

Welcome to County Lines Country



2022-2023
Guidebook

▶ How lucky we are to live in the Brandywine Valley! Although we sometimes take the world-class attractions and lush countryside for granted, after putting together this Annual Guide, we're again gobsmacked by the wonders so close to home. From fascinating light installations at Longwood Gardens, to a collection of eclectic local museums,

to photography challenges, farmstays and the second-largest shopping mall in the country, *County Lines Country* has it all. This summer and beyond, we hope you'll discover something new, see your favorite places with new eyes, and rejoice is all there is around us.

Day Trips & Outings

WE CONTINUE TO BE BIG FANS OF STAYCATIONS — either as a primary summer getaway or to add to the fun by building in weekend adventures, but close to home. When you have so many world-class attractions within an easy drive, why not make the most of that? And as always, we start with the trio of top attractions.

Start with the Big Three

▶ Longwood Gardens

The top local tourist destination should be a must-see for area residents as well. This gem of a horticultural garden, founded in 1906 by Pierre du Pont, holds a broad array of wonders in its 1,100 acres.

From the classic Conservatory, to the magical Flower Garden Walk and Idea Garden, to the always-entertaining Illuminated Fountains, there are countless reasons to visit. Even low-key attractions like the increasingly popular 86-acre Meadow Garden have garnered fans for these naturalistic, emotionally appealing open spaces.

Yet for many, this year's highlight is the new exhibition, "Light: Installations" by Bruce Munro, June 30 through October 30. "Light" features eight works in both indoor and outdoor locations throughout the Gardens chosen by Munro to showcase his immersive, large-scale, light-based installations. Highlights include Field of Light, featuring 18,000 illuminated stemmed orbs lit by fiber optics along the Large Lake landscape and 1,000 white flamingos with continually changing hues in the pear-shaped basin in Ramandu's Table.

Make time for a stop at the Beer Garden, featuring music from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. and pouring Victory Beer and Longwood seasonal brews made with ingredients from the gardens.

Other faves: Performances of the Illuminated Fountains at 9:15 p.m. and of the 62-bell, five-octave Carillon at 2 p.m. on Sundays. *Routes 1 & 52, Kennett Square. LongwoodGardens.org.*



▶ Brandywine River Museum of Art

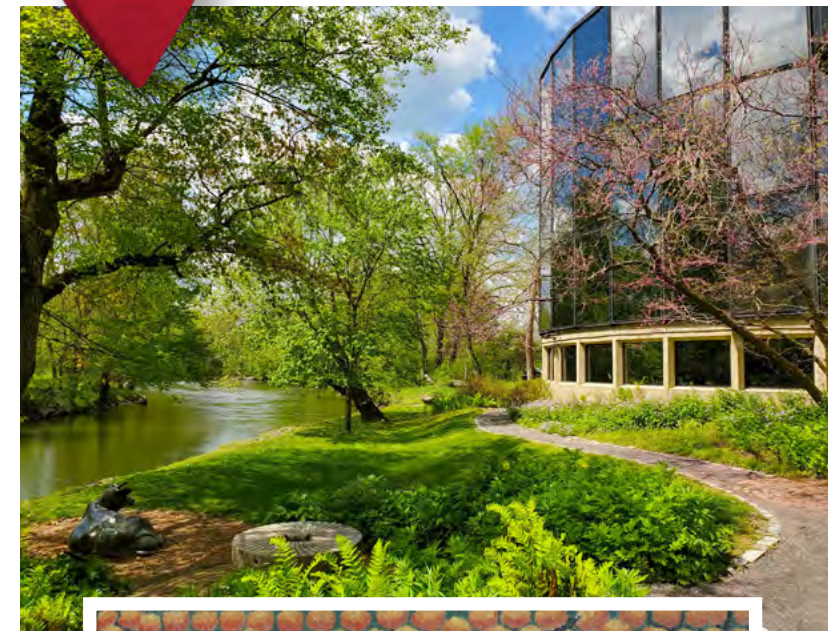
In addition to housing a distinguished collection of 19th- and 20th-century American art — including a treasure trove of works by generations of Wyeths — the 15-acre campus of the Brandywine River Museum of Art and Brandywine Conservancy is home to a Wildflower and Native Plant Garden and a river trail along the flood plain of the Brandywine.

If you're already familiar with the works by N.C., Andrew and Jamie Wyeth in the collection, visit two special summer exhibitions.

