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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

AUGUST TO
SEPTEMBER 2026



Celebrating America's
250TH Anniversary

HISTORIC PHILADELPHIA GAZETTE

HISTORIC DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

AUGUST

AUGUST 1

Independence Visitor Center, Independence After Hours, 5-6:30 p.m. :Go beyond the ropes and behind closed doors for an unforgettable night in Independence Hall. Witness history being made as you eavesdrop on the Founding Fathers. The evening ends with a cocktail or mocktail in the Summer Garden at Historic City Tavern. Continues Saturdays through August. \$145; historicphiladelphia.org for tickets and information.

AUGUST 5

Carpenters' Hall, Shells of Liberty Oyster Bash 2026, 5:30 - 8 p.m. On National Oyster Day, sample a dozen local oysters, enjoy local beer, and learn about the rich history and life of oysters from the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary. For ticket information, carpentershall.org

AUGUST 6

Franklin Square, Storytime with WHY?, 10 - 11 a.m. Enjoy stories and crafts near the carousel, presented in partnership with the local PBS station. FREE. historicphiladelphia.org

AUGUST 7

Betsy Ross House Flagmakers' Hall, First Friday, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Join the Colonial Dames for a celebration of 18th century women. Enjoy a short film and refreshments and meet female History Makers. FREE. historicphiladelphia.org

AUGUST 7

Science History Institute, Dyeing to Know!, 5 - 7 p.m. Have you ever thought about the science behind the contents of your closet? Learn about the chemistry and invention of natural dyes and synthetic dyes through hands-on interactions. See the remarkable scientific properties of natural dyes and textiles, and learn how Victorian fashion exploded with color thanks to synthetic dyes. Plus, get a behind-the-scenes look at the research library and receive a 10% discount to National Mechanics restaurant. FREE. sciencehistory.org

Carpenters' Hall, Cocktails & Congress, 5:30-7 p.m. Step back in time to 1774 where you'll have a front row seat to all the action at the First Continental Congress. Watch the Founders debate independence in the place where it happened and enjoy cocktails and lite bites while you do! Continues Fridays through August. \$50. historicphiladelphia.org

AUGUST 7 - 9

Museum of the American Revolution, Meet the Revolution with Kirsten Hammerstrom, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. This public historian specializing in women entrepreneurs will help visitors learn

about how upholsterers who made soft coverings for furniture were contracted to make military goods during the American Revolution. Free with admission. amrevmuseum.org

AUGUST 8

The Athenaeum of Philadelphia, The Power of Interior Place in Artmaking, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Artist Maren Less invites participants to access and explore inner landscapes through breathwork and creative translation, turning sensations, emotions and imagery into drawings that reflect the terrain of our interior worlds. FREE. philaathenaeum.org

Independence Visitor Center, Independence After Hours, 5-6:30 p.m. See 8/1 for details. historicphiladelphia.org

AUGUST 11

Science History Institute, From Nature to Nylons: A Touch-Based History of Textiles, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. On this touch-based tour, get an introduction to natural fibers and move on to the development of plastics and synthetic materials like nylon and Gore-Tex. Leave with a better understanding of how these fibers changed our world. \$3; sciencehistory.org

AUGUST 14

Carpenters' Hall, Cocktails & Congress, 5:30-7 p.m. See 8/7 for details historicphiladelphia.org

AUGUST 20

Science History Institute, Disneyland and the Rise of Automation, 6 - 8 p.m. Join author Roland Betancourt for an entertaining look at how Disney turned the logic of factory assembly lines into the "happiest place on earth." You'll see your next visit to the parks with a whole new appreciation for the engineering wizardry behind the smiles! FREE. sciencehistory.org

AUGUST 15

Museum of the American Revolution, Independence After Hours, 5-6:30 p.m. See 8/1 for details. historicphiladelphia.org

AUGUST 21

Carpenters' Hall, Cocktails & Congress, 5:30-7 p.m. See 8/7 for details. historicphiladelphia.org



AUGUST 22

Independence Visitor Center, Independence After Hours, 5-6:30 p.m. See 8/1 for details. historicphiladelphia.org

AUGUST 28

Carpenters' Hall, Cocktails & Congress, 5:30-7 p.m. See 8/7 for details. historicphiladelphia.org

AUGUST 29

Historical Society of Pennsylvania, History on the Street: Back to School Edition, 12 - 4 p.m. Kick off your school year with museums, cultural organizations, and community partners sharing their resources through a day of fun and discovery. FREE. hsp.org

