



***Wilmington Historic District with Brookdale
Sunday, September 22, 2019***

When

7:45am Depart home – Tom and Diana

8:00am Bus loading for 8:30am departure

What First

Live Music & Brunch At The Hotel DuPont; Between The Rivers Walking Tour Of Wilmington's Historic District, DE

Per Brookdale Community College website:

From the beginning, Hotel Du Pont was intended to establish a prestigious hotel in Wilmington, one that would rank among the finest European hotels. Indulge in a bountiful brunch complimented by live music amidst the vibrant and lavish atmosphere of the Green Room. Design elements like fumed oak paneling, a coffered oak-beamed ceiling, gold chandeliers, richly textured draperies, Italian mosaics and original oil paintings, bring the elegance and grandeur of the Gilded Age into the 21st century.

What Next

Following brunch, enjoy a leisurely stroll through Wilmington's historic Market Street on a guided, "Between the Rivers" walking tour.

Description from Delaware Historical Society offers reserved guided tours of Wilmington's historic Market Street for groups of six or more. Join us in exploring Wilmington, Delaware - a city that honors it's past and looks to the future!

A typical tour begins with an orientation at the Delaware History Museum, 504 North Market Street, then covers the area between 3rd and Market Street and Rodney Square , approximately one mile round trip—1 ½ hours.

Optional extended walks cover the area between the Christina waterfront at Tubman-Garrett Park and the Brandywine River just beyond the Hercules Building, approximately two miles round trip-- 2 ¼ hours. There is no extra charge for extended walking tours.

Guide

We had a new guide, Noreen's assistant, named Marie. We heard that our friend Mary would be helping on some trips but she was a customer this day.

I'd think that Noreen got tired of all these little old white headed ladies asking all the same questions. Over and over again. So she stuck her assistant on it.

And in a line? The ladies are molasses. You never heard so much negotiating with themselves whether to use one or the other stall, how to fix the tea or not, do we want this vegetable or that cheese. Yet all are really bright people, or they'd be home doing nothing. Most are surely over 100 years old . . . More ladies than men and in fact sometimes, and maybe this time too, there would be only 3-5 men on the whole (filled) bus. Sold out trips.

Schedule

11:00am Brunch in Green Room

1:00pm Walking tour of about 1 1/2 hour

5:30pm Arrive back at Brookdale

Links and Info from the Web

From <http://www.hoteldupont.com/>

Hotel DuPont - A TIMELESS HOTEL IN WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

With a storied elegance and tradition befitting one of the most prestigious hotels in the world, the Hotel du Pont stands as a magnificent bridge between Wilmington, Delaware's rich past and cosmopolitan present.

Since welcoming its first guests in 1913, the hotel has remained a Gilded Age icon, a monument to a time when artistry, grace and sophistication ruled the day and an era when travel meant something special and exciting. Then and now, arriving guests are greeted by accommodations and social areas framed by ornate, hand-carved wood, mosaic and terrazzo floors, and imported European chandeliers — all first created by the finest French and Italian craftsmen of their time and beautifully maintained for over 100 years.

Discover a destination that, despite its history and reputation, remains an undiscovered gem among regional properties in the Brandywine Valley, beloved for its lavish style, exceedingly personalized service and coveted downtown Wilmington location.

History - At once an architectural icon, an internationally renowned hotel, and the pride of Delaware, HOTEL DU PONT has many stories to tell. Nestled in the heart of Wilmington, Delaware and the picturesque Brandywine Valley, one of the country's grandest hotels is as rich in history and tradition as it is in atmosphere.

The twelve-story Italian Renaissance building debuted in 1913 after a two-and-a-half year labor of love by French and Italian craftsmen who carved, gilded and painted this exceptional landmark to life. From the lavish splendor of the lobby to the shimmering majesty of the Gold Ballroom, every detail speaks to an eye for flawless style.

After opening, the hotel instantly earned international fame, rivaling the finest hotels in New York City and Europe while serving as the financial and social epicenter for the Wilmington elite. Expansion of the property in 1918 brought further enhancements, with the additions of the Gold Ballroom, du Barry Room and the theatre, which is now known as the Playhouse on Rodney Square.

