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WALKING IN FRANKLIN'S FOOTSTEPS

Tour Created For Franklin's 300th Birthday Features Modern And Historic Sites In Old City

PHILADELPHIA, April 25, 2005 – Benjamin Franklin may have left big shoes to fill, but walking in his footsteps is easy in Philadelphia, thanks to a new self-guided tour developed for the Founding Father's 300th birthday in 2006. The one-hour walking tour, available online at www.gophila.com/itineraries, takes visitors to city landmarks that were significant in Franklin's time as well as to innovative new attractions that bring to life the forward thinker's insights.

LOCATION: Old City, Society Hill

TRANSPORTATION: Feet

TIME: Walking the tour route will take approximately one hour but can take longer if you actually visit each site.

SUMMARY: A one-hour walking tour of key Benjamin Franklin-related sites in Philadelphia's Historic District

HIGHLIGHTS: National Constitution Center, Christ Church Burial Ground, Franklin Court, Second Bank of the United States and Independence Hall

FEES: All attractions are free unless otherwise noted.

ITINERARY:

Begin at the **Independence Visitor Center**, where the film *Independence* traces Ben Franklin's role in the nation's earliest days. While you're there, gather brochures about Philadelphia's many other attractions, and pick up your free, timed tickets for **Independence Hall**.

When you leave the **Independence Visitor Center**, make a right onto 6th Street and head to the **Federal Reserve Bank**, located on 6th Street between Market and Arch Streets:

- **Federal Reserve Bank** – During his career as a printer, Franklin printed currency for several colonies, including Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The interactive *Money in Motion* exhibit explains everything you ever wanted to know about money—except how to make more of it. You can even “Match Wits with Ben” in a hands-on, question-and-answer game. 100 N. 6th Street, (866) 574-3727, www.phil.frb.org/money_in_motion

After you've toured *Money in Motion*, make your way to the **National Constitution Center**, which is directly across Arch Street between 5th and 6th Streets.

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- **National Constitution Center** – Franklin not only helped lead the colonies to independence, he helped shape the *Constitution*. Inside, interactive exhibits reveal what those “four little pages” really mean. Of course, you can also see *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World*, a traveling exhibition making its world debut in Philadelphia from December 15, 2005, through April 30, 2006. Admission fee. 525 Arch Street, (215) 409-6600, www.constitutioncenter.org

Directly across from the **National Constitution Center** (also on the west side of 5th Street) is the:

- **Free Quaker Meeting House** – Franklin was not a Quaker, but he believed everyone should have the right to worship as he or she pleased. So, he put his money where his mouth was and contributed to many houses of worship. The **Free Quaker Meeting House** is one of many religious organizations that benefited from Franklin’s support. Arch Street between 5th & 6th Streets

Across from the **Free Quaker Meeting House** is:

- **Christ Church Burial Ground** – Although “a penny saved is a penny earned,” it is a long-standing tradition to toss a penny on Ben Franklin’s grave for good luck. A new 20-minute guided tour, *Franklin’s Fabulous Friends, Family and Foes*, will run from October 2005 through December 2006. Admission fee. 5th & Arch Streets, (215) 922-1695, www.oldchristchurch.org

When you leave the Burial Ground, make a right and continue east on Arch Street to 3rd Street, where you’ll make a left for a sweet treat at:

- **Petit 4 Pastry Studios** – As Minister to France, Franklin spent many years in Paris, where he developed a taste for petit fours and other sweets. Satisfy your sweet tooth and grab some coffee at this little café, awarded a “Best of Philly” nod by *Philadelphia Magazine*. 160 N. 3rd Street, (215) 627-8440

Exit the shop, turn right and walk to the corner of 3rd and Race Streets. At Race Street, turn right and proceed to 2nd Street. Turn right on 2nd Street, and stop at the:

- **Fireman’s Hall Museum** – Add founder of the first fire department to the list of Franklin’s accomplishments. The **Fireman’s Hall Museum** is located on the site of Engine Company Number Eight, a descendent of the Union Fire Company, which Franklin established in 1736. Check out the 10 antique fire trucks, including the early hand- and horse-drawn models. Donation suggested. 147 N. 2nd Street, (215) 923-1438, www.mfrconsultants.com/pfd/museum.shtml

