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Philadelphia Visitor Center Unwraps a Season of Holiday Magic Across the Historic District and Beyond

Festive markets, exclusive local gifts, and beloved traditions will transform Philadelphia into a winter wonderland for the 2025 holiday season

Nov XX, 2025 (PHILADELPHIA)—The [Philadelphia Visitor Center](#) (“the Visitor Center”) invites residents and visitors alike to experience the holiday season in the heart of Philadelphia. From seasonal shopping experiences, family-friendly entertainment, and exclusive holiday merchandise, there is something for everyone to enjoy the most wonderful time of the year in Philadelphia.

SEASONAL: Wanamaker Light Show Visitor Center Pop-Up

This year, the Philadelphia Visitor Center will welcome visitors to the Wanamaker Light Show and Dickens Village, presented by PECO. The pop-up visitor center at the Wanamaker Building will offer maps, information, and exclusive gifts and merchandise, including:

- Limited-edition Light Show and Dickens Village gifts and memorabilia – all proceeds fund the preservation and operation of this historic holiday attraction!
- Limited-edition Philly streetwear in collaboration with local creative brands Amberella, Yowie, and South Fellini ([Images Available Here](#))
- Limited edition Philly 2026 soccer jerseys by WeDefy
- Tickets, maps, and visitor information to enhance your Philadelphia holiday experience

**More information on the Wanamaker Light Show and Dickens Village, presented by PECO, is [available HERE](#).*

HOLIDAY GIFTING IDEAS & OPPORTUNITIES

Philadelphia Experiences Scented Candle Collection

The Visitor Center's Philadelphia Experiences Collection is a line of scented candles that celebrate Philadelphia's unique neighborhoods and traditions. Produced in partnership with Color & Flame, a minority-owned, woman-led business, this collection brings the sights, sounds, and aromas of the city into homes just in time for the holiday season. Each 7-ounce candle burns for approximately 30-40 hours and can be purchased individually for \$32, with bundle options available. Purchase at any Visitor Center location or [online at Color & Flame's website](#).

Give the Gift of an Unforgettable Philadelphia Experience

This holiday, give your loved ones experiential gifts with a Philly twist! The Visitor Center is offering fun holiday gift packages for the Philly fans in your life. Score big savings on the hottest events of 2026:

- 2026 Mummers Parade Performances
- 2026 Philadelphia Auto Show
- 2026 Philadelphia Flower Show
- Franklin Institute - Universal Experience Exhibit
- Philadelphia Art Museum – A Nation of Artists / Rising Up Exhibits
- Annual memberships to your favorite Philadelphia attractions, including the Philadelphia Zoo, Please Touch Museum, Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia Art Museum, and more.

The Shops at Wanamaker Light Show

Daily Black Friday (Nov. 28) through Christmas Eve (Dec. 24); Closed Dec. 1-2; Dec. 8-9

12 p.m. - 8 p.m. daily

100 E. Penn Square, Philadelphia, PA 19107

In partnership with Philadelphia's beloved Christmas Village, this new indoor holiday market will debut inside the Wanamaker Building Grand Court from Black Friday, November 28, through Christmas Eve, December 24, 2025. The curated market complements The Wanamaker Light Show and Dickens Village, featuring artisan gifts, handmade goods, and festive finds in a warm, holiday setting.

Art Star Procrastinator's Market at Independence Visitor Center

Saturday, Dec. 20 - Sunday, Dec. 21

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

599 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

[Additional Details](#)

Get your last-minute shopping done at this unique holiday market hosted by Art Star, which represents working studio artists and crafters from the Philadelphia area and beyond. Cross everything off your holiday shopping list with 20 curated craft vendors and get free gift wrapping on all purchases!

SEASONAL EVENTS IN THE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Arch Street Meeting House Annual Winter Celebration by Candlelight

Friday, December 5th

4:30 pm to 7:00 pm.

320 Arch Street, Philadelphia PA 19106

Celebrate the season with festive live music, hands-on craft activities suitable for all ages, and exciting raffle prizes from local Old City businesses and institutions. Lit by real candlelight, experience music in ASMH's historic West Room (1811), then *Meet Quaker History* throughout the museum's exhibits.

[Additional Details](#)

Holiday Shopping Sip & Stroll

Saturday, Dec. 6

12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. | Throughout Old City District

[Additional Details](#)

Old City's signature open-street holiday celebration returns, transforming Third Street from Market to Arch into a pedestrian-only shopping corridor lined with seasonal drinks, artisan vendors, and outdoor entertainment. Event Highlights include:

- Colonial chocolate-making demonstrations at the Betsy Ross House
- Pet portrait sessions with Pawtrait Pop Up at Opportunity Barks
- Holiday pop-up flower cart at The Papery
- Festive cocktails at Khyber Pass Pub and Fringe Bar
- Photos with Santa at The Gas Lamp Hotel
- Exclusive shopping promotions at boutiques including Bella Bridesmaids, SuitShop, and Philadelphia Independents

Participating Businesses: View the full list [here](#).

