

dakota city guides

POWERED BY
dakota recommends

Where the
Investment
Community
Connects

2025

OCTOBER

*Curated by the
Dakota Team*

Philadelphia

A NOTE FROM EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

At Dakota, we believe that the best connections happen beyond the meeting room... over coffee, dinner, or a shared experience in the cities where business gets done.

Since 2006, we've been in the fundraising business ourselves meeting allocators, building relationships, and hosting events across the country. In 2019, we launched Dakota Marketplace to help other fundraisers and deal sourcers do the same: connect more effectively, raise capital faster, and source deals easier.

Through years of travel, meetings, and Dakota Cocktail events, we've discovered that the "where" matters just as much as the "who". That's what inspired Dakota Recommends, a curated collection of the restaurants, hotels, coffee shops, and event spaces we know and trust.

These aren't just lists. They're hand-picked and personally vetted by our team. The places where we've hosted meetings, shared meals, and built relationships that drive business forward.

We're proud to start this series in our hometown, Philadelphia, and hope this guide helps you discover great places, and even greater connections.

– Catherine Begier

PHILADELPHIA OVERVIEW

Philadelphia is where Dakota got its start, and where we're proud to call home. Since 2006, we've been headquartered here, meeting allocators, hosting events, and building the relationships that drive our industry forward.

Although often overshadowed by its northern peers, NYC and Boston, Philadelphia is a can't-miss city for investment sales professionals. It's home to some of the nation's largest financial institutions, like Vanguard, SEI, PNC Bank, and Wilmington Trust, as well as more than 1,200 other qualified firms investing in external managers across the metro area.

You'll also find over 130 family offices and RIAs, including Mill Creek Capital Advisors, myCIO Wealth Partners, and Pitcairn Trust Company, along with major university investment teams like those at the University of Pennsylvania.

With so many allocators concentrated in one region, Philadelphia remains one of the best points of access to a diverse pool of investors across all channels... and it should be on every fundraiser's travel calendar each year.

dakota marketplace

For a complete list of investors, visit [Dakota Marketplace](#).

HOTELS

TOP RECOMMENDATIONS

PICK #1

The Logan Hotel

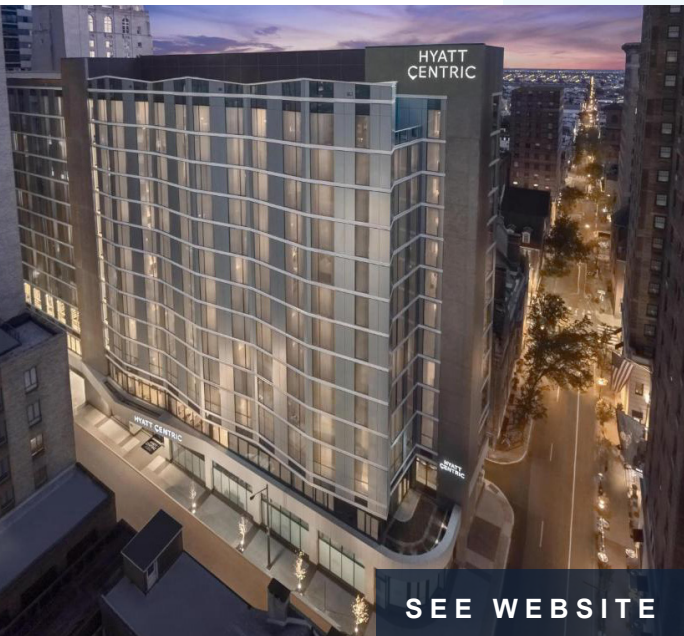
LOGAN SQUARE

One Logan Square Philadelphia, PA 19103

A large luxury-lifestyle hotel in downtown Philadelphia, it features 391 art- and culture-inspired rooms and suites that blend modern sophistication with a welcoming sense of place. Emphasizing local art, wellness, and elevated dining, it offers premier meeting spaces and easy access to the Parkway, museums, and business district.



