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NORTHERN LIBERTIES NEIGHBORHOOD GUIDE

Casual & Fine Dining, Cafes & Juice Bars, Dives & Nightclubs In Philadelphia's Northern Liberties

PHILADELPHIA, March 4, 2019 – Once considered an up-and-coming neighborhood, Northern Liberties has arrived, evidenced by the international restaurants, respected gastropubs, trendy boutiques, and the artistic vibe that made it so cool in the first place.

The warehouses that populate the former manufacturing district and have found new life as condos, galleries, stores and restaurants combine with newly designed buildings to create a pleasant mix of older functional and modern design. Two shopping/dining/art/entertainment plazas helped make the area accessible and thriving: Liberties Walk and The Schmidt's Commons.

The neighborhood lies a little over a mile north of Old City and about two miles from City Hall, which is considered the centermost point of Center City. Its approximate borders: Girard Avenue to the north, Callowhill Street to the south, 6th Street to the west and the Delaware River to the east. To get from Center City to Northern Liberties, people can hop in a cab or take “the El”—SEPTA’s Market-Frankford Line, called “the El” because it rides above ground (or elevated) when it’s outside of the main downtown area—from any of the Market Street stations to Spring Garden Station.

Dining:

- **Apricot Stone** – Cooking up recipes she learned from her mother while growing up in Syria, chef Fimy Ishkhanian helms this Mediterranean eatery. Vegans find plenty of options here, thanks to traditional dishes such as falafel, Israeli salad and stuffed grape leaves, while meat eaters dine on chicken, beef and lamb kebab. 1040 N. American Street, (267) 606-6596, apricotstonephilly.com
- **Baan Thai** – This warm, inviting bring-your-own-bottle (BYOB) spot serves traditional Thai fare along with inventive dishes that include Angel Wings, deep-fried boneless chicken wings stuffed with ground chicken and Thai spices, along with sweet sticky rice and Thai iced tea. 1030 N. American Street, (215) 238-1219, baanthaiphiladelphia.com
- **Blackbird Pizzeria** – Yes, vegan pizza can be this good. Using coconut-based cheese imported from Europe, seitan, tofu and a lot of veggies, the kitchen offers an extensive menu of guilt-free pies, plus wings, sandwiches and salads. 614 N. 2nd Street, (267) 324-5224, blackbirdpizzeria.com
- **Café La Maude** – Neighbors tried to keep this French-Lebanese cafe a secret, to no avail. La Maude serves buttery brioche and baklava; traditional Lebanese foul moudamas; house-made hummus topped with scrambled eggs, fava beans, tomatoes and za’tar; and *poulet roti* (roast chicken), in sandwich form. 816 N. 4th Street, (267) 318-7869, cafelamaude.com

