

# Pittsburgh Travel Guide

The Best Things to See & Do



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# Pittsburgh Travel Guide

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## 1. Foreword

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania is my adopted hometown. It is at the heart of Steelers country with many wonderful people, a reasonable cost of living, beautiful scenery and it was voted most livable city, and top 5 most livable city, several times.

Pittsburgh is a fascinating city and definitely worth a visit. Since I live here since 2003, I have put together a fairly extensive list of the best things to see and do so that you can make memorable moments in Steel City.





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## 2.1 Disclaimer

In this guide I am doing my best to give you the most accurate information. Over time, however, prices, times, and even attractions are subject to change. Therefore, I and backpackandsnorkel.com cannot be held responsible for the experiences of users while traveling. I strongly suggest that you write or call the attractions you plan to visit for confirmation when you make your travel plans.

Also, please stay alert, be aware of your surroundings and keep an eye on your belongings. Pickpockets and other criminals can easily ruin even the best planned vacation.

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## 3.1 General Information of Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh is the largest city in southwestern Pennsylvania with a population of approx. 300,000. The City of Pittsburgh is surrounded by numerous boroughs and townships and the combined population of the metropolitan areas is 2.3 million.

Pittsburgh is known as the “Steel City” and the “City of Bridges”.

Pittsburgh is the “**Steel City**”, because at one point, in 1911, Pittsburgh produced more than half of all the steel in the United States. During World War 2, it was one third and the steel mills were running 24h a day.

Pollution of the environment was unbelievable and in 1868, James Parton called Pittsburgh being "hell with the lid off".



Photo Sources:

University of Pittsburgh / Pittsburgh City Photographer Collection, 1901-2002, AIS.1971.05

University of Pittsburgh / Smoke Control Lantern Slide Collection, ca. 1940s-1950s

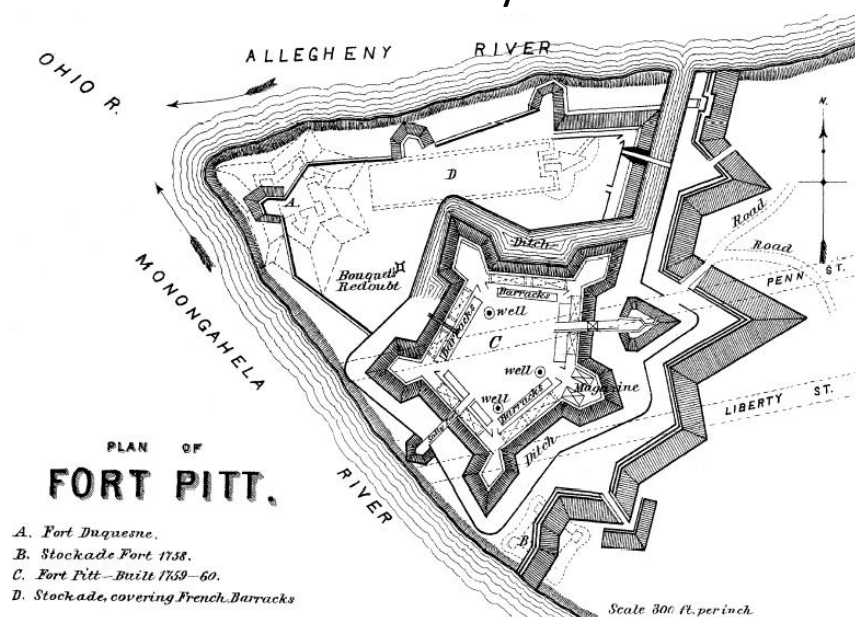
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**May 28, 1754:** Colonel Joshua Fry with his second-in-command, George Washington, led an expedition towards Fort Duquesne. Outside Pittsburgh, Washington's unit clashed with the French in the Battle of Jumonville Glen, starting the French and Indian War. George Washington surrendered after the Battle of Fort Necessity.

**1755:** George Washington and British General Braddock lead an expedition against Fort Duquesne, but are defeated in the Battle of the Monongahela.

**1758:** General John Forbes begins campaign to capture Fort Duquesne. At the battle of Fort Duquesne, Major James Grant and his advance group was massacred at Grant's Hill. The hill was removed in 1912, but Grant Street in Pittsburgh is still where the hill was. Forbes attacked the partially abandoned fort. The French burned the fort and fled.

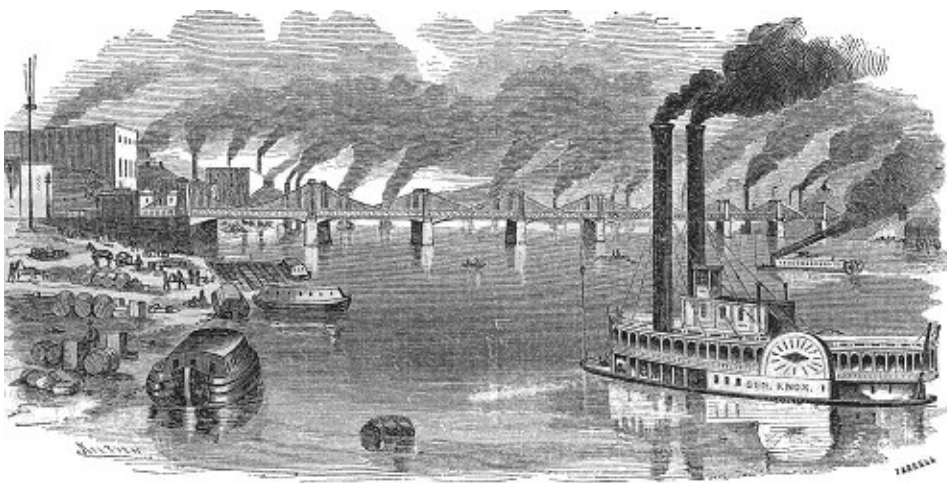
**November 25, 1758:** General Forbes occupies the fort and orders the construction of Fort Pitt, named after British Secretary of State William Pitt the Elder. Forbes later names the settlement "Pittsborough". Fort Pitt was never attacked by the French afterwards.



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**1866:** James Parton wrote about Pittsburgh in The Atlantic: “The town lies low, as at the bottom of an excavation, just visible through the mingled smoke and mist, and every object in it is black. Smoke, smoke, smoke, — everywhere smoke!” and “but if any one would enjoy a spectacle as striking as Niagara, he may do so by simply walking up a long hill to Cliff Street in Pittsburg, and looking over into—**hell with the lid taken off.**”



BRIDGE OVER THE MONONGAHELA RIVER, PITTSBURG, PENN.

