



## Philadelphia Big Bus Tour Details

### What

Optional hop-on/off bus tours for anyone arriving to Philadelphia early. **Busses are first-come, first-served.**

### When & Where

Thurs. 2/6 | 9:00—11:15 a.m.

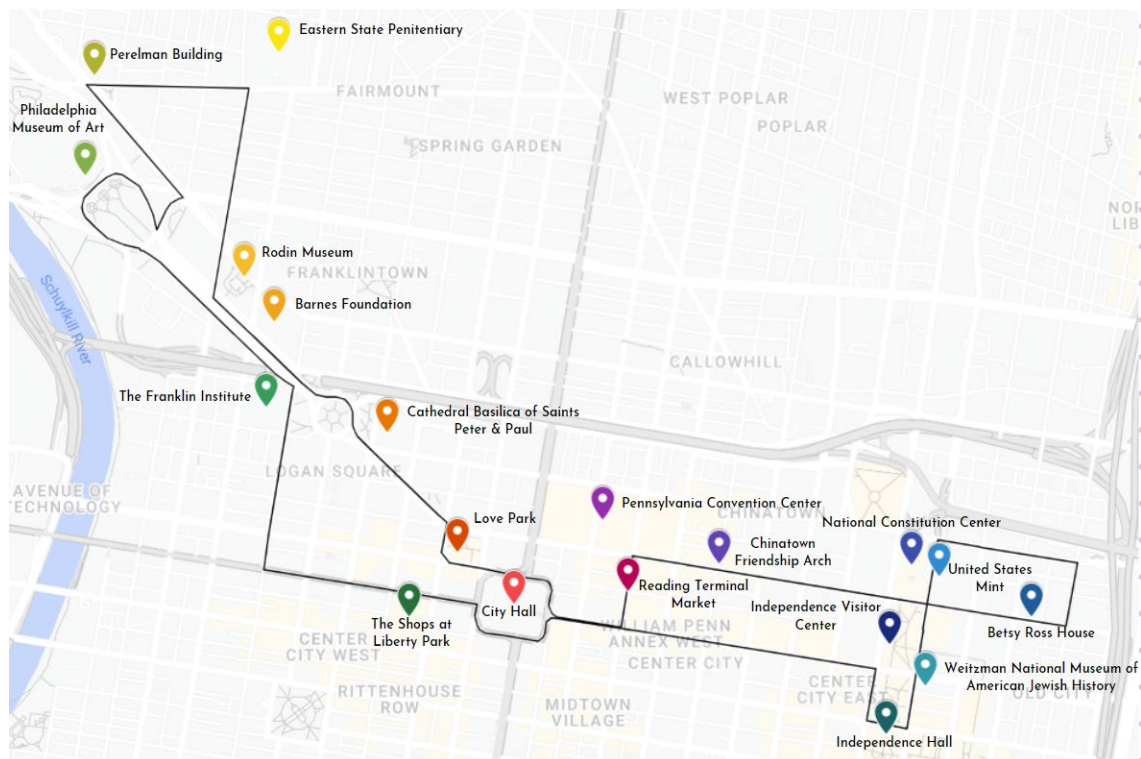
Corner of 12th and Filbert Street

Passengers will arrive at 12<sup>th</sup> and Filbert (30 N 12th St, Philadelphia, PA 19107) where there will be Big Bus attendants to greet them. We'll have (2) busses, each with sign with the Pencils Down Logo.

### Schedule

- 9:15 a.m. | (2) Busses will be staged ready for guests to board
- 9:30 a.m. | First tour will depart
- 10:15 a.m. | First tour will return to unload passengers at 12th and Filbert then begin boarding for the second tour
- 10:30 a.m. | Second tour will depart
- 11:15 a.m. | Second tour will return to 12th and Filbert

### Route



**Philadelphia City Hall**, an iconic symbol of the city, stands as one of the largest municipal buildings in the United States and a masterpiece of Victorian Gothic architecture.

Completed in 1901, it is renowned for its ornate façade, intricate carvings, and the towering statue of the city's founder, William Penn, which tops the structure at 548 feet, making it the tallest masonry building in the world until the early 20th century. Located at the center of the city, City Hall serves as a focal point of Philadelphia's civic life, surrounded by a vibrant plaza and offering stunning views of the surrounding cityscape from its observation deck.

