

Free Things to See and Do in Pittsburgh!




VisitPittsburgh

The Arts

Architectural Walking Tours

Take a guided walking tour of Pittsburgh's architecture – and see why *The New Yorker* magazine said: "If Pittsburgh were situated somewhere in the heart of Europe, tourists would eagerly journey hundreds of miles out of their way to visit it."

If you are interested in self-guided architectural walking tours, PDFs of the maps and descriptions are available for downloading on the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks web site, www.phlf.org/phlf-tours-events/self-guided-tours/.

Contact: Mary Lu at 412-471-5808 ext. 527 or marylu@phlf.org; www.phlf.org

May: "Grant Street Walk"

Every Friday, Noon to 1 p.m.

Tour some of downtown's finest historic buildings and places during this walk along Grant Street. You'll see H. H. Richardson's Courthouse, three historic landmarks commissioned by industrial magnate Henry Clay Frick, modern skyscrapers, historic churches and Mellon Square Park.

Location: Meet near the waterfall in the Mellon Green parklet at the corner of Grant Street and Sixth Avenue. The one-hour tour ends on Grant Street near the starting point.

June: "Fifth/Forbes Walk"

Every Friday, Noon to 1 p.m.

The Fifth/Forbes area, in the process of being revitalized, has an exceptional mix of commercial architecture built between 1875 and 1940. The walk will focus on the Market Square Historic District and the adjacent streetscape.

Location: Meet at the clock in Market Square. The one-hour tour ends in Market Square.

July: "Penn-Liberty Walk"

Every Friday, Noon to 1 p.m.

Discover how one of Pittsburgh's most historic commercial districts is being revitalized through the arts. The symphony, opera, theater and ballet – as well as film studios, galleries and jazz clubs – are located in landmark buildings in the Penn-Liberty Historic District.

Location: Meet in Agnes Katz Plaza at the corner of Penn Avenue and Seventh Street. The one-hour tour ends at the corner of Fort Duquesne Boulevard and Sixth Street, near the Renaissance Pittsburgh Hotel.

August: "Fourth Avenue Frolic"

Every Friday, Noon to 1 p.m.

In this National Register Historic District that was once Pittsburgh's "Wall Street," you'll see buildings designed by more than a dozen notable architects, in styles ranging from Greek Revival to Post Modern and constructed from 1836 to 1984.

Location: Meet in the parklet adjacent to Dollar Bank, at Fourth Avenue and Smithfield Street. The one-hour tour ends in Market Square.

September: "Bridges & More"

Every Friday, Noon to 1 p.m.

Enjoy great views of Pittsburgh as you walk across two Allegheny River bridges. You'll see PNC Park and Heinz Field, riverfront parks and sculptures, the North Shore development, David L. Lawrence Convention Center and a splendidly restored hotel.



Location: Meet in front of the Renaissance. Pittsburgh Hotel, 107 Sixth Street, Downtown. The one-hour tour ends at the Renaissance Pittsburgh Hotel.

Mt. Washington Walking Tour

Saturday, September 5, 2009

Location: Meeting place to be determined.

Contact: Mary Lu at 42-471-5808 ext 527 or marylu@phlf.org.

For information regarding other neighborhood tours, visit www.phlf.org/phlf-tours-events/.

October: "Oakland's Civic Center: Big Gifts & Big Dreams"

Every Friday, Noon to 1 p.m.

Learn how influencers like Mary Schenley, Andrew Carnegie, Henry Phipps and others helped transform Oakland into a center of culture, education and recreation.

Location: Meet at Forbes Avenue and Schenley Drive Extension, by the dinosaur.

Art All Night

April 25-26

Always held the last weekend of April, the annual Art All Night in Lawrenceville is billed as an art marathon and community celebration. Locations vary, but professional and amateur artists of all ages are invited to display and sell their work at this community event that's like no other. Artists can bring one piece of art to display. No fee. No jury. No censorship.