**1869:** Westinghouse Air Brake Company founded.

**1870:** Monongahela Incline starts operating.

**1872:** H.J. Heinz Company founded by Henry J. Heinz, the son of a German immigrant.

**August 22, 1875:** Edgar Thomson Works in Braddock produces the first batch of liquid steel using the new Bessemer process.

**1877:** Pittsburgh most affected by Great Railroad Strike of 1877 which leads to Pittsburgh Railway Riots that are suppressed by militia and federal troops - more than 100 train engines and 1000 railcars destroyed.



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## 5.3 West End Overlook Park ([map](#))

While Mount Washington is the most popular up-and-close viewpoint, taking in the Golden Triangle from the confluence in all its beauty is possible from the West End Overlook in Elliott. Some of the most famous pictures of Pittsburgh are actually taken from this park.

The photo explains what some of the main sights are:



## Gateway Clipper River Cruise ([map](#), [reviews](#), [website](#))

A different way of taking in city views is by boat. You can either rent a kayak and paddle on the 3 rivers ([website](#)) or buy a ticket for a Gateway Clipper river cruise. There are different cruises at various times of the day, including adult-only and sunset cruises. The cruises give you the opportunity to see the city from all three rivers and take wonderful photos of the Golden Triangle, the bridges and different neighborhoods.

Please see my detailed review [here](#).



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**#1 Primanti Brothers ([locations](#), [reviews](#), [website](#))** – pronounced: [pir-man-tee]

## Awards

2007: James Beard Foundation Awards: One of "America's Classic" restaurants

2007: Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: List of "1,000 Places to See Before You Die in the USA and Canada"

Founded in 1933, Primanti Brothers' first restaurant ([map](#)) in Pittsburgh's Strip District is still a busy place. The claim to fame for "Primanti Bros." are their signature sandwiches which have grilled meat, melted cheese, tomato slices, oil & vinegar based coleslaw and French fries (!!!) between two thick slices of Italian bread.



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## #2 Grandview Ave ([map](#))

Grandview Ave on top of Mount Washington many of the best views of downtown Pittsburgh and some of the best restaurants in Pittsburgh. There is hardly anything more romantic than eating dinner in one of the Grandview restaurants and seeing the sunset through their large windows.

The four most notable restaurants here are:

### “Monterey Bay Fish Grotto” ([map](#), [reviews](#), [website](#))

This is one of the more expensive restaurants in Pittsburgh with two-level seating that ensures that most guests can see the Golden Triangle from their table. As the name implies, Monterey Bay Fish Grotto is mostly known for their seafood and the more than 10 fish species they feature every night. But they also have good steaks and salads. Monterey Bay Fish Grotto is located in a tall building and the restaurant is one of the highest vista points in Pittsburgh. When you arrive, don't be confused by the unassuming entrance. There is nothing but an elevator that takes you up to the restaurant and when the doors open, you will be in another world.



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## “Andy Warhol Museum” ([map](#), [reviews](#), [website](#))

The Andy Warhol Museum, opened in 1994 in a converted industrial warehouse, is one of Pittsburgh’s four Carnegie Museums and the largest museum in North America dedicated to a single artist - Pittsburgh-born pop art icon Andy Warhol.

The museum’s exhibits are featured on 7 floors, consisting of 17 galleries, 77 sculptures, 900 paintings, over 1,000 published unique prints, almost 2,000 works on paper, 4,000 photographs, and more than 4,300 films and videotaped works.



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### **“Carnegie Museum of Natural History” ([map](#), [reviews](#), [website](#))**

The Carnegie Museum of Natural History was founded in 1896. It is in the top 5 natural history museums in the US and its collection holds approx. 22 million specimen, of which about 10,000 are on display. The museum has the world's largest collection of Jurassic dinosaurs. You can see the world's first specimen of a Tyrannosaurus rex, one of the very few fossil skeletons of a juvenile Apatosaurus, and a fairly recently identified species of oviraptorosaur, called Anzu wyliei.

But the star of the collection and mascot for the museum is Dippy! Dippy is a composite Diplodocus skeleton and probably the single most famous single dinosaur skeleton in the world. This is because Andrew Carnegie donated numerous plaster casts of the skeleton, which is on display since April 1907, to major museums around the world in the early 20th century and they are still on display. All are copies of Pittsburgh's Dippy.

In 1999, for the 100th anniversary of the discovery of Dippy, a fiberglass sculpture of Dippy was unveiled in front of the Carnegie Institute and Library complex. It weighs 3,000 pounds, is 22ft tall and 84ft long. Dippy has been known to carry the Pittsburgh Steelers' “Terrible Towel” and a mask during the Covid-19 pandemic. Dippy is sometimes called the “star-spangled dinosaur”, as it was discovered on Independence Day.



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## **“Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum” ([map](#), [reviews](#), [website](#))**

Soldiers and Sailors is the largest memorial in the United States dedicated solely to honor all branches of military veterans and service personnel.

Originally conceived in 1905 by the Grand Army of the Republic, a national organization composed of Civil War veterans, to honor American Civil War veterans, it was built on the army mustering ground during the Civil War. The Memorial houses a vast collection of rare and personal items from the Civil War to today's military conflicts. In 1963, the museum established the "Hall of Valor" which honors individual veterans from the region who went above and beyond the call of duty. It now has over 600 honorees.





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- Meadowcroft Historic Village – In four recreated historic buildings, you can experience everyday 19th century rural life



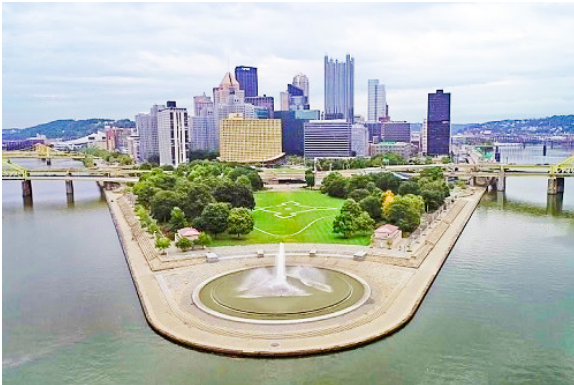
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## **“Point State Park” ([map](#), [reviews](#), [website](#))**

Point State Park is a 36 acre (150,000m<sup>2</sup>) park located at the confluence of Pittsburgh’s three rivers and at the tip of Pittsburgh’s “Golden Triangle”. Historically, this area was called the “Forks of the Ohio”. It commemorates and preserves the strategic and historic heritage of the area during the French and Indian War (1754-1763).

