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The Historic Philadelphia
Gazette is always **FREE**

The Gazette is
also available at
historicphiladelphia.org



@historicphilly



facebook.com/historicphilly



WELCOME TO YOUR FIRST STOP FOR VISITING PHILADELPHIA

Make the most of your visit by starting at Independence Visitor Center, 6th & Market streets. Learn how to visit Independence Hall, speak with friendly staff for free trip planning advice; explore things to do on digital installations; and purchase discounted tickets for local attractions and tours. After starting here, you'll know what to do, where to go and how to get there! phlvisitorcenter.com

HISTORIC PHILADELPHIA GAZETTE

HISTORIC DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

OCTOBER 3

Betsy Ross House, *Night of the Living Dead*, 5-9 p.m.: Come early for a pre-show candlelit tour of the House then grab a seasonal drink from Triple Bottom Brewery's pop-up bar, and enjoy the cult classic al fresco at 7:30. \$10; historicphiladelphia.org

OCTOBER 4

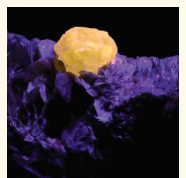
Betsy Ross House, Meet the Women of the 18th Century, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.: Philadelphia in the 18th century was a diverse community in which women played many important roles. Meet colonial women from all different backgrounds during this interactive program. Continues Saturdays in October. FREE. historicphiladelphia.org



Betsy Ross House, Bloodletting & Burials, 6 & 7 p.m.: Peek into Philadelphia's gruesome past on this spooky tour that starts at Betsy's grave and continues to Christ Church Burial Ground and Arch Street Meeting House. \$25. Tickets and details, historicphiladelphia.org

OCTOBER 8

Franklin Square, Storytime in the Square, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.: Storytime and crafts in the pavilion. Kids will enjoy books, rhymes and dancing, ending with bubbles and fun crafts. FREE. historicphiladelphia.org



Science History Institute, A Marvelous Night of Minerals: An 'Earthly Matters' Opening Celebration, 5-8 p.m.: Learn the long history of minerals and how humans have studied

and categorized them for thousands of years. Plus, light bites, a signature rock candy cocktail and more. FREE. Register at sciencehistory.org

OCTOBER 9

National Liberty Museum, Flame Forum, 6-7:30 p.m.: The culmination of the museum's Year of Free Speech Speaker Series brings together experts from organizations with very different missions to explore what freedom of speech truly means. \$25 adults; \$5 students, teachers, school faculty. libertymuseum.org

OCTOBER 11

Betsy Ross House, Meet the Women of the 18th Century, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.: See Oct. 4 for details.

Betsy Ross House, Bloodletting & Burials, 6 & 7 p.m.: See October 4 for details.

OCTOBER 11-13

Museum of the American Revolution, Indigenous Peoples Weekend, regular museum hours: Explore Native American history, culture, and their role in the American Revolution. Free with admission. amrevmuseum.org/events

OCTOBER 12

National Liberty Museum, Pay-What-You-Wish Second Sunday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.: Explore the galleries and immerse yourself in the transformative power of liberty at a price that fits your budget. libertymuseum.org

Betsy Ross House, Colonial Chocolate Making, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.: Colonial entrepreneur Mary Crathorne demonstrates how chocolate was made and enjoyed in the 18th century. Chocolate making is funded by a Forest E. Mars, Jr. Chocolate History Grant. FREE. historicphiladelphia.org

OCTOBER 16

National Liberty Museum, Third Thursday featuring the Speak Freely Speakeasy, 5:30 -8:30 p.m.: Sip on specialty cocktails and enjoy an eclectic mix of creative entertainment plus enjoy exclusive, after-hours access to the galleries. \$15; ages 21 or over libertymuseum.org

OCTOBER 18



Museum of the American Revolution, Exhibit Opening: "The Declaration's Journey," regular museum hours: Continuing through January 3, 2027, this special exhibition brings together more than 120 artifacts, that illustrate the ongoing relevance of the Declaration of Independence and its impact on the world. Free with admission. amrevmuseum.org

Betsy Ross House, Meet the Women of the 18th Century, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.: See Oct. 4 for details.

Science History Institute, School Lunch Tour, 2 p.m.: Drop in for a tour of Lunchtime, a special, interactive exhibit on the history and development of school lunch. FREE. sciencehistory.org

Independence Visitor Center, Pumpkin Painting & Art Star Fall Craft Market, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.: Pumpkin painting for kids 2-12, plus check out the latest creative gifts and souvenirs from Philly's hottest creative designers. phlvisitorcenter.com

Betsy Ross House, Bloodletting & Burials, 6 & 7 p.m.: See October 4 for details.

