

36 Hours in Pittsburgh with Kevin Tucker

I like my Pittsburgh origin story. I was visiting law schools on the east coast in 2008. The campus visits didn't go well. I didn't feel a connection anywhere. Driving home to Michigan, I vaguely recalled applying to Pitt Law. I called my mom to confirm I did and was accepted. Five hours later I had eaten my first Primanti's sandwich, befriended Dean of Students Allie Linsenmeyer, and knew Pittsburgh was a community I could enjoy.

Pittsburgh's changed a lot in 12-years. So have I. And while these changes will continue, I want to share some of my favorite, socially-distant things to do in 2020.

Friday

1) 5:30 p.m. Go "Out-of-Office"

I'm "always-on." Having launched a new firm during the pandemic, I struggle to not check my email, LinkedIn, or text messages constantly. Any settlement offer, ECF notice, or new lead could have a considerable impact on our practice (or so I think). I feel FOMO, in this case, the fear of missing opportunity, constantly. I try to construct boundaries to check this dismantling behavior, including with "out-of-office" replies that give voice to personal time. Normalize these boundaries by starting your 36-hour adventure with an "out-of-office" message that explains you're unavailable for personal reasons and provides an emergency contact method, like a text message, if it's necessary to interrupt that personal time.



2) 7:00 p.m. Campfire in Regent Square

I had two campfires while living in Shadyside. Neighbors called the fire department both times. If you long for s'mores (try them with Reese's) without the extracurriculars, then stop in at 3 Rivers Outdoor Company [TAG] in Regent Square on a Friday night. While you're there, check out 3ROC's amazing collection of outdoor apparel and accessories, like SUPs, hiking boots, and greeting cards. If you're still hungry, grab a pizza and beer next door from D's Six Pack & Dogz [TAG] or just eat more s'mores.



3) 8:30 p.m. Choose Your Own Adventure

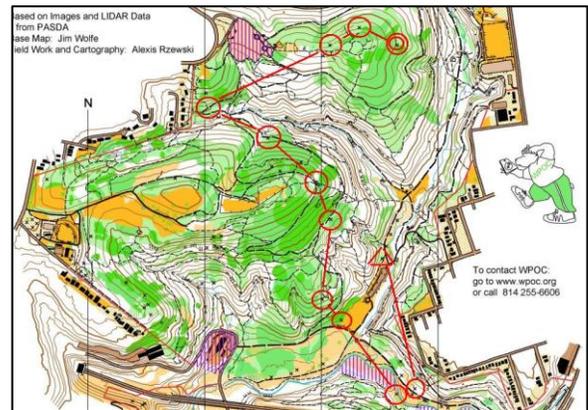
It's really nice to grab a game and relax at home on Friday night. Pierogi would agree. If you want to be like Pierogi, go for it! If you're craving something more, then consider making a 10-minute trip to Brew Gentlemen [TAG] in Braddock or a slightly longer 20-minute trip to Grist House Craft Brewery [TAG] in Millvale. Uber and Lyft will get you to either place for \$10-\$20. Both breweries provide outdoor seating and are dog-friendly. White Sky, a chai wheat beer from Brew Gentlemen, is a Pittsburgh favorite.



Saturday

4) 7:00 a.m. Play in Frick Park

Ashley, Pierogi, and I live in Edgewood, which borders Pittsburgh's 644-acre Frick Park (as does Squirrel Hill, Point Breeze, Swisshelm Park, and Summerset). The park includes Blue Slide playground, multiple dog parks, and miles of trails. Wake up early and take advantage of one of the steep ravines and mature woods that remain relatively undisturbed. Go for a walk or run, or use this map created by the Western PA Orienteering Club [TAG] to orienteer your way to the twelve fire hydrants located in the park. Orienteering is a great family activity and way to



draw even the most frequent of visitors into previously unexplored areas of Frick Park.

5) 8:30 a.m. Coffee and a Light Breakfast

After trouncing through Frick Park, take a 5-minute drive to Madeleine Bakery & Bistro [TAG] in Wilkinsburg for coffee, tea, and an assortment of delicious pastries, croissants, breakfast sandwiches, and more. I don't know much about food so I'll let this photo do the talking.



6) 12:00 p.m. Explore Ohiopyle

Ohiopyle is your primary outdoor destination about 75 minutes outside of Pittsburgh. Check out the Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau [TAG] or Wilderness Voyageurs [TAG] for a list of things to do, like fly fishing, hiking, and rafting the Youghiogheny with your friends or family.



7) 3:00 p.m. Bittersweet Cafe

After working up an appetite with your adventure of choice, grab a bite to eat at Bittersweet Café [TAG], which TripAdvisor recognizes as one of the top 10% best reviewed restaurants worldwide.

Bittersweet's specialty hot drinks and outdoor seating were made for fall. We love the Bittersweet Burger, Pulled Pork Grilled Cheese, and all the desserts.



7) 6:00 p.m. Nap

8) 7:30 p.m. Keurig at home (maybe 2)

7) 8:00 p.m. Moules Frites

Share a pound and half of mussels, crispy bread, and fries from Point Brugge [TAG] in Point Breeze for just \$23. Pair it with Belgian beer or a glass of wine for a few dollars more. Though we rotate between Point Brugge's classic white wine and curry sauces, this meal has been a birthday staple for years. Ashley and I generally have good luck finding two seats at the bar between 8-9 p.m. Be sure to tip your bartenders and staff. Nothing bad ever comes from tipping too much.



7) 9:45 p.m. Millie's Ice Cream

Save room for ice cream from Millie's [TAG], which you can find in Shadyside, Market Square (downtown), and Lawrenceville. Millie's works with local purveyors of Pennsylvania dairy and eggs, and the ripest seasonal produce available, to come up with amazing flavors like Rainbow Cookie, Walnut & Apple Butter, and Cracker Jack. Of course, you can never go wrong with Chad's Vanilla or The Best Chocolate. Don't be late though, Millie's closes at 10 p.m. on Saturdays.



Sunday

9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning

If it's Sunday, we recommend finding a percolator and some Zeke's Mexican Chiapas [TAG] and starting your day with CBS Sunday Morning [TAG] in the background. Maybe it's time to start answering emails that came in the day before or making progress on the brief due next week. Maybe it's not, in which case you might grab brunch at Bar Marco [TAG] and stroll through the Strip District. You should probably do a little cleaning and laundry in the afternoon. After all, you didn't get anything else done this weekend.



Kevin Tucker is a 2011 graduate of Pitt Law. He launched East End Trial Group [TAG] in 2020 and is a member of Pitt Law's Alumni Board of Governors, for which he Chairs the Young Alumni Committee.

