



Relocation Guide

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IOR makes every effort to ensure that the information contained in this guide is as current as possible. If you notice errors, or information which is no longer accurate, please contact us immediately so that we may correct the issue.

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WELCOME AND OVERVIEW



Pittsburgh skyline courtesy of [Wikimedia Commons](#)

Pittsburgh is the second-largest city in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (to Philadelphia) with a population of 305,842 and the county seat of Allegheny County. The Combined Statistical Area population of 2,659,937 is the largest in both the Ohio Valley and Appalachia and the 20th-largest in the U.S.A. Pittsburgh is known as both "the Steel City" for its more than 300 steel-related businesses, as well as "the City of Bridges" for its 446 bridges. The city features 30 skyscrapers, 2 inclines, a pre-revolutionary fortification and the source of the Ohio River at the confluence of the Monongahela and Allegheny rivers. This vital link of the Atlantic coast and Midwest through the mineral-rich Alleghenies made the area coveted by the French and British Empires, Virginia, Whiskey Rebels, Civil War raiders and media networks.

Aside from steel, Pittsburgh has led in aluminum, glass, shipbuilding, petroleum, foods, sports, transportation, computing, autos, and electronics. For much of the 20th century, Pittsburgh was behind only New York and Chicago in corporate headquarters employment, second to New York in bank assets and with the most U.S. stockholders per capita. America's 1980s deindustrialization laid off blue-collar workers and thousands of downtown white-collar workers when the longtime Pittsburgh-based world headquarters of Gulf Oil, Sunbeam, Rockwell and Westinghouse moved. This heritage left the area with renowned museums, medical centers, parks, research centers, libraries, a diverse cultural district and the most bars per capita in the U.S. In 2015, Pittsburgh was named on a list of the "eleven most livable cities in the world."

Apple, Bosch, Disney, Google, IBM, Intel and Uber are among 1,600 technology firms generating \$20.7 billion in annual Pittsburgh payrolls, with the area serving as the long-time federal agency headquarters for cyber defense, software engineering, robotics, energy research and the nuclear navy. The area is home to 68 colleges and universities, including research and development leaders Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh. The nation's fifth-largest bank, eight Fortune 500 companies, and six of the top 300 US law firms make their global headquarters in the Pittsburgh area. The region is a hub for both Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, sustainable energy, and energy extraction.

City of Pittsburgh Overview

- [Official Website of Pittsburgh, PA](#)
- [Office of The Mayor](#)
- Population: 305,842
- Land Area: 58 square miles (151 km2)
- [Parks and Recreation](#) Department
- [Pittsburgh Neighborhood Resource Links](#)
- [Public Library](#)
- [Maps](#)
- [Weather Today](#)
- [Local Blog](#)

History

- [History](#)
- [Heinz History Museum](#)
- [Index of History Museums](#)

Recommended Reading (available in print and on www.amazon.com):

- [Lonely Planet](#) (Regional Travel Guide) by Karla Zimmerman
- Best Easy Day Hikes Pittsburgh (Best Easy Day Hikes Series) by Bob Frye (Author)
- Pittsburgh: The Story of an American City by Stefan Lorant
- Pittsburgh, Then and Now by Arthur G. Smith
- The Pittsburgh Steelers: The Official Team History by Abby Mendelson
- 100 Things Penguins Fans Should Know & Do Before They Die by Rick Buker
- Pittsburgh and the State of Pennsylvania: Cool Stuff Every Kid Should Know by Kate Boehm Jerome

What to See, Sightseeing Tours, Value Packages and Passes, Tourist Information

- [Visitors Center](#)
- [Attractions, Tours](#)
- [Local museum's discounts](#)
- **Editor's suggestion:** [An art and architectural Tour of Pittsburgh](#)

Where to Find Arts & Entertainment

- [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- [City Paper of Pittsburgh](#)
- [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- [Pittsburgh City Search](#)
- [Broadway in Pittsburgh - Tickets & Shows](#)
- [Pittsburgh Cinemas – Movie Listings & Schedules](#)

Where to Eat

Pittsburgh has an array of restaurants to choose from in and around the city. Throughout the area, award-winning chefs, a slow-food movement, a popular food truck scene and restaurants specializing in buying local are popping up everywhere. Choose from casual family spots, upscale and romantic locations, late-night bites and/or convenient take-out. There's Ethiopian and Mediterranean, BBQ and steak, fondue and seafood...the choices are infinite.

- [Make online restaurant reservations](#) with OpenTable.
- [Yelp](#) Restaurant Reviews
- [Pittsburgh Magazine's Best Restaurant Guide](#)

Daylight Saving Time

Pittsburgh is in the Eastern Time Zone and participates in Daylight Saving Time.

EMERGENCY

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY
DIAL 911
FOR FIRE, POLICE & AMBULANCE**

Emergency personnel will ask for the following information so keep this page close to your phone:

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE _____

If you accidentally call 911, please do not hang up. The police will automatically be dispatched to your home to make sure there are no problems. Explain to the Operator the call was an accident.

[POISON CONTROL](#) (800) 222-1222
[ANIMAL POISON CONTROL](#) (888) 426-4435

Other Important Numbers: _____
PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN _____
WORK PHONE NUMBER _____

[DIAL 311](#) for Non-Emergency to reach any City of Pittsburgh agency, or to request a City Service (such as replacing a broken street-lamp or removing an abandoned vehicle).

