Parkway Museum District Tour

This tour of the Museum District will show off Philadelphia's cultural mecca of world-class museums of science, history, and art, as well as educational institutions, and many fine examples of public art. The tour will conclude at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, with its famous "Rocky" steps.

This tour will take approximately two hours. At the end of the tour, you can choose to visit the Philadelphia Museum of Art (admission for students with PennCard is $14), go to the nearby Fairmount neighborhood which has wonderful restaurants for lunch, or return to campus along the scenic River Path behind the Museum of Art.

**Direction 1:** Take group to 37th and Spruce and take the trolley to the 15th Street Trolley Station (on 15th and Market)

As you are walking to the trolley 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).

**Direction 2:** When you get off the trolley station, come up at the Clothespin sculpture. City Hall will be directly across the street

The Clothespin
- Designed in 1976 for the USA bicentennial by Claes Oldenburg. If you look at the metal hinge around the clothespin, it is shaped like a “76”
- Oldenburg is the same sculptor who designed the Split Button in front of the Van Pelt Library on Penn’s campus.
**Philadelphia City Hall**
- The original City Hall building was designed by William Penn in 1682
- The current building was established in 1871 and took over 30 years to complete
- Point out the William Penn statue on the top of City Hall. For nearly 100 years, there was an unofficial agreement that no one would build a building in Philadelphia that was higher than William Penn’s hat. In 1984, One Liberty Place, which is taller than William Penn, was built on the west side of the city. Shortly after, Philadelphians began to talk about the "curse" of Billy Penn because no Philadelphia sports teams won a championship after the construction of One Liberty Place. In 2007, construction workers building the Comcast Center, which is now the tallest building in Philadelphia, hid a small statue of William Penn on the tower's highest point, once again making Billy Penn the tallest point in the city. And the very next year the Philadelphia Phillies won the World Series.

**Direction 4:** Cross JFK Blvd and stand on the north corner of 15th and John F Kennedy Blvd and talk about the following:

**JFK Plaza/also called “Love Park”**
- Nicknamed “Love Park” because of the Love sign
- The sculpture of the Love sign is by Robert Indiana
- There are other Love sculptures in the US, including one on Penn’s campus. The first Love statue was in New York City
- Also point out the **Welcome Center** in Love Park (at the corner of 16th Street and JFK Blvd.)

**Suburban Station (across the street at 16th & JFK Blvd)**
- This is a hub for SEPTA trains that come from the suburbs around Philadelphia
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**Direction 5:** Arrive at the corner of 16th and Benjamin Franklin Parkway, then cross 16th Street to the south side of the Parkway and follow the Parkway down the left sidewalk

**The Benjamin Franklin Parkway**
- Stretching from Love Park to the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Ben Franklin Parkway is home to some of the city’s most important cultural institutions, many of which we will see today.
- The parkway is supposed to resemble the Champs-Élysées in France
- The Parkway is also lined with flags that represent countries with significant populations in Philadelphia. The flags are hung alphabetically.

As you walk on the Parkway towards the Art Museum, you will see many statues, if students ask you about any of them, just read the plaques next to the statues.

Here are some of the sites you should point out:

**Café Cret** (on the other side of the Parkway); students might want to remember this spot for lunch after the tour.

**Tuscan Girl Fountain**
- Philadelphia has a rule that if a construction project receives public funding, then 1% of the total construction budget must be used to create for public art. This is why you see so many public sculptures in Philadelphia.
- This statue – installed because of the 1% rule -- is called Tuscan Girl Fountain, although it is no longer a fountain.

**Mace’s Crossing Pub** – another potential lunch spot.

**The Academy of Natural Sciences** Belongs to Drexel University
- The oldest natural history museum in the Americas.
- A collection of more than 17 million animals and plants, housed in the research portion of the museum, is among the best specimen collections in the world.
- Admission is $13.95 for students w/ ID.
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The Franklin Institute
- This cool science museum features interactive exhibitions, like a giant human heart you can walk through. Also a Planetarium, 3D and IMAX Theaters.
- Admission is $18.50 + extra if you want to go to one of the theaters

Moore College of Art and Design
- Moore is the oldest and only women’s college for visual arts in the U.S.
- Moore hosts free public exhibitions, films, and lectures.
- Moore’s Art Shop features jewelry, ceramics, clothing and accessories, kids toys and funky gifts of all kinds.

Direction 5: Cross the Parkway at 19th Street, and stop at the Logan Circle fountain.

Logan Circle
Center City Philadelphia’s grid layout features four squares (Rittenhouse, Washington, Franklin, and Logan- even though Logan is a circle and not a square) that surround City Hall.

From Logan Circle, you should be able to look back at the William Penn statue on top of City Hall, which was designed by Alexander Milne Calder. The Swann Memorial Sculpture in the Logan Circle fountain was designed by his son Alexander Stirling Calder. If you look down the Parkway, in the main front window of the Museum of Art hangs a giant mobile called “Ghost,” that was designed by his grandson Alexander Calder. In Philadelphia, we call this collection of public sculptures “the father, son, and holy ghost.” If you go in the Museum and look through the front window, you will see all three lined up in a row.
- There is a large red metal sculpture in front of Penn’s School of Design, it was also created by the grandson Alexander Calder.
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**Direction 6:** Follow Logan Circle around to the right. Point out the following sites:

**Cathedral Basilica of Saint Peter and Saint Paul**
- The Mother Church of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia.
- This historic church is modeled after the Lombard church of San Carlo al Corso in Rome. It is of the Roman-Corinthian style of architecture
- You can visit the Cathedral for free.

