

SATURDAY EXCURSION

THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER



The National Constitution Center is the first and only museum dedicated to the U.S. Constitution. Through interactive exhibits, rare artifacts, and live theater, we bring the Constitution to life.

Freedom Rising

Experience the performance that Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor called "the best 17-minute civics lesson in the country."

Freedom Rising is a stirring journey from the founding of our nation to the present. This vibrant, theatrical production features 360-degree multimedia and a live narrator who tells the story of the U.S. Constitution—from its creation during the 1787 Constitutional Convention to the amendments and court decisions that continue to make the Constitution "the most powerful vision of human freedom ever expressed."

Signers' Hall

Walk alongside 42 life-size, bronze statues of the framers of the Constitution and relive the moment that launched a government ruled by "We the People".

Signers' Hall brings to life the final day of the Constitutional Convention in the Assembly Room of the Pennsylvania State House, now known as Independence Hall. There are numerous famous faces in the room, including George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, James Madison, and Alexander Hamilton. Pose beside your favorite framer for a great photo op!

The 19th Amendment: How Women Won the Vote

Learn about the triumphs and struggles that led to the ratification of the 19th Amendment. Highlighting some of the many women who transformed constitutional history—including Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Alice Paul, and Ida B. Wells—the exhibit allows visitors to better understand the long fight for women's suffrage.

The 3,000-square-foot exhibit includes nearly 100 artifacts and takes visitors through the decades of organizing and agitation that led to the 19th Amendment. Key pieces include a rare printing of the Declaration of Sentiments from the first formal women's rights convention at Seneca Falls, a ballot box used to collect women's votes in the late 1800s, Pennsylvania's ratification copy of the 19th Amendment, as well as various "Votes for Women" ephemera.

Civil War and Reconstruction: The Battle for Freedom and Equality

Explore how constitutional clashes over slavery set the stage for the Civil War and how its outcome transformed the Constitution to more fully embrace the Declaration of Independence's promise of liberty and equality.

This exhibit sheds light on the American experience under slavery, the battle for freedom during the Civil War, and the fight for equality during Reconstruction, which many call the nation's "Second Founding."

Through remarkable artifacts and rare documents, the 3,000-square-foot exhibit brings to life the stories of Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, Harriet Tubman, as well as lesser-known individuals central to the conflict over slavery. Explore what life was like for those who fought for freedom both on the battlefield and by the pen and learn about the addition of three constitutional amendments that ended slavery, required states to respect individual rights, promised equal protection to all people, and expanded the right to vote to Black men.

American Treasures: Documenting the Nation's Founding

This exhibit displays early drafts of the Constitution, highlighting the key proposals and significant compromises that influenced the document's final text.

Meet the crucial figures who played a role in shaping the Constitution—from the well-known James Madison to lesser-known founders like James Wilson, America's most important champion of a government run by "We the People," and Gouverneur Morris, often credited as the primary writer of the Constitution's final text.

American Treasures also explores the battle to secure a Bill of Rights—from proposals introduced in the House of Representatives to the familiar amendments that we know today.

READING TERMINAL MARKET



Oh, Philly, how they love the food scene in this city. Rich in history and flavor, the Reading Terminal Market is a hub for everything delicious.

Since 1893, Reading Terminal Market has been one of America's largest and most celebrated markets. Originally, it was built when local vendors refused to move locations when the Philadelphian and Reading Railroad Company purchased the block for a new train terminal in 1890. What resulted was an agreement that a new market would be built under the train terminal for the vendors of the area – Reading Terminal Market was born.

A modern-day farmers market, it's as lively today as it was 130 years ago with over a hundred stalls spread out over 78,000 square feet. Like much of Philadelphia, it has preserved its history and architecture wonderfully. The sheer variety between the different vendors is incredible, and you can find almost anything walking through the grid of stalls and restaurants.

The Reading Terminal Market prides itself on cultural diversity and authentic interaction. You'll love talking with vendors, listening to local slang, and watching a living, self-sustaining market in action. The restaurants located throughout are phenomenal with flavors from all over the world.

With over 100,000 weekly visitors, the Reading Terminal Market is one of the most popular and authentic American markets that you can explore to this day. There are even two vendors that are descendants of vendors who were there when the market originally opened! Not limited to just food, you can find books, clothing, and other hard-to-find specialties within its walls.

Oh, and Reading Terminal Market is pronounced "red-ing" like the color – not "reading" like a book. So now you know!