

GAYBORHOOD

penntacks

WALKING
TOURS OF
PHILADELPHIA

OVERVIEW:

This tour encompasses the Washington West “Gayborhood,” the heart of the lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender, queer (LBGTQ) community. It features nightclubs, sidewalk cafes, theaters and community centers. Some say the LGBTQ rights movement began in Philadelphia on July 4th, 1964, when outside of Independence Hall, the first “Annual Reminder” was held protesting America’s treatment of gays and lesbians. Since then, the LGBTQ community has become integrated with the entire city, but this neighborhood remains its most vital scene.

WHY YOU SHOULD RETURN:

This lively street scene is active year-round, so you should visit often and support the many LGBTQ-run businesses. The Gayborhood is usually identified as being located between Chestnut and Pine Streets (north and south) and between 9th and Broad Streets (east and west).

Take the Green Line or Blue Line to 13th Street to start your tour.

1.) The Mazzoni Center, ASIAC, Colours, the Center for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights, and Safeguards Project

1201 and 1211 Chestnut Street

The Mazzoni Center on the 2nd floor of 1201 Chestnut serves sexual minorities and other high-risk groups. Also located at 1201 Chestnut Street are ASIAC and Colours. ASIAC (AIDS Services in Asian Communities) in suite 501 provides HIV-related services to Asians and Pacific Islanders and is home to GACHEP – Gay Asian Community Health Empowerment Project. Colours, on the 15th floor, serves the needs of LGBT people of color, providing both adult and youth services. 1211 Chestnut Street is home to the Center for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights (suite 605), which advocates for equality through legal services, education and policy reform. This building also houses the Safeguards Project (suite 810), a community agency promoting health.

2.) Cosi

12th and Walnut Streets

Though a regular branch of the coffee shop chain Cosi, this location is often nicknamed “Gay Cosi” due to its particular location and clientele.

3.) 12th Street Gym

204 S. 12th Street

Serving the Philadelphia community for 17 years, 12th Street Gym boasts a primarily LGBTQ clientele, and has a 22-station circuit and over 60 quality group fitness classes a week.

4.) Washington West Project, Philadelphia Fight, and The GALAEI Project

1201 and 1233 Locust Street

The Washington West Project, located at 1201 Locust, is a collaborative effort among ActionAIDS, the Mazzoni Center, SafeGuards, BEBASHI and the GALAEI Project. Philadelphia Fight on the 5th floor of 1233 Locust is a consortium of physicians and people living with HIV who test potential treatments for HIV/AIDS and provide services to HIV-affected individuals. The GALAEI Project (Gay and Lesbian Latino AIDS Education Initiative) located on the 3rd floor of 1233 Locust Street is an education program serving the needs of Latinos.

5.) William Way Community Center

1315 Spruce Street

The William Way Community Center is the home to various social, political and support groups for the LGBTQ community. Opened in 1997, William Way is the location of such groups as PhilaVentures, Team Philadelphia and BiUnity. The center also offers a gallery space for artists and 10,000-plus volume library and archive. There are also many Center-sponsored activities, such as Buddhist meditation, intergenerational activities and discussion groups. Notice the Pride and Progress mural located on the west wall.

6.) The Church of St. Luke & the Epiphany

330 S. 13th Street

This Episcopal Church is home to various LGBTQ-oriented groups, including Dignity Philadelphia (for Catholics), ACTUP, and the Pinks

and Blues (a peer-run support group for sexual and gender minorities living with mental illness).

7.) Giovanni’s Room

345 S. 12th Street

Since 1973, Giovanni’s Room has been the biggest and best source for books, periodicals, and information by, for, and about the LGBT and women’s communities.

8.) More than Just Ice Cream

1119 Locust Street

A delightful, gay-friendly restaurant and ice cream parlor. Good for a date or just hanging out with friends. The nearby Village Coffee House at 1112 Locust Street, offers great paninis, with indoor/outdoor seating and exotic decor.

9.) Planned Parenthood

1144 Locust Street

A full range of sexual health services, including HIV testing, counseling and OB-GYN services.

10.) AIDS Fund

1227 Locust Street, 1st Floor

The AIDS Fund raises money for AIDS care and educational programming for Greater Philadelphia through programs such as Gay Bingo. It also promotes public awareness of AIDS through an annual walk in October.

Of additional interest:

From <http://philadelphia.about.com/od/gayandlesbian>

Philadelphia Gay Men’s Chorus: This chorus performs a range of material, from folk songs, sacred music and classical works to comic pieces and Broadway and Hollywood numbers.

Gay Bingo: The wildly popular bingo fundraiser takes place almost every month and benefits AIDS Fund Philadelphia.

Equality Forum: This event is one of the nation’s largest gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender symposia and festivals taking place every spring.

LGBT Pride Parade and Festival: Each June, Philadelphians show their pride with a parade through Center City.

