

PRECONVENTION ACTIVITIES 2018

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5

PHILLIES GAME 11AM – after the game
Price TBD (approx \$35 for ticket and possibly bus fare)

This is the only Phillies game available during Convention Week. We figured this would be a nice opportunity for early arrivals to sample Citizens Bank Park. Built in the early 2000's this park has all the modern features of today's ball parks yet has the feel of yesterday. You'll want time to explore. Check out Ashburn Alley, with all the Food Samples featuring a hint of Phila. (Cheesesteaks, etc.). Plus you'll be able to sample a great BBQ Stand. Bull's BBQ (Greg Luzinski, great Phillie of the 1970's and 80's) is a legend and a must try. Game time is scheduled for 1:35 PM ET. We realize this event is early in the week so as of now we'll only purchase the game tickets which should be approx. \$35.00. We will shuttle you in our cars. If there are enough people for a bus we'll add this to the cost of the trip.

MONDAY, AUGUST 6

CAPE MAY WHALE WATCHING AND TROLLEY TOUR 7AM-6:30PM Price \$135

Take a 2 hour and 15 minute ride to Cape May, NJ. All aboard the Cape May Whale Watcher for a 2-hour narrated sightseeing cruise around the island of Cape May. See and hear stories about the Cape May Canal, the Delaware Bay, Cape May Harbor, and the Victorian oceanfront of Cape May. Enjoy a soup to nuts leisurely lunch at the Lobster House on Cape May's Fisherman's Wharf. Main course choices are on signup sheet. Beverages include coffee, tea, and iced tea. After lunch we'll experience Historic Cape May up close on a 45 minute trolley tour covering Cape May's National Landmark District: the Gingerbread Houses, the oldest residential street in town, and the elegant Grande Homes of the Victorian Commercial Center. After the trolley tour our bus will take us to State Park where we will view the famous Cape May Lighthouse. Walk around the park, take pictures and the brave can take the 199 steps to the top of the lighthouse. The fee for the "steps" is \$8.00 per person which is not included in the trip price.

There is quite a bit of walking on this trip. Price includes: bus, cruise, lunch, trolley tour, tour guide, and all taxes and gratuities including tour guides, and bus drivers.

BOWLING 5PM-10:30PM Price \$40

Are you a bowler? Do you want to be a bowler? Do you like to have fun?? Try your luck as we spend an evening trying to knock down pins. We have arranged for three hours of bowling plus a delicious Summer Picnic Buffet (Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Salads, Baked Beans, Soft Drinks, and more!!). This is the bowling alley where we have most of our bowling parties during the season so we know you will be treated GREAT as well as having a FANTASTIC time. Prizes will be awarded for high score, low score and most unique bowling style (other than Lou).

Price includes: Three hours bowling, Unlimited buffet, FUN and bowling shoes if needed. Note, if you wish to attend the Cape May AND Bowling adventures we can arrange for this to happen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 7

GETTYSBURG 7AM-10 PM Price: \$135

Our bus will begin boarding at 6:45 AM and will depart promptly at 7:00 AM for the approximately 2 hour ride to Gettysburg. When we arrive we will tour the battlefield (a guide is provided). Lunch will be a General Pickett's Buffet (includes soup and salad bar and a hot lunch buffet, and coffee, tea, iced tea and soft drinks). We will then go to the Park Visitor Center (film, cyclorama, museum, book and gift shop and refreshment stand). Next you will have a choice of three options: 1. Jennie Wade House – Jennie was the only civilian to die at the battle of Gettysburg. The house is located in “No Man’s Land” between the two armies and is riddled with bullet holes. She baked bread and provided bread, water and some medical aid to both sides. The house is said to be haunted 2. Shriver House – a taste of the civilian side of the war. This home built in 1860 as both a residence and business. The tour provides the story of the Battle of Gettysburg as seen through the eyes of the residents of Gettysburg, before during and after the Civil War. The house may have been used for supplies and as a hospital as medical supplies were found there. The house is said to be haunted, two confederate soldiers were killed in the sharpshooter’s nest in the attic. There is a gift shop here. 3. Victorian Photo Shoot – dress as union or confederate soldiers, the beautiful dresses of that time. Take home one 5X7 photo additional copies available for separate purchase. These three activities will be followed by free time during which you may do another of the activities at your own expense, or relax or just walk around and enjoy the area. Following free time we will convene for dinner at the Dobbin House. The dinner buffet includes soup and bread bar, hot entrée and sides, desserts, and coffee, tea, and iced tea, other beverages are your responsibility.

