

Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway

In Pursuit of Freedom



7 Days/6 Nights

Gateway City: Washington, DC



It was the manifest courage of a woman that would change the lives of others and ultimately impact a country. Born into slavery on the Eastern shore of Maryland in 1822, Harriet Tubman fled her captors in 1849, traveling under cloak of night to freedom. Instead of remaining in safety, Tubman spent the next decade making treacherous journeys, risking life and limb, to bring her family and friends to freedom. Hiding by day and traveling by night through open fields, rivers, swamps, and woodlands, Tubman stealthily moved from Philadelphia into Maryland 13 times, guiding more than 70 people to freedom without ever being caught. She is now recognized as one of the most prolific and famous conductors of the Underground Railroad, the organized and illegal secret network of people, places, modes of transportation, and methods of disguise, developed largely by the Quakers to assist enslaved African Americans on their flight to freedom. At great risk to everyone's lives, African Americans were hidden in Quaker homes, barns and buildings, (called stations), handed off between various members of the network, and mile by mile, sent further north at each stop. This system is memorialized on the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway, the journey that celebrates Tubman's life and legacy as it traces the routes taken by thousands

on a quest to ultimately reach the Canadian border and the assurance of safety. Follow the path the freedom seekers used to escape, and reflect on the lives of ordinary people who did extraordinary things to help their pursuit of freedom. Discover the links to the historic communities along the way that still carry both painful and triumphant memories of the precarious mid-Atlantic passages to emancipation. Yet, this is not just the story of one woman. The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway is a record of African Americans' struggle for human rights and dignity over time. It was the start of today's Civil Rights movement, and the quest for equality, freedom, and justice for all.



Touring the Byway

We recommend starting your journey in Washington D.C. to tour some of the most important African American locations, including the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the African American Civil War Museum, and the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site. Spend your first evening in a restored historic hotel.

Leaving Washington, this itinerary includes the Harriet Tubman Byway in Maryland, the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway in Delaware, and

the now proposed Harriet Tubman Byway in Pennsylvania, which continues from the Delaware state line. Locations important to the story continue to and within Philadelphia.



On Day Two, as you drive into Maryland, your first stop will be Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center which commemorates Tubman, her legacy, and her connection to rural Maryland. The center is surrounded by the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, one of the marshes Tubman moved through by night. Continue to Cambridge, viewing exhibits at the Harriet Tubman Museum and Educational Center, and murals painted by her relative at the Harriet Tubman Memorial Garden, before relaxing on the porch of another historic inn.

You'll be heading north on Maryland-16 on Day Three, with stops at the Faith Community United Methodist Church, a congregation established in 1844 by a free Black woman; Linchester Mill, a hub of Underground Railroad activity, the James Webb Cabin, the 1852 log home of a free Black farmer; the Museum of Rural Life in Denton, which offers a glimpse of the agricultural economy in Maryland 200 years ago, and the Tuckahoe Neck Meeting House, one of five Quaker meeting houses in Caroline County whose members sustained a local Underground Railroad network.



As you cross the border into Delaware, take note of the small village of Sandtown, Tubman's first stop in the state after leaving Maryland. You'll be continuing to Camden, a city on the National Register of Historic Places, where several free Black communities found shelter and protection in the antebellum era. Visit the Camden Friends Meeting House and Star Hill African Methodist Episcopal Church and Museum, two locations that played an integral role in the Underground Railroad.

Your journey along the Delaware portion of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway continues on Day Four as you travel to Dover, the capital of Delaware and home to The Green, a public square that has been the state's political center for centuries. Visit the First State Heritage Park Welcome Center for exhibits on Delaware history and a peek into the Delaware Public Archives. You can also tour the John Bell House, Dover's oldest wooden building and visit the Old State House, interpreting the Samuel D. Burris Underground Railroad story of arrest, conviction, sale, and pardon, where the abolition of slavery was often debated and defeated, although Delaware did end up with a strange law that said a slave was only a slave if they could be proven to be one. Discover some of the landscapes that freedom seekers and their guides would have encountered on their journey through Delaware in the Blackbird State Forest, then visit Middletown, an Underground Railroad stronghold, and home to a vibrant downtown of 19th century historic buildings and shops. Pause at the historic markers and memorials

that commemorate abolitionists and Underground Railroad Agents like John Hunn, John Alston, and Samuel D. Burris at Middletown High School, the former site of the Hunn farm.

In Odessa, explore 18th-and 19th-century domestic life, economics, and politics at the Appoquinimink Friends Meeting House, the 1769 Wilson-Warner House, 1770 Collins-Sharp House, and 1772 Corbit-Sharp House, the home of Mary and Daniel Corbit who cleverly hid freedom seeker Sam from an entire sheriff's posse. Afterwards, enjoy an evening in a charming local bed and breakfast.

