First Friday
Graduate Student Tour Philadelphia

Tour Guides: Take note of the size of your group before the tour begins. If you have a large group for the tour (over 10 people) you will want to talk to your group at street corners and designated stopping areas so all members of your group can hear. However, if you have a small group (fewer than 10 people) you can walk and talk while you give the tour. Please refer to map for visual directions and specific places to point out on tour, which have corresponding numbers for your convenience.

To start your tour please welcome everyone and tell them a little about the tour. The main point that we want to convey to the people on the tour is that this tour was created to give people a glimpse of what Philly has to offer, so that at later points they know what areas and attractions they want to explore further. Here is an example of what you may want to say to your tour group:

Good afternoon everyone. My name is _________ and I will be leading you on today’s tour. This is a walking tour of Philadelphia based in Old City and East Center City, created to give you a glimpse of what attractions, history, entertainment, shopping and culture Philadelphia has to offer. Unfortunately, we won’t have enough time to explore all of Philly’s hot spots. However, we hope to give you a good introduction to Philadelphia and provide suggestions for places you may want to come and explore in the future.

The guided portion of our tour today will last about an hour, with time built in for you to explore First Friday on your own. We’ll talk more about that later. Please feel free to stop me and ask any questions you may have at any point during the tour, and I will do my best to answer them.

Direction 1: Take your group to 34th and Market Streets and go underground to the Blue Line.

As you are walking to the subway station, you may want to talk about SEPTA (orange Broad, blue Market-Frankford, green trolley – all but #10 will bring you back to campus) and how to buy tokens (online, Fresh Grocer, 30th St Station, the Bookstore, etc).

Take the Blue Line East to 11th Street. Go above ground and take your group to the Gallery side of Market Street. Point out The Gallery entrance at 11th and Market.

Talk 1: In front of us is The Gallery, Philadelphia’s urban mall, which spans 4 blocks and houses more than 170 stores. The Gallery is very convenient for shopping because it is bounded on both ends by stops on SEPTA’s Blue Line. So you can take the Blue Line to 11th Street, shop throughout the entire mall, and hop back on the Blue Line at 8th Street.
Direction 2: Walk east on Market and stop at corner of 10th and Market and look North so that you can see the Chinatown Arch.

Talk 2: This is Philadelphia’s Chinatown. It is marked by the 40 foot-tall Friendship Gate, a ceremonial Chinese gate erected in 1982 in cooperation with Philadelphia’s sister city, Tianjin. Chinatown was established in the 1870’s by the city’s Chinese immigrants for dining, shopping, medicine, weddings, and worship. Today, Chinatown encompasses many cultures, predominantly Asian, and still offers a variety of restaurants, grocery stores, herbalists, medical and dental services, bakeries, hotels, and much more.

Direction 3: Continue east on Market Street to 8th Street. (If it’s very hot, you can walk through the air-conditioned Gallery Mall!). Turn South on 8th towards Chestnut. There are some fantastic murals in this area that you may want to point out. At 8th Street and Chestnut, point South to Jewelers row.

Talk 3: Philadelphia's Jewelers' Row is America's oldest Diamond District and one of the largest. Here hundreds of independent jewelry stores line the brick paved streets with virtually an unlimited selection of fine jewelry at greatly discounted prices.

Direction 4: Turn east down Chestnut Street going towards 7th. Along the way point out Steven Starr’s restaurants Morimoto’s and Jones.

Talk 4: Steven Starr is a restaurateur in Philadelphia who has opened many upscale restaurants including the two restaurants in front of you: Jones and Morimoto’s. Chef Morimoto is known for being the Iron Chef. Steven Starr also owns Pod on Penn’s campus.

Direction 5: Continue East on Chestnut past 6th and stop in front of the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall.

Talk 5: On your right you can see Independence Hall which is where the Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776 and the U. S. Constitution was drafted in 1787. Famous American historical figures, including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and John Hancock, worked within this hall. On the right you can see the Liberty Bell. The Liberty Bell was most famously rung on July 8, 1776 when it rang to announce the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence. The bell began to crack in the
mid-1800s and has not been rung since 1846. No one knows why exactly the bell cracked.

**Direction 6:** Go just a few steps more towards 5th & Chestnut, but stop in the middle of the block. Point North towards Visitor Center and Constitution Center.

**Talk 6:** Here, you can see the Independence Visitor Center with the National Constitution Center behind it. The Visitor Center provides the millions of visitors who travel to Philadelphia with a FREE comprehensive orientation to the culture, history, shopping and dining options available throughout the Greater Philadelphia region. The Constitution Center is the first museum in the world dedicated to honoring and explaining the U.S. Constitution through interactive and multimedia exhibits, photographs, film, sculpture, text, and artifacts.

