

**CONTACTS:** Cara Schneider  
(215) 599-0789, [cara@visitphilly.com](mailto:cara@visitphilly.com)  
Donna Schorr  
(215) 599-0782, [donna@visitphilly.com](mailto:donna@visitphilly.com)  
**Tweet Us:** [@visitphillyPR](https://twitter.com/visitphillyPR)

**Tweet It:** 22 reasons to visit @visitphilly in 2019: <https://vstphl.ly/2Ozo3TR>

## **22 NEW REASONS TO VISIT PHILADELPHIA IN 2019**

*Luxury Hotels, An Impressionist Exhibit & “Hamilton” Make For Another Great Year In Philly*

**PHILADELPHIA, November 6, 2018** – Visitors looking for an exciting destination to visit in 2019 have plenty of new reasons to choose Philadelphia. In the exhibition realm, there is the made-for-kids *America to Zanzibar*, *Muslim Cultures Near and Far* at Please Touch Museum® and *The Impressionist’s Eye* display of rarely seen sculptures, painting and works on paper at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Openings include the East Market consumer space **Fashion District Philadelphia** and the arrival of the luxurious **Four Seasons Hotel** atop the Comcast Technology Center. On the theater scene, the debut of Broadway blockbuster *Hamilton* is much anticipated in the city where the most significant moments in Alexander Hamilton’s life took place.

Here are 22 of Philadelphia’s must-experience experiences for 2019:

### **Openings/Renovations:**

- 1. Independence Visitor Center: Visitor Experience Improvement Project, May 27, 2019 (projected date)** – Greater Philadelphia’s official visitor center and the gateway to Independence National Historical Park completes its \$15 million Visitor Experience Improvement Project. Renovations and upgrades include a 42-foot, digital “Philly Welcome Wall” with content visitors can explore via touchscreen; two new dedicated desks for National Park Service Rangers and visitor services representatives; a public, wrap-around terrace on the second floor (already complete); and an expanded gift shop, dedicated to Philadelphia-themed merchandise (also already complete). 599 Market Street, (800) 537-7676, [PHLVisitorcenter.com](http://PHLVisitorcenter.com)
- 2. John James Audubon Center for Art and Conservation at Mill Grove, June/July 2019** – The historic home and property where John James Audubon, America’s most famed ornithologist, lived and made early discoveries, adds a brand-new center for permanent bird/wildlife exhibits, two galleries for conservation and art, an auditorium, outdoor features and a Fledgling Trail, an interactive exhibit that allows people to experience the earliest stages of a bird’s life, from egg to first flight. 1201 Pawlings Road, Audubon, (610) 666-5593, [johnjames.audubon.org](http://johnjames.audubon.org)
- 3. Fashion District Philadelphia, September 2019** – Three city blocks transform the old Gallery mall into a retail, dining and entertainment destination. Retailers Asics, Columbia, Forever 21, H&M, Levi’s, Polo Ralph Lauren, Skechers, Zales and Zumiez join already open Century 21 and Burlington stores. Other newcomers: an AMC theater, Dallas BBQ’s first location outside of New York City and the seventh location of City Winery, offering fine dining, concerts, and food and wine classes. Market Eats, a collection of quick-dining options, adds to stalwart tenant Tiffany’s Bakery. 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> Streets from Market to Filbert Streets, [fashiondistrictphiladelphia.com](http://fashiondistrictphiladelphia.com)

-more-

4. **Penn Museum: Mexico & Central America Gallery and Africa Galleries, November 16, 2019** – The transformation of the 130-year-old Penn Museum’s building continues with opening of the newly restored Mexico & Central America Gallery and Africa Galleries, as well as the brand new Main Entrance Hall and updates to the 618-seat art deco Harrison Auditorium. Already renovated and open since April 2018 are the Middle Eastern Galleries, featuring 1,2000 fascinating objects, more than 50 percent of which had never before been on public display. 3260 South Street, (215) 898-4000, [penn.museum](http://penn.museum)