Urgent Care Centers

An Urgent Care Center is different than a Hospital Emergency Room. An Emergency room would be in an absolute emergency. You may visit an Urgent Care Center if, for example, you have a terrible ear ache and need medicine immediately but your Primary Care Physician's office is closed. Many Urgent Care Centers have extended hours and are open early morning until late evening during the week and also some weekend hours. Be sure to refer back to your health insurance company to clarify which urgent care centers and primary care physicians you are allowed to visit using your health insurance. Your insurance card should have a toll-free 1-800 number on the back for you to call and ask questions and clarify which urgent care center would be closest for you. Please always carry your insurance card with you!

Safety and Security

While Pittsburgh is relatively safe, it is still a major city. Like every major metropolitan area in the USA, there is some crime.

Take basic precautions: lock your car, lock your doors and windows in your home, be aware of strangers and things that just don't seem right. It is always better to be cautious.

Check [here for a list of crime rates per neighborhood in Pittsburgh](#)

Hospitals & Clinics

- [Allegheny General Hospital](#)
- [Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh](#)
- [St. Clair Hospital](#)
- [UPMC Mercy Hospital](#)
- [General Pittsburgh Hospital Directory](#)
- [Primary Care Physician Reviews](#)

Veterinary Clinics in Allegheny County

- [Best Veterinarians in Pittsburgh](#)
- [Animal Emergency Clinic](#)
- [Western PA Humane Society](#)

Pharmacies

There are several major pharmacy chains in Pittsburgh, found on nearly every block on commercial streets. These pharmacies are also general stores and carry a large selection of cleaning, house care, pet care, and other supplies. Click on "Store Locator" and enter your zip (postal) code to find the pharmacy near you. Many pharmacies are open 24 hours. Check for hours of operation.

- [Walgreens](#)
- [CVS](#)
- [Rite Aid](#)
- [Pharmacies in Pittsburgh](#)

A lease is an agreement that outlines the obligations of the owner and the tenants of a house or apartment. It is a legally binding document, so it is important for you to know the exact terms of the lease agreement before you sign it. Please do not sign a lease without reviewing it with your IOR Consultant.

Rental Agents

In most situations, your IOR DS Consultant will partner with a local realtor to have access to the most current and extensive property listings as well as the realtor's expertise in preparing and negotiating leases. This agent receives a commission for their assistance, and in most locations this commission is paid by the Landlord, not the tenant. Your IOR DS Consultant will discuss this with you.

Renter's Rights

Tenants who lease or rent property are protected against discrimination by [The Fair Housing Act](#). If you think your rights have been violated, you may write a letter or telephone the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) office nearest you. You have one year after the alleged violation to file a complaint with HUD, but you should file as soon as possible.

While you can generally expect the same service from landlords, it's important to know your state's laws. Each state and most major cities have their own tenant rights, laws and protections. [Here are Pennsylvania's.](#)

You can also visit the [HUD website here for a full guide to renters' rights by states.](#)

If your rental property ever suffers any defects that make your place uninhabitable, your landlord has a duty to fix it. While some apartments let you make online requests for repairs, as well as provide a phone number for "emergencies," always make sure you document your request in writing. The landlord will then have a certain amount of time to make those repairs.

Privacy

You have the right to privacy. While the landlord owns the property, they can't access it anytime they want. All states have laws stating renters have a right to privacy while renting. Pretty much the only time the landlord can come into your rental without permission or notice is when they're responding to an emergency that threatens injury or property damage. Any other time the landlord wants to enter your apartment, they need to have your permission and in most cases give you 24-hours' notice before entering.

What to expect from the landlord:

In most states, you are legally entitled to:

- Safe structural elements including floors, walls, roofs and secure doors and windows.
- Privacy as described above.
- All electrical, plumbing, heating and air conditioning systems function.
- Working hot and cold water.

- Exterminating infestations of rodents and other insects.
- Access to trash receptacles.
- Landlords cannot discriminate based on race, gender, sexual orientation or disabilities.
- Apartment buildings sometimes come with laundry and dryer machines in the basement.
- Water, electricity, and gas bills are up to you to pay. **Your IOR DS consultant will assist you with this process.**

Utilities and Appliances

Your IOR DS Consultant will assist you or provide information on connecting your utilities. It is possible some will be included in your rent, but typically most are not.

****Note that you will need a social security number in order to register and pay for utilities****

Recycling

The City’s Bureau of Environmental Services provides curbside [recycling collection](#) for single-family residences and small multi-family units.



The Lease Process

Review your housing budget with your IOR Destination Services Consultant

Your DS Consultant can help you understand what kind of property you can afford. You also need to take into account that you may be responsible for some of the utility costs of your rental.

Know what you want

What are you looking for in a property? Do you want a studio or a single bedroom? Maybe you want to rent a single family home? Do you need the property to come with appliances, including washer and dryer? Do want it to be close to school or your work? Do you want it to be within walking distance of retail, like groceries or coffee shops? Are you looking for a child friendly area? Keep in mind that outside of the city center in major cities, there is not much public transportation and most locals drive everywhere.

