

## The Best Places You've Never Seen: Pennsylvania's Small Museums, A Traveler's Guide

Therese Boyd

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**Therese Boyd : The Best Places You've Never Seen: Pennsylvania's Small Museums, A Traveler's Guide** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Best Places You've Never Seen: Pennsylvania's Small Museums, A Traveler's Guide:

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You know the Carnegie Institute and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, but have you ever visited the Toy Robot Museum in Adamstown or Bill's Old Bike Barn in Bloomsburg? The Tom Mix Museum in Mix Run? The Houdini

Museum in Scranton? Pennsylvania's many small museums are easy to miss in an age of instant information and superhighways. After reading Therese Boyd's guide, however, you'll rush to get off the beaten track to find them. Pennsylvania's little wonders are as entertaining as they are educational. Unlike large museums, which display masterpieces of art and other "important" items, small museums feature objects that would otherwise be thrown away and forgotten everything from spittoons to high button shoes and trolley cars. Some small museums, such as the Richard Allen Museum, serve a serious purpose; others are playful, even eccentric. All offer a fresh perspective on how people have lived and worked. Boyd, who has visited small museums throughout Pennsylvania, concentrates on the forty-two museums she considers most worth a detour. These range from Kready's Museum, where visitors can savor the simple pleasures of a country store, to the Vocal Groups Hall of Fame and Museum, where music fans can listen to "golden oldies" and pore over memorabilia (including sequined dresses once worn by the Supremes). Boyd's personal favorite is the museum in the home of Christian Sanderson, a man who collected literally hundreds of historical relics, not the least of which is the purse found in the apron pocket of Jennie Wade, the only civilian killed at the Battle of Gettysburg. Boyd's book is a comprehensive, illustrated guide to the best small museums in Pennsylvania. It weaves amusing anecdotes about Boyd's own visits to the museums along with descriptions of their histories and collections. Her guide provides travel directions as well as complete information about each museum's visiting hours, website, and contact information.

From Publishers Weekly Although the Philadelphia Museum of Art, with its famous Rocky staircase and Thomas Eakins masterpieces, is a must-see for most Keystone State visitors, the rest of the state's museums are largely unknown to outsiders. Writer Boyd has visited small museums throughout Pennsylvania and found 42 she says are worth detouring for; she details these little gems in this handy guide organized by region. In the Poconos, visitors should check out the Houdini Tour and Show, where they can see the padlocks the great escapist used, or Yuengling Brewery, dubbed "America's Oldest Brewery." While trucking through the Alleghenies, drivers might make a pit stop at Mr. Ed's Elephant Museum, a nondescript wooden building that features a range of "elephantania," from plaster elephants to elephant salt and pepper shakers. And in an around Philly, there's the Mummies Museum, which pays tribute to the city's version of Mardi Gras; the Shoe Museum (displaying South African clogs and a size 18 shoe); and more. It's a quirky travel guide that will undoubtedly be a godsend to anyone faced with a long drive on Route 80. 84 illustrations. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. Although the Philadelphia Museum of Art, with its famous Rocky staircase and Thomas Eakins masterpieces, is a must-see for most Keystone State visitors, the rest of the states museums are largely unknown to outsiders. Writer Boyd has visited small museums throughout Pennsylvania and found 42 she says are worth detouring for; she details these little gems in this handy guide organized by region. In the Poconos, visitors should check out the Houdini Tour and Show, where they can see the padlocks the great escapist used, or Yuengling Brewery, dubbed Americas Oldest Brewery. While trucking through the Alleghenies, drivers might make a pit stop at Mr. Eds Elephant Museum, a nondescript wooden building that features a range of elephantania, from plaster elephants to elephant salt and pepper shakers. And in an around Philly, theres the Mummies Museum, which pays tribute to the citys version of Mardi Gras; the Shoe Museum (displaying South African clogs and a size 18 shoe); and more. Its a quirky travel guide that will undoubtedly be a godsend to anyone faced with a long drive on Route 80. Publishers Weekly Boyds descriptions of the museums (which run no longer than a page or two), combine her conversational writing style and a well-balanced mix of background information, personal observations and anecdotes, and make for a quick and often humorous read. Robin Crawford, Centre Daily Times (CDT) Pennsylvanias many small museums would otherwise feature objects that would otherwise be thrown away and forgotten everything from spittoons to high-button shoes and trolley cars. Some small museums, such as the Richard Allen Museum, serve a serious purpose; others are playful, even eccentric. All offer a fresh perspective on how people have lived and worked. Boyds book is a comprehensive, illustrated guide to the best small museums in Pennsylvania. It weaves amusing anecdotes about Boyds own visits to the museums along with descriptions of their histories and collections. Her guide provides travel directions as well as complete information about each museums visiting hours, web site and contact information. Gazette News Part travel guide, part tales of the road, Therese Boyds The Best Places Youve Never Seen: Pennsylvanias Small Museums. . . takes the reader on a journey through some of the states more interesting, lesser-known museums. Pocono Record Part diary, part history lesson, part coolest travel brochure youll ever come across; this book does what a good travel guide is supposed to do: make you forget that youre reading a travel guide. Boyd has succeeded in assembling a volume that could very well make more than a few readers want to cast aside their domestic chores and embark on that road trip theyve been planning in their minds for years. David OConnell, Dispatch Boyd has succeeded in assembling a volume that could very well make more than a few readers want to cast aside their domestic chores and embark on that road trip theyve been planning in their minds for years. David OConnell, York Dispatch Think about it. You travel in your air-conditioned car to some of the cooler museums for just a day trip away from home. Who could ask for a better summer vacation than that? George Robinson, Yardley, PA News Boyds writing style is enjoyably breezy, as well, showing surprise and sometimes disappointment. Put down the TV remote, power down your computer, put some gas in the tank and head in any direction. The Best

