

PITTSBURGH ITINERARY

THINGS TO DO IN PITTSBURGH IN 1, 2 & 3 DAYS



PITTSBURGH ITINERARY: THINGS TO DO IN PITTSBURGH IN 1, 2, 3 DAYS

Looking for the best things to do in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania? Look no further! We wrap up the top attractions and fun activities into a perfect 3-Day Pittsburgh Itinerary.

The historic city is rooted in industry, but there is much more to Pittsburgh than its gritty past. In fact, balancing the past and the present is one of the things that Pittsburgh does best. Landmark sights, modern museums, iconic architecture and innovative cuisine are just a few of the top experiences that we pack into our Pittsburgh trip plan.

ABOUT OUR 3 DAY ITINERARY FOR PITTSBURGH

Designed in an easy-to-follow, day-by-day guide, our Pittsburgh 3-Day Itinerary is ideal for a Pittsburgh weekend trip. It features all the highlights that showcase the best of Pittsburgh.

While we have outlined a plan for three days in Pittsburgh, our itinerary can be used as a base for longer and shorter trips, too. Sightseeing is arranged by district so that visitors with alternate timeframes and interests can easily adjust our suggested Pittsburgh itinerary to jive with their trip.

With our Pittsburgh, PA Itinerary, a good pair of travel shoes and bit of curiosity, visitors can quickly get acquainted with Steel City!

WHAT ARE PITTSBURGH'S NICKNAMES?

Throughout the years, Pittsburgh has earned several nicknames. Steel City is a long-time nickname, which nods to it's history in steel production. City of Bridges, calls attention to the multitude of bridges found in the area (there are 446!). Another nickname, City of Champions, refers to the numerous sports championships won by Pittsburgh sports teams.

The Golden Triangle is the nickname for Downtown Pittsburgh and comes from its triangular shape (bounded by two rivers) and the many banking institutions that dominated downtown during the steel industry heyday.

All that said, many locals simply shorten the name of their hometown to The 'Burgh – which is what you will likely hear it called during your trip.

WHAT IS PITTSBURGHESE?

Pittsburgh residents have their own dialect – called Pittsburghese – which can be both difficult to understand and somewhat humorous. To avoid confusion, there are a few words you should know before you go to Pittsburgh.

Yinz is a word you will see throughout the city, in shops and on t-shirts. Yinz is slang for 'You All' and it is often said with a heavy accent. YINZ GOIN' TO THE GAME TONIGHT?

A Yinzer, on the other hand, is what you call someone from Pittsburgh. HE'S A LIFELONG YINZER.

N'at (or N@) is a conjunction of the two words "And That" and is typically said at the end of a sentence. WE ARE GOING TO THE STRIP TO EAT, DRINK BEER, N'AT.

ARE THERE FREE THINGS TO DO IN PITTSBURGH?

As budget-conscious travelers, we are always on the lookout for free things to do. While there is not an abundance of free activities in Pittsburgh there are a few free or cheap attractions, and we feature them throughout our itinerary.

Furthermore, Pittsburgh is a conglomeration of distinct and interesting districts – and exploring is always free. We highlight the best neighborhoods and walking areas.

ARE THERE THINGS TO DO WITH KIDS IN PITTSBURGH?

Yes, absolutely! There are many things to do in Pittsburgh with kids. Our itinerary for Pittsburgh is not specifically geared toward family travel, but we do include many kid-friendly sights.

WHAT IS THERE TO DO IN PITTSBURGH?

If you are wondering what to do in Pittsburgh, don't worry – the city has something for everyone!

Foodies will delight in The Strip District. Sports fans can cheer on the local team (or their team). History buffs can delve deep into the past at a Pittsburgh museum. Drama lovers are spoiled for choice of theaters in the Pittsburgh Cultural District. And art aficionados will find something at every turn – from street murals to fine art.

We heap all of these fun things to do in Pittsburgh into a succinct 3 Days in Pittsburgh trip plan.

3-DAY WEEKEND IN PITTSBURGH ITINERARY



Our Pittsburgh travel guide includes everything you need to plan your trip! Created with Pittsburgh weekend getaways in mind, our Pittsburgh itinerary can be used for weekday travel, as well.

DAY 1 OF PITTSBURGH THINGS TO DO

KICK OFF YOUR TRIP WITH SOME OF THE ABSOLUTE BEST THINGS TO DO IN PITTSBURGH! NAVIGATE YOUR WAY PAST THE CITY'S BEST BRIDGES, RIDE A HISTORIC CABLE CAR TO AN EPIC VIEWPOINT AND DISCOVER DOWNTOWN – THEN CAP OFF YOUR DAY WITH A CLASSIC PITTSBURGH EVENT!

Top Tip: If you are limited to a single day of sightseeing, these activities are the best things to see in Pittsburgh in one day!