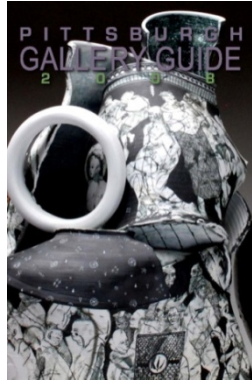
Location: Various Lawrenceville locations.

Contact: www.artallnight.org

Art at Noon

Art at Noon is a series of free, informal and informative talks in The Frick Art Museum auditorium. Stop by an *Art at Noon* talk during your lunch hour and feed your mind. Art at Noon isn't just about art history. Speakers discuss music, literature and anthropology in relation to Frick exhibitions.

Location: Frick Art & Historical Center, 7227 Reynolds St., Point Breeze
Contact: 412-371-0600; www.frickart.org.



Gallery Crawls

Crawl through Pittsburgh neighborhoods and view great art. The *Pittsburgh Gallery Guide*, a publication sponsored by Articulate: Pittsburgh Creative Network, gives a complete list of fantastic galleries in and around the city.

Location: Various locations throughout Pittsburgh.
Contact: 222.pittsburghgalleryguide.com.

Pittsburgh Art in Public Places – Walking Tours

Take a walking tour of Pittsburgh's public art – and see why Pittsburgh is consistently ranked among the best arts destinations in the country.

Downtown Walking Tour

Pittsburgh's Office of Public Art has published *Pittsburgh Art in Public Places – Downtown Walking Tour*. The free, 125-page book features detailed descriptions and photographs 83 works of art in four downtown neighborhoods.

Find out about the sculpture in Mellon Square, the tile mural in the Gateway Center T Station and what the blue text on the convention center means. Pittsburgh Art in Public Places will answer these questions and more about of the city's public art treasures. The guidebook covers four downtown neighborhoods: the Cultural District, the North Shore, the Retail District/First side and the Grant Street Corridor District.



Location: Various locations in Downtown and the North Shore

Oakland Walking Tour

Pittsburgh's Oakland neighborhood, conceived as a cultural center in the 1890s with grand buildings and broad avenues, continues today as a hub for culture, significant universities and major medical institutions. A new map, which can be downloaded at www.publicartpittsburgh.org or Carnegie Museum of Art's web site, www.cmoa.org, offers lovers of art

photographs and descriptions of 26 works of public art in the historic neighborhood with architectural notes for select Oakland buildings.

Location: Various locations in Oakland
Contact: www.publicartpittsburgh.org

Pittsburgh Glass Center

Experience contemporary glass art as well as other extravagant and unique exhibitions at this center. Exhibitions change to include a number of different experiences. For example, in one exhibit, visitors enter the *Hodge Gallery* through a replica of the Fort Pitt Tunnel and emerge to view the city as though being seen through a kaleidoscope.

Tuesday – Thursday: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Friday – Sunday: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Mondays – CLOSED



Location: 5472 Penn Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15206
Contact: 412-365-2145; <http://www.pittsburghglasscenter.org/index.aspx>

Society for Contemporary Craft (SCC)

Located in the Strip District, the SCC offers cutting-edge exhibitions and has presented contemporary art in craft media by international, national and regional artists since 1971. Exhibitions and family friendly hands-on art activities in a drop-in studio are always free to the public.

Hours are Monday Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Location: 2100 Smallman Street in Pittsburgh, PA's Strip District.
Contact: 412-261-7003; www.contemporarycraft.org/The_Store/Splash.html

Also, see Festivals

The Music Scene

Allegheny County Summer Concert Series

Allegheny County offers a variety of free concerts and performances each summer at parks and other locations throughout the county.

Locations: South Park, Hartwood Acres, the County Courthouse Courtyard (downtown), Boyce Park and North Park.

Contact: 412-350-2528; www.alleghenycounty.us/spev/index.aspx

Bach, Beethoven and Brunch

Sundays, June 21 – August 16; 10:30 a.m. – noon

This longtime favorite series entertains music lovers on the lawn of the Mellon Park Rose Garden. *Bach, Beethoven and Brunch* expands this year to include nine concerts, beginning in June. Satisfy your appetite for classical music by treating yourself to a special Sunday morning composed of *Bach, Beethoven and Brunch*.

