

# Secret Places



Key: admission fee charged; by appointment/call ahead; shop on-site; national historic site; handicapped accessible

Whether you have the whole day or just a couple of hours, these amazing sites offer unique experiences found nowhere else... world class architecture, beautiful landscapes, historic artifacts, educational opportunities and contemporary art.

The sites included in Secret Places are all within minutes of each other in Eastern Montgomery County, just North of Philadelphia.

## Abington Art Center

515 Meetinghouse Road, Jenkintown, PA 19046

215-887-4882; [www.abingtonartcenter.org](http://www.abingtonartcenter.org)

FREE admission

Galleries & Shop Wed - Fri 10am-5pm; Thurs to 7pm;

Sat & Sun 10am-3pm. Sculpture Park open daily dawn to dusk.

Abington Art Center celebrates the work of today's artists and joins art with nature at the former estate of Sears Roebuck heir and major art collector, Lessing Rosenwald. The four galleries of unique Art Deco and classic design host changing exhibitions. The lawns and woodlands of the 27 acre Sculpture Park features an accessible walking path, an 1836 Quaker meetinghouse and sculpture that explores environmental themes.



## Arcadia University

Arcadia University, 450 S. Easton Road, Glenside, PA 19038

[www.arcadia.edu/arts](http://www.arcadia.edu/arts); FREE admission

### Art Gallery



Tues, Wed, Fri 10am-3pm; Thurs 10am-8pm; Sat & Sun 12-4pm, and by appointment. Closed June to August. 215-572-2133

A nationally recognized showcase for contemporary art located in a renovated power station designed by architect Horace Trumbauer. Solo exhibitions and thematic group shows range in scope from regional to international. The Inquirer has acknowledged the program as being "...in the forefront of aesthetic experience among university and college galleries."

### Grey Towers Castle



Monday-Friday 8am-5pm. Weekends 12-4pm. 215-572-2900  
Designed by Horace Trumbauer, this 110-year-old National Historic Landmark is based on Alnwick Castle, the medieval seat of the Dukes of Northumberland in England. The interior includes vast amounts of hand-carved woodwork expressing an eclectic selection of various French styles from the Renaissance through the age of Louis XV.

## Beth Sholom Synagogue

8231 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027

215-887-1342; [www.bethsholomcongregation.org](http://www.bethsholomcongregation.org)

Tours on the hour or by appointment.

\$7.50 pp for groups of 10 or more; \$10 pp for groups under 10

Visitor Center open Sun 10am-3pm; Wed & Thurs 10am-1pm.

One of the most architecturally significant places of worship in the United States, Beth Sholom stands as a monument to both architectural and Jewish interests as the only synagogue designed and built by Frank Lloyd Wright. Conceived as a Mt. Sinai in glass, aluminum and steel, Beth Sholom is celebrated as one of the buildings that best define Wright's work.

Make your own tour! Here are a few ideas:



### Environment

Pennypack Trust  
Abington Art Center  
Briar Bush Nature Center  
High School Park



### Great Gardens

Meadowbrook Farm  
Bryn Athyn Cathedral



### Architectural Gems

Beth Sholom  
Arcadia University Grey Towers Castle  
Bryn Athyn Cathedral  
Cairnwood Estate



### Art Experiences

Abington Art Center  
Arcadia University Art Gallery  
Glencairn Museum



### Kid-Friendly

Briar Bush Nature Center  
Pennypack Trust

[www.visitsecretplaces.org](http://www.visitsecretplaces.org)



## Briar Bush Nature Center

1212 Edge Hill Road, Abington, PA 19001

215-887-6603; [www.briarbush.org](http://www.briarbush.org)

FREE admission

Open Mon-Sat, 9am-5pm; Sun 1-5pm

Trails open dawn to dusk. Appointments are not necessary except for guided group hikes.

