

Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance Staff's Favorite Attractions

Tom: Take the elevator to the **top of City Hall**

<http://www.phila.gov/property/virtualcityhall/history.asp> . Great views and you're under the statue of William Penn. Enjoy the tiny, creaky elevator ride to the top. Part of the charm.

Quiana: I like going to **South Street** <http://www.southstreet.com/> to look at the odd and little eccentric shops. Usually I get there by the Broad Street line and walk several blocks to about 8th & South Street. From there, we occasionally make our way to **Penn's Landing** <http://www.pennslandingcorp.com/> for a nice stroll alongside the Delaware River. The area is also home to the **Independence Seaport Museum** <http://www.phillyseaport.org/> and **City Philadelphia Sail** which gives public cruises <http://www.citysail.org/>.

Melissa: A place you have to see: **Reading Terminal Market**

<http://www.readingterminalmarket.org/> 12th and Arch Streets. Why I love it: Lots of fresh fruits and vegetables, great bakeries and coffee. Walking Directions from the Sheraton: Walk south on 17th Street to Arch Street (Two blocks). Turn east (left) at Arch Street. Walk until you reach Reading Terminal Market (About 5 blocks). My favorite park: **Rittenhouse Square** <http://www.rittenhouserow.org/> , 18th Street & Walnut Street. Why I love it: A green space in the middle of downtown; lots of good people watching. Walking Directions from the Sheraton: Walk south on 18th Street until Walnut Street (About 6 blocks). The park will be on your right

Donna: **Isaiah Zagar's Magic Garden** (Tuesday - Sunday, 11am - 5pm. 215-733-0390) The Magic Garden, Zagar's largest South Street mural, is an indoor/outdoor maze of mosaics inlaid with various pieces of poetry. One line reads, "I built this sanctuary to be inhabited by my ideas and my fantasies." Another says, "Remember walking around in this work of fiction." Embedded in many of his works are the words "Art is the Center of the Real World". The area south of South St. has many small streets embellished with Isaiah's mosaic murals. Ask for a map of them, and enjoy a great stroll around Bella Vista. Ask about the mural depicting John and his dog, Bentley. www.philadelphiasmagicgardens.org/ or www.isaiahzagar.org/

Susan: **Rodin Museum** <http://www.rodinmuseum.org/> – biggest collection of Rodin work outside Paris. Jewel of a museum not too far from the hotel. **Mutter Museum** <http://www.collphylphil.org/mutter.asp> . See especially the drawers of objects that people have choked on. Weird, wacky “museum of a museum” – turn of the (last) century collection of medical artifacts/oddities, perfectly preserved. **Rosenbach Museum**– <http://www.rosenbach.org/> another gem located on the prettiest street in Philadelphia. Major collections of Sendak, Marianne Moore, and a host of other fine objects and rare books here.

Len: **Crane Arts Building**. A little off the beaten path, but definitely worth a cab ride to see what the Visual Arts scene is up to in Philadelphia! 1400 N American St, Philadelphia, PA 19122, www.cranearts.com

John: **Barnes Foundation** <http://www.barnesfoundation.org/> , but next best: **Belmont Plateau** <http://www.fairmountpark.org/> for the view then Shofuso house. Mutter is close to convention. **Dream Garden** http://www.ushistory.org/tour/tour_dreamgarden.htm is not to be missed in **Curtis Building**. Largest **Tiffany mural**.

Kendra: I like **Logan Square**, the **Azalea Garden** at **Fairmount Park** <http://www.fairmountpark.org/> and walking along **Kelly Drive** near the **Philadelphia Museum of Art** <http://www.philamuseum.org/> , **Mutter Museum** <http://www.collphyphil.org/mutter.asp>, **Mural Arts Tour** <http://www.muralarts.org/> , **Shofuso** <http://www.shofuso.com/> , **Rocky Steps** http://www.philadelphiausa.travel/philadelphia-listing_info.php?wid=ROC006 , **Chinatown** <http://www.phillychinatown.com/> .

Julie: **Independence Hall** (<http://www.nps.gov/inde/>, 6th and Chestnut Sts) really is where America began, and there are tons of things to see and do in the surrounding neighborhood. My personal favorites are the life-sized statues of the Founding Fathers at the **National Constitution Center** (they're short, like me, <http://www.constitutioncenter.org/>), the children's version of the **Lights of Liberty** tour (narration by Whoopi Goldberg -- who can resist?, <http://www.lightsofliberty.org/main.htm>), ice cream at **Franklin Fountain** (try the Teaberry Gum flavor, 116 Market Street, <http://www.franklinfountain.com/>), and **Franklin Square** with its working carrousel and mini-golf course chock full of replicas of Philadelphia's favorite landmarks (6th & Race Sts, <http://www.onceuponanation.org/franklinsquare.htm>, named Best Play Space for Kids by Philadelphia Magazine).

Nancy: For the intrepid visitor who is willing to drive to a museum outside the city, I suggest the **Wharton Esherick Museum** <http://www.levins.com/esherick.html>; the former residence and studio of the "dean of American craftsmen." It's an intriguing place snuggled away in the beautiful countryside of **Chester County**. Call 610-644-5822 for directions and to reserve a tour. While you're in the area you can visit **Valley Forge National Park** <http://www.nps.gov/vafo> . It's a great place for a walk on a beautiful day.