The French first built Fort Duquesne near the tip. Its outline is today shown by brick pavers. Later, the British razed Fort Duquesne and built Fort Pitt nearby. The Fort Pitt Blockhouse is the oldest remaining building in Pittsburgh from that time. Please see my [history section](#) for more information.



By the 1930s the tip of Pittsburgh was covered with warehouses and railroad yards and by 1945 property values were in free fall. To make matters worse, the Manchester Bridge (over the Allegheny River) and the Point Bridge (over the Monongahela) both met at the point and there was simply no room for the necessary interchange that was needed to handle the high traffic volumes.



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### **“Allegheny County Courthouse” ([map](#), [reviews](#), [website](#))**

The Allegheny County Courthouse is an active courthouse and visitors must go through a metal detector and purses, backpacks and luggage are subject to search.

It was designed by H. H. Richardson who was one of "the recognized trinity of American architecture". It is built in the “Romanesque Revival style”, an architectural style founded by and named after H. H. Richardson, who referred to the building as his "great achievement". The Courthouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1976. Richardson’s design was considered innovative because the building was built around an interior courtyard which allowed natural light and fresh air into most of the building.

The courtyard is surrounded by four stories on three sides and the 4<sup>th</sup> side has a five story tower. The steep roofs have dormers at the corners. The use of large granite blocks for the walls and wide arches over entrance ways and windows give the building a dignified appearance.

Across the street, a prison is connected to the courthouse via the "Bridge of Sighs", whose design is based on the Bridge of Sighs in Venice.

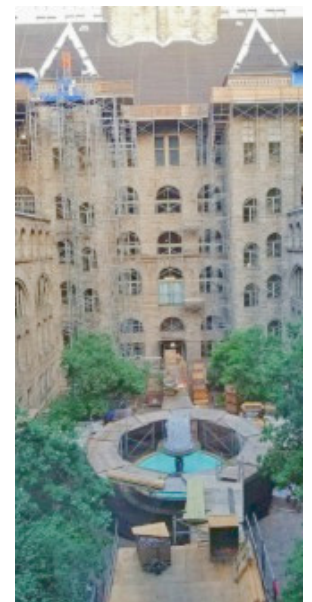
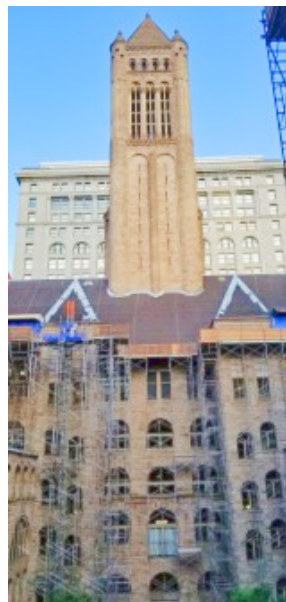
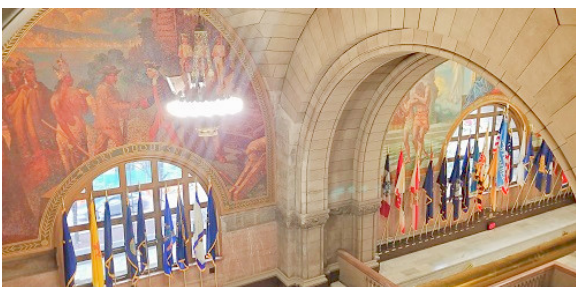
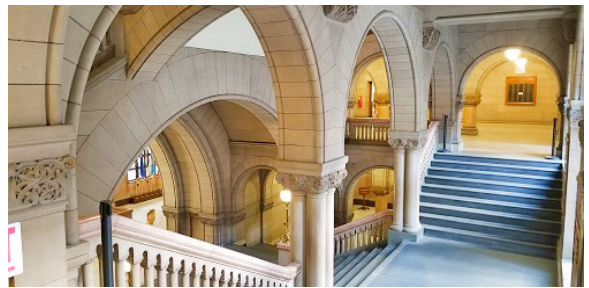


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In 1912, when Grant's Hill was leveled, the street level in front of the Allegheny County Courthouse was lowered too. Richardson had accounted for that and buried finished masonry underground which was now revealed. To allow people to access the now elevated grand entrance, a stairway was built. In the 1930s, however, it was removed during street widening. The solution that was found left the grand entrance in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and extended the lower doorways in the basement to the street level. That means that you now enter the building through what used to be the basement.

In 1937, five murals were painted on the first floor. They are: "Fort Duquesne", "Industry", "Justice", "Peace", and "The Battle of Grant's Hill".



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The courthouse that you see today is Pittsburgh's third courthouse and the second in this location. Pittsburgh's original courthouse stood at Market Square from 1818 to 1841 and was replaced by a second courthouse at the location where the current courthouse stands in 1841. When the second courthouse burned down in 1882, it was demolished and the current structure was built and completed in 1888.

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### **“former Chinatown” ([map](#))**

Pittsburgh used to have a small Chinatown, but it exists no more. All that is left is the Chinatown Inn. Should you be craving for authentic Chinese food or Chinese grocery stores, there is help. But before we go there, let's take a step back in time.

After the 1848 Gold Rush in California and the transcontinental railroad was built, waves of Chinese migrated east towards Pittsburgh as there was a high demand for laborers. By 1900, the Chinese population was estimated to be 180. Laundries and restaurants were the main businesses they operated.

Many settled in the area of Second Ave and Third Ave between Ross St and Grant St. There were two competing gangs, the “On Leong” and the Hip Sing”. There were skirmishes in the 1920s and 1930s known as the “Tong Wars” which were making Chinatown a dangerous place. In the 1920s, the Chinese population was at its peak of about 500 and Chinatown even had its unofficial mayor who spoke English and negotiated on behalf of the Chinese community, which often only spoke Cantonese, with city officials.

Chinatown's downfall was the construction of the Blvd of the Allies and parking lots starting in 1921 which slowly but surely squeezed out most of the Chinese residents of this area.

In 1959, only 30 Chinese residents were left.

