

IVCC Press Clips, Sept. – Nov. 2020

**September 2020**

[Liberty Bell, Independence Hall reopening next week](#), *Philly Voice* (Sept. 4, 2020)

[Liberty Bell, Independence Hall reopen in Old City](#), *6ABC Action News* (Sept. 9, 2020)

[Businesses hope tourists will make quick return as Independence Hall, Liberty Bell reopens](#), *KYW Newsradio* (Sept. 9, 2020)

[Honoring Sports Icon Billie Jean King's Work for Women's Equality](#), *NBC10 Philadelphia Philly Live* (Sept. 25, 2020)

**October 2020**

“Wear Orange” to Show Kindness and Inclusivity for Unity Day in Philadelphia, *6ABC Action News 5PM Broadcast* (Oct. 21, 2020)

[Terrace On Tap is new pop-up with view of Independence Hall](#), *Philly Voice* (Oct. 23, 2020)

**November 2020**

[Independence Hall, Liberty Bell Center to close for remainder of 2020 due to Philly's latest COVID-19 restrictions](#), *Philly Voice* (Nov. 22, 2020)

[Liberty Bell, Independence Hall closed through December](#), *FOX29* (Nov. 22, 2020)

[Official visitor center of Philadelphia announces temporary closure amid coronavirus pandemic](#), *6ABC Action News* (Nov. 23, 2020)

[12 Delicious Philadelphia-Area Caterers for Your Micro-Wedding](#), *Philadelphia Wedding* (Nov. 25, 2020)