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- **Cantina Dos Segundos** – Like its East Passyunk Avenue sibling, Cantina Los Caballitos, this festive Cantina features creative Mexican fare, including daily brunch. Regulars go for vegan “beef” tacos or slow-roasted goat, along with flights of tequila and 12 different margaritas (prickly pear, blood orange, guava). 931 N. 2nd Street, (215) 629-0500, cantinadossegundos.com
- **Chalaco’s Ceviche & Pisco Bar** – A Peruvian husband-and-wife team and their business partner run this restaurant in The Schmidt’s Commons. The pisco (brandy) bar is enough of a reason to go, not to mention the Peruvian seafood-focused menu and killer ceviche. 1030 N. 2nd Street, (267) 534-5819, chalacos.com
- **Circles Contemporary Thai Cuisine** – Unlike its South Philly counterpart, this Northern Liberties restaurant features a changing menu of progressive Thai dishes. Bangkok-born chef Alex Boonphaya incorporates Thai flavors with varying degrees of heat—from mild to hot and everything in between. 812 N. 2nd Street, (267) 687-1309, circlesthaicuisine.com
- **Dmitri’s** – The Northern Liberties location of this local Greek restaurant (the original is in Queen Village) sports a BYOB policy and serves classic dishes: lamb, kabob, grilled octopus and spinach pie, with tables outside too. 944 N. 2nd Street, (215) 592-4550, dmitrisrestaurant.com
- **El Camino Real** – Texas or Mexico? Seitan or sirloin? Local brew or Dos Equis? The menu options seem endless at El Camino Real, which splits allegiances as a barbecue post and border bar. 1040 N. 2nd Street, (215) 925-1110, elcaminophilly.com
- **Green Eggs Café** – Yet another South Philly transplant, Green Eggs serves eco-conscious and delicious dishes for breakfast and lunch. Can’t-miss menu items include red velvet pancakes and the Kitchen Sink, eggs scrambled with cheese, potatoes, peppers and onions, topped with a biscuit and pork sausage gravy. 719 N. 2nd Street, (215) 922-3447, greeneggscafe.com
- **Heritage** – From the crew behind Time, Vintage and Garage, this modern-rustic eatery offers refined, frequently changing New American dishes. Guests also enjoy daily live jazz, bluegrass and reggae shows and inventive cocktails. 914 N. 2nd Street, (215) 627-7500, heritage.life
- **Honey’s Sit ’N Eat** – Each plate served at this home-style, Southern-Jewish BYOB is globally delicious: Latkes nestle grits; challah French toast hugs drop biscuits with sausage gravy. The orange juice is squeezed fresh and perfect on its own or mixed with champagne for brunch. 800 N. 4th Street, (215) 925-1150, honeyssitneat.com
- **Jaxon** – It’s a family affair at Jaxon, with an interior design by the owner’s wife, artwork from his brother-in-law and the name of his young son. The idea here: Food should be enjoyed with the people you love, so the new American chalkboard menu features local ingredients as much as possible, and sidewalk seating expands the small BYOB’s capacity during the warm-weather months. 701 N. 3rd Street, (215) 922-2621, jaxonbyob.com
- **Las Cazuelas** – Those hungry for south-of-the-border fare can satisfy a craving for mole, *sopes*, tamales and mixed-to-order margaritas at this authentic Mexican BYOB, where Saturday and Sunday brunch goes for the spice. Tip: Go all-out *la vida* Mexico by bringing a bottle of tequila. 426 W. Girard Avenue, (215) 351-9144, lascazuelas.net
- **Love & Honey** – Love & Honey’s house specialties: perfectly crisped fried chicken drizzled with honey, impossibly buttery cornbread and rich, whipped cream-topped pies. 1100 N. Front Street, (215) 789-7878, loveandhoneyfriedchicken.com
- **Paesano’s** – The options at this new-school sandwich shop include the Piccata, a fried chicken breast on deep-fried bread with prosciutto, sharp provolone and lemon caper butter, and the namesake, made with brisket, horseradish mayo, roasted tomatoes, hot peppers and a fried egg. 148 W. Girard Avenue, (267) 886-9556, paesanophillystyle.com