[SEE WEBSITE](#)



[SEE WEBSITE](#)

PICK #2

Hyatt Centric

RITTENHOUSE SQUARE

1620 Chancellor Street Philadelphia, PA 19103

A modern, centrally located Hyatt designed for comfort and convenience, offering clean, stylish rooms with contemporary amenities. It's an accessible luxury option ideal for both business and leisure travelers who want to stay close to downtown restaurants, shopping, and attractions.

PICK #3

Four Seasons

CENTER CITY

1 North 19th Street Philadelphia, PA 19103

Perched atop the Comcast Center, the Four Seasons Hotel Philadelphia offers unmatched luxury and sweeping city views. With world-class dining from Jean-Georges Vongerichten and Greg Vernick, a serene spa, and a stunning infinity pool, it's the city's premier destination for discerning travelers.



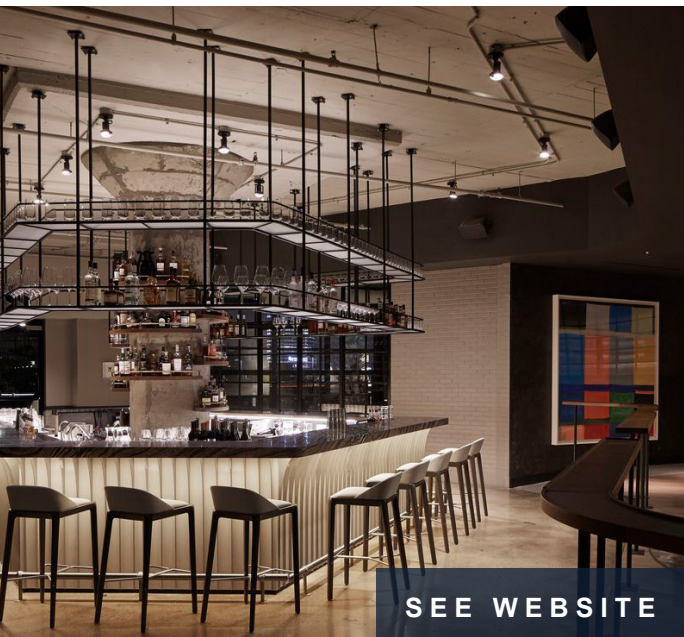
PICK #4

Fitler Club

CENTER CITY

24 South 24th Street Center City Philadelphia, PA

Fitler Club is a luxury boutique "lifestyle club + hotel" designed around a 24/7 stay, work, and play concept. With just 14 guest rooms and suites, visitors enjoy intimate accommodations alongside full access to the club's high-end wellness, dining, and social amenities.



RESTAURANTS

Client Dinner Spots

TOP RECOMMENDATIONS

PICK #1

Alpen Rose

CENTER CITY

116 South 13th Street Philadelphia, PA

A classic steakhouse reimagined by the Schulson Collective, this Alps-inspired spot serves dry-aged and wood-fired steaks in an elegant yet inviting setting. It's a perfect choice for steak lovers seeking an elevated dining experience that feels refined without being overdone.



DAKOTA MUST TRY:

- Porterhouse Carved Tableside
- Bone-In Steaks
- Shrimp Cocktail
- Classic Steakhouse Sides & Desserts

[SEE WEBSITE](#)

PICK #2

Parc

RITTENHOUSE SQUARE

227 S 18th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Parc is a beloved French bistro overlooking Rittenhouse Square, capturing the charm of a Parisian brasserie with its classic décor and lively sidewalk seating. Open all day, it's a go-to spot for weekend brunches, relaxed lunches, and romantic dinners.



DAKOTA MUST TRY:

- French Onion Soup
- Escargots
- Steak Frites
- Fresh Baguette & Pastries

[SEE WEBSITE](#)

PICK #3

Giuseppe and Sons

CENTER CITY

1523 Sansom St, Philadelphia, PA 19102

Giuseppe & Sons is a two-level Italian restaurant and bar serving both casual and upscale Italian-American cuisine. Upstairs features a bright luncheonette with hoagies and pasta, while the downstairs is an elegant supper club with red-sauce classics, steaks, and cocktails.



