

## WEST PHILADELPHIA

# pennttracks

WALKING  
TOURS OF  
PHILADELPHIA

### OVERVIEW:

This tour will take you through beautiful Victorian neighborhoods to great ethnic restaurants and a great park—all near Penn's campus. Welcome to West Philly! West Philadelphia began as the site of summer homes for colonial elites and then became Philadelphia's first suburb in the late 19th century after the creation of the electric streetcar. Lined with Italianate, Victorian, and Queen Anne "cottages," the neighborhoods today house faculty and students of Drexel University and the University of Pennsylvania.

### WHY YOU SHOULD RETURN:

Go to any of the rooftop lounges in the high-rise College Houses, and you'll see that Penn's neighborhood is a sea of green, thanks to its tree-lined streets, small gardens and Clark Park. Part streetcar suburb, part international food court, the collection of architecture, and cuisine alone make West Philly worth exploring. This is your new neighborhood, so you should take advantage of it!

***Walk to the corner of 40th and Spruce streets to start your tour.***

#### 1.) **The Woodlands** *4000 Woodland Avenue*

This National Historic Landmark consists of a fantastic federal-style mansion surrounded by a beautiful, botanical garden. The Woodlands is perhaps most famous for its Victorian cemetery. Here lie many famous Colonial American and Civil War fellows including its former owner, Andrew Hamilton.

#### 2.) **Woodland Terrace** *Woodland Terrace*

This small neighborhood is on the National Register of Historical Places. Here you will see Italianate style houses. This distinct architecture became popular during the 19th century and spread from England to the United States and Australia. The Neo-Renaissance buildings are a must-see of Philly.

#### 3.) **Clark Park** *43rd and Baltimore streets*

Clark Park is one of the great public spaces of West Philadelphia. In the warm months it hosts community festivals and a weekly farmer's market. At the southern end of the park is the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, which contains the oldest school of pharmacy in the Western Hemisphere (founded in 1821). The park contains the world's only life-sized statue of Charles Dickens, a secret community garden, and a fountain that served the Civil War hospital that was on this site.

#### 4.) **St. Francis de Sales Church** *4625 Springfield Avenue*

This spectacular church has been serving the West Philadelphian community for the past 100 years. The Gustavino Dome and elaborate stained-glass windows make this church a definite West Philly must-see.

#### 5.) **Baltimore Avenue** *Baltimore Avenue between 45th and 48th streets*

This street is an old turnpike that went from Philadelphia to Baltimore and is one of the major arteries through West Philadelphia. The trolleys that still run down the street are what made this neighborhood the most desirable suburb of Philadelphia in the decades after the Civil War because the streetcars provided easy access to jobs in Center City.

#### 6.) **Garden Court** *47th looking down Larchwood and Osage streets*

The Garden Court neighborhood is on the National Register of Historic Places, and is one of the most charming residential areas in all of Philadelphia. The homes on Larchwood and Osage Avenues are simultaneously suburban and urbane, and they provide attractive city living for many Penn faculty and staff. The homes were designed in the 1920's and were among the first housing developments in Philadelphia to take into account the family automobile.

#### 7.) **Rx** *45th and Spruce streets*

This used to be an apothecary, hence the name. It was reborn as a restaurant by a Penn alum just a few years ago and is flourishing. If it's too crowded, try Marigold Kitchen at the corner of 45th Street and Larchwood Avenue. (Another great restaurant founded by Penn alumni is the Bubble House at 3404 Sansom St. with a huge tea menu and fresh Asian fusion food.)

#### 8.) **Koch's Deli** *4309 Locust Street*

People say this is the best deli in the city. However, it's no secret, so expect to wait in line with all the other people who appreciate a great sandwich. Don't worry, there are free samples while you wait!

#### 9.) **The Fresh Grocer & The Bridge Cinema De Lux** *40th and Walnut Street*

The Fresh Grocer is a great addition to the neighborhood. Besides groceries, they have a wide variety of prepared foods, including pizzas, Chinese food, sushi, sandwiches, and more. The Bridge movie theater opened in the fall of 2002, and has six screens with many of the latest blockbusters. Be sure to try Marathon Grill next door which has amazing brunch, a huge menu, a smoothie bar, and prices you can afford. Metropolitan Bakery just across the street is a cozy bakery with irresistible sweets and strong coffee.

### *Also of interest:*

#### **The Foundation**

Located in the Rotunda at 4014 Walnut Street. Live hip hop, rock, jazz, electronic, and all-age shows. See [www.foundationarts.org](http://www.foundationarts.org).

#### **The Paul Robeson House**

A National Historic Landmark. Call for an appointment, Monday through Saturday. Located at 4951 Walnut Street, (215) 747-4675.

See [www.ucityphila.org](http://www.ucityphila.org) for more information.

*Tour developed by Poor Richard's Walking Tours*



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