Identify potential apartments

IOR offers home finding services to aid you with this process. Your consultant may work with a local broker who will help to organize appointments and visit properties. They will also assist in the rental application and the leasing process.

Common Abbreviations and Acronyms used in rental housing listings

<u>Acronym</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Acronym</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
24-hr mtn	24-hour emergency maintenance	LA	Living area
AC or A/C	Air conditioning	LR	Living room

Appls	Appliances	MBR	Master bedroom
Apt	Apartment	MBTH	Master bathroom
BA	Bathroom	Neg	Negotiable
BR	Bedroom	Ofc	Office
Bsmt	Basement	OSP	Off-street parking
CAC	Central air conditioning	Pkg	Parking
DA	Dining area	PM	Property manager (management)
Det	Detached	Pvt	Private
Dk	Deck	Pwdr rm	Powder room (1/2 bath)
DR	Dining room	RE	Real estate
Dw (D/w)	Dishwasher	Renov	Renovated
Eff	Efficiency	Rf	Roof
EiK	Eat-in kitchen	Rm	Room
Fin bsmt	Finished basement	SF	Single-family
FDR	Formal dining room	SFA	Single-family attached
FHA	Fair Housing Act	SFD	Single-family detached
FMR	Fair market rent	Sp, Pl (S/p)	Swimming pool
FP	Floorplan	Sq. ft	Square feet
Gar	Garage	Th (T/H)	Townhouse
H/A	Handicapped accessible	Vw (vu)	View
H/W	Hardwood floors	W/A	Wheelchair accessible
Hi ceil	High ceilings	W/W	Wall-to-wall carpeting
HVAC	Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning		

Visit

Make this process as efficient as possible by visiting as many potential properties as you can in one or two days. Try to go sometime during the week if possible. Your IOR DS consultant will work with you to set an appropriate schedule and to ensure that the properties you visit meet your needs as closely as possible.

What to do once you're there

As you look at the rental unit, be sure to ask a lot of questions. While you should keep small concerns to yourself about the unit while looking at it, feel free to ask the landlord or apartment manager any questions you might have that will help in your decision. Here are some possible questions you may consider asking:

- What's the monthly rent?
- Are any utilities included with the rent?
- How much is the security deposit?
- When is rent due? Do you have auto-pay?
- What's the make-up of the other tenants? Are they mainly younger students? Married couples with families? Older folks?
- What's the parking situation like? Do you pay for a parking spot?
- Do you take care of small maintenance issues or am I responsible for some of the repairs in the property?
- Am I able to re-paint the walls or make other modifications?

Again, be friendly and polite when you ask these questions.

The Application

The next step in the leasing process for an apartment is to submit a rental application for the location you want. The manager or landlord will be able to give you the application as well as anything else that they may need to have filled out. Your IOR DS Consultant will assist with this process. For a single family home there will likely be a rental application.

You will need your Social Security number and proof of employment. Some landlords may charge you an application fee which could be between \$20 to \$400 dollars, depending on the landlord. This could be a combination of an application fee and move-in fee.

Once you've done this, it can take up to a few days to hear back from the property manager. Once your application has been approved the lease approval process will begin with IOR and likely your employer.

Signing the lease

DO NOT SIGN THE LEASE until your IOR consultant has reviewed it in full and given their approval.

The lease is a binding contract, so it is very important to pay attention as a leasing agent goes over it with you. It is perfectly normal for you to take your time and read all the fine print for yourself. If you are working with an IOR DS consultant, make sure to talk with them and receive approval before signing. You will also be given a copy of the lease to take with you and keep for your records, but it is very important to know everything included in your lease from the start.

Some things to look for in a lease:

- Term of the lease and any important dates such as when the rent is due.
- Extra fees for parking spaces or storage, garbage collection and pets.
- Information regarding utility providers and whether you or the landlord is responsible for those bills.
- Notification requirements in case of renewal.
- Requirements/responsibilities of the tenants to do routine repairs such as lawn maintenance, cleaning or notification of repairs.
- Clauses that allow the landlord to change the terms of the lease after it is signed.
- Restrictions that would prevent you from living normally or comfortably in the home.

Sometimes landlords will ask for a security deposit before you sign the lease. This is normal, but you shouldn't pay in cash. Make sure all payments are made out as a check or money order just in case.

What to expect from the lease

Most leases include the following or a variation thereof:

- Your employer requires that all leases include a Break Clause in case you are transferred for work or personal needs.
- Contracts will often be for periods of a year or more.
- Minimum stay. Typically three fourths of your lease contract time. If you choose to move out before this date, you will lose your security deposit. If you move out afterwards, you are still required to give a specified number of days notice.
- Security Deposit. Landlords will expect you to leave them with a deposit (usually about one to two month's rent) that they will hold for the duration of your lease. You will receive your security deposit back at the end of the lease provided you don't break any specific clauses in your lease, such as moving out without proper notice, not paying rent, causing damages to the property, etc.
- Landlords should not be given unchecked access to your apartment. If there isn't anything in your lease about landlord's rights to enter the leased premises, suggest the following clause:

Entry by the Landlord. Landlord or his agent will not enter Tenant's home except to deal with an emergency; to make necessary or agreed repairs; to supply necessary or agreed services; or to show the unit to potential purchasers, tenants, or repair persons. Unless there is an emergency, Landlord will give Tenant at least 24 hours' written notice of the date, time, and purpose of the intended entry and will schedule entries during normal business hours, Monday–Friday.