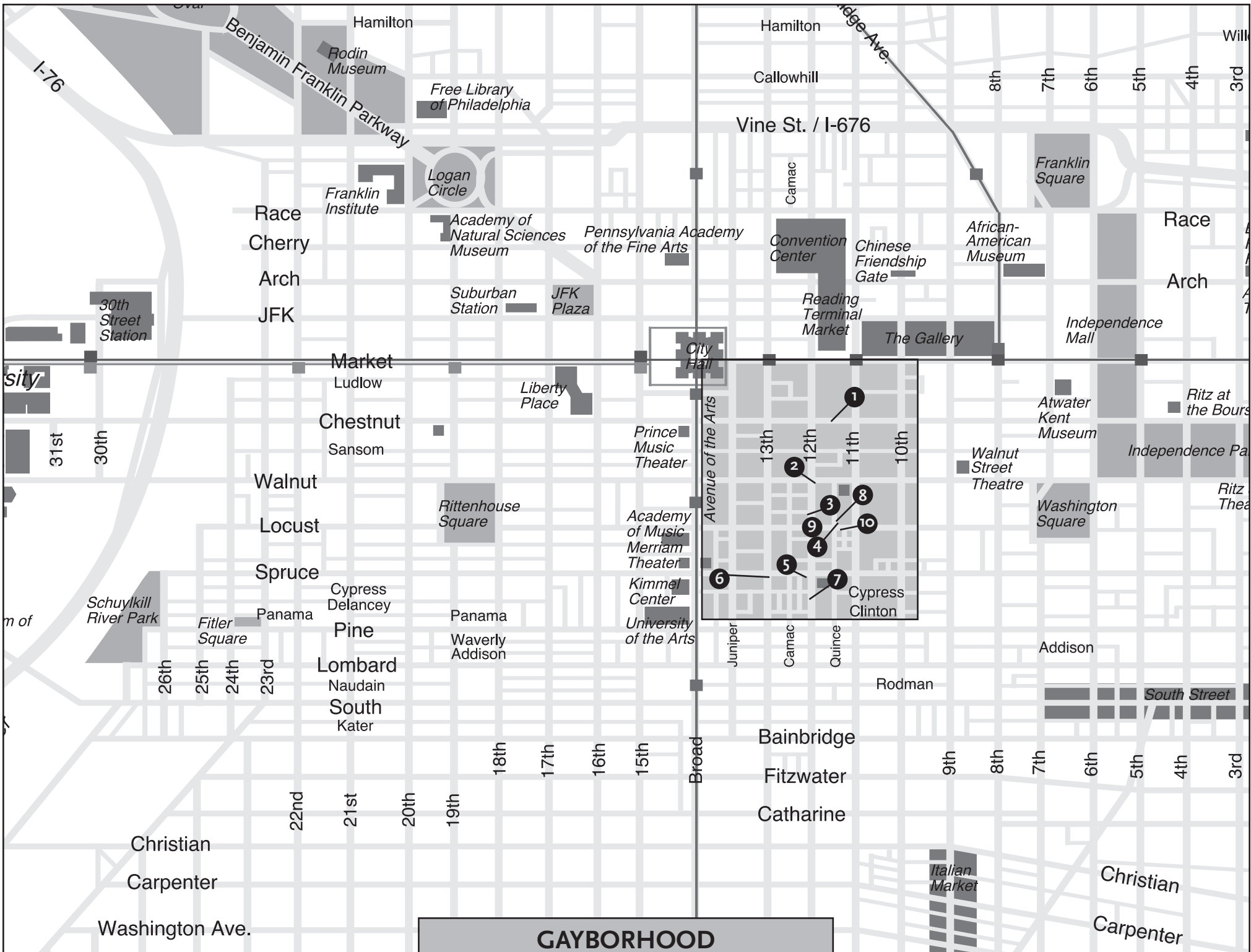
Philadelphia Gay & Lesbian Theatre Festival: This annual event provides a showcase for new plays, musicals, cabaret and other performances.

Philadelphia International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival: Held each July, it is the largest gay film festival on the East Coast.

OutFest Festival Weekend: OutFest, the National Coming Out Day (NCOD) Festival, has grown over the past 13 years into the largest such celebration in the world. This year, the annual NCOD Block Party will be held on Sunday, October 8, 2006, in the Gayborhood.

See www.mygayworld.com and www.aroundphilly.com

Tour developed by Penn’s LGBT Center



GAYBORHOOD

Hamilton
Callowhill
Vine St. / I-676
Camac
Franklin Square
Race Arch
African-American Museum
Independence Mall
Ritz at the Bours
Ritz Thea
Washington Square
Addison
Rodman
Bainbridge
Fitzwater
Catharine
Christian
Carpenter
Washington Ave.

Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Rodin Museum
Free Library of Philadelphia
Logan Circle
Franklin Institute
Academy of Natural Sciences Museum
Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts
Convention Center
Chinese Friendship Gate
Reading Terminal Market
The Gallery
City Hall
Prince Music Theater
Academy of Music Merriam Theater
Kimmel Center
University of the Arts
Juniper
Camac
Quince
Cypress Clinton

Market
Ludlow
Chestnut
Sansom
Walnut
Locust
Spruce
Panama
Cypress Delancey
Pine
Lombard
Naudain
South Kater
22nd
21st
20th
19th
18th
17th
16th
15th
Broad
9th
8th
7th
6th
5th
4th
3rd

30th Street Station
31st
30th
Schuylkill River Park
Fitter Square
26th
25th
24th
23rd
Waverly Addison
Panama
Wilmington

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

I-76
I-676
College Ave.