

SPRING FLINGS

Pedal Pushers



See the city, preserve the planet and get your heart pumping all at once with recent upstart Philly Bike Tour Co. PBTC offers cyclists of all skill levels the chance to experience Philadelphia on two wheels. Opt for a variety of three-hour tours, including the Classic City Tour, a twelve-mile route including such sites as Eastern State Penitentiary, the Philadelphia Museum of Art and Race Street Pier; or the Northern Neighborhoods Tour, which explores Fairmount, Fishtown, Northern Liberties and similar locales

north of Center City. Keep an eye out for the new Beer Tour, which celebrates beer history and culture with stops at Yards, Nodding Head and Triumph local breweries; and the Outdoor Art Tour, a celebration of the city's murals, sculptures and street art. Private tours can also be arranged to suit individual preferences and interests. Prices vary and include cycle and helmet rental, as well as bottled water. If you bring your own bike, PBTC knocks \$5 off of the price. 2015 Fairmount Ave., 215.763.4400, phillybiketours.com BY AMY GORDON

New at the Zoo

At the Philadelphia Zoo, 2014 is all about celebrating the Year of the Big Cat. As part of this exciting and educational endeavor, America's first zoo recently unveiled its newest addition to the Zoo360 animal travel and exploration system: Big Cat Crossing. A 330-foot overhead mesh passageway, the Crossing extends from First Niagara Big Cat Falls habitat and overhangs 14 feet above the zoo's main visitor path, offering a unique vantage point to zoo visitors. Lions, tigers, pumas, snow leopards, jaguars and other majestic felines can freely roam the crossing, traveling greater distances and visiting a variety of environments previously unavailable to them. While there, guests can also learn how to become "big cat heroes" and help save the world's dwindling big cat populations. 3400 W. Girard Ave., 215.243.1100, philadelphiazoo.org—A.G.

"While at the Philadelphia Zoo, guests can learn how to become 'big cat heroes' and help save the world's dwindling big cat populations."



Tea Time

Celebrate Mother's Day with international flair at **Shofuso Japanese House and Garden** in West Fairmount Park. On Sunday, May 11, Shofuso hosts a family-friendly, traditional-style tea ceremony, led by Urasenke Tea School master Taeko Sherwin, highlighting the principles of harmony, respect, purity and tranquility. Seatings at 1 pm and 2:30 pm; reservations are recommended. Before or after enjoying green tea and seasonal sweets, guests can tour the impressive house and see 20 murals installed by acclaimed artist Hiroshi Senju, survey the nationally ranked garden, and feed koi fish under a budding 75-year-old weeping cherry tree. Lansdowne and Horticultural drives, 215.878.5097, japanesehouse.org—A.G.