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Classic Philadelphia Getaways

By Patricia Kaowthumrong

Rich with storied landmarks from our nation’s past, a world-renowned arts scene and lauded culinary offerings, Philadelphia truly caters to all types of travelers. Like many bustling metropolises, Pennsylvania’s largest city (America’s sixth largest) also has a stellar transportation system with a convenient network of buses, trains, subways and trolleys — making it easy to get around and maximize even the shortest trip. Use our themed one-day itineraries as a starting point for planning your trip to Philadelphia.

01 **American History Tour**
Discover the historic sights and attractions that earned Philly 'World Heritage City' status.

Start your day at **Independence Hall** in **Independence National Historic Park**, where the Declaration and U.S. Constitution were both signed (book your tickets in advance at nps.gov/inde to avoid long lines). Nearby, you can also snap a photo with the famously cracked **Liberty Bell**, which was rung to call lawmakers to their meetings and townspeople together to hear the reading of the news in colonial times. Now the bell is a worldwide symbol for freedom.

Break for lunch at **Reading Terminal Market**, established in 1893 and one of America’s oldest and largest public markets with more than 70 vendors. Your next stop is **Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site** for a guided tour. The haunting labyrinth of

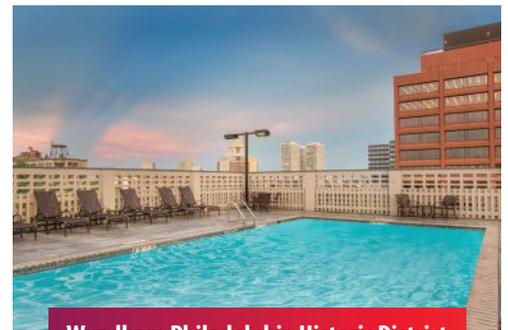
crumbling cellblocks built in 1829 was once the most famous and expensive prison in the world. Then pay tribute to Benjamin Franklin, a Founding Father

and jack of all trades (he was a scientist, humorist, activist, printer and author, among other things) by browsing science exhibits at the **Franklin Institute**.

Afterwards, choose from a wide array of museums: **University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, National Constitution Center, Museum of the American Revolution, Philadelphia History Museum or the African American Museum in Philadelphia**.

Your accommodations await at **Wyndham Philadelphia Historic District**, a modern gem in the heart of the historic Old City within walking distance of Independence National Historic Park, the Franklin Institute and Penn’s Landing

waterfront. Grab dinner and a brew at the hotel’s **Coin’s Restaurant & Pub**, a nod to the city’s reputation as the home to the first bank in America and reminisce about the day’s adventures at the rooftop pool.



Wyndham Philadelphia Historic District



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02

Culinary Delight

Bring your appetite for a calorie-packed culinary tour.

The day begins at **Reading Terminal Market**, where you'll find seemingly endless options for breakfast. Choose from more than 50 flavors of donuts at **Beiler's Bakery**, or belly up to the counter for apple-cinnamon French toast at **Dutch Eating Place**. Walk off breakfast with a riverside stroll in **Fairmont Park**, one of the nation's oldest and largest urban parks, or channel your inner "Rocky" on the steps of the **Philadelphia Museum of Art**, where the famous Sylvester Stallone flick was filmed.

For lunch, set your sights on devouring the legendary cheesesteak; the only obstacle will be choosing the best place to get one. There are tried-and-true options all over town, but you can't go wrong with **Pat's King of Steaks**, touted by many as the home of the original chopped beef-and-cheese sandwich, or **Tony Luke's** in South Philly, loved for their perfect ratio

of seasoned steak, Cheez Whiz and onions.

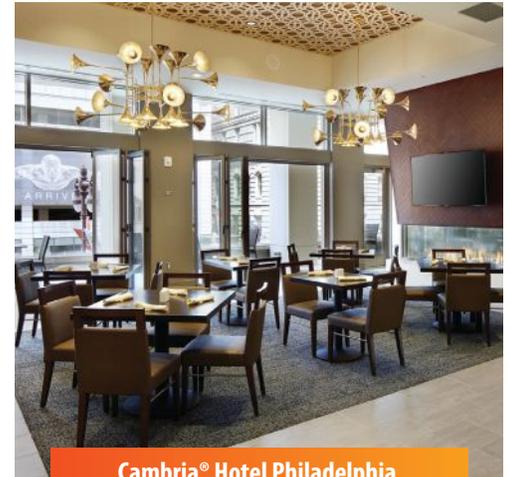
Hankering for something different? Go for the roast pork sandwich at **Tommy DiNic's**, once named

the "Best Sandwich in America" by the Travel Channel. For dessert, make your way to the **Famous 4th Street Delicatessen** for a funnel cake or a cannoli at **Termini Brothers Bakery** — just a couple sweet staples.

Check into **Cambria® Hotel Philadelphia Downtown City Center**, where modern yet comfy rooms feature amenities like plush bedding, microwaves, refrigerators (perfect for storing leftovers from your foodie escapades) and Keurig coffee makers. Grab a pre-dinner cocktail at the hotel bar or get your heart pumping at the fitness center.

Dinner calls for a special meal — make reservations at **Volvér**, where celebrity chef Jose Garces executes a seamless tasting menu with dishes like asparagus tartine enhanced with potato puree, smoked egg yolk and grilled lemon. Or try **Bibou**,

offering a seven-course, prix-fixed menu of French specialties like foie gras with grilled watermelon.



Cambria® Hotel Philadelphia
Downtown City Center



03

The Best of Arts & Culture

Celebrated museums, public art and cultural institutions showcase Philly's creative side.

