

Walking Tour of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway

This walking tour is intended to give you a taste of the abundant outdoor sculpture, cultural and educational attractions, and other sites in the Parkway Museums District. The tour is roughly 2.4 miles from LOVE Park to the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and back. You'll proceed west on the North side of the Parkway, and return on the South side.

Begin at LOVE Park (also known as JFK Plaza), at John F. Kennedy Boulevard & the Parkway

- A classic Philadelphia photo opp, the famous LOVE sculpture by Robert Indiana was placed in this park as part of the 1976 Bicentennial celebration.



- Stop in the Fairmount Park Welcome Center for maps, brochures, tickets & info on the beautiful Park and the spectacular attractions on the Parkway and throughout the city.



Cross the Parkway to the North side. Café Cret is on the NW corner of 16th & the Parkway, in case you need provisions for your journey! Great drinks, sandwiches, cookies & more.

- Jacob Lipkin's sculpture *The Prophet* (1974) welcomes you to the café.



- The next sculpture of note is Henry Moore's *Three Way Piece Number 1: Points* (1964).



- Continue walking west, and you will see Alexander Calder's *Three Disks, One Lacking* (1968) at 17th & the Parkway.



(Note: although it's not included in this 2.4 mile walking tour, the stunning Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts is just 3 blocks east up Cherry St., at Broad and Cherry. Be sure to return for a visit!)

- On your right at 17th St., you will see Friends Select School, a coed, college preparatory, Quaker day school serving 545 students in grades pre-k through 12.



- One block further at 18th St. is Dudley Talcott's *Kopernik* (1973), a memorial to Nicolaus Copernicus.



Cross the street at 18th St. towards the Cathedral Basilica of SS Peter and Paul.

- In the yard outside the Cathedral is *Jesus, The Bread of Life* (also known as *Jesus Breaking Bread*) (1978) by Walter Erlebacher.



- You'll want to lots of time *inside* the Cathedral Basilica of SS Peter and Paul. It's a truly magnificent building to explore. This beautiful and historic church is modeled after the Lombard church of San Carlo al Corso in Rome. It is of the Roman-Corinthian style of architecture. The Mother Church of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia was founded in 1846. (Architects: Napoleon Le Brun and John Notman, 1864)



- You'll find a lively and lovely park space in front of the Cathedral, called Sister Cities Park. There's a visitor's center and a boat pond, as well as the Milk and Honey Café. Close by is a statue of *Thomas Fitzsimmons* (1946) by Giuseppe Donato. Fitzsimmons was a member of the Continental Congress, and signer of the Constitution.



- Also in Sister Cities Park: *Diego de Gardoqui* (1977), by Luis Sanguino. Diego de Gardoqui served as Spain's minister to the United States until his death in 1798.



You are now on beautiful Logan Square. We'll visit the "circle within the square" and its glorious fountain on the way back up the Parkway. For now, continue along the North side of the Parkway.

- The gallant statue in front of you is Robert Laessle’s memorial to *General Galusha Pennypacker* (1934). At the age of 22, Pennypacker was the youngest general to serve in the Civil War.



- Behind General Pennypacker, on Vine Street between 18th and 19th Streets, is the Family Court Building. (John T. Windrim, 1939) With its neighbor to the west, the Free Library of Philadelphia, they resemble twin palaces on the Place de la Concorde in Paris.



- At 19th & the Parkway, you can’t miss Alexander Stirling Calder’s *Shakespeare Memorial* (1928). The inscription reads: “All the world’s a stage, and all the men and women merely players.” (from Shakespeare’s *As You Like It*)



- Immediately behind the “players” is the Parkway Central Library - the heart of the 54-branch Free Library of Philadelphia system. Home to some 7 million items, Parkway Central sees more than 1 million visits each year. Soon, the Beaux-Arts building will feature a state-of-the-art expansion. (Horace Trumbauer, 1927)



- Cross 20th St., and look to the left to see the *Civil War Soldiers Memorial* (1921) by Hermon Atkins MacNeil. (Its twin is on the other side of the Parkway.)



Proceed west on the Parkway.

