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 country town” 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 5th Street. Turn left on 6th Street. proceed to garage as above.

For Your Safety

Be careful on or near busy streets. Watch your step on uneven surfaces. Guard your valuables and lock your car.

For More Information

Independence National Historical Park 141 South 3rd Street Philadelphia, PA 19106 800-537-7767 (TTY use the relay service at 800-654-3864) www.nps.gov/inde National Park Service: www.nps.gov

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 800-537-7767 or visit www.nps.gov/inde.

Where to Begin

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.