36 HOURS IN University City 2020
Friday

12PM  Arrive at 30th St Station
Philadelphia’s iconic 30th Street Station is a hub for Amtrak, New Jersey Transit and SEPTA, which operates regional rail lines, subways, trolleys, and buses. While inside the station, grab a bite to eat from a wide array of vendors. Want to relax before exploring? Walk outside the southern exit and enjoy The Porch at 30th Street Station, one of Philadelphia’s premiere public spaces. The Porch features inspired seating including custom swings, rich horticulture, pop-up performances, and a rotating list of lunch trucks during the work week. The Porch is the perfect place to relax outdoors after a long trip or to pass time while waiting for your train.

2PM  Meet a Mummy
Venture inside The Penn Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (3260 South St) to view galleries showcasing rare materials and objects from around the world, including the largest collections of Egyptian artifacts in the United States. The museum features rotating exhibitions, beautiful gardens, performances, and events. Don’t miss the biggest Egyptian sphinx in the Western Hemisphere!

6PM  Dine Around the World
University City has a diverse and eclectic dining scene, with international cuisine and restaurants by acclaimed chefs. Iron Chef Jose Garces’ Distrito (3945 Chestnut St) is a tribute to Mexico City. Stephen Starr serves up contemporary Pan-Asian cuisine at his futuristic Pod (3636 Sansom St), with a sushi conveyor belt. At Jane G’s Dim Sum House (3939 Chestnut St), enjoy Shanghai and Cantonese-style small plates. Can’t decide? Franklin’s Table food hall (3401 Walnut St) has offerings from rotating local favorites. End up at Winterfell Dessert (32 S 40th St) for Taiwanese shaved ice and bubble tea.

Saturday

9AM  Take a Ride Through the Neighborhood
Choose a bike from over twenty neighborhood Indego Bike Share stations in the area and ride to Drexel Park (32nd & Powelton Ave) or Cira Green (129 S 30th St) for amazing views of the city. Wander through Powelton Village and find a mix of brightly painted houses, unique shops and galleries, and a diverse selection of dining options along Lancaster Avenue, including bagels and smoked fish from Bart’s Bagels (3945 Lancaster Ave). On the 2nd Friday of each month, you will find sidewalk sales, live music, and art exhibits along ten blocks of Lancaster, from 34th St to 43rd St.

10:30AM  Pick Up Fresh Foods from the Clark Park Farmers’ Market
Take some time to visit historic Clark Park (43rd & Baltimore Ave), University City’s largest public green space. Here you can have a picnic, throw a Frisbee, frolic on the playground or catch a special event – from flea markets to movies to theater performances. Each Saturday from 10am-2pm (and Thursdays from 3pm-7pm June through November), vendors from local farms and small businesses sell locally-grown fruits, vegetables, flowers, and sweet treats.

Follow us for event updates & neighborhood news:
universitycity.org  @ucdphl
universitycity  @universitycity
12pm  Explore Spruce Hill
Spruce Hill and the surrounding areas consist of grand historical residences and charming, tree-lined streets. Grab delicious tacos and burritos from Taco Taco (261 S 44th St), creative treats from Lil’ Pop Shop (265 S 44th St), or made-to-order sandwiches at Koch’s Deli (4309 Locust St), a University City institution since 1966. Beer lovers won’t want to miss brews on tap at Local 44 (4333 Spruce St), or to-go from the attached Bottle Shop. Head to Baltimore Avenue for great shops and restaurants. Follow Baltimore west to Cedar Park and try award-winning craft beer and wood-fired pizzas from Dock Street Brewery (701 S 50th St) or creative cocktails at their adjoining Cannery & Tasting Lounge.

3pm  Do a Little Shopping
University City features both name-brand stores and small boutiques. Pick up unique and trendy home items from Hello World (3610 Sansom St); books, gifts and apparel from Penn Bookstore (3601 Walnut St); clothing and housewares from Philadelphia’s own Urban Outfitters (110 S 36th St); fresh and fashion-forward clothing at Piper Boutique (140 S 34th St); or shop for environmentally conscious outdoor apparel while sipping local ReAnimator coffee from United By Blue (3421 Walnut St).

