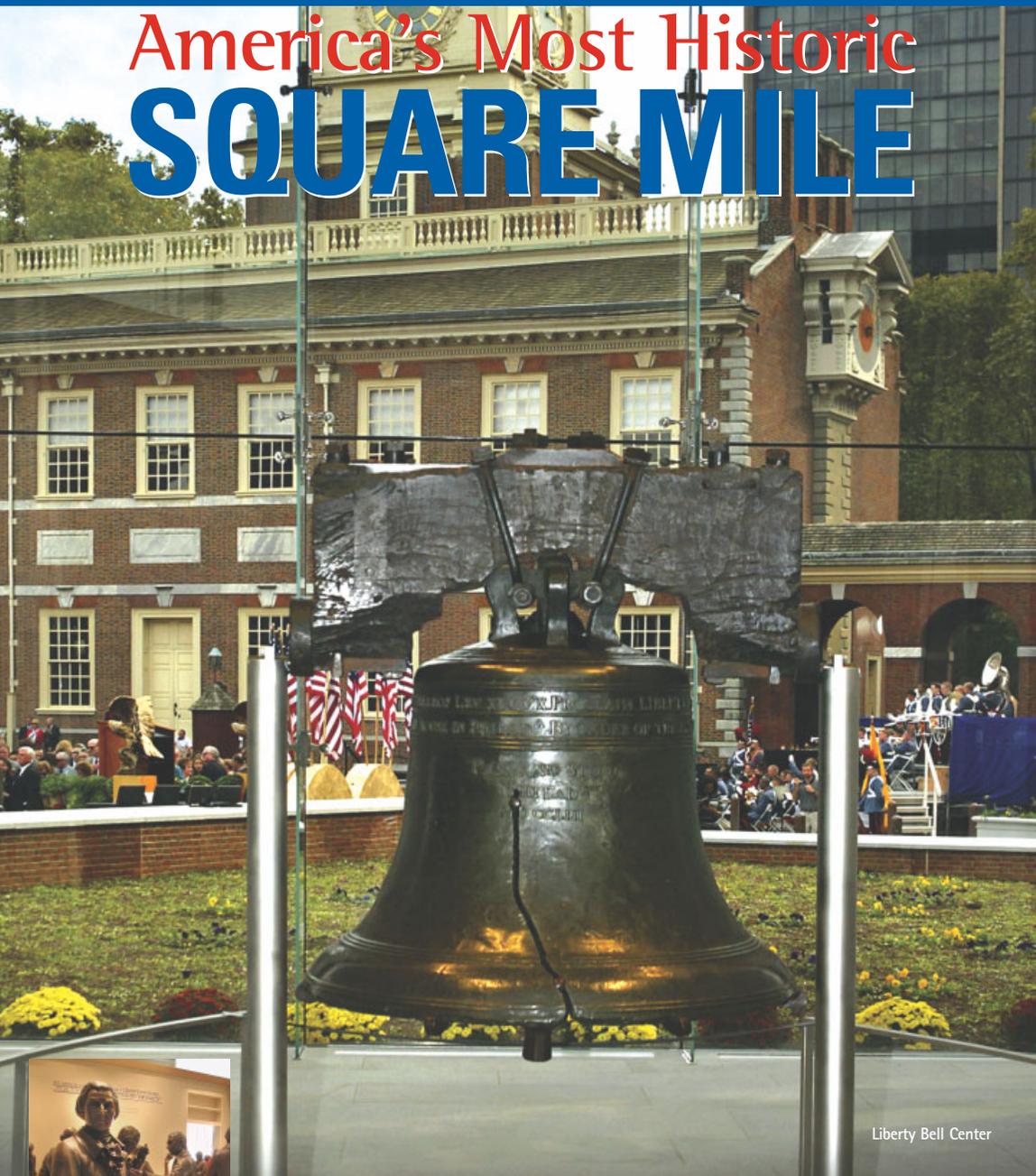


# What To Do On America's Most Historic **SQUARE MILE**



Liberty Bell Center



National Constitution Center

**Independence Mall has a new look.**

With the opening of two new major attractions – the Liberty Bell Center and the National Constitution Center – America's most historic square mile is now, more than ever, *the* place to explore our nation's history.

