



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Celebrate Independence Day in the Birthplace of Independence with New Ways to Explore Philadelphia's Historic District**

**PHILADELPHIA, June 29, 2018** – There's no better place to celebrate Independence Day than in the Birthplace of Independence! This year, in honor of America's 242<sup>nd</sup> birthday, sites throughout Philadelphia's Historic District are celebrating with special programming and innovative ways to explore.

**New for Summer 2018:** The [Historic Philly Summer Combo](#) will delight both first-time visitors and lifelong residents with a unique day-and-night experience offered in one convenient deal, which includes: admission to the **Museum of the American Revolution** and **National Constitution Center**; an all-day pass for **Philly PHLASH®**; and the evening dinner tour experience, **Independence After Hours**. The package encourages visitors to extend their time in the area with a perfect itinerary for day and night:

*In the Daytime:* Learn about the principles that founded the nation by touring the National Constitution Center and Museum of the American Revolution, with convenient transportation on Philly PHLASH.

*In the Evening:* Experience an unforgettable journey back in time with Independence After Hours, which includes an authentic Colonial meal at City Tavern, and exclusive access to Independence Hall to witness the Founding Fathers debate the Declaration of Independence.

Available on select evenings this summer, the **Historic Philly Summer Combo** is only \$99, a 20 percent savings from retail price. Learn more and reserve yours today by visiting [HistoricPhillySummer.com](http://HistoricPhillySummer.com).

**Back by Popular Demand:** The [Historic Philly Scavenger Hunt powered by Scavify](#) is back for a second year to offer a fun, interactive experience learning about America's most historic sites. Players complete tasks by answering trivia, sharing photos, or checking in at local attractions to accumulate points and win prizes, redeemable at the Independence Visitor Center, July 1 – 7.

**Easy, fun, and FREE:** The **Historic Philly Scavenger Hunt** is available for anyone to play by downloading the Scavify app on a smartphone or mobile device. Players who complete all tasks will be entered into a drawing for the Grand Prize, which provides the perfect incentive for visitors to soon return to the Historic District: **Two Historic Philly Summer Combos** and a **One-Night Stay** at the **Kimpton Hotel Monaco Philadelphia!**



**Independence Day (and Week) Events in the Historic District:** Historic sites and attractions around Independence Mall host special events to welcome the thousands who come to the area to celebrate:

*July 3:*

**Historic District Block Party:** Thousands of attendees come out to enjoy a relaxed, fun block party in the Historic District with food trucks, two stages of music, and entertainment including stilt walkers, a Kids Zone, and historical characters. **5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Sts. between Chestnut & Market Sts., Noon - 7 p.m.**

**POPs on Independence:** The 65-piece Philly POPS orchestra performs a free concert in front of Independence Hall, enjoyed by 15,000 attendees each year. This year's show features Broadway star Heather Hadley. **Independence Hall, 7 - 9 p.m.**

*July 4:*

**Declaration Readings:** Witness the proclamation! A fife-and-drum procession leads Thomas Jefferson himself to proclaim his newly penned Declaration of Independence from Great Britain, with two dramatic readings. **Independence Visitor Center (outside 5<sup>th</sup> St. entrance), 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.**

**United States of America's Independence Day Parade:** Reflecting the words of our Constitution, this parade through the Historic District features colorful floats representing seven different states, cultural groups, marching bands, military groups, and more. **Parade starts from 5<sup>th</sup> & Chestnut Sts., 11 a.m.**

**America's Birthday Party with Betsy Ross and Termini Brothers Bakery:** Celebrate America's Birthday with Betsy Ross and the iconic Termini Brothers Bakery! Termini's staff will decorate a five-tier birthday cake for America and display 2,500 red, white, and blue cupcakes in the shape of an American flag, right inside the North Entrance of the Visitor Center. Betsy Ross leads the crowd in singing "Happy Birthday," to America and cutting the cake, before helping to distribute all of the cupcakes for free! **Independence Visitor Center (North End), 1 p.m.**

*July 5:*

**LEGO Brick Building Event:** LEGOLAND® Discovery Center Philadelphia will hold a day-long LEGO brick building event at the Visitor Center. Attendees of the family-friendly event are encouraged to join LEGOLAND's Model Builders in creating four mosaics made of LEGOs to depict Philadelphia's Independence Day celebrations. The event will also unveil LEGOLAND Discovery Center's newest model of the **Comcast Technology Center** to the public for the first time. **Independence Visitor Center (Mezzanine Level), 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

*July 6:*

**Philadelphia Freedoms:** Members of the **Philadelphia Freedoms** from World Team Tennis league will meet and greet fans, and celebrate their upcoming season, with tickets now available at the Visitor Center. **Independence Visitor Center (North End), 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

For a full schedule of daily events in the Historic District, visit [PHLvisitorcenter.com/July4](http://PHLvisitorcenter.com/July4).



**Hours of Operation:** Please note the special hours for sites when exploring Historic District this week:

**Betsy Ross House:** Open Daily, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. (Courtyard until 5 p.m.); July 6, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

**Christ Church Burial Ground:** Open Monday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Sunday, 12:30 – 4 p.m.

**Franklin Square:** Open Sunday – Thursday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Independence Visitor Center:** Open Daily, 8:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.; July 1 – 4, 8:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.

**Independence Hall:** Open Daily, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. Free, timed-tickets are required until 5 p.m. No tickets necessary after 5 p.m.; or any time on Independence Day, July 4.

**Liberty Bell Center:** Open Daily, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.

**National Constitution Center:** Open Daily, 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.; July 2 and 3, 9:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.

**Museum of the American Revolution:** Open Daily, 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.; July 1 – 4, 9:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.

**Philly PHLASH® Downtown Loop:** Operates Daily, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; July 4, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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**About the Independence Visitor Center Corporation (IVCC):**

The Independence Visitor Center Corporation (IVCC) is a Pennsylvania nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization, which operates in cooperation with the National Park Service, Visit Philadelphia, Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau, the City of Philadelphia, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The IVCC manages the Independence Visitor Center, the official visitor center for the Greater Philadelphia Region and primary point of orientation for Independence National Historical Park, the City of Philadelphia, the Southern New Jersey and Delaware River Waterfronts, as well as Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties in Pennsylvania.

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