

# Historic Pittsburgh Walking Tour

## Introduction

Hi. Welcome to iziTRAVEL's Historic Pittsburgh Walking Tour, presented by ListenUp Audio. We're so glad you'll be joining us today! I'm \_\_\_\_\_ and I'll be your guide. A few notes before we get started. This tour takes approximately an hour and a half to complete. You can stop at any time and start again at the same spot later. If you'd like, you can put your phone in your pocket and just listen from here. I'll be giving you clear directions and the audio will automatically start playing when you get close to the next point of interest. If a site is closed or your path is blocked, don't worry. Just go around it. The tour will pick up at the next location. And this is important: PLEASE make sure you stay aware of your surroundings at *all* times and obey *all* traffic signals.

Welcome to Historic Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. As city of many names, Pittsburgh is known as "The Gateway to the West," "America's Most Livable City," and "The City of Bridges," to name a few. Founded in 1758, it was named in honor of British statesman William Pitt. Indeed, Pittsburgh's legacy is a rich one, from its beginnings as a frontier village, to its current status as one of the nation's leading industrial cities. We hope you enjoy this walking tour of its many sights and attractions. Whenever you're ready to start, please proceed to 101 Commonwealth Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

## The Point State Park

Starting off our tour of Historic Pittsburgh, we come to The Point State Park. Known locally as "The Point," the park sits neatly at the convergence of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers, each coming together to form the great Ohio River. Part of Pittsburgh's "Golden Triangle," The Point State Park is a national landmark of the city, commemorating its strategic history and pivotal role during the French and Indian War.

Built in the 1950s and opened to the public two decades later, the park tells the story of when the French army once held control over the Ohio Valley during the French and Indian War. Following their defeat and the war's end, the area soon underwent many changes. These included a few name changes at first, though no one seemed to really know what to do with the land. It quickly became an industrial zone, and many Pittsburgh residents felt the land was being wasted.

By the 1930s and 40s, Point State Park's former landscape was covered in warehouses, railroad yards, and slums. Eight years of the

Great Depression and four years of WWII had taken their toll. Urban blight seemed to permeate the surrounding land and atmosphere. Sensing an opportunity to rebuild, federal and local officials met and established Point State Park on the newly renovated grounds. With plans to house the remains of Fort Pitt, its blockhouse, and a number of restored buildings, Point State Park officially opened in the 1970s with a number of exciting attractions.

**When you're ready to continue, head northeast on Commonwealth Pl toward 1st Ave. Turn left toward Three Rivers Heritage Trail. Turn left toward Three Rivers Heritage Trail. Turn left onto Three Rivers Heritage Trail. Turn left to stay on Three Rivers Heritage Trail. Turn right, and the destination will be on your right.**

### **Fort Duquesne**

Yet before we make our way towards Point State Park's biggest attraction, we pay a brief visit to Pittsburgh's Fort Duquesne. Built in the mid-1700s on the remains of a captured British outpost, Fort Duquesne was the result of French invasion into Ohio County territory. With its location at the headwaters of the Ohio River, it remained a strategic strongpoint for trade with local Native Americans, as well as the movement of supplies between military outposts.

Named in honor of Marquis Duquesne, then governor-general of New France, the fort became the launching point for many of France's major attacks throughout the area. Though Britain made two initial attempts to take back the fort, it wasn't until their third attempt that the French were finally rooted out.

Following France's retreat, British troops set about reconstructing and renaming the stronghold to Fort Pitt in honor of British Prime Minister William Pitt. Following its completion in the 1760s, the village of Pittsburgh soon began to take shape. During this time, Fort Pitt remained a refuge for British soldiers and colonials despite ongoing conflicts with local Native Americans. They eventually abandoned the fort as well, and it was renamed a second time to Fort Dunmore. From there, the fort was used as an armory and staging ground for battles with the local Native Americans. In the years following the American Revolutionary War, the site was decommissioned, and all salvageable items were sold at auction. Today, only the Fort Pitt Blockhouse remains of the original structure. As the oldest surviving building in all of Pittsburgh, it is often referred to as "Bouquet's Redoubt." In addition, it acts as part of the famous Fort Pitt Museum, another key attraction of Point State Park.