**Direction 7:** Turn South on 5th, cross the street, pause in front of Library Hall.

**Talk 7:** This is Library Hall (red brick w/ white facing columns). It was founded by Ben Franklin in 1731 and was used as the Library of Congress from 1774 to 1800. Ben Franklin is credited with having started many American ‘firsts,’ including the first lending library, firehouse, and being the very first Postmaster General of the United States.

**Direction 7.1:** Now cut diagonally through the little park located between 4th and 5th Streets, and stop at the Second Bank of the United States (you’ll be in the back of it) and Surgeon’s Hall (it is a small brick foundation that is overgrown with IVY, there is a sign in front labeling it Surgeon’s Hall)

1. The Second Bank of the United States  
2. Surgeon’s Hall

**Talk 7.1:** This is the Second Bank of the United States, chartered when the First National Bank’s charter expired in 1816. This is one of the finest examples of Greek revival architecture. It ceased operation in 1841. These are the remains of Surgeon’s Hall which was originally part of the University of Pennsylvania and the first medical school in the country (1765).
**Direction 8:** Exit the park onto Walnut Street. You should be across the street from Penn’s Center for Judaic Studies at 420 Walnut Street.

**Talk 8:** Even though we are about 30 blocks away from Penn’s campus, we have a small Penn program right here. (Great aspect of Philly – it’s very walkable!!). The University of Pennsylvania’s Center for Judaic Studies is the only institution in the world devoted exclusively to post-doctoral research on Jewish civilization in all its historical and cultural manifestations. The Center’s distinguished scholars, superb library holdings, and outstanding faculty have established Penn as one of the world’s major centers for the study of Jewish civilization.

**Direction 9:** Continue walking east along Walnut. When you pass the Polish Cultural Museum (on your right), you may want to point out Philadelphia’s population statistics (from 2010 estimate: Philadelphia is home to the 4th largest Polish population in the U.S. There are approx. 1.5 million residents – 43% African American, 45% Caucasian, 4% Asian, and about 8% other ethnicities. The top 6 ancestries are 14% Irish, 9% Italian, 8% German, 6% Puerto Rican, 4% Polish, and 3% English).

Stop across from the **Ritz 5 Theater.**
Point out **Merchant’s Exchange.**

**Talk 9:** This is the Ritz 5 Movie Theater, which is known for showing independent, foreign, and documentary films. There is also the Ritz East, which we will pass on 2nd Street in a few moments, and the Ritz at the Bourse, which is located at 4th & Chestnut Streets. Across the street from the Ritz is a round building, this is the Merchant’s Exchange. It is the oldest stock exchange building in the United States and was the original hub for financial and commercial activities.

**Direction 10:** Continue east on Walnut; and turn North onto 2nd street; stop in front of **City Tavern.**

**Talk 10:** Here is City Tavern which is the oldest continually functioning tavern in America and people such as the members of the First Continental Congress and George Washington have eaten there. Today the restaurant has cuisine and ambience that has been recreated to resemble that of 18th century America.
**Direction 11:** Continue north up 2nd Street towards Chestnut. Mention Franklin Fountain (ice cream).

**Talk 11:** There are lots of great restaurants and bars located on 2nd between Market and Chestnut. Some are fancy and upscale, some are down and dirty! The Continental, Blue Martini, Plough and the Stars, Brownies, Serrano’s, Rotten Ralph’s, etc. There are also clubs to hear local music, like the Tin Angel. You can also find many different ethnic restaurants from Asian to Indian to Latin American and more!

**Direction 12:** Continue North on 2nd Street to Market Street near Christ Church. You don’t have to walk all the way to the church, just walk far enough that the people on the tour can see where the church is.

**Talk 12:** Christ Church was the first Anglican Parish in Philadelphia. It was established in 1695. Notable persons who worshipped here include Betsy Ross, Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, and the rest of the Continental Congress who adjourned here to pray before making the decision to declare independence from England.

**Direction 13:** From Christ Church point north towards First Fridays.

**Talk 13:** This unique event started in 1991. On the “First Friday” of every month, the art galleries and restaurants of Olde City welcome the public to art openings and receptions, which include free wine and cheese. Many people from surrounding areas come into Philly for first Fridays and fill the streets. There are more than 40 art galleries in Old City, mostly clustered along 2nd Street between Market and Race Streets and on 3rd Street between Arch and Race Streets.

We have timed this tour so it ends here at the start of First Friday activities. Those of you who wish to enjoy First Friday activities should feel free to wander up and down 2nd Street and 3rd Street, and maybe catch dinner or drinks at one of the great restaurants we just passed. When you’re ready to return to campus, take the Market-Frankford Line, located right here at 2nd & Market, WESTBOUND. If you want to return to campus, take it to 34th Street, which is where we got on.

If you want to return to campus now, you can just hop on Market-Frankford Line now. Remember, to go back to campus or other parts of Center City, you want to take Market-Frankford Line WEST. I’ll be here to answer any questions for the next 10 minutes or so.