

# Visiting the Park

Welcome to Philadelphia and Independence National Historical Park, where so much of our Colonial, Revolutionary, and Federal-period heritage is preserved. Here, along these old streets, amid these venerable houses and public buildings, Americans began their quest for freedom and independence. Here, too, the United States was born, and its ideals were enacted in the Constitution. We invite you to make the most of your tour of this great historic place and wish you a rewarding visit. Start your visit at the visitor center.

## A Cosmopolitan City

To painter Gilbert Stuart, early Philadelphia was the "Athens of America." With amazing speed it had grown from William Penn's "green countrie towne" of the 17th century to a thriving river port and the largest city of British North America. It was the most sophisticated of the colonial cities—the acknowledged cultural, financial, and political capital. Quakers and other English settlers, Scotch-Irish, Germans, immigrants from other

American colonies, those fleeing slavery, and free people of African descent formed a diverse community known for its tolerance and for the opportunities awaiting industrious artisans and young apprentices. The tight economic network of merchants, artisans, and shopkeepers formed the core of Philadelphia's revolutionary generation.

## Planning Your Visit

To reach the parking garage under Independence Visitor Center on 6th Street between Arch and Market Streets: Eastbound via I-76 and I-676: Exit from I-76 to I-676 (left exit) and continue to 6th Street exit (Independence Hall). Turn right on 6th Street. Entrance to garage is on the left beyond Arch Street. Westbound via Benjamin Franklin Bridge (U.S. 30): Follow the signs for 6th Street, "Historic Area"; proceed to garage as above. Southbound via

I-95: Take Exit 22 to Callowhill Street. Turn right on Callowhill Street to 6th Street. Turn left on 6th Street; proceed to garage as above. Northbound via I-95: Take Exit 22, I-676/Independence Hall (left exit). Stay to the right for I-676 East/Independence Hall to Callowhill Street. Continue straight on Callowhill Street to 6th Street. Turn left on 6th Street; proceed to garage as above.

**For Your Safety** Be careful crossing busy streets. Watch your step on uneven surfaces. Guard your valuables and lock your car.

**For More Information** Independence National Historical Park 143 South 3rd Street Philadelphia, PA 19106 800-537-7676 (TTY use the relay service at 800-654-5984) www.nps.gov/inde National Park Service: www.nps.gov

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### Map Legend

- Park building open to public
- Park building open by tour only; sign up at visitor center
- Park building not open to public
- Restrooms

FRANKLIN SQUARE

To Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site

### Liberty Bell Center

The Liberty Bell is an international symbol of freedom. Hung in the State House in 1753, it summoned the Pennsylvania Assembly to debate the Stamp Act and other burdensome actions by the British Parliament. The Bell cracked sometime between 1817 and 1846; exactly when remains a mystery.



PHOTOGRAPH ©2001 JOHN MCGRAIL

### Declaration House

In 1776, while a delegate to the Second Continental Congress, Thomas Jefferson rented two upstairs rooms in the modest house of bricklayer Jacob Graff. Here, on his lap desk, Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence. This reconstruction dates from 1975.

### Portrait Gallery in the Second Bank of the United States

Martha Washington, wife of first President George Washington, was known for her dignity and charm; Mohawk leader Thayendanegea (Joseph Brant) was allied with the British but was feted in Philadelphia in the 1790s.

### Independence Square

Delegates meeting in the Assembly Room of the Pennsylvania State House, now called Independence Hall, created the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Old City Hall housed the U.S. Supreme Court from 1791 to 1800. The U.S. Congress met in Congress Hall from 1790 to 1800.

