Situated on a peninsula jutting into an intersection of rivers, the city of 305,000 is gemlike, surrounded by bluffs and bright yellow bridges streaming into its heart.

"Pittsburgh's cool," by Josh Noel, Chicago Tribune, Jan. 5, 2014

FREE TOURS
Old Allegheny County Jail Museum
Open Mondays through October (11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.)
(except court holidays)

Downtown Pittsburgh: Guided Walking Tours
Every Friday, May through September ( Noon to 1:00 p.m.)
- September: Fourth Avenue & PPG Place

DOWNTOWN'S BEST
Special Places and Spaces in a 2-Hour Walk
Not free. A guidebook is included. Space is limited.
Advance paid reservations are required.
August: every Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. to Noon
Other dates by appointment

SPECIAL EVENTS
Not free. Reservations are required. Space is limited.
Sept. 20 (Sat.): Cul-de-sacs of Shadyside Walking Tour—
A Semi-Private World
Oct. 11 (Sat.): Bus Tour of Modernist Landmarks on
Pittsburgh's North Side
Oct. 25 (Sat.): Bus Tour to Chatham University's Self-Sustaining
Eden Hall Campus

FOR DETAILS & RESERVATIONS
412-471-5808, ext. 527 or marylu@philh.org

Funding from the Alfred M. Oppenheimer Memorial Fund of
The Pittsburgh Foundation helps underwrite PHLF's tour program.

PHLF www.phlf.org
Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation
Renewing Communities; Building Pride
100 West Station Square Drive, Suite 450
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-7174
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AUGUST FRIDAYS AT NOON
A FREE one-hour guided walking tour, compliments of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

MEETING LOCATION
107 Sixth Street, in front of the Renaissance Pittsburgh Hotel

first certified “green” convention center, with natural ventilation, recycled and low-emissions materials, water reuse systems, and roof skylights. In 2012, the Convention Center achieved LEED Platinum-EBOM (existing building operational management).

David L. Lawrence (1889-1966) was the Democratic Mayor of Pittsburgh who joined forces with Republican financier Richard King Mellon (1899-1970) between 1946 and 1959 to engineer Pittsburgh’s first Renaissance. During that time, smoke-control and water purification laws were enforced, and massive clearances eventually resulted in the creation of Point State Park and in the redevelopment (unsuccessfully) of portions of the Hill District, North Side, and East Liberty.

Pittsburgh CAPA (Creative and Performing Arts) 6-12
MacLachlan, Cornelius & Foxon, architects; 2003/2009
Part of the Pittsburgh Public School system, CAPA is a state-of-the-art facility built largely through the generosity of The Blitz Foundation. The design of the new building plays off the design of the adjoining historic structures of 1915 by Pittsburgh architect Charles Bickel. The two buildings are connected, with classrooms flowing from one building to the other. A four-story exterior Jumbotron on the Fort Duquesne Boulevard façade showcases student artwork.

Allegheny Riverfront Park
The park consists of two separate strips of land, on two different levels, connected by ramps and steps: one pathway is close to the water’s edge and the other borders Fort Duquesne Boulevard. When the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust commissioned Allegheny Riverfront Park, the nonprofit organization helped realize a riverfront park system originally conceived for Pittsburgh in 1911 by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.

We welcome your comments: Call 412-471-5808, ext. 527. For more information on local buildings, bridges, and architects, purchase one of our books.
Call 412-471-5808, ext. 525 for a listing of titles and prices, or visit: www.phlf.org
A bridge is said to represent the drama in building construction. There is something intensely dramatic and fanciful in the appeal of the bridge to all classes of people, under all conditions of nature. All traffic converges and concentrates on the bridges. They become a daily necessity and a familiar benefactor, giving convenient passage over some natural obstruction.

When the highway leaves its natural bed and soars through the air on thin and film-like construction, to convey the people, the trains, the street cars and all the traffic in safety across a wide river or deep valley and when we look over the railing of the bridge into the dark flowing water or the ground many hundreds of feet below, we are all deeply stirred in our emotions.