Places Youve Never Seen call out to be seen. In person. David Sallinger, McKeesport Daily News In a friendly style, tinged with wit, she deftly distills the essence of each museum in a short essay and succinctly provides the nuts and bolts things, such as directions, hours and cost. Michael Snyder, Mercury Who knew that one small book could make such big waves? But Boyds book does more than just tell the tale of one woman, and her occasional companions, in search of history, fun and collectibles. The book is complete with directions, phone numbers, web sites and other information to let the reader become their own tour guide, to experience the states tiny treasures. Michelle Pittman, Republican and Herald Though her book her first contains all the details and photographs necessary to be a useful guide, Boyds amusing storytellers approach to chronicling her visit to each site conveys much more about its subjects, and its author, than a utilitarian tour guide. Boyds stories are a pleasure for the armchair traveler but many may find themselves itching to get on the road for themselves. Marion Winik, Baltimore Sun A good general rule is that only when the guide is Mark Twain or Rose Macauley does the reader welcome learning more about the guide than the place. Ms. Boyd often flouts this rule, but by the end her appreciation of the odd is contagious, and almost all is forgiven. She genuinely likes the strong souls who mind the museums, and she enlists the reader in her cause. Her approach is regional, and the selections are charmingly diverse. Jeffrey S. Wood, Cumberland County History This is a very cool little book. . . . Take the book, get a road map, pile the kids into the SUV, and do a weekend ramble. Heck, do lots of weekend rambling to all 40 of the Best Places Youve Never Seen. The books fun by itself, and the destinations are all plucky and gritty. Ted Byrne, Business to Business This is a very cool book. . . . Take the book, get a road map, pile the kids into the SUV, and do a weekend ramble. Heck, do lots of weekend rambling to all 40 of the Best Places Youve Never Seen. The books fun by itself, and the destinations are all plucky and gritty. Ted Byrne, Lancaster Business 2 Business From the Inside Flap You know the Carnegie Institute and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, but have you ever visited the Toy Robot Museum in Adamstown or Bill's Old Bike Barn in Bloomsburg? The Tom Mix Museum in Mix Run? The Houdini Museum in Scranton? Pennsylvania's many small museums are easy to miss in an age of instant information and superhighways. After reading Therese Boyd's guide, however, you'll rush to get off the beaten track to find them. Pennsylvania's little wonders are as entertaining as they are educational. Unlike large museums, which display masterpieces of art and other "important" items, small museums feature objects that would otherwise be thrown away and forgotten-everything from spittoons to high button shoes and trolley cars. Some small museums, such as the Richard Allen Museum, serve a serious purpose; others are playful, even eccentric. All offer a fresh perspective on how people have lived and worked. Boyd, who has visited small museums throughout Pennsylvania, concentrates on the forty-two museums she considers most worth a detour. These range from Kready's Museum, where visitors can savor the simple pleasures of a country store, to the Vocal Groups Hall of Fame and Museum, where music fans can listen to "golden oldies" and pore over memorabilia (including sequined dresses once worn by the Supremes). Boyd's personal favorite is the museum in the home of Christian Sanderson, a man who collected literally hundreds of historical relics, not the least of which is the purse found in the apron pocket of Jennie Wade, the only civilian killed at the Battle of Gettysburg. Boyd's book is a comprehensive, illustrated guide to the best small museums in Pennsylvania. It weaves amusing anecdotes about Boyd's own visits to the museums along with descriptions of their histories and collections. Her guide provides travel directions as well as complete information about each museum's visiting hours, Website, and contact information.