Independence Visitor Center, Independence After Hours, 5-6:30 p.m. See 8/1 for details. historicphiladelphia.org

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 1

The Athenaeum of Philadelphia, The Folger Shakespeare Library: Renewal & Revitalization, 6 p.m. A panel of design professionals discusses the recent four-year, \$80M overhaul of the 1932 Paul Cret-designed Folger, which expanded programming, exhibition and public spaces while preserving the original building. FREE. philaathenaeum.org

SEPTEMBER 4

Betsy Ross House, First Friday Movie Night Under the Stars & Stripes, 5 p.m. Bring your own drinks and snacks to enjoy a showing of Night at the Museum in the courtyard. Gates open at 5 p.m. for self-guided tours; movie begins at 8 p.m. \$10, includes House tour. historicphiladelphia.org

SEPTEMBER 5

Museum of the American Revolution, Meet the Revolution with Daniel Sieh, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Historian explores the lives of Asians in the United States during the 18th century. Discover how global trade connected the lives of Asian sailors, soldiers, traders, and enslaved people, and how they navigated American society as strangers from a distant land. Free with admission. amrevmuseum.org

SEPTEMBER 8

Science History Institute, From Nature to Nylons: A Touch-Based History of Textiles, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. See August 11 for details.



EXPERIENCE THE CONSTITUTION
THROUGH RARE ARTIFACTS,
HISTORIC DOCUMENTS,
INTERACTIVE GALLERIES,
AND LIVE PROGRAMMING.

The Stories of US Discovery Center
From Ancestry

As part of its nationwide initiative celebrating the people, families, and communities that shaped the United States, Ancestry, in partnership with the National Constitution Center, brings The Stories of US Discovery Center to Philadelphia. Open through August 31, 2026, the free interactive experience invites visitors to uncover their family histories through search stations, storytelling experiences, and access to historical records that reveal connections between individual lives and the broader United States story.

Summer Send-Off Family Night
Thursday, August 13, 5-8 p.m.

Join us for a night of family fun before the new school year. Discover the galleries and experience history in a whole new light with a guided flashlight tour of *Signers' Hall*. Enjoy 18th-century-inspired crafts, games, and interactive activities that bring America's founding story to life.

Sensory-Friendly Day
Sunday, August 23 and Sunday,
September 27 | 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sensory-Friendly Days are an accessible learning experience for people of all abilities and their families. 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.

Constitution Day Celebration
with Free Admission
Thursday, September 17 | 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

In September 1787, the founders signed the most influential document in American history, the U.S. Constitution. Every year, the National Constitution Center hosts the best Constitution Day celebration in the country. The Center's annual Constitution Day celebration takes place on Thursday, September 17, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with FREE admission courtesy of PECO.

For tickets and more information,
visit constitutioncenter.org

SEPTEMBER 10

Carpenters' Hall, Building the City: Three Master Developers, 8:30 – 10 a.m.: Breakfast panel discussion explores the economic and cultural impact of urban development by three of Philadelphia's most dynamic developers—and the transformations ahead with their fortuitous convergence on the Avenue of the Arts. \$20; carpentershall.org

SEPTEMBER 11

Betsy Ross House, 9/11 Commemoration Ceremony, 10 a.m.: Join the Philadelphia Flag Day Association along with the Philadelphia Police and Fire Departments for this solemn ceremony. FREE. historicphiladelphia.org

SEPTEMBER 12

Franklin Square, Play Day, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.: Crafts and games, giant bubbles, music, fitness fun, and play for children with YoYo. FREE. historicphiladelphia.org

SEPTEMBER 25

The Athenaeum of Philadelphia, The Handcrafted Utopia: Rose Valley, 2 p.m.: Dr. Thomas A. Guiler discusses Rose Valley, an intentional community designed by architect William Lightfoot Price and dedicated to the ideals of the Arts and Crafts Movement. FREE. philaathenaeum.org

SEPTEMBER 26

Franklin Square, Play Day, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.: See 9/12 for details.