# What To Do On America's



**S**tart your visit at the **Independence Visitor Center** at 6<sup>th</sup> and Market Streets. Here, you are in the heart of Independence National Historical Park, covering more than 45 acres. On the north, south, east and west, you're surrounded by culture and history. **Here's what you'll discover:**

## IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

### OLD CITY

Just a few blocks north and east of the Independence Visitor Center is Old City. In addition to its historical significance, this area is the unofficial headquarters for the region's artists, with dozens of galleries, restaurants and shops.

► **Betsy Ross House** – After a self-guided tour of the home of the nation's most famous seamstress, drift into the shaded courtyard and take a break. There are children's activities and colonial entertainment daily. 239 Arch Street, (215) 686-1252

► **Christ Church Burial Ground** – Among the many patriots buried here are Benjamin Franklin and other signers of the *Declaration of Independence*. Arch Street at the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> Street, (215) 922-1695

► **Firemen's Hall Museum** – Kids can play firefighter amidst some of the nation's earliest hand-engines and hand pumps, some dating

back to 1730. 147 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, (215) 923-5439

► **Elfreth's Alley** – Stroll along the cobblestones of the nation's oldest continuously inhabited street, dating back 300 years. Between Front & 2<sup>nd</sup> Streets and Arch & Race Streets, (215) 514-0560

### MARKET STREET AND CHESTNUT STREET

Once the heart of colonial Philadelphia, today's Market and Chestnut Streets are a mix of commerce and history.

► **Christ Church** – Slide into one of the pews where Betsy Ross, George Washington and Ben Franklin once worshipped. Christ Church burial ground is only a few blocks away. 20 N. American Street, (215) 922-1695

► **B. Free Franklin's Post Office** – Have your postcards stamped and mailed the old-fashioned way . . . by hand! 316 Market Street

► **Franklin Court** – The site of Ben Franklin's house features a working 18<sup>th</sup>-century print shop, an archeology

exhibit and an underground museum dedicated to Franklin's achievements. 318 Market Street

► **National Liberty Museum** – Vote on modern political issues or use the "shredder" to dispose of mean and hurtful words. Exhibits, hands-on activities and more than 100 works of art by glass artist Dale Chihuly celebrate the heroes who fight for freedom around the world. 321 Chestnut Street, (215) 925-2800

► **Carpenters' Hall** – Scope out the architecture of Carpenters' Hall. It's more than a great building – it's the site of the First Continental Congress. 320 Chestnut Street

### 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> AND 7<sup>th</sup> STREETS

► **American Philosophical Society, Philosophical Hall** – Scientific instruments, almanacs, prints and portraits are part of thematic exhibitions that explore intersections of history, science and art with a focus on 18<sup>th</sup>-century Philadelphia. 104 S. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, (215) 440-3400

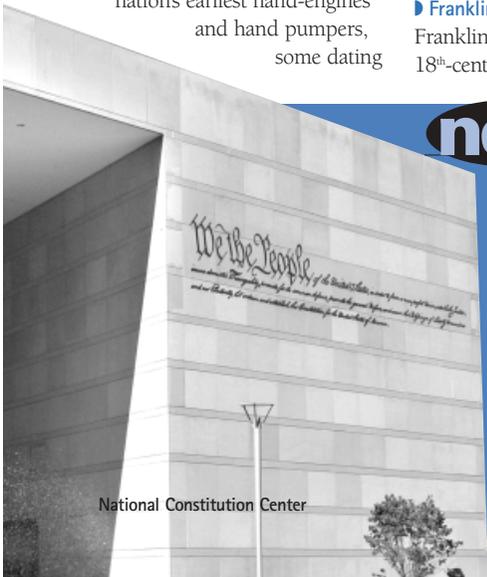
► **National Museum of American Jewish History** – The history of Jews in America is preserved through its collections, including a 1790 letter from George Washington to Congregation Mikveh Israel promising religious freedom. Mikveh Israel, America's oldest Jewish congregation, is also here. 55 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, (215) 923-3811

