

Pittsburgh To-Dos

A quick visitor guide for 2026 Fall Conference attendees staying around SouthSide Works

Conference-weekend bonus: SouthSide Works hosts the Neighborhood Flea on Sunday, Sept. 13 from 10 AM–3 PM in Town Square — right at the conference site.

Best Pittsburgh Experiences for a First-Time Visitor

Place / Activity	Why Go	Drive Time from SSW	Time	Cost
South Shore Riverfront Park + Three Rivers Heritage Trail	Walk, run or bike along the Monongahela directly from SouthSide Works.	<5 min drive	30–90 min	Free
Duquesne Incline + Mount Washington	Historic incline ride and the classic Pittsburgh skyline view from Grandview Ave.	≈10–15 min drive	45–90 min	\$
Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens	Victorian glasshouse and gardens in Oakland; great all-weather option.	≈8–10 min drive	1.5–2.5 hr	\$\$
Carnegie Museums of Art + Natural History	Art, architecture, dinosaurs, gems and more under one roof.	≈10 min drive	2–4 hr	\$\$
Strip District	Food markets, coffee, bakeries, local gifts and easy casual dining.	≈10–15 min drive	1–3 hr	Free to wander
Heinz History Center	Six floors of Pittsburgh and Western PA history, sports and Mister Rogers.	≈10–15 min drive	2–4 hr	\$\$
Point State Park	Where the Allegheny and Monongahela meet to form the Ohio River; great skyline photos.	≈10–15 min drive	45–90 min	Free
The Andy Warhol Museum	Seven floors devoted to Pittsburgh native Andy Warhol and Pop Art.	≈12–15 min drive	2–3 hr	\$\$
Gateway Clipper Fleet	Sightseeing cruise for skyline, bridges and riverfront landmarks.	≈10–15 min drive	1–2 hr	\$\$
PNC Park + North Shore Riverwalk	One of the best skyline views; pairs easily with The Warhol.	≈12–15 min drive	45–90 min	Free to walk
National Aviary	Immersive indoor habitats with penguins, raptors and free-flying birds.	≈15–20 min drive	1.5–2 hr	\$\$

Best Options Based on Your Free Time

Free Time	Best Bet
About 1 hour	Walk the South Shore Riverfront Trail OR rideshare to Mount Washington for skyline overlooks.
2–3 hours	Phipps Conservatory; The Andy Warhol Museum; or explore the Strip District + grab a meal.
Half day	Carnegie Museums; Heinz History Center + Strip District; or Point State Park + North Shore + Warhol.
Evening	Mount Washington at sunset; Gateway Clipper cruise; or dinner in the Strip/Downtown/Lawrenceville.

Great Pittsburgh Restaurants Beyond SouthSide Works

Restaurant	Area	Best For	Rating	Tip
DiAnoia's Eatery	Strip District	Italian • house-made pasta, bread & pastries	4.4 (1,283)	Reserve dinner early.
Gaucho Parrilla Argentina	Downtown	Argentine wood-fired meats, empanadas & chimichurri	4.5 (2,734)	Great for groups.
Pamela's Diner	Strip District	Classic Pittsburgh breakfast and crepe-style hotcakes	4.5 (1,031)	Go early on weekends.
Pusadee's Garden	Lawrenceville	Upscale Thai with a beautiful garden patio	4.5 (931)	Reservations fill.
Noodlehead	Shadyside	Casual Thai street-food noodles	4.4 (2,086)	Great value; possible wait.
Primanti Bros.	Multiple	Iconic fries-and-slaw Pittsburgh sandwich	—	Go for the Pittsburgh experience.

Pittsburgh Foods to Try

- A Primanti-style sandwich with fries and coleslaw inside.
- Pierogies — a major part of Pittsburgh's Eastern European food tradition.
- Pamela's thin, crispy-edged hotcakes for breakfast.
- A Pittsburgh salad — traditionally topped with French fries.

Worth Knowing for Conference Weekend

What's Happening	When	Why Go
Neighborhood Flea at SouthSide Works	Sun., Sept. 13 • 10 AM–3 PM	Local vintage, makers and vendors in Town Square.
Phipps: Alice's Adventures in Wonderland	Through Sept. 27	Seasonal flower show running during the conference.
Phipps Botanical Boutique	Sept. 11–13	Plant/garden shopping event at Phipps during the same weekend.
59th Carnegie International	Through Jan. 3, 2027	Major contemporary art exhibition at Carnegie Museum of Art.

Planning Notes & Sources

Walking/driving times and ratings are approximate and may change. Attendees should check current hours and reservations before heading out.

- [Visit Pittsburgh – Top Things to Do](#)
- [Visit Pittsburgh – Only in Pittsburgh](#)
- [SouthSide Works – events calendar](#)
- [Phipps Conservatory – official site](#)
- [Carnegie Museum of Art – 59th Carnegie International](#)
- [Heinz History Center – visitor information](#)
- [The Andy Warhol Museum – official site](#)