

Keep your eyes open for hidden treasures in Old City, as you walk from Philosophical Hall, 104 S. 5th, to The Tract House, 231 N. 3rd.

It's a short walk, about 10 minutes or so if you hurry along without taking in the sights, but why would you want to do that? Old City is chock full of nooks and crannies to explore. The following is just a short introductory list of not-to-miss places along the way. You'll also find several art galleries, boutiques, and super-historical sites like the Betsy Ross house and Christ's Church. You could spend days just wandering these few blocks of Old City, but don't get too lost in your reveries- you've got to make it to The Tract House!

- 1. Mrs. K's Koffee**
325 Chestnut Street
Filling breakfasts and lunches are served with a smile at the counters of this classic diner. Before 11 a.m., grab a breakfast special for under five dollars, including the coffee. Yum.
- 2. Chemical Heritage Foundation**
315 Chestnut Street
Curious about chemistry? Stop by CHF's free exhibition hall devoted to all things periodic table. Displays run the gamut from vintage chemistry sets to the manufacture of synthetic clothing.
- 3. National Mechanics**
22 S. 3rd Street
Stop by for booze, beer, or an evening of quizzes in this vegetarian-friendly and super yummy restaurant/bar combo. Bartenders have replaced tellers in this 1837 bank building — not a bad trade-off.
- 4. Cappelli Jr. Stamps and Hobbies**
313 Market Street
Looking for models of infantry from the Zulu War? Along with model trains, model cars, model planes, and model space vehicles, the narrow aisles of this shop are stuffed full of various soldiers from historic battles. Great place to catch up on your battles.
- 5. Artist and Craftsman**
307 Market Street
A daunting selection of paints and other art supplies are waiting to be turned into masterpieces. Local zines are available at the front counter.
- 6. Evergreen General Merchandise**
24 N. 3rd Street
This cavernous space sports the best assortment of socks-by-the-dozen in the neighborhood. You may never anticipate needing 12 pairs of slouch socks, but now at least you know where to find them. Legwarmers, gloves, and hats, too.
- 7. Victor Gordon**
31 N. 3rd Street
A sign in the window declares "this store the most unusual in Philadelphia," and it's a believable claim. The shop is packed with sculptures and masks from Africa. Watch your step and try not to tip anything over.
- 8. Topstitch**
54 N. 3rd Street
Stop in for squiggly octopus and kissing bunny jewelry designed

by the shop's owner, alongside new and vintage togs. An upstairs workshop transforms schlumpy old clothing into fabulous fashion.

- 9. Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction**
116 N 3rd Street
However much you can't stand visiting a store named after a seminal essay, bite your tongue and walk in anyhow. It's a world of clean, simple, and durable clothing made by local artists or people doing stuff that's right-on. Curated bookshelf ranges from Grant Kester's ideas about socially engaged art to Ayn Rand's twisted social Darwinism.
- 10. Old City Cheese Shop**
160 N. 3rd Street
Hungry cheese-eaters rejoice! A bi case holds all sorts of cheeses, and sandwiches and soup are served for lunch.
- 11. St. George's Church**
235 N. 4th Street
The first love feast in America was held here on March 23, 1770, and tracts and sermons were published on the printing press starting in 1789. The church is open for services on Sunday at 11 a.m. and during the week, its small museum beckons. Don't forget to go upstairs to the sanctuary and check out the amazing view of the Benjamin Franklin Bridge.
- 12. Wood Turning Center**
501 Vine Street
Rotating exhibitions of wood artistry are featured in the gallery space, and the library offers much to wood scholars. An irresistible gift shop stocks artisan made bowls, baubles, and wood craft books.
- 13. Pierre's**
211 N. 3rd Street
Impersonating Darwin? At this costume emporium, you can rent a period costume of the scientist for around \$85. Beards are extra. If you'd rather show a bit more leg than a nineteenth century man's suit will allow, the "naughty scientist" outfits are upstairs.
- 14. Cafe Olé**
147 N. 3rd Street
Delightful spot for a veggie sandwich and a double espresso or your choice of lunch, coffee, or treats. Free wifi, cozy space, a couch, nice smells, friendly people. Yummy.
- 15. Food Equipment Service Center**
160 N. 2nd Street
Broken grinder, slicer, or mixer? This place will get it working again!
- 16. Mr. Bar Stool**
167 N. 2nd Street
Philadelphia's oldest working elevator resides in this grand supermarket of bar stools, couches, dining tables and other furniture for dining and drinking.
- 17. TCP**
105 N 2nd Street
TCP stands for Trenton China Pottery. There are a lot of restaurant supply places on this stretch of 2nd Street. Some have good vibes; others have good stuff. Take a stroll through the aisles of TCP and its neighbors. You never know when you might need a super large ladle or a diner-style syrup dispenser.