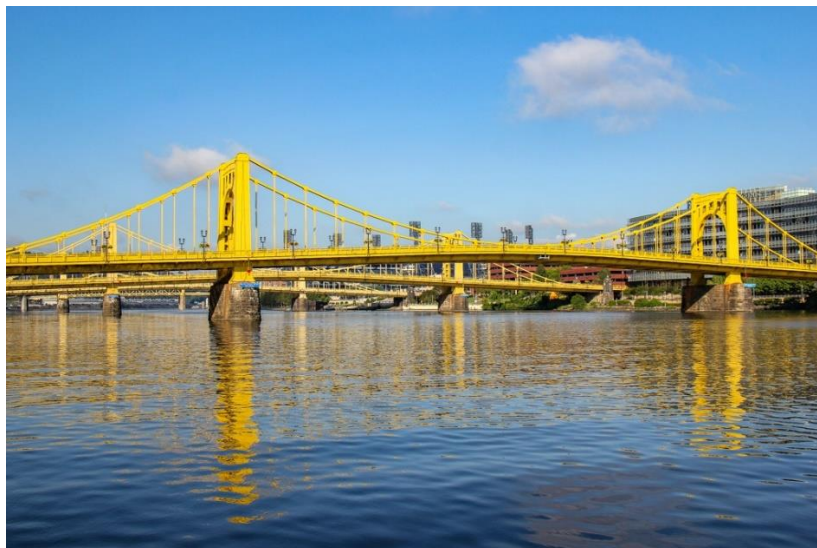
#1 THREE RIVERS HERITAGE TRAIL



Start your Weekend Pittsburgh Itinerary with exploration along the water on the Three Rivers Heritage Trail.

Incorporating 33 miles of paved paths, the trail system lines the waterfront of all three Pittsburgh rivers. For Yinzers, utilizing the recreational paths is one of the best things to do outside in Pittsburgh – but for tourists, it is an ideal way to get an introduction. That said, if you brought your running shoes, the Three Rivers Heritage Trail is a great place for a morning jog!

#2 THREE SISTERS BRIDGES



On the north side of downtown Pittsburgh, spanning the Allegheny River, are three identical bridges, which are best known as the Three Sisters. The suspension bridges were constructed in the 1920s and were engineering feats in their time; now they are Pittsburgh attractions.

Painted Pittsburgh Yellow (officially 'Aztec Gold'), the bridges run north/south and are named after prominent Pittsburgh residents. The Sixth Street Bridge is called Roberto Clemente, the Seventh Street Bridge is named for Andy Warhol and the Ninth Street Bridge bears the name Rachel Carson.

Pro Tip: One of the cool things to do in Pittsburgh is to zig-zag across all three bridges. You can do it now or walk the Three Sisters over the course of your visit.

#3 POINT STATE PARK, FOUNTAIN & CONFLUENCE OF THREE RIVERS



Without a doubt, one of the top things to do in Pittsburgh, PA is to visit Point State Park and the massive fountain. Located at the tip of the Golden Triangle where the three rivers meet – and often just referred to as 'The Point' – the land is steeped in history.

The National Historic Landmark Point State Park was once the site of two forts – Fort Pitt and Fort Duquesne. The forts played a pivotal role in the relations between Native Americans, French colonists and British colonists. While very little remains of the original forts, the brick Fort Pitt Block House still stands in the park. It ranks as the oldest surviving structure in Western Pennsylvania.

Pro Tip: The Point State Park Fountain is an icon of the city. Sitting on the edge and watching water blast 150 feet into the air is a must-do in Pittsburgh!

#4 FORT PITT MUSEUM



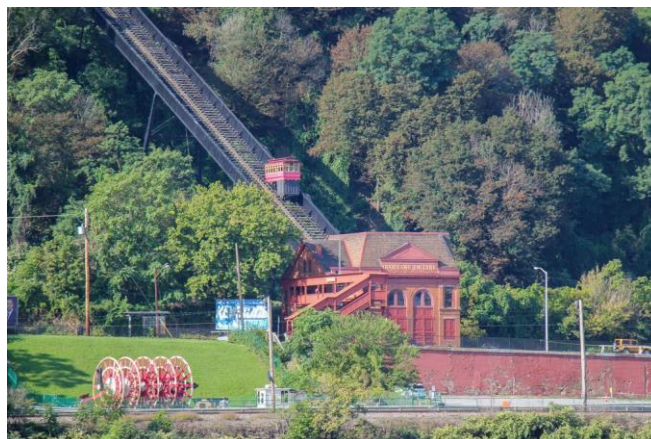
The Fort Pitt Museum is located at Point State Park and utilizes a bastion of the former Fort Pitt.

Ranking as one of the best things to see in Pittsburgh, the history museum details the events of the French and Indian War and other historical conflicts involving Fort Pitt.

Featuring artifacts and informational plaques, visitors gain a better understanding of relationships and disputes over the rights of the territory. We recommend allowing at least two hours to enjoy the museum.

Pro Tip: While this is not one of the free museums in Pittsburgh, the ticket can be used for discounted admission to the Heinz History Center, which we visit on Day 2 of our Pittsburgh Itinerary. So, hang onto your ticket!

#5 MOUNT WASHINGTON



Southwest of downtown Pittsburgh, across the Monongahela River, stands 450-foot-tall Mount Washington. The neighborhood is one of the most visited places in Pittsburgh, due to the outstanding vistas that overlook the downtown Pittsburgh skyline.

We are highlighting the top Mount Washington attractions (the next 4 sights) to help you plan your time in the district.

FT PITT TUNNEL AND BRIDGE



Entering Pittsburgh via the Fort Pitt Tunnel has been dubbed, “The best way to enter an American city,” by THE NEW YORK TIMES – and we wholeheartedly agree! Driving east on Interstate 376, it’s difficult to imagine you’re about to enter a major metropolis. However, at the tunnel’s exit, visitors are practically dropped on top of the city and greeted with an impressive Pittsburgh skyline view.

Pro Tip: Hopefully, your route into Pittsburgh was through the Ft. Pitt Tunnel, but if not, don’t fret. Simply cross over the Fort Pitt Bridge to the first viewpoint. While not as dramatic as driving through the tunnel, the vantage point is still great!