Location: Mellon Park, Fifth and Shady Avenues

Contact: 412-255-8975

First Fridays at the Frick

First Fridays at the Frick is a Pittsburgh tradition. On the first Friday of each month, June through September, you won't want to miss the summer concert series, good friends and delicious food. Pack your own picnic or plan to sample selections from The Café, which prepares a tempting array of a la carte items. Concerts begin at 7 p.m., but come early to get the best spot on the lawn. The Café begins serving at 5:30 p.m. No reservations required. Free, but \$5 donation suggested.



Location: Frick Art & Historical Center, 7227 Reynolds Street, Pittsburgh PA 15208

Contact: 412-371-0600; www.frickart.org.

Friday Kid's Play

Bring the kids to Market Square for book reading, activities, crafts and more. Visit the Downtown Partnership Development website for more details.

Location: Market Square

Contact: <http://www.downtownpittsburgh.com/market-square>

JazzLive

Tuesday evenings 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Relax and enjoy smooth jazz music played year-round at The Cabaret at Theater Square, Backstage Bar and Agnes Katz Plaza. Open to the public, this popular Pittsburgh Cultural Trust music series showcases some of the region's finest jazz musicians every Tuesday.

Location: Katz Plaza in the Cultural District

Contact: www.pgharts.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=125756.

Pittsburgh Banjo Club

7 p.m. Wednesdays

On Wednesday nights, there's no happier place in town than the public rehearsals of the Pittsburgh Banjo Club at the Allegheny Elks Club. Here, a loyal crowd gathers to hear the club's polished practice sessions, which typically includes a stage full of 40 or more banjo players with a little brass backing from a tuba and horns. The mood is lively, the crowd sings along, the beer is cheap and the entry at the door is free (just ring the buzzer). The party begins at 8 p.m. Other performances are scheduled throughout 2009 at various locations.

Location: Pittsburgh Banjo Club at the Allegheny Elks Club, 400 Cedar Avenue, North Side 15212

Contact: 412-321-1834; <http://home.earthlink.net/~pittsburghbanjoclub/>

Pittsburgh Opera's Brown Bag Opera Concerts

Pittsburgh Opera's spring *Brown Bag Opera Series* presents free Wednesday lunchtime concerts. Guests are invited to bring their lunch to the 30-minute concerts. Each performance begins at 12:15.

March 7, 14, 21, 28

April 4, 11, 18, 25

May 2, 9, 16

Location: 801 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

Contact: 412-281-091; www.pittsburghopera.org for more performances.

Third Thursdays at WYEP

Join 91.3 FM for its free monthly happy hour showcasing great local live music. Open on a first-come, first-serve basis on the third Thursday of the month.

Doors: 6:30 p.m.

Performance: 7 p.m.

Location: WYEP Community Broadcast Center, 67 Bedford Square, Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Contact: www.wyep.org.

Thursdays in the Square: Noon Concerts

From June 4 through mid December enjoy your lunch hour while listening to live music in Market Square. Concerts are sponsored by STAR 100.7 and KDKA radio and will draw a number of different local musicians.

Location: Downtown, Market Square

Contact: <http://www.downtownpittsburgh.com/market-square/programs/thursdays-in-the-square>

The Music Unwind Series @ Southside Works

Relax with friends and family and enjoy live music of local musicians every Friday and Saturday night beginning May 1 in the Southside Works Town Square.

Location: Southside Works Time Square

Contact: <http://www.southsideworks.com/TheMusicUnwindSeries2009.asp>

Out and About

Cinema in the Park

Enjoy cinema under the stars. Pittsburgh Citipark's "Cinema in the Park" features popular family friendly movies at seven Pittsburgh area parks. Movies are shown seven days a week (a different park each night) and run from the second weekend in June through the end of August. Movies generally start around 9 p.m. You can bring your own food, drinks and snacks, but no glass bottles or alcoholic beverages – they are prohibited in all Pittsburgh city parks. Inclement weather may cause cancellations. (**Insider's Tip:** Specially designated Comcast Popcorn Nights mean free popcorn and prizes for movie attendees!)