**If you're ready to continue, begin by getting your bearings on the giant water fountain located at the park's outermost point. There will be signs pointing to it, but it shouldn't be difficult to spot. This marks the next destination of our tour.**

### **Point State Park Fountain**

Of all Point State Park's attractions, no other is of greater significance than the Point State Park Fountain. Shooting a staggering 200 feet into the air, it is the only one of its kind in the United States, and the second largest fountain in the entire world. Resting comfortably at the very tip of Point State Park, it overlooks the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers. In addition, it boasts an assortment of amazing features.

Beginning with its computer-controlled water height, much of the fountain's construction is an architectural marvel. As the vision of architects Charles M. Stotz and his partners, it sits on 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the land dedicated to the Point State Park's overall size. In this way, the fountain's enormity marks it clearly against the backdrop of the city. Just as interesting, its water supply doesn't actually come from the three rivers surrounding it. Instead, it comes from a *fourth* water supply deep underground. Known as the Wisconsin Glacial Flow, this separate water supply is important for two reasons. Firstly, it keeps the water fountain from "floating" due to pressure from the surrounding rivers. Secondly, the water supply is limitless. An inverted, "two-story" pump house is used to collect, store, and feed the glacial water into the fountain, keeping it a permanent and refreshing 55-degrees. As a final touch, the fountain's operators installed twenty-four quartz-iodine lights, placing them in the fountain hub. The side sprays are then handled by separate fixtures, giving onlookers the chance to catch a glimpse of the fountain's beautifully shifting colors each and every night.

**When you're ready to continue, move back towards Fort Duquesne. From there, follow these directions to Roberto Clemente Memorial Park, paying close attention to the bridge you cross as you walk. It marks an additional destination of the tour between.**

**Head southeast toward Three Rivers Heritage Trail. Turn left onto Three Rivers Heritage Trail. Turn right to stay on Three Rivers Heritage Trail. Turn left to stay on Three Rivers Heritage Trail. Take a slight right to stay on Three Rivers Heritage Trail and take the stairs. Take a sharp left, and then take a right. Take another right, then turn left, and the destination is on your right.**

## **Fort Duquesne Bridge**

Moving away from Point State Park and its fountain, we come now to Pittsburgh's Fort Duquesne Bridge. Collectively known as "The Bridge to Nowhere," the bridge derives its name from the constant delays it once suffered during construction. Due in large part to these problems, the bridge remained useless for many years, with its northern half dangling mid-air over the waters of the Allegheny River.

It was during this time that a number of interesting stories emerged, most notably that of Frederick Williams, a 21-year-old student of the University of Pittsburgh. Driving home one night, Williams famously drove his car off the unfinished bridge and miraculously landed on other side unharmed. His story was even documented years later in the Emmy award-winning documentary "Flying off the Bridge to Nowhere and Other Tales of Pittsburgh Bridges."

Yet while the bridge earned a place in history due to the tales of drivers careening off its unfinished end, it was eventually completed and opened to general public soon after. Touching down halfway between Heinz Field and PNC Park, its legend has served to add a new bit of flare to the city.

## **Roberto Clemente Memorial Park**

We now step into Roberto Clemente Memorial Park, dedicated to the memory of Pittsburgh Pirates legend Roberto Clemente. Born in Carolina, Puerto Rico, Clemente began his baseball career just after high-school. After signing a deal with the Brooklyn Dodgers, he spent one year as part of their Minor League team. Though he initially caught the eye of Major League scouts, legends say that Clemente's talent was so great that the Brooklyn Dodgers tried to "hide him." They even refused to play him for fear of losing his talent to another team. Despite this, Clemente later went on to sign with the Pittsburgh Pirates, ultimately spending the rest of his career as their star Right-Fielder. With records including twelve Gold Gloves, four batting titles, and a host of game-changing plays, he ultimately led the Pirates to two World Series championships.

