

RITTENHOUSE SQUARE

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WALKING
TOURS OF
PHILADELPHIA

OVERVIEW:

This tour will take you through the Victorian neighborhoods that surround Rittenhouse Square and past some of the finest shopping and dining in the city. Along the way you will see the lush, green park, sites from movies, many old churches, and modern high rise residences.

WHY YOU SHOULD RETURN:

Rittenhouse Square is one of Philadelphia's treasures with some of the city's most desirable, upscale properties. Sample the great food, attend religious services, enjoy people-watching in the park, visit hidden museums, hear free concerts, or shop at the Saturday farmer's market. Rittenhouse Square is in your backyard; it is gorgeous and teeming with life.

Take the Green Line to 15th Street to start your tour.

1.) City Hall

Broad and Market streets

From the trolley, you emerge under City Hall, which was the tallest building in Philadelphia until Liberty Place was built (ride the elevator to the top of the tower for a great view). The embellished architectural style is called French Second Empire, and was somewhat controversial in this city of Quaker austerity. Parts of *Trading Places*, *12 Monkeys*, and *Philadelphia* were filmed here. South along Broad Street is the Avenue of the Arts, with Philadelphia's orchestra, opera, ballet, and The Wilma Theatre.

2.) Walnut Street Corridor and Rittenhouse Row

Walnut between Broad and 19th streets

Today the new restaurant renaissance is found in Old City around 2nd & Market, but originally it happened right here on Walnut Street. Le Bec Fin is the anchor, considered by many the finest French restaurant in the country. There is also Susanna Foo, Striped Bass, Brasserie Perrier, Alma de Cuba, and many more. Tiffany & Co., Kenneth Cole, Cole Haan, and Burberry, are just a few of the great shops.

3.) Rittenhouse Square

18th and Walnut streets

Rittenhouse Square is one of the best places in the city to people-watch and catch some sun. Note the various sculptures and the fountain where musicians often play. Check out the restaurants on the Square like Rouge and Devon Grill. For great coffee, try La Colombe on 19th. The park holds free concerts, a farmer's market on Saturdays, fine arts festivals, holiday festivities, and area vendors offer street fairs.

4.) Curtis Institute & Art Alliance

1726 Locust and 251 S. 18th streets

Curtis: You have heard of Julliard, but this mansion is the home of the Curtis Institute, one of the country's most illustrious names in musical training. In this country's "big five" orchestras, 30% of the positions are occupied by Curtis alumni. Celebrated alumni include Leonard Bernstein, Samuel Barber, Anna Moff, and Leopold Stokowski. Fritz Reiner and Eugene Ormandy are among the people who taught here. Built in 1894, this is an amazing Beaux Arts style residence that today hosts free concerts and recitals yearound.

Art Alliance: Built as the Wetherill Mansion, this building became the home of the Alliance in 1926. Philadelphia Art Alliance has hosted exhibitions and lectures by some of the outstanding figures in the visual, literary, and performing arts, including architect Frank Lloyd Wright, painter Winslow Homer and composer Aaron Copland. It's a small museum, but worth checking out every few months.

5.) St. Patrick's Catholic Church

20th and Locust streets

The earliest workers who settled on Panama Street were largely Irish immigrants and this Catholic church was founded in 1839 to serve their religious needs. Around Rittenhouse Square there are religious buildings for a myriad of denominations and faiths. Additionally notable are the Church of the Holy Trinity on the northwest corner of the Square, dating from 1857, and the Philadelphia Ethical Society, an "Ethical Humanist religious community" on the southwest corner.

6.) Delancey Place

20th and Delancey streets

This street was used as a location in *Sixth Sense* and *Trading Places*. This block of Delancey is probably the finest Victorian block in the city. It's perfect for strolling after a dinner at Audrey Claire or Twenty Manning, or after a trip at the **Rosenbach Museum** which houses a great collection of rare books, including the original manuscript for James Joyce's *Ulysses*. Every June 16th, the Rosenbach stages Bloomsday with public readings on Delancey Place and a special exhibition of Joyce materials. The archives for Maurice Sendak, who gave us *Where the Wild Things Are*, are kept here as well.

7.) Fidler Square

23rd and Pine streets

This charming city park is named after a mayor from the 1880's. It is surrounded by great neighborhood restaurants. Every June, the Odunde Festival is held nearby at 23rd and South streets to "celebrate the coming of another year for African Americans and Africanized people around the world."

Of additional interest:

Mütter Museum

19 S. 22nd Street

Located within the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, this macabre museum holds a "fantastic collection of medical curiosities." Perfect for pre-meds and Victorianists.