Drive deeper into the heart of Delaware on Day Five as you head first to Delaware City, the location of Fort Delaware and the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, a Network to Freedom site. Tubman traveled through the remaining lock that is preserved in Battery Park when she boarded a steamer to Baltimore. From there, it's on to New Castle and the New Castle Court House Museum, the site of several trials of Thomas Garrett and John Hunn, two prominent abolitionists and Underground Railroad stationmasters. Hunn pled guilty and was not tried, while Garrett was found guilty of violating the Fugitive Slave Act of 1793 by a proslavery judge. Next, visit Wilmington, the largest city in Delaware. Hear the stories of freedom seekers and conductors of the Underground Railroad who risked their



lives to help others to freedom at the Center for African American Heritage at the Delaware History Museum, visit the Old Town Hall where abolitionists' and pro-slavery meetings took place, and relax in the Tubman-Garrett Riverfront Park, which honors Harriet Tubman and Thomas Garrett, revered as a statesman in Delaware, who ultimately helped an estimated 2,700 freedom seekers escape over four decades. At night, step back in time at the historic Hotel DuPont.

Before leaving Wilmington on Day Six, stop at the village of Centreville's Canby Grove Park to read the story of the Cambridge 28, who were nearly captured at this spot on their way to freedom. In Chester County, Pennsylvania (where the largest concentration of Quakers in the United States lived) you'll be traveling the Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway which showcases some of the most beautiful and historically significant sites in the mid-Atlantic, which runs over the same route as the proposed Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway. Stops along this bucolic stretch of road include the Longwood Progressive Meetinghouse,



formed in 1855 by progressive Quakers, including the Garretts and Coxs, advocating for abolition and women's rights who had split off from a more conservative Quaker meeting, Hamorton Village, a collection of brick, frame, and stone residences constructed between 1780 and 1930, considered by some to be the example of freedom seeker sites in Chester County, Additional stops include the Quaker meeting houses of Old Kennett Meetinghouse, Providence Friends Meeting House, and Darby Friends Meeting House; the Upper Darby Underground Railroad Quaker Walking Tour, and Eden Memorial Cemetery, the oldest existing Black-owned cemetery in the United States.

On Day Seven, your journey ends in Philadelphia filled with more than 30 historic markers related to the Underground Railroad, abolitionists, slavery, and African Americans and five locations to visit featuring more of the story.

From there, we wish you a safe passage if you're continuing on another Scenic Byway, or a safe and pleasant journey home.

DAY ONE



Washington, D.C.

Washington, DC holds a unique place in the lives of all Americans. As the home of the President of the United States, the original copy of the Declaration of Independence, 111 million items about the nation's history in the Library of Congress, Betsy Ross' original flag in the Smithsonian, and the space capsule from man's first walk on the moon, no city is its equal. Yet, even within these special places, there are several Washingtons. Places that have witnessed events of great historical significance, are now interspersed within a thriving contemporary city. The vast well-preserved complex of government buildings, museums and historic sites is surrounded by a series of neighborhoods, each of which have their own special character. There is also a collection of important sites that reveal the African American experience, from the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial to the home of Frederick Douglass, the most famous abolitionist in the United States. The National Museum of African American History and Culture and the African American Civil War Museum tell the particular story of African Americans in America.

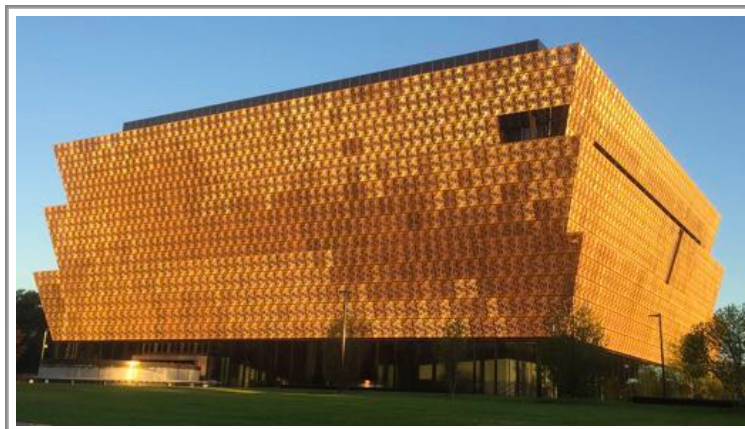
Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial

Located in downtown Washington, DC, the memorial honors Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy and the struggle for freedom, with the sentiment “out of a mountain of despair, a stone of hope.” Born in Atlanta in 1929, King grew up in an era of racial prejudice and Jim Crow laws, legalized segregation that made African Americans second class citizens and influenced his life's work. Dr. King sought to maintain an "abiding faith in America and an audacious faith in the future of mankind." His life ended tragically when he was assassinated in 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee after joining janitors on the picket line for better working conditions. 1964 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20003, 202-426-6841, Outdoor site accessible 24/7.