DUQUESNE INCLINE



Dating to 1877 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Duquesne Incline is a Pittsburgh must-see!

The funicular – which has an 800-foot-long track and an elevation gain of 400 feet – was built to alleviate the steep uphill climb to the top of Mount Washington (then called Coal Hill). Although the popularity of automobiles rendered the incline obsolete, local residents rallied to save it from destruction. Today, the Duquesne Incline is still in operation – and riding to the top is one of the fun things to do in Pittsburgh, PA.

WALK GRANDVIEW AVENUE



The Pittsburgh city view from the Duquesne Incline is pretty spectacular, but we think the best views in Pittsburgh are from the various lookout points on Grandview Avenue, the street that runs along the top of Mount Washington.

From the Duquesne Incline Upper Station, a short walk northwest leads to appropriately named Point of View Park.

To the southeast, there are three phenomenal viewing decks: Grandview Overlook, Pittsburgh Skyline Overlook and the Upper Incline Scenic Overlook at the Monongahela Incline (which is how we recommend getting back to downtown). Beyond the Monongahela Incline, Emerald View Park also offers epic views in a lush setting.

Pro Tip: Expand your Pittsburgh sightseeing to a few Grandview Avenue area attractions. St. Mary of the Mount Church is a historic landmark site, and the Shiloh Street Shops are a good spot for a sweet treat, cup of coffee, ice cream or even lunch. Looking for a posh place to dine with a view? Make a dinner reservation at Monterey Bay Fish Grotto, the LeMont, or Altius – some of the best restaurants in Pittsburgh!

MONONGAHELA INCLINE



The Mon Incline was the first passenger funicular railway in the United States, pre-dating the Duquesne Incline by 7 years.

By the early 1900s, there were more than 20 inclines that carried passengers, freight and even motor vehicles up and down the Mt. Washington hillside. The Mon and the Duquesne are the only two Pittsburgh Inclines still in operation.

Utilizing both inclines to visit the top of Mount Washington is definitely one of the unique things to do in Pittsburgh.

Pro Tip: Tickets can be purchased with cash or credit card. There is a roundtrip discount on The Mon Incline (but not the Duquesne). If you ride up one and down the other, you need to purchase one-way tickets for each ride, as the two inclines are run by separate companies.

#6 SMITHFIELD STREET BRIDGE



One of the things we love about visiting Pittsburgh is all the bridges – and the Smithfield Street Bridge that straddles the Monongahela River is a fabulous one!

The current bridge is the third bridge on this site. The first bridge was a wooden river crossing that burned in the Great Fire of Pittsburgh in 1845. The second bridge was built by John A Roebling – the same engineer that built the Roebling Suspension Bridge that connects Covington KY and Cincinnati, OH – as well as the Brooklyn Bridge in NYC. The current Smithfield Street Bridge was built in 1883.

Ranking as the second-oldest steel bridge in the US and the oldest bridge in Pittsburgh, Smithfield Street Bridge is a National Historic Landmark.

Pro Tip: The Smithfield Street Bridge is one of the most trafficked bridges in the city. Use it to cross into downtown, where we highlight more top attractions in Pittsburgh.

#7 DOWNTOWN SIGHTSEEING IN PITTSBURGH



Downtown Pittsburgh attractions are best seen on a short walk through the city. The following featured sights are listed in order for an easy Pittsburgh sightseeing trek.

FOURTH AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT



Strolling down the narrow Fourth Avenue under the towering historic skyscrapers is one of the top things to do Downtown Pittsburgh!

PPG PLACE



Visiting the PPG Place complex is one of the most interesting things to do in Downtown Pittsburgh. The buildings were designed in the 80s, centering around a 40-story skyscraper for PPG Industries (formerly Pittsburgh Plate Glass). Nearly 20,000 pieces of glass were used to complete the project, which consists of 6 buildings on 3 city blocks covering 5.5 acres of land and features a popular fountain.

MARKET SQUARE



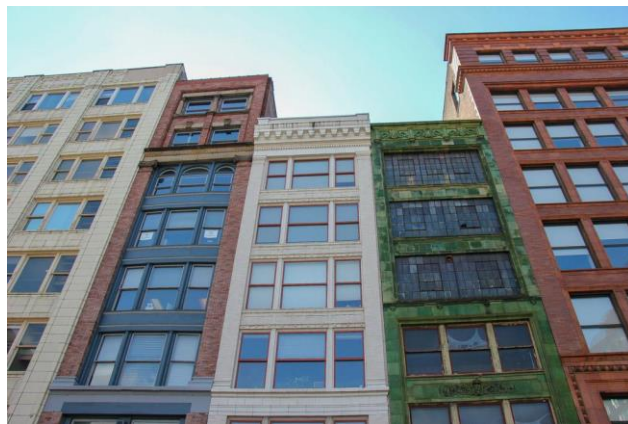
Marking the heart of the city, Market Square is one of the best places to visit in Pittsburgh, PA. Long a hub of activity, the square was once ringed by important structures – like the courthouse, jail, and newspaper office. Today Market Square stands as a social gathering place where visitors can shop, sip and dine.

KATZ PLAZA



Katz Plaza is a unique and interesting square in downtown. The urban oasis features a 25-foot-tall bronze fountain and artistic benches that resemble giant eyeballs. Sitting on one of the eyeball benches is one of the fun downtown Pittsburgh things to do and great photo op!