Most landlords will be hard-pressed to say no to such a reasonable clause. If the landlord refuses, it's a sure sign that he won't be reasonable in other respects, too. Continue on in your housing search.

Moving In

On your selected move-in date, after the lease has been signed, and deposits have been paid...you should be given your keys and more than likely a move-in form to fill out. Your IOR DS Consultant will assist you with an initial walk through of your apartment. Look for dings in the walls, cracked windows or other irregularities and report them on this form. This will indicate that these things were there before you moved in and you will not be held responsible for them at the end of the lease term.

Get Renter's Insurance

Renter's insurance covers any loss to your personal property due to robbery or accidents. It also covers any damage you might cause to other tenant's property. For example, let's say your washing machine springs a leak and water seeps through the floor and ruins your neighbor's antique dresser. Renter's insurance would cover that.

Renter's insurance will cost approximately about \$15-125 a month, less if you tack it onto another policy (like auto) you have with an insurance company. A few popular options are [Allstate](#) and [StateFarm](#).

Obtaining a Driver's License

All new residents with out-of-state non-commercial driver's licenses must obtain a PA Driver's License within 60 days of establishing Pennsylvania residency. To apply, you must appear in person at one of the Driver License Centers. You will be required to surrender your out-of-state driver's license (valid or expired six months or less) before PennDOT can issue you a PA Driver's License. You will need to take a vision-screening test and complete Form DL-180R "Application for Pennsylvania Non-Commercial Driver's License By Out-of-State Non-CDL Driver." In addition, you will need to show [proof of identification and residency](#) and your Social Security card. Here is a list of the appropriate [fees](#).

Although a knowledge test is not required for new residents with out-of-state driver's licenses which are valid or expired six months or less, The [Pennsylvania Driver's Manual](#) is designed to help you become a safe driver and enjoy your driving privilege in our beautiful state. Many [Driver's Schools](#) are in the area.

For general information and instructions on how to obtain an official state ID card or driver's license, [visit the website Pennsylvania Department of Transportation](#).

*****Your Destination Services Consultant will also assist you with the proper procedure.*****

SCHOOLS IN YOUR AREA

Generally, to register your child for school you will need to have a birth certificate, proof of immunizations, any applicable past school records and proof of residency. Most public schools have boundary areas, and you must show proof (i.e. copy of lease or home purchase agreement) to be allowed to register in that particular school. Please always confirm requirements with the school you are interested in before assuming that your child will be able to attend that school.

Grade level in the public school system is determined by the age of the child. Typically, the child must be 5 years old by September 1st to enter kindergarten. School districts may be very strict about the age requirement, but inquire with the school district you are interested in to determine if there are any exemptions for students who are ahead in grade level. You may also want to ask about any gifted or advanced programs. Some elementary schools also offer a pre-Kindergarten program for children who miss the September 1st requirement. You may inquire at the school districts for availability.

Contact your IOR Destination Services Consultant for more assistance with schooling questions.

As the largest of 43 school districts in Allegheny County and second largest in Pennsylvania, [Pittsburgh Public Schools](#) serves approximately 25,000 students in Kindergarten through Grade 12 in 54 schools. In addition, Early Childhood programs serve 1,614 three and four year-olds in classrooms across the city.

Public Schools

To evaluate the standard of educational facilities in a district, parents can use the school reports (for [elementary, middle, and high schools](#)) – where they can compare schools by test performance, class-sizes, college-readiness, and other important factors. **Note that many top schools require an application, testing, and interview in order to enter.**

Pittsburgh Public Schools offers Magnet Programs, including an [International Baccalaureate World School](#). Magnet Program Enrollment [Information here](#).

Private Schools

Many private schools require that students complete an entrance exam, which must also be financed by parents. In late September, there is usually an annual “Private School Preview”, a free event where parents can learn more about specific schools, their admission requirements, and their philosophies of education. Otherwise, the best method for finding out about private schools in an area is word of mouth, and by visiting the school in person. A sampling of a few private schools in the Pittsburgh area:

- [Sewickley Academy](#)
- [Mt. Lebanon Montessori School](#)
- [Northside Catholic School](#)
- [List of Private Schools in Pittsburgh](#)

Preschools

- A directory of preschools in the Pittsburgh area can be viewed [here](#).

Additional resources to compare Public and Private schools, view ratings, reviews and test scores

- www.greatschools.org
- www.eschoolprofile.com
- www.schooltree.org

Area Colleges and Universities

- [Art Institute of Pittsburgh](#)
- [Carlow University](#)
- [Carnegie Mellon University](#)
- [Chatham University](#)
- [Community College of Allegheny County](#)
- [Duquesne University](#)
- [Point Park University](#)
- [University of Pittsburgh](#)



University of Pittsburgh

Checking and Savings Accounts

To open a checking or savings account you will need the following information:

- Two forms of picture identification including but not limited to your passport, driver's license or work ID.
- Social security number
- Local mailing address. You may use your office address as your mailing address, but be prepared to call your bank branch as soon as you have your permanent address.
- Letter of Employment
- Cash for the initial deposit can range from \$25-\$150 dollars.

