

# SYC NJ Visitor's Guide

**CALL BEFORE YOU GO! MANY ATTRACTIONS STILL HAVE COVID RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE AND REQUIRE TICKETS PURCHASED AHEAD OF TIME.**

DRAFT - UPDATED: 4/28/21

## Map and Videos

[A map in Google maps](#) is available with all of the listings below. Videos coming soon. All of this info is available at [www.JuniorGoldInfo.com/SYCNewJersey](http://www.JuniorGoldInfo.com/SYCNewJersey).

## Philadelphia

The birthplace of our nation, Philadelphia has a wealth of historical and cultural attractions worth visiting. Visitors Bureau Website: [www.visitphilly.com](http://www.visitphilly.com)

### Independence Park

History:

- [Independence Hall](#) – See where it all started, the very rooms where the framers debated and penned the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. ([520 S. Chestnut St.](#))
- [The Liberty Bell](#) – See firsthand the country's most prominent symbol of freedom, just a few steps from Independence Hall. ([526 Market St.](#))
- [Betsy Ross House](#) – Tour the house believed to be where Betsy Ross lived and where first flag of the United States was created. ([239 Arch St.](#))
- [National Constitution Center](#) – Devoted to the Constitution, see exhibits and artifacts, take in the 360-degree live theatrical production Freedom Rising and walk among 42 life-size bronze statues of the Founding Fathers. ([525 Arch St.](#))
- [Museum of the American Revolution](#) – Experience a range of exhibits and objects gathered from and pertaining to the Revolutionary War George Washington's headquarters tent is also on display! ([101 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St.](#))
- [Carpenters Hall](#) – The meeting place the First Continental Congress ([320 Chestnut St.](#))

### Museum Area / Benjamin Franklin Parkway

Art:

Philadelphia is home to not one but three world-class art museums, all within a short walk of one another.

- The [Philadelphia Museum of Art](#), famously showcased in the movie Rocky, is home to works by Picasso, Rubens, Renoir, Van Gogh, Cezanne, Eakins, Monet, and many other notable artists. There is also a large collection of arms and armor. [Run the steps](#), take your picture with the [Rocky statue](#), and then take a stroll past [Boathouse Row](#).
- The [Rodin Museum](#) has the largest collection of Rodin works outside of Paris.
- [The Barnes](#) also houses a world class collection, including Renoir, Van Gogh, Cezanne, Matisse, Monet, Manet, Picasso, and others.
- A few blocks away near City Hall is the [Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts](#), also a worthwhile visit, and holds the distinction of being the nation's first Art Museum.

Science / History:

- [The Franklin Institute](#) - One of America's oldest and best Science museums, the Franklin Institute is constantly updated, and features a 79' domed Imax and a planetarium, as well as myriad interactive displays and exhibits. If you have younger children, the [Please Touch Museum](#) is a short drive and is highly rated as well. ([222 N. 20<sup>th</sup> St.](#))

- [The Academy of Natural Sciences](#) – Just across the street from the Franklin Institute is Philly's natural history museum run by Drexel University. Their exhibits include more than 30 dinosaur skeletons, a butterfly hall, and historical dioramas. ([1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway](#))

#### Other

- [Love Park](#) (JFK Plaza) – Take a picture with the iconic LOVE statue in the City of Brotherly Love.
- [City Hall](#) – Once the tallest habitable building in the world, it's still the world's largest free-standing masonry building. Check out the views of the city on the open-air observation deck.

#### Philly off the beaten path

- [Mütter Museum](#) – America's finest museum of medical history, the Mütter Museum displays its beautifully preserved collections of anatomical specimens, models, and medical. Their motto is "Disturbingly Informed" ([S. 22<sup>nd</sup> and Ludlow](#))
- [Magic Gardens](#) – Completely covered in mosaics on every surface, this space is made up of two indoor galleries and a bi-level outdoor sculpture garden. ([1020 South St.](#))
- [National Museum of American Jewish History](#) - brings to life the 360-year history of Jews in America. ([101 S. Independence Mall](#))
- [African American Museum](#) - an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, it celebrates and interprets African-American history and culture ([701 Arch Street](#))
- [U of Penn. Museum of Archeology and Anthropology](#) – Located at Ivy League U. of Penn., it's one of the world's finest archaeological and anthropological museums. ([3260 South St.](#))
- [Pennsylvania Hospital](#) - the nation's first hospital offers guided tours. ([800 Spruce St.](#))
- [Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site](#) – Visit Poe's former home, where he penned the Tell-tale heart, during his most prolific period. ([532 N. 7<sup>th</sup> St.](#))
- [Mural Arts Tours](#) – Philadelphia has a vibrant mural arts program. Guided and self-guided tours available. (various locations around the city)
- [National Liberty Museum](#) - Discover the stories of real-life heroes at the museum's interactive exhibitions and inspirational galleries. ([321 Chestnut St.](#))
- [Philadelphia Zoo](#) – America's first zoo, the zoo is just a short drive from center city. ([3400 W. Girard Avenue](#))
- [Reading Terminal Market](#) – great place to grab lunch while you're seeing the city. Recommended: [Beck's Cajun Cafe](#) (the Muffuletta Sandwich and Jambalaya are terrific) and top it off with some of ice cream from [Bassett's](#). ([12<sup>th</sup> and Arch St.](#))
- [Eastern State Penitentiary](#) - Eastern State Penitentiary was once the most famous and expensive prison in the world, now you can tour the grounds and learn about Criminal Justice. 5 block from the Art Museum, but I would take an Uber. ([2027 Fairmont Ave.](#))
- [Valley Forge National Park](#) - Valley Forge is the site of Washington's winter encampment of the Continental Army. ([1400 N Outer Line Dr, King of Prussia, PA](#))
- [Washington's Crossing](#) – The site of Washington's famous crossing of the Delaware river, a key turning point in the Revolutionary War. ([355 Washington Crossing-Trenton Outskirts, Titusville, NJ](#))

#### Cheesesteaks

The best cheesesteaks are a hotly debated topic in Philly as can be expected. Many know of Pat's and Gino's, but locals will have their favorites, and their answers are as varied as there are sports fans in Philly. Below is a list of some of the most popular. Our favorite is Jim's on South street, or the original Tony Luke's location. There are several deli's that sell cheesesteaks in NJ, however none will be equivalent to getting one at a real cheesesteak shop. John's rule of thumb: If it's called a "Philly Steak" avoid it at all costs!