CULTURAL DISTRICT



A sub-district within downtown Pittsburgh, the Cultural District encompasses 14 blocks – and is known for its high concentration of theaters, art galleries and interesting architecture. The art and entertainment district is rife with fun Pittsburgh activities, like live performances and community events.

Historic theaters – such as the Benedum Center and Byham Theater – have been beautifully restored and are premier places to watch performances in Pittsburgh.

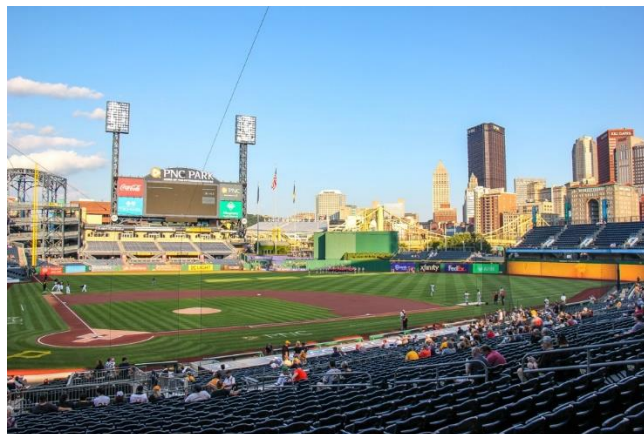
#8 ALLEGHENY OVERLOOK AND POP UP PARK (SEASONAL)



The Allegheny Overlook is an elevated park wedged between the Cultural District and the Allegheny River. Enjoying a leisurely walk through the urban park is one of the things to do outside in Pittsburgh; you can rest in the shade and take in the views across the Allegheny River.

Pro Tip: During the summer months, the overlook coverts into the Allegheny Pop Up Park – complete with food trucks and a beer garden! The park plays host to many of the summertime free activities in Pittsburgh, like on-stage musical performances and community classes. If you trip coincides with an Allegheny Pop Up event, be sure to check it out – it’s one of the fun things to do in Downtown Pittsburgh.

#9 EVENING EVENTS: THINGS TO DO IN PITTSBURGH AT NIGHT



On Day 1 of our itinerary, we have covered some of the best places to visit in Pittsburgh – but there is still more to do! End your first day with an iconic evening event.

PITTSBURGH SPORTING EVENTS: BASEBALL, HOCKEY, FOOTBALL

Pittsburgh is crazy about its sports teams, so naturally, one of the best things to do in Pittsburgh is to attend a sporting event. In fact, watching a game is often a highlight of Pittsburgh weekend trips.

Summertime visitors can catch the Pittsburgh Pirates Baseball Team playing at PNC Park. The ballpark is right here on the north side of the Allegheny.

The Pittsburgh Steelers NFL team plays at Heinz Field in the fall, although tickets can be difficult to come by. The Pittsburgh Penguins NHL Hockey Team takes on opponents at the PPG Paints Arena, located on the east side of downtown.

THEATER PERFORMANCES



Another great night activity in Pittsburgh is to watch a live performance – and there is something for everyone!

Theater productions cover a range of performances from opera to comedy to Broadway plays and rock and roll music. Find a current schedule on the Cultural District website to find a performance to add to your Pittsburgh Weekend Itinerary.

DAY 2 OF YOUR WEEKEND IN PITTSBURGH



ON THE SECOND DAY OF YOUR 2 DAYS IN PITTSBURGH DISCOVER SOME OF THE BEST SIGHTS IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS SURROUNDING DOWNTOWN. START YOUR DAY EXPLORING NORTH SIDE, VISIT A FEW MUSEUMS AND END YOUR DAY IN THE HIP STRIP DISTRICT.

Pro Tip: If you only have 48 hours in Pittsburgh, we recommend following our tips for things to see in Pittsburgh on Days 1 and 2.

#10 COMMONPLACE COFFEE

Take a morning walk in the North Side (do this on day one super early to check it off your list!) – The district is dotted with Pittsburgh top attractions.

That said, ease into the day and start your discovery with a cup of coffee and a pastry from Commonplace Coffee.

The regional coffee shop is a local favorite that extends a warm welcome to visitors, too. Loved for both the delicious coffee and friendly service, it's the best place for coffee in Pittsburgh before your day of exploring.

Pro Tip: While we kick off what to see in Pittsburgh in 2 days at Commonplace Coffee, there are other great coffee shops in the Northside neighborhood! Adda Coffee, Chateau Coffee and Yinz Coffee are three other great spots for a morning cup o' Joe.

#11 MEXICAN WAR STREETS SIGHTSEEING



Step out into the Mexican War Streets – one of the best places to see in Pittsburgh – and get a full dose of the area’s unique charm.

The historic neighborhood dates to the mid-1800s. Originally called Buena Vista, the streets names were all attributed to people and places from the Mexican-American War...and now the district is simply referred to as Mexican War Streets – or MWS.

CITY OF ASYLUM ALPHABET READING GARDEN



The small City of Asylum Alphabet Reading Garden is a quiet respite from city life and is one of the tranquil Pittsburgh, PA things to do. The community garden features benches and nooks to read and rest.

The City of Asylum is a non-profit group dedicated to protecting creative expression, promoting social justice and providing sanctuary to writers who face being silenced.