Deck the Alley at Elfreth's Alley

Saturday, Dec. 6

2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

126 Elfreth's Alley, Philadelphia, PA 19106

[Additional Details](#)

Deck the Alley, the iconic holiday fundraiser, returns to Philadelphia's most historic street, Elfreth's Alley. The Elfreth's Alley Association invites the public to get a glimpse of contemporary life inside 18th and 19th-century houses, tour the Elfreth's Alley Museum, and immerse themselves in seasonal decor and song. Buy your tickets today to support the preservation of this special place and the sharing of its history with visitors near and far!

Christ Church Holiday Farmer's Market

Saturday, Dec. 6

1:00 p.m. - 4:00pm

Christ Church

20 N. American St. Philadelphia, PA 19106

Shop with seasonal vendors at annual farmer's market located at one of Philadelphia's most historic landmarks.

National Constitution Center

[Thanksgiving Weekend Programs](#)

Friday, November 28 - Sunday, November 30

Over Thanksgiving weekend, the National Constitution Center invites visitors to celebrate with a variety of special programs and activities. Visitors can explore the history of this national holiday as they learn about the Wampanoag people who lived in what is now New England, as well as the historic meal they shared with European settlers in 1621 and the events leading up to the harvest feast that year.

Additional sensory-friendly programming includes corn husk dolls, a quiet room, and a special beading workshop on Sunday,

National Constitution Center

[Bill of Rights Trivia Night](#)

Saturday, December 27

4:15 pm - 6:30 p.m.

Celebrate the season and the Bill of Rights at the National Constitution Center on Saturday, December 27, with free admission and free food from 4:15–6:30 p.m. Join us for an evening of historically-themed Quizzo, with prizes for the top three teams. Entry to the trivia contest is free and open to all ages. You can also enjoy the museum's galleries, including *Signers' Hall*, *The 19th Amendment*, and *Civil War and Reconstruction*. Beginning at 5 p.m., a cash bar will be available for guests over 21.

Holidays in Franklin Square featuring the Electrical Spectacle Light Show presented by PECO

Nightly, Nov. 20, 2025 – Jan. 4, 2026

Shows every 30 minutes, 5:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

Franklin Square, 6th & Race Streets

A free, choreographed light show featuring hundreds of thousands of lights dancing to seasonal music — including holiday classics and Philly POPS tracks — inspired by Benjamin Franklin's electric discovery with a giant kite and key centerpiece.

Special events from Santa visits to gift making programs are offered throughout the season at Franklin Square. in *event details available [here](#).*

Betsy Ross Holiday Events

Betsy Ross House, 239 Arch Street, Philadelphia PA 19106

The Betsy Ross House is open Wednesday through Monday in December (10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Christmas Eve; closed Christmas Day, open daily December 26–31). Meet Betsy herself as she works in her upholstery shop each day the House is open. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors, children, students, and active military. Add an audio guide for just \$2 more.

[Tree Lighting Celebration](#)

Wednesday, December 3

6:00 p.m.

The season kicks off with the 9th annual Old City Holiday Tree Lighting, a beloved neighborhood tradition presented in partnership with Old City District. Beginning at 6 p.m., the Upper Darby High School Encore Singers will fill the courtyard with holiday classics, followed by enchanting selections from The Philadelphia Dance Academy's Nutcracker. At 6:30 p.m., Santa himself will make a grand entrance by fire truck to help light the dazzling tree, designed and decorated by Petit Jardin en Ville. The courtyard glows all season long making the perfect backdrop for a festive photo.

[Historic Holiday Open House](#)

Saturday, December 6

6:00 p.m.

Old City will be bursting with holiday cheer as Elfreth's Alley hosts [Deck the Alley](#) and [Old City District](#) welcomes shoppers for the Holiday Shopping Sip & Stroll. The Betsy Ross House joins the festivities with a special after-hours event, keeping its doors open until 6 p.m. Guests can enjoy candlelit, winter-themed tours of the House, a holiday craft, colonial chocolate-making demonstrations, and festive photo ops in the beautifully decorated courtyard.

[Menorah Lighting Celebration](#)

Sunday, December 14

4:00 p.m.

The Betsy Ross House is proud to partner once again with the Old City Jewish Arts Center to celebrate Hanukkah with a joyful menorah lighting at 4:30 p.m. The evening will feature music, homemade holiday treats like jelly donuts and latkes, and menorahs and chocolate gelt for children (while supplies last).

[Betsy's Birthday Bash](#)

Wednesday, December 31

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Ring in the New Year with a slice of history, and cake! From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., celebrate Betsy Ross's January 1, 1752, birthday with 18th century chocolate making demonstrations, stories, and fun for the whole family. Festivities are free with admission.

**Additional Betsy Ross House event details available [here](#).*

For more information about the Visitor Center's holiday events and happenings, please visit <https://www.phlvisitorcenter.com/>.

About the Philadelphia Visitor Center:

The Philadelphia Visitor Center Corporation (PVC) connects visitors to memorable, authentic, and fun Philly experiences at our four visitor center locations: 6th and Market, City Hall, Love Park, and the Parkway. It facilitates the operation of the Independence Visitor Center, the primary point of orientation for Independence National Historical Park and the official visitor center of the Philadelphia region, including Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties. PVCC also operates the Philly PHLASH seasonal public transit service, and The Liberty View, a private event space at The Independence Visitor Center overlooking the Liberty Bell and Independence Mall. For more information, please visit www.phlvisitorcenter.com.

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