

HISTORIC WALKING TOUR: EASTON

From Centre Square to the confluence of two great rivers

Easton anchors the eastern edge of the Lehigh Valley, founded in 1752 by Thomas Penn at the confluence of the Lehigh and Delaware Rivers and chosen the same year as the seat of Northampton County.

IN THIS GUIDE

1. Centre Square
2. Crayola Experience
3. The Easton Flag (Marx Room, Easton Area Public Library)
4. Sigal Museum
5. 1753 Bachmann Publick House
6. The Canal District
7. The Confluence at Scott Park
8. Lafayette College & College Hill
9. State Theatre Center for the Arts
10. Easton Public Market
11. Tips & Planning

CENTRE SQUARE

Intersection of Northampton & 3rd Streets, downtown Easton — The heart of the city since its 1752 founding and the site of one of the first public readings of the Declaration of Independence on July 8, 1776. At its center stands the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, a Civil War memorial dedicated in 1900 to the Union troops of Easton and Northampton County. The square hosts the Easton Farmers' Market (running since 1791) and festivals throughout the year.

CRAYOLA EXPERIENCE

30 Centre Square, Easton — A four-floor, 28-attraction family destination that opened on Centre Square in 1996 and helped spark downtown Easton's revival. A fun, indoor counterpoint to the tour's historic stops, especially for families.

THE EASTON FLAG (MARX ROOM, EASTON AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY)

515 Church Street, Easton — Easton's claim to one of the earliest Stars and Stripes, reportedly tied to the 1776 reading. The original flag - 13 stripes and 13 eight-pointed stars, with a genuinely debated origin date - is displayed in the library's Marx Room, the city's local-history and genealogy archive.

SIGAL MUSEUM

342 Northampton Street, Easton — Northampton County's leading history museum, run by the Northampton County Historical & Genealogical Society, with exhibits spanning pre-European artifacts, decorative arts, textiles, and the region's industrial story. Open Wednesday through Sunday.

1753 BACHMANN PUBLICK HOUSE

15 N 2nd Street, Easton — Easton's oldest standing building and its only surviving 18th-century tavern, restored and open for guided tours through the historical society. It once held Northampton County's court and welcomed figures including Benjamin Franklin and John Adams.

THE CANAL DISTRICT

Along the Lehigh and Delaware Rivers, south and west of downtown — Easton was the meeting point of three 19th-century canals - the Lehigh, the Delaware (Pennsylvania Canal, Delaware Division), and the Morris - that carried anthracite coal to Philadelphia and New York. Walk the restored towpaths (Delaware Canal State Park and nearby Hugh Moore Park) to see locks, canal houses, and interpretive displays; the National Canal Museum tells the full story.

THE CONFLUENCE AT SCOTT PARK

Scott Park, Larry Holmes Drive, Easton — Where the Lehigh River meets the Delaware, framed by the historic bridges that made Easton a transportation hub. Scott Park offers river views, walking and biking paths (it's the terminus of the Lehigh Canal towpath), and a statue of Easton-born heavyweight champion Larry Holmes.

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE & COLLEGE HILL

College Hill neighborhood, north of downtown — A hilltop campus founded in 1826 and named for the Marquis de Lafayette, with striking architecture and views over the Delaware River. The Williams Center for the Arts (opened 1983) hosts concerts, theater, and gallery exhibitions.

STATE THEATRE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

453 Northampton Street, Easton — A restored 1926 movie palace turned 1,500-plus-seat performing-arts venue on the National Register of Historic Places, anchoring the Northampton Street cultural corridor a short walk from Centre Square.

EASTON PUBLIC MARKET

325 Northampton Street, Easton — A year-round indoor market with roughly 14 artisan vendors - butchery, bakery, cheese, chocolate, a noodle bar, wood-fired pizza, produce, and craft beverages. A natural spot to rest and refuel; open Wednesday through Sunday.

TIPS & PLANNING

Start at Centre Square, where parking and most stops cluster within a few blocks. The Sigal Museum and 1753 Bachmann Publick House keep similar Wednesday-to-Sunday hours, so plan your visit midweek through the weekend. The Easton Public Market is closed Mondays and Tuesdays - a good lunch anchor for a Wednesday-to-Sunday tour. Wear comfortable shoes for the cobblestones and the climb up to College Hill, and check the State Theatre and Williams Center calendars in advance if you want to catch a performance. Allow extra time on summer Saturdays for the Easton Farmers' Market in Centre Square.

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