DAKOTA MUST TRY:

- Meatballs
- Chicken Parmesan
- House-Made Pastas
- Classic Italian Desserts

[SEE WEBSITE](#)

PICK #4

Vernick Fish

LOGAN SQUARE

1 North 19th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

American seafood / oyster bar by Chef Greg Vernick, with ingredient-driven cooking and global flavor influences. Offers a mix of raw oysters, shellfish, fish entrees, vegetable preparations. Stylish setting, strong cocktails & wine. Ideal for seafood lovers and special dinners.



DAKOTA MUST TRY:

- Assorted Oysters
- Whole Branzino a la Plancha
- Seasonal Crudos
- Scallops & Shrimp Dishes

[SEE WEBSITE](#)

RESTAURANTS

Fun Group Spots

TOP RECOMMENDATIONS

PICK #1

Double Knot

CENTER CITY

120 South 13th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

A bi-level Japanese restaurant featuring a sleek cocktail lounge upstairs and a hidden izakaya below, it offers creative sushi, small plates, and robatayaki skewers with inventive fusion flair. Stylish and energetic, it's a go-to spot for groups and lively nights out.



DAKOTA MUST TRY:

- Robata Skewers
- Specialty Sushi Rolls
- Pork Bao
- Chef's Tasting Menu

[SEE WEBSITE](#)

PICK #2

Dear Daphni

RITTENHOUSE SQUARE

125 S 20th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

A newer Mediterranean shared-plates restaurant from the Schulson Collective. Located in The Laurel at 20th & Sansom, with both indoor and seasonal outdoor seating. Mezze, grilled meats & fish, vibrant flavors, stylish but approachable atmosphere. Reservations are likely advised (esp for dinner / weekend) given popularity.



DAKOTA MUST TRY:

- Tunisian Lamb Shank
- Moroccan Meatballs
- Chicken or Salmon Kebabs
- Soft Serve Dessert

[SEE WEBSITE](#)

PICK #3

Wilder

RITTENHOUSE SQUARE

2009 Sansom St, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Wilder is a creative American restaurant in Rittenhouse housed in a multi-level historic townhouse. Known for its eclectic menu of seasonal dishes, wood-fired pizzas, and raw bar selections, Wilder pairs whimsical design with a vibrant social atmosphere. It's great for group dining, date nights, or cocktails and bites at the bar.



DAKOTA MUST TRY:

- Wood-Fired Pizza
- Oysters
- Handmade Pastas
- Creative Cocktails

SEE WEBSITE

PICK #4

Pub and Kitchen

CENTER CITY

1946 Lombard Street, Philadelphia, PA 19146

A neighborhood tavern / gastropub with elevated farm-to-table offerings. Comfortable, inviting atmosphere with a wood-lined bar, lively dining room, and sidewalk seating. The menu changes seasonally; drinks include craft cocktails, local beers, and wine. Casual but thoughtful.



DAKOTA MUST TRY:

- P&K Double Cheeseburger
- Buffalo Wings
- Truffle Parmesan Fries
- Seasonal Specials

SEE WEBSITE

RESTAURANTS

Philly Staples / Here are our must try and famous in the city of Philadelphia!

TOP RECOMMENDATIONS

PICK #1

Angelo's Pizzeria

BELLA VISTA

736 South 9th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147

A local favorite for casual comfort food, this laid-back spot is known for its cheesesteaks, pizzas, and hearty sandwiches. Always bustling and approachable, it's the go-to choice for an easy, satisfying meal without any formality.