On view until August 31, "Gatecrashers: The Rise of Self-Taught Artists in America" examines how, after World War I, artists without formal training "crashed the gates" of major museums in the U.S., diversifying the art world across lines of race, ethnicity, class, ability and gender. See 50 works by celebrated painters such as Horace Pippin, Anna Mary Robertson "Grandma" Moses and John Kane, plus 15 lesser-known artists.

"Dawoud Bey: Night Coming Tenderly, Black" includes 10 photographs from Bey's acclaimed 2017 series that imagines the flight of enslaved African Americans in the mid-19th century traveling along the last part of an Underground Railroad network. Considered one of the most important photographers working today, Dawoud Bey (b. 1953) is recognized for his compelling, large-scale portraits and street photographs.

Stop by the on-site Millstone Café for seasonally inspired "grab and go" options and the Museum Shop for Brandywine exclusives. *Route 1, Chadds Ford. BrandywineMuseum.org.*



Doriani, Flag Day



◀ Winterthur Museum, Gardens & Library

Winterthur may be best known for its world-class collection of American decorative arts, housed in the elegant former du Pont Manion. This collection includes grand formal rooms of priceless antique furniture along with niche treasures, such as 500 ornate soup tureens, collected by John T. Dorrance, Jr., chair of Cambell Soup Company.

Exhibits have included costumes from the TV series "Downton Abbey," jewels from "The Crown," and this summer, "Jacqueline Kennedy and H. F. du Pont: From Winterthur to the White House," through January 2023. The current exhibit tells of the partnership that transformed the White House from a public residence into a museum. Kennedy walking tours, favorite dishes and offerings in the museum store are part of the program.

One of our favorite parts of the 1,000 preserved acres are the gardens, said to be du Pont's first love. Winterthur's naturalistic gardens are a masterpiece of color and design. Explore the gardens on foot or on a 30-minute narrated tram ride. Pick up a Garden Map or Trail Map or download them for a self-guided tour.

A special treat is the three-acre Enchanted Woods. Designed to look as though it were created by fairies, this gem is covered by majestic oak trees and has several play areas to climb in, on and over, including a Faerie Cottage with a thatched roof, a giant Bird's Nest, and an Acorn Tearoom for make-believe tea parties. *5105 Kennett Pk., Winterthur, DE. Winterthur.org.*



PHOTO COURTESY, WINTERTHUR, S. PEDERSON

Explore Chester and Delaware Counties

You may have been to the Chester County History Center and the Brandywine River Museum of Art, but there are more museums in our area to explore. Here are some smaller, more eccentric museums that call Chester and Delaware Counties home.

▼ American Helicopter Museum & Education Center

Check out West Chester's American Helicopter Museum, named the best science museum for kids by *Philadelphia Magazine*. Learn about the history of rotary-wing aviation as you view more than 35 civilian and military helicopters, autogiros and convertiplanes. Climb aboard a real helicopter, operate the controls and even go for a ride — check the website for flight dates.

The museum hosts events throughout the year, including the summer Family-Fest, a week-long Girls in Science and Technology program and plenty of workshops. Coming up this month is a drone workshop for kids ages 8 to 14. Learn the science of drone flight, the different parts of drones and fly a drone on several missions! *Open Thurs.–Sat., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun, noon to 5 p.m. 1220 American Blvd., West Chester. AmericanHelicopter.Museum.*



▼ Antique Ice Tool Museum



At the turn of the 20th century, the ice industry was one of the most important in the nation, a billion-dollar business employing 160,000 Americans. In the industry's heyday, ice was the second-largest export of the U.S., with 40 million tons harvested each winter.

Visit the Antique Ice Tool Museum in West Chester to follow in the footsteps of the iceman and discover the fascinating history of the natural ice trade. The completely renovated 1834 stone bank barn is home to thousands of ice harvesting tools, a collection of antique ice boxes and ten restored ice delivery vehicles — four horse-drawn ice delivery buggies and six ice delivery trucks, ranging from 1919 to 1934. Now that's cool! *Open by appointment Mon.–Fri., guided tours starting 9 a.m. on Sat. Closed Nov. through March. 825 Scennelltown Rd., West Chester. AntiqueIceToolMuseum.org.*

▼ National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum

Did you know Coatesville played a major role in the history of the iron and steelmaking industry? The National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum there is dedicated to preserving the region's iron and steel history and its relationship to the region and nation beyond.