- On your right, between 21st and 22nd Streets, you'll see the sleek Barnes Foundation. The renowned Barnes collection moved from Merion, PA to the Parkway in Spring 2012. In addition to one of the finest collections of French Impressionist, Post-Impressionist, and early Modern paintings in the world, you'll find a 5,000 sq. ft. changing exhibition space, an auditorium, classrooms, a café, and a gift shop. A must see. (Tod Williams and Billie Tsien, 2012)



- One of the most famous sculptures in the world awaits you at the corner of 22nd & the Parkway: *The Thinker* (1925), Auguste Rodin.



- Just behind this iconic sculpture is The Rodin Museum, which houses the largest public collection of works outside of Paris, by French sculptor Auguste Rodin. With extraordinary works of art and a spectacular garden, the Museum offers a calm retreat from the hustle and bustle of the city. The powerful *Gates of Hell* stand at the Museum's entrance. Inside, visitors will discover casts of many of Rodin's best-known sculptures, as well as maquettes, drawings, and waxes.



(Note: the amazing and eerie Eastern State Penitentiary is not included in this 2.4 mile walking tour, but it is just 5 blocks north from this spot, at 22nd & Fairmount Ave. Be sure to visit!)

- Two blocks further on your right, you'll find the bright red abstract Mark di Suvero sculpture, *Iroquois* (1983).



Turn right at 25th St. - a slight detour off the Parkway proper.

- *Joan of Arc* (1890), by Emmanuel Fremiet, sits gleaming atop her horse at 25th St.



Proceed Northwest towards the corner of Fairmount & Pennsylvania Ave.

- On that corner, you'll see the exquisitely preserved Art Deco facade of the Philadelphia Museum of Art's Raymond G. & Ruth Perelman Building. (Zantzinger, Borie & Medary, 1926) The building is beautiful inside and out. With museum admission, you will see a variety of engaging exhibitions.



Stand on the steps of the Perelman Building, facing South.

- You will see the main building of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, sitting majestically on the hill. To get there, you can walk up the hill, take a shuttle from the Perelman Building, or walk around to the front of the main building and run up the famous steps! Inside, you'll find 200 captivating galleries, and over 225,000 works of art. There are striking Renaissance master paintings, elaborately carved stone altarpieces, and entire period rooms and architectural settings from around the world. Allow lots of time to explore! (Horace Trumbauer)



- Leave the Art Museum building via the East side, and you will immediately encounter *Prometheus Strangling the Vulture* (1943), by Cubist sculptor Jacques Lipchitz.



- At the top of the steps, you will also see a statue of General "Mad Anthony" Wayne, Pennsylvania's greatest Revolutionary War hero, by John Gregory (1937).



- Take some time to gaze east, and admire this beautiful view of the flag-adorned Benjamin Franklin Parkway, all the way to Philadelphia's City Hall.
- At the bottom of the steps (made famous in "Rocky"), you will encounter the fictional Philly boxer Rocky Balboa himself. *Rocky* (1980) was created by A. Thomas Schomberg.



After visiting Rocky, face east, and cross over (at the crosswalk!) to the center of the Parkway.

- This area is known as Eakins Oval (pronounced "ay-kins"), in honor of renowned Philadelphia painter Thomas Eakins.

- On the west end of Eakins Oval is an amazing monument to the nation’s first president. *The Washington Monument* (1897) was created by Rudolf Siemering. Thirteen steps lead up to the multi-tiered monument. The main focal point of the statue is Washington himself, depicted sitting on his horse. At the 4 corners of the platform are fountains, with reclining allegorical figures representing four rivers: the Delaware, Hudson, Potomac, and Mississippi. Each corner is marked by the placement of pairs of animal sculptures: moose, elk, buffalo, and bulls.



- The Washington Monument is flanked by twin fountains designed by the architects of the Philadelphia Museum of Art: Horace Trumbauer, C. Clark Zantzinger and Charles L. Borie, Jr. They are dedicated to Eli Kirk Price, Jr. (who spearheaded the development for the Parkway) and to scientist/inventor John Ericsson, respectively.