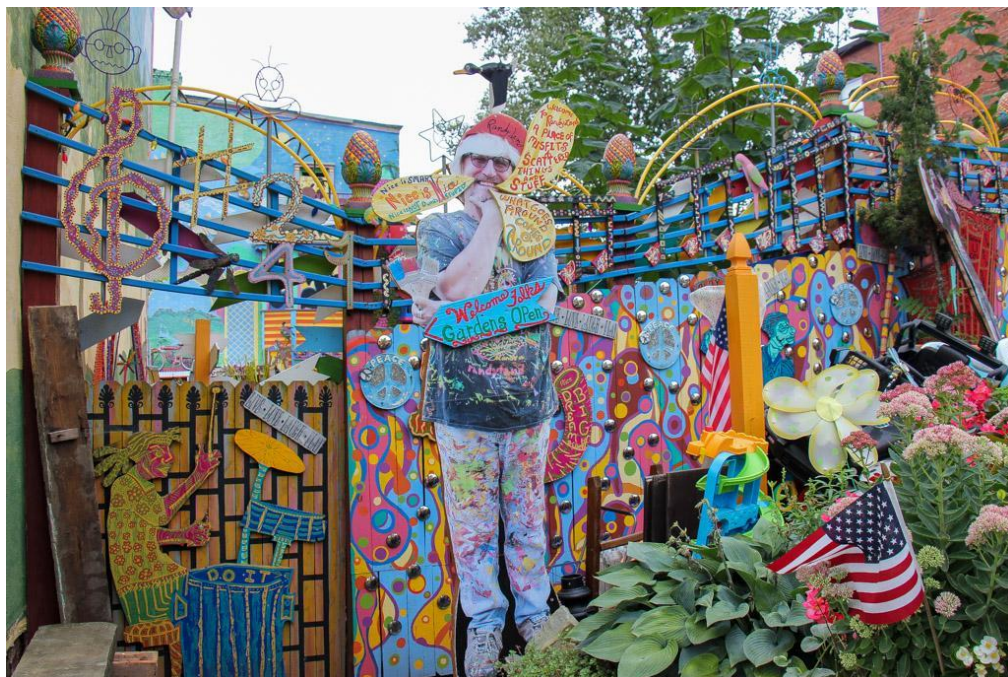
MATTRESS FACTORY

One of the top Pittsburgh tourist attractions, Mattress Factory is a unique and creative modern art museum that takes many visitors by surprise. Multiple forms of art are on display – some of which may push your boundaries of what art is (spoiler alert: none of them are mattresses).

The exhibits are designed by in-residence artists and meant to be thought-provoking and engaging. Travelers looking for stuff to do in Pittsburgh that is a little outside the box should definitely plan on visiting the Mattress Factory.

Pro Tip: Tickets are required and sometimes sell out, so buy in advance. The museum is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.

RANDYLAND

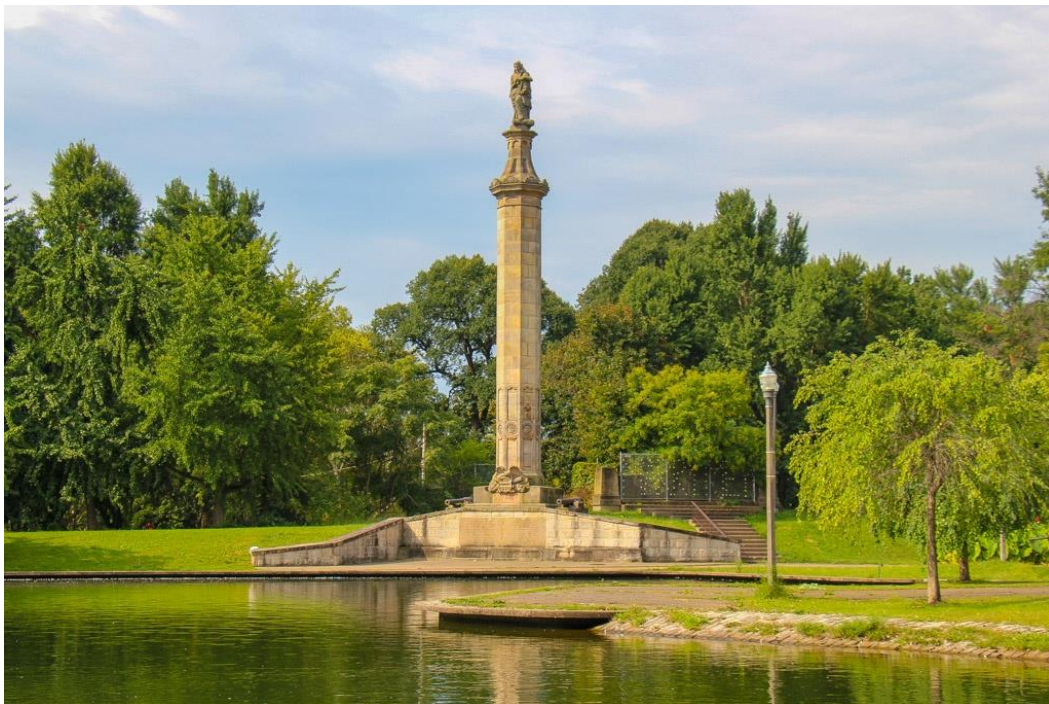


Randyland is one of the cool places in Pittsburgh that you have to see to believe. The house-turned-art museum features the upcycled artwork of owner Randy Gilson.

Colorful, intriguing and sometimes a little weird, the outdoor art exhibits are fun to contemplate – and Randy is often on-site personally greeting guests. Visitors seeking unique attractions should definitely have Randyland on their Pittsburgh To Do list.