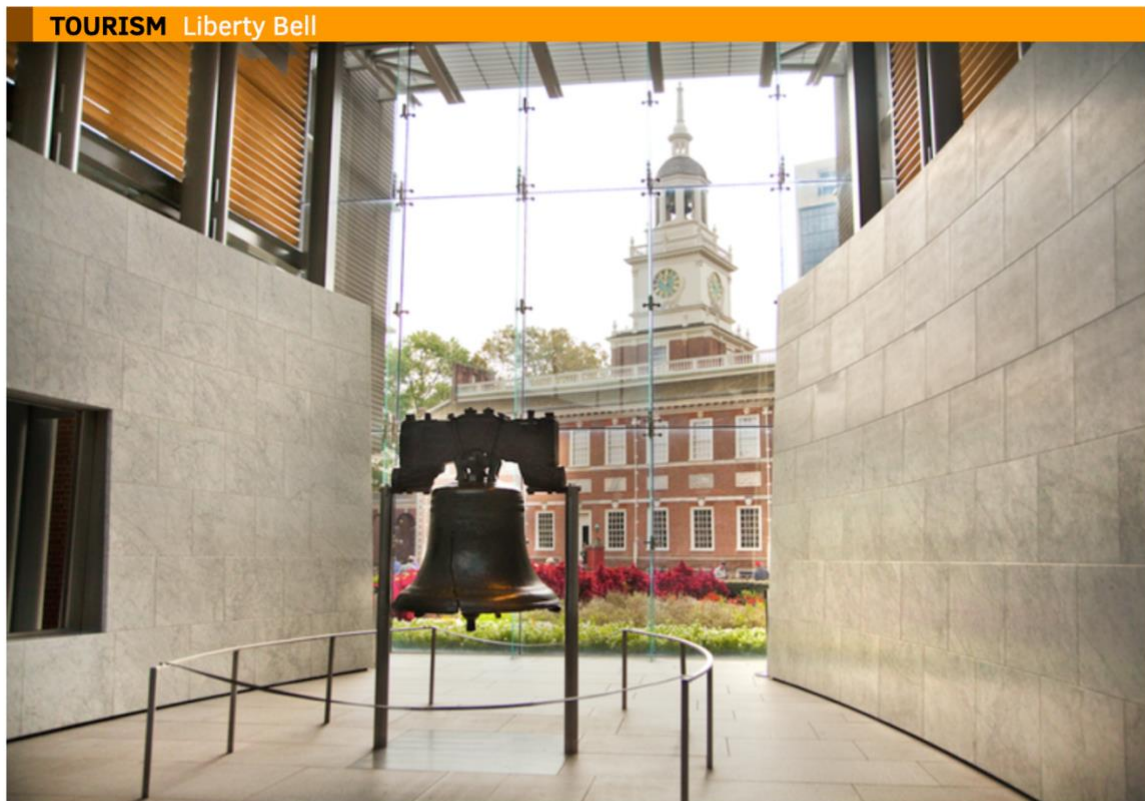
SEPTEMBER 04, 2020

## Liberty Bell, Independence Hall reopening next week

National Park Service modifying tours due to COVID-19



BY ALLIE MILLER  
*PhillyVoice Staff*



*M. FISCHETTI/VISIT PHILADELPHIA*

The Liberty Bell and Independence Hall will reopen to visitors Wednesday after being closed for months due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Independence National Historical Park is reopening many of its most popular sites after limiting access for months due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Liberty Bell Center, Independence Hall and Independence Visitor Center will reopen Wednesday, the National Parks Service [announced](#). So will Old City Hall, Second Bank Portrait Gallery, Friends Quaker Meeting House and the Merchant's Exchange Building.

Congress Hall will open in mid-October upon the completion of an ongoing renovation project.

The park is reopening in accordance with health and safety guidelines [from the City of Philadelphia](#), the White House and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The park has modified tours to meet the city's COVID-19 gathering limits and installed physical markers to promote social distancing between people. Clear, protective shields have been added at public contact stations.

Park staffers are examining each facility's function and service to ensure operations comply with public health guidelines.



Several indoor facilities will remain closed: the Great Essentials Exhibit in the West Wing of Independence Hall, the Benjamin Franklin Museum and Print Shop, the Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial, and the Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site.

Outdoors spaces, including Independence Mall and Washington Square, remain open.

The National Park Service is reopening of its 419 national parks on a park-by-park basis.



## Liberty Bell, Independence Hall reopen in Old City

By [Jaclyn Lee](#)

Wednesday, September 9, 2020 5:40PM



Historical landmarks in Old City such as the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall reopened Wednesday, after being closed since mid-March.

PHILADELPHIA (WPVI) -- The foot traffic around Independence Hall used to be virtually non-existent at the height of the pandemic - but no more. **The Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, and the Independence Visitor Center officially reopened Wednesday after being closed since March 16.**

**"We actually didn't plan it but we went to the Visitor's Center and we just found out so we feel pretty lucky that it just opened," said Taber Yim of New Hampshire.**

Action News spoke with families who said visiting Independence Mall was an incredible educational opportunity.

"It's good to get them out and see different things and the historic sites and get some of this history in," said Matthew Hicks of Boston.

Old City Hall, Second Bank Portrait Gallery and Friends Quaker Meeting House also reopened Wednesday.

"We just want to expose her at a young age to how our country was founded and the history of our

country and just walk around and enjoy the city together," said mother Michelle Campbell of Mechanicsburg.

"Park staff have been working to implement our adaptive recovery plan," explained Cynthia MacLeod, Superintendent of Independence National Historical Park. "We have modified operations for tours and visitor services to keep numbers within City guidelines, installed markers to prompt social distancing, added clear protective shields at public contact stations, and prepared staff."

Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, Independence Visitor Center, Old City Hall, Second Bank Portrait Gallery, and Friends Quaker Meeting House re-opened to visitors.

Buildings are reopening at 20 percent capacity to meet city guidelines for museums, pre-pandemic numbers at Independence Hall were approximately 65 every 15 minutes.

"The numbers into the buildings have been reduced to allow for both staff and visitor safety so that way they won't have to socially distance while in the buildings," said Supervisory Park Ranger Nick Clemons.

All the buildings are outfitted with social distancing markers and signs to remind visitors to wear a mask. Local tour guides say the re-openings are good for business.

"We've been shut down for the majority of our season," said Tim McAleer, owner and founder of Founding Footsteps Tours. "It's obviously a very cyclical business so to lose all of spring and summer was very difficult."

Tim McAleer said people are coming out again and he hopes it stays that way.

"It's a lot easier to sell Philadelphia when you can get into the things that people want to see in Philadelphia," said McAleer.

At the Liberty Bell Center, approximately 400 at a time. The NPS encourages visitors to plan their visit by checking the park's website and social media for current conditions and travel tips.