DAKOTA MUST TRY:

- Cheesesteak with Cooper Sharp Cheese
- Hoagies
- Pizza Specials
- Roast Pork Sandwich

[SEE WEBSITE](#)

PICK #2

Dalessandro's

600 Wendover St, Philadelphia, PA 19128

A beloved, no-frills cheesesteak and hoagie spot, this longtime Philly favorite is cherished by locals for its finely chopped steak, generous toppings, and authentic flavor. With counter service and often long lines, it delivers the quintessential Philadelphia cheesesteak experience worth waiting for.



DAKOTA MUST TRY:

- Classic Cheesesteak with Fried Onions
- Chicken Cheesesteak
- Hoagies
- Provolone or "Whiz" Toppings

[SEE WEBSITE](#)

PICK #3

John's Roast Pork

14 E Snyder Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19148

John's Roast Pork is a South Philadelphia landmark celebrated for its award-winning roast pork sandwiches and classic cheesesteaks. Family-owned since 1930, this unassuming spot delivers authentic Philly flavor with slow-roasted pork, sharp provolone, and fresh seeded rolls that keep locals and visitors coming back for generations.



DAKOTA MUST TRY:

- Roast Pork Sandwich
- Fried Meatball
- Cheesesteak

[SEE WEBSITE](#)

PICK #4

Dante and Luigi's

BELLA VISTA

762 S. 10th Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19147

One of Philadelphia's oldest Italian restaurants, established in 1899, this iconic spot in the Italian Market exudes Old World charm. Set in converted townhouses with white tablecloths and a timeless red-sauce menu, it offers comforting classics like pasta and seafood in a warm, historic setting.



DAKOTA MUST TRY:

- Osso Buco
- Baked Lasagna
- Rigatoni Carbonara

[SEE WEBSITE](#)

COFFEE SHOPS

TOP RECOMMENDATIONS

PICK #1

Elixir Coffee

FITLER SQUARE

3675 Market St Philadelphia, PA 19103

Elixir Coffee is a specialty coffee roaster and café founded in 2010, focused on sourcing, roasting, and serving lighter-roasted, high-quality beans. They continuously refine their processes and offer an experience that emphasizes clarity, nuance, and excellence in espresso and brewed coffee.



DAKOTA MUST TRY:

- Single-origin coffees & light roast blends
- Precision espresso drinks
- Seasonal brew & filter options
- Coffee tastings / “omakase” style flight experiences

[SEE WEBSITE](#)

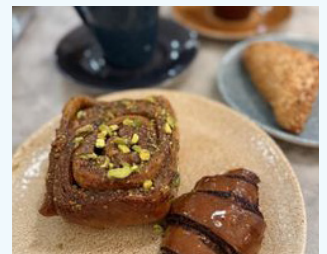
PICK #2

K'Far Cafe

RITTENHOUSE SQUARE

110 S 19th St Philadelphia, PA 19103

K'Far is a bright, design-forward Israeli bakery and café just off Rittenhouse Square, inspired by the lively charm of neighborhood bakeries in Israel. With marble counters, graceful arches, and a stunning pastry display, it pairs beautiful design with all-day fare — from morning coffee and pastries to savory grain bowls.



DAKOTA MUST TRY:

- Housemade Chai Latte
- Iced Coffee
- Pistachio Sticky Bun
- Egg & Cheese Bagel

[SEE WEBSITE](#)

PICK #3

La Colombe

RITTENHOUSE SQUARE

130 South 19th Street Philadelphia, PA 19103

La Colombe's Rittenhouse Square café is the flagship of Philadelphia's iconic coffee brand, blending industrial charm with neighborhood warmth. Known for its signature draft lattes and meticulously sourced blends, it's a bright, bustling spot where locals and professionals gather from morning meetings to afternoon pick-me-ups.



