

# 15

## not-to-miss attractions in HARRISBURG CITY

*One of the benefits of living in Central PA is our proximity to major metropolitan areas – Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, New York City, Washington D.C. and Baltimore – and the world-class arts, shopping and entertainment found in and around those cities.*

*But sometimes looking outward means we overlook the bounty of our own backyard. Fine dining and gourmet food trucks, live theater and national music acts, Main Street shopping and historic sites – there’s a reason folks from around the country put Central PA on their “must see” travel list.*

*In our new feature, **Exploring Central PA**, we hope to both re-introduce and re-discover the area we call home. For tour guides, we’ve called on visitor bureaus and guest writers to create a series of articles focusing on local attractions and things to do. In this first article, Director of ExploreHBG, Devin Drabik, gives us an overview of what to see in and around the city of Harrisburg.*

*If you have a favorite “don’t-miss-it” thing to do or see, let us know! We’ll be glad to add it to our travel itinerary.*

Pennsylvania’s Capital City is just a short drive away, and is teaming with shops, restaurants, museums and live entertainment. Here are just a few ideas to get you started exploring the blend of historic and modern attractions in Harrisburg City.



Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts. Photo credit VisitHersheyHarrisburg.org



Marshalls Creek Mastodon at The State Museum of Pennsylvania. Photo credit VisitHersheyHarrisburg.org



Fireworks over City Island and the Susquehanna River. Photo credit VisitHersheyHarrisburg.org



Pennsylvania Governor's Residence. Photo by Kara Clouser of Conte Photography.



Pennsylvania State Capitol

### DON'T MISS DOWNTOWN:

#### The Pennsylvania State Capitol Building

This National Historic Landmark was designed to be a “palace of art” by architect Joseph Huston, and reflects Greek, Roman and Victorian influences. In fact, the 272-foot dome, gracing the top of the Capitol was inspired by St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. Visitors can enjoy guided tours every half hour, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and on the weekends, tours are offered at 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Tours are always free and the Capitol is just a short walk from a variety of restaurants, pubs and museums.

#### Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts

Children and parents alike will enjoy the wonders at the Whitaker Center. Through a series of hands-on exhibits, you and your family can learn about weather, geology, biology and so much more. There is even a Kids’ Place designed for children ages 5 and under. The Whitaker Center is also home to Central PA’s biggest movie screen, reaching four stories tall! From educational films to Hollywood’s latest releases, there is something for everyone at the Center.

#### The State Museum of Pennsylvania

Explore three floors of archaeology, paleontology, geology and Pennsylvania History at the State Museum. In addition to their ever-changing temporary exhibits, the museum permanently houses an incredible display of dinosaurs, mammals, Native American artifacts, and over 350 collection items in their new PA Icons exhibit. At the planetarium, immersive shows are designed for all age groups and are offered several times a week.

#### Strawberry Square

Located in the heart of Downtown Harrisburg, just across the street from the PA Capitol Building, sits a unique mixture of restaurants, shops, offices, and luxury dwellings all fully enclosed in a modern development spanning an entire city block. In the main atrium, visitors will find a food court, as well as sit-down dining options, one-of-a-kind fashion boutiques and unique shops. Strawberry Square also connects directly to the Whitaker Center and Harrisburg Hilton through a skywalk, making this a great rainy-day destination.

### MEANDER THROUGH MIDTOWN:

#### Broad Street Market

Founded in 1860, the Broad Street Market is one of the oldest continuously operating farmers’ market in the country. The market fills three city blocks between Third and Sixth streets, and houses more

than 40 local vendors, offering everything from local produce and bakery items, to hand-made soaps and local craft beer. Open Thursday through Saturday, the Market also features live music and pop-up vendors in their stone courtyard.

#### PA Governor’s Residence

Located at 2035 N. Front St. in Harrisburg, the Georgian-style home was completed in 1968 and is now open for public tours every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. After your tour, explore the beautifully landscaped gardens surrounding the mansion, or visit one of the ever-rotating art exhibits throughout the first floor.

#### Midtown Scholar Bookstore and Café

This award-winning independent bookstore features a huge collection of over 200,000 new, used and rare books. While exploring five levels of towering bookshelves in this renovated 1920s movie theater, you can grab a refreshing snack or beverage from their cafe, and find a quiet nook or cranny to curl up in and sort through your finds. The Scholar hosts a plethora of events throughout the year, including book signings, author readings, live music, and children’s activities. This one-of-a-kind space has even seen a celebrity guest or two, including President Bill Clinton, who browsed the shelves in 2016.

#### The Millworks

This award winning, 180-seat restaurant, art gallery and brewery, offers a one-stop shop for your night out. Their restaurant focuses on authentic local and sustainable food, sourced from growers and producers in the Central Pennsylvania region, and their rooftop bar offers stunning views of Midtown. Seventeen artist studios surround the restaurant, with live classes and demonstrations happening regularly. There are also three galleries and a gift shop located on the first floor.







