater

Theater lovers can enjoy Broadway shows right here in Greater Philadelphia! Did you know touring Broadway productions stop at **Merriam Theater, Forrest Theatre** and the **Academy of Music** in Center City? Recent tours have included crowd-pleasers like "Les Miserables," "Mamma Mia," "Riverdance," "The Producers," "Rent" and "The Lion King." The enchanting **Walnut Street Theater** is just a few blocks away and is America's oldest theater. In its early years, the Walnut Street Theater hosted pre-Broadway tryouts. It has since been designated as a National Historic Landmark and operates now as a non-profit regional theater with five productions each season.

The **Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts** opened along Philadelphia's Avenue of



HUNTER BOYLE, HUNTERBOYLE.COM

Left: Discover the Revolutionary War through a *Lights of Liberty* show as you take an evening stroll through Independence National Historical Park. Above: Gain a better understanding of American history at the world-class National Constitution Center.



“Honestly, Philadelphia shocked me when I first moved here. The countless restaurants continue to impress me. The proximity to the ocean, the mountains and the East Coast big cities really puts Philly in the heart of everything. Ah, and the weather ... I’m not a big fan of the cold, so it’s nice to be on the Eastern side of the Appalachians!”

GINA CANCELLIERE
Meteorologist, CN8 – The Comcast Network

Gina Cancelliere moved from Miami Beach to Philadelphia about a year ago.



Mall in Northeast Philadelphia provides yet another opportunity for shopping extravaganzas. More than 200 specialty stores and outlets make it a bargain hunter’s paradise. Named after Philadelphia’s own Ben Franklin, Franklin Mills has major anchor stores, like *Last Call Neiman Marcus* and *Off 5th–Saks Fifth Avenue Outlet*, dispersed among other discount shops, including *Brooks Brothers Factory Store*, *Eddie Bauer Outlet Store* and *Guess Company Store*. The **Shipyards Shops** right off Interstate 95 in Wilmington, Delaware, also provide good outlet shopping. These New Castle County outlet stores draw many customers and items discounted 20 to 70 percent are the norm. *L.L.Bean* and *Nautica* help make up this retail playground.

Greater Philadelphia has enough shopping opportunities to keep your credit cards busy for quite a while — outdoor shopping strips, massive malls, quaint villages and bargain outlets. There’s even **QVC Home Shopping!** Did you know QVC’s headquarters are right in Chester County? You can take a tour of their studios in West Chester and then shop from the comfort of your own home. Whatever your preference, we’ve got the shopping covered here in Greater Philadelphia.

Dining

So, what’s on the menu in Greater Philadelphia? A better question might be what’s not on the menu. Well known for its soft pretzels and cheese

steaks, the region also boasts a multitude of restaurants with menus as diverse as the establishments themselves. There’s no shortage of variety when it comes to mealtime: we’ve got American, Italian, Mexican, Thai, Chinese, Indian, Japanese, Greek, Vietnamese and Moroccan, just to name a few. We’ve got cheap eats and gourmet meals, indoor bistros and outdoor cafés, restaurants with extensive wine lists and those that offer BYOB. With endless selections, Greater Philadelphia is certain to satiate your cravings.

Philadelphia knows sandwiches, and the famous Philly cheese steak stands alone in this region. Cheese steaks were invented here in the 1930s and have become a part of our culture. Even ordering the delectable sandwich has evolved into somewhat of an

art form. Dueling **Pat’s King of Steaks** and **Geno’s**, perhaps the most renowned cheese steak eateries, are located right across the street from each other in South Philadelphia. The famed competitors are open 24 hours a day and draw crowds of locals and out-of-towners. Philadelphians are very particular about which they prefer and allegiances do not easily sway — you’ll probably establish your own loyalties, too! And if you are on South Street, don’t leave without stopping at **Jim’s Steaks**.

