

XPLR ChainLinks



Sameness is boring; but familiarity is comforting. It wasn't uncommon for explorers back in the day to bring their own culture into the countries they would visit to make it feel more like home. Today we will be xplr'ing a local restaurant chain: Mizu Sushi that has managed to introduce a little bit of Japanese culture in three distinct neighborhoods: Old City, Rittenhouse Square, and West Philadelphia. Our goal today is to capture the character of each neighborhood and show how the restaurant links them together but at the same time fits in differently each time. Speaking of different, this ride is also an outing to the Equality Forum. A festival that advances LGBT rights.

Sunday, May 4th 2008. Meet at the Philadelphia Art Museum Steps. Bike to the Old City Mizu Sushi. Photograph the neighborhood. The Equality Forum should be in full swing right in front of it. Repeat for the Rittenhouse Square, as well as the West Philadelphia Mizu Sushi.

About the ride: 5.91 miles.

About the photog: Outdoors. Natural light. Lots of colors (like the rainbow).

1. Mizu Sushi (Old City)

Old City is home to many of Philadelphia's historic sites in addition to fashionable restaurants, bars, shops and galleries, Old City is a popular neighborhood for tourists and locals alike. The Equality Forum, an organization that advances LGBT rights, is hosting a street festival right in front of Mizu called "SundayOUT!"

2. Mizu Sushi (Rittenhouse Square)

Rittenhouse Square is one of the five original open-space parks planned by William Penn and now also describes the neighborhood surrounding the park. The heart of Rittenhouse features high-end shops, popular restaurants and luxury apartments.



3. Mizu Sushi (West Philadelphia)

The most residential neighborhood of our sushi stops. West Philly's rolling hills, classic rowhouses, and newly constructed luxury apartments are home to many local college students along with permanent residents confronted by the "Penntification" of their neighborhood. This change has drawn many young professionals and families back to a neighborhood that once touted some of the most expensive real estate in the country but experienced a decline in prominence in the last 50 years.

Upload your photos and send them to our Flickr group. Tag them with 'XPLR' and 'ChainLinks'.

ABOUT XPLR:

A camera is your license to explore the world, and your relationship to it. Where has your license taken you recently? Part inspiration part perspiration, **XPLR (explore!)** events seek to unite individuals that are passionate about art and urban exploration. Meetings take place at the Philadelphia Art Museum steps. The actual subject matter and shooting location will be kept secret until the day of the event and will be disclosed at the PMA. Join us in our pursuit of creativity, or just for a fun bike ride.

Website: <http://www.xplr-club.com/>

Flickr group: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/xplrclub/pool>

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