ONGOING

Arch Street Meeting House, ON VIEW: 1688 Germantown Quaker Petition Against Slavery, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. daily: A unique opportunity to view this original petition signed by a group of German Quakers in 1688. It was lost to time and rediscovered at the Meeting House nearly two centuries later. FREE. HistoricASMh.org

Arch Street Meeting House, Quiet Roar: The Unparalleled Lives of Bayard Rustin & Sarah Mapps Douglass, 11 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. Saturdays: This immersive theater performance brings to life the writings and experiences of the dynamic 20th century civil rights activist and outspoken 18th century educator, activist and artist. Plus, stop by the Meet Quaker History Activity Cart to create, learn and explore Quaker history (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.). FREE. HistoricASMh.org

Arch Street Meeting House, Guided Tour, 11 a.m. Fridays: Take a staffed tour of The History of Quakerism: A Religious Revolution to discover how early Quakers helped shape Pennsylvania and influenced the founding ideals of religious freedom in the United States. FREE. HistoricASMh.org

The Athenaeum of Philadelphia, Discourse & Discovery: Places of Gathering in Philadelphia, regular building hours: Explore how citizens and visitors alike have long engaged with public spaces in Philadelphia in this exhibition highlighting objects from The Athenaeum's collections. FREE. philaathenaeum.org

Betsy Ross House, Meet the Women of the 18th Century, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Thurs. – Sat. thru 9/5; Sat. only from 9/12: Meet women who represent the diverse population of Colonial Philadelphia. Learn about their lives and the era they lived in by hearing their true, interactive stories! FREE. historicphiladelphia.org



Delaware River Waterfront, Where Freedom Flows: A Public Art Series, ongoing:

As the nation celebrates its 250th anniversary, the Delaware River Waterfront has transformed into a free outdoor gallery featuring a series of large-scale public art exhibitions and installations at Cherry Street Pier and Spruce Street Harbor Park. FREE. delawareriverfront.com



Franklin Square, Philadelphia Chinese Lantern Festival, 6-11 p.m. Daily through 8/16:

The final days to see the awe-inspiring, interactive, larger-than-life lanterns and live performances and enjoy delicious food and drink, the fountain show and more. Tickets are \$16 - \$32 at historicphiladelphia.org

The Garden at City Tavern, Summer Pop Up Experience, Thurs. – Sun. thru 9/5:

Step into Revolutionary era hospitality at this seasonal outdoor pop-up behind historic City Tavern, featuring food, drinks, Colonial games, historic interpreters, and special events. Visit historicphiladelphia.org

Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Paths to Independence: 1765-1787, through 9/18: Tracing the dramatic transformation from loyal subjects to revolutionaries, this exhibition displays rare documents and personal stories to reveal how Philadelphians forged the complex path to American independence. FREE. hsp.org

Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History, The First Salute, regular museum hours: America's fight for freedom as you've never seen it before, where Jewish faith courage and persecution changed the course of history. For ticket information, theweitzman.org

Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History, Colors of Creation, regular museum hours.: Be among the first to experience this new vivid, cinematic, interactive playground where families activate music, light, and imagery together in real-time. \$20. theweitzman.org

VISIT INDEPENDENCE HALL

Stop by during the daily open house from 9 to 10:30 a.m., when visitors can enter without a ticket. Guided tours are offered 10:40 a.m. to 4 p.m. with advance tickets at recreation.gov. For a more in-depth experience, reserve the 4:20 p.m. expanded tour, which includes access to the building's second floor. A \$1 ticket handling fee applies. More information: nps.gov/inde.

DISCOVER MORE PHILADELPHIA FIRSTS
THIS AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

Philadelphia's yearlong **52 Weeks of Firsts** celebration continues throughout August and September, inviting visitors to discover the innovations, institutions, and ideas that helped shape America. Every **Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**, a free **Firststival** celebrates another Philadelphia "first" with family-friendly activities, Once Upon A Nation storytelling, music, giveaways, and the opportunity to visit the whimsical #1 sculpture marking each historic milestone.

Late summer highlights include America's **first scientific society devoted to natural history, first zoo, first U.S. Mint, first selfie, and the beloved Slinky**. September continues the celebration with Firststivals honoring the signing of the **U.S. Constitution, the First Continental Congress, the first naming of the United States, and the nation's first Ronald McDonald House, and the first penitentiary**.

Perfect for visitors and locals alike, Firststivals offer a fun way to explore Philadelphia's neighborhoods while discovering the people, places, and ideas that made the city the birthplace of so many American firsts.

Find the complete schedule at 52FirstsPhilly.com and follow [@52FirstsPhilly](https://twitter.com/52FirstsPhilly) for weekly updates.



