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Tweet It: Philadelphia is full of affordable attractions: <https://vstphl.ly/2Skfiiq>

FACT SHEET

Dozens Of Fun Ways To Discover Philadelphia — For \$5 And Under

Philadelphia Affordability Facts:

- It's no coincidence that Benjamin Franklin wrote both "A penny saved is two pence clear" and "A penny saved is a penny got," (Poor Richard's Almanac, 1737 and 1758). Franklin, after all, lived in Philadelphia. (Alas, "A penny saved is a penny earned" wasn't him.)
- According to salary.com, the cost of living in Philadelphia is 32% less than the cost of living in Manhattan and 28% less than the cost of living in Washington, D.C.
- An August 2019 edition of *Newsday* reported that Philadelphia hotel rates are an average of 22% lower than hotel rates in New York City.
- A huge bonus for shoppers in the region: There's no sales tax on clothing or shoes. (Some exceptions: furs, formal or ornamental wear and accessories.)
- The Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance's [Funsavers](#) program sends out half-price ticket offers to e-subscribers for dozens of shows and events, including theater, music and dance performances and museum exhibitions. (215) 399-3521
- Philadelphia nonprofit Art-Reach offers two programs that make attractions affordable for anyone with a disability — or any holder of a PA ACCESS Card. The [ACCESS Philly](#) program, free to PA ACCESS cardholders, \$75 for anyone who identifies as having a disability, allows visitors to access to 50 Philadelphia-area museums, theaters and attractions for \$2 per person, for the cardholder and up to three guests. **Indicates venue participates in ACCESS Philly.*

Affordable History:

- **American Philosophical Society Museum** – The nation's first "think tank," this museum and scientific society opens its exhibitions of treasures — gleaned from more than 13 million manuscripts and other historical objects — to visitors from mid-April through December. \$2 donation requested. 104 S. 5th Street, (215) 440-3440, amphilsoc.org/museum
- **Benjamin Franklin Museum** – Next to the site of Franklin's home, this museum reveals artifacts, computer animations and interactive displays that explore the inventor-statesman-philosopher's life and character. Day-of tickets are available at the door and cost \$5 for adults and \$2 for children ages 4 to 16. Admission is free for children 3 and under. 317 Chestnut Street, (215) 965-2305, nps.gov/inde
- ***Betsy Ross House** – At the small Colonial home of Betsy Ross, the upholsterer credited with sewing the first American flag at the request of General George Washington, visitors meet Ross herself as she works in her shop. Summer days begin in the house's courtyard with a free colonial flag raising at 10 a.m. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$4 for children, plus \$3 for the optional audio tour. Not wheelchair accessible. 239 Arch Street, (215) 629-4026, betsyrosshouse.org
- **Edgar Allan Poe National Historical Site** – At the Philadelphia home where the legendary author wrote short stories such as *The Black Cat*, visitors explore Poe's fascinating life and modern-day impacts. Tours are self-guided or led by a park ranger from Friday through Sunday. **Free.** 532 N. 7th Street, (215) 597-8780, nps.gov/edal

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- **Elfreth's Alley** – The quaint Old City cobblestone block that's the oldest continuously occupied residential street in the U.S. is always free to explore. (A guided tour of the Museum House and alley, however, costs \$8 for adults and \$2 for children ages 7 to 12; children under 7 are free.) Between Front & 2nd streets and Arch & Race streets, (215) 574-0560, elfrethsalley.org
- **Independence National Historical Park (INHP)** – In the birthplace of the nation, visitors find the **Liberty Bell Center**, **The President's House: Freedom and Slavery in the Making of a New Nation** and **Independence Hall**, the site of the signing of the *Declaration of Independence* and the *U.S. Constitution*. Timed tickets for Independence Hall are available at the **Independence Visitor Center** on the day of the tour for free or reserved in advance online for a \$1.50 fee per ticket. No tickets required in January and February. All other attractions are **free**; no tickets required. Between 3rd & 7th streets and Market & Chestnut streets, (215) 965-2305, nps.gov/inde; Visitor Center, 599 Market Street, (800) 537-7676, phlvisitorcenter.com
- ***National Museum of American Jewish History** – The ground-level Only In America[®] Gallery/Hall of Fame celebrates the lives and achievements of 21 Jewish-Americans. The space displays some big-name artifacts, including Albert Einstein's pipe, Irving Berlin's piano and one of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's famous jabots. (Through February 28, 2020, the museum is offering **free** general admission; a fee applies to special exhibits.) 101 S. Independence Mall East, (215) 923-3811, nmajh.org
- **Once Upon A Nation** – Memorial Day through Labor Day, storytelling benches at 13 locations around the Historic District offer live interpretations of history. Children can obtain a story flag at any bench, collect a star from each storyteller and exchange the flag complete with 13 stars for a free ride on Franklin Square's carousel. **Free**. (215) 629-4026, historicphiladelphia.org
- **Pennsylvania Hospital** – The nation's first chartered hospital was founded in 1751. Today, visitors can explore its surgical amphitheater used from 1804 through 1868. Guided tours are available with a suggested \$5 donation; visitors can call to schedule. 8th & Spruce streets, (215) 829-5434, uphs.upenn.edu/paharc
- **Valley Forge National Historical Park** – The site of the 1777-78 winter encampment of General George Washington and the Continental Army offers a glimpse into the Revolutionary War with historic structures such as Washington's Headquarters and commemorative monuments such as the National Memorial Arch. Visitors can explore the park by car, by bike or on foot guided by the park's cell phone tour, obtained by calling (484) 396-1018. **Free**. 1400 N. Outer Line Drive, King of Prussia, (610) 783-1000, nps.gov/vafo

