

# **A County-by-County Guide to Our Favorite Main Streets in the Philly Suburbs**

Plus: Three buzzing boroughs to hit during your trip.

[Regan Fletcher Stephens](#)

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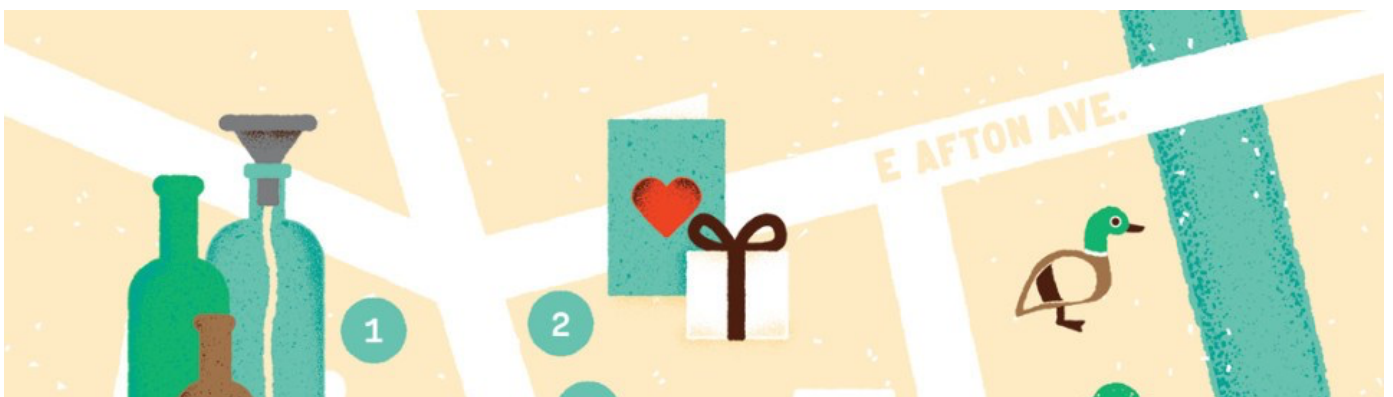


State Street in the very walkable downtown Media / Photograph courtesy of Media Business Authority

The burbs are tops when it comes to shoppable, walkable streets. Here are some of the best. Plus: Three buzzing boroughs to hit during your trip!

## Bucks

## Yardley







Yardley / Map illustration by James Olstein

1. [Yardley Refillery](#) • For the sustainable shopper with its buy-in-bulk household necessities, from shampoo to tea.
2. [Krysset](#) • A Best of Philly-winning lifestyle boutique

known for its artisan and local housewares, greeting cards, and self-care goods (think Summer Fling soap).

3. [\*\*Vault Brewing Company\*\*](#) • A mainstay, consistently putting out tasty brews (try Dead Cat Bounce, an IPA) and food, and setting the scene with live jazz on Fridays and Saturdays.

4. [\*\*Yardley General & the Cellar\*\*](#) • Known for its craft cocktails, like the spicy pickle martini and the strawberry coconut marg, made using spirits from [\*\*Botanery Barn Distilling\*\*](#) in Chesco.

5. [\*\*Kawaii Tori Sushi\*\*](#) • A delicious dinner spot when you're craving a roll or five — there are also non-sushi items like spicy kani salad.

6. [\*\*Commonplace Reader\*\*](#) • Yardley's first official bookshop, filled to the brim with titles for all ages, including from local authors. Post up on the porch with your newly purchased read.

7. **Wawa** • A tiny Wawa, so good for those who can't buck tradition.

8. [\*\*Yardley Ice House\*\*](#) • Slinging a daily menu of water ice and frozen custard — the orange creamsicle flavor sounds mighty refreshing on a hot day.

9. [\*\*Mil-Lee's Diner\*\*](#) • A recently updated popular breakfast and brunch spot known for its neighborhood vibes and solid fare.

10. [\*\*Pure Eco Wellness Salon & Spa\*\*](#) • A holistic studio complete with sound gardens and a Power Nap treatment on



an antigravity chair that will boost your energy before you explore the village.

