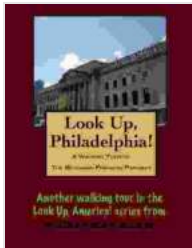


# Walking Tour Of Philadelphia Benjamin Franklin Parkway Look Up America Series



## A Walking Tour of Philadelphia - Benjamin Franklin Parkway (Look Up, America! Series) by Doug Gelbert

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

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Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
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Welcome to the enchanting Benjamin Franklin Parkway, a grand boulevard that epitomizes Philadelphia's rich history and architectural splendor. This iconic thoroughfare, stretching from City Hall to the Philadelphia Museum of Art, is a treasure trove of hidden gems, waiting to be discovered by curious explorers. Join us on an unforgettable walking tour, where we'll unveil the captivating stories behind these architectural masterpieces and uncover the secrets that lie beneath their grand facades.

## Logan Circle

Our journey begins at the heart of the parkway, Logan Circle. This vibrant green space is adorned with a majestic bronze fountain, dedicated to the city's namesake, William Penn. Take a moment to admire the intricate detailing of the fountain, depicting scenes from Penn's life and the founding

of Philadelphia. Surrounding the fountain are four bronze sculptures, representing the four seasons, adding a touch of whimsy to the surroundings.

### **Philadelphia Museum of Art**

Continuing down the parkway, we arrive at the iconic Philadelphia Museum of Art. This world-renowned institution houses an extraordinary collection of art, spanning from ancient times to the present day. As you ascend the grand staircase, flanked by the majestic lions, prepare to be awestruck by the architectural grandeur of the museum. Inside, you'll find masterpieces from Van Gogh, Picasso, Monet, and countless other renowned artists.

### **Rodin Museum**

Just across the parkway from the Philadelphia Museum of Art, nestled amidst lush gardens, lies the Rodin Museum. Dedicated to the works of the legendary French sculptor, Auguste Rodin, this museum houses the largest collection of his sculptures outside of Paris. Admire the delicate beauty of "The Kiss" and the powerful emotion captured in "The Thinker." The museum's serene atmosphere provides the perfect setting to contemplate Rodin's artistic genius.

### **Barnes Foundation**

Continuing our walk, we come to the Barnes Foundation, a unique and captivating art museum. This institution is renowned for its unconventional display of art, where masterpieces from Renoir, Cézanne, Matisse, and Picasso hang side by side with African sculptures and Native American artifacts. Allow yourself to be immersed in the vibrant colors and bold compositions that characterize the Barnes Collection.

## **Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul**

As we approach the eastern end of the parkway, we encounter the awe-inspiring Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul. This magnificent Roman Catholic cathedral is a testament to the city's religious heritage. Its soaring spires and intricate stained-glass windows create an atmosphere of reverence and tranquility. Take a moment to step inside and marvel at the grandeur of the interior, adorned with marble, mosaics, and stunning artwork.

## **Swann Memorial Fountain**

At the foot of the cathedral, you'll find Swann Memorial Fountain, a picturesque oasis in the heart of the parkway. This enchanting fountain, designed by Alexander Stirling Calder, features a central bronze figure of Neptune, surrounded by playful cherubs and sea creatures. The fountain's cascading waters provide a soothing backdrop to the surrounding greenery, creating a serene haven amidst the bustling city.

## **Fairmount Water Works**

As we venture further along the parkway, we arrive at the historic Fairmount Water Works. This former water pumping station is now a National Historic Landmark, offering a glimpse into Philadelphia's industrial past. Explore the massive stone arches and learn about the innovative engineering that once supplied the city with water. The surrounding park provides a tranquil setting for a leisurely stroll or a picnic.

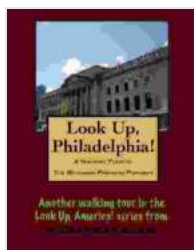
## **Boathouse Row**

Our walking tour culminates at the picturesque Boathouse Row. This iconic stretch of the Schuylkill River is lined with charming boathouses,

representing the city's rich rowing tradition. Take a leisurely stroll along the riverbank and admire the colorful boathouses, each with its own unique character. You may even catch a glimpse of rowers gliding gracefully across the water.

As we reach the end of our Benjamin Franklin Parkway walking tour, we can't help but feel a deep appreciation for the architectural marvels and hidden gems that adorn this grand boulevard. From the iconic Philadelphia Museum of Art to the serene Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, each landmark tells a captivating story about Philadelphia's rich history and cultural heritage. We encourage you to explore these treasures further, immersing yourself in the beauty and wonder that the Benjamin Franklin Parkway has to offer.

Whether you're an art enthusiast, history buff, or simply someone who appreciates architectural beauty, this walking tour is an unforgettable experience. Embrace the spirit of discovery and uncover the hidden treasures that lie along Philadelphia's Benjamin Franklin Parkway.



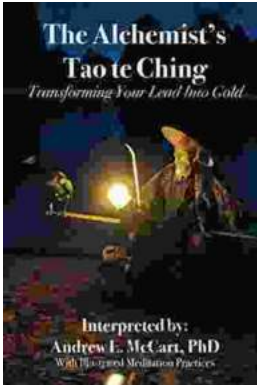
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