The museum is housed in a 35,000-square-foot historic structure that was part of the Coatesville steelmaking complex. Explore exhibits about Rebecca Lukens (the entrepreneur who transformed the mill into a successful ironmaking operation), important innovations in iron and steelmaking, and famed products made with Lukens steel, including the Space Needle, Veteran's Stadium and the USS Nautilus, the world's first nuclear-powered submarine.



Tridents from the World Trade Center

Before you leave, be sure to check out the steelworker's memorial, featuring one of the tridents from the World Trade Center. *Museum open Thurs.–Sat., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Grounds open daily, sunrise to sunset. 50 S. 1st Ave., Coatesville. SteelMuseum.org.*

▼ Christian C. Sanderson Museum



Over more than 75 years, Christian Sanderson collected thousands of historical relics, artifacts and memorabilia of both local and national significance. Visit his 19th-century home in Chadds Ford to get a glimpse of our history through one man's life and his collection.

Admire original paintings and sketches by N.C. Wyeth, a friend of Sanderson's. Read letters to Sanderson from Civil War soldiers. Look at photographs of General Washington's Revolutionary War Headquarters. See real cannonballs from the Battle of Brandywine and autographs from several presidents and historical figures.

Through its unique collection, the Sanderson Museum brings new life to the people and stories of American history. *Open March–Nov., Sat. & Sun., noon to 4 p.m. 1755 Creek Rd., Chadds Ford. SandersonMuseum.org.*

▼ Pennsylvania Veterans Museum

If you've been to Media's State Street, you've probably walked right past the Pennsylvania Veterans Museum without even realizing it.

In the basement of the historic Media Amory, better known as the local Trader Joe's, this small-but-mighty museum aims to tell the stories of America's conflicts through the eyes of those who served in them. Check out the life-size diorama of D-Day and Band of Brothers memorabilia, see a life-size soldier in action in the Korean War exhibit, listen to the stories of paratroopers and try on a parachute backpack.

Then enter the Ruptured Duck Theater to watch short documentary films produced by the museum. *Open Fri.–Sun., noon to 5 p.m. Media Amory, 12 E. State St., Media. PAVeteransMuseum.org.*



▼ Sports Legends of Delaware County Museum

Sports fans will love this museum dedicated to Delaware County's professional athletes. Located in the Radnor Township Building, the museum consists of seven galleries spread over three floors.

Check out the Mickey Vernon Gallery, named after MLB first baseman and lifelong Delco resident, for all things baseball. Then visit the Wide World of Women's Sports gallery, dedicated to two-time Olympic swimming champion Jane Barkman and Olympic diving bronze medalist Mary Ellen Clark.

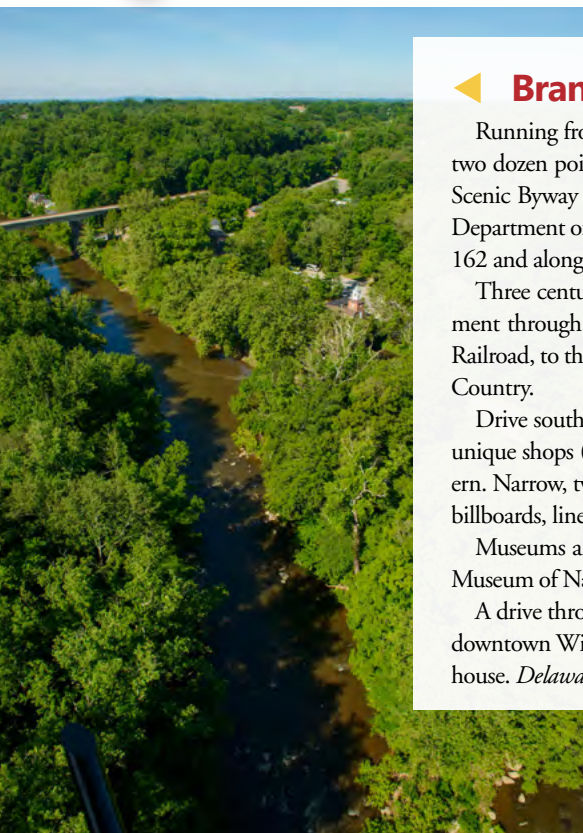
The latest addition to the collection is a model of the Coast Guard cutter, Emlen Tunnell, named after Radnor native, World War II hero and the first African American to be inducted to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Be sure to check out the bronze statue of Tunnell outside the building, too! *Open Mon.–Fri., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Weekend tours by appointment. Radnor Township Municipal Building, 301 Iven Ave., Malvern. DelcoSportsMuseum.org.*





Discover Delaware

We're sharing a driving tour, photo contest, birders' paradise plus luxurious accommodations in the Diamond State. Check Delaware trivia for the source of that nickname.