### Mikveh Israel Cemetery



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0 100 Feet 500

### Using Your Time at the Park

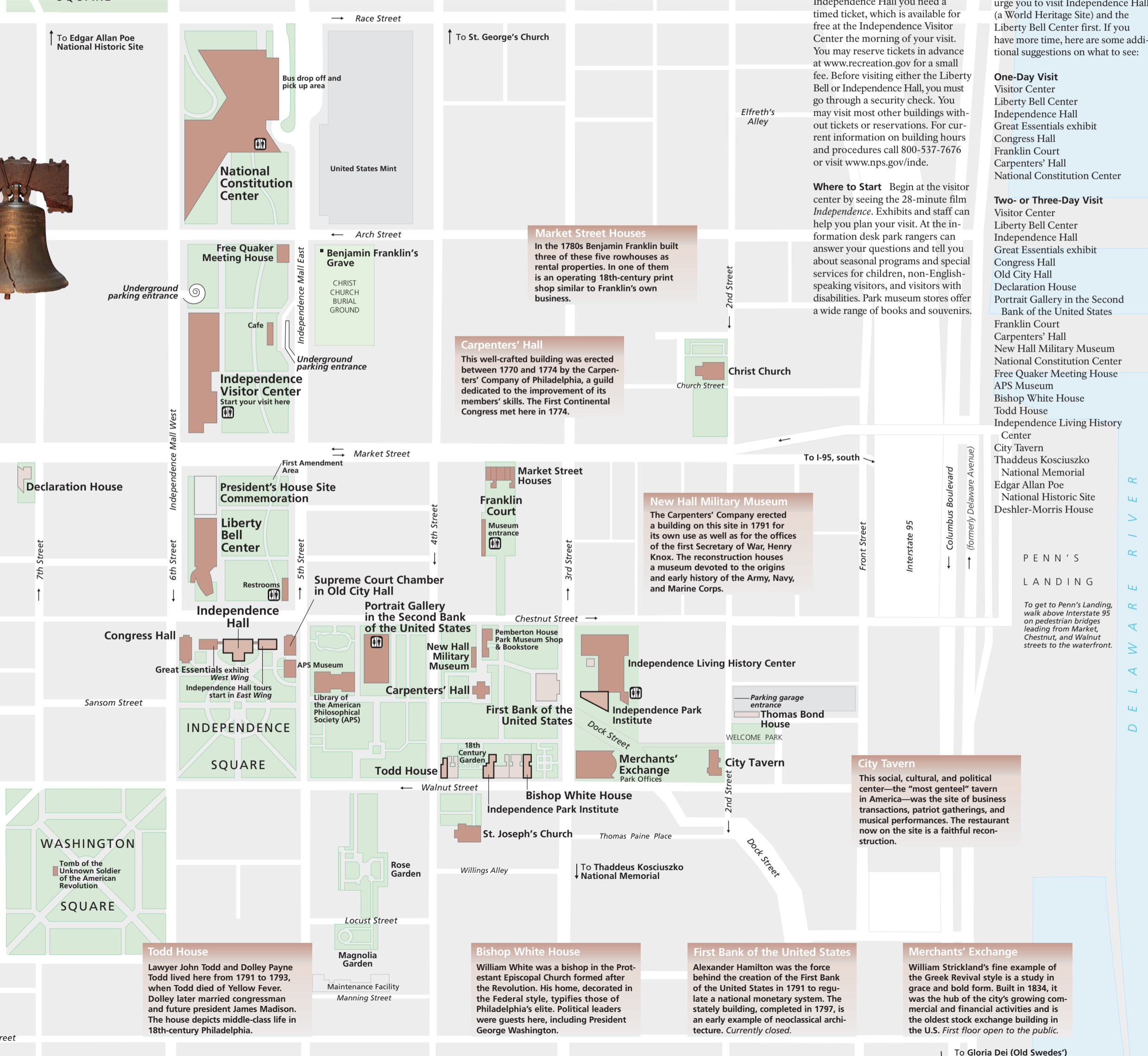
**Hours and Admission** To see Independence Hall you need a timed ticket, which is available for free at the Independence Visitor Center the morning of your visit. You may reserve tickets in advance at www.recreation.gov for a small fee. Before visiting either the Liberty Bell or Independence Hall, you must go through a security check. You may visit most other buildings without tickets or reservations. For current information on building hours and procedures call 800-537-7676 or visit www.nps.gov/inde.

**Where to Start** Begin at the visitor center by seeing the 28-minute film *Independence*. Exhibits and staff can help you plan your visit. At the information desk park rangers can answer your questions and tell you about seasonal programs and special services for children, non-English-speaking visitors, and visitors with disabilities. Park museum stores offer a wide range of books and souvenirs.

**If you have only a short time,** we urge you to visit Independence Hall (a World Heritage Site) and the Liberty Bell Center first. If you have more time, here are some additional suggestions on what to see:

- One-Day Visit**
- Visitor Center
  - Liberty Bell Center
  - Independence Hall
  - Great Essentials exhibit
  - Congress Hall
  - Franklin Court
  - Carpenters' Hall
  - National Constitution Center

- Two- or Three-Day Visit**
- Visitor Center
  - Liberty Bell Center
  - Independence Hall
  - Great Essentials exhibit
  - Congress Hall
  - Old City Hall
  - Declaration House
  - Portrait Gallery in the Second Bank of the United States
  - Franklin Court
  - Carpenters' Hall
  - New Hall Military Museum
  - National Constitution Center
  - Free Quaker Meeting House
  - APS Museum
  - Bishop White House
  - Todd House
  - Independence Living History Center
  - City Tavern
  - Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial
  - Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site
  - Deshler-Morris House



**Market Street Houses**  
In the 1780s Benjamin Franklin built three of these five rowhouses as rental properties. In one of them is an operating 18th-century print shop similar to Franklin's own business.

**Carpenters' Hall**  
This well-crafted building was erected between 1770 and 1774 by the Carpenters' Company of Philadelphia, a guild dedicated to the improvement of its members' skills. The First Continental Congress met here in 1774.

**New Hall Military Museum**  
The Carpenters' Company erected a building on this site in 1791 for its own use as well as for the offices of the first Secretary of War, Henry Knox. The reconstruction houses a museum devoted to the origins and early history of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps.

**City Tavern**  
This social, cultural, and political center—the "most genteel" tavern in America—was the site of business transactions, patriot gatherings, and musical performances. The restaurant now on the site is a faithful reconstruction.

**Todd House**  
Lawyer John Todd and Dolley Payne Todd lived here from 1791 to 1793, when Todd died of Yellow Fever. Dolley later married congressman and future president James Madison. The house depicts middle-class life in 18th-century Philadelphia.

**Bishop White House**  
William White was a bishop in the Protestant Episcopal Church formed after the Revolution. His home, decorated in the Federal style, typifies those of Philadelphia's elite. Political leaders were guests here, including President George Washington.

**First Bank of the United States**  
Alexander Hamilton was the force behind the creation of the First Bank of the United States in 1791 to regulate a national monetary system. The stately building, completed in 1797, is an early example of neoclassical architecture. Currently closed.

**Merchants' Exchange**  
William Strickland's fine example of the Greek Revival style is a study in grace and bold form. Built in 1834, it was the hub of the city's growing commercial and financial activities and is the oldest stock exchange building in the U.S. First floor open to the public.

To Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church National Historic Site

DELAWARE RIVER

PENNS  
LANDING

To get to Penn's Landing, walk above Interstate 95 on pedestrian bridges leading from Market, Chestnut, and Walnut streets to the waterfront.