"The [CDC has offered guidance](#) to help people recreating in parks and open spaces prevent the spread of infectious diseases. We ask the public to be our partner in [recreating responsibly](#), by following CDC and state and local guidance, social distancing, and wearing a face covering when social distance cannot be maintained. Park buildings originally closed March 16, 2020 due to the pandemic. Outdoor areas remained open.

Visitation at the park is normally busiest April-October. Additional background information on [park visitation statistics](#) is available on [NPS.gov](#) and on our park website: <https://www.nps.gov/inde/learn/management/statistics.htm>"



## Businesses hope tourists will make quick return as Independence Hall, Liberty Bell reopens



**JOHN MCDEVITT**

SEPTEMBER 09, 2020 - 4:00 AM



**CATEGORIES:** [Local News](#)

*PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio)* — The Liberty Bell and Independence Hall are reopening Wednesday after being closed for several months due to COVID-19. Businesses in the historic district that depend on tourists are hoping visitors will open their wallets when they return.

Over the past several months, those who wanted to see the Liberty Bell in person had to do so by looking through the side window of the building.

Attractions in the historic district like the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, and the visitor's center — which has bathrooms — are beginning to reopen.

Jay Lodaya owns a souvenir shop on Third Street near Arch Street and says many stores in Old City are barely making it financially because of a lack of tourists.

Many, in fact, are closing.

“Three stores last week just closed,” Lodaya explained.



[Click to hear KYW Newsradio Audio On-Demand](#)

In addition to T-shirts, mugs and keychains, he had to start selling COVID-19 safety items to make a couple of bucks.

“My business is souvenirs, but I’m selling the masks and hand sanitizer,” said Lodaya.

He even sells bleach now.

“I’m trying, I need every penny to help, you know.”

He says he will hopefully stay open for another year and assess things then.

Businesses in the area were hit with a double whammy in the start of 2020: A [water main break](#) caused street closures for weeks. Once repairs were made, the pandemic struck.

Many attractions in the area, like the Betsy Ross House, are also working on getting visitors to return to the historic district this fall by adding evening programming.



## PHILLY LIVE

Showcasing the food, fashion, wellness, technology and travel destinations that make the Philadelphia region great.



[>>> Click here to watch video <<](#)

BILLIE JEAN KING · SEPTEMBER 25, 2020 6:40 PM

### Honoring Sports Icon Billie Jean King's Work for Women's Equality

Tennis and women's equality icon Billie Jean King talks to Philly's Live's Aunyea Lachelle about their time together playing a little tennis and what the Independence Historical Trust's Impendence Soiree Year of the Women Award means to her.







## “Wear Orange” to Show Kindness and Inclusivity for Unity Day in Philadelphia

Wednesday, October 21, 2020 5:37PM



PHILADELPHIA (WPVI) -- In Center City today, plenty of people were wearing orange T-shirts to mark Unity Day in Philadelphia. It is an annual event to promote kindness, acceptance, and inclusion.

While many events were cancelled due to the pandemic, there were some local businesses still showing their support, like here at Independence Visitor Center on Market Street.



OCTOBER 23, 2020

## Terrace On Tap is new pop-up with view of Independence Hall

The outdoor hangout with beer and food is only open for a limited time



BY **SINEAD CUMMINGS**  
*PhillyVoice Staff*



**FOOD & DRINK** Beer Gardens

from **Independence** 



The outdoor dining experience at Independence Mall features beers by Wissahickon Brewing Co. and food from Brûlée Catering.

**UPDATE Nov. 3:** Terrace on Tap will stay open through Saturday, Nov. 21.

---

There's a new space to hang out with friends outdoors in Philadelphia, and it boasts a pretty impressive view.

Terrace On Tap, operated by tourism website Visit Philadelphia, is now open on the second floor of the Independence Visitor Center in Old City. The terrace offers a look out over Independence Mall.

While sipping on beers, guests can take in a picture-perfect view of Independence Hall. Brews from Wissahickon Brewing Co. are for sale at Terrace on Tap, along with food and cocktails by Brûlée Catering.

[Reservations are recommended](#), but walk-ups also are welcome. Reservations are limited to a maximum of six guests per table.