Cinema Locations:

- Schenley Park (Flagstaff Hill), Sundays & Wednesdays
- East Liberty (Beatty Street, behind Carnegie Library), Mondays
- Robert E. Williams Memorial Park (Milwaukee and Adelaide Streets, Hill District), Tuesdays
- Brookline Memorial Park (Oakridge Street), Thursdays
- Arsenal Park (39th and Butler Streets, Lawrenceville), Fridays
- Riverview Park (Observatory Hill), Saturdays
- Grandview Park (Bailey Avenue, Mt. Washington), Saturdays
- West End/Elliott Overlook (Elliott Overlook), Tuesdays

Contact: 412-937-3039

www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/parks/html/cinema_in_the_park_and_cinema_.html

Community Bike Program

A corporate-sponsored Dasani Blue Bikes program, dubbed "Community Bike Program," offers free bikes that you can borrow to explore the city's Three Rivers Heritage Trail. Thirty bikes are available free of charge on the North Shore and South Side trails. To borrow a bike, take your

driver's license to 33 Terminal Way, South Side or to the North Shore near the visitor's parking lot of Heinz Field.

Location: South Side, North Shore

Contact: 412-488-0212; www.friendsoftheriverfront.org/new_pages/community_bike.htm



Fish for Free Days

May 23 and June 7, 2009

Two days are set aside in Pennsylvania when residents and non-residents can fish legally without a fishing license.

Location: All public Pennsylvania lakes, rivers, creeks, streams and other waterways are open for fishing on PA Fish for Free Days.

Great Allegheny Passage

Ride the 150-mile multiple use rail-trail system from Pittsburgh to Cumberland, Md. Ultimately the trail links the C&O Canal Towpath to provide a nearly level trail system from Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C.

Location: Pittsburgh to Cumberland

Contact: www.atatrail.org

Great Race

Sunday, September 28, 2009

On the last Sunday of September, the starting gun again sounds for a world-class 10K and 5K road race that has become a true Pittsburgh tradition. The Richard S. Caliguiri City of Pittsburgh Great Race is fun to watch from places throughout the city. Registrations must be made in advance.

Contact: (412) 255-2493; www.RunGreatRace.com

Festivals & Events

Annual Pittsburgh Dragon Boat Festival

May 16, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

The Chinese tradition of the Dragon Boat Festival returns to Pittsburgh for this annual event. The festival highlights the Chinese and Pan-Asian cultures in the Pittsburgh region featuring Asian music, dance and food. Families will enjoy the Dragon Stroll that will line the river's edge

with lessons on how to use chopsticks, Chinese yo-yo and Tai Chi demonstrations along with arts and crafts.

Contact: Arlene Krava, 724-348-4836; www.pittsburghdragonboatfestival.org

Location: South Side Riverfront Park

Covered Bridge Festival

September 15-16, 2009

With nine bridges in two counties, the self-guided tour is not to be missed. The expert craftsmanship of covered bridges provides a treat for the eyes and ears, while evoking images of clopping horses, open carriages and stolen kisses. Each of the bridge celebrations has a unique atmosphere tied through a common bond – love of the covered bridges of Washington and Greene Counties.

Location: Washington & Greene County

Contact: www.washwow.com or www.greenecountytourism.org

Festival of Lights

Fall 2009

Experience the region's tremendous array of arts with Pittsburgh's Festival of Lights. Building facades across the city are transformed into unique large-scale works of art with rich colors, shapes and extravagant artistic designs using state-of-the-art technology and illumination.

Location: Various locations throughout Pittsburgh

Contact: More information to come!

First Night Pittsburgh

December 31

A full evening of family-friendly News Year's Eve events celebrating the arts and cultural vitality of Pittsburgh, sponsored by the Pittsburgh Cultural District.

Location: Downtown

Contact: www.firstnightpgh.com

Light Up Night

Join the crowd as downtown buildings light up to celebrate the start of the holiday season. Festivities include live music and a number of events in Market Square as well as various locations in town.

Location: Downtown

Contact: www.downtownpittsburgh.com



Pittsburgh Pride Fest

Sunday, June 14

This daylong Pride March and Festival, during Pride Week, brings thousands of people from around the region together for music, food and entertainment.