◀ Brandywine Valley National Scenic Highway

Running from West Chester, PA to Wilmington, DE, Scenic Route 52 offers a 20-some-mile road trip with two dozen points of interest through the southern Brandywine Valley. Called the Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway (part of the national system), the PA section was granted that designation in 2021 by the U.S. Department of Transportation. (The official scenic byway spans two states and forms a figure eight, up to Route 162 and along part of Route 100, Creek Road.)

Three centuries of history are encompassed within the Byway, from our nation's settling and early development through the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, including the struggle for freedom along the Underground Railroad, to the creation of world-class cultural institutions by families who settled in what's now called Chateau Country.

Drive south into Delaware through areas of protected views to charming Centreville village with boutiques, unique shops (there's a flyfishing store), legendary wine shop (Collier's) and local watering hole, Buckley's Tavern. Narrow, twisting Creek Road traces the Brandywine River beneath tulip trees and oaks, as wildflowers, not billboards, line roadsides.

Museums are also part of the scenery in the DuPont Historic Corridor. Pass Winterthur and the Delaware Museum of Nature & Science on Route 52, plus Hagley Museum and Nemours Mansion and Gardens nearby.

A drive through leafy Wilmington suburbs, past the Delaware Art Museum, terminates at Rodney Square in downtown Wilmington, an urban hub marked by the historic Hotel Du Pont, Free Library and Federal Courthouse. DelawareGreenways.org; BrandywineValleyByway.org.



▶ Delaware Discoveries Trail

Looking for the perfect Insta-worthy outing? Try a new, one-of-a-kind experience in Delaware and explore 13 unique interactive pieces of street artwork throughout the state. Plus, you can win a prize by submitting your photos taken with any four of the 13 artworks. Strike a pose and send your photos to #DelawareDiscoveries.

Check the online map for locations — from the Chase Center on the Wilmington Riverfront to Mispillion River Brewing in Milford to Firefly Music Festival South in Selbyville. You'll find directions, descriptions of the artwork and fun things to do at each spot.

Take a road trip to check out art that's off the beaten path, discover local dining and enjoy outdoor fun. For example, at spot #2, an underwater sea adventure awaits. The artwork you're looking for is on the Lewes terminal, site of spectacular sunset views and delicious dining. While you're there, take a 90-minute scenic ride on the Cape May-Lewes Ferry across the bay.

You might just win the prize of a DIY paint pour kit designed specifically for the trail by the Developing Artist Collaboration group, Dirty Hands. After being inspired on the trail, you can use this simple at-home art kit to make your own piece of art. Don't worry, no skill required. DelawareDiscoveries.com.

▶ Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge

Calling all birders and those who will take a road trip to see one of *Travel & Leisure's* "Most Beautiful Places." For a trifecta of fun, it also has one of Delaware Discoveries' artworks at the entrance pavilion (look for the giant, colorful wings).

Bombay Hook protects one of the region's largest surviving tidal marshes, which provides excellent habitat for wildlife. Established in 1937 as part of a chain of migratory bird refuges from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico — known as the Atlantic Flyway — it's located on the Delaware Bay, to the east of Smyrna.

Birders of all levels of experience may spot bald eagles, snowy egrets, great blue herons and many more species on their life lists at this designated Globally Important Bird Area. Visitors can hike five miles of prepared trails, take photos of all kinds of wildlife, and take a 12-mile self-driving tour through the Refuge's 16,000 acres. *2591 Whitehall Neck Rd., Smyrna, DE. FWS.gov.*



▼ Historic Hotel Du Pont

End your journey in the lap of luxury at the iconic Hotel Du Pont. Opened in 1913 in the heart of downtown Wilmington, this 12-story Italian Renaissance landmark has 217 rooms and suites to call home — at least for a weekend.



Theater fans are in the same building as the Playhouse on Rodney Square, which just concluded performances of "Fiddler on the Roof," and are within walking distance of the 1817 Grand Opera House, featuring over 100 shows a year, including in July.