Walk to the east end of Eakins Oval, and cross via the 2 crosswalks over to the North side of the Parkway. (There is no safe crosswalk at this spot over to the South side.) At 22nd Street, cross the Parkway to the South side. Head east for 2 blocks.

- At 20th St, you’ll see the grand façade of the Franklin Institute. Founded in 1824, this Philadelphia institution features three floors of interactive science exhibitions, a Planetarium, 3D and IMAX Theaters. Their goal is inspiring a passion for learning about science and technology in everyone. Explore and enjoy now, or return later!



- Inside the Franklin Institute, you’ll enter a rotunda featuring the imposing *Benjamin Franklin National Memorial* (1938) by James Earle Fraser.



At the corner of 20th & the Parkway, cross at the crosswalk to Aviator Park, the park area adjacent to the front steps of the Franklin Institute.

- The brilliantly gilded *Aero Memorial* (1950), by Paul Manship, is dedicated to the aviators who died in World War I. The bronze sphere is held by the reclining figure of a woman, and adorned with images representing the signs of the zodiac, along with inscriptions of the names of constellations and planets.



- Another major work of note in Aviator Park is the *All Wars Memorial to Colored Soldiers and Sailors* (1934), by J. Otto Schweizer. At the top of the artwork the "torch of life" is depicted guarded by four eagles. On the front side six soldiers and sailors flank the allegorical figure of Justice who holds symbols of "Honor" and "Reward".



- You'll also find additional temporary art installations, thanks to Moore College of Art + Design.

Walk to the Southeast corner of Aviator Park, and cross over to the South.

- You'll be greeted by the abstract *Isadora* (2001), by Joe Mooney.



- Directly in front of you will be the Moore College of Art + Design, a vibrant arts college educating artists and designers for careers in the visual arts. Moore is an exciting cultural and educational destination for visitors and residents alike. The Galleries at Moore (and their changing exhibitions) are free for visitors, and The Art Shop is accessible from the outside *and* inside of the building.



Walk east to the next building.

- You can't miss the dinosaur sculpture, *Deinonychus* (1987), by Kent Ullberg, followed by Samuel Murray's sculpture of acclaimed researcher *Joseph Leidy* (1907).



- The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, at 19th & the Parkway, was founded in 1812, and is the oldest natural history museum in the Americas. The wonder of the natural world comes to life for visitors of all ages through hands-on exhibits, live-animal shows, video presentations, dynamic speakers, special workshops, classes, and evening programs with environmental themes.



Using the crosswalk directly in front of the Academy, cross over to the park in the middle of Logan Circle.

- The magnificent *Swann Memorial Fountain* (1924) was created by Alexander Stirling Calder as a tribute to Dr. Wilson Cary Swann, founder of the Philadelphia Fountain Society. The fountain sculpture consists of three large Native American figures symbolizing the area's major bodies of water. The young girl leaning against an agitated swan represents the Wissahickon Creek, the mature woman holding a swan's neck symbolizes the Schuylkill River, and the male figure reaching to grasp his bow - the Delaware River. The fountain is on Spring-Fall, and is visible from both ends of the Parkway.



Cross back over to the South side of the Parkway, and walk east.

- The Four Seasons Hotel is on your right, at 18th & the Parkway. It's an elegant spot for dining, accommodations, meetings, and pampering in their spa.



- A statue of Polish military genius *General Tadeusz Kosciuszko* (1979), by Marian Konieczny, appears to be guarding the hotel.



Continue walking east up the Parkway – the tour is almost finished!

- Just past the Embassy Suites, at Cherry St. & the Parkway, look to your right to see *Tuscan Girl Fountain* (1965), by Oskar Stonorov and Jorio Vivarelli.



- At the intersection of 16th & the Parkway (at Arch) is the stirring *Monument to the Six Million Jewish Martyrs* (1964). Sculptor Nathan Rapoport depicted figures of men, women, and children intertwined with flames, which suggest the shape of a menorah. You may see small stones at the base of the monument, which are often placed there as symbols of Holocaust remembrance by visitors.



When you cross over 16th St. to LOVE Park, you have officially ended this tour. There's so much more to see in the Parkway Museums District, though, so grab a treat at Café Cret, and head out again!