7pm  Enjoy Dinner and a Show
Head into the heart of University City and sample a rotating menu of house-made pastas, gourmet pizzas, and an evolving list of beer and wine at Zavino (3200 Chestnut St); excellent Szachuan fare with heat-ranked dishes at Han Dynasty (3711 Market St); authentic southern fare including ribs, pulled pork, and mac n’ cheese at Baby Blues BBQ (3402 Sansom St); or hand-drawn noodles, bubble tea, sushi, and bento at Ochatto (3608 Chestnut St). After dinner, visit the Annenberg Center (3680 Walnut St) for dance, music, and theater, or head to Curio Theatre (4740 Baltimore Ave) for high quality, affordable live performances.

Saturday

11pm  Relax with a Nightcap
University City comes alive on the weekends with plenty of late-night offerings. Beer lovers can choose from 60 drafts at City Tap House (3925 Walnut St). If you’re looking to venture deeper into the neighborhood, head to local favorite Fiume (229 S 45th St), which has no phone number or sign, or enjoy drinks and dancing at Dahlak Paradise (4708 Baltimore Ave). Still hungry? Order late night warm cookies for delivery from Penn’s own Insomnia Cookies (877.632.6654) until 3AM.

Sunday

9am  Fuel Up
University City caters to college students, doctors, nurses, and professionals, so it’s no wonder there’s a wide selection of great coffee shops and grab-and-go breakfast. Pick up organic and fairly-traded coffee from Greenline Café (multiple locations) or ReAnimator (4705 Pine St), a bagel and custom cream cheese creation from Schmear It (3601 Market St), or assorted baked goods from Metropolitan (4013 Walnut St) and wander through beautiful Locust Walk taking in the architecture of the University of Pennsylvania. Caving something sweet? Beiler’s Doughnuts (3900 Chestnut) are some of the best in the city.

11am  Enjoy Brunch or an Early Lunch
Relax after a busy weekend with a leisurely sit-down brunch. The venerable White Dog Café (3420 Sansom St), with organic fare, has been a neighborhood staple for over 30 years. Renata’s Kitchen (3940 Baltimore Ave) draws big crowds for brunch. Want something quicker? Hip City Veg (214 S 40th St) offers 100% plant-based food, and Philadelphia’s beloved Federal Donuts has an outpost at 3428 Sansom Street—try one of their fancy-style donuts and get some fried chicken to go.

12pm  Explore!
About University City District

There’s plenty more to do in University City! Check out more recommendations at www.universitycity.org

University City District is a partnership of world-renowned anchor institutions, small businesses, and residents that creates opportunity, and improves economic vitality and quality of life in the University City area of West Philadelphia. Our primary mission is community revitalization. We work within a place-based, data-driven framework to invest in world-class public spaces, address crime and public safety, bring life to commercial corridors, connect low-income residents to careers, and promote job growth and innovation.
Enjoy the Outdoors
There are plenty of places to run, walk, bike, or enjoy nature in University City. The Woodlands (4000 Woodland Ave), a National Historic Landmark, features 54 acres of undulating landscape to explore. Take a break from the hustle and bustle of the city at the BioPond, a serene slice of the country tucked away in a quiet nook off Hamilton Walk between 36th and 38th streets. Looking to explore further? Visit Bartram’s Garden, America’s oldest living botanical garden, just outside the district (5400 Lindbergh Blvd).

Get Sporty
The famous Franklin Field (235 S 33rd St), once home to the Philadelphia Eagles, now hosts the Penn Relays every spring and other events throughout the year. Play pickup soccer and Frisbee at Penn Park (3000 Walnut St). Farther west, relax with a yoga class at Studio 34 (4522 Baltimore Ave) or Hot Box Yoga (3527 Lancaster Ave), or take a jog on the Schuylkill River Trail starting from the South Street Bridge.

Forget Something?
Head to Blue Mercury (3603 Walnut St) for makeup, skincare, and perfume. Need a snack? Local market Old Nelson has locations throughout the neighborhood and offers sandwiches on-the-go and draft lattes from La Colombe. Mariposa Food Co-Op (4824 Baltimore Ave) carries healthy and locally-grown products (not just for members).

Pick Up Unique Gifts
University City features great boutiques! Find funky jewelry and local handmade goods at VIX Emporium (5009 Baltimore Ave); board, card, and role-playing games at Redcap’s Corner (3850 Lancaster Ave); or funky vintage items and antiques at Jinxed (4521 Baltimore Ave).

Rain Plan
If the weather is lousy, head indoors! Catch the newest movies at Cinemark (4012 Walnut St), enjoy bites, drinks, and arcade games at The Post (129 S. 30th St), or visit the Institute of Contemporary Art (118 S. 36th St) where Andy Warhol presented his first ever solo show, and where admission is always free.