**Exhibitions & Shows:**

5. **America to Zanzibar, Muslim Cultures Near and Far, February 2-September 2, 2019** – Please Touch Museum® celebrates diversity in modern and historic Muslim communities around the region and the world using art, technology and innovative programming, including the engagement of six artists-in-residence. The groundbreaking six-month exhibit is designed for kids up to grade 5 and their families. 4231 Avenue of the Republic, (215) 581-3181, [pleasetouchmuseum.org](http://pleasetouchmuseum.org)
6. **Mythic Creatures: Dragons, Unicorns & Mermaids, February 16-June 9, 2019** – The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University welcomes an exhibit about the ancient, natural inspirations behind and the modern endurance of mythic creatures long heralded in songs, stories and art. On loan from New York’s American Museum of Natural History, fossils, models, ancient and modern cultural objects and interactive technology bring these legendary creatures to life. 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, (215) 299-1019, [ansp.org](http://ansp.org)
7. **Creatures of Habitat – A Gazillion Piece Animal Adventure, April 6-September 30, 2019** – Life-size LEGO® brick animals appear at the Philadelphia Zoo to tell the story of endangered wildlife and how human behavior impacts and endangers habitats around the world. The zoo created the exhibit to inspire actions that impact global change; the zoo’s website offers how-to lessons on saving animals and the planet. 3400 Girard Avenue, (215) 243-1100, [philadelphiazoo.org](http://philadelphiazoo.org)
8. **Marvel: Universe of Super Heroes, April 13-September 2, 2019** – Iconic original Marvel comics—and the characters, costumes and props they inspired—go into this highly interactive The Franklin Institute exhibit (most recently at Seattle’s Museum of Pop Culture) from the brand behind Black Panther, Captain America, Spider-Man, Hulk, Wolverine, Black Widow, Iron Man and more. 222 N. 20<sup>th</sup> Street, (215) 448-1200, [fi.edu](http://fi.edu)
9. **The Impressionist’s Eye, April 16-August 18, 2019** – Claude Monet, Mary Cassatt and Vincent van Gogh may have made their most lasting impression with oils on canvas, but they and their contemporaries were also skilled in other media. The Philadelphia Museum of Art offers a rare opportunity to view in one place Impressionist sculptures, paintings and works on paper. 2600 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, (215) 763-8100, [philamuseum.org](http://philamuseum.org)
10. **Reconstruction Era Exhibit, May 9, 2019** – A new, permanent exhibit at the National Constitution Center is the first in the country devoted to exploring the constitutional legacy of the Reconstruction Amendments—the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>—which ended slavery and promised equality to all Americans in the years after the Civil War. Personal stories, documents and artifacts highlight the constitutional debates and key figures central to the formation and ratification of the amendments. Come summer, a new theater performance dramatizes the Reconstruction era and the ratification of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. 525 Arch Street, (215) 409-6700, [constitutioncenter.org](http://constitutioncenter.org)

-more-

- 11. N.C. Wyeth: New Perspectives, June 22-September 15, 2019** – The Brandywine River Museum of Art brings new attention to an artist ill-defined in recent decades as merely the father of painter Andrew Wyeth. N.C. Wyeth's rich illustrations for classic children's books *Treasure Island* and *The Boy's King Arthur* inspired young imaginations during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but, as seen through 70 never-before-exhibited-together works from private and museum collections, the elder Wyeth also employed his extraordinary artistic skills to paint landscapes, portraits, seascapes and murals. 1 Hoffman's Mill Road, Chadds Ford, (610) 388-2700, [brandywine.org/museum](http://brandywine.org/museum)
- 12. Franklin Square Fountain Show, summer 2019** – The 180-year-old fountain and centerpiece of one of Center City's original public squares, as envisioned in the 17<sup>th</sup> century by Philadelphia founder William Penn, gets a dramatic \$2 million update. Day and night, free choreographed shows feature dancing water, lights and music from Philadelphia artists. 6<sup>th</sup> & Race Streets, (215) 629-4026, [historicphiladelphia.org](http://historicphiladelphia.org)
- 13. Hamilton, August 27-November 17, 2019** – Lin-Manuel Miranda's modern Broadway blockbuster debuts in the city of its namesake's greatest roles (Revolutionary War artillery officer, presidential advisor and founder of the first national bank) and his romantic downfall (the Reynolds affair). Prospective audience members are encouraged to reserve tickets early for the Forrest Theatre show. 1114 Walnut Street, (215) 893-1999, [kimmelcenter.org](http://kimmelcenter.org)
- 14. Redcoat & Revolutions: Richard St. George in America and Ireland, September 28, 2019-February 17, 2020** – The Museum of the American Revolution presents an exhibition based on two rare portraits of Irish officer Richard Mansergh St. George—one painted before he departed for New York to fight in the Revolutionary War, the other, upon his return to an Ireland in turmoil. Accompanying the portraits are historical artifacts, maps and manuscripts, all on loan from private collections in England, Australia, Ireland and the United States, most on display for the first time in the U.S. 101 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, (215) 253-6731, [amrevmuseum.org](http://amrevmuseum.org)
- 15. Spit Spreads Death: The Influenza Pandemic of 1918-19 in Philadelphia, October 17, 2019-August 5, 2024** – The Mütter Museum of The College of Physicians of Philadelphia opens its most ambitious exhibition to date, a multi-disciplinary recounting of a global pandemic that took thousands of local lives in two years, only 100 years ago. History, art and science offer a unique view into the terrifying time. Included in the exhibition is a work by the artist group Blast Theory and digital interactives that allow visitors to explore data from more than 20,000 death certificates from Philadelphia neighborhoods. 19 S. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, (215) 560-8564, [muttermuseum.org](http://muttermuseum.org)