18. PAWS

100 N. 2nd Street

The Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society saves cats and dogs from certain death at city shelters, finding good homes for these sweethearts. Stop in and pet the cats. It's therapeutic for both you and the kitties, and you may find a friend for life. Smokey has been there the longest and is older, diabetic, and ornery. Do you have a place in your heart for this beautiful cat?

19. Humphrys Flag Company

238 Arch Street

Design your colors, drop off the design at Humphrys, and you'll be waving your own freaky flag in no time! Though they have manufactured the world's largest American flag, Humphrys is best known for their awesome Tract House flag! Way better than Betsy Ross, and no question about authenticity.

20. Tartes Fine Cakes and Pastries

212 Arch Street

This tiny pink pastry box of a bakery serves up fresh and delicious treats. They're baking all day, so at any given time, something's just coming out of the oven. Warm chocolate chip cookies are a delight; grab a napkin to wipe that drippy chocolate off your pie-hole.

21. I Miller

35 N. 2nd Street

The examination of very small things is just a microscope away, and your microscope may be waiting for you right here in Old

City. All sorts of used optical devices and parts, including ones with cameras, are available here, so you can hook up your petri dish to a webcam, twenty-first century Beagle-style.

22. Jules Goldman Antiques

29 N. 2nd Street

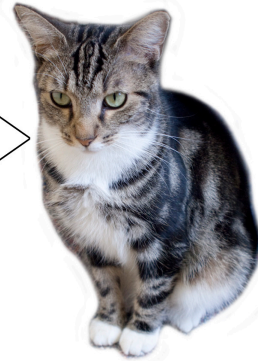
A treasure trove of books and dusty boxes full of more books, plus prints, framed pictures, photographs and random ephemera await those who like to search around for cool stuff.

23. Book Trader

7 N. 2nd Street

This straight-ahead used book store is neatly organized and chock full of books you didn't think you needed but definitely can't live without.

Stop by PAWS (#18) and cuddle with me and my friends on your way to The Tract House. You might even want to take one of us home!



The Tract House: A Darwin Addition

January 29 - April 11, 2010

231 N. 3rd Street

Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, 11-5
First Fridays, 11-8

Browse the stacks of tracts and pick some up to pass along.

Tracts on all manner of subjects are available by the following tract writers: Naomi Bloom, Anthony Koerner, Kenneth Pietrobono, Kelly Marie Martin, Vi Ha, Adam Janeiro, Joel Jeffrey Rane, Jim Cripps, Luke Renner, Ann Chahbandour, Kerry Wessell, Linda J. Long, Object Orange, Fehmida Norat, A.V. Christie, Audrey Chan, Mimi Chapra, Bob Capozzi, Ustya Tarnawsky, Sue Patterson, Eric McDade, Janet Samuel, Mary Tasillo, Jennifer Calkins, Gerard Olsen, Nathalie Anderson, Elana Mann, Aja Beech, Matt Pruden, Shelley Spector, Steve Hughes, Tom McAllister, Michael Parker, Dan Farnbach, Christy Schneider, Kyoung Kim, Tyler Cornfield, Sam Watson, Nancy Rawlinson, Sabrina Ovan, Andrew Suggs, Cort Day, Baruch Blumberg, Carlyn Carter, Otto Von Busch, Goatsilk, Joseph Mosconi, Colleen Corcoran and Vera Brunner-Sung, Shane Hassett, Susan Lutz, Jeni McKenna, Stephen Hastings-King, Roman Jaster, & Charles and Emma Darwin

Tract designs by Roman Jaster.

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A Walking Map



Let's All Go To The Tract House!
More about Darwin at The Tract House!
Take the Scenic Route to The Tract House!
Meander on over to The Tract House!
Coffee and Treats on the way to The Tract House!
Discover Old City on your way to The Tract House!

