

Philadelphia

City Of "Brotherly Love" And Independence

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الغرفة التي وقّع فيها الدستور

The Room where the Constitution was signed

William Penn was a Quaker; a Christian religious movement with Anglican roots whose members believe in "inner light" and pacifism. Today, there are about 350,000 members of the small Religious Society of Friends (the official name of the Quakers) spread all over the world. Cities like Philadelphia and Birmingham (England) belong to their strongholds. The Quakers were

The name of the city of Philadelphia (from the Greek philos "loving" and adelphos "brother" – "Brotherly Love") was chosen by the English founder of the planned city William Penn. He established the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the second half of the seventeenth century. It was later transformed into the "British North American Colony" that became the State of Pennsylvania.

The colonial town was built near the old Indian village of Shakamaxo, which is today located within the borders of the modern city (the so-called Germantown neighborhood). The village was inhabited by indigenous Indians belonging to the Lenape people who practiced small-scale farming and hunting in the region around Delaware and the lower Hudson River. The Lenape people, language and culture do not exist anymore, unless one considers their presence in historic and folkloric museums, especially in the National Museum of the American Indian in New York City.

looking for religious freedom in the seventeenth century and were hoping to find it in America.

Some historians suggest that the name of the new town might be connected to the ancient Philadelphia (today's Amman in Jordan), which was a part of the Roman Decapolis and mentioned in the holy bible. Penn had the

historical chance to implement his

visions and beliefs in planning and building a new town and a new society.

The planned town was founded in 1682. It was developed as the capital of the new colony. The name and the plan reflected the philosophy of the founder, namely freedom and religious tolerance. Additionally, Penn saw to it that the city planning allowed for alleyways and open ▶



The Museum of Art with the Famous Stairs

متحف الفنون ومدرجاته الشهيرة



Statue of George Washington تمثال جورج واشنطن



The Famous Love Sculpture

تمثال الحب الشهير

spaces in order to control fires and disease which were problems common in European cities from which the migrants came.

During early immigration by Quakers and others, immigrants who purchased land in the city also received farmland outside the city. The idea of a better world was seen as a merging of city life with country life. The spirit of tolerance in Pennsylvania made the state an attractive home for many religious communities that fled from Europe due to discrimination and intolerance of the "other." The Amish communities around Philadelphia are notable reminders today of that glorious time.

During the American Revolutionary War (1775 – 1783), also known as the American War of Independence, Philadelphia was the center of the American independence movement. The Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution were signed in the city's Independence Hall. In 1790 the seat of the United States Government was moved from New York City to the Congress Hall in Philadelphia. For 10 years (1790 – 1800), the city was the temporarily capital of the new country. In 1800 the federal institutions were moved to the newly-established capital, Washington. Today, Philadelphia is a big modern city with more than 1.5 million inhabitants and the center of the fourth biggest metropolitan area in the USA with roughly 5.9 million

people. The city is visited yearly by about three million over-night visitors coming mainly for historical sightseeing, shopping and business. The Independence National Historic Park (NHP) is the most important tourist attraction. Independence Hall, where the Declaration of Independence and the US constitution were signed, is the center of the NHP. It was designated a World Heritage Site in 1979. The Liberty Bell Pavilion, the Old City Hall and the National Constitution Center along with other historic buildings and educational centers belong to the NHP. The new Visitors Center offers information about all kinds of tours and cultural activities in the city.

The modern city center is dominated by the gorgeous City Hall at Penn Square. It is the architectural highlight of Philadelphia, completed in 1901 after 30 years of construction. The 167-meter high building is crowned by a 27-ton, 32-meter high bronze statue of William Penn. The JFK Plaza, which is located next to Penn Square, hosts the most famous modern landmark of the city – the LOVE sculpture, designed by Robert Indiana. The famous sculpture gave the Plaza its informal name – Love Park.

The city center is famous for its green Rittenhouse Square where luxurious hotels and boutiques, cafes and restaurants are clustered. Beside the cozy green squares all over the city, one of the world's largest



The City Hall

مبنى البلدية

urban parks, Fairmont Park, dominates the north-western area of Philadelphia. It occupies more than 30 square kilometers on the embankments of the Schuylkill River and offers an ideal space for sport and cultural activities.

The Philadelphia Museum of Art is probably ▶

the most prominent of the city's various museums. It is not only the impressive collection of more than 300,000 paintings, sculptures and decorative arts mostly from Europe and Asia that makes it known world-wide, but the steps in front of the Museum as well: these are the very ones that Sylvester Stallone ascended in the movie "Rocky" and were viewed all over the globe.

Philadelphia is a popular shooting venue for movies. Other important museums are Rodin Museum, the Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museum, Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site, the Franklin Institute, Science Museum, Barnes Foundation Gallery and many others. In the eastern area of the city, on the embankment of the Delaware River, tourists can visit the floating museums of the former naval cruiser "Olympia" and submarine "Becuna" that served in the Second World War.

Beyond museums, parks and historical sites, the city offers beautiful neighborhoods of different sizes, lifestyles and atmosphere. The elegant Society Hill is an attractive mix of colonial homes and art galleries. The area around South Street is a concentration of funky and bohemian shops, music venues and eating places. The University City and



ناقوس الحرية الشهير
The Famous Bell of Liberty

the Italian Market area, as their names suggest, present the young creative and ethnic enclaves in the city.

Philadelphia is more than a historic city that is proud of its spirit of tolerance, diversity and culture. During my short stay there, I gained the impression that Philadelphia has its own way of life that is different from the mainstream American way of life. In this context it joins such US cities as San Francisco and Chicago where the local specifics and particulars dominate over the general national character of American cities. This could be considered as further evidence of the diversity of modern USA. ■



تمثال بين على قمة برج مبنى البلدية
Penn Sculpture on the Top of the City Hall Tower



The Floating Museums

المتحف العائم