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Fodor's Philadelphia (Travel Guide)



Synopsis

Written by locals, Fodor's travel guides have been offering trusted advice for all tastes and budgets for 80 years. Fodor's Philadelphia *Â* highlights the best *Â* the City of Brotherly Love has to offer: *Â* famous historic sites in Independence National Historical Park, world-class museums along Ben Franklin Parkway, and the ongoing culinary renaissance. Every recommendation has been vetted by a local Fodor's *Â* expert to ensure travelers plan the perfect trip, from the cobblestone streets of Old City to the local cuisine at Reading Terminal Market to Philadelphia's iconic landmarks like the Rocky Steps, the LOVE Statue, and Boathouse Row in Fairmont Park. This travel guide includes: *Â* Dozens of maps *Â* An 8-page color insert with a brief introduction and spectacular photos that capture the top experiences and attractions throughout Philadelphia *Â* Hundreds of hotel and restaurant recommendations, with Fodor's Choice designating our top picks *Â* Multiple itineraries to explore the top attractions and what's off the beaten path *Â* Major sights such as the Independence National Historical Park, Fairmount Park, Reading Terminal Market, Rittenhouse Square, Parkway Museums, Old City, and South Street *Â* Side trips from Philadelphia including the Brandywine Valley, Valley Forge, and Bucks County *Â* Coverage of Historic Downtown, Center City, Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Fairmount, South Philadelphia, University City and West Philadelphia, Northwestern Philadelphia, Northeastern Philadelphia, and City Line Avenue

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Fodor’s is pitched a few notches higher, aimed at a fairly discerning traveler with an appetite for background and the occasional surprise. New York Times “The Fodor’s guides are notable for their ratings of sights, restaurants, shops, accommodations and attractions. Chicago Tribune “In terms of comprehensiveness of coverage, the very accessible format, and the enthusiastic tone, this series remains one of the best on the market. Booklist “Fodor’s super-informative guidebooks are known for accuracy and attention to detail. Sacramento Bee “Fodor’s can help you plan the perfect adventure. Arizona Republic

For over 80 years, Fodor’s Travel has been a trusted resource offering expert travel advice for every stage of a traveler’s trip. We hire local writers who know their destinations better than anyone else, allowing us to provide the best travel recommendations for all tastes and budget in over 7,500 worldwide destinations. Our books make it possible for every trip to be a trip of a lifetime.

Very informative.

Up to date and useful.

these are the best travel books.

Great for understanding the 'hoods....wish it included a bit more about these neighborhoods and the transportation ops for those staying in B&Bs, etc.

I liked this book a lot, in that is compact (about 225 pages), covers a lot of sights, does NOT spend a lot lot of time on restaurants and hotels (I figure you can get this info on many other sights), and has good maps. The book is mainly organized around neighborhoods (e.g., Historic Old Town) and tells you a bit of the background of the area, then a bit about getting around the area, and then gives information on sights. The description of individual sights isn't hugely detailed (Independence Hall is covered in a little more than a page), but it is enough for you to know something about the various sights (well known or otherwise in an area). There is good practical information on hours, tours, current entrance fees, etc. Area maps are easy to follow and the book is well indexed. One thing I liked about the book is that it had a helpful section of side trips within an hour or two of Philly such

as Bucks County, the Brandywine Valley, and Valley Forge - all good for a person visiting Philadelphia for a day or two who wants to add some extra (and very interesting sights) to their visit. This is a very good book both to plan a trip in Philadelphia and surrounding area - It's easy to carry (and by the way, thoughtfully has 6 lined pages for notes in the end), and is pretty light.

I live an hour's train ride from Philly, but have never had a guide, so I'm glad to look through this one. As with other small Fodor's guides, this is not a book filled with photos that gets you excited about the city. It's text-heavy, which is fine with me. There are a few photos in the "12 Top Experiences" section upfront, but that's about it. The city is divided into eight neighborhoods, with accompanying maps that are detailed enough to be walkable. Each neighborhood has its section, plus there are three day-trip suggestions outside of the city (Bucks County, Valley Forge and the Brandywine Valley). All of the historic destinations are here -- the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, National Convention Center -- along with a suggested tour of the historic district. Elfreth's Alley, my favorite short street in the world, is a suggested site. Don't miss it! But in some ways, the guide seems phoned in. There's no section on new attractions (maybe there are none?) and other sections seem rushed and uninspired. For example, "Philly with Kids" takes up only three-quarters of a page and includes very basic suggestions. With a little ingenuity, they could have noted good playgrounds and some offbeat destinations, such as my personal favorite, the Fairmount Water Works museum. We spent a ridiculous amount of time in this fascinating place when our son was young. Kids want to know what happens when you flush a toilet! But this guide is helpful if only for the dozen or so maps included. I don't need a lot of the nuts-and-bolts info, but it's in here for those who do. This is a brief guide of just over 200 pages, easily thrown in a suitcase.

It is a helpful guide with the typical Fodor mix of sites, restaurants, and places to stay. That said, there are no pull-out maps or color images like other books in this series. A few color images on the first three pages and the rest of the book is two-tone maps with B&W images only on the section headers! Hard to get a sense for what is at a location and decide what to include on your trip without even a few images, and that is usually standard for this series (guides for NYC, Washington DC, Boston, etc. all have these features). Just want others to know this particular guide doesn't match the pattern.

This is a useful if uninspired guide to the City of Brotherly Love. The 2 pages dedicated to "What's Where" do a good job of showing the relationship of the main parts to the whole: The Historic

Downtown or Old City, Center City, Benjamin Franklin Parkway and Fairmount, South Philadelphia, University City, Northwestern Philadelphia, and Northeastern Philadelphia. The chapter toward the end on Side Trips (The Brandywine Valley, Valley Forge, and Bucks County) is also especially helpful. You will want to supplement with information gleaned from the internet. Philadelphia Magazine's restaurant reviews are a great extra resource that fully complement the reviews in Fodor's. Even some lonely planet and other travel online resources help to bring some spark and enthusiasm. It's a good guide if not a really great one.

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