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**Tweet It:** What's happening this summer in @visitphilly? Answer: A lot: [vstphl.ly/2LqDAsP](https://vstphl.ly/2LqDAsP)

## 20 SUMMER HAPPENINGS COMING TO PHILLY IN 2019

*New Exhibits, Openings & Debuts Slated For Philadelphia And The Countryside This Summer*

**PHILADELPHIA, May 7, 2019** – Summer brings more than sunshine, warm weather and the start of water ice season to Philly. It brings new exhibits, openings and more. Among the newcomers: blockbuster exhibit *Marvel: Universe of Super Heroes* at The Franklin Institute, *N.C. Wyeth: New Perspectives* at the Brandywine River Museum of Art, the **John J. Audubon Center for Art and Conservation at Mill Grove** and the **Four Seasons Hotel Philadelphia**. Returning favorites include [Once Upon a Nation Storytelling Benches](#) (May 25-September 2), [Wawa Welcome America](#) (June 30-July 4), the [Chinese Lantern Festival](#) (through July 14), and the [Roots Picnic](#) (June 1) making its Mann Center debut.

The best way to explore the city this summer: Stay over. This season's [Visit Philly Overnight Hotel Package](#) includes tickets to *Marvel* (see below), ping-pong at SPiN, dining at the Garces Group, riverside roller-skating, carousel rides and PHLASH passes. Here's what else is new in Philadelphia this season:

### Exhibits:

- 1. The Impressionist's Eye, through August 18, 2019** – The great Impressionist artists made their marks with oils on canvas, but Claude Monet, Mary Cassatt, Vincent van Gogh and their contemporaries excelled in other media too. This summer, the Philadelphia Museum of Art offers a rare opportunity to see Impressionist sculptures, paintings and works on paper all in one place. 2600 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, (215) 763-8100, [philamuseum.org](http://philamuseum.org)
- 2. Marvel: Universe of Super Heroes, through September 2, 2019** – This highly interactive exhibit makes its East Coast debut this summer at The Franklin Institute and features iconic original Marvel comics and the characters, costumes and props they inspired. Honoring Marvel's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the exhibit showcases more than 300 items from the brand behind Black Panther, Captain America, Spider-Man, Hulk, Wolverine, Black Widow, Iron Man and more. Highlights include the first-ever Marvel comic book from 1939 and the costume worn by Brie Larson in the recent box office hit *Captain Marvel*. 222 N. 20<sup>th</sup> Street, (215) 448-1200, [fi.edu](http://fi.edu)
- 3. Creatures of Habitat – A Gazillion Piece Animal Adventure, through September 30, 2019** – More than 30 life-size animal sculptures built from 350,000 LEGO® bricks stand throughout the Philadelphia Zoo this summer. The exhibit tells stories of endangered wildlife and the conservationists working to protect them. This summer also brings the revival of the popular and nostalgic **Zoo Keys**, which can be used to unlock audio tales at 21 stations. Visitors can take a break at the zoo's new **Urban Green**, a 200-person outdoor dining area serving up snacks, craft beer and wine from three food trucks. 3400 Girard Avenue, (215) 243-1100, [philadelphiazoo.org](http://philadelphiazoo.org)

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4. **Reconstruction Era Exhibit, May 9, 2019** – The National Constitution Center welcomes a new, permanent exhibit dedicated to the Reconstruction Amendments—the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>—which ended slavery and pledged equality for all in the U.S. in the years after the Civil War. The first of its kind in the country, the exhibit features personal stories, documents and artifacts that highlight the debates and key figures in the amendments’ formation and ratification. 525 Arch Street, (215) 409-6700, [constitutioncenter.org](http://constitutioncenter.org)
5. **Making Astronauts: Bucks County to the Moon, May 31-September 8, 2019** – The Mercer Museum marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing this summer with an original exhibit highlighting the role of the Warminster-based Naval Air Development Center (NADC) Johnsville in the development of the United States’ space program. Created in collaboration with the Johnsville Centrifuge and Science Museum, the exhibit will showcase artifacts, images and multimedia components highlighting the NADC, which helped train the astronauts who put a man on the moon in 1969. 84 S. Pine Street, Doylestown, (215) 345- 0210, [mercermuseum.org](http://mercermuseum.org)
6. **The Color of the Moon: Lunar Painting in American Art, June 1-September 8, 2019** – Featuring more than 50 works of art by American painters, this exhibition at the Michener Art Museum illuminates artists’ fascination with the moon from the early 1820s through the late 1960s. Organized in conjunction with the Hudson River Museum, this exhibit is the first major museum examination of its kind and makes a perfect pairing with the Mercer Museum’s lunar-themed exhibit (above). 138 S. Pine Street, Doylestown, (215) 340-9800, [michenerartmuseum.org](http://michenerartmuseum.org)
7. **Art in the Village, June 1-23, 2019** – Peddler’s Village—Bucks County’s charming 42-acre outdoor shopping venue—celebrates the summer with a new, monthlong exhibit of outdoor art on display and live music on select days. The month culminates with Peddler’s Village’s new Art & Wine Festival (June 22-23), featuring outdoor art, alfresco dining, painting activities for adults and children, live entertainment and wine tastings. Route 202 & Street Road, Lahaska, (215) 794-4000, [peddlersvillage.com](http://peddlersvillage.com)
8. **N.C. Wyeth: New Perspectives, June 22-September 15, 2019** – This Brandywine River Museum of Art exhibit sheds new light on N.C. Wyeth, the father of painter Andrew Wyeth. N.C. Wyeth’s illustrations for classic children’s books like *Treasure Island* inspired young readers during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but 70 never-before-exhibited-together pieces from private and museum collections show N.C.’s extraordinary artistic skills in landscapes, portraits, seascapes and murals as well. 1 Hoffman’s Mill Road, Chadds Ford, (610) 388-2700, [brandywine.org/museum](http://brandywine.org/museum)
9. **I Do Not Know What It Is I Am Like: The Art of Bill Viola, June 30-September 15, 2019** – The Barnes Foundation premieres its first exhibition devoted to video art in a survey of works by American artist Bill Viola. The exhibition—the first large-scale exhibition of Viola’s work to be presented in Philadelphia—brings together major pieces that the pioneering artist created from 1976 to 2009. 2025 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, (215) 278-7200, [barnesfoundation.org](http://barnesfoundation.org)
10. **Dinosaurs Around the World, June 30, 2019-January 20, 2020** – On display at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, this exhibit displays more than a dozen animatronic dinosaurs that roamed the planet before the continents existed as they do now. Featuring advanced animatronics, a multi-layered narrative, fossils, authentic casts and cutting-edge research and immersive design elements, the exhibit enables dinosaur enthusiasts to touch fossil casts, discover and name their own dinosaur and learn how to find modern-day dinosaurs right in their own backyard. 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, (215) 299-1000, [ansp.org](http://ansp.org)