Location: various throughout downtown and North Shore.

Contact: 412-422-0114; www.glccpgh.org.

Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix

July 5-19, 2009

The Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix has grown from a one-day vintage race in 1983 to a 10-day festival of races, car shows and motorsport events that now attracts 250,000 spectators.

Location: Schenley Park, Squirrel Hill

Contact: www.pvgp.org.



RADical Days

As a way of saying thank you for the public support they receive through a one-percent Allegheny Regional Asset District (RAD) tax, local arts and cultural organizations open their doors for a series of free events. Setting a new event record, more than 50,000 people attended RADical Days 2008 at 40 locations. Participating organizations included the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, Venture Outdoors and many more. For 2009 information, visit www.radworkshere.org.

Three Rivers Arts Festival

June 5-14, 2009

This festival connects the community to the arts. With a wide array of unique arts, family fun crafts, and free performances, it's a must see!

Location: Downtown Pittsburgh

412-281-8723; www.artsfestival.net

Miscellaneous

Allegheny Observatory

Tours of the building are offered April through the end of October. The Thursday night tours run from May through the end of August and the Friday night tours will be held from April 1 through November 1. All tours begin at 8 p.m. and end at approximately 10 p.m. A short slide or film presentation is shown followed by a walking tour of the building which ends at the 13" Fitz-Clark refractor. If it's a clear night, you will be shown whatever celestial objects are within range of the telescope that night.

The tours are free of charge, but you must have a reservation.

Location: Riverview Park, North Side

Contact: 412-321-2400 between the hours of 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

University of Pittsburgh astronomy research facility. Reservations required;

www.pitt.edu/~aobsvtry/index.html

Black and White and Read All Over Carnegie Library, Oakland

Saturdays

Carnegie Library Lecture Hall, 10:30 a.m.

Black, White & Read All Over brings award-winning children's authors and illustrators to Carnegie Library for lively programs with lots of questions and answers with the audience. Meet the authors after the programs for book signings and snacks.

Location: 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Contact: 412-622-3114; www.carnegielibrary.org/



Free Wireless Internet

For two hours, connect to Internet anywhere downtown for free!

Location: Downtown

More information: http://pittsburgh.about.com/od/downtown/a/free_wifi.htm

Jail Museum

Open Mondays for self-guided tours (except on government holidays) February through October, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

These tours are offered by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, one of the nation's leading nonprofit historic preservation groups. The Allegheny County Jail, as seen in the film Mrs. Soffel, was completed in 1886 to the designs of Boston architect H. H. Richardson and in use until July 27, 1995. A portion of one of the cell blocks has been preserved as the "Old Allegheny County Jail Museum."

Location: Court of Common Pleas, Family Division (formerly the Allegheny County Jail), 440 Ross Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Enter the facility through the main Ross Street entrance (between 5th and Forbes Avenue, behind the Courthouse) or through the courtyard arch on Fifth Avenue. In both cases, you will have to go through security.

Contact: 412-471-5808, ext. 527 or e-mail marylu@phlf.org.

McDonald's Big Mac Museum Restaurant

Dubbed "the most tasteful museum in the world," the combo museum/restaurant features the world's largest Big Mac statue (measuring 14 feet high and 12 feet wide), and hundreds of

historic artifacts and high-tech exhibits that celebrate the Big Mac, which was invented 40 years ago in Uniontown by Jim Delligatti.

Location: 9061 Route 30, North Huntingdon, PA 15642

Contact: 724-863-9837; www.bigmacmuseum.com

Soldiers & Sailors

Soldiers & Sailors offers a unique look into American history. The museum explores the evolution of equipment and technology as well as the effects that military conflicts have had on society. The museum's collections span art from the mid 1900's to cultural artifacts of today. The goal is not to idealize war but to honor and educate about the sacrifices.

Ride the T for free

Pittsburgh's subway – called the “T” – is free to ride within the Golden Triangle. Downtown stops include Wood Street Station, US Steel Tower, First Avenue Garage and Gateway Center.