FAIRMONT PARK

Overview:
Come see Philadelphia’s largest park, which hosts historical monuments, sculptures, several museums, walking trails, and city-line views. Lots of Penn students come here to host socials, hangout, or go to one of the many attractions.

Transportation:
To get to Fairmount, go to the bus pickup at Spruce and 34th street, take bus 40 and get off at 41st and Parkside Avenue.

1 Smith Memorial Arch
Avenue of the Republic

Smith Memorial Arch is an American Civil War monument at South Concourse and Lansdowne Drive in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Built on the former grounds of the 1876 Centennial Exposition. It serves as a gateway to West Fairmount Park. The Smith Memorial Arch was initiated by Richard Smith, a wealthy Philadelphian who imparted a half million dollars to build a monument to Pennsylvania’s naval and military heroes of the Civil War. The memorial is comprised of nine busts, three figures and two equestrians, created by various artists.

2 Please Touch Museum
4231 Avenue of the Republic

The Please Touch Museum is a children’s museum that focuses on teaching through interactive exhibits with three interconnected zones: a shopping market, a home and industrial kitchen, and a neighborhood festival area.

3 Shofuso Japanese House and Garden
Landsdowne Dr. & Horticultural Dr

Shofuso is a 1.2-acre Japanese garden that was announced as the third-best Japanese garden in North America by Sukiyab Living. This historic site and museum includes a hill and pond garden with a tiered waterfall, island, and koi fish, a tea garden, traditional tea house, and bathhouse.

4 Pavilion in the Trees
Landsdowne Dr

Martin Puryear’s Pavilion in the Trees is located near the Horticulture Center in West Fairmount Park. The original model included a steep set of stairs, but the artist decided to substitute a sloping ramp for aesthetic and safety reasons. This tree-house like structure offered park-goers a quiet place to reflect and relax ever since it was installed in 1993.

5 Fairmount Park Horticulture Center
100 N Horticultural Dr

The Horticulture Center, a modern exhibition hall and greenhouse, is located in West Fairmount Park. The Center was built in 1979 and is located on the site of the former Horticultural Hall and the 1876 Centennial Exposition building. The grounds and greenhouses are open daily and include an arboretum, a greenhouse, a modern exhibition hall, indoor and outdoor spaces, display gardens, a reflecting pool, and more.

6 Centennial Arboretum
Montgomery Dr

Centennial Arboretum is located at the Horticulture Center, Fairmount Park, at the southeast corner of Belmont and Montgomery Drives. The arboretum contains specimens from Asia, Europe, and North America. The arboretum also hosts Philly’s annual Cherry Blossom Festival in April.

7 Belmont Plateau
1800 Belmont Mansion Dr

Belmont Plateau is one of the best views of the Philly skyline in the entire city. The grassy hill is perfect for laying out on a blanket or a picnic with friends, all with a picture perfect view of Center City and West Philadelphia. The park has picnic tables, baseball fields, and is close to other West Fairmount Park attractions including Shofuso Japanese House and Please Touch Museum. Trails: 12+ mi, natural surface.

8 Ohio House
4700 States Dr

The Ohio House is a historic building that was built from various Ohio sandstones and functioned as the Ohio state exhibit for the Centennial Exposition of 1876. The Victorian Gothic Ohio House stands today as one of only two surviving buildings from the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition in 1876.

9 Stone Gazebo
Avenue of the Republic

The Stone Gazebo is the best place to relax and is located at the apex of a path of Cherry Blossoms. The gazebo has been around since the Centennial World’s Fair May 10, 1876 it is still in standing condition.

Of Additional Interest

A Philadelphia Zoo
3400 W Girard Ave

The Philadelphia Zoo is the US’s first true zoo and foremost conservation organization, is home to nearly 1,300 animals and some historic architecture. It was chartered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1859, but its opening was delayed by the Civil War. It is set among a charming 42-acre Victorian garden with tree-lined walks, formal shrubbery and animal sculptures.

B Boathouse Row
1 Boathouse Row

Between Kelly Drive and the Schuylkill River, Boathouse Row features Lloyd Hall recreation center and historic rowing clubs. Each club is a member of the Schuylkill Navy of Philadelphia, the oldest amateur athletic governing body in America. It is home to the Stotesbury Regatta, the Schuylkill Navy Regatta, the Philadelphia Youth Regatta and the Dad Vail.

C Azalea Garden behind the PMA
Kelly Drive (at Waterworks Drive)

Located on the grounds of Philadelphia’s Museum of Art, the Azalea Garden has over four acres of beautiful plants and flowers, and is just a short stroll away from the Water Works.

D Eastern State Penitentiary
2027 Fairmount Ave

Eastern State Penitentiary was once the most famous and expensive prison in the world, but stands today as a relic of the perfect place for those who love the paranormal. Its vaulted, sky-lit cells once held many of America’s most notorious criminals like “Stick Willie” Sutton and “Scarface” Al Capone.

See Fairmount Park — Visit Philadelphia (visitphilly.com) for more information.