



PHILADELPHIA FACT SHEET

LANGUAGE: American English.

POPULATION: City population of 1.6 million and regional population of 6.1 million.

MAJOR INDUSTRIES: Bio-science, financial services, education, tourism.

CURRENCY: The US dollar. The official rate of exchange fluctuates daily, depending on the foreign exchange markets. Currently (March 2020), the rates stand at approximately \$1 = 77p.

CLIMATE: Philadelphia has a humid subtropical climate, with the coldest month being January when the average temperature overnight is minus 3 degrees Celsius. In July, the warmest month, the average day time temperature rises to 29 degrees Celsius. The driest month in Philadelphia is February with 2.74 inches of precipitation, and with 4.39 inches in July, the wettest month.

LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHY: Philadelphia is located on the east coast of the USA in Pennsylvania, which is affectionately known as the 'Keystone State'. The city encompasses 142.6 square miles of land and 7.6 square miles of water and is home to both the Delaware and Schuylkill river. The city's lowest point is 3m above sea level and the highest point is at Chestnut Hill, which is about 136m above sea level. Philadelphia is the sixth-largest city in the US and the second-largest on the East Coast.

HISTORY: Regarded as the 'Birthplace of America', Philadelphia was founded in 1682 by William Penn, an English Quaker. From 1774 to 1800, the city played a vital role in the American Revolution and on 4 July 1776, the Declaration of Independence was written and signed at Independence Hall, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Philadelphia was the nation's capital from 1790 to 1800, while Washington D.C. was under construction, and in 2015, the city was named the first World Heritage City in the US. Unsurprisingly, the city now plays host to a vast collection of museums and historical attractions, including the Philadelphia Museum of Art, home to the famous 'Rocky' steps, and the Museum of the American Revolution, which was named the best new opening in the world in 2017 by Lonely Planet. The city's Historic District is home to numerous historic attractions, such as the famous Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, Franklin Square and Elfreth's Alley.

ACCOMMODATION AND HOSPITALITY: There are over 12,000 hotel rooms in the Center City and over 16,000 hotel rooms in Philadelphia County. Philadelphia boasts over 2,500 restaurants and cafés.

CULTURE: A haven for foodies, the city is famous for its Philly cheesesteak: a crusty roll filled with sliced beef, gooey melted cheese and fried onions. In addition, over 4,000 public art murals grace external walls of buildings across Philadelphia, forming one of the world’s largest public art programs. Thanks to its street grid layout and relatively compact size, Philadelphia is renowned as one of most walkable cities in the US. For active travellers, the city has 426 miles of bicycle lanes and Fairmount Park covers over 10% of the land in Philadelphia in 63 neighbourhoods with over 270 miles of recreational trails. The city is also well-known for its rich LGBT history and is home to the lovingly named Gayborhood, where the streets are accented with rainbow crosswalks and street signs.

TRANSPORT: Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) is the only major airport serving Philadelphia’s metropolitan area and serves more than 32.24 million commercial passengers annually. Twenty-five airlines, including all major domestic carriers, offer around 1,000 daily flights to 39 international and 103 domestic year-round and seasonal destinations (as of September 2019). The airport is a major international hub for American Airlines.

The city can also be reached on Amtrak’s Acela Express in 1 hour 30 minutes from New York and in 2 hours from Washington D.C.

A direct flight from London Heathrow to Philadelphia takes around seven hours. Travellers departing from Dublin can benefit from the US Preclearance (USCBP) facility at Terminal 2 in Dublin Airport, a purpose-built facility that allows US bound passengers to undertake all US immigration, customs and agriculture inspections at Dublin Airport prior to departure. Dublin Airport is one of only a handful of airports outside North America that offers a US Preclearance facility.

UK and Irish travellers can visit Philadelphia via a direct flight with the following airlines:

Airline	Departure Airports	Availability
British Airways	London Heathrow	All year round
Aer Lingus	Dublin	All year round
American Airlines	London Heathrow Edinburgh Manchester Dublin Shannon	Seasonal from Shannon, Edinburgh and Dublin

For more information on Philadelphia, visit the Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau’s website, www.discoverPHL.co.uk

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About Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau

Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau (**PHLCVB**), www.discoverPHL.com, a private non-profit membership corporation, is the official Tourism Promotion Agency for the City of Philadelphia globally, and the primary sales and marketing agency for the expanded Pennsylvania Convention Centre. The **PHLCVB** competes with its counterparts worldwide for convention and tourism business. The organisation has divisions dedicated to the multicultural, sports, and life sciences markets.