

lehigh university self guided tour

Lehigh University Self Guided Tour

Lehigh University, nestled in the picturesque town of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, offers a blend of rich academic tradition, stunning campus architecture, and a vibrant student life. For prospective students, families, and curious visitors, a self-guided tour provides a flexible and informative way to explore the university's historic grounds at your own pace. This article will help you navigate the essentials of a self-guided tour, highlighting key landmarks, important tips, and the overall experience of discovering Lehigh University.

Overview of Lehigh University

Founded in 1865, Lehigh University has a long-standing reputation for academic excellence, particularly in engineering, business, and the sciences. The university is composed of four colleges: the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Business, the P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science, and the College of Education. With a commitment to fostering innovative thinkers and leaders, Lehigh attracts students from across the globe.

Planning Your Self-Guided Tour

Before embarking on your self-guided tour, it's essential to plan ahead to maximize your experience. Here are some steps to consider:

1. Gather Information

- Visit the Lehigh University Website: The official website provides a wealth of information about the university, including maps, event calendars, and highlights of different academic programs.
- Download a Campus Map: A printable or digital map will help you navigate the campus more effectively, ensuring you don't miss any key locations.
- Identify Points of Interest: Research which buildings, landmarks, and facilities you want to prioritize during your visit.

2. Choose Your Tour Timing

- Best Times to Visit: Weekdays during the academic year (September to May) are ideal for experiencing the campus atmosphere. However, be mindful of holidays and exam periods when the campus may be quieter.
- Weather Considerations: Check the weather forecast and dress appropriately, as much of

your tour will be outdoors.

3. Prepare Your Essentials

- Comfortable Shoes: The campus is expansive, and you'll be doing a fair amount of walking.
- Water and Snacks: Stay hydrated and energized as you explore.
- Charged Phone: A fully charged phone is essential for navigation and taking photos.

Key Landmarks on Your Tour

As you embark on your self-guided tour, here are some must-see landmarks that reflect the richness of Lehigh's history and culture.

1. The Lehigh University Campus

The campus itself is notable for its beautiful hillside location and distinctive architecture. Key buildings to explore include:

- University Center: The heart of student life, this building features dining facilities, meeting spaces, and lounges.
- Linderman Library: A stunning example of Gothic architecture, this library houses an extensive collection of books and resources. Don't miss the grand reading room!
- Packard Laboratory: Home to the engineering department, this building symbolizes Lehigh's commitment to technical education.

2. The Asa Packer Campus

The Asa Packer Campus is a hub of academic activity and historic significance. Key sites include:

- Packer Memorial Church: A beautiful chapel that hosts various events and services, known for its stunning stained glass windows and acoustics.
- The Alumni Memorial Building: Dedicated to Lehigh alumni, this building often hosts lectures and community events.

3. The Upper Campus

The Upper Campus features more modern facilities and a unique view of the Lehigh Valley. Don't miss:

- The STEPS Building: This state-of-the-art facility focuses on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, showcasing Lehigh's investment in innovation.
- The Health, Science, and Technology Building: A modern space that encourages interdisciplinary collaboration among various fields of study.

Exploring Campus Life

In addition to academic buildings, exploring the social and recreational aspects of campus life is essential. Here are some highlights:

1. Student Organizations

Lehigh boasts a vibrant community with over 200 student organizations, including:

- Cultural and Diversity Organizations: Celebrating the diverse backgrounds of students.
- Academic and Professional Societies: Providing networking and development opportunities.

2. Athletic Facilities

Sports are a significant part of Lehigh culture. Key athletic sites include:

- Stabler Arena: Hosting basketball games and other events, it's a focal point for school spirit.
- Lehigh's Outdoor Athletic Complex: Featuring fields for soccer, field hockey, and track, this complex is where many teams practice and compete.

3. Dining Options

Explore dining facilities across campus, including:

- The Downstage: A casual eatery popular among students.
- The Grind: A coffee shop perfect for a study break.

Tips for a Successful Self-Guided Tour

To ensure your self-guided tour is enjoyable and informative, consider these tips:

1. Take Your Time

Allow yourself to explore each area without rushing. Take in the scenery, snap photos, and absorb the atmosphere.

2. Engage with Current Students

If you encounter students during your tour, don't hesitate to ask them about their experiences. Most students are happy to share insights and tips about life at Lehigh.

3. Attend a Campus Event

Check the university's event calendar in advance. If possible, plan your visit to coincide with a lecture, performance, or open house, as these events provide valuable insights into campus life.

4. Utilize Technology

Consider downloading a campus app if available. These apps often include self-guided tour features, maps, and other useful information.

Reflecting on Your Visit

After completing your self-guided tour, take a moment to reflect on your experience. Consider the following:

- What stood out to you the most?
- How do you envision your life as a student at Lehigh University?
- What questions do you have for admissions or academic advisors?

Conclusion

A self-guided tour of Lehigh University is an excellent way to connect with the campus and gain a deeper understanding of what makes this institution unique. With its rich history, beautiful architecture, and lively student culture, Lehigh offers an inspiring environment for learning and growth. By following the advice outlined in this article and exploring the key landmarks, you'll be well on your way to discovering if Lehigh University is the right fit for you. Whether you're considering applying or simply curious about one of the nation's leading universities, a self-guided tour promises a rewarding and enriching experience.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the best way to navigate a self-guided tour at Lehigh University?

The best way to navigate a self-guided tour at Lehigh University is to download the official campus map from the university's website and follow the suggested route, which highlights key landmarks and facilities.

Are there any specific highlights to look for during a self-guided tour of Lehigh University?

Yes, some highlights to look for include the iconic Alumni Memorial Building, the beautiful Asa Packer Campus, the Lehigh University Art Galleries, and the unique architectural styles of the various academic buildings.

How long does a self-guided tour of Lehigh University typically take?

A self-guided tour of Lehigh University typically takes about 1.5 to 2 hours, depending on the pace of the visitor and how many stops are made at various points of interest.

Are there any resources available for learning more about Lehigh University during the self-guided tour?

Yes, visitors can access audio guides or mobile apps that provide detailed information about different locations on campus, as well as brochures available at key entry points.

Is there a recommended starting point for a self-guided tour at Lehigh University?

A recommended starting point for a self-guided tour is the Visitor Center, where you can gather information, maps, and any materials that will enhance your experience on campus.

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