THE LONGEST SUMMER
IN HISTORY

Once Upon A Nation Programming
Continues Through September 7

Make history part of your summer adventure with **Once Upon A Nation**, where America's story comes to life through free storytelling and interactive experiences across Philadelphia's Historic District through **Labor Day**.

Relax at the award-winning **Storytelling Benches**, where professional storytellers share fascinating 3-to-5-minute tales in the very places history happened. Visit all the benches to earn a certificate and a special surprise at Franklin Square.

Families can also embark on the **Colonial Kids' Quest**, an interactive scavenger hunt that encourages young explorers to discover Historic Philadelphia while collecting stamps and earning a prize. Stop by **Muster with the Continental Army** to drill with Revolutionary War soldiers and learn the skills needed to join General Washington's ranks.

Along the way, meet **Benjamin Franklin** beneath his mulberry tree, **hear the Declaration of Independence read aloud**, encounter costumed **History Makers**, and discover the people and places that shaped the nation.

With free programs offered throughout the Historic District, it's the perfect way to enjoy what just might be the **longest summer in history**.

In the evening, step back in time and behind the scenes of pivotal moments in history – and enjoy drinks and snacks while you do – with **Cocktails & Congress** on Fridays through August and **Independence After Hours** on Saturdays. Find details and ticket information at historicphiladelphia.org.

For schedules and locations, visit historicphiladelphia.org.

PHLASH

Ride the Philly PHLASH® Hop-On, Hop-Off All Day for Just \$5

The Philly PHLASH® runs daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Labor Day and Fridays through Sundays starting September 11. This convenient hop-on, hop-off bus connects riders to Philadelphia's top historic sites and attractions—from Old City and the Independence Visitor Center to the Rocky Steps and the Parkway.

Ride all day for \$5, or \$15 for a family of four. Buy tickets and redeem parking discounts at the Independence Visitor Center, with up to 60% off the day rate at five nearby garages, or purchase online at ridephillyplash.com

HISTORIC SITES

Arch Street Meeting House (E3)
320 Arch Street
(215) 413-1804
Daily, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
historicasmh.org

Athenaeum of Philadelphia (C6)
219 S. 6th Street
(215) 925-2688
Mon. 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.; Tues., Thurs. & Fri. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Wed. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.; philaathenaeum.org

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

Carpenters' Hall (E5)
320 Chestnut Street
(215) 925-0167
Tues. – Sun. 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 a.m. – 10 a.m. open house; 10 a.m. – 4:40 p.m. tours every 20 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/audiotour

Federal Reserve Bank (B2)
10 N. Independence Mall, West
(215) 574-6000
Mon. – Fri. 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
philadelphiafed.org

First Bank of the United States (F5)
120 S. 3rd Street
(215) 597-2305
Thurs. – Sun. 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
nps.gov/inde

Free Quaker Meeting House (C3)
500 Arch Street, (215) 597-2305
Tues. – Sat. 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
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)
Daily 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Philadelphia Chinese Lantern Festival 6-11 p.m. through 8/16; 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. 8/17 – 9/7; 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. 9/8 – 9/30
historicphiladelphia.org



Independence Hall (C5)
Chestnut Street between 5th & 6th streets
(215) 597-2305
Daily 9 a.m. – 4:20 p.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

Second Bank Portrait Gallery (D5)
420 Chestnut Street
(215) 597-2305
Thurs. – Sun. 12 – 5 p.m.; tours on the hour 1 – 4 p.m.
nps.gov/inde

Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial (E8)
Sat. & Sun. 12 – 4 p.m.
301 Pine Street
nps.gov/thko
(215)597-2305

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
Thurs. – Mon. 10 a.m. – 4:30 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
(215) 925-0616
Sat. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
motherbethel.org

Museum of the American Revolution (E5)
101 South 3rd Street
(215) 253-6731
Daily 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. to 9/7; 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. from 9/8;
amrevmuseum.org

Museum of Illusions (D4)
401 Market Street
(267) 703-2270
Sun.-Thurs. 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
motphilly.com

National Constitution Center (D3)
525 Arch Street
(215) 409-6700
Daily 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

Science History Institute (E5)
315 Chestnut Street
(215) 925-2222
Wednesday–Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
sciencehistory.org

Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History (D4)
101 South Independence Mall East
(215) 923-3811
Wed. – Sun. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
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

The Garden at City Tavern (F6)
2nd & Walnut Streets
Thurs. – Sat. 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. thru 9/7
historicphiladelphia.org

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

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