Yet despite Clemente's work on the baseball field, it was his work *off* of it that helped to secure his legacy. As his talents diminished, he spent much of his time doing humanitarian work. Tragically however, Roberto Clemente died performing these good deeds. As news of his death spread throughout the world, millions mourned the loss of one of baseball's greatest players since Babe Ruth.

In spite of Clemente's tragedy, his legacy secured a bright future for all future Latinos of the sport, ultimately paving the way for more Latinos to join the leagues in search of their own dreams. Only three months after his death, he became the first Latino player ever to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. To this day, many compare him as the "closest thing to Jackie Robinson" there ever was for baseball.

**If you're ready to move on, Head southwest. Turn right toward North Shore Trail/Three Rivers Heritage Trail. Turn right onto North Shore Trail/Three Rivers Heritage Trail. Continue onto Art Rooney Ave. Turn left, and you're at the stadium.**

### **Heinz Field**

Moving away from baseball, we visit one of Pittsburgh's other hometown sports and *its* stadium, Pittsburgh's own Heinz Field. Home to the Pittsburgh Steelers NFL football team, Heinz Field rests comfortably on the banks of the Allegheny River. Sitting across from the rolling Pittsburgh skyline, its walls have hosted no less than two of the Steelers' six championship titles.

Established fifteen years ago, Heinz Field was the culmination of the Steelers' need for a football-only stadium. They had grown rapidly in popularity and fan-base over the years, and the new stadium needed to reflect that. Though the team's owner initially wished to renovate nearby Three Rivers Stadium, costs for renovation were shown to equal that of a new one. In light of this, the choice was made to move forward with the construction of the Steelers' new home. Given the team's twenty-year partnership with the Heinz Company, the name was a natural fit, and Heinz Field officially opened its doors in late 2001.

Featuring a wide variety of stylish amenities, the new stadium was an instant hit with fans and players alike. From its incredible seating capacity, to its river and skyline views, everyone found the space more than accommodating. Even better, the new stadium featured two HD scoreboards on both ends of the field. Its Great Hall now chronicles the team's rich history, and the Steelers have quickly become one of the most popular teams in the sport. Featuring some of "the best fans in the NFL," the Steelers have one of the most impressive sellout streaks in the league. It's a tradition that doesn't seem to be slowing anytime soon.

**If you're ready to move on, Head northeast toward Wheelchair Ramp. Turn right onto Art Rooney Ave. Turn left onto N Shore Dr. Turn left onto Mazeroski Way, and you'll arrive at PNC Park.**

### **PNC Park / Roberto Clemente Statue**

We re-visit Pittsburgh's baseball legacy with a trip to PNC Park, home to the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball team. Opened in the early 2000s, it remains the fifth home of the Pittsburgh Pirates, their last having been nearby Three Rivers Stadium. Like their neighbors the Pittsburgh Steelers, the Pirates franchise was in desperate need of a new home in the early 1990s. Their owner saw the potential for added revenue, and the necessary preparations were made.

Fans loved the new changes, and immediately noticed the stadium's classic, signature look. Everything about it spoke to baseball's bygone era. Though its seating capacity remains on the small side, most agreed that it seated comfortably. In addition, many marveled at the spectacular views of the field and the Pittsburgh skyline. To go along with the new layout, PNC Park now came complete with a number of new restaurants. Featuring a wide selection to choose from, fans could take in the best of the city's eateries.

Yet of all the ballpark's new features, few gather as much praise and respect as the statues surrounding its main entrances. From the bronze-clad depictions of Honus Wagner and Willie Stargell, to the sculptures of Bill Mazeroski and Roberto Clemente, they stand in silent reverence to the Pirates' rich, historical legacy. Crafted by Pittsburgh artists, they remain one of the ballpark's most acclaimed features to this day.

**Once you're ready to continue on with the tour, head east on W General Robinson St toward Federal St. Turn right onto Sandusky St, then turn right again, and the destination is on your right.**

### **Andy Warhol Museum**

In keeping with the artists theme, no tour of Pittsburgh would be complete without a visit to the Andy Warhol Museum. Standing as the largest museum ever dedicated to a single artist, the Warhol Museum hosts a staggering 17 galleries, each containing a measure of

Warhol's work. These works include his 900 paintings, 1000+ unique prints, 77 sculptures, 4,350 films and video works, and close to 2,000 works on paper.

