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***2008 ANNUAL EVENTS IN THE PHILADELPHIA REGION***  
***So Much To Do For Any Kind Of Trip***

**PHILADELPHIA, January 1, 2008** – Art lovers, garden enthusiasts, film connoisseurs and sports fans keep coming back year after year for the festivals, sporting events, art shows, parades and cultural events in Philadelphia. Here's what's going on in the region in 2008:

**January 2008:**

- Thousands of decorative strutters kick off the New Year by marching up Broad Street in the festive day-long *Mummers Parade* that ends with the *Fancy Brigade Finale* at the **Pennsylvania Convention Center**. January 1, 2008. [www.phillymummers.com](http://www.phillymummers.com)

**March 2008:**

- The **Pennsylvania Convention Center** is the site of the *Philadelphia Flower Show*, the region's annual gardening celebration, featuring top-of-the-line horticulture and landscape design, entertainment and more than 150 vendors. The theme for 2008 is "Jazz It Up." March 2-9, 2008. (215) 988-8800, [www.theflowershow.com](http://www.theflowershow.com)
- Held at **The Navy Yard**, the *Philadelphia Invitational Furniture Show* is nationally acclaimed as the finest exhibition of one-of-a-kind home furnishings that run the gamut from innovative contemporary designs to adaptations of classical stylings. March 15-16, 2008. (215) 832-0060, [www.philaifis.com](http://www.philaifis.com)

**April 2008:**

- The week-long *Philadelphia Film Festival* showcases the best in independent and foreign cinema in theaters throughout Philadelphia. April 3-15, 2008. (267) 765-9700, [www.phillyfests.com](http://www.phillyfests.com)
- Dealers from across the U.S. gather to display their unique finds at **The Navy Yard** during *The Philadelphia Antiques Show*. April 12-15, 2008. (610) 902-2109, [www.philaantiques.com](http://www.philaantiques.com)
- High school and college track stars compete at **Franklin Field** during *The Penn Relays*, the oldest collegiate meet in the nation. April 24-26, 2008. (215) 898-6145, [www.thepennrelays.com](http://www.thepennrelays.com)
- *Equality Forum*, a week-long festival that celebrates the cultural and political legacy of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, includes more than 50 events by 75 regional, national and international organizations. April 28-May 4, 2008. (215) 732-3378, [www.equalityforum.com](http://www.equalityforum.com)
- Jugglers, folk singers, puppeteers and acrobats delight young audiences at the **Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts** during the *Philadelphia International Children's Festival*. Exact dates to be announced. (215) 898-3900, [www.pennpresents.org](http://www.pennpresents.org)

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**May 2008:**

- Taking place throughout the city, the *Black Lily Film & Music Festival* celebrates the artistry of female musicians and filmmakers and aims to increase the awareness of their value. May 1-4, 2008. (215) 925-9114, ext. 15, [www.blacklily.com](http://www.blacklily.com)
- Strawberries of all sorts, live entertainment and pie-eating contests add to the festivities at the annual *Strawberry Festival* at **Peddler's Village**. May 3-4, 2008. (215) 794-4000, [www.peddlersvillage.com](http://www.peddlersvillage.com)
- Spanning 10 miles from Olney to South Philadelphia, the 29<sup>th</sup> annual *Broad Street Run* raises money for the American Cancer Society. May 4, 2008. (215) 683-3594, [www.broadstreetrun.com](http://www.broadstreetrun.com)
- *Dad Vail Regatta*, the largest collegiate regatta in the world, takes place on the Schuylkill River. May 10, 2008. (215) 542-1443, [www.dadvail.org](http://www.dadvail.org)
- **Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts**, the country's oldest and largest art museum and school, previews the works of third- and fourth-year art students during the 107<sup>th</sup> *Annual Student Exhibition*. May 10- June 1, 2008. (215) 972-7600, [www.pafa.org](http://www.pafa.org)
- New Hope's 5<sup>th</sup> *Annual Gay Pride Weekend* includes the New Hope Pride Parade, the Family Forum, a "Decade an Hour" Dance and the "Sing Out Loud and Proud" Concert. Proceeds benefit national and local charities. May 16-18, 2008. [www.newhopecelebrates.com](http://www.newhopecelebrates.com)
- The annual *Sorrento Cheese 9th Street Italian Market Festival* features live entertainment, games and food booths plus the Italian Market's dazzling array of homemade sausages, delicious cannolis, imported meats and cheeses, luscious cappuccino, butcher-cut beef and poultry, specialty cookware and fresh pastas. May 17-18, 2008. (215) 545-4543, [www.9thstreetitalianmarketfestival.com](http://www.9thstreetitalianmarketfestival.com)
- *The Devon Horse Show and Country Fair*, the country's oldest and largest event of its kind, features contests, exhibitions and an old-fashioned fair at the **Devon Show Grounds**. May 22-June 1, 2008. (610) 964-0550, [www.thedevonhorseshow.com](http://www.thedevonhorseshow.com)
- *Captain Morgan's Jam on the River*, Memorial Day's biggest party, brings the best of rock and blues music to **Penn's Landing**. May 24-26, 2008. (215) 336-2000, [www.jamontheriver.com](http://www.jamontheriver.com)
- Outstanding furniture, glass, metalware, ceramics, folk art, quilts and other fine antiques from across the nation are featured at the 36<sup>th</sup> annual *Brandywine River Museum Antiques Show*. Exact dates to be announced. (610) 388-2700, [www.brandywinemuseum.org](http://www.brandywinemuseum.org)
- *DanceBoom!* takes to **The Wilma Theater** stage with performances by local artists and companies. Exact dates to be announced. (215) 546-7824, [www.wilmatheater.org](http://www.wilmatheater.org)

