# PITTSBURGH BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION 1816-2016

Pittsburgh's renewal and rebirth can be traced directly to its storied past. Since our humble beginnings as a trading post and later as the "STEEL CAPITAL OF THE WORLD," a diverse mix of people came here to live, work,



This year, Pittsburgh celebrates its 200th anniversary of being incorporated as a city on March 18, 1816.

There are plenty of opportunities to dig into the city's amazing past, while exploring the cultural heritage that remains a legacy to the region.

In case you may be visiting over a long weekend, thank George Westinghouse, the Pittsburgh inventor who, in 1886, introduced the onset of the modern-day weekend. During a time when workers only had Sundays off, Westinghouse was the first captain of industry to give his employees a paid half-day off on Saturday.

While the weekend fortunately grew longer still, some things never changed.

The following excerpt rings true today as it did 150+ years ago when published in the 1859 *Stranger's Guide* to the city: "No stranger should visit Pittsburgh without taking a view of the City from Mt. Washington, both in daytime and at night. The night scene is especially inspiring and is one to be long remembered." The view from atop Mt. Washington continues to this day to be named among the most beautiful views in America.

That view from Mt. Washington looks directly down upon what another George—George Washington—dubbed the "Forks of the Ohio." Washington wrote in his 1753 journal: "I spent some time in viewing the rivers and the land on the fork, which I think it extremely well situated for a Fort, as it has the absolute command of both rivers."

It's not surprising that this ideally situated piece of land went on to become two military outposts. First, as the site for the French Fort Duquesne; and, following its defeat, as the site of Fort Pitt, under British Colonial control. The city subsequently is named "Pittsburgh" in honor of William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, the British Prime Minister (who sadly never even visited)! Pittsburgh's city seal is derived from the Pitt family's coat of arms.

And the site where Fort Pitt once stood was followed by heavy industrial use as Pittsburgh went on to become the iron and steel center of the world. Today on that key site is one of Pittsburgh's most recognizable landmarks, The Fountain at Point State Park.

learn and thrive.

Opened in 1974 and refurbished in 2013, the three rivers fountain draws from an aquifer that passes beneath the park. The column of water which can raise to 150 feet—is a symbol of Pittsburgh's pride.

As you explore the city, you'll undoubtedly be traversing several of Pittsburgh's 446 bridges. Yes, this *is* the City of Bridges! Among the most famous are the three "sister bridges," straddling Downtown Pittsburgh and the North Shore, now named for iconic Pittsburghers (native and adopted): Rachel Carson, Andy Warhol and Roberto Clemente.

It's fitting that Pittsburgh, birthplace of renowned environmentalist Rachel Carson, is now a national leader in the environmental movement and a green model for cities all over the globe.



For as long as tourism's been around, there have been visitors guides to help people get from here to there. Just like the 100-yearold *How to See It* guide pointing out the highlights of Pittsburgh. Note the cover illustration of sightseeing from the old Model T high atop the city skyline.

PITTSBURGH

HOW TO SEE IT

WM.G. Johnston Company.

### **BY THE NUMBERS: PITTSBURGH TODAY**

**1,224,255** ALLEGHENY COUNTY RESIDENTS



**500 BICYCLE RENTALS** AVAILABLE THROUGH PITTSBURGH BIKE SHARE

THREE

INCREDIBLE RIVERS

CITY OF PITTSBURGH RESIDENTS

305.

**300+** downtown restaurants

### 2,781 ACRES OF CITY PARKS

712 OF OUTDOOR PEDESTRIAN STAIRS SETS (THAT'S 44,645 TREADS!)

> THIRTY -ONE SKYSCRAPERS

PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TEAMS (MLB, NFL, NHL, USL, IWFL, WFA, AFL)

## the state

### 90 NEIGHBORHOODS

12,000 residents living downtown

**24 MI.** of riverfront trails

TWENTY-THOUSAND

GALLONS OF WATER A MINUTE GUSHING THROUGH THE FOUNTAIN AT POINT STATE PARK



#### **446 BRIDGES** (MORE THAN ANY CITY, ANYWHERE)





