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Tweet It: The Fourth of July in @visitphilly means six days of free parties, bands, fireworks, museum access, outdoor movies and a grand finale concert with @IAMJHUD and @Meghan_Trainor:
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PHILADELPHIA THROWS AN EPIC FOURTH OF JULY PARTY IN 2019

*Six-Day Wawa Welcome America Festival Features
Free Fireworks, Concerts, Movies, Museum Access & More*

PHILADELPHIA, May 20, 2019 – Renowned for its preeminent Independence Day—full of free events that last nearly a whole week—Philadelphia, the birthplace of the United States, hosts **Wawa Welcome America**, June 29-July 4. Over the course of six days (and nights), resident and visitors are treated to three fireworks shows (plus two more for Phillies fans at Citizens Bank Park), a proud U.S. military showing and thoughtful community activations, in addition to museum access, patriotic street festivals and moving ceremonies. What's more, the festival's grand finale includes fireworks and an outdoor concert by Jennifer Hudson alongside the Philly POPS Big Band, and Meghan Trainor in front of the iconic Philadelphia Museum of Art.

The best way to enjoy America's best July Fourth festival is to spend the night in Philadelphia. And the best way to stay over in Philly is to book the **Visit Philly Overnight Hotel Package**, whose highest-value-ever summer edition comes with hotel parking, a Garces Group restaurant card, rides on Penn's Landing's Ferris wheel, Franklin Square's carousel and the PHLASH loop, and more. The package is bookable now at visitphilly.com/overnight.

Here are highlights of Philadelphia's epic Fourth of July celebration:

Saturday, June 29, 2019:

- **Free Museums & Attractions:**
 - **Christ Church** – 20 N. American Street, (215) 922-1695, christchurchphila.org
 - **Free Library Rare Books Department** – Parkway Central Free Library, 1901 Vine Street, (215) 686-5322, freelibrary.org
- **Philly Ice Cream Scoop** – More than a dozen top Philadelphia ice cream makers scoop their sweets at the Reading Terminal Market, and market merchants get in on the fun by offering treats. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 12th & Filbert Streets, (215) 922-2317, readingterminalmarket.org
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- **U.S. Army Band “Pershing’s Own” and Fireworks** – The United States Army’s premier musical ensemble presents a riverside concert of patriotic tunes, followed by patriotic pyrotechnics over the water. Concert, 8 p.m.; fireworks, 9:30 p.m. Great Plaza at Penn’s Landing, 101 S. Columbus Boulevard, delawareriverwaterfront.com
- **Phillies Postgame Fireworks** – Citizens Bank Park, 1 Citizens Bank Park Way, mlb.com/phillies

Sunday, June 30, 2019:

- **Free Museums & Attractions:**
 - **American Swedish Historical Museum** – 1900 Pattison Avenue, (215) 389-1776, americanswedish.org
 - **Circus Midway at FringeArts** – FringeArts Haas Biergarten, 140 N. Columbus Boulevard, (215) 413-1318, fringearts.com
 - **Fort Mifflin** – 1 Fort Mifflin Road, (215) 685-4167, fortmifflin.us
 - **One Liberty Observation Deck** – 1650 Market Street, 57th floor, (215) 561-3325, phillyfromthetop.com
 - **Rodin Museum** – 2151 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, (215) 763-8100, rodinmuseum.org
 - **The Rosenbach** – 2008-2010 Delancey Place, (215) 732-1600, rosenbach.org
- **Historic District Block Party** – The streets surrounding Independence Mall close to vehicular traffic and open to family fun for seven hours of patriotic summer fun. On tap: a kids zone, food trucks, beer garden, pop-up performances and plenty of history to take in. Noon-7 p.m. Between 5th & 6th Streets and Chestnut & Arch Streets, (267) 546-5424, welcomeamerica.com
- **Gospel on Independence** – Following the Block Party, the popular concert returns to Independence Hall, with praise dancers and faithful voices raised. 7 p.m. Chestnut Street between 5th & 6th Streets, (267) 546-5424, welcomeamerica.com
- **Phillies Postgame Fireworks** – Citizens Bank Park, 1 Citizens Bank Park Way, mlb.com/phillies

Monday, July 1, 2019:

- **Free Museums & Attractions:**
 - **Independence Seaport Museum** – 211 S. Columbus Boulevard, (215) 413-8655, phillyseaport.com
 - **Museum of the American Revolution** – 101 S. 3rd Street, (215) 253-6731, amrevmuseum.org
 - **Photo POP Philly: Sweet Paradise at The Bourse Philadelphia** – 111 S. Independence Mall East, photopopp Philly.com
- **United States Army Field Band and Fireworks** – The internationally acclaimed touring band of the U.S. Army debuts its newest show “Let Freedom Ring” in the birthplace of the country. The performance is followed by patriotic pyrotechnics over the water. Concert, 8 p.m.; fireworks, 9:30 p.m. Great Plaza at Penn’s Landing, 101 S. Columbus Boulevard, delawareriverwaterfront.com

Tuesday, July 2, 2019:

- **Free Museums & Attractions:**
 - **The African American Museum in Philadelphia** – 701 Arch Street, (215) 574-0380, aampmuseum.org