Exit **Fireman’s Hall** and make a left. Continue past **Elfreth’s Alley**, the nation’s oldest continuously inhabited street, to 2nd and American Streets, where you’ll see:

- **Christ Church** – Franklin and his family were members of **Christ Church**. Before entering, take note of the steeple, which was the tallest structure in North America for 75 years. The repair of the steeple was financed through a lottery organized by Ben. 20 N. American Street, (215) 922-1695, www.oldchristchurch.org

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When you leave **Christ Church**, make a right onto 2nd Street. Cross Market Street and make another right to get to:

- **Franklin Court** – If anything can capture the highlights of Franklin's career, it is the Franklin Court complex. Have your postcards hand-stamped at the **B. Free Franklin Post Office**, and then head upstairs to the **U.S. Postal Service Museum**, which explains Franklin's role as the nation's first Postmaster General. Next door at the **Print Shop**, Franklin's career as a printer is demonstrated using 18th-century printing techniques and machinery. As you walk through the archway leading to the *Ghost Structure*, designed by architect Robert Venturi to commemorate the place where Franklin's home stood, you'll be following in Franklin's daily footsteps. An underground museum displays many of his inventions, family portraits and highlights of his career as an international diplomat, writer, philosopher and Founding Father. 318 Market Street, (215) 965-2305

Leave **Franklin Court** via the Chestnut Street exit. Head west (right) on Chestnut to 4th Street. Cross 4th Street and enter the:

- **Second Bank of the United States** – Among the 185 portraits of the Founding Fathers are a painting and bust of Franklin. Recently restored, the Bank's exhibits focus on 18th-century stars of business, arts, agriculture, science and culture. 420 Chestnut Street, (215) 965-2305, www.nps.gov/inde

When you exit the Bank, make a right onto Chestnut Street. Head to 5th Street, where you'll see the:

- **American Philosophical Society** – Always a brainiac, Franklin created the **American Philosophical Society (APS)** to encourage the great minds of his time to explore and share useful knowledge. Founded in 1743 as America's first learned society, APS continues to play an important role in American cultural and intellectual life. The **Museum of the American Philosophical Society** features changing exhibits from its vast and diverse collections. 104 S. 5th Street, (215) 440-3400, www.amphilsoc.org

Return to the corner of 5th and Chestnut Streets for your final stop at:

- **Independence Hall** – Of all Franklin's accomplishments, his most important contributions took place here at **Independence Hall**, where he played a role in declaring the nation's independence and, more than a decade later in his final years, helped frame the *Constitution*. During the Constitutional Convention debates, Franklin frequently wondered whether the sun carved into the chair used by George Washington (still on display today) symbolized the rising or the setting of the new nation. When the *Constitution* was finalized, he decided it was a rising sun, symbolic of a united America. Chestnut Street between 5th & 6th Streets, (215) 965-2305, www.nps.gov/inde

After Your Tour...

Traveling through centuries can be tiring. When you've completed your walking tour, enjoy a hearty meal or a refreshing beverage at **City Tavern**, a reconstruction of the 18th-century tavern, where Franklin and other Founding Fathers dined, debated and discussed the hot topics of the day. 138 S. 2nd Street, (215) 413-1443, www.citytavern.com

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Ben Franklin 300 Philadelphia is a year-long celebration of Benjamin Franklin's 300th birthday in Philadelphia and Its Countryside. The celebration is led by the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, a non-profit consortium established to reaffirm Franklin's enduring legacy in his 300th birthday year with an array of special projects that form the official national celebration. The key component is *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World*, an interactive exhibition making its world premiere at the **National Constitution Center** in Philadelphia from December 15, 2005, through April 30, 2006. For more information about Tercentenary events, visit www.benfranklin300.org.

Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation is the official marketing agency for *Ben Franklin 300 Philadelphia*, working in conjunction with the Tercentenary to expand and promote the year-long Ben Franklin experience in the region. For more information about travel to Philadelphia, visit www.gophila.com/ben.

Note to Editors: For photos of Greater Philadelphia, visit the photo gallery of www.gophila.com/pressroom.



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