OCTOBER 19

Philadelphia Visitor Center, Halloween in the Historic District, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.: Pick up a map to guide you to participating organizations throughout the Historic District, some offering special events, programs, and of course, candy! FREE. phlvisitorcenter.com

OCTOBER 22

Franklin Square, Storytime in the Square, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.: See October 8 for full details.

Science History Institute, The Elements of Marie Curie, 5-8 p.m.: Dive into a story that's rarely told: the extraordinary legacy of Marie Curie not just in the lab, but in the lives of the brilliant women she mentored and inspired. FREE; register at sciencehistory.org

OCTOBER 23

Mother Bethel AME Church, Yellow Fever Performance, 2 & 6 p.m.: Learn more about the roles Black Philadelphians played during the historic yellow fever outbreak. motherbethel.org

OCTOBER 25

Betsy Ross House, Meet the Women of the 18th Century, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.: See Oct. 4 for details.

Mother Bethel AME Church, Author Talk, 2 p.m.: Hear from the authors of *In Defiance: 20 Abolitionists You Were Never Taught in School*. motherbethel.org

Betsy Ross House, Bloodletting & Burials, 6 & 7 p.m.: See October 4 for details.

OCTOBER 31



Museum of the American Revolution, Halloween at the Museum, regular museum hours: Revolutionary family-friendly frights and fun, including turnip-carving demonstrations, Revolutionary stencils for your jack-o-lantern, and more. Free with admission. amrevmuseum.org

NOVEMBER 1

Science History Institute, Women in Chemistry Tour, 2 p.m.: Drop in tour highlights the role of women in shaping chemistry and the material sciences throughout history. FREE. sciencehistory.org

NOVEMBER 1-2

Museum of the American Revolution, Revolutionary Philadelphia: 1775, regular museum hours: Step back to the fall of 1775 to enjoy walking tours, dramatic vignettes, and hands-on activities. Living history interpretation on the plaza is free and open to the public. amrevmuseum.org

NOVEMBER 8



Elfreth's Alley, Fall Maker's Market, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.: Local crafters, artisans, and regional makers will set up shop on Elfreth's Alley, Philadelphia's most historic residential street. FREE. elfrethsalley.org

NOVEMBER 9

National Liberty Museum, Pay-What-You-Wish Second Sunday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.: Explore the galleries and immerse yourself in the transformative power of liberty at a price that fits your budget. libertymuseum.org

NOVEMBER 20

Franklin Square, Electrical Spectacle Lighting, 5 p.m.: Join Ben Franklin and other stars of the season for the annual debut of the Electrical Spectacle presented by PECO and the kick off of Winter in Franklin Square. FREE. historicphiladelphia.org

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER



Visit the National Constitution Center! Experience a world-class museum and these special events:

Coming Soon to the National Constitution Center

The National Constitution Center will open two new galleries on America’s founding and the separation of powers in time for America’s 250th anniversary in 2026. Construction is currently underway, and some museum experiences may be impacted. The Center is currently offering discounted admission to visitors. Learn more at constitutioncenter.org/coming-soon

Sensory-Friendly Sunday, October 12 | 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Visitors with sensory-processing challenges can experience the museum in a secure and comfortable environment that includes modified programming and emotionally safe spaces with sensory objects, comfortable seating, and cool blue lighting.

Family Fun Night, Friday, November 7 | 5 p.m.-8 p.m.

Go back in time to the year the Constitution was signed and experience 18 th -century-themed crafts and activities that are educational and engaging for the whole family. All activities are free with admission.

- **Experience** the print shop with a live demonstration using an 18th-century printing press;
- **Commission** your very own silhouette portrait from local artist Ted Stuessy;
- **Get creative** with a calligraphy craft station or candle making workshop;
- Or **choose your own adventure** and experience the galleries at night by flashlight.

Please note: this program is best suited for children ages 6-12.

Veterans Day, Tuesday, November 11 | 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

In honor of Veterans Day, the National Constitution Center recognizes the dedication and sacrifices of the brave people who have answered the Constitution’s call to “provide for the common defense.” Programs at the museum include a wreath laying ceremony, letter writing stations, veterans chats, and more. Museum admission is free for U.S. military veterans Tuesday, November 11.