The hotel remains committed to retaining the warmth and splendor that have made us so highly regarded for almost a century. To step inside is to find yourself transported back to a time of craftsmanship and courtesy, of ease and elegance, sophistication and style, an era when people knew how to travel in style and expected the very best. Those values are preserved today in the service we provide each and every guest.

Why not visit and add your name to the legend of the HOTEL DU PONT?

HOTEL DU PONT is a member of Historic Hotels Worldwide®, which is dedicated to promoting heritage and cultural travel to prestigious historic treasures.

Dining - brunch in The Green Room - A 4-STAR DINING EXPERIENCE

With its opulent style and world-class cuisine, the HOTEL DU PONT has become one of Wilmington's premier dining destinations. The Green Room, the hotel's signature restaurant, has been recognized with the AAA Four-Diamond Award and Forbes Four-Star Award. For lighter fare and a more casual ambiance, try the sophisticated yet relaxed Café located adjacent to The Green Room.

More on the famous dining room - DuPont Green Room

From <http://www.bpgroup.net/the-historic-hotel-du-pont-has-an-updated-look-and-a-new-menu/>

The oldest continually rated 4-star restaurant in the country, The Green Room, emerges into a modern era of style and cuisine while retaining its classic elegance and charm.

Pictures from the day





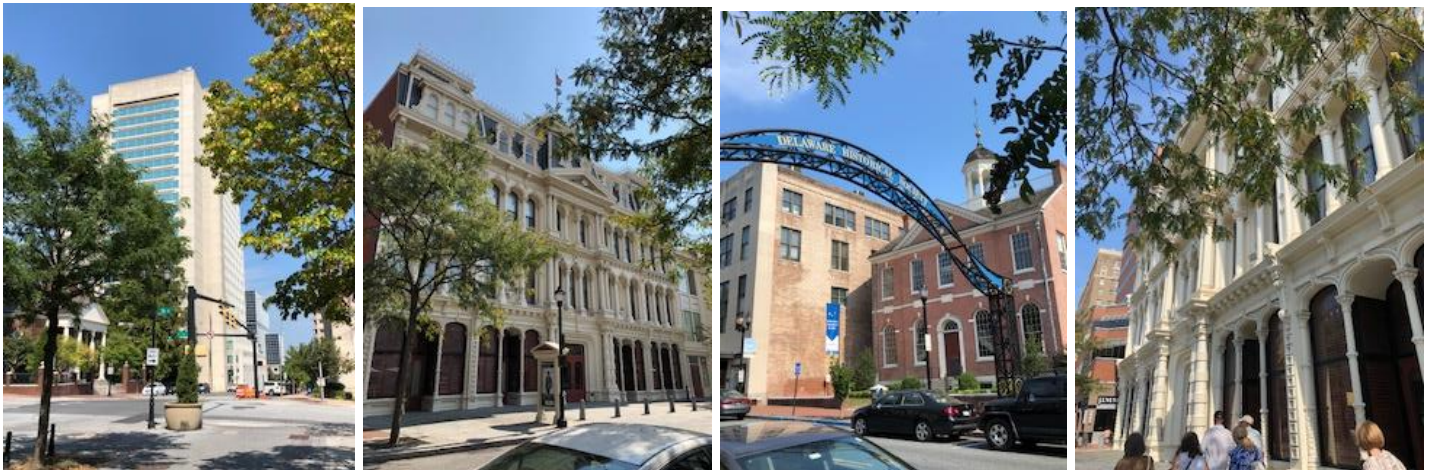
The Lobby, Ceilings and Old Furnishings; then into the Green Room Restaurant for live music (Piano), an appetizer bar that was sufficient for a meal, followed by a choice from the menu, then the dessert bar, all topped off with a mimosa – or two.



Tom said the crab cakes were pretty much ALL crab and super. I enjoyed the piano playing too and we noticed that we heard music from OUR era, and noted that there was a second piano up in a balcony nearly to the ceiling which was worth a picture. Then off to a look at the two ballrooms, this being the Gold Room of course.