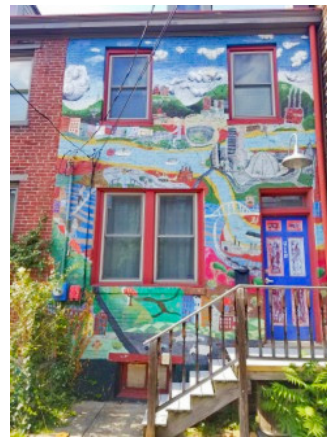
The only traces left today are the Chinatown Inn restaurant and the Hong Kong Express 2.

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Then go back to Monterey St and continue south for a few feet until you come to Sampsonia Way. Now, take the next left on narrow Sampsonia Way. You will soon cross two of the Mattress Factory buildings. The Mattress Factory is definitely worth a visit. Please see my review [here](#).

Soon after, you will see a house with a large mural to your left. To the right of it is a house with brown wooden siding and Chinese written all over. This is the City of Asylum House Poem and the inscriptions are Chinese Poems and come from Huang Xiang who is seen as one of the greatest Chinese poets in the 20th century; he is also a master calligrapher. His work is banned in China.



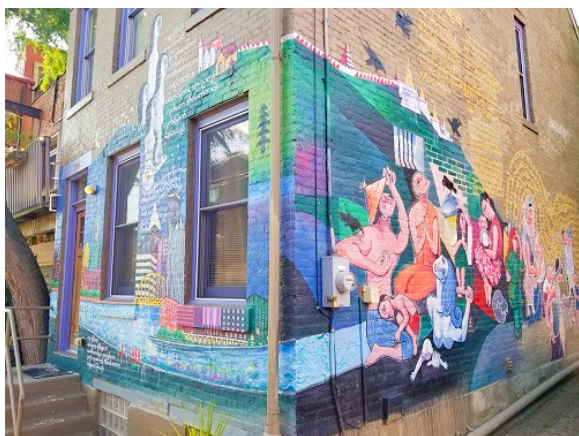
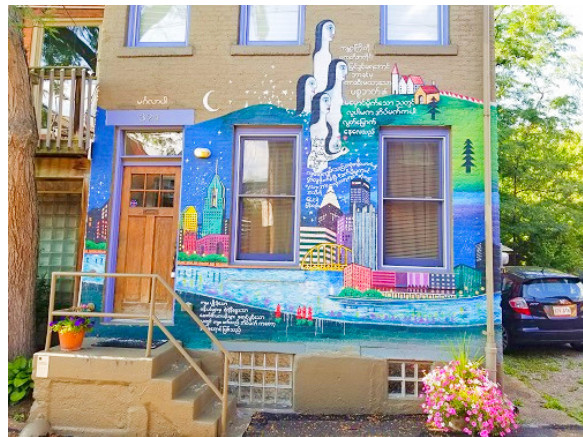
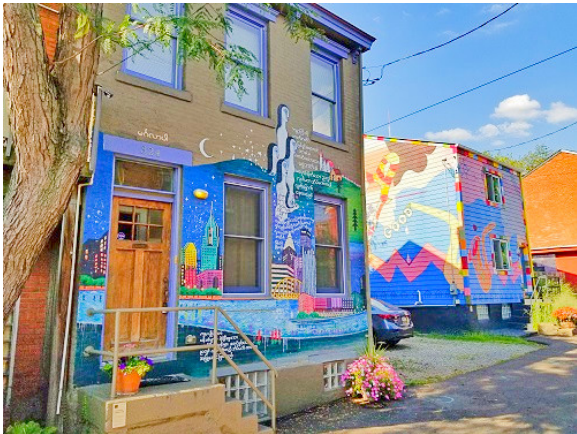
By now, you are probably asking yourself what is the “City of Asylum” ([website](#)).

Established in 2004, the City of Asylum is a nonprofit organization which houses writers that were exiled from their home countries because of their controversial writings. City of Asylum helps establish a visa and provides free housing, health care and access to social services for up to four years. As of 2020, the sixths writer is being supported.



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Another beautifully painted house, the City of Asylum Jazz House, is the next house.

This mural was created by Than Htay Maung and Oliver Lake, a jazz saxophonist and composer, who organized the first Jazz Poetry Concert with City of Asylum in 2005 and years after. He has performed at these concerts with different jazz ensembles.



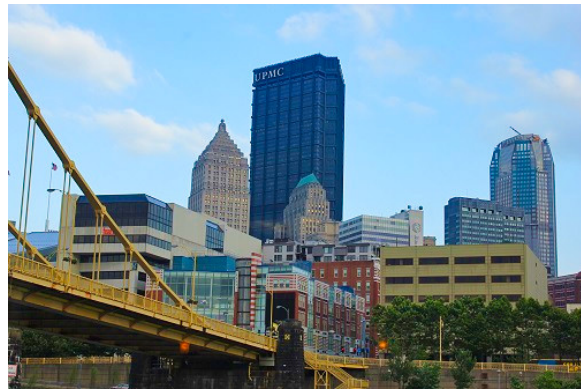
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## “Gateway Clipper Fleet” ([map](#), [reviews](#), [website](#))

The Gateway Clipper Fleet is a Pittsburgh staple since 1958. Named after Pittsburgh, which was known as the "Gateway to the West", the fleet of riverboats currently has six ships which probably makes it the largest inland riverboat fleet in the US.

Moored at Station Square, the Gateway Clipper Fleet offers many different types of cruises on Pittsburgh's three rivers throughout the day. From sightseeing cruises to dinner cruises and themed music cruises to day trips and chartered cruises, they all offer fantastic views of the Golden Triangle and Point State Park with the majestic fountain. I have done many different cruises and I particularly like sunset dinner cruises with live music. For the casual visitor with kids or for travelers who are short on time, 1h sightseeing cruises during daylight are some of their best-selling cruises.



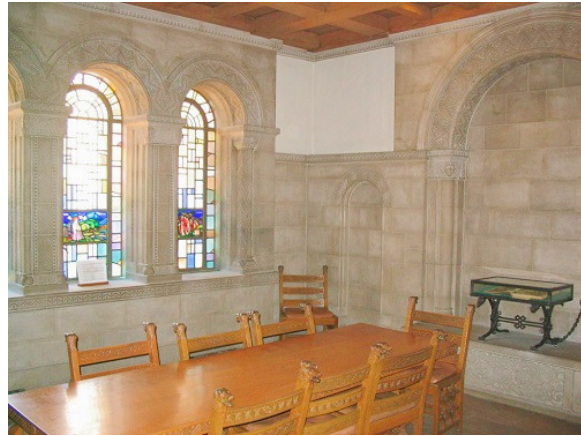
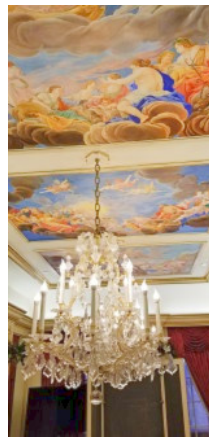
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The classrooms are available for tours every day. You can either join a guided tour (needs 2 week advanced notice) or do a self-guided tour. There are very helpful audio tape players available for rent from the gift shop on the first floor.