## Borough Buzz: New Hope



Storefronts in New Hope / Photograph by Anthony Sinagoga

Flock like an A-lister to this artsy Bucks County enclave, [now a destination for the well-heeled](#) — and the super-famous. (Residents include Bradley Cooper and the Hadids; Leonardo DiCaprio and the Biebers have been recently spotted ambling down the streets.) While you *can* make this a day trip, we suggest staying the weekend to really live the high life. Stay at the ritzy [River House at Odette's](#) (rooms from \$199), a riverside hotel with a great restaurant (go here for brunch), piano lounge, and private rooftop bar. Tip: Make use of the hotel's free bike rentals and take a ride along New

Hope's scenic towpath. Catch a show at [Bucks County Playhouse](#), the historic theater that has played host to legends; the summer roster includes a cabaret show and musicals. Shop at [Ditto Vintage](#), a super-curated secondhand store that counts Bella Hadid as a customer, and [the Meanings of Things](#), a gorgeous shop carrying jewelry, home decor, and gifty goods. And don't miss New Hope institutions like [Love Saves the Day](#), a quirky, jam-packed vintage emporium, and [Farley's Bookshop](#). Grab a quick snack or lunch from one of the 13 food vendors at [Ferry Market](#), and enjoy dinner at the [Salt House](#), a cozy restaurant located in a circa-1751 stone building, or on the deck of [Stella](#), Ghost Light Inn's farm-to-table restaurant. Been there, done all that? Walk across the bridge to Jersey, where you can check out Lambertville's quaint shops and art galleries, and end the night with a drink at the [Boat House](#), a tiny, hidden-gem cocktail bar tucked off a side street.

## **Borough Buzz: Bristol**





Bristol / Photograph via Visit Bucks County

Bristol Borough doesn't look much like it did 10 years ago. The waterfront Bucks County borough — a separate political entity from Bristol Township, in which it sits — has been undergoing a veritable renaissance ever since officials beat out 14,000 other small towns across the country to win the \$500,000 Main Street Makeover contest in 2017. "On a Friday night ... the streets were packed, bustling," borough [politico Bill Pezza reminisced](#) to CBS News after he heard about the big win. Eight years later, the streets are, in fact, bustling. On weekend nights, townsfolk and well-dressed diners from the surrounding area pack into Best of Philly-winning [Jules at Market](#) for seafood towers, smoked trout pâté, and 32-ounce tomahawk steaks (preorder one when

you make your reservation). Those in pursuit of a more casual meal head over to [Itri](#) for wood-fired and Detroit-style pizzas. And the cocktail crowd converses in booths at [Daddy Tom's](#), a speakeasy-inspired lounge. Up the street, [Bristol Riverside Theatre](#) offers a wide range of productions (this month, look for an adaptation of an Agatha Christie tale), while just a few blocks away, couples in search of a romantic setting find it at Bristol Riverside Park, which saw docks added with funds from that \$500,000 prize, providing easy waterfront access for boaters. You can absolutely do Bristol in a day trip, which might be best until later this year, when a boutique hotel is promised. But if you really want to stay, the [Lily Inn](#) (rooms from \$126) B&B is across the river in Burlington. On your way home, don't miss the [Bristol Amish Market](#) for the things you'd expect — and then some — and [the Forager](#), a specialty foods shop offering all the cheeses and charcuterie you can imagine.

## **Delco**





A street scene in Media / Photograph courtesy of Visit Media

## Media

Dubbed “everybody’s hometown,” Media earns the title with a downtown that feels as friendly as a block party — especially on Wednesday nights from May through September, when the borough shuts down State Street for [Dining Under the Stars](#) and the whole town is invited for dinner. Grab a sidewalk table at [Desert Rose](#) for chicken shawarma, or swing by 320 Market to load up on sandwiches. Catch a show at the historic [Media Theatre](#) or browse indie shops, including [Magic Threads](#) for vintage gems and [Three Potato Four](#) for design-forward home goods.

## Ridley Park

Just a few miles from the [John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum](#), Ridley Park is home to a tiny Hinckley Avenue hub with plenty of outsized Delco swagger. Start your morning at [Ardour Bakery](#), a bright cafe where the chocolate croissants go fast. Pick up a potted tropical plant at [Ridley Park Florist](#). And if you want to fully soak up the local color, do what at least one star of HBO's *Mare of Easttown* did and pull up a barstool at [Dolan's](#), a neighborhood hangout since the '50s. Pair your pint with owner Pat Dolan's Amish beef smashburger.