Established in the mid-1990s, the museum's opening attracted some 20,000 visitors on its first weekend alone. Visitors were treated to the first of a set of rotating exhibitions, hoping to catch a glimpse into the mind of the man behind them. In truth, Warhol's work remains some of the most famous of the 1950s, 60s, and 70s. His unique and whimsical style of drawing and photography-tracing continues to astound artists from every corner of the Art World.

Though his style matured and transformed in the years prior to his death, it is faithfully chronicled in many of his published books and exhibits at the museum. Works like *Campbell's Soup Cans*, *Eight Elvises*, and *Self Portrait* offer a unique perspective into his stylistic changes. Likewise, other examples of these changes can be seen in *Interview* magazine. Devoted to film, fashion, and popular culture, it offers a glimpse into his final years, including some of his final works. Today, the Andy Warhol Museum continues to rotate exhibitions of these pieces and many more. With individual and group tours regularly available, it's an incredible experience for any fan of The Arts, and certainly not one to be missed.

**When you're ready to continue, head east toward Sandusky St. Turn right onto Sandusky St. Turn left onto Isabella St. Turn right onto Rachel Carson Bridge.**

### **Rachel Carson Bridge**

Making our way back across The Allegheny River, we take our first steps onto the Rachel Carson Bridge, dedicated to the memory of marine biologist and environmentalist Rachel Carson. Known also as the Ninth Street Bridge, the overpass was built as part of three parallel bridges also spanning the river. Collectively known as Pittsburgh's "Three Sisters," the latter half of the trinity includes the Andy Warhol Bridge and the Roberto Clemente Bridge further down.

Yet Carson's bridge, spanning between Pittsburgh's Isabella Street and Allegheny State Park, remains devoted to the legacy of Carson's work as a naturalist. As a beacon of scientific research, she expressed an early interest in nature and the living world,

striving at a young age to work in a career dedicated to its preservation. Graduating from the Pennsylvania State College for Women, she later went on to publish a number of books on the subject as well. Carson's research eventually led her to condemn the indiscriminate use of pesticides in the food chain. With her findings endorsed by a presidential commission, Carson's research also led to the banning of a number of pesticides including DDT.

In the end, Carson's work became so influential that many lobbied for the renaming of the Ninth Street Bridge in her honor. On Earth Day of 2006, the ceremony was held with various colleagues and city officials in attendance. Though Carson was never able to see it for herself, her legacy lives on in the bridge and other monuments dedicated to her work.

**When you're ready to continue, Head south on Rachel Carson Bridge toward Fort Duquesne Blvd. Turn right onto Fort Duquesne Blvd. Turn right onto 7th St/Andy Warhol Bridge. Turn left onto Three Rivers Heritage Trail, and you'll be at our next destination, the Allegheny Riverfront Park.**

### **Allegheny Riverfront Park**

Crossing the bridge onto the 10<sup>th</sup> Street Bypass, we come to Allegheny State Park, a symbol of Pittsburgh's transformed relationship with the Allegheny River and its cultural district. Running along the river's south bank, the park consists of two tiers, with each acting to weave together the city's natural and cultural landscape. In addition, it features two long, narrow pathways squeezed between the Allegheny River and its expressways. The lower half is deliberately wild, with its plant life capable of regeneration after a flood or an ice storm. Meanwhile, the upper half is more urbane, featuring walkways and plant life often found in the city's public spaces.

Accommodating nearly all forms of leisurely travel, the park is perfect for walking, biking, or even wheelchair and boating access. Indeed, there's truly something here for everyone. As an added bonus, the upper tier offers relaxing shade to sit and rest, while the lower portion allows immediate access to the water. This makes the lower portion an especially great place to dip your feet while you eat your lunch. With routine visitors and pet owners frequenting the park daily, it remains one of the safest, most popular spots in all of Pittsburgh. Visitors are encouraged to stop by and enjoy the view at their earliest convenience.