When school is in session, then you can only tour the rooms that are not currently used for classes. During weekends and school holidays, the rooms will be locked, and you can get the key from the gift shop.

I love the Nationality Rooms and strongly recommend visiting those if you have time.



### **11 Self-Guided Walking Tour of the Golden Triangle – Downtown Pittsburgh**

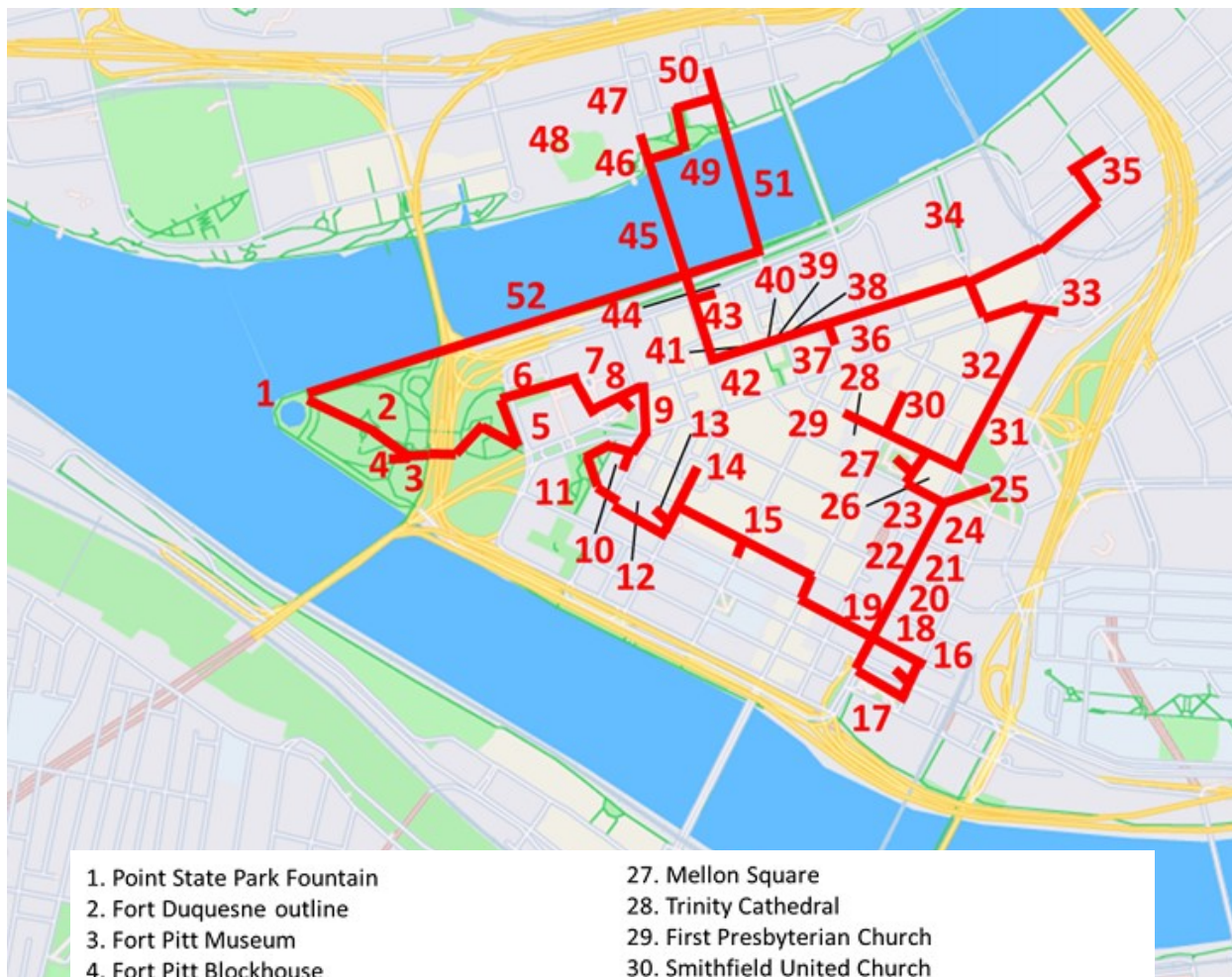
Pittsburgh's Golden Triangle is very walkable and many attractions are within walking distance from each other. This self-guided walking tour covers the highlights in architecture, history and culture. I have chosen the fountain in Point State Park as the starting and end point as it kind of symbolizes Pittsburgh's emergence from the "hell with the lid taken off" to a modern metropolis.

Since parking near Point State Park can be a hassle, feel free to start the tour at any point along the route that I describe on the next pages.

The Self-Guided Golden Triangle Walking Tour is approx. 6 miles long and will take you all day as it includes several museums. There are several options to shorten it and I will let you know when this is possible so that you can either drive to some attractions or simply skip them.



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1. Point State Park Fountain
2. Fort Duquesne outline
3. Fort Pitt Museum
4. Fort Pitt Blockhouse
5. Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown
6. Gateway Plaza Fountain
7. One, Two, Three Gateway Center
8. Gateway Station
9. Fifth Avenue Place
10. Four Gateway Center
11. Gateway Center
12. One PPG Place
13. Plaza at PPG Place
14. Market Square
15. Fourth Avenue Historic District
16. Chinatown Inn and Hong Kong Express 2
17. Firstside Park
18. Grant Building
19. One Oxford Centre
20. City-County Building
21. Allegheny County Courthouse
22. Frick Building
23. Union Trust Building
24. BNY Mellon Center
25. BNY Mellon Green
26. Omni William Penn Hotel

27. Mellon Square
28. Trinity Cathedral
29. First Presbyterian Church
30. Smithfield United Church
31. U.S. Steel Tower
32. Gulf Tower
33. David L. Lawrence Convention Center
34. Senator John Heinz History Center
35. Cell Phone Disco
36. Benedum Center for the Performing Arts
37. 7th and Penn Parklet
38. Agnes R. Katz Plaza
39. Theater Square
40. O'Reilly Theater
41. Heinz Hall
42. Byham Theater
43. Byham (Fulton) Theater Mural
44. Roberto Clemente
45. Roberto Clemente Statue
46. Willie Stargell Statue
47. PNC Park
48. Allegheny Landing
49. Andy Warhol Museum
50. Andy Warhol Bridge
51. Allegheny Riverfront Park
1. Point State Park Fountain

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## 1. Point State Park Fountain ([map](#))

Located at the tip of Pittsburgh's "Golden Triangle" where the Allegheny River and the Monongahela River form the Ohio River, Point State Park is a 36 acre (150,000m<sup>2</sup>) park. It commemorates and preserves the strategic and historic heritage of the area during the French and Indian War (1754-1763).