Thanksgiving Weekend Programs, Friday, Nov. 28– Sunday, Nov. 30. Explore the history of this national holiday and learn about the Wampanoag people who lived in what is now New England, as well as the historic meal they shared with European settlers in 1621 and the events leading up to the harvest feast that year. Note: The National Constitution Center is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 27.

Bill of Rights Day, Monday, December 15 | 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

In December 1791, the states ratified the first 10 amendments to the Constitution—the Bill of Rights. Every year, the National Constitution Center hosts a celebration to honor the liberties enshrined in these amendments. View a copy of the historic Bill of Rights, learn about the first 10 amendments through interactive games and shows, and take a special tour of Signers’ Hall to learn about the history of the Bill of Rights and why it was left out of the original U.S. Constitution.

Winter Break, The National Constitution Center is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday and will observe the following holiday hours:

- Wednesday, December 24–Thursday, December 25: Closed
- Friday, December 26–Sunday, December 28: Open, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 31–Thursday, January 1: Closed

For more information, visit constitutioncenter.org
The National Constitution Center is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. For more information, visit constitutioncenter.org

NOVEMBER 30



Carpenters’ Hall, Holiday Tea, 3:30-5 p.m.: Celebrate the holiday season at afternoon tea with Dolley Madison! Enjoy a delicious array of sweet and savory treats in the historic, elegant Carpenters’ Hall! carpentershall.org/events-for-tickets.

DECEMBER 3



Betsy Ross House, Old City Tree Lighting, 6 p.m.: Kick off the holidays with this annual celebration featuring musical and dance performances followed by the lighting of the holiday tree in the courtyard, with Betsy Ross AND Santa! FREE. historicphiladelphia.org

DECEMBER 6



Elfreth’s Alley, Deck the Alley, 2-6 p.m.: Get a glimpse of contemporary life inside 18th and 19th-century houses, tour the Elfreth’s Alley Museum, and immerse yourself in seasonal decor and song. \$25; elfrethsalley.org

DECEMBER 7

Carpenters’ Hall, Holiday Tea, 3:30-5 p.m.: See November 30 for details.

DECEMBER 11

Science History Institute, Dinner with King Tut, 6-8 p.m.: What does history taste like? How about the smell? Sound and touch? Author Sam Kean will discuss his time with a team of innovative researchers uncovering what life was really like for our ancient ancestors. FREE; register at sciencehistory.org

DECEMBER 14

Carpenters’ Hall, Holiday Tea, 3:30-5 p.m.: See November 30 for details.



Betsy Ross House, Menorah Lighting, 4:30 p.m.: This annual Hanukkah celebration in partnership with the Old City Jewish Arts Center features the lighting of a giant menorah, followed by traditional holiday activities and treats. FREE. historicphiladelphia.org

DECEMBER 16

The Athenaeum, The Pursuit of Liberty: How Hamilton vs. Jefferson Ignited the Lasting Battle Over Power in America, 6 p.m.: Bestselling author and president of the National Constitution Center Jeffrey Rosen, explores the clashing visions of Hamilton and Jefferson on how to balance liberty and power in a debate that continues to define and divide our country. A book signing with light refreshments follows. \$30 with registration, philaathenaeum.org

DECEMBER 21

Carpenters’ Hall, Holiday Tea, 3:30-5 p.m.: See November 30 for details.

DECEMBER 31



The Betsy Ross House, Betsy’s Birthday Bash, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.: Celebrate the famous flag maker’s January 1, 1752 birth with a day of activities, stories with Betsy, herself, and, of course, cake! Free with admission. historicphiladelphia.org



Franklin Square, Kid’s New Year’s Eve Countdown & Square Drop, 5-8 p.m.: The most family-friendly celebration in town begins with music and crafts before the Square Drop from atop SquareBurger at 6 p.m. Free. historicphiladelphia.org

HIGHLIGHTS



Franklin Square: Fun All Year Long

No matter the season, Franklin Square is the spot for family adventure in Philadelphia. From spooky mini golf to sparkling lights, pumpkins to Santa, the Square is packed with memory-making moments now through December.