## new IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

**Liberty Bell Center** – The dramatic symbol of freedom has a dramatic new home. Learn the Liberty Bell's history, trace its journeys and discover its importance to people around the world. 6<sup>th</sup> Street between Market & Chestnut Streets

**National Constitution Center** – America's most important export is its freedom. Exercise yours at the new National Constitution Center, where you can don the robe of a Supreme Court justice, take the presidential oath of office or e-mail your congressman. Hands-on exhibits make the world's most important four little pages a powerful experience. 525 Arch Street, (215) 409-6600

National Constitution Center



# Most Historic Square Mile



## History, History EVERYWHERE

As if strolling through the actual building where America declared its independence or seeing the Liberty Bell isn't enough, **Independence National Historical Park**, the heart of America's most historic square mile, is home to dozens of cherished historic sites. Here are just two of many to explore:

■ One of the original copies of the *U.S. Constitution* and the inkwell used to sign the *Declaration of Independence* are on display in the original **West Wing**, adjacent to Independence Hall at 5<sup>th</sup> & Chestnut Streets.

■ The **Merchants Exchange** building's architecture is worth a stroll to 3<sup>rd</sup> and Walnut Streets. The small exhibit on its history as a stock exchange and commodities center is a bonus.

**Safety check!** You'll find the security checkpoint for **Independence Hall**, the **West Wing** and **Congress Hall** on 5<sup>th</sup> Street between Walnut and Chestnut Streets.

▸ **Dream Garden** – Take a minute to relax in front of the *Dream Garden*, a Tiffany masterpiece with more than 100,000 pieces of stained glass. It's inside the lobby of the Curtis Center, former site of the Curtis Publishing Company. 6<sup>th</sup> Street between Chestnut & Walnut Streets, (215) 238-6450

▸ **Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia** – A 25-foot tall tower of money worth \$100 million highlights the new *Money in Motion* exhibit. Too bad it's all shredded. Here, visitors can learn about money, banking and the Federal Reserve System. 10 Independence Mall, (215) 574-6000

▸ **African American Museum in Philadelphia** – Trace African American life through art, photographs, exhibitions and music in the nation's first museum dedicated to African American history and culture. 701 Arch Street, (215) 574-0350

▸ **Atwater Kent Museum** – There's a lot to learn about Philadelphia history, and this is the place to do it. Check out the gibbet iron, a full-body cage used for convicted prisoners. The Norman Rockwell exhibit is also worth a look. 15 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, (215) 685-4830

## TOURING

Meander historic cobblestone streets by foot, horse-drawn carriage or Victorian-style trolley. There is sure to be a tour just for you. Stop into the **Independence Visitor Center** at 6<sup>th</sup> and Market Streets to find out what tours are being offered. (800) 537-7676

▸ For an overview of 20 of the city's most popular attractions, board a **Philadelphia Trolley Works'** trolley along 5<sup>th</sup> Street between Market and Chestnut Streets. There, you'll also find horse-drawn carriages to ride you through Philadelphia's historic streets. Tours run year-round. (215) 925-TOUR

▸ Tour the city from above in the **Big Bus Tours'** double-decker buses, departing at 5<sup>th</sup> Street between Market and Arch Streets. Tours run year-round. (800) 3-BIGBUS

▸ To discover the historic district at your own pace, stop into the Independence Visitor Center to rent the self-guided **AudioWalk and Tours'** CD-Rom. Tours run year-round. (215) 272-5886

▸ See how the middle and upper class lived with free tours of the **Bishop White House** and **Todd House** at Independence National Historical Park. Sign up at the Independence Visitor Center. Tours run year-round.

▸ From March through October, **Ride the Ducks** for an 80-minute land and water tour of Philadelphia. Tickets and free "quacker" noisemakers are available at 6<sup>th</sup> and Chestnut Streets. (215) 227-DUCK

▸ After dusk, **Lights of Liberty** guides lead a dramatic walk through Independence National Historical Park with a sound and light show beginning at 6<sup>th</sup> and Chestnut Streets. Tours run April through October. (877) GO-2-1776



▸ Offering guided architecture tours of the city and region from April through December, **Walk Philadelphia** tours depart from the Independence Visitor Center. (215) 625-9255

▸ Venture into some of the city's most dynamic neighborhoods with the **Philadelphia Neighborhood Tours**, featuring food, music and entertainment. Tours depart from the Independence Visitor Center on Saturdays in spring (May and June) and fall (September and October). (215) 599-2295

## DINING

Looking for a quick bite? Maybe it's a more formal dining experience you crave. Whatever your preference, we've got you covered.