**Love Park**, officially known as John F. Kennedy Plaza, is a vibrant urban space in downtown Philadelphia, famous for its iconic "LOVE" sculpture by Robert Indiana. Located near City Hall, the park serves as a popular gathering spot for both locals and tourists, offering a mix of open green space, fountains, and public art. The large red sculpture, which has become a symbol of Philadelphia, draws visitors from around the world and is often a backdrop for photos. Surrounded by the city's modern skyscrapers, Love Park offers a peaceful retreat amidst the hustle and bustle of the city, making it a beloved landmark that celebrates both love and community.

**The Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul**, located on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, is a stunning example of neoclassical architecture and the mother church of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Completed in 1864, the cathedral's grand façade, adorned with towering Corinthian columns, is a striking feature of the city's skyline. Inside, the cathedral boasts a soaring dome, intricate stained glass windows, and exquisite marble altars, creating a serene and awe-inspiring atmosphere. The cathedral serves as a spiritual center for the city's Catholic community and is also an architectural gem, attracting visitors with its beauty, history, and the sense of reverence it evokes.

**The Barnes Foundation** is a world-renowned institution celebrated for its exceptional collection of art, particularly its extensive holdings of Impressionist, Post-Impressionist, and early modern works. Founded by Dr. Albert C. Barnes in 1922, the collection includes masterpieces by artists such as Renoir, Cézanne, Matisse, and Picasso, displayed in an intimate and thoughtfully arranged setting. The foundation's distinctive approach to presentation, with artworks grouped by themes and aesthetic qualities rather than chronology or origin, creates a unique and immersive viewing experience. The Barnes Foundation also offers educational programs and exhibitions that foster a deep appreciation of art, culture, and the innovative vision of its founder.

**The Rodin Museum** is a serene, world-class museum dedicated to the works of French sculptor Auguste Rodin, housing one of the largest collections of his sculptures outside of Paris. Situated along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, the museum features over 140 sculptures, including iconic pieces like *The Thinker*, *The Gates of Hell*, and *The Burghers of Calais*. Set within beautifully landscaped gardens, the museum's intimate atmosphere allows visitors to engage deeply with Rodin's art, which captures the human form in both its beauty and its emotional intensity.

**Eastern State Penitentiary** is a historic and haunting former prison known for its innovative design and its role in the evolution of the American penal system. Opened in 1829, the prison was a pioneer in the use of solitary confinement, intended to encourage reflection and rehabilitation, though it became infamous for the psychological toll it took on inmates. The massive Gothic-style structure, with its castellated walls and towering turrets, exudes a sense of eerie grandeur, and today, it offers visitors a glimpse into the past with its preserved cells, cell blocks, and interactive exhibits. Eastern State is also known for its infamous former inmates, including Al Capone, and hosts compelling tours that explore themes of justice, punishment, and reform.

**The Perelman Building**, part of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, is a striking example of modern architecture, designed by architect Frank Gehry and completed in 2007. Situated adjacent to the main museum building, it serves as an extension, housing additional galleries for the museum's extensive collections of American art, contemporary works, and decorative arts. The building's distinctive design features a series of dynamic, interwoven forms and transparent glass facades that contrast beautifully with the classical architecture of the original museum. Inside, the space is open and airy, with thoughtfully arranged galleries that enhance the viewing experience. The Perelman Building enriches the museum's offerings and provides a modern, welcoming space for both art enthusiasts and casual visitors alike.

**The Philadelphia Museum of Art**, one of the largest and most renowned art museums in the United States, is an iconic cultural landmark located on the top of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. The museum's impressive neoclassical building, designed by architect Horace Trumbauer and opened in 1928, is best known for its grand front steps, famously featured in the *Rocky* films. Inside, it houses an extensive collection spanning over 2,000 years of art, including masterpieces from Europe, Asia, and the Americas, with notable holdings in European paintings, American art, and decorative arts. The museum also features a celebrated collection of modern and contemporary art, including works by Picasso and Duchamp. The museum's combination of historic architecture, world-class collections, and panoramic views of the city makes it a must-see destination.