Fall in the Square

- **Spooky Mini Golf, October 1 – 31, 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.:** Philly Mini Golf gets a frightfully fun makeover! Play through fog, lights, music, and plenty of seasonal surprises. The daytime version is more silly than spooky. Day or night, it’s frightfully fun. (\$15 adults, \$12 children). Timed tickets required at historicphiladelphia.org.
- **Pumpkin Patch, October 18, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.;** Little ones (10 and under) can grab a pumpkin and decorate it to take home.FREE! Space is limited, and advance reservations are required at historicphiladelphia.org.
- **Trick-or-Treat Street, October 25, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.;** A Franklin Square favorite! Kids can follow the trail and pick up treats at “houses”along the way. FREE for children 10 and under. Reservations recommended at historicphiladelphia.org.
- **Franklin Square Fountain Show, through November 1, 12-2 p.m. & 5 p.m. - close;** Catch dazzling, choreographed water shows set to lively tunes. In between, the fountain glows with fall colors. Always FREE.



Winter Magic in the Square

Winter in Franklin Square featuring the Electrical Spectacle Light Show presented by PECO, November 20 – January 25, 2025 Holiday magic comes alive with thousands of lights, seasonal treats, cozy fire pits, and festive fun! Highlights include:

- **Franklin Square Street Curling** – Try this cool Olympic-inspired sport. \$40 for a 30-minute session for up to 8 players.
- **Chilly Philly Mini Golf** – Play through twinkling lights, holiday tunes, and larger-than-life winter friends through January 25.
- **Santa in the Square** – Meet Santa during Jingle & Mingle (5–7 p.m., Nov. 28-29 and Dec. 6, 13 &20), the festive Brunch with Santa (11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Dec. 13) and Santa Paws (Dec. 20).
- **Holiday Performances & Celebrations** – The Philadelphia Dance Academy performs The Nutcracker (Nov. 21, 5–7 p.m.), plus Hanukkah fun and Kwanzaa celebrations (Dec. 29)
- **Kids’ New Year’s Eve Countdown, Dec. 31, 5 – 8 p.m.** – Crafts, fun, and the beloved Square Drop make this the most family-friendly way to welcome 2026!

Plan your visit: For details and tickets, head to historicphiladelphia.org.

ONGOING

Franklin Court, Ranger Talk, daily 11:30 a.m.; 4 p.m.: It's all about Ben! Join a park ranger and discuss the life and times of Philadelphia's most famous founder—Benjamin Franklin. FREE. nps.gov/inde



Independence Square, Ranger Talk, 3 p.m., 4:30 p.m. daily: Join a park ranger for a short and lively conversation about the significant events that have taken place on Independence Square. Meet behind Independence Hall after passing through security. nps.gov/inde

Richard Allen Museum, Museum Tours, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Saturdays, October 4, November 1 & December 6; 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Sundays; and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, October 13 and Tuesday, November 11: Explore the rich history, artifacts and historical documents on display at the museum of Mother Bethel AME Church. Call (215) 925-0616 to schedule tours. \$10 adults; \$5 children 12 and over; free for children 5-12. motherbethel.org/museum



PHLASH®, Your Ride to Philly's Iconic Attractions this fall and winter! The PHILLY PHLASH® is a visitor-friendly public transport service with stops near all the city's must-see attractions, including Historic District hot spots like the Liberty Bell Center, Museum of the American Revolution and the Betsy Ross House. The PHLASH is an easy way to explore Philadelphia, including must-visit destinations like Reading Terminal and the Philadelphia Art Museum. **Tickets are just \$2 per ride; \$5 for a day pass; and \$12 for an all day family pass.** PHLASH tickets are available at the Independence Visitor Center, on board with exact change, or online at RidePhillyPHLASH.com. **This fall, the PHLASH® runs every Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.** Learn more at RidePhillyPHLASH.com

VISIT INDEPENDENCE HALL

Each day at Independence Hall begins with an open house from 9 to 9:50 a.m. – no tickets required. If you prefer a guided tour, reserve a ticket at recreation.gov for times between 10 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. A \$1 ticket handling fee applies. For more information, go to nps.gov/inde.

HISTORIC SITES

Arch Street Friends Meeting House (E3)
320 Arch Street
(215) 627-2667
Wed.-Sun. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
historicismh.org

Betsy Ross House (F3)
239 Arch Street
(215) 629-4026 (x500)
Daily 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
historicphiladelphia.org

Carpenters' Hall (E5)
320 Chestnut Street
(215) 925-0167
Tuesday – Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
carpentershall.org

Christ Church Philadelphia (F4)
2nd Street above Market Street
(215) 922-1695
Mon. – Sat. 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.;
Sun. 11:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
christchurchphila.org

Christ Church Burial Ground (D3)
5th & Arch streets
(215) 922-1695
Daily 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
christchurchphila.org

Congress Hall (C5)
6th & Chestnut streets
(215) 597-2305
Daily 9:15 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.
Programs every 30 minutes
nps.gov/inde

