



EXPLORE PHILADELPHIA'S NEIGHBORHOODS

The nation's sixth largest city, Philadelphia is right at Drexel's doorstep. The whole metropolitan region is teeming with resources for cultural, social, and intellectual pursuits. You can spend an afternoon at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, enjoy a world-class concert or ballet, and explore trendy shops, boutiques, and restaurants in neighborhoods throughout the city. You can cheer on the many professional sports teams in Philadelphia or participate yourself, playing other schools along the Northeast Corridor through the University's intramural and club sports teams. The Greater Philadelphia Region is also home to thousands of businesses, firms, companies, and corporations. When it's time to consider Drexel Co-op, that fact translates into a host of professional possibilities.

Whatever your major, whatever your interests, Philly will be your extended campus. It's a vital component of a Drexel education.

The Lay of the Land

Philadelphia is a city of neighborhoods, each with its own identity, yet each distinctly Philadelphian. Here are some of the key areas:

University City/Powelton Village

Drexel's neighborhood. Stroll through Powelton Village — a diverse community of students, artists, and professionals — and admire the 19th-century mansions that recall the area's affluent beginnings. One of these mansions, Ross Commons, serves as one of Drexel's two student centers. The rest of University City, a 40-block chunk of West Philadelphia, is comprised of the University of Pennsylvania, the University of the Sciences, shops, restaurants, the Institute of Contemporary Art, residential complexes, and thousands of students.

Center City

The heart of commerce and shopping. Aside from the thousands of businesses that serve as potential co-op employers, Center City offers many of the best shopping and eating spots in the city. The Avenue of the Arts, Philadelphia's theater district, is home to the Academy of Music, Wilma Theater, and the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts.

Museum Area

Some of the city's best museums — The Academy of Natural Sciences (dinosaurs and critters), the Franklin Institute (science and technology), the Rodin Museum (largest collection of the artist's work outside of France), and, of course, the Philadelphia Museum of Art (a world-renowned art collection and the famous steps from *Rocky*) — are located on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. The surrounding neighborhood features great restaurants as well as the Eastern State Penitentiary, an innovative 19th-century prison that is now a museum and occasional movie set. Fall ghost tours in the prison are particularly popular.

Kelly Drive

The place for outdoor fun. Winding along the Schuylkill River, Kelly Drive is a mecca for strolling, biking, inline skating, or just relaxing. Boathouse Row, a picturesque collection of historic boathouses, is the rowing hub of the city. At night, Boathouse Row lights up for a postcard-perfect Philadelphia scene.

Fairmount Park

Fairmount Park is Philadelphia's 9,200-acre citywide park system. There are 63 neighborhood parks that offer many leisure activities and opportunities for community service. Relaxing on a bench by a majestic statue, skating down Martin Luther King Drive (West River Drive) on the weekends, biking the many paths, walking through the Japanese House and Garden, visiting a historic mansion, or attending a concert at the Mann Center for the Performing Arts are some of the activities available to students and residents.

Old City/Society Hill

With Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, Christ Church, and Benjamin Franklin's and Betsy Ross' houses, this section of town is indeed the Cradle of Liberty. Don't miss the National Constitution Center and Independence Visitor Center. Old City offers art galleries, restaurants, cafés, and quirky shops, making this one of the most interesting and lively sections of Philadelphia.

Penn's Landing/Waterfront

This stretch of the Delaware River is home to the Seaport Museum and a slew of summer music and cultural festivals, many of which are free. Take the Riverlink Ferry to Camden and visit Adventure Aquarium.

South Street

The section of South Street stretching from Front Street to 8th Street is one of the most popular places for eclectic shops, coffeehouses, clubs, restaurants, and people-watching. Students can visit fabric row, attend concerts at the TLA, and grab a Philly cheesesteak.

Chinatown

Running north of Center City, our Chinatown is the fourth largest in the nation and features specialty shops and more than 50 restaurants. Don't miss the Chinese Gate at 10th and Arch Streets, a 40-foot-tall structure glittering with colorful decorative tiles and ornaments.

South Philadelphia

South Philly has character and attitude to spare. It also has some of the best Italian food you're likely to find outside of Italy. Philadelphia's 9th Street Italian Market is the oldest and largest working outdoor market in the United States. Even if you're not grocery shopping, this is a Philadelphia experience not to be missed.