The pop-up will be open only through Friday, Oct. 30, so don't wait to visit if you're interested in checking it out. It's open from 4 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and from noon to 9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

The Independence Visitor Center's address is 599 Market St., Philadelphia, PA 19106.



NOVEMBER 22, 2020

## Independence Hall, Liberty Bell Center to close for remainder of 2020 due to Philly's latest COVID-19 restrictions

Museums across the city have been ordered to shut down until January as coronavirus infections spike



BY PAT RALPH  
PhillyVoice Staff



**MUSEUMS** Coronavirus



THOM CARROLL/FOR PHILLYVOICE

Digital content and virtual access to Independence Hall will continue to be provided online for visitors to enjoy while in-person activities and events are on hold, the IVCC said.

In the wake of new COVID-19 restrictions implemented by Philadelphia on Friday, Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell Center will temporarily shut down for the remainder of 2020.

All Independence National Historical Park indoor sites, including the Independence Visitor Center, will be closed until at least Jan. 1, 2021, the Independence Visitor Center Corp. announced.

Outdoor spaces, such as Independence Mall, will continue to remain open. But visitors are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings and practice social distancing.

The organization said that it will continue offering visitor information services and respond to visitor inquiries through its toll-free phone service that's available seven days per week.

Digital content and virtual access to Philly's attractions, museums, and historic sites will continue to be provided online for visitors to enjoy while in-person activities and events are on hold, the IVCC said.

While amenities located inside the visitor center have been paused, online services — such as gift shopping — are available to the public.

As part of the city's latest coronavirus restrictions, all [museums have been ordered to shut down](#) for the remainder of the year.

Earlier this week, a [group of five Philly museums](#) announced that they would close their doors until the new year.

Those museums are the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, the Barnes Foundation, Eastern State Penitentiary, the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Like the Independence Visitor Center Corp., the five museums said that they hope to reopen their doors in early 2021.

But before each institution does reopen, it will work alongside elected officials and health authorities when developing plans.

The National Constitution Center also announced earlier this week that it has temporarily closed its doors to the public in accordance with the city's latest COVID-19 guidelines.

The institution will continue to feature free virtual programs and resources, including live classes, online town halls, and an interactive media library.



# Liberty Bell, Independence Hall closed through December

Posted November 22



FOX 29's Chris O'Connell has more on the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall closing through December.

[>> Click here to watch the video <<](#)



COVID-19

## Official visitor center of Philadelphia announces temporary closure amid coronavirus pandemic

 By 6abc Digital Staff

Monday, November 23, 2020



PHILADELPHIA (WPVI) -- In accordance with [new "Safer at Home" restrictions issued by the City of Philadelphia](#), all Independence National Historical Park indoor sites, including Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell Center, and the Independence Visitor Center are temporarily closed through January 1, 2021.

During the closure, the Independence Visitor Center Corporation (IVCC) will continue to offer visitor information services and respond to visitor inquiries through its toll-free phone service, available seven days per week, from 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. at (800) 537-7676.

The IVCC will also continue to provide [digital content and virtual access to Philadelphia's attractions, museums, and historic sites](#) for visitors to enjoy while planning for an in-person visit in the future. [PHLvisitorcenter.com/VisitFromHome](https://www.phlvisitorcenter.com/VisitFromHome)

Amenities located inside the Independence Visitor Center are also closed but offer online services.

The IVCC said it looks forward to safely reopening in the new year.

# WEDDING

## 12 Delicious Philadelphia-Area Caterers for Your Micro-Wedding

Just because your wedding is smaller doesn't mean you need to skimp on the food.

by **MATT PHILLIPS** and **KALIYAH DORSEY**



Philadelphia caterers offering packages for micro-weddings include Peachtree Catering & Events (box), Feast Your Eyes Catering (sushi boats) and Brûlée Catering (small plates). Photo by Trevor Dixon

Philly has a stellar lineup of wedding and event caterers who will dish out cuisine with good taste — no matter what your Big Day looks like. That's why some local businesses have pivoted to offer micro-wedding options due to the [pandemic](#), which has caused many couples to change their plans this year — think significantly smaller guest lists, outdoor fetes, and plenty of backyard or at-home soirees. As newly engaged duos plan for near- or far-future celebrations, they're either keeping the current guidelines top of mind or have embraced a new approach, trading big bashes for smaller, more intimate occasions — depending on what matters most to them. While Philly's [latest COVID-19 guidelines](#), put into place November 20th, have impacted gatherings through at least January 1st, that doesn't mean you can't begin your research and planning (and tasting!) now. The list of micro-wedding caterers below will prime your palate for your own Big Day. It's by no means comprehensive; if you have a vendor you think we should know about, please email [kschott@phillymag.com](mailto:kschott@phillymag.com). Dig in!