Security

Always pay attention to the other people around you at an ATM. Do not use the machine if you are suspicious of someone's behavior. It is safer to find another ATM or to come back later. Do not put your PIN number in with anyone close enough to see it.

Credit card theft is another increasing problem. In order to protect your card from being abused, never give your credit card or credit card number to a service provider you have not called. Another precaution is to destroy or shred copies of receipts and bills. Criminals will not hesitate to dig through the trash to find a copy of your credit card number.

Major Banks

Below is a list of links to some of the banks that have offices in the area. Not every bank is represented in all U.S. locations; in some cases you may find that the local bank is a better option for you than some of the larger banks. Your IOR DS Consultant can help you in selecting a bank by sharing the various options available locally.

- [Bank of America](#)
- [Dollar Bank](#)
- [First Commonwealth Bank](#)
- [First Niagara](#)
- [Huntington Bank](#)
- [PNC](#)
- [US Bank](#)
- [List of banks in Pittsburgh](#)

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION/DRIVING

Driving

While Pittsburgh does offer public transportation via trains and buses, the majority of residents use a car as their main form of transportation. If Downtown Pittsburgh is your "home base", then you will find the city easy to navigate and walk (or bus or light rail). If you are driving from one destination to another, Pittsburgh can get confusing at times because the city sits on a site where 3 rivers converge, along with many bridges, parkways and tunnels. The "locals" suggest a GPS to help navigate the city. The Wabash Tunnel provides a quick connection for motorists traveling between the Downtown/South Side area and the Route 51 corridor. Drivers on the city expressways can be aggressive. For those used to driving on expressways in the Northeast US or Southern California, this may simply be a reminder of home. For everyone else, though, it may be intimidating.

Parking can be expensive downtown, and many streets are quite narrow. Free websites like ParkWhiz.com let you book off-street parking in advance after searching by location and price, which is often discounted. "[ParkPGH](#)" is the smart phone app that provides real-time parking availability for garages in Pittsburgh's Cultural District. There are over 20,000 parking spaces in Downtown Pittsburgh operated by [ALCO Parking](#) and the [Pittsburgh Parking Authority](#). On-street metered parking is also available in downtown Pittsburgh, so look for the nearest kiosk after parking.

Sometimes the streets will have different parking or traffic rules based on the day of the week, or what events are going on.... like if a Steeler's football game is in town.



Public Transit

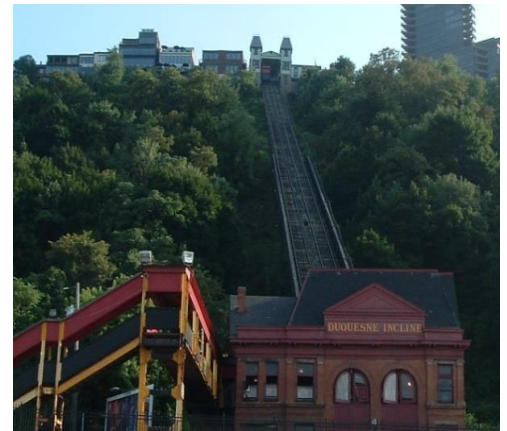
Port Authority of Allegheny County (commonly known as the Port Authority, but sometimes referred to by its former nickname "PAT" or "PAT Transit"), is the public transit agency of the greater Pittsburgh area, providing bus, light rail, incline and paratransit service to approximately 215,000 riders daily. Whether you're new in town or just new to transit, this important [information](#) will have you on your way in no time.

Port Authority operates a zone-based [fare structure](#). The amount of fare is based on trip length originating from Downtown Pittsburgh. Riders may pay using cash (exact change only), or [ConnectCards](#). Most bus routes are now being tracked in real-time in Port Authority's [TrueTime system](#)SM. Port Authority also offers a network of [Park and Ride](#) free garages and lots conveniently located throughout Allegheny County.

Port Authority's 26.2 mile light rail system – commonly known as the T or trolley – serves Downtown Pittsburgh, the North Shore and destinations in many of the city's southern neighborhoods and suburbs.

The Monongahela Incline and Duquesne Incline overlook one of the world's great cityscapes. Tourists marvel at the skyline view while riding two of only a few remaining inclines in the country. The inclines remain the best way for thousands of Mount Washington residents get to their jobs, entertainment and shopping in Downtown Pittsburgh and Station Square.

Port Authority's [Trip Planner](#) is your key to the system. Use Trip Planner to find the route that gives you the fastest trip or the shortest walking distance, or requires the fewest transfers



Duquesne Incline

Car Rentals

- [Zipcar](#)
- [Hertz](#)
- [Enterprise](#)

By Taxi

All major hotels in the Downtown area have taxis waiting outside their front doors. In other areas of the city, look for "taxi stands." You can also hail black-and-white taxis, dubbed "Pittsburgh City Cab," for trips to select city neighborhoods. These short-run cabs will take patrons from Downtown to Mt. Washington, North Side, Oakland, South Side, the Strip District, Uptown and the West End. In addition to hailing the cabs, you may summon one by calling a company directly.