There is quite a bit of walking on this trip. Price includes: Bus, tour guide, lunch, Visitors Center, one of the three activities, dinner, taxes, and all gratuities including the tour guide and bus driver.

CITIZENS BANK BALL PARK AND YARDS BREWERY 9AM – 5:30PM \$95

First, we will have a guided tour of Citizens Bank Park, home of the Philadelphia Phillies. The 90 minute walking tour (about a mile) (handicap accessible) begins in the Majestic Clubhouse Store and include the Phillies Dugout, the Diamond Club, the Hall of Fame Club, Broadcast Booth, and the Media Room. After the tour we will take a short walk to Xfinity Live entertainment and dining complex. You will be free to browse through this exceptional venue and have lunch (on your own) while viewing games on the BIG screen. From Xfinity we will make our way to the Yards Brewery. The taproom offers 20 different beers on tap and a full menu of beer-friendly fare. A selection of Pennsylvania wines and soda are also available. While samples will be offered all other purchases of food or beverage is on your own.

Price includes Phillies Tour, Bus, entrance to Yards Brewery with free samples and bus driver gratuities.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8

JUNK TOUR –HERR’S & TURKEY HILL 8:15 AM – 5 PM \$79

Let the little kid in you shine!! Our bus will take us to Nottingham, PA the home of Herr’s Potato Chips. You will be able to tour the factory and see how the famous Chips, among other things, are made. Included in the tour are a few free samples. After the tour, you’ll be able to explore the gift shop. We’ll then travel to the famous Turkey Hill Ice Cream Factory where we’ll explore a Picnic Style Lunch. After which you’ll be able to self-guide through the factory with unlimited TASTE TESTING!! THEN, we’ll all have Ice Cream Making 101 where we’ll make our OWN Pint of ice Cream, one per person and yes, to take back to the hotel, and there will be ice to keep the ice cream cold. We should arrive back at the hotel before 5 PM, plenty of time to prepare for Pub Crawl.

Price includes: Bus, tour of Herr’s and Turkey Hill, picnic lunch, ice cream tasting and a pint of ice cream and all gratuities.

PUB CRAWL 5:30 PM until Midnight Price: \$55

Our bus will leave the hotel at 5:30 for the 15 minute ride to Phoenixville. We will begin our crawl at The Great American Pub where there will be a buffet dinner (turkey or Italian pork

sandwiches, salad, and cheese rigatoni); all soft drinks are included. Alcohol is on your own. After dinner you can stay at GAP which has three bars and an outdoor (closes at 10) seating area or feel free to roam to the other establishments in the area. There are approximately 8 pubs in a two block area. We will have one bus leaving at 10PM and one leaving at 11:45PM. All bus pickups will be in front of the Great American Pub.

Price includes: Bus including driver gratuity, dinner and all taxes and gratuities.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9

HERSHEY PARK 8:30AM - 9:30PM

price TBD Approx. \$139 (Hershey has not released its 2018 prices yet)

Visit the “Sweetest Place On Earth” to experience Chocolate World to see how Hershey’s chocolate is made. Spend your \$\$\$ on candy!! Ride the thrilling rides all day, get cooled off by the water rides, maybe see a show or just enjoy being in the park all day. Whatever you choose will be magical. The park opens at 10AM. Once inside explore anything the park has to offer. There will be a one hour buffet in a Pavilion. Typical picnic foods and soft beverages will be served. (Exact time unknown, approx 1PM-2PM.) Then you’ll have the rest of the day to have a BLAST!

There will be much walking on this tour if you choose to walk the park all day but there are people and sky movers to “move” you along. Also, the trip will depart whether rain or shine (if I remember last time we went in the rain.)

Price includes bus, park ticket including Chocolate World, picnic lunch, and all gratuities.

