

PENN TRACKS

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.

Transportation:

To get to Rittenhouse: Take the Green Line eastbound trolley from 37th and Spruce streets or MFL to 15th street.

To return to Penn: Take Green Line Trolley from 22nd and Market streets back to 34th Street.

1

City Hall

Broad & Market street

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 & JFK Blvd

John F. Kennedy Plaza, known as "LOVE Park" for its famous sculpture, was designed by City Planner Edmond Bacon and built in 1965 over an underground parking garage. Expanded in 1969 with curved granite steps and a fountain, it offers great photo ops and is a popular spot to grab a bite from top food trucks.

3

Comcast Building

1701 JFK Blvd

The Comcast Center, at 975 feet, is Philadelphia's tallest building. It features a plaza, cafe, and an energy-saving "glass curtain" façade. The highlight is "The Comcast Experience," a 2,000 square-foot LED screen with 500% greater resolution than HD TV, making it the world's largest four-millimeter LED screen.

4

Liberty Place

16th & 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 & Rittenhouse Row

Walnut between Broad & 19th streets

This stretch of Walnut is known for its excellent shopping and dining. Top restaurants include Le Bec Fin, Lacroix, Barclay Prime, Butcher & Singer, Smith & Wollensky, and Alma de Cuba. Great shops include Tiffany & Co., Kenneth Cole, Coach, MAC, Esprit, Lucky Brand, and Burberry.

6

Rittenhouse Square

18th & Walnut street

Originally known as Southwest Square in the 1700s and used for livestock and waste, it was renamed Rittenhouse Square in 1825 after Philadelphia astronomer and patriot. It became a fashionable area for the elite. Today, it's a vibrant Center City hub with top restaurants like Rouge and Parc, and La Colombe for coffee. The Square hosts concerts, a Saturday farmer's market, art festivals, holiday events, and is popular for games, music, and dog-walking.

7

Curtis Institute / Art Alliance

1726 Locust & 251 S. 18th streets Mall West

Curtis: This Beaux Arts mansion, built in 1894, houses the Curtis Institute, a top music school with alumni like Leonard Bernstein and Samuel Barber. Notable teachers include Fritz Reiner and Eugene Ormandy. It hosts free concerts and recitals year-round.

Art Alliance: Originally the Wetherill Mansion, this building became the Philadelphia Art Alliance in 1926. It has hosted exhibitions and lectures by notable figures like Frank Lloyd Wright, Winslow Homer, and Aaron Copland.

8

St. Patrick's Catholic Church

20th & Locust street

Founded by Irish immigrants in 1839, this Catholic church on Panama Street is one of many diverse religious buildings around Rittenhouse Square. Notable examples include the Church of the Holy Trinity (1857) on the northwest corner and the Philadelphia Ethical Society, an "Ethical Humanist religious community," on the southwest corner.

9

Delancey Place

20th & Delancey street

This block of Delancey, featured in Sixth Sense and Trading Places, is likely the city's finest Victorian block. It's ideal for a stroll after dining at Audrey Claire or Twenty Manning, or visiting the Rosenbach Museum, home to rare books, including the original manuscript of James Joyce's *Ulysses* and Maurice Sendak's archives.

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 & Spruce street

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.

FUN FACTS

NSOAI Events Planning Track '24

Established in 1863 by Dr. Thomas Dent Mütter, a College Fellow, the museum stands as America's finest institution dedicated to medical history. Housed in a 19th-century "cabinet museum" style, the Mütter Museum showcases meticulously preserved collections of anatomical specimens, models, and medical instruments.

Rittenhouse Square is among the initial five open-space parks envisioned by William Penn and his surveyor Thomas Holme in the late 17th century.

LOVE Park hosts a variety of activities such as complimentary fitness sessions, cultural festivities, and music festivals. Annually, it also transforms into Philadelphia's Christmas Village, featuring a vibrant open-air market where numerous vendors offer gifts, handmade crafts, and delicious snacks throughout November and December.



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