- [Jim's](#) (Recommended) ([400 South St.](#))
- [Tony Luke's](#) (original location) ([39 E. Oregon St.](#))
- [Pat's](#) ([1237 E. Passyunk Ave.](#))
- [Geno's](#) ([1219 S. 9<sup>th</sup> St.](#))
- [Sonny's](#) ([228 Market St.](#))
- [Campo's](#) ([214 Market St.](#))
- Honorable mention: [Donkey's Place](#) in Camden. Not a traditional cheesesteak, but a delicious alternative if you're nearby. ([1223 Haddon Ave., Camden, NJ](#))

## Gardens / Arboretums

The Delaware Valley is home to many top-tier gardens and arboretums thanks to the foresight of the DuPont family. [Longwood Gardens](#) is the crown-jewel, considered one of the world's best. Be sure to check out the [fountain display](#), [the Children's garden](#), [Waterlily display](#) (lily pads 8' around!), [Bonsai collection](#), and the [Italian Water Garden](#).

## Camden Waterfront

Just across the river from Philly and easy to get to, the Camden Waterfront features some beautiful views on the city.

[Battleship New Jersey](#) – The most decorated ship in the U.S. Navy, the “Big J” is now a highly rated museum worth visiting.

[Adventure Aquarium](#) – The only aquarium in the world with a hippo habitat, the Adventure Aquarium also has penguins and local and global species on display.

## Moorestown

Voted one of the best places to live in America and just a couple of minutes from Laurel Lanes, this town is home to many of the Philadelphia executives, notables, and professional athletes. Be sure to grab lunch or dinner at ones of the [great restaurants on Main Street](#). Recommended: [Passarello's Italian Kitchen](#)

## Haddonfield

This beautiful and charming town just a few minutes from Laurel Lanes has a [great walkable downtown](#) area with many unique shops and restaurants. Easy access to Philly via train. Haddonfield is also the home of the world's first mostly complete dinosaur skeleton discovery, [Hadrosaurus Foulkii](#). Recommended: [The British Chip Shop](#)

## New York City

New York City is an hour to an hour and a half away, depending on travel mode and time of the week. The train from Hamilton Station is recommended (see below) and Uber and Lyft is abundant. Driving is an option, but not for the faint of heart. If you're not used to city driving, it's best left to someone else. The famous [NYC subway \(Beginner's Guide\)](#) is also an option.

## Attractions

Guggenheim, Times Square, 9/11 memorial, Statue of Liberty / Ellis, Liberty Science Center, [MoMA](#), Empire State Building, Central Park, [Rockefeller Center](#), [Broadway](#), [USS Intrepid Museum](#)

## Jersey Shore

- **Ocean City** - Boardwalk, Rides, Manco & Manco's, Shriver's, Kohr bros
- **Cape May** - Sunset beach, Charming shops, Victorian homes
- **Wildwood** - Boardwalk, rides
- **Seaside Heights** - Boardwalk
- **Point Pleasant Beach** - Boardwalk, the best volleyball NJ has to offer.
- **Less Crowded, quieter:** Cape May Lighthouse state beach, Island Beach State Park

## How to get there

### Philadelphia

#### **Via light rail:**

The [PATCO High Speed Line](#) is a clean, fast train to Center City, just a few minutes from Laurel Lanes. Using the [Haddonfield](#) (recommended) or Woodcrest stations, it's an approximately 15-20 minute ride into the city. The

trains run frequently, every [6 to 15 minutes on weekdays, and every 20-30 mins on the weekends](#). Independence Park is a 2 block walk from the [8<sup>th</sup> and Market station](#). This will take you into Center City and the Independence Square area. See getting around for other areas.

**Via car:**

Getting around in the city:

Uber and Lift are abundant in Philadelphia and South Jersey. The [Philly PHLASH buses](#) make a [loop of the major attractions](#) during the day for \$2 per ride, or \$5 for a daily pass. Stops every 15 minutes.

**New York City**

**Via light rail:**

Hamilton Station (take the NJ Transit "Clocker" weekdays)

**Via car:**

**Baltimore / Washington D.C.**

Via train:

Cherry Hill Station to 30<sup>th</sup> Street Station

Car:

Washington is about 2.5 hours, Baltimore's Inner Harbor is approx.. 2 hours.

**Shore Points**

Driving is the only practical way to the beach. Approximate travel times from Laurel Lanes (note this can vary significantly on weekends)

- Ocean City: 1 hour
- Cape May: 1.5 hours
- Wildwood: 1.5 hours
- Seaside Heights: 1.25 hours
- Point Pleasant Beach: 1 hour
- Sunset Beach / Cape May Lighthouse and state beach: 1.5 hours
- Island Beach State Park: 1.25 hours

**NOTE:** This information is provided as a reference only and without warranty or guarantee of accuracy or completeness. Use at your own risk. I am in no way affiliated with Storm. I do, however, appreciate all they do for the youth bowling community.