Food fans can enjoy the on-site Le Cavalier, helmed by acclaimed local chef Tyler Akin, who's created an upscale brasserie in the renovated Green Room. Another treat is Bardea, an innovative Italian restaurant from James Beard semi-finalist Chef Antimo DeMeo.

And for something new, the Hotel offers several Featured Experiences to add to your Delaware memories. Get a before-hours tour of Hagley Museum (first du Pont family home in the U.S.), train with Wilmington Olympian Anthuran Maybank,

or indulge in spa time at an on-site location for Currie Salon and Spa. And savor your time in Delaware. *11th & Market Sts., Wilmington. HotelDuPont.com.*

Loving Lancaster County

It's close, it's got history and the arts, there are plenty of great things to eat and drink. So why not plan an excursion to neighboring Lancaster County this summer ... or fall? Maybe even stay on a farm.

Farmstays

Where to stay during a getaway to Lancaster County? Of course there are several of the mainstream vacation spots — a Marriott, Hilton, Double Tree.

But why not try a farmstay and get in the spirit of the place? Several working farms will let your family spend one or several days grooming horses, chasing goats, milking cows, feeding chickens and gathering eggs. Or if you prefer, just take in the idyllic farm life from a rocking chair on the veranda.

Here are a few: Rocky Acres Farm Bed & Breakfast, Landshade Farm House, Verdant View Farm Bed & Breakfast, Beacon Hollow Farm Amish Guest House, Eby Farm Bed & Breakfast, and Country Vistas Bed & Breakfast.

But there are many others. Try one out! Get your hands dirty! See DiscoverLancaster.com.



Verdant View Farm Bed & Breakfast

Music and Theater

Enjoy another side of Lancaster County by exploring the arts. The Fulton Theatre in downtown Lancaster City was built in 1852 and was once dubbed “The Grand Old Lady of Prince Street.” But business soured until 1995, when it reopened with a performance of Stephen Sondheim’s “Company,” and it has been going strong since. This summer it will feature “Jersey Boys” through August 7.

Operated by the Prather family, the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre is 35 years old and has produced practically all the major hits of Broadway — “Oklahoma!,” “Guys and Dolls,” “Fiddler on the Roof” and more, usually six to eight plays a year. This July it features “The Little Mermaid.” And treat yourself to a buffet as well!

American Music Theatre specializes in classic acts. For example, Dion — yes, he’s still alive — is performing on July 8. Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons — also still performing — on July 29. AMT also hosts tribute shows — Patsy Cline on July 10 and Led Zeppelin on July 22. See the website for the complete lineup. AMTShows.com.

For something different, Sight & Sound Theater in Ronks brings the Bible to life. See “David” live on stage through 2022.

In Paradise, the Magic & Wonder Theater is featuring “Mystery,” a magic show, and “Jukebox Jive,” a music variety show, through October 29. It also serves appetizers and desserts.



Artifice Ales & Mead

Beer

Lancaster is also known for beer. In the early 1800s, it accounted for 7% of all the beer brewed in the U.S. — over 200 thousand barrels annually. There were brewers in the county before the 1700s. Today there are more than 30.

When prohibition began in 1919, production was stifled ... somewhat. After 1933, breweries reopened but suffered at the hand of the mass-production breweries. In 1956, the last Lancaster brewery turned off its taps.

Then in 1987, Stoudt’s Brewing, headed by Carol Stoudt, the first female brewer since Prohibition, became a pioneer in the craft brewing world (sadly, Carol retired in 2020). Other early craft breweries included Lancaster Brewing in 1995, followed by Tröegs Independent Brewing in 1997. Since then, the craft brewing industry has grown immensely.

Some labels to sample are Artifice Ales & Mead, Black Forest Brewery, Bube’s Brewery, Our Town Brewery, Wacker Brewing Company, Columbia Kettle Works, Mad Chef Craft Brewing, Springhouse Brewing Company, Isaac’s Brewhouse, Stoudt’s Brewing Co. and Hunger-N-Thirst.

Or visit one of Lancaster County’s tap-rooms. For example, the British-style pub, Bulls Head Public House in Lititz Springs was named the best beer bar in the country by *USA Today*!



Bird-In-Hand Family Restaurant & Smorgasbord

Essen und Essen

You gotta eat, and Lancaster is the land of the smorgasbord. When you think of eating here, give up on calorie-counting. Dutch comfort food won’t lend itself to a slim waistline. Think of what meals were like in Germany before the 20th century — starch, meats, pie, cream. All in quantity. All you can eat.