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- **Poke Bowl** – Fans of the Hawaiian dish poke build their own bowls by selecting a base, a seafood protein, seasonings, toppings and sauce. Those who prefer pre-designed dishes can choose one of the house specialties, such as the Sweet & Spicy Trio, with tuna, salmon, octopus, seaweed, scallions, salt, furikake, sesame, unagi, shoyu, radish, ginger, mango and wasabi cream. Tip: The beautiful flower that tops the dish is edible. 958 N. 2nd Street, (267) 319-9943, pokebowl.org
- **Pura Vida** – Its name comes from a Costa Rican saying that translates to “pure life.” The homey food at this barebones, pan-Latin BYOB is indeed life-affirming: corn patties stuffed with pickled vegetables, chorizo tacos and ginger chicken soup. The staff even mixes mojitos and sangria for patrons who bring their own spirits. 527 Fairmount Avenue, (215) 922-6433
- **Rustica** – This simple spot offers thin-crust traditional and specialty pies such as The Mighty Brussels (Brussels sprouts and caramelized onions) and Ryan’s Reuben (corned beef, Swiss cheese, caraway seed, sauerkraut, Russian dressing and pickles), along with sandwiches, calzones, wings and salads. 903 N. 2nd Street, (215) 627-1393, rusticaphilly.com
- **Seiko Japanese Restaurant** – The guests at this sushi BYOB follow up a Bento box with a dish of fried green-tea ice cream drizzled in chocolate. Bright red counters, shiny copper fixtures and molded plastic chairs lend a futuristic vibe. 604 N. 2nd Street, (215) 413-1606, seikophilly.com
- **Silk City** – It’s one-third diner, one-third club and one-third beer garden. Silk City’s American fare with flair has been featured on the Food Network’s “Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives.” Renowned DJs and live acts, along with local talent, perform in the connected lounge most nights of the week. 435 Spring Garden Street, (215) 592-8838, silkcityphilly.com
- **Spuntino Pizza** – The menu here includes salads, sandwiches and small plates, but the main attraction is the Neapolitan-style pizza baked in a wood-fired brick oven. 701 N. 2nd Street, (267) 930-8486, spuntinowoodfiredpizzeria.com
- **Tiffin** – The original location of a Wharton MBA-owned mini chain prides itself on *malai kofta* and butter chicken. 710 W. Girard Avenue, (215) 922-1297, tiffin.com
- **Trios Pizzeria & Trattoria** – Locals rave about the thin-crust square pizzas here. Also, the pastas, salads, burgers, Italian entrees and tiramisu are sure to please. 342 W. Girard Avenue, (215) 627-1000, triosfreshitalian.com

Bars:

- **Abbaye** – Living up to the neighborhood standard, the Abbaye puts together a fine draft and bottled beer list and house-made mac and cheese. 637 N. 3rd Street, (215) 627-6711, theabbaye.net
- **Bardot Cafe** – This dimly lit neighborhood bar pours 14 rotating craft beers on draft and seasonal specialty cocktails. Dishes include mussels, lamb burgers, crab frites and a selection of wings. 447 Poplar Street, (267) 639-4761, bardotcafe.com
- **The Blind Pig** – More than 60 canned beers and eight rotating selections on tap bring the beer crowd to this gastropub. Menu items include Thanksgiving Balls® (a full Thanksgiving meal, rounded, breaded and fried), oyster sandwiches, poutine and veggie spaetzle. 702 N. 2nd Street, (267) 639-4565, blindpigphilly.com
- **Bourbon & Branch** – The downstairs section is dedicated to innovative pub food such as cheesesteak fries with ribeye and cheese sauce or chicken and waffles with candied jalapenos. The second-floor bar and stage hosts performances of all kinds, from reggae to burlesque to comedy open-mic nights. Nearly 100 whiskeys, 17 draft beers and an extensive cocktail list round out the draws. 705 N. 2nd Street, (215) 238-0660, bourbonandbranchphilly.com