**Major Hotel Openings:**

- 16. Fittler Club, February 2019** – Membership has many privileges at this private lifestyle club designed by L.A.'s M-Rad Inc., where members can work, dine, exercise, play and stay. Ample flexible meeting space, restaurants and bars, a spa, lap pool, bowling alley and a 14-room boutique hotel will live in this 75,000-square-foot space on the banks of the Schuylkill River, the former Marketplace Design Center. 2400 Market Street, [m-rad.com](http://m-rad.com)
- 17. The Playhouse Inn, May 2019** – Adding to the new, 127-seat The Deck gastropub at the Bucks County Playhouse is a new version of the old Playhouse Inn, with a to-be-announced name, 15 rooms, a restaurant and special events space from chef Jose Garces. Connecting it all: a riverfront boardwalk from the New Hope-Lambertville Bridge. 70 S. Main Street, New Hope; restaurant, (267) 270-2989, [playhousedeck.com](http://playhousedeck.com); theater, (215) 862-2121, [bcptheater.org](http://bcptheater.org)

- 18. Pod Philly, September 2019** – The micro-hotel pioneer arrives in town via this efficient, modern, 11-story, 252-room building just two blocks north of Rittenhouse Square. There will be a restaurant and coffee bar by Greg Root and Nick Kennedy of Defined Hospitality and a rooftop with a greenhouse-style bar and a retractable roof. 31 S. 19<sup>th</sup> Street, [thepodhotel.com](http://thepodhotel.com)

-more-

Page 4/Major Happenings In Philadelphia In 2019

- 19. Four Seasons Hotel Philadelphia, fall 2019** – The 60-story Comcast Technology Center, the tallest building in Philadelphia, welcomes a luxury occupant. Guests take a high-speed elevator to the 219-room Four Seasons' top-floor sky lobby. Among the hotels' amenities: a spa, fitness facility and infinity pool on the 57<sup>th</sup> floor; restaurants by award-winning chefs Jean-George Vongerichten and Greg Vernick; and more than 15,000 square feet of meeting space, including two fifth-floor ballrooms. 1800 Arch Street, (800) 819-5053, [fourseasons.com/philadelphia](http://fourseasons.com/philadelphia)
- 20. MainStay Suites/Ascend Hotel Collection, winter 2019** – Locally inspired artwork will bring the city inside these dual, 118-suites hotels on the edge of historic, vibrant Chinatown. Guests who still want a workout after exploring all there is to do nearby can pop into the fitness center. 917 Arch Street, [choicehotels.com/mainstay](http://choicehotels.com/mainstay), [choicehotels.com/ascend](http://choicehotels.com/ascend)

#### **Sports:**

- 21. NHL Stadium Series: Pittsburgh Penguins at Philadelphia Flyers, February 23, 2019** – The Eagles' open-air Lincoln Financial Field turns into an outdoor ice rink to host longtime rivals, wearing colorful, just-for-the-occasion jerseys. The old-school excitement of the major, nighttime wintertime matchup is not to be underestimated. Tickets sold out long ago but are available on Stubhub. 1 Lincoln Financial Field Way, [nhl.com/flyers](http://nhl.com/flyers)
- 22. SHEBELIEVES Cup, February 29, 2019** – As part of their 10-stop, pre-FIFA Women's World Cup tour, the dominant U.S. Women's National Team, featuring regional stars Abby Dahlkemper (Lancaster), Julie Ertz (Philadelphia), Carli Lloyd (Delran Township, NJ), faces Japan at Talen Energy Stadium. 1 Stadium Drive, Chester, [ussoccer.com](http://ussoccer.com)

VISIT PHILADELPHIA® is our name and our mission. As the region's official tourism marketing agency, we build Greater Philadelphia's image, drive visitation and boost the economy.

On Greater Philadelphia's official visitor website and blog, [visitphilly.com](http://visitphilly.com) and [uwishunu.com](http://uwishunu.com), visitors can explore things to do, upcoming events, themed itineraries and hotel packages. Compelling photography and videos, interactive maps and detailed visitor information make the sites effective trip-planning tools. Along with Visit Philly social media channels, the online platforms communicate directly with consumers. Travelers can also call and stop into the Independence Visitor Center for additional information and tickets.

*Note to Editors: For high-resolution photos and high-definition B-roll of Greater Philadelphia, visit the Photos & Video section of [visitphilly.com/mediacenter](http://visitphilly.com/mediacenter).*