Formerly covered with warehouses and railroad yards, heavy traffic from the Manchester Bridge (over the Allegheny River) and the Point Bridge (over the Monongahela) met here. This area fell in decline after World War II and was redeveloped into what you see today. Point State Park officially opened in 1974 when the construction of the iconic fountain was completed. The fountain is operated from 7:45am until 10:00pm every day from early May through the end of October. The system uses a total of 880,000 gallons of water and the pumps push the water up to 150ft in the air. This is accented by lights inside the 200ft diameter basin.

The fountain is also the western terminus of the Great Allegheny Passage, whose 350 mile trail starts in the Georgetown area of Washington, DC.

More information about Point State park can be found [here](#).





# Pittsburgh Travel Guide

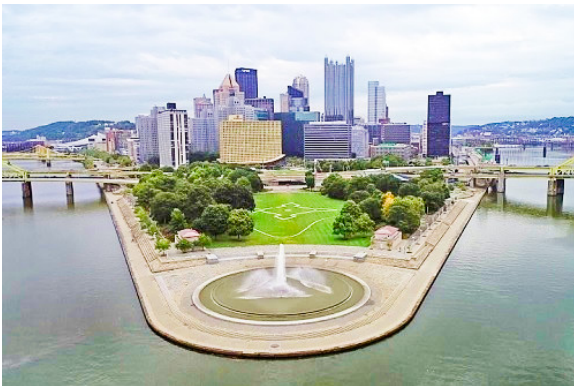
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## 2. Fort Duquesne outline ([map](#))

Walk approx. 320 ft from the fountain toward the highway overpass into the center of the grassy area and you will discover brick pavers in the ground. These pavers depict the outline of Fort Duquesne.

Duquesne is pronounced like Doo-Kane or /du:'keɪn/.

This fort was established by the French in 1754 after repelling the English who had started building Fort Prince George in this location only two months earlier. When challenged by the English, the French were able to hold onto Fort Duquesne, but eventually destroyed it in 1758 when the much larger English army under General Forbes marched towards it in the French and Indian War.



## Pittsburgh Travel Guide

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- **Investment Building**, 239 Fourth Ave (built in 1927) ([map](#)) – originally the Insurance Exchange Building, this neo-classical skyscraper copied the style of the nearby Arrott and Benedum-Trees Buildings.



- **Arrott Building**, 401 Wood St (built in 1902) ([map](#)) – Named after James Arrott who was the “Bathtub King of Pittsburgh”. His company Standard Manufacturing Co, which was one of the predecessor companies of American Standard, is known for building popular enameled iron bathtubs. This Historic Landmark is currently being converted into a hotel.



## Pittsburgh Travel Guide

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In 1912, the street level in front of the Allegheny County Courthouse was lowered when Grant's Hill was leveled. Richardson had accounted for that and buried finished masonry underground which was now brought back to daylight. To allow people to access the now elevated grand entrance, a stairway was built. In the 1930s, however, streets were widened and the stairway had to be removed. The solution that was found left the grand entrance in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and extended the lower doorways in the basement to the street level. That means that you now enter the building through what used to be the basement. In 1937, five murals were painted on the first floor. They are: "Fort Duquesne", "Industry", "Justice", "Peace", and "The Battle of Grant's Hill".

More information about the Allegheny County Courthouse can be found [here](#).





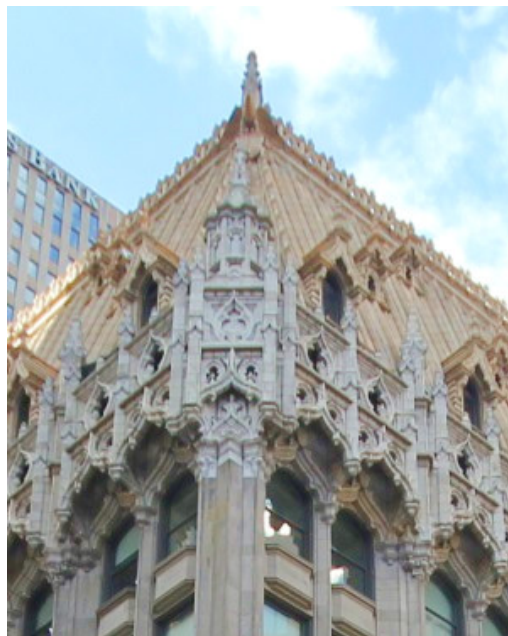
# Pittsburgh Travel Guide

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## 23. Union Trust Building ([map](#))

On the same side of Grant St in the next city block to the north is the Union Trust Building. This Flemish-Gothic building was built by Henry Clay Frick 1916. It was originally designed to be a shopping arcade and called “Union Arcade” with 240 stores and galleries. The mansard roof has terra cotta dormers and two chapel-like mechanical towers on the top. The interior features an 11 story atrium with a stained glass skylight. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is currently under renovation.

I particularly love the architectural details of the ornate roof structure.



## Pittsburgh Travel Guide

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### 39. Agnes R. Katz Plaza ([map](#))

Cross Seventh St and you come Agnes R. Katz Plaza.

Named in honor of local arts supporter Agnes R. Katz, this central feature of the Cultural District is dominated by a 25ft bronze fountain and eyeball-shaped benches. The fountain has two streams of heated water that spout from the top and that allow it to flow all year.

The park also has 32 linden trees that were planted closely together in double rows so that the branches can be woven with each other.





# Pittsburgh Travel Guide

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## 40. Theater Square ([map](#))

Adjacent to the park on the same side of Penn Ave is Theater Square. The building is blue on one side and orange-brown on the other.

