

MARCH 1-5, 2020
5 DAYS • 8 MEALS



Experience the World's Largest
Indoor Horticultural Expo

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NPS

Visit Philly Arts, Cultural & Historical Highlights

Philadelphia Flower Show

Garden Parkways, Cultural Highlights & Public Artways

Kick off spring with the sights, sounds and scents of the Philadelphia Flower Show—America's premier horticultural expo since 1829. Also, experience grand garden estates, exquisite cultural collections, innovative urban landscape design, and dazzling private and public artworks. Plus, tour classic and fresh highlights from our nation's earliest days in America's first World Heritage City.



Philadelphia CVB

Tour Longwood Gardens Du Pont Estate

DAY 1—WELCOME TO PHILADELPHIA

Welcome to the cradle of Liberty and America's "Garden Capital"—with more than 30 public gardens, arboreta and historic landscapes, and a tradition of horticulture going back 300 years. From the moment you arrive at the airport, you'll see evidence of the city's vibrant, 30-year-old public arts program that has earned Philly the nickname, City of Murals. Meet our Discovery Director and fellow travelers for a warm welcome reception.

DAY 2—OLDE CITY TOUR/MUSEUMS/MAGIC GARDENS

Our time in Philadelphia begins with a guided tour of key landmarks from the nation's beginnings, riding cobblestone streets past Independence Hall, the 18th Century Garden, Headhouse Square, Christ Church Burial Ground, the Betsy Ross House, and more. The driving tour also showcases Center City's Avenue of the Arts, stately Rittenhouse Square, and the flag-strewn Boulevard of Nations. Also pass Rodin's "The Thinker" – and "Rocky", on the Philadelphia Art Museum Steps, en route to the new Barnes Foundation Museum—housing one of the most impressive private art collections in the country. After a light lunch, we'll learn about self-made connoisseur Albert Barnes—a physician, arborist and medicinal botanist—and his unique way of displaying his eclectic collection. Then, relive the dynamic story of our path to independence through a fresh, interactive and narrative approach at the acclaimed new Museum of the American Revolution. The day wraps up at Philadelphia's Magic Gardens—a fascinating and innovative complex of "urban gardens" constructed of mosaic, glass, iron and mural artwork that snakes through several alleyways and streets along storied South Street. Tonight, unpack for the rest of the tour downtown, ideally situated right between William Penn atop City Hall and the entrance to the Philadelphia Flower Show. Rest up tonight for the world's largest indoor flower expo! **B, L, D**

DAY 3—PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW: "RIVIERA HOLIDAY 2020"


After breakfast, you'll beat the public crowds with a private early morning tour of the Flower Show grounds led by expert docents. Hear fascinating stories about the Show exhibits, design inspiration and challenges, and history. Enjoy unimpeded photo ops, and see exhibitors carefully preparing their displays and competition entries for the day. Then, when the doors open, feel the excitement swirl as the public exhibits, workshops, expert presentations, hands-on crafts activities, and marketplace get underway. Your in-and-out privileges give you freedom to pace yourself and

do the show your way. When you're ready for a break, opt for a massage treatment at the garden spa, chill out at the tearoom, thrill to a display of live butterflies, or try the free wine tasting. Lunch on your own among scores of fresh Amish, seafood, ethnic and artisanal food vendors at Reading Terminal Market, or in nearby Chinatown. **B**

DAY 4—BRANDYWINE RIVER/WYETHS & WEYMOUTH/LONGWOOD GARDENS

We start today with an easy-going exploration of Pierre du Pont's expansive Longwood Gardens. Freely roam its massive Conservatory domes, exploring highlights including its seasonal collection of Orchids and Sky-Blue Poppies, tree-filled atriums, elegant music hall and pipe organ, and...be sure not to miss the "award-winning," individualized and artfully landscaped restrooms(!). Weather permitting, meander through forested walking paths, massive ornamental fountains, ornamental lily ponds, and other areas of the 1,077-acre estate. After lunch, we pass historic battlefield sites on rolling farmland to arrive at the Brandywine River Museum & Conservancy, once home and inspiration to three generations of a great American arts family—N.C., Andrew and Jamie Wyeth. We'll see their works, plus a special retrospective of Museum founder George A. Weymouth, also a skilled wildflower and landscape painter. **B, L**

DAY 5—LIBERTY BELL/OBSERVATION DECK/CITY TAVERN FAREWELL LUNCH

Enjoy some free time this morning to explore the Liberty Bell Center, where there are exhibits, a film, and of course gaze upon the famous cracked bell. From there, we take you 883 feet above street level for an unparalleled view of Philadelphia and neighboring New Jersey from One Liberty Observation Deck. See all of the places you visited during the course of the week, this time from 57 stories above! Enjoy an authentic, Colonial-style lunch at City Tavern, a favorite meeting spot of the Founding Fathers - established in 1773; keep an eye out for staff in period costume and a visit from Owner/Chef Walter Staib. **B, L** 



View dazzling displays at the Philadelphia Flower Show

About the Autograph Downtown Philadelphia Hotel

Unpack and stay for three nights at Marriott's beautifully renovated Autograph Downtown Philadelphia Hotel...all new for 2020! Located at 21 North Juniper Street, the 15-story hotel offers 416 guestrooms and 83 suites. The property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Better yet, it's within walking distance of the Philadelphia Flower Show. Your "all day pass" means you can enjoy exploring the Flower Show during the morning, slip back to your hotel room for a little rest, and return to the show at your leisure. The list of hotel amenities includes free Wi-Fi, an on-site market, a business center, the NINETEEN 26 restaurant, a Starbucks and a fitness center. By the time our tour arrives in March 2020, a \$23 million dollar renovation will be complete.



Philly's Museum of the American Revolution



Photo courtesy of the Museum of the American Revolution

Discoveries Experience

5 Days • 8 Meals

March 1-5, 2020

Price Per Person:

Double: \$1,597; Single: \$2,025

Pre/Post Hotel: \$188/night

Depart/Return: Philadelphia, PA

Highlights & Inclusions

- Full day at Philadelphia Flower Show, with private pre-opening privilege
- Visit the du Ponts' Longwood Gardens Estate
- Guided tour of unique Magic Gardens
- Tour famous Barnes Foundation Collection on the Parkway
- Brandywine River Museum & Conservancy
- Experience historical Independence highlights including the Museum of the American Revolution
- Get a bird's eye view of Philadelphia from the One Liberty Observation Tower
- Free airport shuttle or hotel parking
- Bag handling (1 per person) at hotels
- Fees/tips for included attractions/meals
- Welcome reception, 24-hour emergency call service, free bottled water on coach

Quality Accommodations

Night 1: Courtyard Philadelphia Airport

Nights 2-4: Marriott Autograph Philadelphia (formerly Courtyard Marriott)

Note: Moderate to extensive walking required to fully enjoy the Flower Show's several acres of exhibits.

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