

NSO PennTracks Rittenhouse Square

Overview:

This tour will take you through the Victorian neighborhoods that surround Rittenhouse Square and past some of the finest shopping and dining in the city.

Along the way you will see the lush, green park, sites from movies, many old churches, and modern high rise residences.

Why You Should Return:

Rittenhouse Square is one of Philadelphia's treasures with some of the city's most desirable, upscale properties.

Sample the great food, attend religious services, enjoy people watching in the park, visit hidden museums, hear free concerts, or shop at the Saturday farmer's market. Rittenhouse Square is in your backyard; it is gorgeous and teeming with life.

Transportation:

To get to Rittenhouse, take the Green Line eastbound trolley from 37th and Spruce streets to 15th street. To return to Penn, take Green Line Trolley from 22nd and Market streets back to 34th Street.

Emergency:

In case of emergency, contact 911. Report emergency to NSO staff.

1 City Hall | Broad and Market streets

City Hall was the tallest building in Philadelphia until Liberty Place was built (you can ride the elevator to the top of the tower for a great view). The embellished architectural style is called French Second Empire, and was somewhat controversial in this city of Quaker austerity. Parts of Trading Places, 12Monkeys, Philadelphia and Law Abiding Citizen were filmed here. South along Broad Street is the Avenue of the Arts, with Philadelphia's orchestra, opera, ballet, and The Wilma Theatre.

2 LOVE Park | 16th and JFK Boulevard

John F. Kennedy Plaza gets its famed nickname "LOVE Park" due to its famous sculpture. The plaza, designed by City Planner Edmond Bacon was originally constructed over an underground parking garage in 1965. The plaza expanded in 1969 with the addition of beautifully curved granite steps and a majestic fountain. Aside from photo opportunities, LOVE Park is also a favorite spot to grab a bite to eat from some of the city's top food trucks.

3 Comcast Building | 1701 JFK Boulevard

Standing at a robust 975 feet tall, the Comcast Center is the tallest building in Philadelphia. Features include a plaza, cafe, and an energy-saving "glass curtain" that wraps around the entire façade. Most stunning of all, however, is "The Comcast Experience," a 2,000 square-foot LED screen projecting computer-generated images. With a resolution 500% greater than HD TV, the Experience is also the largest four-millimeter LED screen in the world.

4 Liberty Place | 16th and Chestnut streets

Liberty Place features two of the tallest skyscrapers in Philadelphia and was the first building in the city to stand taller than the Ben Franklin statue topping City Hall. One Liberty features an observation deck and *The Shops at Liberty Place*, which houses more than 55 shops.

5 Walnut Street Corridor and Rittenhouse Row | Walnut between Broad and 19th streets

Great shopping and dining is the magnet that draws people to this stretch of Walnut. Le Bec Fin is considered by many the finest French restaurant in the country. There is also Lacroix, Barclay Prime, Butcher & Singer, Smith and Wollensky, Alma de Cuba, and many more. Tiffany & Co., Kenneth Cole, Coach, MAC, Esprit, Lucky Brand, Burberry, are just a few of the great shops.

6 Rittenhouse Square | 18th and Walnut streets

Originally called Southwest Square in the 1700s, it served as a pasture for local livestock and a dumping ground for "night soil." In 1825, it was renamed for David Rittenhouse, Philadelphia astronomer and Revolutionary War patriot. By mid-century, the square was the city's most fashionable place to live and home to the local aristocracy. Today, the Square remains one of the hottest resident properties in Philly and serves as an energetic hub of Center City life. Great restaurants like Rouge and Parc are on the east side. For great coffee, try La Colombe on 19th. There's always something happening, both organized and spontaneous: free concerts, a farmer's market on Saturdays, fine arts festivals, holiday festivities, impromptu four square games, musicians, and all sorts of cool dogs out for a stroll with their owners

7 Curtis Institute / Art Alliance | 1726 Locust and 251 S. 18th streets Mall West

Curtis: This mansion is the home of the Curtis Institute, one of the country's most illustrious names in musical training. Celebrated alumni include Leonard Bernstein, Samuel Barber, and Anna Moff. Fritz Reiner and Eugene Ormandy are among the people who taught here. Built in 1894, this is an amazing Beaux Arts style residence that today hosts free concerts and recitals year round.

Art Alliance: Built as the Wetherill Mansion, this building became the home of the Alliance in 1926. Philadelphia Art Alliance has hosted exhibitions and lectures by some of the outstanding figures in the visual, literary, and performing arts, including architect Frank Lloyd Wright, painter Winslow Homer and composer Aaron Copland.

8 St. Patrick's Catholic Church / Ethical Society | 20th and Locust streets

The earliest workers who settled on Panama Street were largely Irish immigrants and this Catholic church was founded in 1839 to serve their religious needs. Around Rittenhouse Square there are religious buildings for various denominations and faiths. There is the Church of the Holy Trinity on the northwest corner of the Square, dating from 1857, and the Philadelphia Ethical Society, an "Ethical Humanist religious community" on the southwest corner.

9 Delancey Place | 20th and Delancey streets

This street was used as a location in *Sixth Sense* and *Trading Places*. This block of Delancey is probably the finest Victorian block in the city. It's perfect for strolling after a dinner at *Audrey Claire* or *Twenty Manning*, or after a trip at the *Rosenbach Museum* which houses a great collection of rare books, including the original manuscript for James Joyce's *Ulysses*. The archives for Maurice Sendak, who gave us *Where the Wild Things Are*, are kept here as well.

Of Additional Interest

A Mütter Museum | 19 S. 22nd Street

Located within the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, this macabre museum holds a "fantastic collection of medical curiosities." Perfect for pre-meds and Victorianists.

B Schuylkill River Park | 26th and Spruce streets

This park winds along the Schuylkill River and connects to the Art Museum area. It has basketball courts, a dog park, a community garden, and a great paved path for walking and cycling.

See www.visitphilly.com/areas/philadelphia-neighborhoods/rittenhouse-square/ for more information.

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