Broad Street Market. Photo by Kara Clouser of Conte Photography



Pride of the Susquehanna River Boat. Photo by Kara Clouser of Conte Photography



Susquehanna Art Museum

...

### Susquehanna Art Museum

The Susquehanna Art Museum (S.A.M.) is not your average art museum. Nestled in the heart of Mid-town Harrisburg in a beautifully reclaimed building, S.A.M. is dedicated to education, collaboration, creativity, and is considered one of the cultural anchors for Central Pennsylvania. The Susquehanna Art Museum offers educational programming and diverse exhibits for community members of all ages. Check out their upcoming exhibits to plan your trip!

### MAKE ISLAND MEMORIES:

#### Water Golf

Nestled along the beach of City Island (a 63-acre island conveniently located just across the walking bridge from downtown Harrisburg) is an award-winning 18-hole miniature golf course. After the game, take in the river views while enjoying snacks and treats from Water Golf's café.

#### Senators Baseball

At FNB Field on City Island, the Senators minor league team hosts over 30 home games each year. Famous for their fireworks shows, live entertainment, and stadium boardwalk, a Senators game is sure to delight the entire family.

#### Tour the Island

Hop on City Island's small train or enclosed trolley to see the sites, or head to South Mountain Carriage Co. for an elegant horse-drawn carriage ride along the Island and Riverfront Park. Tour the Island by boat aboard the Pride of the Susquehanna Riverboat for a 45-minute sight-

seeing cruise on this authentic stern-driven paddle wheel boat. The Pride offers public cruises all summer long, educational courses for kids, and a series of unique "themed" cruises.

### EXCITING LIVE ENTERTAINMENT:

#### Visit the Theater

If you enjoy live theater, Harrisburg has you covered! Open Stage of Harrisburg is the City's oldest professional regional theatre and offers a unique theater experience with something for even the most discerning theater-goer. Now in their 34th season, their 2019-2020 schedule include *Angels in America*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and *Amélie* just to name a few.

Only a few blocks away, the award-winning Gamut Theatre offers nearly 250 performances each year, ranging from Shakespeare to their children's theater shows. Located in a repurposed church across from the Capitol, Gamut Theatre is also home to a beautiful café and pub open during show nights.

#### Enjoy the Beat of City Nightlife

Live music, hopping DJ's and one-night only shows fill the weekends in Harrisburg. At the Abbey Bar at Appalachian Brewing Co., concerts are almost a weekly occurrence and start

at 8 p.m., leaving you plenty of time to grab dinner before the show. Just down the street, Club XL offers an incredible variety of touring performers under the display of their famous light and laser shows. If you are looking to dance the night away, downtown Harrisburg has you covered with DJ's at Level 2, Bridge's Social Club, Knock, Sawyer's and many more, all located within a four-block stretch of Second Street.

#### Attend the Annual Festivals

Be sure to mark your calendars for Harrisburg's riverfront festivals. In the spring, Artsfest brings over 200 regional and national artists together for three days of shopping, music, art demonstrations and juried exhibits over Memorial Day weekend. In the Summer, the City hosts a July 4 Food Truck Festival featuring more than 40 food trucks, live music and one of the largest fireworks shows in Central PA. The largest of Harrisburg's festivals, Kipona, is held over Labor Day weekend and features tightrope walkers over the Susquehanna River, fireworks, live music, children's activities, a Native American Pow-Wow, canoe races and so much more.

For a complete listing of festival and upcoming events, **visit ExploreHBG.com.**

*aishah aslam*  
PHOTOGRAPHY

LIFE | LOVE | ADVENTURE  
aishahaslamphotography.com

"NEIGHBOR" OWNED AND OPERATED FOR OVER 29 YEARS.

**DOWN EAST GRANITE**  
Natural beauty that lasts a lifetime

*Renew your Kitchen,  
Replace your Countertops*

**VISIT OUR SHOWROOMS!**

215 Salem Church Rd • Mechanicsburg • 717-790-6040  
5000 Linglestown Rd • Harrisburg • 717-412-7531  
DownEastGranite.com

Harrisburg Magazine Readers Poll Simply the Best 2014  
Harrisburg Magazine Readers Poll Simply the Best 2015  
Harrisburg Magazine Readers Poll Simply the Best 2016  
Harrisburg Magazine Readers Poll Simply the Best 2017

**\$250 OFF**  
Your Mortgage Closing Costs  
when you present this ad at the time of your mortgage application.

**Making home ownership dreams come true.**

Call Getty Wilson today to get started or stop into our financial center on Linglestown Road!

**Getty Wilson**  
NMLS #586367  
VP, Mortgage Team Leader  
717.909.8302  
gwilson@centricbank.com

**CENTRIC BANK**  
We Revolve Around You.

Member FDIC

CentricBank.com

*RARE LOVE*  
photography

We can't wait to see you on the other side of the lens.

RareLovePhotography.com  
RareLovePhotography@gmail.com