

PENN TRACKS

Avenue of the Arts

Overview:

Philadelphia has been a cultural mecca for over 200 years. Great theatre, ballet, opera, and music abound in this city, and the Avenue of the Arts is Philadelphia's cultural artery. This tour takes you into and around the city's premiere theaters and arts venues.

Transportation:

To get there: Take the Green Line trolley to 15th Street/City Hall then transfer to the Broad Street Line and get off at Lombard – South.

To return to Penn: Take any Green Line trolley (except the 10) from 15th Street/City Hall to 37th and Spruce streets or take the Market-Frankford Line (also known as the Blue Line) to 34th Street.

1

The Philadelphia Theater Company Suzanne Roberts Theater 480 S. Broad Street

For over 30 years, the Philadelphia Theatre Company has delighted audiences with contemporary American plays, premiering over 140 works by notable playwrights like Terence McNally and August Wilson. Now in its fourth season at the Suzanne Roberts Theater, PTC is a cornerstone of Philadelphia's vibrant arts community on Broad Street's Avenue of the Arts.

2

University of the Arts

320 S. Broad Street

This 125-year-old arts school is the nation's largest, training students in design, dance, music, and other arts. Performances can be seen at the Arts Bank (601 S. Broad St.) and the Merriam Theatre (250 S. Broad St.).

3

Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

300 S. Broad Street

This architectural masterpiece hosts the Philadelphia Orchestra and Philadanco, an acclaimed African American ballet company. With two theaters, it offers diverse performances, including hip hop, salsa, classical, world, and jazz music, plus numerous free concerts throughout the year.

4

Wilma Theater

265 S. Broad Street

This theatre always hosts award-winning plays and is also a favorite of the British playwright Tom Stoppard, who wrote the screenplay for Shakespeare in Love.

5

The Miller Theater

250 S. Broad Street

Built in 1918, the Merriam Theatre hosts University of the Arts performances and is Philadelphia's leading Broadway roadhouse, offering a wide range of entertainment from solo acts to ballet.

6

Academy of Music

240 S. Broad Street

Opened in 1857 and modeled after La Scala in Milan, the Academy's beautiful interior was home to the Philadelphia Orchestra for a century. It now hosts the Opera Company of Philadelphia and the Pennsylvania Ballet.

7

Walk of Fame

Broad Street between Spruce & Walnut Streets

Note the illustrious names on the Walk of Fame in front of the Park Hyatt Bellevue: Billie Holiday, John Coltrane, Dizzy Gillespie. Many played here or are Philadelphia natives.

8

Union League

140 S. Broad Street

This building reflects Philly's strong pro-Union support during the Civil War. Despite initial divided opinions due to Southern trade ties, Philadelphia ultimately supported the Union, contributing more soldiers than any other Northern city.

9

Prince Theater

1412 Chestnut Street

This theatre is one of the hosts of the Philadelphia Film Festival every spring, the largest film festival on the East Coast. Named after producer Harold Prince, this theater also showcases cutting edge musical theatre performances.

10

City Hall

Broad and Market streets

When construction began on City Hall in 1871, it was going to be the tallest building in the world. But 30 years later, when it was done, it was the third tallest behind the Eiffel Tower and the Washington Monument. Today you can take an elevator up the tower and stand at the feet of the giant William Penn statue. It offers an amazing view of the city.

11

The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts 118-128 North Broad Street

Thomas Eakins, painter of "The Gross Clinic" and "The Agnew Clinic," attended and later taught at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, where he revamped the certificate program. Founded in 1805, the Academy is America's oldest continually operating fine arts school and museum, known for its world-class collections of 19th and 20th-century art. Visit to see the exquisite, constantly changing exhibitions.

Of Additional Interest

A

The Pennsylvania Convention Center Arch Street between 11th and 13th Streets

The Pennsylvania Convention Center houses exhibitions, conferences, and conventions ranging from Wizard World 2009 to The 14th Congress of the International Headache Society. It is comprised of four main halls and the grand hall, which is part of the former Reading Railroad terminal elevated train shed.

B

Reading Terminal Market 12th and Arch streets

Though trains no longer rumble overhead, the old train shed underneath is the century-old Reading Terminal Market, an unrivaled testament to the rich flavors of the city's ethnic neighborhoods. Treasured by locals and tourists alike, the Market offers Amish pretzels, steaks, and hoagies—all Philly originals!

See www.avenueofthearts.org for more information.

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FUN FACTS

NSOAI Events Planning Track '24

In 2008, Broad Street home to the Avenue of the Arts, was named one of America's "Great Streets" by the American Planning Association.

The Avenue draws a diverse crowd and contributes millions of dollars each year through taxes and spending by both organizations and individuals.

The Avenue of the Arts was created in 1993 by a coalition of public and private entities to attract visitors to Center City.



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