There are several buffets that will test your belt loops. Miller’s Restaurant & Smorgasbord in Paradise has been welcoming guests since 1929 and may be the most popular.

Shady Maple Smorgasbord in East Earl is well known and is the largest. And you can do your grocery shopping at the same time!

“Come Hungry. Eat Hearty. Go Home Happy.” That’s Bird-in-Hand Family Restaurant & Smorgasbord’s motto. Visit the Bird-in-Hand Stage while you’re there.

At the Ballpark

All that beer would go great with a hot dog and a baseball game. The Lancaster Barnstormers are a minor league baseball team, playing in the Atlantic League in Clipper Magazine Stadium. The stadium, which can seat 7,500, sports a Kids Play Area, with a carousel and inflatables, and fireworks on Saturday nights.

The Barnstormers have a full schedule in July. Their last championship was in 2014. Home games begin with the Staten Island Ferry Hawks on July 1 and 2. Then they play the York Revolution — a heated rivalry, with the Revolution winning seven seasons and the Barnstormers winning six — the Wild Health Genomes, High Point Rockers, the Charleston Dirty Birds and the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs. The season continues through October to extend the fun.



Lancaster Barnstormers

On the Main Line & Beyond

A visit to the Main Line requires some imagination. Once the land of elegant mansions, it devolved in the second half of the 20th century into a land of too many subdivisions. And in too many instances, the original estate was torn down, converted into a museum or public garden, or turned into the centerpiece on a tract of

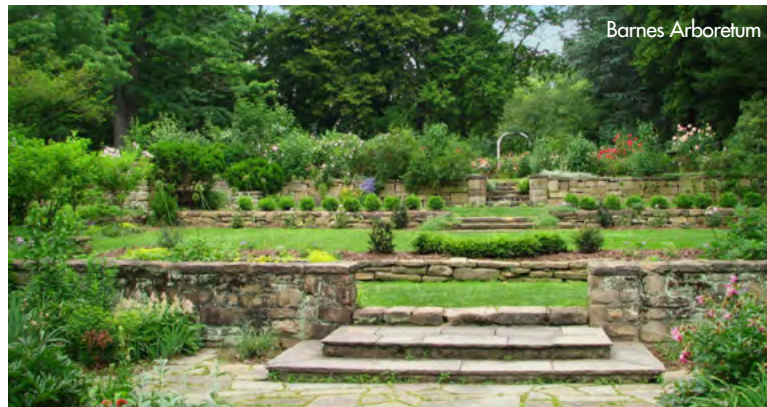
mini-mansions. Yet many lovely neighborhoods exist, mainly north of Montgomery Avenue. Our short tour of the Main Line begins to the east, where Montgomery County borders Philadelphia at what's aptly called City Line Avenue, west to Paoli and with a final stop at King of Prussia and Valley Forge National Park.

City Line

Marked as U.S. 1, City Line Avenue is the division between Philadelphia and its northwest suburbs. Here you'll find St. Joseph's University, one of the better Catholic colleges in the nation.

To the west is the Barnes Arboretum, on the former estate of Dr. Albert Barnes. Only 12 acres, it has over 2,500 types of woody and herbaceous plants and is used as a teaching facility. Until 2012, the Barnes Collection, one of the world's finest collections of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist art, was moved to its current location in Philadelphia.

Another landmark, St. Charles Borromeo, was a huge seminary, the oldest in the Philadelphia region, at the intersection of City Line and Lancaster Avenues. In 2019 the property was sold to Main Line Health, which owns nearby Lankenau Hospital. It plans to build a mix of medical, residential and other spaces there.



Barnes Arboretum

East Main Line: Merion, Narberth & Ardmore

Narberth is known as the Heart of the Main Line. This charming throwback to small-town America hosts a July 4th celebration that attracts thousands. In September, it has a Music & Arts Festival, in October, a Witches festival, in December, a Dickens festival and more throughout the year.

In nearby Merion, many Main Liners brunch at Hymie's, where bagels, latkes, knishes, corned beef, pastrami, brisket and many Jewish specialties are served. Its rival, Murray's, is a block away.