Welcome to Abington's "backyard" nature center! Briar Bush grounds feature a Bird Observatory, Butterfly House, pond and over a mile of trails. The Museum is full of interactive exhibits, touch tables, play areas and is home to over 30 resident animals.



## High School Park

High School Road & Montgomery Avenue, Elkins Park, PA 19027

215-782-8082; [www.highschoolpark.org](http://www.highschoolpark.org)

FREE admission

Open daily dawn to dusk.

High School Park is an 11-acre natural oasis in the heart of Elkins Park. Trails, native plants and wildlife make it a lovely place to walk, explore and relax in a diverse natural environment that includes a meadow, woodlands and creek. Friends of High School Park volunteers work to restore this historic site into a native plant sanctuary.



## Bryn Athyn Cathedral

900 Cathedral Road, Bryn Athyn, PA 19009

267-502-4600; [www.brynathyncathedral.org](http://www.brynathyncathedral.org)

FREE admission

Hours: 9am-4pm daily; volunteer guides are available 1-4pm.

Dedicated in 1919, Bryn Athyn Cathedral is known for outstanding architecture and dazzling stained glass windows. The decoration of the Cathedral is medieval in style and influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement, but the symbolism is based entirely on the teachings of the New Church.



## Meadowbrook Farm

1633 Washington Lane, Meadowbrook, PA 19046

215-887-5900, [www.gotomeadowbrook.com](http://www.gotomeadowbrook.com)

FREE admission to display gardens/greenhouses

Individual tours available Thurs at 11am April to October \$15 pp;

Group tours available by reservation April to October \$15 pp.

Open Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm year round;

Also open Sun 11am-4pm late April to mid June.

Experience the intimate setting and beautiful grounds of Meadowbrook Farm, former estate of J. Liddon Pennock, Jr. Meander along pathways that lead through exquisite display gardens. Shop Meadowbrook Farm for superb quality annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs, seeds, garden accessories and indoor plants. An affiliate of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Meadowbrook hosts seasonal Open Houses during which the historic home is open to visitors.



## Cairnwood Estate

1005 Cathedral Road, Bryn Athyn, PA 19009

215-947-2004; [www.cairnwood.org](http://www.cairnwood.org)

\$8 adults; \$6 seniors; \$6 group rate

Guided Historic Tours daily at 11am. Reservations recommended.

Built during America's Gilded Age, Cairnwood was designed for industrialist John Pitcairn and is the only existing Beaux Arts style home in Pennsylvania designed by Carrère & Hastings. Tours explore this country house estate, including the garden house and the carriage house collections.



## Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust

2955 Edge Hill Road, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

215-657-0830; [www.pennypacktrust.org](http://www.pennypacktrust.org)

FREE admission

Trails are open daily from dawn to dusk.

Ten miles of trails traverse through 771 acres of protected meadows, woodlands and floodplain forest offering excellent opportunities for bird watching, photography, tree and wildflower identification. The Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust works to protect, restore and preserve the lands of the central Pennypack Creek valley. Enjoy the rolling hills and spectacular views of the 160-acre Raytharn Farm on the Raytharn Trail, walk through the old-growth forest on The Peak Trail or enjoy the calming sounds of Pennypack Creek on the Creek Road Trail.



## Glencairn Museum

1001 Cathedral Road, Bryn Athyn, PA 19009

267-502-2600; [www.glencairnmuseum.org](http://www.glencairnmuseum.org)

\$8 adults; \$6 seniors; \$4 students; 4 & under free

Weekdays by appointment;

Saturdays 11am to 2:30pm; occasional Sundays.

Glencairn Museum educates visitors about the history of religion, using art and artifacts. The remarkable collection illustrates religious life from a variety of cultures including ancient Egyptian, ancient Greek and Roman, medieval Christian, Islamic, Asian and American Indian. Formerly, Glencairn was the home of Raymond and Mildred Pitcairn. It was built between 1928 and 1939 in a style based on medieval Romanesque architecture.



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