From the “just-okay” walking tour (it’s offered free so one can’t complain?), here a view of the I.M. Pei designed building, the Masonic Lodge now an Opera House, and the block of historic museum and early buildings.



Recommendation

The Hotel DuPont has lovely looking rooms and suites for a reasonable price. It might make for a nice romantic weekend. Under 2-hour drive for us.

For those of us living near to NYC, the food prices look good too. The Sunday Brunch was \$49 a person.

You’ll see from my 2007 trip notes (below) that there’s a lot more touring available.

My history with Wilmington – from my old trip notes.

This is pathetic. I looked it up and found that when I was in Wilmington in 2007 for a marathon – I even went to the Hotel DuPont! I had a guided tour of the Opera House too.

2007 Touring. Monday started with a long walk over those high bridges overlooking the park and river we'd run past. Our marathon route had coursed the edges of the river and along numerous waterfalls where I took my feet again. Eventually through some trails and up hills I came into the zoo which overlooked the river on the opposite side.

After the hotel refused my request to stay over or even grant me a late check out, I walked faster yet to try to see the town. One of the streets that looked interesting from the 25-cent trolley ride was Market Street so after a stop by the tourist office I walked much of its length, eventually finding myself in front of an amazingly old and glorious and fully restored Opera House. It was like out of a movie or from a European town. I sure didn't expect to get in, but having been excited to see many Opera Houses to recently include those in Paris, Prague, Creske Kumlov, and Vienna, (and more?) imagine my surprise when the director of productions opened the door, let me in, and even took me on a tour. It was built in the late 1800s by the Masons who still occupy the 3rd floor which was their usual method of building (they can't occupy ground floors or even numbered floors) and thus donating theatres to cities. It's a non-profit that's profitable and thus has to give back now. It's been fully and historically renovated and is self-preserving. I was barely through with my tour and out the door when another fellow saw me looking up at the roof gables and offered me a tour. He was the director of security so I confessed to having already been in but I walked a couple blocks with him to his coffee stop while he filled me in on more details of the building.

Feeling especially lucky, I continued 'asking' after walking down to the 5-star historical Hotel DuPont. The gal at the box office readily agreed to lock up her cage and unlock the theatre and give me a tour. Honest. The DuPont Theatre is the oldest continually running theatre in the country and it too is small, intimate, preserved and elegant.

After checking out early afternoon, I drove to historic and Old New Castle (only about 15 minutes away and still in Delaware which you can easily drive out of in 15 minutes either direction.) Founded in 1651 by the Dutch, it certainly deserves its full town historical classification and is said to be one of the oldest and purest cities reminiscent of an 18th century city. Yet it's fully occupied with residents who live among the cobblestones and late 1700 buildings. A familiar name is William Penn who landed there, and it was the home of three signers of the Declaration of Independence. It's also home to a koi friend Lois Clayton and when her husband Al was alive we visited their home many times but we never really took in the historic buildings which are near the river and hold quaint shops and boutiques as well as fine restaurants. I was never able to make contact with her but it appears that she still lives on 4th street which is nearly in the center of town. Unfortunately all the homes and museums were closed on Monday and yet I was able to take the heritage trail tour as well as that along The Strand and the Harbor and embattlements.

I had been really thrilled to have been a part of friend Donna's first marathon. How exciting is it to think of doing your first marathon in the first state and on your 50th birthday? With so many enthusiastic runners that some had done over 400 marathons and been through the 50 states as many as 5 times.

I'm well on my way to 7 half and 7 full marathons in '07, culminating in our triple-7 at the Las Vegas marathon in December. After a 6 in '06 for my 60th, what might we do for '08? It's a problem but one that I expect will be solved for us! My friend Maricar never let me down with some fun dreaming that I expect we'll never make, she knows we will, and we always do.

2019 note: I would go on to complete well over 100 marathons in about a 10- year time span and one year managed to do 25 full marathons, similar number of half marathons, and earn the (then) top classification in Marathon Maniacs.

Wilmington was a nice remembrance. If only I could remember. . . .