**Sister Cities Park** (directly in front of the Cathedral)
- Sister Cities fountain has 10 spouts, representing our 10 sister cities, globally positioned in relation to their distance from Philadelphia.
- Philadelphia has Sister Cities in Cameroon, China, France, Israel, Japan, Poland, South Korea, Russia, and two in Italy/
- The park also has a children’s garden and boat pond, and a café and visitor’s center. You might want to come back here for lunch!

**Direction 7:** Leave Logan Circle and cross onto the north side of the Parkway. Continue walking down the Parkway and point out the following sites:

**Free Library of Philadelphia**
- Opened in 1927
- The heart of the 54-branch Free Library of Philadelphia system
- Home to some 7 million items, this library sees more than 1 million visits each year
- Point out the Shakespeare Memorial Statue in front of the library

**Family Court** (to the right of the library)
- Identical building to the library
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**Hallahan Catholic High School for Girls** (brick building behind Family Court)
- This is where Anita, the Grad Center director, went to high school
- Hallahan is the oldest Catholic girls’ school in the country

**Barnes Foundation**
- The Barnes Foundation features one of the most important collections of post-impressionist and early modern art in the world.
- Albert Barnes was a physician and he attended Penn’s School of Medicine. All of the artworks were in his private collection.
- The Barnes Foundation was originally housed in Barnes’ home in the suburbs of Philadelphia. This new museum was designed to look exactly like Barnes’ home on the inside.
- Admission is $22 for adults / $10 for students with ID. You must book tickets in advance!

**Rodin Museum**
- Houses one of the world’s largest collections devoted to the celebrated 19th-century French sculptor Auguste Rodin.
- Rodin’s famous Thinker sculpture can be seen directly outside the Museum.
- Admission is a suggested contribution of $7/student

**Philadelphia Museum of Art**
- This is Philadelphia’s premier art museum.
- The collection includes some 225,000 works of art
- The museum is visited by over 800,000 people per year
- In the movie *Rocky*, Rocky famously runs up the Art Museum steps. Everyday you can see people running up the steps to imitate Rocky.
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- The famous Rocky Statue is located on the right at the bottom of the steps. If you take your photo with the statue, do not give your camera or phone to anyone offering to take the picture for you! You might not get your camera back!!!!
- Admission to the Museum of Art is $20 for adults and $14 for students with ID. However, on the first Sunday of the month and on every Wednesday after 5:00 p.m., the Museum is pay what you wish.

**Direction 8:** The tour ends at the Museum of Art. Offer students the following options:

- For students who want to return to Penn’s campus:
  - Walk back to Penn’s campus using the Schuylkill River path (which starts behind the Museum on the south side)
  - Walk back to 22nd & Market Streets and take the Green Line trolley (any trolley EXCEPT the 10) westbound to 36th & Sansom.

- For students who want to have lunch in the Museum District:
  - Restaurants are available in the Fairmount neighborhood (to the north) between 24th and 20th Streets. Use [www.yelp.com](http://www.yelp.com) or the following website to find restaurants in Fairmount: [http://philadelphia.menupages.com/restaurants/all-areas/art-museum/all-cuisines/](http://philadelphia.menupages.com/restaurants/all-areas/art-museum/all-cuisines/)
  - There are restaurants and cafes available along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway
  - There is a cafeteria and a restaurant at the Museum of Art that students may use without purchasing tickets to enter the museum. If you’d like to see the Museum’s exhibitions and collections, the admission price is $14 for students.
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**Map Locations**

1. Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University
2. Barnes Foundation
3. Capriccio at Cafe Cret
4. Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul
5. Eastern State Penitentiary
6. Fairmount Park
7. Fairmount Park Welcome Center in LOVE Park
8. Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center
9. Four Seasons Hotel
10. Franklin Institute
11. Free Library of Philadelphia – Parkway Central
12. Friends Select School
13. Moore College of Art & Design
14. Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
15. Philadelphia Museum of Art
16. Rodin Museum
17. Sister Cities Park

**Directions**

From **95 North** take Exit 22 for 676 West / Vine Street Expressway, Exit at Ben Franklin Parkway

From **95 South** take Exit 22 for 676 West / Vine Street Expressway, Exit at Ben Franklin Parkway

From **76 West** take Exit 344 for 676 East, Exit at Ben Franklin Parkway / 23rd Street.

From **76 East** take Exit 344 for 676 East Central Philadelphia, Exit at Ben Franklin Parkway/ 23rd Street.

Also accessible by public transportation via SEPTA bus routes 2, 7, 32, 33, 48, regional rail at Suburban Station, City Hall stop on Market-Frankford and Broad Street subway lines and PHLASH (May – October).