DAKOTA MUST TRY:

- Draft Latte / Cold Foam Beverages
- Espresso Drinks (Cortado, Cappuccino)
- Pastries & Fresh Baked Goods
- Sandwiches & Light Bites

SEE WEBSITE

PICK #4

Mr. Rabbit Coffee

FITLER SQUARE

2301 Spruce St Philadelphia, PA 19103

Mr. Rabbit Coffee, nestled in the Fitler neighborhood, has quickly become a stylish yet welcoming fixture in Philadelphia's café scene. With its light-filled interior, natural tones, and inviting barista counter, it offers a relaxed, modern atmosphere perfect for lingering with a book or getting a bit of work done.



DAKOTA MUST TRY:

- Vanilla Iced Latte
- Lavender Matcha Latte
- Cold Brew
- Pastries

EVENT SPACES

TOP RECOMMENDATIONS

PICK #1

Union League

CENTER CITY

140 S Broad St, Philadelphia, PA 19102

The Union League is a prestigious and historic private club in Center City, offering over 22,000 square feet of event space within its iconic “League House.” With 14 distinctive rooms, elegant architecture, on-site catering, and guest accommodations, it’s ideal for everything from intimate gatherings to grand formal events.



[SEE WEBSITE](#)



[SEE WEBSITE](#)

PICK #2

Fitler Club

FITLER SQUARE

24 S 24th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Fitler Club is a modern, upscale private social club and boutique hotel in Center City Philadelphia, offering nearly 10,000 square feet of high-tech event space for gatherings of all sizes. With its elegant ballroom, garden terrace, game room, and on-site hotel rooms, it combines luxury and design sophistication with a vibrant sense of community.

PICK #3

Stratus Lounge

OLD CITY

433 Chestnut St, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Stratus Lounge, perched atop Kimpton's Hotel Monaco in Old City, is a chic indoor-outdoor rooftop destination marrying skyline views with elevated design. It features two intimate private pavilions alongside stylish lounge zones, expansive bar service, and a moody yet modern vibe.



SEE WEBSITE



SEE WEBSITE

PICK #4

Vue on 50

LOGAN SQUARE

1717 Arch St Suite 5000, Philadelphia, PA 19103

VUE on 50 is a sleek, contemporary event space located on the 50th floor of Three Logan Square, offering panoramic 360° views of Philadelphia through floor-to-ceiling windows. With over 10,000 square feet of flexible space and high-end amenities, it's a striking venue for weddings, galas, and corporate events alike.

HEADING TO THE SUBURBS?

Hotels / Here are a few spots if your meetings lead you outside of the city:

TOP RECOMMENDATIONS

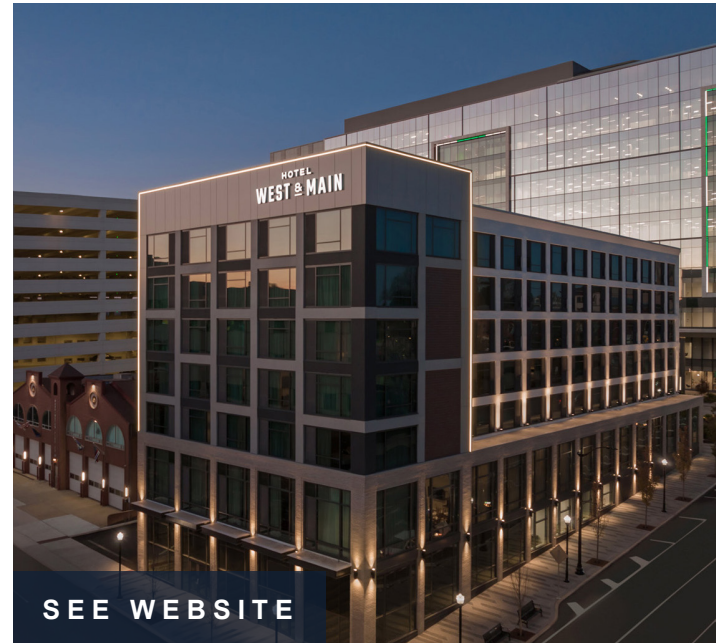
PICK #1

Hotel West & Main

CONSHOHOCKEN

46 Fayette St Conshohocken, PA 19428

This boutique hotel features versatile event spaces including a ballroom, meeting rooms, a pre-function area, and an outdoor Plaza amphitheater. Conveniently located in the heart of Conshohocken, just 11 miles from downtown Philadelphia, it's ideal for gatherings seeking suburban ease with city accessibility.