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- **National Constitution Center** – 525 Arch Street, (215) 409-6600, constitutioncenter.org
- **Wawa Hoagie Day** – Philly's convenience store with a supremely loyal following brings eight tons of hoagie to Independence Mall and the National Constitution Center lawn for a complimentary lunchtime treat. Noon. Between 5th & 6th Streets and Chestnut & Arch Streets, (267) 546-5424, welcomeamerica.com
- **Kimmel Center's Great American Party on the Plaza** – The U.S. Navy Band and Hamiltunes present an early evening singalong of hits from *Hamilton* and other Broadway hits. 5-7:30 p.m. Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, 300 S. Broad Street, kimmelcenter.org

Wednesday, July 3, 2019:

- **Free Museums & Attractions:**
 - **Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site** – 2027 Fairmount Avenue, (215) 236-3300, easternstate.org
 - **Fireman's Hall Museum** – 147 N. 2nd Street, (215) 923-1438, firemanshallmuseum.org
 - **The Galleries at Moore College of Art and Design** – 1916 Race Street, (215) 965-4027, moore.edu/the-galleries-at-moore
 - **National Liberty Museum** – 321 Chestnut Street, (215) 925-2800, libertymuseum.org
 - **Mütter Museum of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia** – 19 S. 22nd Street, (215) 560-8564, muttermuseum.org
 - **Penn Museum: University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology** – 3260 South Street, (215) 898-4000, penn.museum
 - **Philadelphia Museum of Art** – 2600 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, (215) 763-8100, philamuseum.org
 - **Photo POP Philly: Sweet Paradise at The Bourse Philadelphia** – 111 S. Independence Mall East, photopopphilly.com
- **Girls.Like.nicethings Pop-Up Art Exhibit** – Chill Moody hosts a women-powered evening pop-up of visual art with a chat and a jam session on the planted rooftop of the Cira Center. 5-9 p.m. Cira Green, 80 S. 30th Street, (267) 546-5424, welcomeamerica.com
- **POPS on Independence** – The largest standalone pops orchestra in the United States invites fans to BYOB (bring your own blanket) for a concert of patriotic tunes with Independence Hall as the backdrop. 7 p.m. Between 5th & 6th Streets and Market & Chestnut Streets, (267) 546-5424, welcomeamerica.com

Thursday, July 4, 2019:

- **Free Museums & Attractions:**
 - **Bartram's Garden House** – 5400 Lindbergh Avenue, (215) 729-5281, bartramsgarden.org
 - **National Museum of American Jewish History** – 101 S. Independence Mall East, (215) 923-3811, nmajh.org
- **Celebration of Freedom Ceremony** – Independence Hall hosts a patriotic presentation that includes a reading of the *Declaration of Independence*, followed by music, awards and remarks. 10 a.m. 6th & Chestnut Streets, (267) 546-5424, welcomeamerica.com
- **Salute to America Independence Day Parade** – A big-city event with a small-town feel features dozens of colorful floats, marching bands, military groups and more than 4,000 participants from across the nation in a cavalcade through the streets of the Historic District. 11 a.m. Starts at 5th & Chestnut Streets, (267) 546-5424, welcomeamerica.com

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- **Party on the Parkway** – The finale to the seven-day festival is a daylong outdoor celebration featuring city blocks of family fun. Noon. Benjamin Franklin Parkway, (267) 546-5424, welcomeamerica.com
- **Naturalization Ceremony** – New Americans take the Oath of Citizenship outside the Betsy Ross House. 1:30 p.m. 239 Arch Street, (215) 629-5801, betsyrosshouse.org
- **July 4th Concert and Fireworks** – Two-time GRAMMY® Award-winning recording artist, Academy Award-winning actress and best-selling author Jennifer Hudson, accompanied by The Philly POPS® BIG Band, and multi-platinum pop-country star Meghan Trainor take the stage outside the Philadelphia Museum of Art for an epic concert. Afterwards, fireworks blast from behind the art museum for all the Parkway to behold. Concert, 7 p.m.; fireworks, 9:30 p.m. 26th Street & the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, (267) 546-5424, welcomeamerica.com

About Welcome America, Inc.:

Welcome America, Inc. is a 501c3, non-profit organization engaged in a public-private partnership with the City of Philadelphia. Welcome America, Inc.'s goal is to promote American history, education and the City of Philadelphia as global tourist destination. Each year, Welcome America, Inc. produces Wawa Welcome America, a multi-day festival featuring art, culture, community engagement and entertainment—it is the nation's premier Independence Day celebration! Welcome America was founded in 1993 and celebrates its 27th festival in 2019. For more information, visit welcomeamerica.com.

About VISIT PHILADELPHIA®:

VISIT PHILADELPHIA® is our name and our mission. As the region's official tourism marketing agency, we build Greater Philadelphia's image, drive visitation and boost the economy.

On Greater Philadelphia's official visitor website and blog, visitphilly.com and uwishunu.com, visitors can explore things to do, upcoming events, themed itineraries and hotel packages. Compelling photography and videos, interactive maps and detailed visitor information make the sites effective trip-planning tools. Along with Visit Philly social media channels, the online platforms communicate directly with consumers. Travelers can also call and stop into the Independence Visitor Center for additional information and tickets.

Note to Editors: For high-resolution photos and high-definition B-roll of Greater Philadelphia, visit the Photos & Video section of visitphilly.com/mediacenter.