

HALF way between New York and Washington, Philadelphia (Greek for 'City of Brotherly Love') is the fifth largest city in the US - the second largest on the East Coast. It was founded in 1682 by William Penn, an English Quaker; was the scene of the drafting and signing of both the Declaration of Independence & the US Constitution; and acted as the nation's capital, 1790-1800.

Also dubbed 'City of Firsts', the scene of pioneering gay demos in the '60s (see page 12) and politically Democrat for decades, Philly rests between two rivers - Schuylkill to the west and Delaware to the east; has undergone massive regeneration since a late 80s slump; and is the set of countless movies, from Rocky to the eponymous AIDS-flick Philadelphia.

Where better to start your visit than at Independence Visitor Centre, the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall: a cluster of buildings that form the city's - nay the very nation's - historic heart? Then jump on a trolley tour (www.phillytour.com) from the nearby Bourse to take in the quaint Old Town; sites relating to local genius Benjamin Franklin; buzzing China Town; the vast City Hall - "topped" by city founder William Penn; and the business district, with its skyline of modern blocks mixed with classic old 20s scrapers.

Hop off the trolley temporarily at Reading Terminal Market for a local cheese steak (cheese-covered steak hunk-in-a-bun) or "hoagies" (giant filled rolls), before heading on to Philadelphia Museum of Art, the 3rd largest in the US, where you might just catch the Dali exhibition if you're quick (see below); or pop over the Schuylkill to the Institute of Contemporary Art (www.icaphila.org).

If you've time, scan the many graffiti-art murals that brighten the city centre; venture south a little to the huge Italian Market; or catch a classical concert by the world-famous Philadelphia Orchestra at the modern Kimmel Centre for Performing Arts on the Avenue of Arts.

THE 'GAYBOURHOOD' - BETWEEN BROAD AND 12TH STREETS AND WALNUT AND PINE STREETS

▶ TO DRINK AND DANCE:

12th Street Air Command
(254 South 12th Street; Tel: +1 215 545 8088; www.12thair.com) - Large venue with three dance floors and lots of pinball machines.

Bump
(13th & Locust Streets; Tel: +1 215 732 1800) - Philadelphia's newest bar is a swanky "luxe-lounge" with after hours restaurant and juice bar on Fridays and Saturdays.

Tavern on Camac
(243 S. Camac Street; Tel: +1 215 545 0900; www.tavernoncamac.com) - Comfy show-tune piano bar down a narrow street.

Key West
(207 S. Juniper Street; Tel: +1 215 545 1578) - 5-bar complex to go and get lost in!

Woody's
(202 S. 13th Street; Tel: +1 215 545 1893; www.woody'sbar.com) - Philly's most famous gay club - 7 days a week - shameless and tireless!

Pure
(1221 St. James Place; Tel: +1 215 735 5772) - Philly's biggest afterhours club (after 2am, when bars shut) - good dance music in swish surrounds! Just round the corner from Woody's!

▶ TO EAT:

Mixto
(1141-43 Pine Street; Tel: +1 215 592 0363) - Fab Cuban-Columbian cuisine with cute waiters who tease.

▶ TO STAY:

Alexander Inn
(12th Street & Spruce Street; Tel: +1 215 923 3535; www.alexanderinn.com) - Euro charm, US comfort! Roaring fire in the foyer, cosy rooms, generous breakfasts. Perfectly positioned for scene and sites!

▶ TO SHOP:

Giovanni's Room
(345 S 12th Street; Tel: +1 215 923 2960; www.queerbooks.com) - Long-established LGBT bookstore.

▶ TO CRUISE AND STEAM:

Schuylkill Park Club Body Centre II
(1220 Chancellor Street; Tel: +1 215 735 7671; www.clubbodycentre.com) - Men's "health club" - open 24/7.

PHILLY'S SPRING & SUMMER 2005

> UNTIL 15th May 2005:

Salvador Dali at the Philadelphia Museum of Art - This blockbuster exhibition covers all aspects of the great masturbating Spaniard's long and controversial career: www.philamuseum.org

> 12th June 2005:

Philadelphia Pride Parade & Festival - Annual parade through the 'Gaybourhood' ending with a festival and party: www.phillypride.org

> 4th July 2005:

Philadelphia Freedom Concert & Ball - Sir Elton John will headline this concert, to raise two million dollars for HIV/AIDS awareness: www.phillyfreedom.net

> 7th - 18th July 2005:

11th Philadelphia International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival - Film fest fortnight: +1 215 733 0608 or www.gophila.com/culturefiles/film/gaylesbian

PHILADELPHIA: CITY OF BROTHERLY LOVE

ADRIAN GILLAN explores Philadelphia, birthplace of a nation and 'City of Brotherly Love'.



> For the latest on gay Philly: www.outinphiladelphia.com; www.gophila.com/gay/

> US Airways offers more flights to Philadelphia from the UK than any other carrier, with daily non-stop flights from London Gatwick, Manchester and Glasgow (summer only). Fares start from £353.50 including taxes. For further information, call US Airways on 0845 600 3300 or visit www.usairways.com

MAYDAY MENTHOL

with our spring fresh residents

special guest dj & producer

NELLY B
STEVE
HIGGINS

MATT
DAREY

introducing
special guest

PANDORA SK
(Spangulation,
Tasty, Tilt)

playing an
exclusive
set of
Euphoria
anthems



SUNDAY 1 MAY 10PM TIL LATE

IN THE FIREPIT

SEXYTRIBALBEATS

DIS&FUNKTION

SPECIAL GUEST: BARCODE, HARD-ON

SIMON WALLIS

RESIDENT

STEVEN BLACK

 SOUTH LAMBETH ROAD
VAUXHALL LONDON SW8
FIRE VAUXHALL TUBE

£10 OTD £8 conc. £6 Members
www.clubmenthol.net
taz@clubmenthol.net

CHOONZ TO MAKE YOU TRANCE

MENTHOL



Don't forget
our usual
monthly
MENTHOL
on Saturday
May 14