**The Franklin Institute**, one of Philadelphia's most beloved museums, is a hands-on science and technology museum that offers an engaging and interactive experience for visitors of all ages. Founded in 1824 in honor of Benjamin Franklin, the museum showcases a wide range of exhibits that explore everything from physics and engineering to space exploration and biology. Highlights include a giant heart that visitors can walk through, a life-sized replica of a 747 airplane, and a variety of engaging experiments and demonstrations. The Franklin Institute also houses a state-of-the-art planetarium and hosts IMAX films, making it a dynamic and educational destination for families, students, and science enthusiasts. Its combination of fun, learning, and innovation has made it a cornerstone of Philadelphia's cultural scene.

**The Shops at Liberty Place** is a vibrant, upscale shopping destination located in the heart of Philadelphia's Center City. Situated within the Liberty Place office complex, this sleek, glass-enclosed shopping mall features a mix of high-end retailers, popular fashion brands, and specialty stores, offering everything from designer clothing and accessories to unique gifts and artisanal goods. The space is bright and airy, with an inviting atmosphere that makes it a popular stop for both locals and visitors. Alongside its retail offerings, the mall is home to a variety of dining options, ranging from casual eateries to more refined dining experiences, making it a perfect place for shopping, dining, and people-watching. Its central location and contemporary design make The Shops at Liberty Place a chic and convenient spot in Philadelphia's commercial district.

**Independence Hall**, located in the heart of Philadelphia's Historic District, is one of the most significant landmarks in American history. Built in the 1750s, this Georgian-style building is where both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution were debated and adopted, making it the birthplace of American democracy. Visitors can explore the elegantly restored rooms, including the Assembly Room, where key figures such as George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson shaped the nation's future. Surrounded by lush green spaces and other historic buildings, Independence Hall remains a powerful symbol of freedom and the founding ideals of the United States, drawing visitors from around the world to experience its legacy.

**The Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History**, located along Independence Mall, is a dynamic institution dedicated to preserving and sharing the story of the American Jewish experience. Its collection spans centuries of Jewish history, culture, and contributions to American society, with exhibits that highlight key moments, individuals, and movements in Jewish life.

**The United States Mint** is a historic facility where U.S. coins are produced, making it one of the most iconic and essential institutions in the nation's financial system. Established in 1792, it is the original minting facility, and today, it offers visitors a fascinating glimpse into the coin-making process through guided tours and interactive exhibits. Guests can see how coins are designed, stamped, and produced, and learn about the history of American currency and the role of the Mint in the nation's economy. The building itself is a beautiful example of neoclassical architecture, and it holds a vast collection of historic coins and medals.

**The Betsy Ross House** is the legendary birthplace of the American flag. This charming 18th-century townhouse is where Betsy Ross, a skilled upholsterer, is said to have sewn the first American flag in 1776, as commissioned by George Washington and the Continental Congress. The house, now a museum, offers visitors a fascinating look at Ross's life, the Revolutionary War era, and the history behind the flag's design. The rooms are furnished with period-appropriate decor, and exhibits explore Ross's contributions to American independence and her role as a symbol of patriotic resilience.

**The National Constitution Center** is an interactive museum dedicated to the U.S. Constitution and its profound impact on American society and democracy. Opened in 2003, the center offers engaging exhibits, multimedia presentations, and live performances that explore the history, significance, and ongoing evolution of the Constitution. Highlights include the *Signers' Hall*, where life-sized statues of the Founding Fathers are displayed, and the powerful *Interactive Constitution* exhibit, allowing visitors to explore constitutional rights and case law in depth. With a focus on civic education, the center fosters a deeper understanding of the Constitution's role in shaping the United States.

**The Chinatown Friendship Arch**, located at the entrance to Philadelphia's vibrant Chinatown neighborhood, is a striking and colorful symbol of the area's rich Chinese heritage and culture. Erected in 1984, the arch is a traditional Chinese-style gateway, adorned with intricate carvings, vibrant red and gold accents, and decorative symbols that represent good fortune, prosperity, and peace. Designed by architect Ling Po, the arch serves as a warm welcome to visitors and locals alike, marking the heart of one of Philadelphia's most diverse and historically significant communities. As both a functional landmark and a work of art, the Chinatown Friendship Arch celebrates the enduring cultural ties between Philadelphia's Chinese American population and its broader community.