National Museum of African American History and Culture

The only national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, history, and culture, has collected more than 40,000 artifacts, used to enhance exhibits such as Make Good The Promises: the story of Reconstruction after the Civil War seen through the eyes of African Americans; Defending Freedom, Defining Freedom: relating the struggles of African Americans following the end of slavery where they faced segregation instead of the true freedom they desired; and, Cultural Expressions: focusing on foods, arts and other cultural aspects unique to African Americans.

1400 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20560, Daily 10AM-5:30PM, except Christmas Day. Last entry at 4PM. Timed entry pass, available online required for entry. Free



African American Civil War Museum

Few know that 209,145 US Colored Troops fought in the Civil War to end slavery and keep America united – a story that is told in full here, through a rich collection of artifacts, documents, primary sources, and technology. Access a special publication online entitled *Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom* by Carole Bates Weatherford, to begin to learn the story.

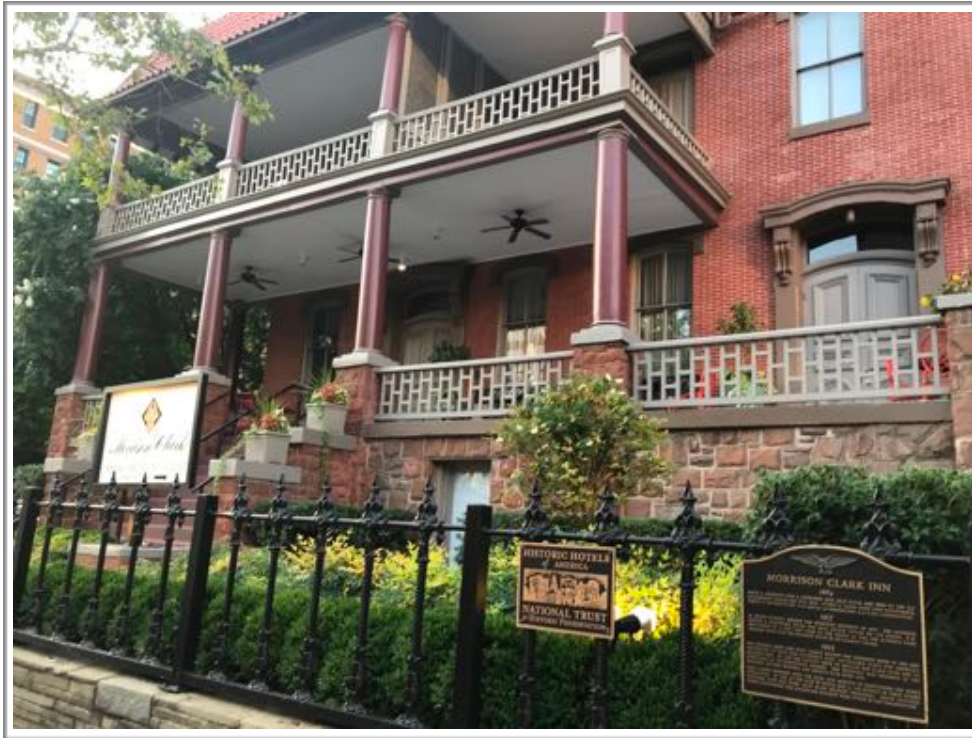
1925 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001, 202-667-2667, M-Sat 11AM-4PM

Frederick Douglass National Historic Site

Twenty years after being born into slavery, Frederick Douglass met a free, African American woman, Anna Murray, who helped him escape Maryland dressed as a sailor bound for New York City. After marrying Anna, they removed to Massachusetts, where his skill as an orator at abolitionist meetings was recognized, landing him a position as agent for the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society. Only seven years after gaining his freedom, he published “Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass” which revealed his escape from slavery, allaying any doubts that he had been a runaway slave. Douglass lived at Cedar Hill, in Southeast Washington, DC, perched on a 50-foot hill, from 1877 until 1895. While visiting, be sure to watch the introductory film, view the exhibits and tour the house on a guided tour (the only way to access the inside of the house), filled with original objects that belonged to the family.

1411 W Street, SE, Washington, DC 20020, 202-426-5961, Reserve a guided tour in advance for \$1. F-Sat 9AM-5PM, except major holidays.





