



## For Immediate Release

### Celebrate America's Birthday This July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday with The Constitutional Walking Tour of Philadelphia and Sunoco Welcome America!

#### *The Constitutional - A Free & Fun-filled Activity for the Entire Family During Sunoco Welcome America! from June 27, 2004 to July 4, 2004*

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA – June 18, 2004 - Celebrate America's Birthday by walking in the Founding Fathers' footsteps with The Constitutional Walking Tour of Philadelphia, a free and fun-filled activity for the entire family. During Sunoco Welcome America!, the 8-day extravaganza from June 27, 2004 to July 4, 2004, visitors should be sure to experience the revolutionary new way to see historic Philadelphia - The Constitutional Walking Tour of Philadelphia. The Constitutional takes you on a free self-guided walking journey through America's most historic square mile - the birthplace of our nation. Step back in time to see where The Declaration of Independence and The United States Constitution were created. The 3-mile outdoor journey features more than 30 historical sites in the Independence Mall area, including the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall and the National Constitution Center.

*The New York Times* has called The Constitutional "A new walking tour of Philadelphia helps visitors find their way to sites relating to the city's history and its key role in the creation of the United States."<sup>1</sup>

Since Philadelphia is best seen by foot, The Constitutional Walking Tour of Philadelphia guides you through the Independence National Historical Park area by connecting the buildings and places where the events of the American Revolution transpired. The Constitutional tells the dramatic story of the brave men and women who were responsible for creating America. The rest is simply history...

The Constitutional's brochures are available at more than 100 locations including the Independence Visitor Center, National Constitution Center, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Betsy Ross House, area hotels and other historic sites/attractions in the Independence Mall area. You can also download the brochures online at [www.TheConstitutional.com](http://www.TheConstitutional.com).

#### **The Constitutional is Very Family Oriented**

- With 33 historic sites along The Constitutional and 18 sites that are just "Steps off The Tour," you're sure to find something to appeal to everyone in the family including:
  - **Site 1, National Constitution Center** - Walk through Signers' Hall with its life-size statues including Benjamin Franklin and George Washington. Take the Presidential Oath-of-Office and vote for your favorite President of all-time.
  - **Site 3, The Liberty Bell Center** – Experience the exciting exhibits on the history of this world-famous icon of freedom.
  - **Site 20, Franklin Court** – The museum is filled with Ben Franklin's inventions and objects, and shows *The Real Ben Franklin* movie.

**The Constitutional Foundation, Inc.**

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- **Site 21, B. Free Franklin Post Office & Museum** - See the only Colonial-themed post office operated by the United States Postal Service.
- **Site 24, Betsy Ross House** – Learn about Betsy Ross, the matriarch of the American Revolution who, as legend has it, created the “Stars and Stripes.”
- **Site 32, Declaration House** - Watch the movie, *Portrait of a Patriot*, which tells the story of Jefferson and the writing of The Declaration of Independence.
- You can walk as much or as little of the tour as you like.
- If the “little ones” get hungry, numerous dining options are available at many locations along The Constitutional including:
  - The Delegates’ Restaurant at the National Constitution Center,
  - The food court at The Bourse which serves a wide variety including world famous Philadelphia cheesesteaks,
  - City Tavern serves cuisine inspired by the customs and foods 18th Century.
- Public restrooms are available at many places including The Bourse Building, Franklin Court, the Independence Visitor Center and the National Constitution Center.
- Whether your interest is in the United States Presidents, African American heritage, the Liberty Bell, The Declaration of Independence, or whether you are interested in attractions that appeal to children such as the Betsy Ross House and Franklin Court, you can customize the walking tour to meet your family’s needs.

### **Additional Information**

For additional information, please visit The Constitutional’s online press center where you can download The Constitutional’s Fact Sheet, <http://www.theconstitutional.com/ConstitutionalFactSheet.pdf>

### **About Sunoco Welcome America!**

Sunoco Welcome America! is an 8-day extravaganza featuring free fireworks, concerts, parades, film screenings, historic re-enactments, family fun, and lots of red, white, and blue! The nation’s premier July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration, the 2004 celebration of “America’s birthday in America’s birthplace”, takes place Sunday, June 27 – Sunday, July 4.

### **About The Constitutional Walking Tour of Philadelphia**

The Constitutional Walking Tour of Philadelphia is a 3-mile outdoor journey featuring more than 30 historical sites in the Independence Mall area, including the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall and the National Constitution Center. Depending on your interests and local “distractions” along the way, you can exercise your right to explore by walking The Constitutional in just a few hours. No reservations are required to walk The Constitutional, and it is open 24x7x365. However, individual site hours, fees and availability may vary, so check with each site in advance of your visit as to operating hours and ticket requirements.

The Constitutional is an independent, non-partisan and non-profit corporation which is dedicated to increasing the understanding of, appreciation for and promotion of Philadelphia’s historically significant sites, along a suggested marked sequence, in the Independence Mall area ecosystem. As such, The Constitutional aims to increase the:

- Number of overall visitors to the City of Philadelphia
- Number of historic sites visited per visitor in the Independence National Historical Park area; and
- Total length of time that each visitor spends in the Independence National Historical Park area.

For more information, please contact:

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<sup>1</sup> © 2003 The New York Times Company, <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/10/26/travel/26advbx.html>