This accomplishment of man’s handicraft is one of the most dramatic things in modern life. The bridges are a very vital part of the life of the community. It would be impossible to get along without them.


According to Bob Regan’s book, The Bridges of Pittsburgh (2006), Pittsburgh has more bridges than any other city in the world: 446 to be exact. Pittsburgh’s first river bridge was built over the Monongahela in 1818 (at the site of the present Smithfield Street Bridge). The city’s newest river crossing is the Veterans’ Bridge of 1897 over the Allegheny, although the Mon Conn (1904) and Hot Metal Bridge (1900) provide the newest routes over a river, with the former railroad bridges converted to carry vehicular traffic in 2000 and pedestrian traffic in 2007 over the Monongahela.

On this tour we’ll cross two Allegheny River bridges, and point out other notable bridges and significant architectural landmarks in downtown Pittsburgh and on the North Side, the independent City of Allegheny until 1907.

1. Renaissance Pittsburgh Hotel
   Grandview Avenue (New York, architect), 1906
   Remodeled, 2003
   Sage Hospitality Resources of Denver used federal Historic Tax Credit to transform the Fullerton Building, originally commissioned by Pittsburgh entrepreneur Henry Phipps, into the four-diamond Renaissance Pittsburgh Hotel. Some quick facts: The exterior light well, a nine-story arched opening, was designed to allow the cool air from the Allegheny River to cool the building by pushing the hot air out. Forty thousand pounds of baking soda were used to clean the copper cladding on the light well, making it the largest copper restoration project on the East Coast since the Statue of Liberty restoration in 1986. Three hundred pounds of coal dust were removed from the exterior surface of the skyscraper, making the lobby space within one of Pittsburgh’s most spectacular.

2. Byham Theater
   Dodge & Morrison (New York, architects), 1904
   Following its Halloween-night opening in 1904, the Gaerty Theater, as it was originally called, was one of the country’s finest small stage and vaudeville houses. Ethel Barrymore, Gertrude Lawrence, and Helen Hayes performed there. The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust purchased the theater in 1990, restored it, and renamed it in 1995. On the Allegheny-River side of the building is Richard Haas’s ‘trumpet-tail’ mural showing the Bessemer smelting process.

3. Roberto Clemente Bridge (Sixth Street)
   Andy Warhol Bridge (Seventh Street)
   Rachel Carson Bridge (Ninth Street)
   Allegheny County Department of Public Works; engineers; Stanley L. Roueh; architect; 1926-28
   Originally named for the streets to which they connected—Sixth, Seventh, and Ninth—the identical self-anchored suspension bridges were long referred to as the “Three Sisters.” They have been renamed to honor baseball legend Roberto Clemente (1934-1972), who played for the Pittsburgh Pirates from 1955 to 1972. Pittsburgh-born pop artist Andy Warhol (1928-1987); and scientist and author Rachel Carson (1907-1964), who was born in Springdale, about 15 miles up the Allegheny from the Point.

4. Allegheny River
   Formed in its present course more than 12,000 years ago as a result of glacial action, the Allegheny River begins near Coraopolis, Potter County, in northwestern Pennsylvania, then flows north into New York and then south to Pittsburgh, where it becomes the Monongahela River at the Point to form the Ohio River, which flows into the Mississippi. The 325-mile-long Allegheny River2 pumps two billions of gallons of water into the Ohio every day, versus the Monongahela’s 775 million.

5. Fort Duquesne Bridge
   Richardson Gordon & Associates; architects; 1963
   (Completed in 1969)
   For six years this was the “Bridge to Nowhere,” because it was left unfinished. When the main span was completed in 1963, one end of the bridge was left hanging in midair until a site for the northshore connecting ramp was selected. The tied-arch bridge was named for the French fort which occupied the Point from 1754 to 1758. The Fort Pitt Bridge, crossing the Monongahela, recalls the name of the British fort that was built at the Point between 1759 and 1761. The British occupied Fort Pitt until 1772.

