

# CHINATOWN

## pennttracks WALKING TOURS OF PHILADELPHIA

### OVERVIEW:

This tour takes you through the Asian cultural center of the Philadelphia region. Chinatown offers a variety of amazing cuisines including Japanese, Thai, Cambodian, Burmese, Laotian, Malaysian, and Vietnamese. Churches, temples, artwork, and a concert hall are also among its highlights.

### WHY YOU SHOULD RETURN:

Chinatown offers the opportunity to sample cuisines from nearly every country in Asia. The Pennsylvania Convention Center is the second largest convention center in the Northeast and stages such shows as the International Auto Show in February and the Flower Show in March. At the Reading Terminal Market you can buy seafood, cheesesteaks, baked goods from Pennsylvania Dutch merchants, and any other food you could want. And Philly's Hard Rock Café is located on the corner of 12th and Market streets.

**Take the Green Line trolley to 13th Street or the Blue Line subway to 11th Street to start your tour.**

#### 1.) **Friendship Gate** *10th and Arch Streets*

Built as an exchange between Philadelphia and its sister city in China, Tianjin, this ornate gate was dedicated on January 31, 1984. It is the first authentic Chinese gate built in America by artisans from China. The graphic patterns, based on mythical creatures from the Ming and Qing dynasties, include a phoenix, which symbolizes good luck and long life, as well as a dragon, which has the power to keep water in its mouth and protect the community from fire.

#### 2.) **Chinese Cultural and Community Center** *10th between Arch and Cherry Streets*

After World War II, a family-oriented Chinese community emerged in Philadelphia. In this context, both religious and secular community organizations began to develop. This center was originally formed at the YMCA in 1955, and later became specific to Chinatown. It offers various classes and sponsors the Chinese New Year Parade and youth groups.

#### 3.) **Fire Station** *10th and Cherry Streets*

Originally established on July 4, 1791 as part of the Diligent Volunteer Fire Company, it was located on the south side of Market near 8th Street. After moving several times, it settled on June 5, 1956 in its present location. The station is nicknamed the "House of Dragons."

#### 4.) **1st Laundry/H.K. Golden Phoenix Restaurant** *913 Race Street*

The first Chinese laundry was started by Lee Fong in 1870. Because Chinese workers encountered widespread racism and difficulty finding work when they first arrived in the U.S., many Chinese laborers found a niche in occupations considered unpleasant, such as laundry services. The first Chinese restaurant, Mei-Hsiang Lou was founded just 10 years later by Fong's cousin. Today, the H.K. Golden Phoenix restaurant stands in its place. At 141 N. 9th Street, coffee lovers should seek out Ray's Café and Tea House for its amazing menu.

#### 5.) **Chinese Benevolent Association** *930 Race Street*

Mutual assistance societies, known as tongs, provide services within America's Chinatown communities. In 1951, the Chinese Benevolent Association was created in Philadelphia to appease conflicts between different associations and to help immigrants with housing and organizing traditional cultural events.

#### 6.) **Chinese Christian Church and Center** *225 N. 10th Street*

Established in 1941, CCC&C continues to serve as a center of cultural and religious activity, and is inextricably linked to Chinatown's history.

#### 7.) **Dim Sum at Ocean Harbor and Joy Tsin Lao** *Race between 10th and 11th Streets*

These well-known Chinese restaurants are right across the street from one another. Carts constantly pass your table as you point to the dishes you want, allowing you to sample many different menu items in one meal.

#### 8.) **Trocadero** *1003 Arch Street*

Once a burlesque hall, the Trocadero is now a great venue for rock shows. See [www.thetroc.com](http://www.thetroc.com) for more information.

#### 9.) **Pennsylvania Convention Center** *1101 Arch Street*

This was the single largest public construction project in Pennsylvania. After it opened in 1993 as part of a pattern of urban redevelopment, the Convention Center has since welcomed over 5 million visitors.