Top Tip: Randyland is one of the free museums in Pittsburgh, but opening hours are a bit random (usually daily from noon until 5pm).

#12 ALLEGHENY COMMONS



Want to know where to go in Pittsburgh for some fresh air and exercise? Allegheny Commons Park!

The expansive Allegheny Commons is one of the best green spaces for outdoor activities in Pittsburgh. Created in 1867, it the oldest park in Pittsburgh.

Fountains, monuments and statues dot the landscape that is crisscrossed by tree-shaded walking paths. Strolling through the quiet commons is one of the things to do in Pittsburgh for couples.

Pro Tip: Pittsburgh attractions located within (or near) the park include the National Aviary and the Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh.

#13 FEDERAL GALLEY

Dining at Federal Galley is one of the top things to do in Pittsburgh! The unique food hall hosts four up-and-coming chefs before they branch out to open their own restaurants.

The spacious eatery has both indoor and outdoor seating – as well as a fun beer garden.

Pro Tip: In addition to the excellent eats, Federal Galley hosts events – like live music and beer specials – so check out their calendar to see what is on offer!

#14 DEUTSCHTOWN

Deutschtown is a National Historic District in North Side that has strong German roots. The area has a mix of mainstays (like Max's Allegheny Tavern, an old school German pub and Penn Brewery, Pittsburgh's oldest brewery) and new establishments, as well (like Fig & Ash).

The businesses on Ohio Street are an eclectic mix and it is evident that the neighborhood is being revitalized. If you have time during your weekend trip to Pittsburgh, be sure to stop in the Photo Antiquities Museum on Ohio Street. The shop showcases antique cameras and historic photography.

Pro Tip: The Elk's Lodge in Deutschtown is one of the most popular places to go in Pittsburgh – especially on Wednesday nights when they host a free banjo night! Just be sure to make reservations if you plan to attend, as it does fill up.

#15 MUSEUMS: HEINZ HISTORY CENTER, ANDY WARHOL MUSEUM, CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER



Some of the best museums in Pittsburgh are located along the riverside – and just a short distance from Deutschtown. Our top picks for best Pittsburgh museums in the area are the Heinz History Center and The Andy Warhol Museum. However, family travelers looking for Fun Things To Do Pittsburgh with kids might want to check out the Carnegie Science Center.

SENATOR JOHN HEINZ HISTORY CENTER

The engaging and interactive Heinz History Center features 6 floors of exhibition space, plus an included Pittsburgh sports museum. We think it is a must see in Pittsburgh, PA. Fascinating history is displayed throughout the museum in easy-to-digest exhibits. The historical information relates directly to the development of Pittsburgh and its impact on worldwide events.

The Heinz History Center is one of the fun family things to do in Pittsburgh – but it's truly great for everyone!

Pro Tip: Tickets are on the pricey side, but they are essentially good for entry into 3 museums: The Heinz History Center, the Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum and Fort Pitt. If you already bought a ticket for Fort Pitt on Day 1, hang onto it for reduced admission at Heinz History Center.

ANDY WARHOL MUSEUM

The Andy Warhol Museum is one of the top attractions in Pittsburgh, PA. It ranks as one of the largest museums in the world dedicated to a single artist. The museum celebrates the life, art and legacy of the Pittsburgh native. For fans of contemporary art, it's a Pittsburgh must do.

Exhibits feature Warhol's art, as well as his personal affects. Not only does the museum tell the story of the life of Andy Warhol, but it also traces the artist's influence on pop culture.

Pro Tip: Visitors receive discounted admission on Friday evenings; check their website for details!

CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER



The engaging and interactive Carnegie Science Center boasts more than 400 fascinating exhibits. A must do Pittsburgh attraction for families, top exhibits at the Science Center include Roboworld (all things robotic), a planetarium, a submarine.

#16 SIGHTSEEING IN THE PITTSBURGH STRIP DISTRICT



The Strip is a destination for Pittsburgh shopping, eating and having fun! For travelers enjoying Pittsburgh vacations, we recommend spending at least a couple of hours hanging out and grazing on local fare in the revitalized district.

The history of The Strip District dates to the early 1800s when factories and mills lined the Allegheny riverside, making for easy shipping and transportation of products. In the 1900s, manufactures moved into the spacious warehouses. As transport hubs shifted, much of the area was left abandoned by the 2000s.

Today, however, the historic market district is once again thriving. Restaurants, bars and breweries have moved into the spaces – as well as tech companies and start ups...and residents, too.

PENNSYLVANIA MACARONI COMPANY



In 1902, Augustino, Salvatore and Michael Sunseri formed the company that is now known as the Pennsylvania Macaroni Company. They started out by manufacturing pasta and it was not easy, as it never is. Even a devastating fire that might have knocked the life and determination out of many did not stop the Sunseri brothers.

With incredible guts and will, they rebuilt the store and soon pasta manufacturing blossomed into olive oil and spice retailing along with offering specialty food products and Italian cheeses. Everyone near and far will tell you to experience this legendary Italian tradition for yourself!

ROBERT WHOLEY & CO SEAFOOD MARKET

Known locally as Wholey's, the Robert Wholey Seafood Market was established in the Pittsburgh Strip District in 1912 – and is still going strong today. The bustling market is fun for a look at the incredible array of seafood goods, but sampling the product is even better. The onsite restaurant makes delectable fish sandwiches, savory lobster bisque and heavenly lobster mac and cheese.