PEDDLER’S VILLAGE 8:45 AM – 4 PM \$39

Do you like wineries, a distillery, shopping and eating all in the same place? Take a trip to Peddler’s Village, located in Bucks County, PA. All these things are available to explore on this trip. Stroll through the quaint shops and we are sure you will find things of interest. You may even desire to try a wine tasting session at the Chaddsford Winery. There are over seven restaurants for lunch and over 100 places to visit in the village. You will be given a map guide on the bus. It will be a great day. You will have five hours to explore this adorable village.

There are plenty of places to sit and relax but there is also quite a bit of walking. Price includes bus and driver’s gratuity.

SPIRIT OF PHILADELPHIA DINNER CRUISE 5 PM until 10:30 PM Price \$145

Join us for a dinner cruise along the Delaware River. The Spirit of Philadelphia boat line has been offering these type of cruises for years. Enjoy the view and up and down the Delaware

while enjoying a GREAT dinner buffet, sipping on a cocktail and dancing the night away (at least until 9:30 PM). A DJ will be provided for your entertainment. Even though we will have private seating, we'll be able to mingle with other folks attending this event. A great time will be had by all and if you don't dance just enjoy the view and mingle.

Price Includes: bus including driver tip, dinner cruise, buffet, open bar, DJ and all taxes and gratuities.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 10

ALAN/ LOU TOUR OF PHILADELPHIA 8AM -4:15PM \$69.00

Sit back and relax while we show you Philadelphia, OUR WAY!! Our first stop is in South Philadelphia at the Italian Market, where you can view and purchase merchandise, maybe even breakfast!! Then it's on to Center City where we'll drive around Old City while viewing Phila's history with either Alan or myself narrating (THIS should make you attend the trip alone!!). Then, we'll plop you right in front of the famed Reading Terminal, a Philadelphia tradition since 1893, for lunch (on your own). You will find everything possible to eat that is Phila!!! I'll bet THIS will make you return just for the eats!! You will have an hour to feast!! After, we will explore the historic areas with hopefully a surprise or two. Then it's on the Art Museum Steps where you'll have the opportunity to emulate a certain Philadelphia character!! There are more surprises in store!! The tour will leave the hotel at 8 AM and return by 4:15 PM to prepare you for the Convention nights' event!!

There is quite a bit of walking on this trip. Price includes bus, snacks on the bus, and driver gratuities. The order of events could change due to traffic, etc., lunch will be approx. 12:15

CRAYOLA CRAYON TOUR 9AM-3:30PM \$65

Let your creative side take over. A trip to Crayola Crayons is a perfect way to spend the day. Take a Digital Color adventure, or try Hands On as your vibrant marks explode on a doodle board.. Learn the history of how Crayola Crayons are made in a live show and explore Technology as your digital works of art come to life on a Huge projected surface. There are four floors you can view. We had a guided tour at our last Convention (2007) but Crayola doesn't offer tours any longer. So, you'll have four hours to explore every floor and bask in the world of Crayola!! Lunch will be available for purchase. The bus will depart the hotel at 9 AM and scheduled return is 3:30 PM (plenty of time to get ready for our Friday Night "show").

Price includes bus, entrance to Crayola, and driver gratuities.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11

VALLEY FORGE PARK Approx. Noon – 3:45 PM \$75

After the morning meeting, treat yourself to an adventure at Valley Forge Historical Park. There will be a guided tour throughout the park. Learn about the experiences of George Washington and the Continental Army during the epic Valley Forge encampment of 1777-78. Tour stops are made at the recreated huts at the Muhlenberg Brigade, General Washington's Headquarters and a few more stops plus some drop-offs inside the park.

Price includes bus, tour, box lunch and drivers & tour guide gratuity.

ALL WEEK

In the spirit of our theme “Peep A-Lympics” we are planning some competitive games during the week. These include “Peeps Feud” and “Pool Noodle Hockey” which use 4 member teams. We will also have “Horseshoes” which uses a 2 member team. There will be many other individual competitions.

If you would like to form a team you can do so in advance. Please send a team name and the team members names and the day of your arrival to Barb at bcn4cats@yahoo.com

This is NOT a requirement to play in any competition. You will be able to join a team when you arrive.

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