6. Heinz Field
   HOK Sport (Kansa City, MO); architects; 2001
   This football stadium is the home field of both the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Pittsburgh Panthers (University of Pittsburgh).

7. PNC Park
   HOK Sport (Kansa City, MO), with L. D. Astorino, architects; 2001
   PNC Park is a classic-style baseball stadium, designed to fit in with the existing street grid and to provide terrific views of the downtown skyline. Before the stadium was built, an architectural deign competition was called on the site. Poes, pans, dinner plates, a book, and other artefacts were unearthed from the 1830s home of General William Robinson, Jr., the first mayor of Allegheny City. Allegheny was the third largest city in Pennsylvania at the time of its forced annexation to Pittsburgh in 1907. Then it became the “North Side.”

8. Roberto Clemente and Willie Stargell Statues
   Pittsburgh Pirates commissioned this 12-foot bronze statue of right-fielder Roberto Clemente. Soil from Clemente’s native Puerto Rico and from the two Pittsburgh stadiums where he played— Forbes Field and Three Rivers Stadium—is placed under the markers for first, second, and third bases. Facts about Clemente are inscribed around the base of the statue. Left-fielder and first baseman Willie Stargell (1940-2001) played for the Pirates from 1962 to 1982 and was known for his “monstrous” home runs. He had 475 career home runs, and hit three in the Pirates’ 1979 World Series victory. Notice Stargell’s quote inscribed in the base: “Last night, coming in from the airport, we came through the tunnel and the city opened up its arms and I felt at home.”

9. Allegheny Landing
   City of Pittsburgh, 1994
   This sculpture park includes “The Builders,” by George Danhieres; “The Forks,” by Isaac Witten; “Piazza Lavoro” and “Mythic Source,” by Ned Smyth; and “Pittsburgh Variations,” by George Sugarman. Allegheny Landing takes its name from the place where a ferry once operated between Allegheny Town and Pittsburgh. Allegheny Landing is part of Three Rivers Park and a riverfront trail that extends from the West End Bridge to the William Penn Memorial Bridge, formerly the Thirty-first Street Bridge.

10. Alcoa Corporate Center
    Shown from the North End; Alligator Rush, architects; 1998
    Behind this wave-like form of aluminum and glass is an open-office environment, with no work station more than 45 feet from the 11-foot-high windows. Although Alcoa has moved its headquarters to New York City, about 2,000 people work here and in the adjacent Alcoa Business Services Center, designed by Pfaffmann + Associates and completed in 2002.

11. Andy Warhol Museum
    William G. Wilkins Co. (Architect); c. 1913
    The Andy Warhol Museum is one of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh. Originally used as a warehouse for the Frick & Lindsay machinery company, the historic landmark now houses an extensive permanent collection of art and archives from Pittsburgh native Andy Warhol, one of the most influential artists of the 20th century.

12. Downtown Pittsburgh Skyscrapers (view)
    U.S. Steel Tower (Harrison & Abramovitz [New York], architects, 1971) is Pittsburgh’s tallest skyscraper at 841 feet. The exposed frame of Cor-Ten weathering steel adverbs a company product, and also bears the UPMC name; both U.S. Steel and UPMC have poured here. Also notice the limestone ziggurat top of the Art Deco Gulf Tower [Trowbridge & Livingston [New York], architects, 1932] and the Art Deco Koppers Building (Graham, Anderson, Probst & White [Chicago], 1929), with its crown eagle roof of copper. All three buildings are on Grant Street.

13. David L. Lawrence Convention Center
    Rafael Vulosky Architects (New York); architects, 2003
    The slope of the Convention Center roof plays off the sloping canyons of the nearby bridges. Cantilevered over the Allegheny River, the Convention Center is the world’s...