- [List of Local Taxi Providers](#)

Transportation “App” Options

Several web based phone applications to secure a driver are available throughout the area. The driver knows your approximate location based on your phone GPS. Payment is automatic through the app and fares may be cheaper than a taxi.

- [Uber](#)
- [Lyft](#)

By Bicycle

Many of the central neighborhoods of Pittsburgh are connected by the [Three Rivers Heritage Trail](#), a system of riverside paths reclaimed and restored over more than two decades by Friends of the Riverfront; it now enables you to fluidly travel throughout the city and access its three rivers. You could spend days exploring the Heritage Trail’s 25 miles (with more planned) of interconnected routes. From there, [trails](#) radiate away from Allegheny County, extending in multiple directions across the state and beyond.



Photo courtesy of [Steel Valley Trail](#)

AAA Travel Protection

[AAA](#) is a membership organization that offers benefits such as roadside service and towing, discounts on car products and services, maps, reference materials, etc. Call 1-800-352-5382 for additional information and cost.

LIVING AND SHOPPING

TV, Cable, Telephone, and Internet

The main service providers in Pittsburgh for TV cable, landline telephone and internet all offer combination packages. They are in stiff competition with each other, so special offers change monthly, sometimes even weekly.

- [AT&T](#)
- [Comcast](#)
- [DirecTV](#)
- [Dish](#)

Housewares and Furniture

- [Bed Bath & Beyond](#)
- [The Container Store](#)
- [Crate and Barrel](#)
- [Home Depot](#)
- [Ikea](#)
- [Pottery Barn](#)
- [Rooms to Go](#)
- [Williams-Sonoma](#)

Food Shopping

- [Aldi](#)
- [East End Food Co-Op](#) Pittsburgh's only member-owned natural and organic food market.
- [Giant Eagle](#)
- [Market District](#)
- [Trader Joe's](#)
- [Whole Foods Market](#)



Farmer's Markets

Pittsburgh food has always been rooted in tradition and fresh off the farm. As a result, [farmers' markets](#) are a well established part of Pittsburgh.



Pet Supplies

- [Petco](#)
- [PetSmart](#)
- [Petagogy](#)

RECREATION

Pittsburgh has many times been named one of the best places in the world to visit. Whether your passion is visual or performing arts (or both!) you will be overwhelmed by the choices in theaters, galleries, public art installations and the museum dedicated to the Prince of Pop, The Andy Warhol Museum. Plus, Pittsburgh is home to three professional, and numerous collegiate, sports teams. For more information about specific festivals and activities in Pittsburgh, visit the downtown Pittsburgh [events calendar](#).

Arts and Culture

- [Carnegie Music Hall](#): Built in 1898, the Carnegie Library of Homestead has been much more to the city than a collection of books and periodicals, but also a cultural center for music and community.
- [City Theatre Company](#): Described by the New York Times as “Pittsburgh’s most innovative theater company,” City Theatre specializes in new play development and is the largest theatre in Pittsburgh dedicated to a full season of all new work, commissioning and producing plays by writers at the forefront of the industry.
- [Cultural District](#): Located between the Convention Center and Stanwix Street in the heart of Downtown Pittsburgh, the 14-square block Cultural District encompasses over 90 retail shops, 50 dining establishments, seven world-class theatres, eight public parks and art installations, and a dozen art galleries.
- [Pittsburgh Camerata](#): A professional chamber choir with a unique focus on Renaissance/Baroque 20th and 21st century music.
- Other arts and culture attractions include:
 - [Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre](#)
 - [Pittsburgh Center for the Arts](#)
 - [Pittsburgh Musical Theater](#)
 - [Pittsburgh Opera](#)
 - [Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra](#)



Photo courtesy of [thefriendlygiraffe](#)

Family Attractions

- [Children's Museum of Pittsburgh](#)
- [Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium](#)
- [Carnegie Science Center](#)



Pittsburgh Children's Museum

History and Museums

- [Andy Warhol Museum](#): Pittsburgh is the place of Andy Warhol's birth, and this museum is one of the most comprehensive single-artist museums in the world and the largest in North America.
- [Heinz History Center](#): An educational institution that engages and inspires a large and diverse audience with links to the past, understanding the present, and guidance for the future by preserving regional history and presenting the American experience with a Western Pennsylvania connection.
- [Soldiers and Sailors Memorial](#): The nation's only military memorial dedicated to honoring the men and women of all branches of service, from all generations and conflicts. It has stood in honor of veterans since 1910.
- Other history and museum attractions include:
 - [Carnegie Museum of Art](#)
 - [Carnegie Museum of Natural History](#)
 - [Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens](#)



Phipps Conservatory

Professional Sports

- [Heinz Field \(Pittsburgh Steelers Football\)](#)
- [Mellon Arena \(Pittsburgh Penguins Hockey\)](#)
- [PNC Park \(Pittsburgh Pirates Baseball\)](#)

Sports for the Participant

- [Duquesne Incline](#): Follows the tracks of an early coal hoist and offers tours and a beautiful cityscape view from the observatory desk.
- [Gateway Clipper](#): Cruise fleet that offers special events and thematic sightseeing cruises.
- [National Aviary](#): America's only independent indoor nonprofit zoo dedicated exclusively to birds.
- [The Great Allegheny Passage](#): A nearly flat 150-mile bicycle and walking trail connecting Pittsburgh to Cumberland, Maryland. It runs next to winding rivers, over soaring viaducts, and through historic railroad tunnels and is the first in the National Rail-Trail Hall of Fame.