If you're not in the mood for a Yiddish feast, head for Ardmore, where many restaurants, often with an international menu, have recently opened. Buena Vista serves Mexican food, at Autana it's Venezuelan, Bam Bam Kitchen has Korean, Nam Phuong Bistro offers Vietnamese, and Positano Ristorante is known for Southern Italian. Frankly, though, the burgers at Ripplewood Whiskey & Craft — American — are among the best we've had.

You'll find Tired Hands Brewing Co. produces outstanding beers and makes a great stop before or after the Ardmore Music Hall, featuring live music virtually every night. In July, that's anything from a rock group to a Ukrainian folk quartet.



Ardmore Bridge

College Towns

Heading west on Lancaster Avenue, you'll come to three college towns: Haverford, Bryn Mawr and Villanova, along with several prestigious prep schools — the Haverford School, Baldwin Academy, Shipley School, Agnes Irwin School and Academy of Notre Dame.



Villanova University

Also worth a stop is the Merion Cricket Club in Haverford. Founded in 1865 and designed by architect Frank Furness, the exclusive club has hosted championships in lawn tennis and golf, and its members have competed in cricket and squash.

The Bryn Mawr Film Institute features classic films, sometimes several in a day. At the start of July, you can screen "Rebecca." Later in the month, there's "The Clock," "Vertigo," "Blue Velvet" and "Roman Holiday," all classics. The BMFI conducts seminars on the films as well.

Tucked behind the Ludington Library is the Bryn Mawr Gazebo, which features weekend evening performances of Blair Bodine, the Jimmy Vivino Band and John Gorka. In August, hear Livingston Taylor.

Farther west, Villanova University covers 260 acres, marked by twin spires overlooking Lancaster Avenue. It has over 7,000 undergraduates and over 11,000 total students. Though best known for its basketball team, it ranks 49th among the nation's universities.

Wayne to Paoli

You're just in time! The Wharton Esherick Museum in Paoli is celebrating its 50th anniversary. The Museum includes thousands of objects from the life of Esherick, an artist and craftsman working primarily in wood. Through August, the Museum's "Home as Self" exhibit explores the meaning, creation and form of self-portraiture.

Serving ice cream since 1945, Handel's Ice Cream is worth a stop. All its flavors — more than 100 ice creams, sherbets and ices — are made fresh daily. Try the Graham Central Station.

Named because its vendors were mostly from Lancaster, the Lancaster County Farmers Market has been located in Wayne for over 70 years. The indoor market has about 25 merchants offering everything from fresh produce to pretzels to flowers.



Wharton Esherick Museum

King of Prussia and Valley Forge

King of Prussia may be known mainly for its shopping mall, the second largest in the U.S. and home to national department stores (Neiman Marcus, Bloomingdales) plus international designers (Gucci, Cartier, Hermes). Spend a day there, but watch your totals! Your credit card may be crying.

For a completely different vibe, Valley Forge National Historical Park is nearby. Over five square miles, the park is the perfect spot for jogging, riding bicycles over miles of paved and unpaved trails, picnicking and visiting Revolutionary soldier's huts (reconstructed). Visit the National Memorial Arch, which commemorates the arrival and sacrifices of the Continental Army.

When you've had enough history, try skydiving — safely, indoors, simulated — at Ifly. Just the way to finish your tour of the Main Line and beyond.



Valley Forge National Memorial Arch

More in Maryland

Looking for more trips that are less than a tank of gas away? Then head south and discover what's happening in Maryland.

Cecil County

Set between Philadelphia and Baltimore on I-95, Cecil County offers vibrant small towns, 200 miles of waterfront, foodie destinations and scenic countryside perfect for adventures and memory making.

Experience fabulous dishes with a Chesapeake Bay flair at award-winning local restaurants. Try local beer and wine, baked goods, homemade ice cream on the farm, coffee shops, farm stands, milkshake masterpieces, an old-fashioned candy store and more.

Hike or bike 100 miles of scenic trails at State Parks and Town Parks, great for nature lovers and bird watchers. Book a tour-boat ride, cast a fishing line, rent a boat or explore waterways on a kayak or stand-up paddle board. Make furry friends at Plumpton Park Zoo, enjoy fun at the orchard or camp under the stars. At the end of the day, catch a beautiful sunset as it bursts across the horizon.

Explore unique historic downtowns. Hear the echo-o-o of your voice in a covered bridge, or step



back in time at Mt. Harmon Plantation & Nature Preserve at Worlds End. Walk a trail out to 1833 Turkey Point Lighthouse to experience the magnificent view from a cliff overlooking the headwaters of Chesapeake Bay. *SeeCecil.org.*

Prince George's County

Prince George's County offers much more than a convenient place to stay when visiting Washington, D.C. (although it's just a Metro ride from the Capital).

