

Pittsburgh Green Story Media Backgrounder

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Pittsburgh. Mighty. Beautiful.

Once the industrial hub for production of steel, iron and glass, Pittsburgh is now a center for technology, robotics, finance, medicine and tourism. As authentic as it is awesome, the strength of Pittsburgh lies in the friendliness of its people and the beauty of its landscape. Add one-of-a-kind attractions, award-winning chefs, interesting neighborhoods and amazing architecture all conveniently located in a safe and walkable city, and you'll find that Pittsburgh makes for an ideal city to live and a wonderful travel destination.

And this fact is being touted in prestigious media outlets: *Harper's Bazaar* named Pittsburgh among the 17 Best Places to Travel in 2017. It had a similar honor when *Travel + Leisure* noted the "Steel City reformed itself into the Arts City" in its prestigious list of Best Places to Travel in the World in 2016. The bragging rights don't stop there: The well-regarded restaurant review institution, Zagat, recently named Pittsburgh as the nation's No. 1 food city; and Conde Nast Traveler named Pittsburgh International Airport one of the "10 Best Airports in the United States."

Pittsburgh is also wonderful place to live, and has the distinction of being repeatedly dubbed "America's Most Livable City" by several outlets. The affordability factor – combined with the city's rich cultural offerings – contribute to making it an ideal place to live. HSH.com, the nation's largest publisher of mortgage and consumer loan information, ranks Pittsburgh as one of the most affordable metro area in the U.S. *Forbes* magazine says Pittsburgh is among the cities that give the most bang for your buck. Today, young people are relocating here, and it's perhaps no surprise as Infogroup ranks Pittsburgh among the top 10 hippest U.S. cities today.

Yes, Pittsburgh is packed with possibilities. Visitors and residents alike enjoy the plentiful and beautiful public parks, along with the warm, friendly feeling they get when strolling through city streets that are known for amazing public art and beautiful, historic buildings.

A thriving Cultural District in the downtown city center offers performances by the world-class Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Pittsburgh Ballet, PNC Broadway Series, Pittsburgh Opera and Pittsburgh Public Theater. The city's jazz legacy is preserved at Manchester Craftsmen's Guild and clubs throughout the city. Art lovers love to explore the city's many eclectic art galleries and be amazed at the astounding collections of The Andy Warhol Museum, Mattress Factory and The Frick Pittsburgh. Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens are glorious to visit any time of year, while the new Pittsburgh Botanical Gardens keep getting lovelier with every season.

Family fun abounds in Pittsburgh, which is dubbed “Kidsburgh.” A host of family-friendly attractions make multi-generational outings fun for all ages. There’s Kennywood Park, a national historic park that is a family tradition... the National Aviary has more than 150 species from around the world... Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium is home to one of the best zoos for kids, according to *Parents* magazine... Carnegie Science Center has four floors of hand-on exhibits, plus roboworld and an authentic Cold World submarine... and the award-winning Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh is fun for the whole family.

No visit is complete to Pittsburgh without a trek up the slopes of Mt. Washington aboard the Duquesne Incline, beautifully restored cable cars used by commuters and visitors since 1877. Soak in the panoramic view of Pittsburgh and then dine along “Restaurant Row” to see the amazing skyline – what *USA Today* calls among the most beautiful views in America.

For an invigorating jog, walk or bike, just select any starting point along the city’s 24 miles of scenic riverfront trails. There are plentiful designated bike lanes in and around the city, with dozens of places to rent bicycles. Grab a paddle and get out on the river with Kayak Pittsburgh for spectacular views of the skyline. Or rent paddle boards from Stand Up Pittsburgh and climb some serious city steps – there-s 712 sets of them – many that lead to amazing views.

Hospitality abounds in Pittsburgh’s diverse ethnic neighborhoods, offering visitors a sampling of food, culture, festivals and celebrations inspired and influenced by the city’s history and ethnic heritage.

For the sports minded, the Pittsburgh Pirates play at PNC Park, a classically designed ballpark that opens to dramatic views of Pittsburgh’s skyline. It is consistently named among the best ballparks in the nation. Heinz Field, home of the Pittsburgh Steelers, is considered a Mecca for Steelers Nation – the diaspora of Pittsburgh Steelers fans living throughout the nation. And the Pittsburgh Penguins’ home ice is at PPG Paints Arena.

The new Pittsburgh is “a world away from its dirty industrial past, the city has transformed itself into a top travel destination,” reports *Travel + Escape* magazine. Indeed. Pittsburgh’s rolling hills, shimmering rivers and stunning skyline will delight. Pittsburgh today is remade, reimagined and better than ever.

For more details, go to www.visitpittsburgh.com.