First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia

2125 Chestnut Street

Designed by famed architect Frank Furness with a stained-glass window by Tiffany's, this church is the unlikely home of live, all-age shows, often showcasing punk and alternative bands. See www.r5productions.com.

On your way back to campus:

8.) Schuylkill River Park

26th and Spruce streets

This park winds along the Schuylkill River and connects to the Art Museum area. It has basketball courts, a dog park, and a community garden.

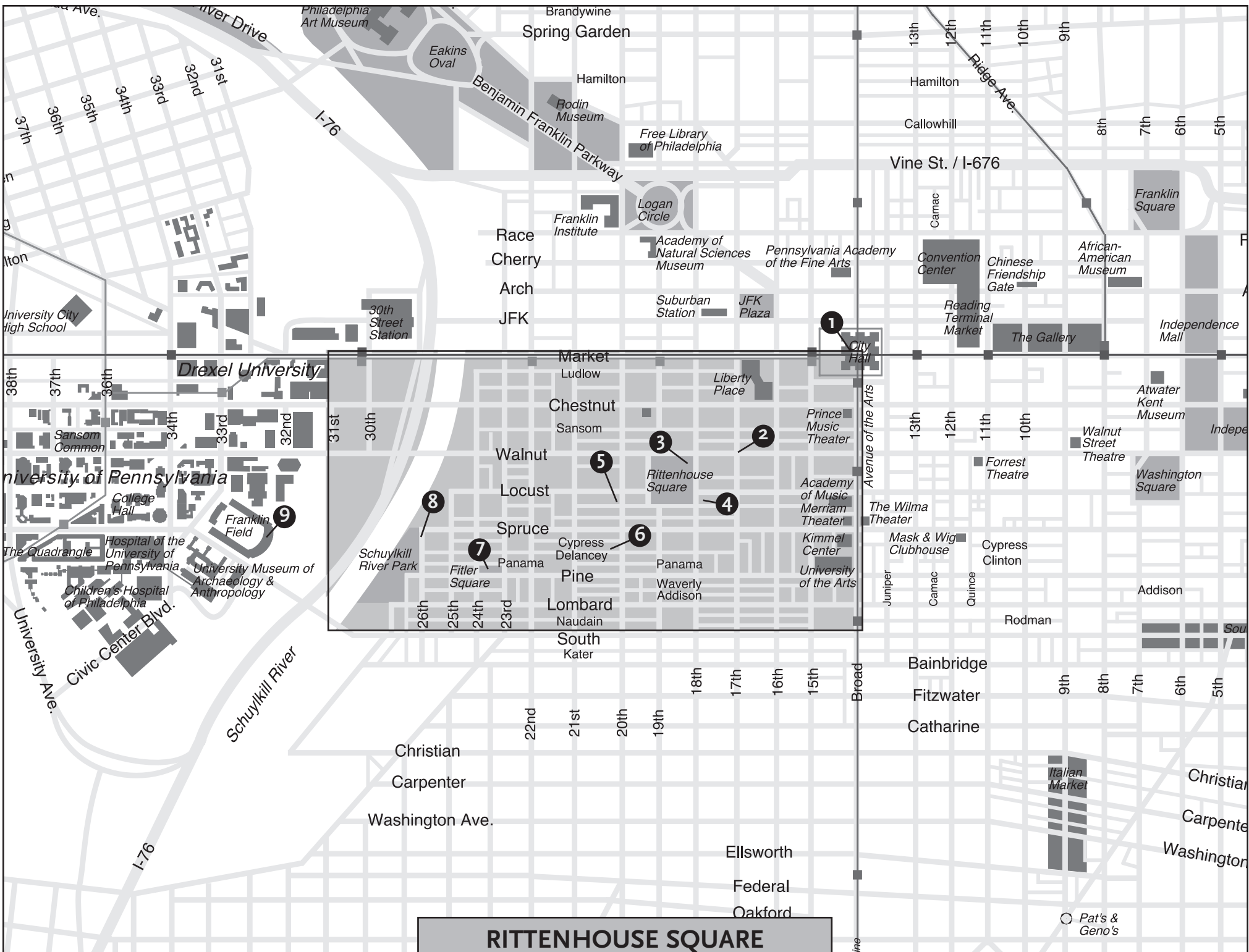
9.) Franklin Field

33rd and Spruce streets

Built in 1895, this stadium was once the home of the Philadelphia Eagles and frequent host of the Army-Navy game. The Penn Relays, the oldest and largest annual track and field event in the world, is held here every spring. Adjacent is the Palestra, home to Penn and the Philadelphia Big 5. It is known as the "Cathedral of College Basketball."

To get back to Penn, walk across the Walnut Street Bridge.

Tour developed by Poor Richard's Walking Tours



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