If a casual sit-down meal is more your taste, you might want to head over to **Chickie’s & Pete’s**. This bar/restaurant is a local chain with multiple establishments throughout the region. It’s a great place to watch an Eagles game or just kick back with friends. Order a side of their famous “crab fries” — we guarantee you won’t be able to eat just one. The **Melrose Diner** has been a Philadelphia tradition since 1935. Located in South Philadelphia, this local favorite is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Stop in for breakfast, lunch or dinner and you might find yourself singing their catchy tune: “Everybody who knows goes to Melrose.” If you like takeout, head to **Bobby Chez** for seafood specialties! Their jumbo crab cakes, the size of baseballs, have been rated as the best in the region four years in a row. With three locations in the New Jersey area, there’s bound to be one that’s convenient for you.

If you’re craving a more extravagant dining experience, you will be happy to know that Greater Philadelphia is nationally known as a culinary hotspot. With so many blue-ribbon establishments, it’s hard to focus on just a few.

Le Bec-Fin in Center City Philadelphia is truly a dining experience. Seeped in the tradition of Louis XVI, Le Bec-Fin’s



LEFT TO RIGHT: HUNTER BOYLE, HUNTERBOYLE.COM; DILWORTH TOWN INN

From left: Boutiques, galleries and eateries dominate Main Street in Manayunk; guests enjoy sumptuous cuisine on a warm summer night in the restored stables of the Dilworthtown Inn; The Melrose Diner has been a Philadelphia institution since 1935 and is open around the clock; Fresh produce, Amish specialties and baked goods are available at the Reading Terminal Market in Center City.



Greater Philadelphia Business

LEFT TO RIGHT: CHERRY HILL TOWNSHIP; HUNTER BOYLE; HUNTERBOYLE.COM

Greater Philadelphia is a great place to do business. With global access, a strong transportation infrastructure, a lower cost to do business, an educated workforce, an affordable cost of living and a good quality of life, the region has all the vital assets for strong business growth. Along with these, our affordability makes Philadelphia the perfect place to start, expand or relocate a business.



Above, from left: The Commerce Center in Cherry Hill Township is adjacent to the Cherry Hill Mall and just minutes from the Philadelphia bridges and Center City; Cira Centre, far right, is a new addition to the Greater Philadelphia skyline.

It's no wonder that businesses thrive here in Greater Philadelphia. There is a strong foundation of American values and strengths that resonate throughout the region. It was here, the birthplace of the United States, that our founders expressed their faith in people, commitment to liberty and confidence in freedom in the Declaration of Independence and our Constitution. The enduring benefits of their collaboration, creativity and confidence offer more than a rich cultural and economic heritage. Greater Philadelphia is steeped in history, dedicated to progress and committed to the ongoing success of the American dream.

Global Gateway

The Greater Philadelphia region offers businesses global access to the world. Strategically located at the center of the Atlantic seaboard, Greater Philadelphia businesspeople have ready access to the financial and political capitals of the nation. The fourth-largest metropolitan area in the nation, the region has a population of more than six million residents, with 100 million people within a one-day drive.

The combination of location and transportation gives the Greater Philadelphia region a strategic advantage. Our extensive

transportation systems, including a widespread network of state and local highways, railroads and flights, have earned Greater Philadelphia a top ranking among large metropolitan areas.

- The **Philadelphia International Airport** offers 700 daily flights to 130 destinations.
- Sixty percent of the U.S. and Canadian populations are within two hours by air.
- The West Coast, Europe and South America are within a six-hour, non-stop flight.
- Trains reach New York City or Washington, D.C., in 90 minutes.
- **Amtrak** stations in Philadelphia, Trenton, Princeton Junction and Wilmington handle more than 3.7 million passengers annually.
- More than 11,200 passengers use the Philadelphia Amtrak Station (the third-busiest in the country) every workday.
- Local commuter rails, buses and trolleys serve commuters throughout the Greater Philadelphia region.
- Greater Philadelphia's ports along the Delaware River include more than 40 private and public facilities that handle more than 100 million tons of goods

annually and are home to the largest petrochemical complex on the Atlantic.

- Philadelphia is the world's largest inland freshwater port.

People – Our Primary Asset

The people who live and work in Greater Philadelphia are our greatest asset. Talented, highly educated and motivated people are engaged in science, engineering, research and development as well as technology-based industries. Others apply knowledge to health care, finance and the law. They continue to collaborate and create innovative solutions.