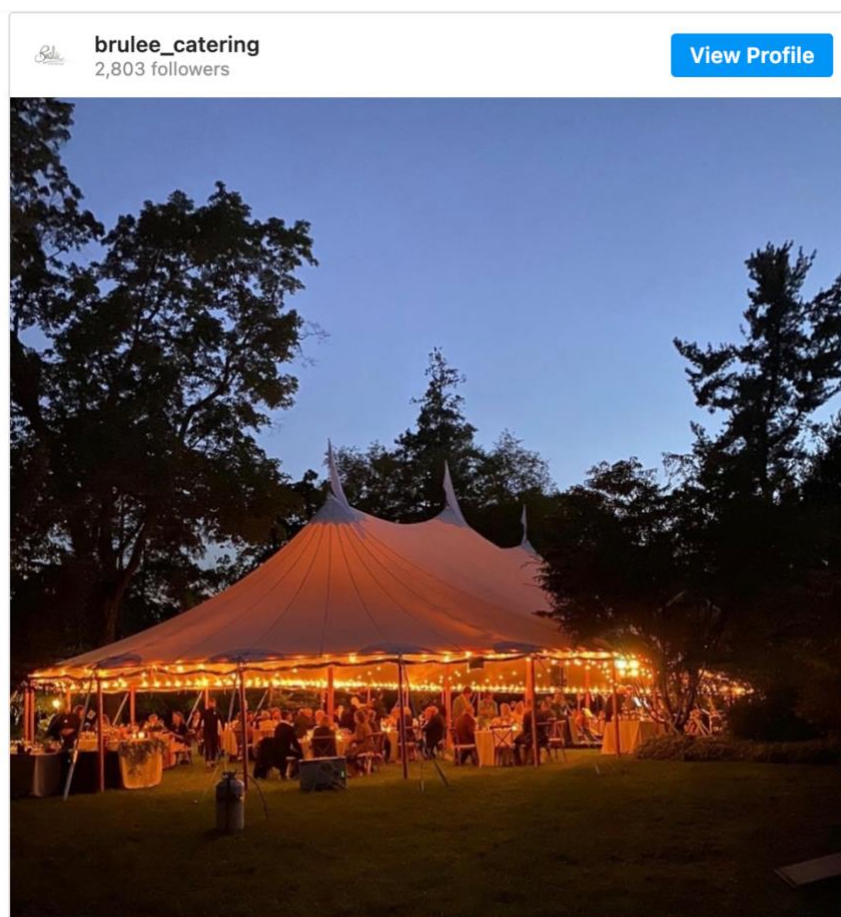


[Editor's note: The capacities listed below are subject to change based on updated COVID-19 requirements per federal, state and county guidelines. Please speak directly with each caterer for its latest accommodations.]

...

## Brûlée Catering

*Pennsport*



With an emphasis on innovative menus and quality food, beverage and service standards, Brûlée works closely with each duo to create a one-of-a-kind culinary experience to fit their vision. The catering biz offers a curated micro-wedding package for 30 to 50 guests, with the option to host at one of its venues (like the [Liberty View](#), [Moulin](#), or the [Museum of the American Revolution](#)) or have the team come to you. Packages include a three-hour beer and wine bar with a champagne toast, standard rentals, a private ceremony, a cocktail-style dinner setting, a wedding cake and service staff. Couples can select from four appetizers, one small-plate salad (think panzanella with kale and brussels sprouts), and two small-plate entrées — choose stout-braised short-rib empanadas, ancho-chili duck breast, wild mushroom risotto ... And according to Brûlée's principles, each bite should taste as great as it looks. Prices are upon request. 1406 South Front Street.