## Borough Buzz: Havertown







Shades of green at Plant Roots

At first blush, Havertown might seem as suburban as suburbia gets. But to the trained eye, it's a quaint community flush with one-of-a-kind shops, modern dining, and ample greenery. If you have only an afternoon to discover its charms, head straight to Brookline Boulevard. There you'll find [Plant Roots](#), a woman-owned houseplant outpost conveniently connected to ultra-cozy bookstore and java shop the [Bookery Coffeehouse](#). And right across the street sits [Novita Boutique](#), a women's clothing store offering youthfully stylish pieces. Those seeking something indulgent should stop by [Centrella's Deli](#) for a hoagie or [Koffmeyer's](#)



for ice cream and a fresh cookie; both spots have been around since the '70s. Make time for a leisurely walk through Havertown's natural spaces — it has a glut of prime trails and parks. Start at the [Grange Estate](#): The Gothic Revival mansion with Victorian-style gardens is open to the public year-round; a picnic under one of the grand magnolia or copper beech trees could be the highlight of your summer. From there, you can access the [Haverford Heritage Trail](#), looping past some of the area's historic sites, like [Nitre Hall](#), a former powder mill. Elsewhere in town, check out new establishments like [the Wildflower Collective](#). Photographer Rachel Roshani opened the multipurpose community space for women in May 2024, offering workshops and events. Then there's [Hendren House](#), an interior design studio and shop where you can purchase furniture, decor, art, and lighting to take back to your city abode. Close out the day with a tray full of attentively smoked meats and stick-to-your-ribs sides from [Sophie's BBQ](#), a family-owned spot and recent addition to Havertown's food scene.

## Chesco



State Street in Kennett Square / Photograph by G. Widman for Visit Philly



## Kennett Square

The Mushroom Capital of the World has a town center that feels like the set of a Hallmark Channel movie. Head for State Street, where you can grab a pour-over at [Philter Coffee](#) and then a slice from [Nomadic Pies](#). At lunchtime, stop for an Italian hoagie from [Sam's Sub Shop](#), a local legend for more than 75 years. Stock up on gifts inspired by the unofficial town mascot at [the Mushroom Cap](#) before grabbing a scoop of [La Michoacana](#)'s sweet corn ice cream. And for a special night, [Talula's Table](#) delivers a farm-to-fork tasting experience worth the effort of booking far in advance.

## West Chester

The red-brick sidewalks of this charming college town lead the way to stellar restaurants, cafes, and shops. On High Street, pop into [Éclat Chocolate](#), where world-renowned chocolatier Christopher Curtin crafts exquisite truffles and caramels. Peruse the herbs and teas at [Prana House](#), then head toward Gay Street, stopping at [Pine + Quill](#) for chic gifts. Plan ahead for a dinner at [Andiario](#), where chef Anthony Andiario transforms hyperlocal ingredients into exquisite meals.

## Montco





A packed house at Ardmore Music Hall / Photograph by Karl McWherter/Visit Valley Forge

## Conshohocken

The one-square-mile borough's population [has boomed in recent years](#), with new residents drawn by easy access to the city and a robust community calendar that shuts down the main drag several times a year for events. But Fayette Street buzzes even without any official celebration. Locals fuel up with strong brews at cozy coffee shop [Morning Talk Cafe](#). Browse Eagles gear at [Sanctuary Blu](#), crystals at [Thirteen Circles](#), and locally made crafts at [the Artist's Loft](#). And for dinner, try [Blackfish](#), a BYOB with standout seafood.

## Ardmore

Ardmore is anchored by the bustling stretch of Lancaster Avenue where independent shops, restaurants, and live music converge. Head to [Eshkol Ethiopian Cuisine & Cafe](#) for spongy injera, then catch a show at [Ardmore Music Hall](#), which draws national acts and tribute bands. The whimsical [pucciManuli](#) toy store is a favorite for curious kids, while the [Junior League Thrift Shop](#) is a haven for vintage lovers.

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