Theater Square is the heart of the Cultural District since 2003 and it houses:

- Centralized box office - one-stop shop for Cultural District tickets
- Greer Cabaret Theater - 253 seats, shows are e.g. Wine Flights, Beer Schools, salsa dancing and improv comedy
- Backstage Bar – featuring late night cabaret, live music, food and specialty drinks
- Parking garage – 790 parking spaces





## Pittsburgh Travel Guide

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### 41. O'Reilly Theater ([map](#))

Keep going west on Penn Ave and the next building with the rounded metal roof is O'Reilly Theater.

O'Reilly Theater is a 650 seat theater which opened in 1999 and was designed as a home for the Pittsburgh Public Theater theatrical company.

Previously on this site was the Mercantile Library Hall, a multipurpose library, lecture, and music hall which was built in 1866. The Mercantile Library Hall then became the Bijou Theatre and was demolished and converted into a parking lot after the 1936 St. Patrick's Day flood.



## Pittsburgh Travel Guide

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### 42. Heinz Hall ([map](#))

Keep walking west on Penn Ave for a few feet. The main entrance of Heinz Hall is at the intersection with Sixth St.

Heinz Hall is a theater and concert hall, the home to the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and it has a grand main lobby that is particularly impressive.

The building is located on the site of the former Exchange Hotel where Charles Dickens and his wife stayed for 3 days in 1842. In 1927, the hotel was replaced with Loew's Penn Theatre which was eventually abandoned in the 1960s. After an extensive renovation where much of the grandeur of the movie theater was restored, the building reopened as Heinz Hall in 1971.

More information about Heinz Hall can be found [here](#).



## Pittsburgh Travel Guide

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### 46. Roberto Clemente Statue ([map](#))

After you have crossed the bridge, you will see the 12ft bronze statue of Pittsburgh Pirates right-fielder Roberto Clemente in front of the Center Field entrance. This statue was moved here from the old Three Rivers Stadium.

Clemente is beloved in Pittsburgh for his baseball talent and for giving back to the community. He was very involved in delivering relief packages to Managua, Nicaragua after a massive earthquake. After learning that corrupt officials diverted packages, he decided to accompany a relief flight on New Year's Eve 1972. The plane crashed in the Atlantic Ocean due to being overloaded and mechanical problems. Roberto Clemente's body was never recovered.

He was an All-Star for 13 seasons and the "NL MVP" in 1966, the "NL Batting Leader" in 1961, 1964, 1965, and 1967, he won the "Gold Glove Award" for 12 consecutive seasons from 1961 to 1972 and he was a two-time World Series champion. Roberto Clemente was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1973 as the first Latin American and the first Caribbean player.





# Pittsburgh Travel Guide

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## Hartwood Acres ([map](#), [reviews](#))

Hartwood Acres is an Allegheny County Park. If you plan on hiking here, I recommend downloading the Allegheny County Parks app and, within the app, downloading the map of this park for offline use.

Even though the app hangs at times and may need to be restarted, it shows you all the blazed trails and its GPS function shows you exactly where you are on the trail. This park has the worst trail marking in any park that I have ever seen and there is no data signal for your cell phone most of the time. I can almost guarantee that you will get lost, so please download the app and the trail map so that you find back to your car.

The website with interactive maps, PDF maps and links to the app is [here](#).

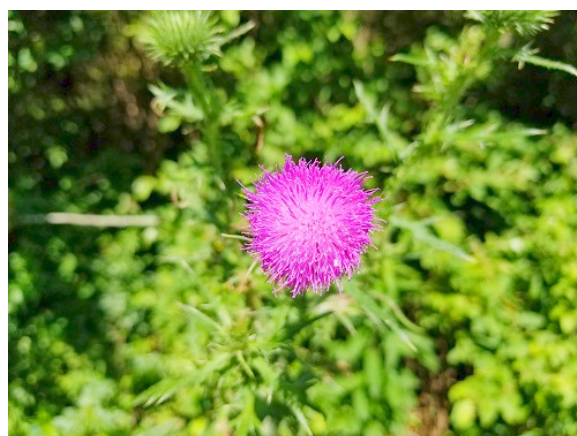
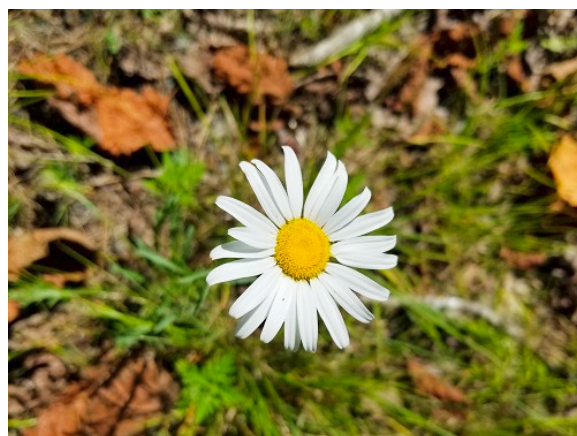
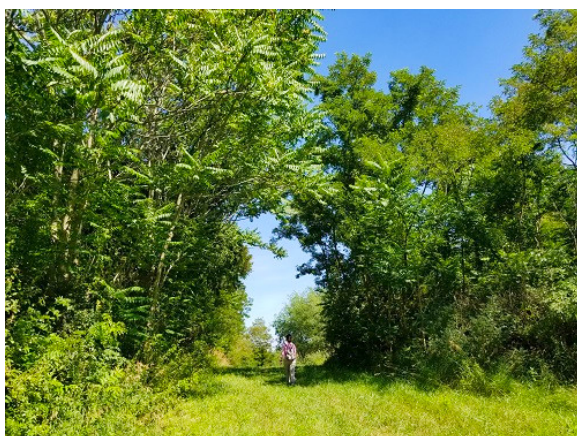
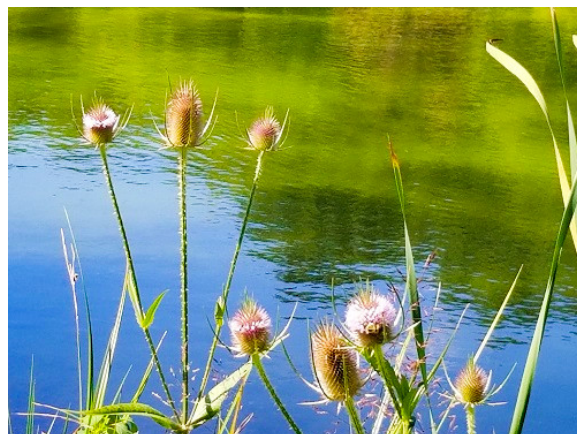
Hartwood Acres is a 629 acre (255 ha) park since 1969 and sometimes called the crown jewel of Allegheny County parks. Besides being a beautiful park, Hartwood Acres has a large and spectacular Tudor style 1929 mansion, an English style formal garden, and a stable complex. The mansion, that you can visit if you register at least 1 day in advance [here](#), houses a collection of original English and American antiques. The park itself is also home to several art sculptures.