**June 2008:**

- This year's annual *LGBT Pride Parade and Festival* takes place during International Gay and Lesbian Pride Month. June 8, 2008. (215) 875-9288, [www.phillypride.org](http://www.phillypride.org)
- Cyclists compete against one another and climb the steep Manayunk "wall" during the annual *Philadelphia International Championship*. June 8, 2008. [www.procyclingtour.com](http://www.procyclingtour.com)
- Venues throughout the city host new plays, musicals and revues by or about members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community during the *Gay and Lesbian Theatre Festival*. June 12-28, 2008. (215) 627-6483, [www.philagaylesbiantheatrefest.org](http://www.philagaylesbiantheatrefest.org)
- The **Rosenbach Museum & Library** commemorates *Bloomsday*, the day on which novel hero Leopold Bloom made his "odyssey" through Dublin in *Ulysses*, with a week-long festival of programs. June 16-20, 2008. (215) 732-1600, [www.rosenbach.org](http://www.rosenbach.org)

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- The three-day outdoor *Popped! Festival* features local and national musicians from different genres. In addition to providing great entertainment, this second annual event also promotes sustainability by going green. June 20-22, 2008.  
[www.poppedphiladelphia.org](http://www.poppedphiladelphia.org)
- The 5<sup>th</sup> annual *West Oak Lane Jazz and Arts Festival* includes three days of free, non-stop music with more than 65 bands on four outdoor stages, along with arts and crafts vendors and fun activities for the whole family. June 20-22, 2008.  
[www.westoaklanefestival.com](http://www.westoaklanefestival.com)
- *Philadelphia Insurance Triathlon* participants run, bike and swim through the trails of **Fairmount Park** and the slow-moving waters of the Schuylkill River. June 20-22, 2008. (215) 517-4989, [www.phillytri.com](http://www.phillytri.com)
- Celebrating the nation's birthday, *Sunoco Welcome America!* is a week-long party with free events for all ages throughout the city. June 28-July 6, 2008. (215) 683-2200, [www.americasbirthday.com](http://www.americasbirthday.com)
- The *Odunde African-American Festival Weekend* celebrates the Yoruba New Year, beginning with a spiritual procession to the Schuylkill River and ending with a lively street fair. Exact dates to be announced. (215) 732-8510

#### **July 2008:**

- At the *Let Freedom Ring* event at the **Liberty Bell Center**, direct descendants of the signers of the *Declaration of Independence* tap the Liberty Bell to symbolically "ring" it, setting off a nationwide bell ringing ceremony. July 4, 2008. (215) 965-2305, [www.let-freedom-ring.org](http://www.let-freedom-ring.org)
- The 14<sup>th</sup> annual *Philadelphia International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival* celebrates all genres of film that pertain to or were created by members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities. July 10-21, 2008. (267) 765-9700, [www.phillyfests.org](http://www.phillyfests.org)
- WXPB, the public radio station of the University of Pennsylvania, brings together musical legends and new performers at **Wiggins Park** on the Camden Waterfront for the *All About The Music Festival*. Exact dates to be announced. (856) 757-9400, [www.camdenwaterfront.com](http://www.camdenwaterfront.com)