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- **The Druid's Keep** – Locals love this place for its great beer selection and dog-friendly policy. Perfect for sports enthusiasts, “The Keep” projects most Philadelphia games on a wall in the backyard. 149 Brown Street, (215) 413-0455
- **The Foodery** – Northern Liberties has the first outpost of the self-proclaimed “original bottleshop of Philadelphia,” selling more than 900 craft beers to-go or to drink onsite, with sandwiches made on St. Peter’s Bakery bread. 837 N. 2nd Street, (215) 238-6077, fooderybeer.com
- **Jerry’s Bar** – Gorgeously rehabbed corner bar puts the “gastro” in gastropub. The dinner menu features handmade specialties alongside classic bar food such as wings, burgers and meatballs; sticky buns are the stars of the Sunday jazz brunch; and inventive cocktails make it more than just a beer bar. 129 W. Laurel Street, (267) 273-1632, jerrysbarphilly.com
- **Mainstay Independent Brewing Company** – Joining Philly’s wildly vibrant brewing scene, this collaboration between restaurateur Avram Hornik and brewer Brian O’Reilly is the first tenant of Craft Hall, a bakery, brew house and BBQ kitchen concept that will also include City Creek BBQ and Lost Bread Co. The taproom serves eight house beers, cocktails and a limited menu of snacks and sandwiches. 901 N. Delaware Avenue, (215) 422-3561, mainstaybrewing.com
- **North 3rd** – This moody neighborhood eatery keeps crowds returning with its casual bar classics—Thai chili-glazed wings, potato cheddar pierogi, veggie spring rolls and one juicy burger. Also on the menu: solid drink offerings that come in the form of blood-orange margaritas, Stoli dolis and an extensive beer list. 801 N. 3rd Street, (215) 413-3666, norththird.com
- **Saint Lazarus Bar** – Better known as “The Saint,” this chill, edge-of-Northern Liberties find dedicates Mondays to hip-hop and Tuesdays to laidback drinking and dancing. Guests come as they are. 102 W. Girard Avenue, (267) 258-8332, facebook.com/saintlazarusbar
- **Standard Tap** – Since 1999, this ruggedly handsome, two-story gastropub has served locally sourced fare and an all-draft, all-local menu of 23 rotating beers. Area environmentalists have even given the bar a green thumbs-up for its eco-friendly habits, such as its use of solar energy and its composting program. 901 N. 2nd Street, (215) 238-0630, standardtap.com
- **Urban Village Brewing** – Craft beer and brick-oven pizza served in a large, open interior and outside among fire pits attracts people to this Schmidt’s Commons destination. Urban Village also offers growlers and crowlers (32-ounce cans) to-go. 1001 N. 2nd Street, (267) 687-1961, urbanvillagebrewing.com
- **Yards Brewing Company** – Yards’ 1994 opening ended a decades-long drought for Philly breweries. The 70,000-square-foot, 100% wind-powered brewery and taproom churns out signature ales, a few seasonals and the Ales of the Revolution line, based on recipes conceived by Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin and George Washington—all well-paired with a beer-friendly menu. 500 Spring Garden Street, (215) 634-2600, yardsbrewing.com

Coffee Shops, Juice Bars & Bakeries:

- **Bimini Juice Bar & Salad Bar** – Only fresh fruits and vegetables make up the juices, and the smoothies take it up a notch with the additions of ice, non-fat Greek yogurt and natural sweeteners. Salads, wraps, snacks, coffee and tea round out Bimini’s good-tasting, good-for-you offerings. 807 N. 2nd Street, (267) 606-6571, biminijuice.com
- **Dolce & Caffè** – With cannoli shells and ricotta imported from Sicily, gelato from Umbria, coffee by Lavazza, plus classic Italian bruschetta, salads and panini, this neighborhood newcomer exudes Southern European cafe-ness. 708 N. 2nd Street, (215) 627-1130, dolceandcaffe.com

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- **Higher Grounds Café** – Green tea lattes, 16 loose leaf teas and coffees from the Americas, Indonesia and Ethiopia, along with late hours, make this spot a popular choice for the caffeinated and decaffeinated set. The cafe hosts acoustic performances, poetry readings and art exhibits. 631 N. 3rd Street, (215) 922-3745, highergroundscfe.com
- **Kaplan's New Model Bakery** – For more than 100 years, this bakery has supplied its neighbors with the best challah and rye breads in town. While there, customers add more to their order when tempted by the assortment of muffins, turnovers, bagels and other pastries. 901 N. 3rd Street, (215) 627-5288, kaplansnewmodelbakery.com
- **The Kettle Black** – This authentic French bakery—helmed by a French baker and his wife—focuses on the simple yet heavenly joy that is bread: naturally leavened bagels, charcoal breads, croissants made with Amish butter, a take on French baguettes, along with great coffee. 631 N. 2nd Street, thekettleblackphilly.com
- **One Shot Coffee** – This handsome coffeehouse doubles as a brunch spot, for seasonal breakfast sandwiches, egg dishes and tasty sides, enjoyed at downstairs tables or in the comfy library upstairs. 217 W. George Street, (215) 627-1620, 1shotcoffee.com
- **The Random Tea Room and Curiosity Shop** – The international brews at this charming little cafe include 120 different artisanal teas, herbs and house-blended herbal infusions. The tearoom also sells vintage and antique wares, medicinal herbs, gluten-free and vegan baked goods and Philly-made jewelry and crafts. 713 N. 4th Street, (267) 639-2442, therandomtearoom.com
- **Soy Café** – It's in the name, so patrons know that fresh soy milk is always available for the organic coffee and tea drinks at this bistro, which offers a range of scrumptious menu options for both vegetarians and omnivores. The kitchen whips up smoothies, pastries, light sandwiches, soups and gourmet salads. 630 N. 2nd Street, (215) 922-1003, mysoycafe.com

