



National Trust for Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours



Philadelphia Flower Show



Longwood Gardens



HOTEL DUPONT

The Philadelphia Flower Show + Brandywine Valley Estates

Delve into our nation's past while exploring the graceful rolling hills and magnificent country estates of the Brandywine Valley, which spans the Pennsylvania–Delaware border and served as one of the premier Gilded Age playgrounds for America's most prominent families. From the comfort of a charming historic village hotel, discover a region where history, art, and natural beauty come together through visits to lavish gardens, world-class decorative arts collections, and elegant 19th-century estates. Experience the magic of the Philadelphia Flower Show, the nation's largest and longest-running horticultural exhibition. For nearly two centuries, this extraordinary celebration of flowers, landscape design, and artistic innovation has delighted millions of visitors. Wander through breathtaking floral displays that transform gardens into living works of art and celebrate the beauty and promise of spring. Continue your journey in Philadelphia, the birthplace of American democracy and the nation's first capital. Explore the landmarks where the Continental Congress met and the ideals of the American Revolution took shape while discovering the city's remarkable artistic and cultural treasures.

Major highlights including the DuPont family estates of Hagley and Winterthur, Longwood Gardens, Wyeth Family Studios, Philadelphia's historic Assembly Rooms, and other significant colonial landmarks complete this unforgettable exploration of American history, horticulture, and American art.

DAY 1 March 16: WELCOME TO THE BRANDYWINE VALLEY

Arrive independently at the historic Hotel du Pont in Wilmington, Delaware, located approximately 35 minutes from Philadelphia International Airport (PHL). This evening, meet your fellow National Trust travelers before visiting the beautifully restored Read House & Gardens, the magnificent Federal-style residence of George Read II overlooking the Delaware River. The house features 22 elegantly furnished rooms complemented by formal 19th-century gardens that evoke the grandeur of the early republic. Conclude the day with a welcome dinner at an excellent nearby restaurant, offering the perfect opportunity to get acquainted and begin your journey together.

DAY 2 March 17: DUPONT FAMILY LEGACY

Set out for Winterthur Estate and Garden in neighboring Delaware. Henry Francis du Pont opened his childhood home in 1951 as a premier museum of American decorative arts, with an unparalleled collection of nearly 90,000 objects made or used in America between 1640 and 1860. The collection is displayed in the magnificent 175-room house, much as it was when the du Pont family lived there. Enjoy Lunch in a restored historical home converted into a local Tavern. Continue to Hagley Museum, located on 235 acres along the banks of Brandywine Creek. It is here that the du Pont family first settled in America, built their first home, and began the black powder manufacturing business that became the foundation for all du Pont enterprises

worldwide. Visit the former residence and surrounding landscape, and learn about the du Pont family legacy and the role they played in establishing many of the spectacular homes and gardens we will see on our itinerary.

DAY 3 March 18: PHILADELPHIA'S FLOWER SHOW

Immerse yourself in the wonder of the Philadelphia Flower Show, where magnificent display gardens designed by internationally acclaimed landscape architects and floral artists transform the convention center into a breathtaking celebration of nature. Admire thousands of vibrant blooms, discover the latest innovations in horticulture and sustainable garden design, and marvel at towering floral installations, exquisite arrangements, and interactive exhibits that inspire gardeners and art lovers alike. After a casual lunch, join study leader Ashley Cloud for a walking exploration of Philadelphia's historic heart. Discover the city's layered past as you visit some of its most significant and enigmatic landmarks, culminating at the historic Assembly Room in Independence Hall. It was here that the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and signed the United States Constitution in 1787. Carefully restored to its 18th-century appearance, this iconic chamber offers a powerful connection to the ideals and events that gave birth to a new nation.

DAY 4 March 19: BRANDYWINE MUSEUM OF ART AND LONGWOOD GARDENS

Begin the day at one of the Brandywine Valley's premier cultural institutions, the Brandywine Museum of Art, renowned for its outstanding collection of American art and its unparalleled holdings by three generations of the celebrated Wyeth family. Explore the museum's galleries before enjoying the rare opportunity to visit the preserved studios and homes the Wyeth Family, where many original furnishings and personal objects remain, offering an intimate glimpse into the lives and creative process of these iconic American artists. Enjoy lunch at the Millstone Café, where floor-to-ceiling windows overlook the tranquil Brandywine Creek, providing a picturesque setting to relax and reflect on the morning's discoveries. This afternoon, experience the splendor of Longwood Gardens, one of the world's great horticultural masterpieces. Home to one of America's largest conservatories and more than 1,100 acres of spectacular gardens, Longwood is celebrated for its extraordinary displays of plants, fountains, and seasonal beauty. Accompanied by a member of Longwood's expert horticultural staff, enjoy a guided exploration of the conservatory's twelve dazzling galleries, each filled with lush tropical foliage, rare specimens, and vibrant floral displays **that showcase the artistry and science of world-class gardening.**

DAY 5 March 20: BARNES FOUNDATION

After breakfast, check out of the Hotel DuPont we will return to downtown Philadelphia for a final memorable cultural highlight. Spend the morning visiting the Barnes Foundation, home to one of the world's most extraordinary collections of Post-Impressionist, Impressionist, and early Modern art. Accompanied by an art expert, explore the Foundation's remarkable galleries while learning about Dr. Albert C. Barnes's distinctive vision for displaying his collection. Discover masterpieces by Renoir, Cézanne, Matisse, Picasso, and many others, thoughtfully arranged alongside decorative arts to create compelling visual relationships. Following the visit, continue to Philadelphia International Airport arriving in time for afternoon flights home.

HOTEL ACCOMADATIONS: Opened in 1913, the HOTEL DU PONT in downtown Wilmington, Delaware, is a lavish Gilded Age landmark. Commissioned by Pierre S. du Pont, the 12-story, Italian Renaissance building spans a city block. It features handcrafted wood, imported marble, and a French Neoclassic ballroom

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Longwood Gardens



Wyeth Studio



Philadelphia Flower Show