▶ Before heading out for a long day of touring, grab a bite to eat at **Old Capital Coffee** in the Independence Visitor Center. Sandwiches, snacks and lots of yummy coffees are the main attractions here. 6<sup>th</sup> & Market Streets, (800) 537-7676

▶ **The Bourse**, a 113-year-old Victorian grand dame and the nation's first commodities exchange, is now a casual food-court. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, directly across from the Liberty Bell, (215) 625-0300

▶ **City Tavern**, a reconstruction of the original 18<sup>th</sup>-century tavern where Ben Franklin, George Washington and other founding fathers gathered, serves lunch and dinner, preserving the flavor of colonial Philadelphia. 2<sup>nd</sup> & Walnut Streets, (215) 413-1443

▶ **Jones** serves up comfort food like mom used to make – or even better – in a casual atmosphere. 7<sup>th</sup> & Chestnut Streets, (215) 238-9600

▶ If it's hot out, cool off with some ice cream, or taste a traditional soft pretzel, with mustard of course, at **Carousel**, located at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Walnut Streets.

▶ If you're a little chilly, warm up with a cup of coffee, a latte or hot chocolate at **Cosi**. 4<sup>th</sup> & Chestnut Streets, (215) 399-0214

▶ Along Market and Chestnut Streets and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets, there are dozens of cafes, bistros and deli



catessens with menus to suit every craving and budget.

## SHOPPING

For the latest in funky fashion, trendy accessories, fabulous antiques or hip home furnishings, head to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets between Market and Arch Streets, where lots of privately owned shops and boutiques line the streets. Jewelry lovers can wander through **Jewelers' Row**, the oldest district of its kind in the country, which is located on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Streets, between Chestnut and Walnut Streets. Or, find the perfect Philadelphia memento at the Independence Store, the gift shop at the **Independence Visitor Center**; the **National Constitution Center's retail store**; **The Lights of Liberty Shop**; **The Bourse**; or **America's National Parks Store** in the **Pemberton House** on Chestnut Street between 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Streets.

## COME FACE TO FACE WITH HISTORY

**Historic Philadelphia, Inc.** presents costumed, colonial re-enactors portraying the lives and times of America's heroes and everyday men and women who walked the streets of 18<sup>th</sup>-century Philadelphia. Look

for them at the Independence Visitor Center, Betsy Ross House, the Signer's Garden at 5<sup>th</sup> and Chestnut Streets, or just strolling the neighborhood. (215) 629-5801

## ON THE WATERFRONT

Seasonal festivals, the **Independence Seaport Museum** and the historic **U.S.S. Olympia** make Penn's Landing on the Delaware River a waterfront oasis that's just steps away from the heart of the historic district. The **RiverLink Ferry** will carry you across the river in minutes, where you can explore the **New Jersey State Aquarium**, tour the historic **Battleship New Jersey** or turn the kids loose in the **Camden Children's Garden**. In the summer, stay a little longer for a minor league baseball game at **Campbell's Field** or a concert featuring the top names in music at the **Tweeter Center**.

## find out more

And that's just the beginning. For more information about attractions, adventure, special events, and hotel packages visit [gophila.com](http://gophila.com). While on the site, you'll also want to check out the **CultureFiles**, an insider's online guide to the region's arts and culture. If you're already in town ask your hotel concierge or do your own trip planning at an information kiosk at the Independence Visitor Center, (800) 537-7676.

*This guide has been produced by GPTMC, a private, non-profit organization dedicated to building the region's economy and positive image through tourism and destination marketing. Photos by R. Kennedy and B. Krist for GPTMC. For more information, call (215) 599-0776 or visit [www.gophila.com](http://www.gophila.com).*