



YOUR BIG GUIDE TO FALL IN PHILLY

Music festivals, neighborhood block parties, Halloween events and more ideas for how to spend fall in Philadelphia in 2021

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In these pandemic-ish times, there's really no way to know what fall in Philadelphia will *actually* look like. (I mean, look at what Delta did to our summer.) The good news is that this city is at least *planning* for a somewhat normal autumn, with tons of **fun things to do** now through Thanksgiving.

Keep reading for ideas on where to spend Oktoberfest and Halloween in Philadelphia, which annual block parties are returning for the first time since the pandemic, and where to go when you want to get out of the city to do all the quintessential fall things, such as apple-picking, hay-riding, cider-chugging and hiking.

MORE IDEAS FOR WHAT TO DO THIS FALL IN PHILLY

- **Discover the best outdoor restaurants with patios and gardens**
 - **Having dinner at home? Order takeout in Philadelphia.**
 - **Check out the latest Philadelphia Citizen events**
 - **A spotlight on things to do in Philly this week and weekend**
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As an added bonus, you'll be **supporting a local business** or grassroots group that put hard work and dedication into making these events happen—whether it's an emerging local artist at a craft fair, an upstart PR rep helping to spread the word, or a **Philly restaurant** or bar doling out food and drinks for your merriment.

Make sure to check Covid protocols wherever you go. Chances are you'll need masks and proof of your Covid-19 vaccination. And keep coming back to this list, I'll be updating as the season moves along.

THINGS TO DO THIS FALL IN AND AROUND PHILADELPHIA

OCTOBER 2021



Dilworth Park celebrates the autumn season with a three-day harvest festival starting October 8. | Photo by Matt Stanley

Fall Fun at Dilworth Park, all season long

The urban park on the grounds of City Hall celebrates autumn with a host of family-friendly activities, including the **Hay Maze on the Greenfield Lawn** (October 1–10); a three-day **Harvest Weekend** (October 8–10) with live entertainment, pumpkin carving, circus performers and more fall-themed fun; and the **Made in Philadelphia Fall Market** (October 8–10), which features local vendors selling their paintings, jewelry, clothing and more.



Chestnut Hill will be illuminated with lights, and historic films and images during Night of Lights starting October 8. | Photo by Bradley Maule

Night of Lights in Chestnut Hill, October 8–17

From **October 8 to 17**, historic photography and films will be **projected onto buildings and in storefront windows** in Chestnut Hill to offer passersby a visual history of the neighborhood's past.



Ten spooky acres within Eastern State Penitentiary will be transformed into a major Halloween destination beginning September 24 | Photo by Sean Kelley

Halloween at Eastern State Penitentiary, September 24–November 13

In lieu of its annual haunted attraction *Terror Behind the Walls*, Eastern State Penitentiary is hosting a festival-style event called **Halloween Nights** (Sept. 24–Nov. 13), where 15 different attractions—including two haunted houses—are spread throughout 10 acres of prison yards and spooky hallways. The experience is enhanced with state-of-the-art sound and light shows, live performances, and no less than four themed bars and lounges.



Get in a round of Spooky Mini Golf, happening at Franklin Square throughout October. | Photo By J. Fusco

Fall at Franklin Square, all season long

The **charming green space in Old City** extends its hours during the month of October, from 10am to 10pm, to allow more time for visitors to enjoy its fall offerings—namely fountain shows and Spooky Mini Golf, where the park's mini golf course will be transformed by fog, spider webs, creepy sounds and lights. Then, on **October 30**, the festivities apex with Trick-or-Treat Street, which gives little ones a chance to visit houses set up around the park to pick up some treats.



Grab a giant mug and slip on some lederhosen at a Philly Oktoberfest bash.

Oktoberfest celebrations in Philadelphia, various dates

In an awesome beer city like Philadelphia, Oktoberfest celebrations are plentiful.

- **Craft Hall** takes the festivities into the month of October and stretches it out for a whole 10 days of deals and themed decor from **October 1 to 10**.
- Pay \$45 to get into **Morgan's Pier's** Oktoberfest bash on **October 9** to get access to open beer bar, unlimited soft pretzels and a beer stein for the first 200 guests.



Cheer along runners as they accomplish the Broad Street Run on October 10 | Photo by M. Edlow / Visit Philadelphia

Broad Street Run 2021, October 10

Registration is closed for the **2021 Broad Street Run** (unless you want to do it virtually), but for most of us slouches, the best part about the annual event is standing on the sidewalk watching and cheering as the intrepid runners zoom down Broad Street from North Philly to the Navy Yard. Set your calendar: This year's event happens **October 10**.



Dine Latino Restaurant Week happens in Philly from October 11 to 15 | Photo by Neal Santos/ Visit Philadelphia

Dine Latino Restaurant Week, October 11–15

Capping off Hispanic Heritage Month, **Dine Latino Restaurant Week** is a perfect opportunity to check out all the amazing Latin-owned dining establishments in town. The deal? Diners will get one free appetizer or dessert with the purchase of two dinner entrees. The list of restaurants will be announced soon, but what we do know for sure: It's happening from **October 11 to 15**.



For Broadway-style theater and big-name comedians, the Kimmel Center is where it's at this fall. | Photo by J. Fusco / Visit Philadelphia

Theater at the Kimmel Center, all season long

The Kimmel Center is raring up for a season full of flashy shows, including ***Hamilton***, which runs **October 20 to November 28**. The season also features **an oh-so-Jewish cabaret** by Alan Cumming and Ari Shapiro (**Oct. 17**); a **culinary variety show** starring Alton Brown (**Oct. 23**); a **two-hour homage to The Beatles** (**Oct. 29–31**); and lush Broadway musical ***Anastasia*** (**Nov. 23–28**). For fans of comedy, make plans now to see comedian **Fortune Feimster** on **October 8**.



Point of Triangulation, one of two murals set to be completed during Mural Arts Month, is located on the underpass of 21st Street and JFK Boulevard. | Photo by Steve Weinik

Mural Arts Month, October 2021

Mural Arts Month is back in Philadelphia all October long with the theme of “Resilience” and an emphasis on recognizing “**the power of art** to keep Philadelphia inspired and moving forward.” Mural Arts Philadelphia is hosting several events throughout the month, including the dedication of **two important new murals** created by artists who have been impacted by the criminal justice system.