Manayunk

Located northwest of the city on the Schuylkill River, Manayunk's Main Street is a vibrant strip of upscale stores and restaurants. Stroll along the canal or take on some of Manayunk's famous hills — the Wall is the featured torture of the Philadelphia International Championship bike race held each June.

Things to Do

Culture

Theater, music, dance, opera — Philadelphia has one of the liveliest performing arts scenes in the country. Virtually every touring band and musician stops in Philly. Local music can be heard in a variety of venues, many of which feature regular all-ages nights. World Café Live, located at 31st and Walnut Streets, is home to WXPN radio and features live musical performances seven days a week. The thriving art scene opens its doors in Old City with new gallery exhibitions every First Friday of the month. You can admire art of all kinds, watch a live glassblowing demonstration, listen to street musicians, and check out a play — all within a few blocks. Poetry readings, lectures, and author signings abound in the city's many coffeehouses, bookstores, and the enormous Free Library of Philadelphia. You can catch any movie — from blockbusters to independent or foreign — in the city's movie theaters. And each April the Philadelphia Film Festival brings you the best new films, guest speakers, and workshops.

Sports

Philadelphia is a serious sports town with serious sports fans. See for yourself at the sports complex on Broad Street in South Philly and cheer on the Phillies, Sixers, Flyers, and Eagles (not to mention the Kixx, Phantoms, Soul, and Wings).

Food

Philadelphia is a great place to find great food. From five-star cuisine to café fare to the world's only true cheesesteaks, Philly has food to please any appetite or budget. For a unique eating adventure, check out our famous Reading Terminal Market in Center City and the Italian Market in South Philadelphia.

History and Museums

History is alive and well in Philadelphia. It's a city of firsts — first zoo, first hospital, and first theater in the nation. Independence National Historic Park, featuring the impressive Independence Hall; Ben Franklin's House and printing shop; the home where Betsy Ross sewed us a flag; Elfreth's Alley, the oldest residential street in the U.S. — they're all in the Old City section.

In addition to the big museums, there are smaller but no less fascinating museums throughout the city. Check out the African American Museum in Philadelphia, the Rosenbach Museum and Library (featuring many rare books and manuscripts), and the National Museum of American Jewish History. The Mütter Museum, devoted to medical oddities, is a one-of-a-kind experience — but not for the faint of heart or weak of stomach.

Getting Around

Philadelphia is an easy city to navigate. Here are some of the best ways to get around:

SEPTA

Drexel is within walking distance of Amtrak's 30th Street Station, has a number of bus stops on campus, and has subway and trolley stations at 30th, 33rd, and 34th and Market Streets. These and other stops located adjacent to the University provide access to most sections of Philadelphia.

Visit www.septa.org or call 215-580-7800 for subway, bus, trolley, and regional rail route information. Schedules, tokens, and passes are available at the Creese Information Desk at Drexel. For more information call 215-895-2515.

Drexel Shuttle

A free shuttle bus for Drexel students serves the University City/Powelton Village area and the Center City and Queen Lane campuses.

Walking

Sometimes walking is the best way to get around town. Discover hidden treasures, admire some of the nation's best architecture, and get a real feeling for the city's varied neighborhoods. Running is also an option and there are many races that support various causes.

Bicycling

Most commutes around Philadelphia are short. Bicycling can help you to get where you need to go without worrying about traffic and bus schedules. With its designated bike lanes and paths, Philadelphia is a pedal-friendly city.

For More Information

We've just skimmed the surface of what Philadelphia has to offer. For more information, check out these helpful resources:

- City of Philadelphia:
www.phila.gov
- Official visitor's site for the greater Philadelphia area:
www.gophila.com
- Philadelphia's online entertainment calendar:
www.phillyfunguide.com
- City Paper (free alternative weekly newspaper):
www.citypaper.net
- Philadelphia Inquirer (major local newspaper):
www.philly.com
- Philadelphia Weekly (free alternative weekly newspaper):
www.philadelphiaweekly.com
- Campus Philly (nonprofit organization connecting Philadelphia students to social and cultural events):
www.campusphilly.org