Elfreth's Alley Museum (F2)
124-126 Elfreth's Alley
(267) 457-4159
Fri. – Sun. 12-4 p.m.
elfrethsalley.org;
[elfrethsalley.org/audio tour](https://elfrethsalley.org/audio-tour)

Federal Reserve Bank (B2)
10 N. Independence Mall, West
(215) 574-6000
philadelphiafed.org

Free Quaker Meeting House (C3)
500 Arch Street, (215) 597-2305
Sat & Sun. 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. through 10/31
nps.gov/inde

Franklin Court Printing Office (E4)
320-322 Market Street
(215) 597-2305
Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
nps.gov/inde

Franklin Square (C1)
6th & Race streets
(215) 629-4026 (x400)
Daiy 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. thorough 11/1;
Daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 11/2-11/19
daily 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. 11/20-1/4;
closes 8 p.m. 12/24 & 12/31;
closed 11/27, 12/26 & 1/1
historicphiladelphia.org

Independence Hall (C5)
Chestnut Street between
5th & 6th streets
(215) 597-2305
Daily 9 a.m. – 4:20 p.m.;
Tickets required after 10 a.m.
recreation.gov

Old City Hall (D5)
5th & Chestnut streets
Daily 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
(215) 597-2305
nps.gov/inde

Physick House (E8)
321 South 4th Street
(215)925-7866
Sat. 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Sun. 12-3 p.m.
(tours on the hour)
philalandmarks.org

Powel House (E7)
244 South 3rd Street
(215) 627-0364
Sat. 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Sun. 12-3 p.m.
(tours on the hour)
philalandmarks.org

President's House Site (C4)
555 Market Street
(215) 597-2305
Daily 7 a.m. – 10 p.m.
nps.gov/inde

Science History Institute (E5)
315 Chestnut Street
(215) 925-2222
Wed. – Fri. 12 – 5 p.m.;
Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
sciencehistory.org

MUSEUMS

American Philosophical Society Museum (D6)
104 South 5th Street
(215) 440-3400
Thurs. – Sun. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
amphilsoc.org

African American Museum in Philadelphia (B3)
7th & Arch streets
(215) 574-0380
Thurs. – Sun. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
aampmuseum.org

Benjamin Franklin Museum in Franklin Court (E4)
Enter from Chestnut Street between
3rd and 4th streets
(215) 597-2305
Daily, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
nps.gov/inde

Fireman's Hall Museum (F2)
147 North 2nd Street
(215) 923-1438
Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
firemanshallmuseum.org

Independence Seaport Museum (H6)
211 Columbus Blvd.
(215)413-8655
Daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
phillyseaport.org

Liberty Bell Center (C4)
526 Market Street
(215) 597-2305
Daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
nps.gov/inde

Mother Bethel AME Church & Richard Allen Museum (C9)
419 6th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147
(215) 925-0616
Museum: Sat. 10/4, 11/1 & 12/6 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Sundays 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.;
also 10/13 and 11/11 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
motherbethel.org

Museum of the American Revolution (E5)
101 South 3rd Street
(215) 253-6731
Daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
amrevmuseum.org

Museum of Illusions (D4)
401 Market Street
(267) 703-2270
Sun-Thurs- 10 a.m. -8 p.m.;
Fri- Sa. 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.
moiphilly.co

National Constitution Center (D3)
525 Arch Street
(215) 409-6700
Wed. – Sun. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
constitutioncenter.org

National Liberty Museum (E5)
321 Chestnut Street
(215) 925-2800
Thurs. – Mon. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
libertymuseum.org

Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History (D4)
101 South Independence Mall East
(215) 923-3811
Thurs. – Sun. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. through
Labor Day; Fri. – Sun. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
from 9/4
theweitzman.org

OTHER SITES

Independence Visitor Center (C4)
6th & Market streets
(800) 537-7676
Daily 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
phlvisitorcenter.com

SquareBurger (C1)
Franklin Square, 6th & Race streets
(215) 629-4026
12 p.m. to closing of Franklin Square;
see hours above
historicphiladelphia.org

U.S. Mint (D2)
151 North Independence Mall East
(215) 408-0114
Mon. – Fri. 9 a.m. – 4:30
usmint.gov

For the most current hours and information about **Independence National Historical Park**, stop in the Independence Visitor Center or visit nps.gov/inde





Photos by: J. Fusco, K. Kelly, Jason E. Miczek, Historic Philadelphia Inc, Rob Ruben, Visit Philadelphia®.