

Ride the inclines with stump!

(This is not official GDQ programming.)

An unusual attraction in Pittsburgh is the not one, but *two* funicular railways (locally termed “incline”) that continue to operate to this day up the side of Mt. Washington (the huge hill you can see across the river straight ahead and to the left from the front of the hotel). They provide *wonderful* views, and the Duquesne Incline in particular is an icon of Pittsburgh.

I have thoroughly written about them (and my recommended route for seeing them) in the transportation guide since they are ultimately, after all, a form of transportation, but I’d like to do one better this year and lead the way along that route so you can experience them with a knowledgeable and passionate guide and be sure you’re always going the right way.

When and where

Meet at 2:15 PM on Wednesday (January 7) inside the back doors of the hotel (the ones between the arcade and the meetup room, not the ones next to the restaurant). If you just barely miss that time, join us at the bus stop just outside those doors (the same one used by the bus to the airport) to catch the 2:20 G2 bus toward the Duquesne Incline.

We should get back to the hotel at approximately 4 PM.

The full route **includes a walk of approximately 0.8 mile (1.3 km)** between the upper stations of the two inclines. If you are not up for this walk but would still like to at least ride the Duquesne Incline with us, you can easily turn back at that point and get back to the hotel. More further down.

What you’ll need / How much will it cost?

\$2.75 per person. This is for a Pittsburgh Regional Transit three-hour pass at full fare, which is good for all transportation that will be used for the entire trip, including the inclines themselves.

If you do not already have an appropriate fare instrument, get either the **PRT ready2ride** or **Transit** apps on your mobile device. (If you have neither already, I recommend **PRT ready2ride** since you can buy tickets in it without having to create an account. Both apps are available for both iOS and Android.) Use the app to buy, but not activate, a **Full Fare 3-hour pass**.

Do not use the “Incline” ticket type - “Full Fare” is valid on the inclines in addition to the bus and light rail we will be using to get to and from the hotel, and it does not cost extra.

I will be at the meeting point starting at 2 PM to provide any assistance you may need with the apps. I will be wearing an RPG Limit Break staff hoodie.

The plan

- We will ride the 2:20 G2 bus from the hotel to the lower station of the Duquesne Incline. It arrives at 2:26.
- We will ride the Duquesne Incline upward. Waiting and riding should take a total of 10 to 15 minutes, depending on passenger load and cycles.
- We will go into the machine room observation area inside the Duquesne Incline's upper station. We will stay at least until the next departure of the incline so you can see the machinery in motion. This should be about 5 to 10 minutes.
- We will walk about 0.8 miles (1.3 km) to the upper station of the Monongahela Incline. This should take about 20 minutes.
- We will ride the Monongahela Incline downward. Waiting and riding should take a total of 10 to 15 minutes, depending on passenger load and cycles.
- We will ride the Pittsburgh Light Rail (T) back to the hotel from Station Square, which is next to the lower station of the Monongahela Incline. Waiting and riding should take a total of 15 to 20 minutes.

Turning back early / Skipping the walk

If you do not wish to make the walk between the two inclines' upper stations, you can easily turn back at the top of the Duquesne Incline and return to the hotel:

- Ride the Duquesne Incline downward.
- Use the downstairs exit (not the bridge across West Carson Street) from the lower station. This should put you at a bus stop immediately adjacent to the station building.
- There are 12 different bus routes that serve this stop (the 28X can stop there too, but only to drop off passengers coming from the airport), so buses should be plentiful. All 12 of them will cross the Fort Pitt Bridge and leave you either slightly past the hotel and across the street from it (same stop used by the 28X) or one street over from the hotel (walk back to the light in the direction the bus came from, turn right, and continue to the hotel) if you ride them one stop, so you can simply take whatever the first bus is that comes by and get off at its next stop.
 - Routes 29, 31, and any that start with G will drop you off at the same stop as the 28X; the others use the stop one street over.

More information

I am happy to answer any questions you may have. I am stump230 on Discord and @stump230.bsky.social on Bluesky. DMs are welcome.