PNC Field

Volunteer Opportunities

- [Pittsburgh Cares](#)
- [United Way](#)
- [Volunteer Match](#)
- [Western Pennsylvania Humane Society](#)

Parent & Children Resources

- [Mom's Clubs](#) - social groups offering events and outings with mothers and their young children.

Smart Phone Apps for Travel:

- [Uber](#) : Similar to a taxi service but all web based. Payment also handled online, do not pay or tip driver directly. Uber driver knows your approximate location based on your phone GPS.
- [Lyft](#) : Wherever you're headed, count on Lyft for rides in minutes. The Lyft app matches you with local drivers at the tap of a button. Just request and go.
- [Apple Maps](#) : Map by direction
- [Map Quest](#) : Map by direction
- [Waze](#) : Community based traffic & navigation with alternate route suggestions
- [CityMaps2Go](#) : The #1 travel app lets you discover exciting new places. Beautiful photos and insider tips at the touch of a button. You will receive stories about places you like and can instantly save and find them on your maps and in your lists.

Smart Phone Apps for Communication:

- [WhatsApp](#) : Free local & international Real Time messaging
- [Line](#) : Exchange free instant messages with friends whenever and wherever with one-on-one and group chats. LINE is available on all smartphone devices (iPhone, Android, Windows Phone, Blackberry, Nokia) and even on your PC.
- [Viber](#) : Free text, calling, photo messages and location-sharing with Viber users. No registration, alias or invitations required. Instantly integrates with your own contact list. Best-quality mobile calls using 3G or Wi-Fi.
- [Skype](#) : Stay in touch with your family and friends for free on Skype. Download Skype today to chat and call on desktop and mobile.

Smart Phone Apps for Local Information/Reviews:

- [Angie's List](#) : Referrals for doctor, dentist, child care, maid, mechanic, painter, plumber, etc.
- [Yelp!](#) : Find local businesses, restaurants, bars, clubs, events, etc. with map, lists, and reviews
- [Next Door](#) : Neighbors share community events, items for sale, recommendations for babysitters, doctors and handymen, crime reports, ideas about how to improve their neighborhood and more.
- [Meet Ups](#) : Meetups are neighbors getting together to learn something, do something or share something. Cultural groups advertise gatherings here as well.

Smart Phone Apps for Weather:

- [WTHR13](#) : Local weather and closings; includes radar and forecast
- [Weather Channel](#) : National and international time, temperature & weather
- [Tornado](#) : Set up tornado alerts & siren

PET RESOURCES

Pet Licensing in Allegheny County

In the state of Pennsylvania, all pet owners with a dog are required to obtain a license for their dog.

- [Pet Licensing Information](#)

Dog Parks

[Citiparks](#) offers several special areas where your dog can legally run without a leash. Guidelines [here](#).

Veterinary Clinics

- [Best Veterinarians in Pittsburgh](#)
- [Animal Emergency Clinic](#)
- [Western PA Humane Society](#)