Thrill seekers will head for the Six Flags America theme park where seven world-class rollercoasters, kid's favorite character rides, games, shows and the Hurricane Harbor waterpark make everyone feel like a kid again.

Another highlight is the National Harbor area along the Potomac River. This vibrant waterfront district features great places to dine, shop and have fun. Popular activities include motorboat rentals, kayaking, water taxis and boating. Stellar hotels, entertainment and one of the best casinos on the East Coast are located here. And Tanger Outlet's 88 stores offer plenty of retail therapy.

Sports fans will enjoy playing golf at Topgolf — a fun space great for groups to show off their best swing. Or catch a Bowie Baysox baseball game at Prince George's Stadium. They play the Richmond Flying Squirrels on July 1.

For a more laid-back experience, tour the Legacy Wine Trail featuring several family-owned vineyards. Cool breezes from the Patuxent and Chesapeake Rivers combine with sandy soil to impart a special terroir to wines grown in an area once known for tobacco. The lush countryside is also ideal for horseback riding and horse-drawn carriage tours.

More, including the hip area of Hyattsville featuring the Gateway Arts District, at *ExperiencePrinceGeorges.com.*



Annapolis in Anne Arundel County

Accolades abound for Annapolis, Maryland state capital and home to the U.S. Naval Academy. Named for Princess Anne (later Queen) in 1695, this "museum without walls" is brimming with history at every turn. Visit the Museum of Historic Annapolis, just steps from the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, for stories of revolutionaries, visionaries and champions of liberty.

The winding, brick-paved streets filled with unique boutiques and one-of-a-kind restaurants earned Annapolis a feature on *Travel Mag's*

list of "Most Charming Cities in the USA." Wander around the lively harbor where you can catch a sunset sail or a memorable meal of fresh seafood. Think oysters, blue crabs, and Old Bay seasoning.

Catch the low-key Annapolis Trolley Tours, come for the July 4th parade & fireworks, wander through South County and sip and stroll through a vineyard, or head to the top shopping destination in the state — Arundel Mills, with 225 outlet retailers, a Live! Casino and much more. Learn more at *VisitAnnapolis.org.*



Town Tours & Village Walks

Join an array of free summer strolls through historic neighborhoods, hamlets, villages and sites. These tours are created to inform, entertain and increase awareness of Chester County's rich heritage and historic landscape, dating back to its founding in 1682 by William Penn. Tours run from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

July 7 – Willistown Township c. 1704: Acres of Quakers, Native Americans and Conservationists.

Founded in 1704, Willistown Township hosts a 13-mile long coach bus tour beginning at the oldest active foxhunt, Radnor Hunt. The tour continues through Whitehorse Village, Okehocking Preserve, Historic Sugartown, the 1860 Bartram Covered Bridge and more. *Radnor Hunt, 826 Providence Rd., Malvern.*

July 12 – Rebecca Lukens: Founding Mother of Iron and Steel in Coatesville.

Join the tour of the life and times of Rebecca Lukens, America's first female industrialist. *National Iron and Steel Heritage Museum, 50 S. 1st Ave., Coatesville.*

July 28 – Jones Log Barn c. 1777: Tredyffrin Township.

This tour ties French and American history together, where French Generals Lafayette and Duportail served George Washington's headquarters staff during the Valley Forge encampment (1777–1778). *151 Library Ln., Malvern.*

August 4 – Celebrating 300 Years of the Springs at Historic Yellow Springs, c. 1744.

With 300 years of history, this site has evolved over time from Lenape Indian Villages, a health spa, a Revolutionary War Hospital, artists' hub and more. *1701 Art School Rd., Chester Springs.*

August 11 – Malvern Borough c. 1899: From Crossroads to Powerhouse.

Join the Malvern Historical Commission on this 19th-century tour of their founders' church and graveyard. *146 Channing Ave., Malvern.*

August 18 – The Village of Marshallton c. 1836: Humphry Marshall.

Join the West Bradford Historical Commission and learn about Humphry Marshall (1722–1801), the namesake and one of the founding fathers of the village. *1282 W. Strasburg Rd., West Chester.*

More at ChesCoPlanning.org.



Jones Log Barn



Historic Yellow Springs



Malvern church and graveyard