GRANDPA JOE'S CANDY SHOP

Not necessarily a long time Pittsburgh shop, but definitely a fun one, Grandpa Joe's evokes nostalgia with it's aisles of classic candies, chocolates, sodas and old fashioned root beer.

ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA CHURCH



Built in 1891 by a congregation of Polish families, the St. Stanislaus Kostka Church stands as one of the top Pittsburgh places to visit.

The brick church features classic European architecture. Inside, light flows through stained-glass windows, illuminating the murals that decorate the elaborate building.

Pro Tip: The historic church does not charge an admission fee; it's one of the things to do in Pittsburgh for free!

CRAFT BEER AT THE STRIP DISTRICT IN PITTSBURGH



As a central hub of local cuisine, it is not surprising that several Pittsburgh craft breweries have set up shop in The Strip. Sipping some local brews ranks as one of the

best Pittsburgh, PA things to do. With multiple venues within close proximity, it's simple to create your own Pittsburgh brewery bar hop!

We recommend starting at Cinderlands Warehouse, a spacious and industrial brewery with a good range of beers (and cocktails, too).

Next, head over to 1700 Penn Ave where Helltown Brewing produces tasty brews in-house. Also on-site at 1700 Penn Ave is Pennsylvania Libations, a shop that sells wine from regional vineyards. Make a final stop at Aslin Beer Company, where they boast a heavy IPA tap list and a selection of canned brews, as well.

Pro Tip: Although not a brewery, the BeerHive has an extensive list of beers that hail from PA and beyond – plus they have happy hour deals!

DINNER AT PRIMANTI BROS



One of the best things in Pittsburgh is the food – and no Pittsburgh vacation is complete without indulging in a classic Primanti sandwich! Piled high with meat, cheese, coleslaw and fries (yep, fries ON the sandwich!), the decadent sandwich is a Pittsburgh must-eat.

Established in 1933 as a roving sandwich cart in The Strip, Primanti Bros has evolved into one of the iconic Pittsburgh eateries. The original Strip District restaurant features counter-style dining and friendly staff – so, go ahead and belly up. It is one of the fun things to do in Pittsburgh!

DAY 3 OF THINGS TO DO AROUND PITTSBURGH



ON THE FINAL DAY OF YOUR 3 DAYS IN PITTSBURGH TRIP, DISCOVER MORE DISTRICTS: OAKLAND, LAWRENCEVILLE OR SOUTH SIDE FLATS. BEGIN YOUR DAY WITH A FAMOUS BREAKFAST & SEE THE SIGHTS IN THE SCHENLEY FARMS NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT. THEN, SPEND YOUR FINAL EVENING EITHER DRINKING CRAFT BREW IN A CHURCH & DINING IN A COMEBACK NEIGHBORHOOD OR ENJOYING AN EVENING OUT ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE CITY.

#17 OAKLAND PITTSBURGH SIGHTSEEING

Head to one of the best districts in Pittsburgh: Oakland. Home to 3 universities, world-class museums, historic buildings and incredible gardens, Oakland is definitely one of the best Pittsburgh places to see.

Pro Tip: Most of our district discovery focuses on the Schenley Farms National Historic District, which is a sub-district that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

PAMELA'S DINER

Start your day with an exceptional breakfast of crepe-thin pancakes at Pamela's Diner. Established in 1980, Pamela's has expanded to include multiple locations around Pittsburgh. Everyone raves about Pamela's pancakes – even former US Presidents!

Pro Tip: In addition to short stacks, Pamela's offers a full range of favorite breakfast foods – including their famous Lyonnaise potatoes!

SOLDIERS AND SAILORS NATIONAL MILITARY MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL

Standing as a Pittsburgh landmark, the Soldier and Sailors National Military monument honors service members of all branches of the US military.

The memorial was created in 1910 and the museum displays artifacts from numerous US-involved conflicts.

Pro Tip: In addition to the memorial and museum, there is an auditorium for live performances and speeches – so it's always a good idea to check out what is going on before you visit.

CATHEDRAL OF LEARNING

A must-see Pittsburgh sight, the 42-story Cathedral of Learning stands in the center of the University of Pittsburgh Main Campus. Built in the 1920s, the 535-foot-tall building ranks as the second-tallest university building in the world.

Not only is the building itself one of the top Pittsburgh, PA attractions, but the 31 Nationality Rooms housed in the structure are top sights, too. Each room is decorated to celebrate a different culture.

Pro Tip: Visiting the Nationality Rooms is one of the free things to do Pittsburgh, PA!

CARNEGIE CULTURAL COMPLEX

An entire complex of Carnegie cultural institutions is based in Oakland. Founded by industrialist Andrew Carnegie in the late 1800s, the complex houses two Carnegie museums – the Carnegie Museum of Natural History and Carnegie Museum of Art – as well as the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Music Hall.

The colossal Carnegie Museum of Art – or the CMOA – is considered to be the first contemporary art museum in the United States. Visitors can see an array of modern artwork on display.

The Natural History Museum is one of the fun things to do in Pittsburgh for kids (but adults will like it, too!). Dinosaur bones, ancient sea creatures, brilliant gems and wildlife are all on display.

Pro Tip: There are two other Carnegie museums in Pittsburgh – The Andy Warhol Museum and the Carnegie Science Center – both of which are located on the North Shore in Pittsburgh’s Northside (and featured on Day 2 of our Pittsburgh Itinerary outline).