**When you're ready to continue, head east on Three Rivers Heritage Trail toward 7th St/Andy Warhol Bridge. Turn right onto 7th St/Andy Warhol Bridge. Turn left onto Fort Duquesne Blvd. Turn right onto Maddock Pl, and you'll find yourself smack dab in the middle of Pittsburgh's Cultural District.**

### **Pittsburgh Cultural District**

Spread out along fourteen blocks of Pittsburgh's exciting downtown, we come now to the city's famous Cultural District. Home to the city's dynamic art and entertainment scene, the Cultural District encompasses a staggering amount of fun and activities. There are over ninety retail shops to choose from, with fifty dining establishments to aid you in your quest for food. Meanwhile, seven world-class theaters offer plenty of shows, while eight public parks offer their own adventures.

As the brain-child of H. J. Heinz II, Pittsburgh's Cultural District was born from Heinz's desire to see downtown Pittsburgh transformed completely. In its early days, it had a bad reputation as a collection of adult shops, strip joints, and sleazy bars. Heinz sought a deeper connection to the arts, and he knew the district had the potential to be something greater with the right amount of planning. Forming the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Heinz's vision soon became a reality, and his endeavor became the shining example of how cities could prosper when using the arts as an economic catalyst.

Today, Pittsburgh's Cultural District remains one of the city's most popular destinations. Venues like the famous Heinz Hall offer the chance to hear the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. Likewise, newly added venues such as the O'Reilly Theater offer some of the city's best theater and performances. If that weren't enough, the Cultural District's Cabaret at Theater Square even offers a healthy dose of late night entertainment. Its live music and unique Cabaret Menu are a special treat, offering some of Pittsburgh's best food, drink, and social opportunities. With so many places to choose from, Pittsburgh's Cultural District remains one of the city's most exciting getaways.

**If you're ready to continue, head south on Maddock Pl toward Penn Ave. Turn right onto Penn Ave. Turn left onto 7th St. Continue onto Sixth Avenue. Turn left onto Grant St, and the destination is on your right.**

## **Steel Plaza / Steel Plaza Station**

Having had our fill of some of Pittsburgh cultural and entertainment venues, we arrive at Steel Plaza Station, a light rail station on the city's larger Port Authority of Allegheny network. Providing access to the eastern and central portions of Pittsburgh's downtown, the station remains one of the busiest in the city.

Opened in the mid-1980s, the station was built upon the remains of the Pittsburgh & Steubenville Extension Railroad Tunnel. Consisting of an outbound platform and an inbound island platform, it features two tracks, with one designated for trains traveling to Wood Street, and the other acting as an idle branch line to Union Station.

With major office buildings like the city's Gulf Tower, Three Mellon Center, and Koppers Building only a short block away, many use the station to access the city's inner downtown core. Additionally, access to the city's Uptown neighborhood, commonly referred to as "The Bluff," is an equally short distance away. There visitors can catch a game of the city's hockey team, the Pittsburgh Penguins, or simply do some exploring of their own.

**If you're ready to continue, head southwest on Grant St toward Sixth Avenue. Turn left toward Ross St. Turn right toward Ross St. Turn left toward Ross St. Turn right onto Ross St. Turn left onto Second Avenue, and the destination will be on your right.**

## **Old Allegheny County Jail**

Coming away from Pittsburgh's Steel Plaza Station, we find ourselves at the Old Allegheny County Jail. Built in the late 1880s, it remains one of Pittsburgh's most well-known symbols, and one of the oldest buildings still standing in the city. Designed by Boston architect Henry Hobson Richardson, the building's Romanesque architecture draws in millions of visitors each year. Its large, granite blocks and wide entranceways even give the building a simple, dignified style all its own.

Connected to its adjacent courthouse via the "Bridge of Sighs," it was modeled after a Venetian structure bearing the same name. Though the building was originally used as a correctional facility many years, it was replaced in the 1990s by a more modernized structure on Second Avenue. Currently housing the Family Division of the Court of Common Pleas, the Old Allegheny County jail

was declared a historic landmark in the early 1970s. Today, a portion of one of its cell blocks functions as the Old Allegheny County Jail Museum.