Shopping:

- **Architectural Antiques Exchange** – Everything one would need to rehab a home can be found in this 30,000-square-foot warehouse—mantels, bars, doors, stained glass, lighting, old ironwork and antique mirrors. Pieces run the style gamut: gothic, Colonial, French, English, Victorian, art nouveau and art deco, with some dating to the late 1700s. 715 N. 2nd Street, (215) 922-3669, architecturalantiques.com
- **Art Star** – The owners of this cute boutique celebrate American artists and crafters by selling their ceramics, jewelry, clothing and other handmade wares. The shop also hosts gallery shows and organizes the annual Mother's Day weekend Art Star Craft Bazaar, which attracts visitors and exhibitors from around the country. 623 N. 2nd Street, (215) 238-1557, artstarphilly.com
- **City Planter** – Teardrop airiums, baby bonsais and mounted staghorn ferns are merely the start of the ever-changing variety of plants and planters available for the urban gardener here. The friendly experts inside this warehouse-turned-plant store help anyone create their personal oases. 814 N. 4th Street, (215) 627-6169, cityplanter.com
- **Creep Records** – What started as a recording studio in a Downingtown, Pennsylvania basement morphed into this record store and smoke shop in The Schmidt's Commons. Music lovers shop for new and used vinyl and stick around after hours for the occasional live show. The shop carries only American glass, most of which is made by local artists. 1050 N. Hancock Street, (267) 239-2037, creeprecords.com
- **Exit Skateshop** – Philadelphia's skateboard community shops here for boards, footwear, apparel and accessories from brands, including Vans, Anti-hero, Crooked, Girl, DC and Etnies. The bi-level shop also puts on art shows, film showings and live music performances. 825 N. 2nd Street, (215) 425-2450, @exitphiladelphia

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- **Gravy Studio & Gallery** – This collaborative photography workspace and gallery hosts exhibits, events, workshops and artist talks, as well as opening receptions on the first Friday of every month. Hours vary by the shows on display, plus off-hour appointments are available for those who want a private showing. 910 N. 2nd Street, (267) 825-7071, gravy-studio.com
- **Jinxed** – One part vintage store, one part antique store, Northern Liberties' Jinxed specializes in furniture and housewares—especially rugs—from bygone eras. Regulars know to check back often, as the inventory constantly changes. 1050 N. Hancock Street, (215) 978-5469, jinxedphiladelphia.com
- **Once Worn Consignment** – A refuge for those who want to unload great garments and those in the market for a fashionable bargain, this chill little shop carries nearly new and impeccably retro pieces—and keeps it organized and easy to shop. 906 N. 2nd Street, (215) 627-1122, oncewornconsignment.com
- **Penn Herb Company** – This flagship store represents the mission of the nearly 100-year-old, family-run company, which was founded by a naturopathic physician. It stocks a large selection of herbs, vitamins and natural remedies, as well as healthy food, in the 8,000-square-foot space. 601 N. 2nd Street, (215) 632-6100, pennherb.com
- **R.E.Load** – Philadelphians pack fashionably with stylized bags, wallets and tees designed and manufactured on-site by the R.E.Load team. Messenger, backpack and travel bags sport various sizes, colors and features. 608 N. 2nd Street, (215) 625-2987, reloadbags.com
- **Stump** – Emily and Brian Kellett run a plant shop with a mission, bringing plants into people's lives through education and well-designed products. The store carries hand-crafted ceramics from a stable of independent artists chosen for their durable and timeless designs. 956 N. 2nd Street, (267) 804-5753, stumpplants.com
- **Swag** – This whimsical gift shop carries kitchenware, home decor, accessories and eco-friendly kids' toys. Popular items: Paddywax soy candles and handmade jewelry. 935 N. 2nd Street, (267) 888-7246, swagphilly.com