Begin your day at the **Philadelphia Museum of Art**, which houses more than 240,000 paintings, sculptures, prints, drawings, photographs, glassworks, ceramics and more, including works by Pablo Picasso, Mary Cassatt and Henri Matisse. Then make your way to the **Rodin Museum** to admire the largest collection of works outside of Paris by Auguste Rodin, the sculptor behind *The Thinker*.

Fuel up with an iconic Italian staple for lunch: square pizza packed with toppings at **Santucci's**, tomato pie at **Marchiano's Bakery** or homemade ricotta gnocchi at **L'angolo Restaurant**. If you'd like to browse more masterpieces, head to the **Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts**, the oldest art museum in the U.S. with a reputation for housing great works by

American artists (its Victorian building is also an architectural beauty).

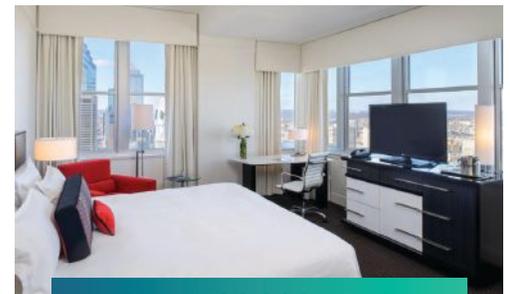
Then spend some time touring the city's wealth of public art (there are nearly

a dozen pieces dedicated to Benjamin Franklin alone). Highlights include Robert Indiana's **LOVE** and **AMOR** statues, Claes Oldenburg's **Clothepin** and Alexander Stirling Calder's **Swann Memorial Fountain**. Find a full list and helpful maps at associationforpublicart.org.

Situated in the heart of Center City on the Avenue of the Arts — Philly's performing arts district — the **Loews® Philadelphia Hotel** is the perfect place to stay. Relax in your sleek guestroom (Premium Rooms also include VIP access to their Concierge Club and Library) and take advantage of the hotel's unique Flavor program featuring food and drink from some of the city's biggest culinary masters. Try Philadelphia's own Saint Benjamin Brewing's ale at on-site **Bank & Bourbon Restaurant**, where you

can also savor elegant entrees like grilled octopus and seared duck breast.

End your evening with a show at the **Academy of Music**, the headquarters of **Opera Philadelphia** and the **Pennsylvania Ballet**, or the **Suzanne Roberts Theatre**, which hosts a variety of critic-approved plays and shows.



Loews® Philadelphia Hotel



THOR TIP OF THE MONTH

THOR wants to be sure you're in the know on all the current Travel Agent Deals! For the latest and greatest offers, please visit <https://www.THORtravelservices.com/my-account/travel-agent-deals/>. For time savings, you have the ability to narrow down your results by filtering commission specials, discounted rates, FAMS, free amenities, rewards, travel agent contests and education. You can sort your results by the date the offer was posted, city, hotel/supplier and expiration date. If you're not already following these special deals provided by THOR's suppliers, be sure to bookmark this in your browser today!

THOR WELCOMES

THOR welcomes 22 new travel agency members this month, including:

- Kilauea Travel Group, INC, Kilauea, Hawaii, US
- MaryC Lifestyle & Travel, Dulwich, South Australia, AU
- The Travel Business, Inc., Molune, Illinois, US
- Selective Travel Management, Belfast, UK
- Travel N Relax Inc, Aurora, Colorado, US
- Kriya Travel Logistics Pvt Ltd, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, IN

2018 THOR ACCESS SERIES

This month, THOR will be hosting the first of two Access Series events on Wednesday, September 26th at the Chicago Athletic Association hotel from 6:00pm – 9:00pm. You are welcome to arrive between 6:00pm and 7:00pm.

Next month, the second event will be held on Thursday, October 25th at The Bloomsbury Hotel in London from 6:00pm – 9:00pm. You are welcome to arrive between 6:00pm and 7:00pm.

Join us for these complimentary events that include a night of great food & drinks, prizes and more!

For more information or to RSVP, please email Stephanie at ssorenson@thortravelservices.com.

FIND THOR AT A LOCAL EVENT

A big thank you to those who found THOR at the following summer events; Travel MarketPlace EAST in Toronto, CA, ASTA Summer Travel Fest in Davenport, IA, ASTA Fiesta in the Desert in Scottsdale, AZ and the ASTA Global Convention in Washington DC! THOR attends numerous events throughout the year! To see where we'll be next, please visit <https://www.THORtravelservices.com/about-us/events/>.

BOOK THE THOR RATE CODES THR AND THX IN THE GDS

Travel agency members benefit from the special relationships THOR has with its suppliers. We've negotiated on your behalf to bring you discounted rates, guaranteed commission and added benefits. Be sure to book under the THR and THX rate access codes in your preferred GDS for the following benefits:

Guaranteed Commission Up To 20%:

The THOR Hotel Program includes over 42,000 hotels in 168 countries. Every single one of these properties provides guaranteed commission at a minimum of 8%, with some offering up to 20%. That means more money in your pocket with every booking.

Discounted Rates Up To 30%:

Each room you book under the THR rate code will be offered at their Best Available Rate (BAR) of the day, with nearly one third of those properties offering dynamic pricing of up to 30% off BAR. What's more, these rates are still the Least Restricted Rate and Last Room Available. Rest easy knowing you are saving your clients money.

Added Value For Your Clients:

In addition to offering you guaranteed commission and BAR or dynamic pricing, many of the hotels in the THOR Hotel Program offer added amenities when you book the THR and THX rate codes. The majority of our properties include complimentary Wi-Fi, over half of our properties include breakfast and some of them even provide a free room upgrade. Your clients will love the extra value you provide them. ✈



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