Destination Distinctive Accommodations

Morrison-Clark Historic Inn, 1011 L Street NW, 20001, 202-898-1000

Built in 1864, The Morrison-Clark Historic Inn and Restaurant has been transformed into a contemporary hotel. Enjoy modern American cuisine in the stunning restaurant.

Destination Distinctive Dining

The Dabney, 122 Bladen Alley NW, Washington, DC 20001, 202-450-1015 Highlighting the freshest in seasonal ingredients from local farmers, watermen, and purveyors in gourmet cuisine.

Unconventional Diner, 1207 Ninth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001, 202-847-0122

Modern comfort food, brunch all day, and a unique supper menu.

Ooh's & Ahh's, 1005 U Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001, 202-667-7142 Soul food restaurant.

Destination Distinctive Retail

Washington Welcome Center, 1001 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009, 202-347,6609

Smithsonian Museum Store, 600 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20597, 202-633-4510, Commemorative African American collection from the African American Museum.

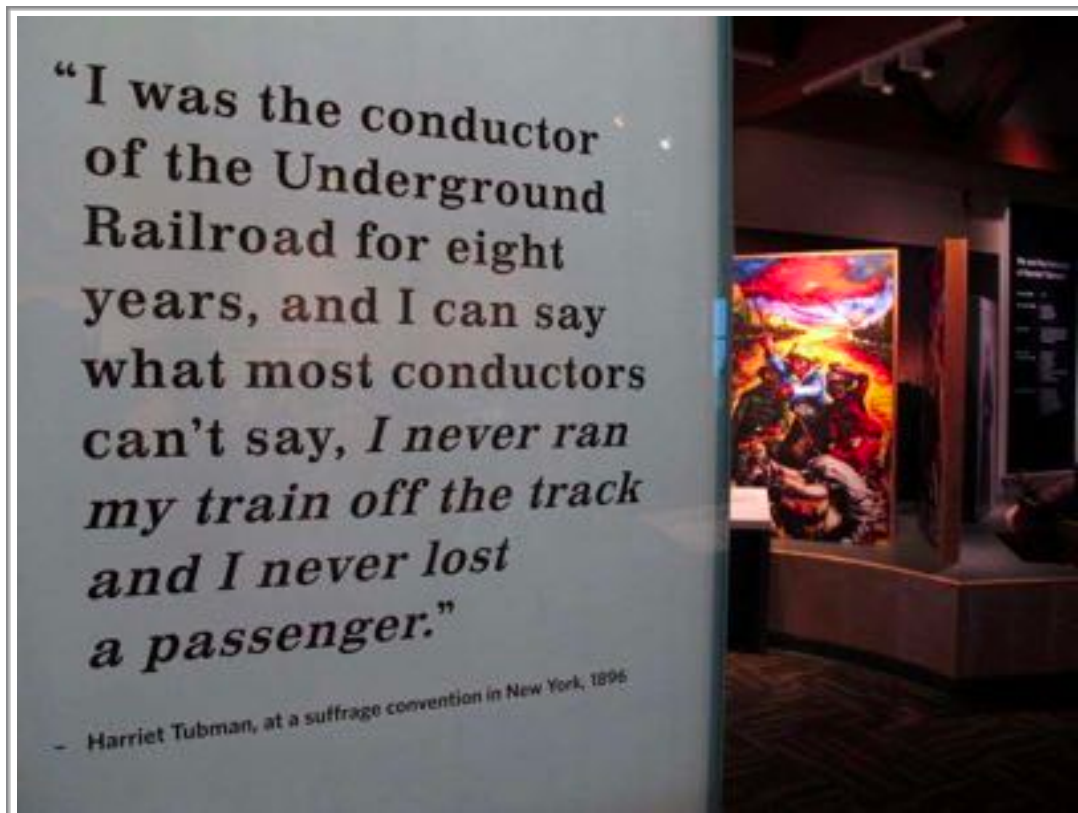
Chocolate Moose, 1743 L Street, NW, Washington DC 20036, 202-463-0992 Gifts and chocolate.

DAY TWO

Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center

Wherever slavery existed in the United States, there were efforts to escape. Many freedom seekers attempted their own journey, often at their own peril. In the wake of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, which allowed slave hunters to maraud in non-slave states, the Underground Railroad became very organized and deliberate, with people from all walks of life risking their own lives to aid freedom seekers. Exhibits at the Maryland State Park illustrate life under slavery in Dorchester County and Caroline County, where you can immerse yourself in the secret network and follow Tubman through a perilous journey. The landscape surrounding the Park look much the same as they did when Harriet was young. In 1896, Tubman said “ I was the conductor of the Underground Railroad for eight years, and I can say what most conductors can’t - I never ran my train off the track and I never lost a passenger.