Museums & Attractions:

- **Comcast Center Philadelphia Campus** – The Comcast Center, one of the country's tallest LEED-certified buildings, features *The Comcast Experience*, a lobby video projection that blends art and technology to depict realistic nature imagery, urban landscapes and much more on one of the largest four-millimeter LED screens in the world. Across the street at the Comcast Technology Center, visitors can experience a free seven-minute show about the power of the imagination inside The Universal Sphere™. **Free**. Center, 1701 John F. Kennedy Boulevard; Technology Center, 1800 Arch Street, corporate.comcast.com
- ***Please Touch Museum[®]** – Philadelphia's children's museum offers families discounted admission the first Wednesday of every month. From 4-7 p.m., admission to this little kid heaven costs \$2 per person and includes access to all permanent and feature exhibits, the city's only year-round children's theater, an art studio, interactive activities featuring water tables, climb-in

vehicles, a kiddie-sized hospital, bakery and more. 4231 Avenue of the Republic, (215) 581-3181, pleasetouchmuseum.org

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- **Science History Institute** – A Civil War-era bank building houses this museum and its permanent and rotating exhibitions showcasing hundreds of 18th- to 20th-century artifacts that tell the stories of the successes, astonishing failures and strange surprises behind the scientific discoveries that changed the world. **Free.** 315 Chestnut Street, (215) 925-2222, sciencehistory.org
- **United States Mint** – Self-guided tours of this moneyed site include the opportunity to watch coin production from 40 feet above the factory floor and the nation's first coining press. Audio and video stations explain coinage history. **Free.** 5th & Arch streets, (215) 408-0112, usmint.gov

Art & Gardens:

- **Barnes Foundation** – The home of one of the world's most important collections of impressionist, post-impressionist and early modern paintings offers early-birds free admission and programming on the first Sunday of every month. Any day, college students with school ID and youth ages 13-18 can access the Barnes for \$5; ages 12 and under enter free. 2025 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, (215) 278-7000, barnesfoundation.org
- **The Fabric Workshop and Museum (FWM)** – This art museum is devoted to stimulating experimentation among contemporary artists and sharing their processes with the public. FWM has a well-known artist-in-residence program, offers education and apprenticeships and is open seven days a week. **Free.** 1214 Arch Street, (215) 561-8888, fabricworkshopandmuseum.org
- **The Moravian Pottery & Tile Works** – This working history museum in Bucks County welcomes visitors to watch the production of decorative tiles using methods employed by Henry Mercer's crew beginning in 1898. A video and self-guided tour cost \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and \$3 for children ages 7 to 17. 130 E. Swamp Road, Doylestown, (215) 348-6098, buckscounty.org/mptw
- **Museum Without Walls™: AUDIO** – The Association for Public Art offers an engaging way to experience more than 75 outdoor sculptures along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway and in Fairmount Park and Center City. Art enthusiasts and recreational passersby use the program's mobile app, streaming audio or audio downloads to listen to short, unique stories about sculpture on their cell phones. **Free.** (215) 399-9000, associationforpublicart.org
- ***Philadelphia Museum of Art** – Every Wednesday night beginning at 5 p.m. and on the first Sunday of every month, the Benjamin Franklin Parkway's crown jewel offers pay-what-you-wish access to the entire main building, showcasing works by Marcel Duchamp, Salvador Dalí and others. Many special events are free with museum admission, and the museum offers free cell phone tours that add perspective to the collections. 2600 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, (215) 763-8100, philamuseum.org
- **Rodin Museum** – The largest collection of works by Auguste Rodin outside of Paris features treasures such as *The Gates of Hell* and a bronze cast of *The Thinker*. The museum's surrounding gardens are also a great place to find artistic inspiration. Guests pay what they wish to explore. 2151 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, (215) 763-8100, rodinmuseum.org

Performing Arts:

- **Curtis Institute of Music** – Music lovers have the opportunity to take in over 100 solo and chamber performances most Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings and many weekends

during the school year, thanks to this highly selective conservatory's exceedingly gifted students and their free Student Recital Series. **Free.** 1726 Locust Street, (215) 893-7902, curtis.edu
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- **FringeArts** – Scratch Night, hosted and curated by a different artist each month, is a fast-paced sampling of contemporary theater, dance and performance works in-progress. Tickets sell out fast. Suggested donation of \$5. 140 N. Columbus Boulevard, (215) 413-1318, fringearts.com
- **Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts** – The Free at the Kimmel series showcases all manner of genres intermittently throughout the year. Free building and theater tours, offered daily at 1 p.m., give visitors a behind-the-scenes look. 300 S. Broad Street, (215) 893-1999, kimmelcenter.org
- **Macy's** – Amid the classic department store experience is an unexpected one: Live performances on a spectacular pipe organ. An organist performs 45-minute concerts twice daily (except Sundays) on the 1904 organ, originally purchased by merchant magnate John Wanamaker and enlarged by his store's own pipe organ shop to include nearly 28,500 pipes. **Free.** 13th & Market Streets, (215) 241-9000, visitmacysusa.com

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On Greater Philadelphia's official visitor website and blog, visitphilly.com and 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.