#### **August 2008:**

- The 47<sup>th</sup> annual *Philadelphia Folk Festival*, Philadelphia's answer to Woodstock, attracts musicians, storytellers and craftspeople for a weekend of song and merriment in Schwenksville. August 15-17, 2008. (215) 242-0150, [www.folkfest.org](http://www.folkfest.org)
- During the *Philadelphia Live Arts Festival & Philly Fringe*, avant-garde performance meets street theater for two weeks of artistic pleasure throughout the city. August 29-September 13, 2008. (215) 413-9006, [www.livearts-fringe.org](http://www.livearts-fringe.org)

#### **September 2008:**

- Thrill-seekers celebrate the Halloween season at **Eastern State Penitentiary** by visiting *Terror Behind the Walls*, a spooky haunted house inside an abandoned prison. September 19-November 1, 2008. (215) 236-3300, [www.easternstate.org](http://www.easternstate.org)
- The Liberty Medal is awarded by the **National Constitution Center** to people who strive to secure liberty for people all over the world. Recipients include men, women and

organizations responsible for shaping and guiding the world. Exact date to be announced.  
(215) 409-6600, [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org)

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**October 2008:**

- Dozens of fine art galleries gather for the *USArtists: American Fine Art Show*, an art expo and sale benefiting the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts at the **33<sup>rd</sup> Street Armory**. October 17-19, 2008. (215) 972-7639, [www.usartists.org](http://www.usartists.org)
- *OutFest*, part of the *National Coming Out Day Festival*, is the largest event of its kind in the world. Exact date to be announced. (215) 875-9288, [www.phillypride.org](http://www.phillypride.org)
- During the ninth annual *Philadelphia Open Studio Tours*, visitors can see local artists of all mediums in their workshops found in neighborhoods throughout the city. Exact dates to be announced. (215) 546-7775, [www.philaopenstudios.com](http://www.philaopenstudios.com)

**November 2008:**

- The **University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology** presents *Treasures...From the Silk Road to the Sante Fe Trail*, a show and sale of exceptional fine art, antiques and textiles from Asia, Africa, Oceania and the Americas. November 7-9, 2008. (215) 898-9213, [www.museum.upenn.edu/treasures](http://www.museum.upenn.edu/treasures)
- Handmade textiles, jewelry and housewares of the highest quality are on view and for sale at the *Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show* at the **Pennsylvania Convention Center**. November 13-16, 2008. (215) 684-7930, [www.philamuseum.org/pmcraft](http://www.philamuseum.org/pmcraft)
- Channel 6 ABC and Boscov's sponsor Philadelphia's annual *Thanksgiving Day Parade* down the **Benjamin Franklin Parkway**. November 27, 2008. (215) 581-4507, [www.wpvi.com](http://www.wpvi.com)
- Taking place at various venues throughout the city, the 10-day *First Person Festival of Memoir and Documentary Art* celebrates its fourth year as the only event in the nation dedicated to art based on real-life experiences. The event features more than 25 performances, screenings and interactive workshops by local and nationally known artists. Exact dates to be announced. (267) 402-2055, [www.firstpersonfestival.org](http://www.firstpersonfestival.org)
- During *A Longwood Gardens Christmas*, thousands of poinsettias, towering Christmas trees and fragrant flowers transform the indoor gardens, where concerts usually take place. Outside, 420,000 lights glitter in the trees, and fountains dance to seasonal music. Exact dates to be announced. (610) 388-1000, [www.longwoodgardens.org](http://www.longwoodgardens.org)

**December 2008:**

- Pennsylvania Ballet's season at the **Academy of Music** features its annual performance of the classic holiday ballet *The Nutcracker*. Exact dates to be announced. (215) 551-7000, [www.paballet.org](http://www.paballet.org)

\* 2008 dates subject to change. Please verify before publishing.

The Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation (GPTMC) makes Philadelphia and The Countryside® a premier destination through marketing and image building that increases business and promotes the region's vitality. For more information about travel to Philadelphia, visit [www.gophila.com](http://www.gophila.com) or call the Independence Visitor Center, located in Independence National Historical Park, at (800) 537-7676.

Note to Editors: For high-resolution photos of Greater Philadelphia, visit the photo gallery of [www.gophila.com/pressroom](http://www.gophila.com/pressroom).