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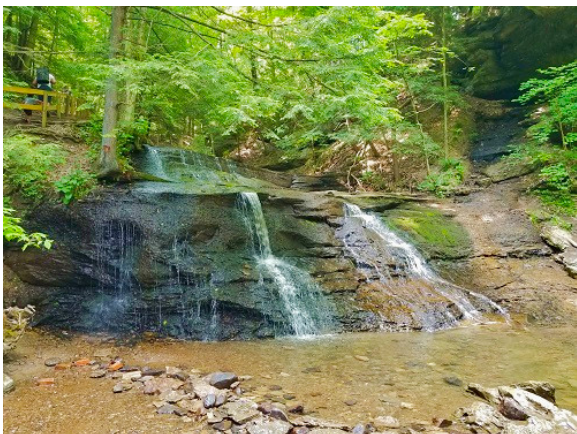
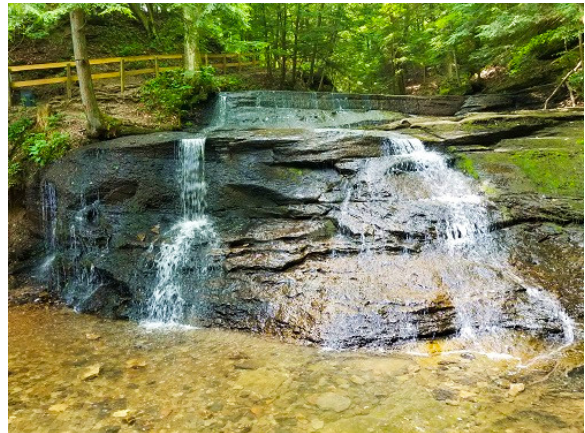
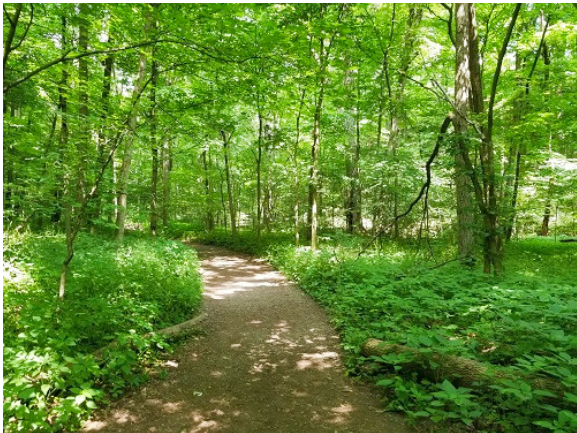
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## Trail 2: Hell's Hollow Trail

Hell's Hollow Falls are probably the most beautiful falls in McConnells Mill State Park. The trail is easy and wide and you will see lots of children here. It is about 0.5 miles to the falls and then the same 0.5 miles back.

Head down to the trail parking lot ([map](#)) and take the trail. After about 500ft (150m), Hell's Hollow Trail branches off to the right over the wooden bridge, while the Slippery Rock Gorge Trail, that will eventually bring you to the mill, continues straight.

While it is possible to get close to the falls without getting wet, you may want to bring towels or bathing suits for your kids. While you can't swim there, kids will have lots of fun playing in the water.





# Pittsburgh Travel Guide

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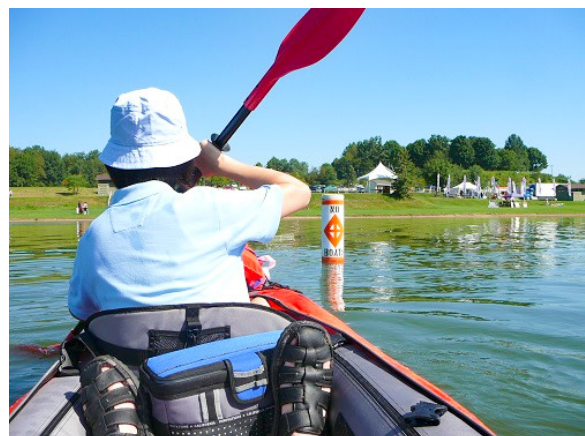
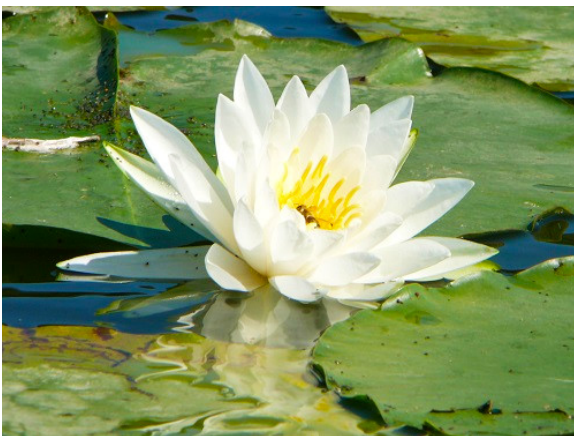
## Moraine State Park ([map](#), [reviews](#), [website](#), [park map](#))

Moraine State Park, opened in 1970, is a 16,725 acre (6,768 ha) Pennsylvania State Park and one of "25 Must-See Pennsylvania State Parks".

Its main feature is man-made Lake Arthur. There are two swimming beaches and the lake is popular for kayaking, sailing and fishing. Boats up to 20 HP are allowed on the lake.

Picnicking, hiking, horseback riding, hunting and skiing in winter are other popular activities.

The park has a marina and several boat launches. We like Moraine State Park for kayaking as the lake is comparably large. We typically launch our kayak here ([map](#))



# Pittsburgh Travel Guide

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One of the lesser known destinations in North Park is the Fountain of Youth ([map](#)). It was built in 1938 as “a springhouse designed as a grotto typical in every detail of a Roman cavern” for a natural spring. There are a few parking spaces along the road and the unmarked trail is about 100ft (30m) long. Be aware that the trail starts out with a steep descent to a small creek.

In 1953, the pump failed and two years later it was determined that the little water that still flowed was not suitable for human consumption anymore. Today, the Fountain of Youth is dry and has graffiti inside.