Animal Poison Control

- [ANIMAL POISON CONTROL](#) (888) 426-4435

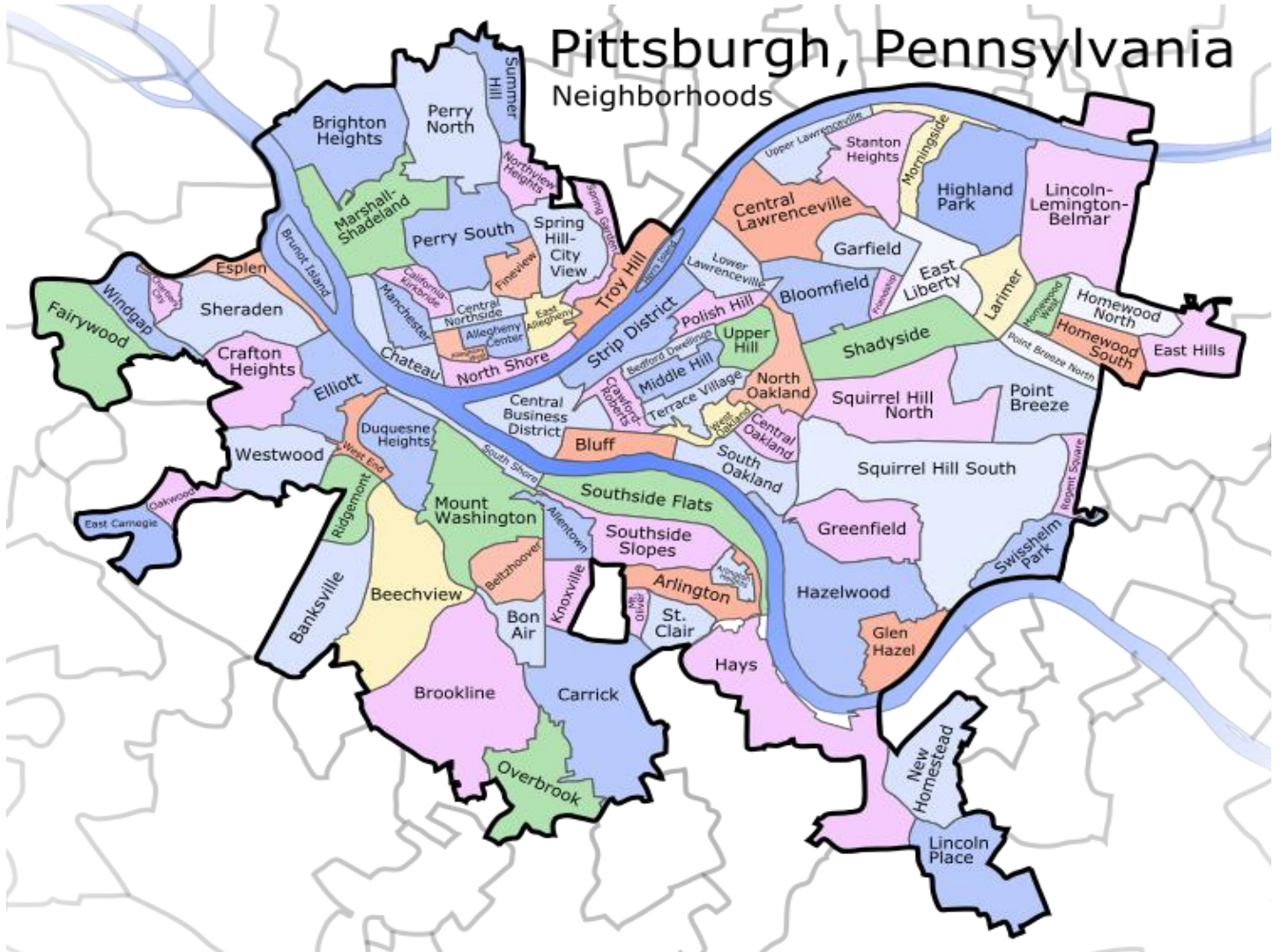
Pet Supplies

- [Petco](#)
- [PetSmart](#)
- [Petagogy](#)

Adopt a Pet

- [Western Pennsylvania Humane Society](#)





PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Holidays can be confusing as there are national (federal) holidays, bank holidays, state holidays. Verify those in your area with Human Resources at your place of business, especially before planning vacations or weekend get-aways!

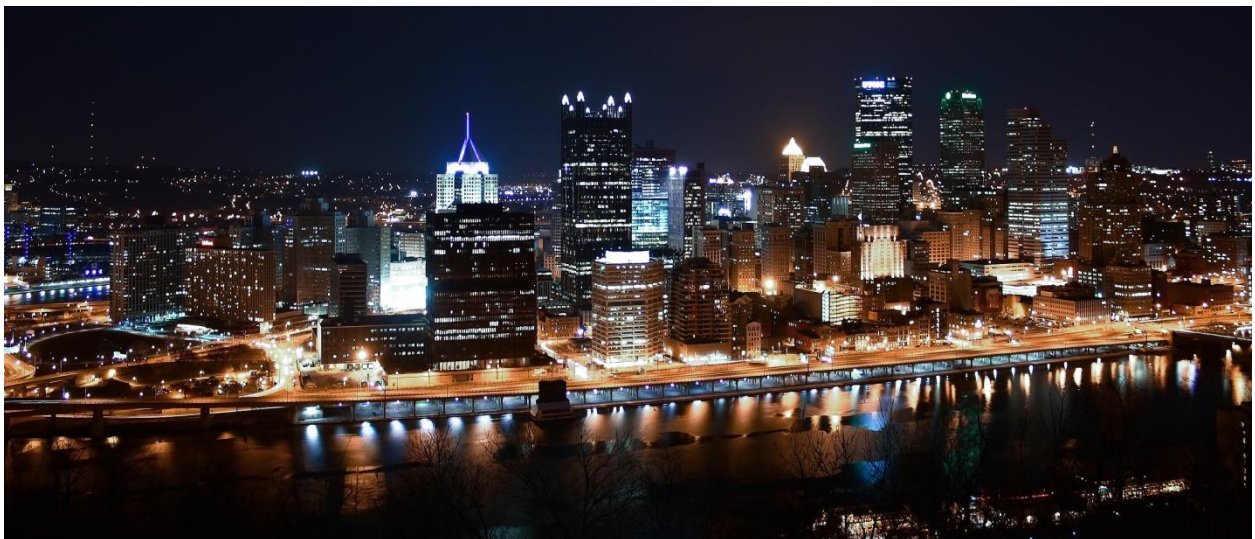
[Federal Holidays](#)

[Pennsylvania Holidays](#)

The following are federal holidays:

- New Year's Day January 1*
- Martin Luther King Day Third Monday in January
- Memorial Day Last Monday in May
- Independence Day July 4*
- Labor Day First Monday in September
- Columbus Day Second Monday in October
- Veterans' Day November 11*
- Thanksgiving Day Fourth Thursday in November
- Christmas Day December 25*

*If a holiday falls on a Sunday, the day following is observed as the legal holiday.



Pittsburgh Skyline at night