

Independence

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National Historical Park
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Beginning July 6, 2015

Independence Visitor Center.....8:30 a.m.–7:00 p.m.

Programs:

Junior Ranger Induction Ceremony daily at 4:00 p.m.

Twilight Tour - Daily at 6:00 - Enjoy an introduction to Independence National Historical Park so you are ready to explore it the next day. *Presented by the Friends of Independence Volunteer Guides.*
friendsofindependence.org.

Liberty Bell Center..... 9:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.

Please note - security screening closes 5 minutes before the Liberty Bell Center closes for the evening

Program: National Park Fun Zone

Daily - 9:30am to 11:30am - Discover some family fun with the help of puzzles, games, and the park's mobile app. Try a ranger's hat on for size, and share your knowledge of America's National Parks.

Independence Square (Access to the "Square" is through security located at 5th and Chestnut Streets)

Please note - security screening closes 15 minutes before the buildings on the block close for the evening

Independence Hall..... 9:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.

Tours are offered every 15 minutes, tickets are required 9:00-5:00. Free Tickets are available the morning of your visit at the Independence Visitor Center.

Congress Hall.....9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

The Great Essentials Exhibit in the West Wing of Independence Hall..... 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Old City Hall.....9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Carpenters' Court

Carpenters' Hall.....open Tuesday-Sunday..... 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

New Hall Military Museum.....Noon-5:00 p.m.

Program: - Barnacles and Bullets

Daily at 1:00 & 4:00 - Find out what it would have been like to serve in the army or the navy during the American Revolution during this "hands on" program for kids. (15 minutes)

Franklin Court

Courtyard..... 9:00 – dusk

Program: Dr. Franklin's Philadelphia (walking tour) – Saturdays and Sundays at 10:00 - Printer, father, politician, diplomat, inventor – Benjamin Franklin achieved much in his long and prosperous life. Join a Park Ranger to hear about how his accomplishments shaped his city, his country and the world.

Benjamin Franklin Museum.....(fee charged)..... 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

B. Free Franklin Post Office..... open Monday-Saturday..... 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Fragments of Franklin Court..... 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Printing Office..... 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Other Park Sites

The City Tavern.....opens at 11:30

Declaration House.....tours at 1:30 and 4:00

Program:

Jefferson in Philadelphia - Join a park ranger for a talk about Thomas Jefferson's life in Philadelphia while he was renting rooms in this house during the summer of 1776. Program is limited to 15 people.

Free Quaker Meeting House..... 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

National Constitution Center (fee charged)...open Monday-Friday..... 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

open Saturday.....9:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

open Sunday.....Noon-5:00 p.m.

The President's House Site Memorial.....7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

The Signer's Garden.....7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Program: Paths of the Founders – daily at 2:30 - Follow in the footsteps of eighteenth century Americans who moved from being colonists to citizens of a new nation. Join a park ranger for this orientation walking tour of Independence National Historical Park and the world-changing events that happened here

Todd and Bishop White Houses.....ask at the Visitor Center for times

Other NPS Sites

Deshler-Morris House..... open Saturday..... 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Edgar Allan Poe NHS..... open Friday-Sunday..... 9:00 a.m.– Noon and 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Thaddeus Kosciuszko NM..... open Saturday-Sunday..... Noon-4:00 p.m.

July 8

10:30-11:30 – Congress Hall (seating limited) - "**Brothers of the Same Principle**" Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, but his colleague John Dickinson did not believe the colonies were ready to separate from Great Britain. Find out why as both men discuss the pros and cons of the Declaration of Independence. Immediately following the debate the annual commemorative reading of the Declaration of Independence will take place on Independence Square. That's when the real fireworks begin!

11:45-12:30 - Independence Square - **Re-enactment of the First Public Reading of the Declaration of Independence.** On July 8, 1776 Colonel John Nixon strode to a platform in the State House yard (now Independence Square) and shared the stunning news of the Declaration of Independence with the crowd. Help celebrate this historic occasion and join the crowd to hear a commemorative reading of the document by a park ranger portraying Colonel Nixon. Free copies will be given out so that you can follow along and cheer or jeer.