Nightclubs & Entertainment:

- **The Fire** – A small, unassuming venue with an eclectic lineup of artists on the rise—Tegan and Sara, My Chemical Romance, Maroon 5 and Jason Mraz have played here—The Fire houses a full-service recording studio to capture the live shows. 412 W. Girard Avenue, (215) 923-3477, thefirephilly.com
- **Franklin Music Hall** – The renamed Electric Factory is a celebrated music venue that draws local and national acts that entertain audiences in the low thousands. Standing room at stage level is typically all-ages, while a balcony with unbeatable views and a full bar accommodates the 21+ crowd. Past headliners include Kraftwerk, Miley Cyrus and Faith No More. 421 N. 7th Street, (215) 627-1332, franklinmusic hall.com
- **North Bowl** – Seventeen bowling lanes, an old-school photo booth, arcade games and billiards make a perfect pick for spending time with family, friends or a date. Tater tots served eight ways seal the deal. 909 N. 2nd Street, (215) 238-BOWL, northbowlphilly.com
- **Ortlieb's** – A Northern Liberties tradition, Ortlieb's features up-and-coming rock bands and DJs, plus comedy open-mic nights on Mondays and karaoke on Tuesdays. The food menu includes tacos, quesadillas, burritos, guacamole and vegan Mexican specialties. 847 N. 3rd Street, (267) 324-3348, ortliebsphilly.com
- **Ruba Club** – This 104-year-old event space houses a vintage cabaret-bar downstairs, complete with a dance floor, small stage, pool table and old Russian murals, and a full theatrical stage upstairs. 416 Green Street, (215) 627-9831, rubaclub.org

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Miscellaneous:

- **Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site** – The 19th-century author of *The Raven* and *The Tell-Tale Heart* lived in Philadelphia for six years, including one year at this now-historic site. Visitors can tour the house, learn about his life and work, observe his early editions and letters and listen to Poe-inspired music. Hours vary seasonally. 532 N. 7th Street, (215) 597-8780, [nps.gov/edal](https://www.nps.gov/edal)
- **Liberties Walk** – People strolling down the four blocks of this mixed-use space see kids riding bikes, adults walking dogs and friends enjoying the outdoors. Along the way, they can pop into independently owned gift shops and restaurants. Begins at 1040 N. American Street
- **Liberty Lands** – Throughout two acres, community gardens, two playgrounds, a performance stage and trees make this a great spot for a picnic and special events like Halloween rides, festivals and outdoor movies. 926 N. American Street, (215) 627-6562, [nlna.org](https://www.nlna.org)
- **Vesper Dayclub** – Members eat, drink and swim at this stylish hangout, where daily brunch, dinner, nightlife and themed parties draw crowds to the restaurant and outdoor patio, complete with swings. In warm weather, guests use day, monthly or seasonal passes for the salt-water pool, lounge chairs and cabanas. 1031 Germantown Avenue, (215) 309-3690, [vesperdayclub.com](https://www.vesperdayclub.com)
- **The Schmidt's Commons** – The open-air Commons sits in the former plot of Schmidt's Brewery, embracing the neighborhood's industrial past and vibrant present. The residential development comprises artists' studios, shops and restaurants, and hosts festivals, concerts, farmers' markets, outdoor movie screenings and the like all year long. 2nd Street & Germantown Avenue, [theschmidtcommons.com](https://www.theschmidtcommons.com)

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