PICK #2

Radnor Hotel

WAYNE

591 Lancaster Ave, St Davids, PA 19087

The Radnor Hotel is a full-service Main Line hotel offering classic comfort, modern amenities, and beautifully landscaped surroundings in the heart of Wayne, Pennsylvania. Known for its inviting atmosphere and convenient location near Villanova University, it's a popular choice for business travelers, social events, and weekend getaways. Check out the hotel bar at Triple Crown for a drink or quick bite to eat.



HEADING TO THE SUBURBS?

Restaurants / Here are a few spots if your meetings lead you outside of the city:

TOP RECOMMENDATIONS

PICK #1

White Dog

WAYNE

200 W Lancaster Ave, Wayne, PA 19087

White Dog Café in Wayne is a beloved Main Line restaurant known for its farm-to-table American cuisine, whimsical dog-themed décor, and warm neighborhood charm. With a focus on locally sourced, sustainable ingredients, it offers an inviting setting for everything from business lunches to relaxed weekend brunches.



DAKOTA MUST TRY:

- White Dog 'Double Cheddar' Burger
- Snack Board
- Kennett Square Mushroom Soup
- Asian BBQ Pork Ribs

[SEE WEBSITE](#)

PICK #2

Alessandro's

WAYNE

133 N Wayne Ave, Wayne, PA 19087

Alessandro's Wood Fired Italian in Havertown offers authentic, Neapolitan-style pizzas and house-made pastas in a cozy, modern setting. With its wood-fired oven, warm hospitality, and focus on fresh, high-quality ingredients, it's a neighborhood favorite for both casual dinners and special occasions.



DAKOTA MUST TRY:

- Arancini Cacio e Pepe
- Potato Gnocchi
- Fig Jam Pizza
- Chicken Parmigiano

[SEE WEBSITE](#)

PICK #3

Blue Elephant

WAYNE

110 N Wayne Ave Wayne, Pennsylvania 19087

The Blue Elephant in Wayne, PA is a stylish Asian fusion restaurant that blends Thai, Japanese, and Italian influences in both its menu and design. Known for its modern yet welcoming atmosphere, it offers everything from a lively bar scene to a popular Sunday brunch buffet.



DAKOTA MUST TRY:

- Pork Belly with Sweet Chili Garlic Caramel
- Pumpkin Curry with Roasted Kabocha
- Nam Prik Kha Pla
- Vegetarian Curry & Noodle Dishes

SEE WEBSITE

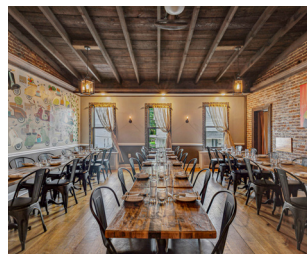
PICK #4

Bar Lucca

CONSHOHOCKEN

729 E Hector St, Conshohocken, PA 19428

Bar Lucca in Conshohocken is a vibrant Italian restaurant offering wood-fired pizzas, house-made pastas, and an impressive wine list in a warm, rustic-chic setting. With its lively atmosphere and focus on authentic flavors, it's a local favorite for both casual dinners and special gatherings.



DAKOTA MUST TRY:

- Margherita Pizza
- Shortrib Rigatoni
- Meatballs

SEE WEBSITE

DAKOTA TEAM PICKS



» Dominique Mortelliti

*Account Executive & Studio Sales Representative
at Dakota*

Part of Dakota's team selling our CRM Integrations, Dominique knows the value of connection and Philadelphia is one of her favorite places to make it happen. A true foodie, she couldn't pick just one restaurant, naming Suraya, Saloon, and Fiorella among her top choices for their incredible food and atmospheres. For coffee meetings, she loves El Jefe. When it comes to hotels, the Four Seasons Philadelphia stands out for its luxury, serene spa, and rooftop bar with unbeatable city views.