**When you're ready to continue, head northwest on Second Avenue toward Municipal Courts Dr. Turn right onto Grant St, and the destination will be on your right.**

### **Pittsburgh City Hall**

Now that we've spent some time behind bars, we escape to Pittsburgh City Hall, home to the city's seat of government. Located in Downtown Pittsburgh just off Grant Street, the building was designed by American architect Henry Hornbostel. Having designed a many previous buildings, bridges and monuments, Pittsburgh's City Hall remains the architect's crowning achievement.

From its main hall, surrounded by 47-ft. columns, to its vaulted ceiling of Gustavino terra-cotta tile, it remains one of the most beautiful buildings in all of Pittsburgh. Opened in the early 1900s, it houses both the Pittsburgh and Allegheny County Offices, acting as the city's legislative branch. Here laws for each of Pittsburgh's nine districts are proposed, debated, and ultimately voted upon.

**When you're ready to continue, head southwest on Grant St toward Fourth Ave. Turn left at Second Avenue. Take a slight right, then a slight left, and the destination will be on your left.**

### **Firstside Park / Building**

Nearing the end of our tour, we stop to relax at Firstside Park. Offering one of the best places in the city to stop and have lunch, its grounds are littered with benches, paved walkways, and flowers of all kinds. Funded by the PNC Financial Service Group, it remains the city's best eco-friendly open space.

Conveniently placed near one of the city's main entrances, the park is also unique in that it is one of the first parks visitors to Pittsburgh will see. Designed with this intention, it functions as an inviting gateway to the city, and a symbol of Pittsburgh's sustainability. Having been built upon a former railroad terminal, much of the park was also constructed via recycled concrete.

Adding to this, countless sculptures by the renowned artist Albert Guibara complement the park space, depicting various animals in funny poses and joyful expressions. From the depiction of one frog helping another to ride a unicycle, to the large rabbit sitting in a chair, the sculptures provide a wonderful backdrop to the park's greenery.

Towering over Firstside Park, the Firstside Center acts as a shining beacon to eco-friendly construction. Designed with stone and glass facades on three of its sides, its construction provides nearly all of its employees with direct views of the Ohio River Valley. Basking in the Center's generous supply of natural lighting, many of PNC's employees find the building just as pleasant to work in as it is to look out of. As an added comfort, air circulation throughout the facility is provided using an innovative system of air distribution. Hailed as one of the best places to work in all of Pittsburgh, the Firstside Center is a staple among the city.

**When you're ready to move onto our final destination, head northwest. Turn left toward Grant St. Slight left toward Grant St. Turn right toward Grant St. Turn left onto Grant St. Continue onto Fort Pitt Blvd. Turn right, and the destination will be on your right.**

### **Monongahela Wharf Landing**

We arrive now at the final stop on our Historic Walking Tour, the Monongahela Wharf Landing. Hailed as the city's "new front doorstep," the landing itself functions as a linear park, providing an urban oasis for the city's many residents, workers. Where it had once been a parking lot for several decades, Monongahela Wharf Landing is now one of the city's most beautiful attractions.

Designed and completed by Pittsburgh's Riverlife group, the renovation of Monongahela Wharf Landing was a massive undertaking, one that thoroughly tested the group's mission to "take a parking lot and turn it into paradise." Countless measures had to be taken to ensure it would be flood-proof, along with providing the park a new look and feel that would provide a family-friendly atmosphere. These measures ultimately proved expensive, and while costs were initially a concern, the necessary funds were eventually acquired through generous federal support, various grants, and private donors. Culminating in a ribbon cutting ceremony in late 2009, the park was officially opened to the public. Today, Monongahela Wharf Landing offers some of the best places to sit, socialize, and dip your toes in the water.

**This concludes our Historic Walking Tour of Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. We hope you've enjoyed yourself, and should you wish to return to the starting point at Point State Park, please follow these directions: Head northwest on Fort Pitt Blvd toward Market St. Continue onto Commonwealth Pl., and the destination will be on your left.**