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- 11. Hidden Lives Illuminated, August 15-September 12, 2019** – Eastern State Penitentiary brings stories of the U.S. prison population to light—literally—with nightly screenings of animated films by incarcerated artists. The exhibit will project 21 original short films onto the outside walls of the historic prison over four weeks. Screenings at 7 p.m., 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. nightly will last about 40 minutes, and the final screening on September 12 will show all 21 films. 2100 Fairmount Avenue, (215) 236-3300, [easternstate.org/hiddenlives](http://easternstate.org/hiddenlives)

**Parks & Public Spaces:**

- 12. Sesame Street Neighborhood, May 4, 2019** – Sesame Street turns 50 this year, and it's only right that Sesame Place®—the nation's only theme park based entirely on the popular children's TV series—celebrates. This summer, the park opens an all-new Sesame Street Neighborhood, updated to reflect the show's reimagined set, and debuts a new show featuring Elmo, Abby Cadabby and Big Bird. The first theme park in the world designated as a certified autism center also welcomes a furry new neighbor: Snuffleupagus, available for selfies all summer long. 100 Sesame Road, Langhorne, (215) 702-ELMO, [sesameplace.com](http://sesameplace.com)
- 13. Piazza Pod Park, May 2019** – A new pod park pops up at The Piazza in Northern Liberties this summer, promising a hip, happening mixed-used community space featuring art installations, fitness components, local dining and shopping options for the entire family, as well as live entertainment and events. The park will feature seating for 300 people, a dining pod with a roof deck and a 33-foot robot statue called Bebot, who originally made his debut at Burning Man in September 2018. Germantown Avenue & N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, [piazzapodpark.com](http://piazzapodpark.com)
- 14. Franklin Square Fountain Show, July 31, 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/fountain-show](http://historicphiladelphia.org/fountain-show)
- 15. The Food Trust's Market at Cherry Street Pier, Saturdays, July 13-November 16, 2019** – The Delaware River Waterfront's newest public space features incredible, Instagram-worthy views of the Benjamin Franklin Bridge and—new for this summer—weekly markets of local food and makers. Every Saturday from mid-July through mid-November, The Food Trust, producers of the wildly successful food truck-fueled Night Markets, brings in vendors it describes as “culinary entrepreneurs” and “creative sellers,” alongside performance artists and indie retailers. What's more, on the last four Sundays of the month (**May 26, June 30, July 28 and August 25**), artists and artisans will hawk handcrafted creations, while Birdie's Biscuits, Cooperage, Little Baby's and Hardena will offer dining options during the markets. 121 N. Columbus Boulevard, [cherrystreetpier.com](http://cherrystreetpier.com)

**More Openings & Debuts:**

- 16. John James Audubon Center for Art and Conservation at Mill Grove, June 5, 2019** – The historic 18<sup>th</sup>-century home and property where famed U.S. ornithologist John James Audubon lived and made early discoveries opens a new museum and nature facility this summer. The new center will include galleries and permanent exhibits for conservation and art, an outdoor birdwatching area and Fledgling Trail and 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)

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**17. Independence Visitor Center: Visitor Experience Improvement Project, June 7, 2019 –**

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). Also included in the upgrades: Starting May 29, a new Hershey's Kitchens Cafe will serve up sweet treats inside the Visitor Center. 599 Market Street, (800) 537-7676, [PHLVisitorcenter.com](http://PHLVisitorcenter.com)

**18. 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 can sign up online for weekly updates about public ticket sales. 1114 Walnut Street, (215) 893-1999, [kimmelcenter.org](http://kimmelcenter.org)

**19. Four Seasons Hotel Philadelphia, summer 2019 –** The 60-story Comcast Technology Center, the tallest building in Philadelphia, welcomes a highly anticipated luxury occupant. Guests take a high-speed elevator to the 219-room Four Seasons' top-floor sky lobby. Amenities include the 57<sup>th</sup> floor's spa, fitness facility and infinity pool; 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. Electric Philadelphia Mural, late summer 2019 –** A major new public work by Philly-based artist David Guinn serves as a gateway to Philadelphia's Historic District starting late summer. The 8,500-square-foot mural adjacent to Franklin Square will fill the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge underpass under the Ben Franklin Bridge with color by day and illuminate the space linking Old City with the formerly industrial neighborhoods to the north by night. [visitphilly.com/mediacenter](http://visitphilly.com/mediacenter)

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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).*