- 87 percent have a high school diploma or higher.
- 31 percent have a baccalaureate degree or higher.
- 10.5 percent have an advanced degree.

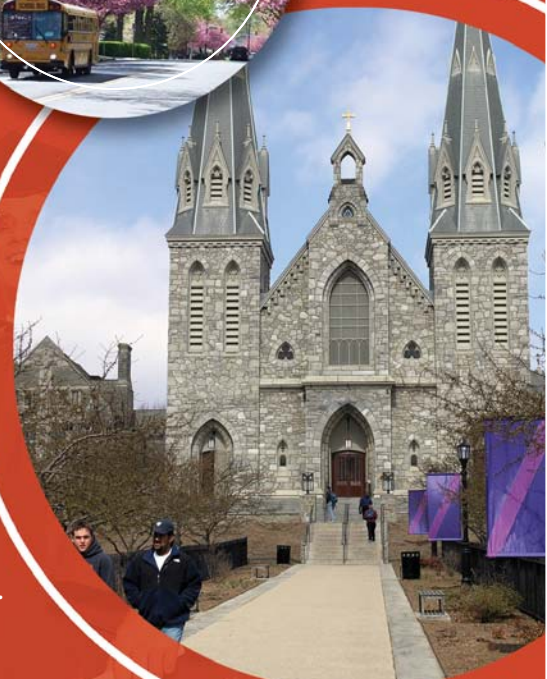
Talented people committed to making a contribution drive business success today. An important asset to any business is its people; their knowledge and ability to solve problems build the future for successful companies in our region.

Contributing to the future in the region are our colleges and universities. More than 80 institutions here ensure a continuing

EDUCATION

Lifelong Learning Opportunities

From elementary schools to post-graduate institutions, the Greater Philadelphia region offers a wealth of quality academic choices. Parents can choose from an abundance of public, private, parochial and charter schools. This variety of academic settings for elementary and secondary education makes it easy for parents to find the right fit for each student. College and graduate students are right at home here, too! With more than 80 colleges and universities, Philadelphia has been appropriately nicknamed “one big campus.” Students are drawn to the region for its vibrancy and diversity. Whether seeking that first parchment or advancing a current career track, the schools in this region are sure to maximize personal growth and enrich the educational experience.



Above, from top: A variety of public, private and parochial settings make it easy for parents to find the right academic fit for their students; Villanova University, a Roman Catholic institution that welcomes all faiths, offers a wide range of degree programs through four colleges.

Public Schools

PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania has 501 school districts, each served by one of 29 intermediate units that provide a wide range of services to students and schools. Intermediate units are comprised of several adjacent individual school districts. They provide combined services for those districts when feasible and economically desirable. Each school district is governed by an elected board of directors and managed by a superintendent. For additional information regarding Pennsylvania public schools, see individual county profiles.

NEW JERSEY

To obtain the New Jersey School Directory, which includes a variety of information on the state's school districts, as well as “Report Cards” for individual schools that include academic standards for every grade, visit the New Jersey schools Web site, www.state.nj.us/education, and download the information. For a hard copy, you can also send a check in the amount of \$11 to the following address:

New Jersey Department of Education

Publications Office
P.O. Box 500
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-292-4450

For information regarding New Jersey public schools in each county, see the individual county profiles in the Communities section.

DELAWARE

Information on Delaware's school system, including the Delaware Educational Schools Directory, school profiles and much more, may be found by visiting www.doe.state.de.us online. To obtain a hard copy of the Directory for information on all school districts in the state, send a check in the amount of \$20 to the following address:

Delaware Department of Education

401 Federal Street, Ste. 2
Dover, DE 19901
302-739-4601

Special Education

Please contact your state's Department of Education at the numbers below for specific information on Special Education options for your child.

PENNSYLVANIA

Bureau of Special Education, Department of Education

333 Market Street, 7th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333
717- 783-6913

Special Education Consultline: 800-879-2301

NEW JERSEY

Office of Special Education Program, Dept. of Education

100 Riverview Plaza, P. O. Box 500
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500
609-633-6833

DELAWARE

Exceptional Children and Early Childhood Group Department of Education

401 Federal Street, Ste. 2
Dover, DE 19901
302-735-4210