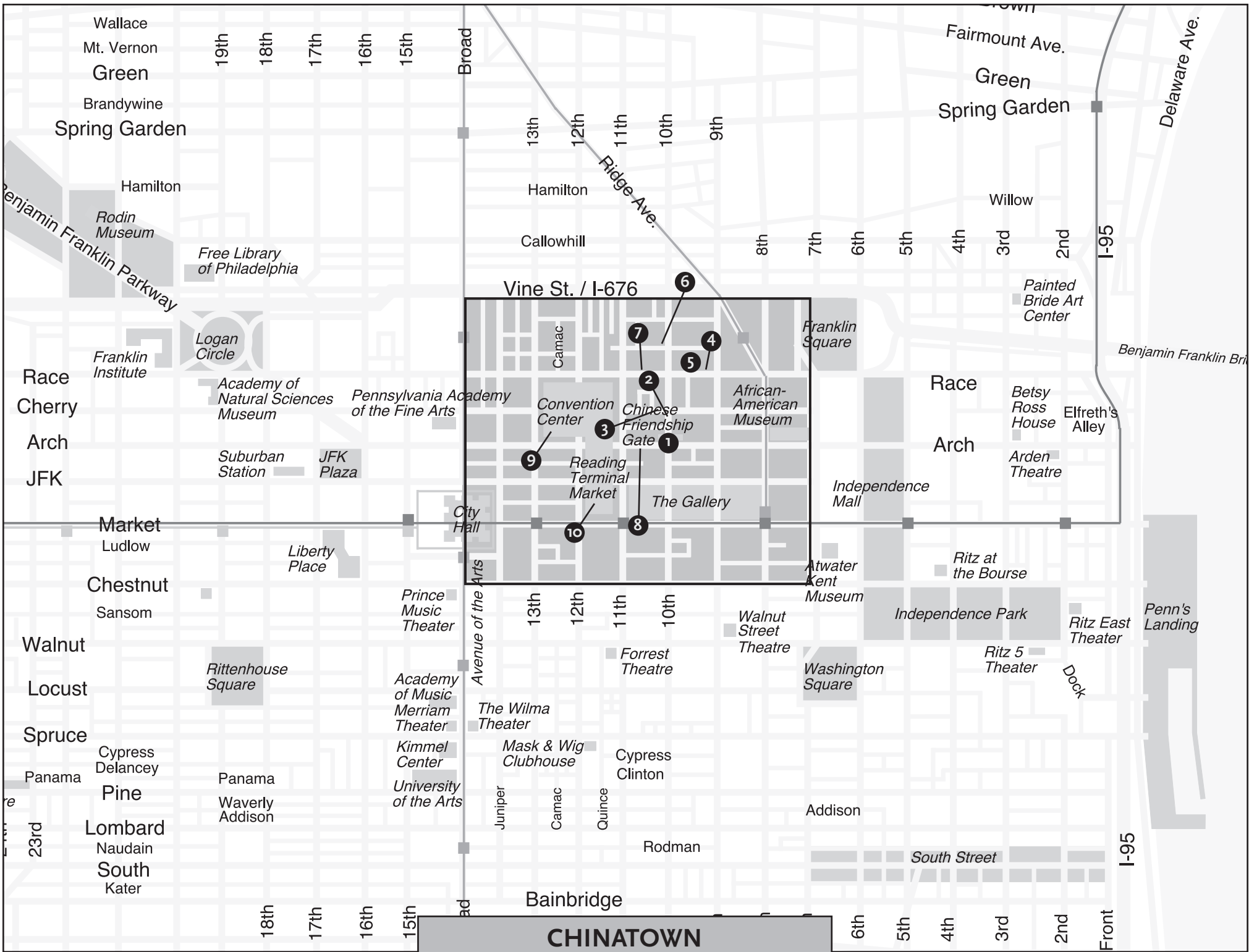
#### 10.) **Reading Terminal Market** *12th and Arch Streets*

This is part of the Reading Railroad that you know from the Monopoly game. Though the trains no longer rumble overhead, the old train shed is now the century-old Reading Terminal Market, an unrivaled testament to the rich flavors of the city's ethnic neighborhoods. Treasured by locals and tourists alike, the market brings together a variety of food cuisines under one roof: Amish pretzels, steaks and hoagies — all Philly originals!

See [www.phillychinatown.com](http://www.phillychinatown.com) for listings of Asian supermarkets, household items, gifts and more information.

**To get back to Penn, take the Blue Line from 11th and Market Streets to 34th Street or the Green Line (except the 10) from 13th and Market Streets to 37th and Spruce Streets.**

*Tour developed by Poor Richard's Walking Tours*



**CHINATOWN**

Wallace  
Mt. Vernon  
Green  
Brandywine  
Spring Garden

19th  
18th  
17th  
16th  
15th

Broad

13th  
12th  
11th  
10th  
9th  
Hamilton  
Callowhill

Ridge Ave.

Fairmount Ave.  
Green  
Spring Garden

I-95

Delaware Ave.

Benjamin Franklin Parkway

Free Library of Philadelphia

Logan Circle

Race  
Cherry  
Arch  
JFK

Academy of Natural Sciences Museum

Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts

Convention Center

Reading Terminal Market

African-American Museum

Race  
Arch

Painted Bride Art Center

Betsy Ross House  
Elfreth's Alley  
Arden Theatre

Benjamin Franklin Bridge

Market

City Hall

Independence Mall

Liberty Place

Chestnut

Prince Music Theater

Atwater Kent Museum

Ritz at the Bourse

Sansom

Academy of Music  
Merriam Theater

Forrest Theatre

Washington Square

Independence Park

Ritz East Theater

Penn's Landing

Walnut

Rittenhouse Square

The Wilma Theater

Mask & Wig Clubhouse

Cypress Clinton

Walnut Street Theatre

Ritz 5 Theater

Dock

Locust

Spruce

Panama

Panama  
Waverly  
Addison

Kimmel Center

University of the Arts

Juniper

Camac

Quince

Addison

I-95

Pine

Lombard

Naudain

South

Kater

18th  
17th  
16th  
15th

Broad

Bainbridge

6th  
5th  
4th  
3rd  
2nd  
Front

South Street

Rodman