“

Philadelphia's dining scene is next-level. Each neighborhood has its own flavor and energy. Whether it's a relaxed night at Fiorella, a vibrant meal at Suraya, or an old-school favorite like Saloon, you really can't go wrong. And if you're staying in town, the Four Seasons is my go-to. It's elegant, convenient, and the views from the top are unmatched.



» John Nostrant

Account Executive at Dakota

Covering the Northeast Region, John knows Philadelphia as both a business hub and a great city to host clients. His local favorites include the W Philadelphia for its central location and modern design, Saloon for classic dining, Mr. Rabbit Coffee for casual meetings, and the Union League for formal events.

“

Philadelphia is an incredible city to bring clients. It combines rich history with a vibrant, modern business scene. The city's restaurant scene is top-notch, my favorite being Saloon. There's no shortage of great coffee shops for casual meetings either like Mr. Rabbit offering a comfortable, local feel. For clients visiting from out of town, luxury hotels like the W Philadelphia provide excellent accommodations and meeting spaces. Beyond business, Philadelphia's walkable downtown, cultural landmarks, and charming neighborhoods make it a city that's easy to enjoy. It's the perfect place to blend productive meetings with memorable hospitality.

PRO TIPS & EVENTS

PRO TIPS FOR FUNDRAISERS

When planning meetings in Philadelphia, focus your schedule around Rittenhouse Square or Center City, where most allocators are located within a short walk or quick Uber ride. To make the most of your day, schedule meetings early or late. We've found breakfast meetings or late-afternoon coffees often work best.

If you're planning a client dinner, book restaurants well in advance. Local favorites like Parc and Alpen Rose are in high demand, especially during major conferences or industry events. Use 30th Street Station strategically, Amtrak access makes same-day trips to New York, D.C., or Boston simple and efficient, making Philadelphia an ideal base for multi-city fundraising weeks.

Finally, stay central. Hotels like The Logan, W Philadelphia, and the Four Seasons offer both convenience and comfort, keeping you close to the city's best dining and meeting spots without sacrificing time in transit.

If your trip falls in the fall, catching a Philadelphia sports game (whether it's the Eagles, Phillies, or Flyers) is a great way to experience the city's unmatched energy and connect with clients outside the boardroom.

KEY ANNUAL EVENTS

- **Philadelphia Private Equity Summit**
Brings together top PE and VC leaders across the Mid-Atlantic.
- **PACT Capital Conference**
One of the longest-running capital-formation events in the country, focused on innovation and deal flow.
- **BIO International Convention**
The world's largest biotech gathering, frequently hosted in Philadelphia.
- **Philadelphia Financial Planning Association Annual Meeting**
Great networking for RIAs and wealth managers.
- **Dakota Cocktails Philadelphia**
Dakota's signature networking event connecting allocators and investment sales professionals.

TRAVEL INSIGHTS

- **Best Time to Visit:** Spring (April - June) and fall (September - October) for ideal weather and event schedules.
- **Getting Around:** Philadelphia is one of the most walkable major cities; Uber or SEPTA covers anything farther out.
- **Airport Tip:** PHL is only 20 minutes from Center City.

ABOUT DAKOTA RECOMMENDS

Dakota Recommends isn't just a list, it's a toolkit for business travelers. These are the places that have helped us at Dakota deliver successful meetings, memorable events, and efficient trips time and time again.

When you're traveling for work, trust the spots we've already vetted. You'll find them all in Dakota Marketplace, organized by metro area, ready to support your goals on the road. We've also incorporated "Dakota Must Try" under each place listed!

Whether you're planning your next trip or refining your meeting strategy, [book a demo of Dakota Marketplace](#) to explore the people and places that keep our team coming back.

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