OAKLAND DIVERSITY

Culture is not only found in Oakland Pittsburgh museums – it’s also on the streets. Oakland has a diverse population resulting in eclectic neighborhoods. Simply walking and observing can provide interesting insight into the area and people that live there.

Taking a walk into the streets in North Oakland, for example, will reveal the area’s diverse religions. On a 1.5-mile trek, you can pass by the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral, the Catholic St. Paul Cathedral, the Pittsburgh Chinese Church, the Rodef Shalom Congregation Synagogue and the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh.

Pro Tip: Self-guided neighborhood navigation is one of the fun and cheap things to do in Pittsburgh!

FORBES FIELD REMNANTS

Before PNC Park and Heinz Field, Forbes Field was the stadium where Pittsburgh’s beloved sports teams played...and it was in the heart of Oakland.

Built in 1909, the stadium witnessed some iconic Pittsburgh sports moments. It was where Bill Mazeroski hit the game-winning homerun in the 1960 World Series and the place Babe Ruth hit the final three homeruns of his illustrious career. Forbes Field was also where the Steelers played their first ever games.

Outdated by the 1960s, Forbes Field was demolished in 1971...well, mostly demolished. A section of the outfield wall still stands on Roberto Clemente Drive. It’s definitely one of the cool places to visit in Pittsburgh for sports fans.

Pro Tip: You can also find the last home plate used at Forbes Field. It is enshrined in glass on the floor of Posvar Hall (the building opposite the outfield wall). However, the relic does not mark the exact place where home plate was...as that is in the ladies’ restroom.

PHIPPS CONSERVATORY AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

One of the top sights in Pittsburgh, Phipps Conservatory is comprised of elaborate gardens and beautiful flora exhibits.

The conservatory was established in 1893 and the 14-room glasshouse is a listed on the US National Register of Historic Places. Each room features a different plant habitat – such as the Palm Court, Fern Room, Orchid Room and Tropical Forest Conservatory.

In addition to the themed rooms in the Phipps Conservatory, there are outdoor gardens on exhibit, as well. Visitors usually spend 2 or more hours at Phipps.

SCHENLEY PARK

Dating to 1889, Schenley Park is one of the top outdoor places to visit in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The vast park encompasses 456 acres of land, miles of hiking and biking trails and numerous attractions – like a swimming pool, golf course and poignant memorials.

Pro Tip: The Schenley Overlook (near the tennis courts and disc golf course) provides an impeccable view of downtown Pittsburgh.

#18 AN EVENING OUT IN THE BEST PITTSBURGH DISTRICTS

From Oakland, visitors can either go north into Lawrenceville or cross the Monongahela River into South Side Flats. Both districts host a slew of fun bars and restaurants for evening entertainment.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Lawrenceville is another Pittsburgh district that has been turned around in recent years. The once industrial district is now a thriving hot spot. The neighborhood has an abundance of eateries and bars – so if you are looking to have some fun in Pittsburgh at night, Lawrenceville is a good choice.

For a night on the town, start at Church Brew Works, a former chapel-turned-brewery. Then, head out to Butler Street, the main thoroughfare in Lawrenceville, and find a

place for dinner. Dining choices are robust – from Morcilla (Spanish), Senti (Italian), Burgh’ers Brewing (Burgers) to Frankie’s Extra Long hot dog restaurant!

Pro Tip: Lawrenceville is known for hosting fun and quirky events – like Art All Night and a Cookie Tour – that could be fun to add to your Pittsburgh itinerary!

SOUTH SIDE FLATS

Bohemian and eclectic, the South Side Flats district is a fun place to go in Pittsburgh for indie cafes, dive bars and character.

Start your exploration on East Carson Street – a historic district decorated with Victorian architecture and lined with boutique shops, art galleries and tattoo shops. Swing by Fat Head’s Saloon for craft brews, devour a gyro from Mike and Tony’s Gyro Shop and then knock a few more back at South Side institution, Jack’s Bar!

MORE THINGS TO DO: PITTSBURGH ACTIVITIES



Our Pittsburgh weekend guide highlights the best places to visit in Pittsburgh, PA in 3 days. However, there are a few more attractions and sights that you might want to squeeze into your vacation.

KAYAKING AND CYCLING

Two fun outdoor downtown Pittsburgh activities in the summertime are kayaking and cycling. Visitors can rent kayaks downtown and paddle along the three rivers. Likewise, there are places to rent bikes so that you can pedal your way around the ‘Burgh.

GATEWAY CLIPPER



The Gateway Clipper Fleet offers an array of options for cruising the Pittsburgh waterways! Classic Three Rivers sightseeing boat tours are a relaxing way to see the landscape and learn about the history of Pittsburgh. Sunset and Dinner cruises are loads of fun, too!

PITTSBURGH ZOO

Visiting the zoo is one of the top things to do at Pittsburgh with kids. From polar bears to penguins and lions to alligators, the Pitt Zoo has a dazzling array of animal exhibits and attractions.

THE FRICK PITTSBURGH AND FRICK PARK

The Frick Pittsburgh Art Museum houses exhibits of the Henry Clay Frick Art Collection and has immaculate on-site gardens. The nearby Frick Park is an excellent park with walking trails, picnic areas and a dog park. There is no charge to enter the museum, gardens or park – they are free!

PITTSBURGH BOTANICAL GARDEN

Picturesque and serene, the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden is a wonderful place to spend an afternoon. Trails weave through the park past fields of wildflowers and around a lotus pond.