Golden Hill Road. Church Creek, MD 21622, 410-221-2290, Tu-Sun 10AM-4PM



Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge and Visitor Center

The plantation on which Tubman grew up was very near the swampy, dark, Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, which encompasses one-third of Maryland's tidal wetlands. In fact, the property was so close that she may have worked the fields that are now portions of the refuge. In every rescue of her friends and family, the marshes and waterways here were the first route of escape.

2145 Key Wallace Drive, Cambridge, MD 21613

Cambridge

This very authentic Chesapeake town dates back to 1684, making it one of the oldest colonial towns and seaports in Maryland – in a state where many towns are very old. Doing research for his novel *Chesapeake*, author James Michener called High Street here, one of the most beautiful streets in America, with gracious homes built in the 1700s and 1800s. In fact, his fictional city of Patamoke was patterned after Cambridge. The rich maritime sailing, boat building and fishing heritage is illustrated in museums and experienced firsthand on a river cruise. The authentic skipjack oyster dredging vessel, *Nathen of Dorchester* also offers short cruises on the bay.



Harriet Tubman Museum and Educational Center

At this small museum just a few miles from where Tubman grew up, you'll learn of the strength, courage and tenacity of this remarkable woman. The specifically commissioned moving mural of Tubman is complemented by a short film and exhibits. The museum also organizes tours of the area where Tubman lived and toiled before her escape.

424 Race Street, Cambridge, MD 21613, 410-228-0401, Tu-F Noon-3PM, Sat Noon-4PM Free

Harriet Tubman Memorial Garden

The family of Harriet Ross Tubman and members of the community have chosen to honor her with a quiet roadside garden, including the murals painted by Charles Ross, a family member. Outdoor exhibits describe her life and the Underground Railroad activities that took place in the area. For more information, a map and guide, and an audio guide for the Harriet Tubman Byway, stop by the Dorchester Visitor Center, 2 Rose Hill Place, Cambridge, MD





Oxford

Like Cambridge, Oxford, Maryland is also an old town. In 1694, Oxford and Annapolis were selected as the only ports of entry for Maryland, bringing prosperity through shipping and commerce generated by nearby wealthy tobacco plantations. Famous citizens included Robert Morris, financier of the American Revolution, Thomas Bacon, who developed the laws of the Maryland colony, and Colonel Tilghman, aide de camp to George Washington, for whom Tilghman Island was named.



Destination Distinctive Accommodations

Oxford Inn, 504 South Morris Street, Oxford, MD 21654, 410-226-5220

Enjoy one of nine quaint rooms in this 1880 restored inn, where you can step off the porch and stroll down one of the oldest streets in America.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Porter Soul Food Restaurant, 309 Sunburst Highway, Oxford, MD 21613, 443-225-5175

Cambridge Diner, 2924 Old Route 50, Oxford, MD 21613, 410-228-8898 American comfort food from breakfast to burgers.

River View at the Point, One Sunburst Highway, Oxford, MD 21613, 410-228-0870 Classic American fare and seafood.

Destination Distinctive Retail

Maiden Maryland Sweets and Treats, 315 Gay Street, Oxford, MD 21613, 443-225-5358

DAY THREE

Faith Community United Methodist Church

This church, established in 1844 as the Colored People's Methodist Episcopal Church, by a free black woman, is the second structure to house the congregation. The family of one of the early preachers, the Reverend Samuel Green, was pursued by white overseers, whose children remained enslaved, even though he and his wife had purchased their freedom. After his son fled to Canada and his daughter was sold away, never to be seen again, Reverend Green turned his anger into action playing a key role in the Underground Railroad, helping Harriet Tubman and the "Dover Eight" in 1857. He was caught and brought to trial, but acquitted by a white jury, but charged again with possession of Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel, Uncle Tom's Cabin, illegal for African Americans in Maryland at the time, and sentenced to ten years in prison.

509 Railroad Avenue, East New Market, MD 21631, 410-943-4383

Choptank Landing

In an area referred to as Poplar Neck, historians believe that Harriet Tubman made her first escape from near this point and led her three brothers to freedom from here in 1854, through Delaware, Pennsylvania, New York, and north to St Catherine's Ontario. Josiah Bailey rowed a boat at night six miles from Jamaica Point in Talbot County passing here, where he met up with Ben Ross, Tubman's father, to plan his escape the next time Tubman was ready to go. When her father was suspected of aiding the Dover Eight, she hurried back to rescue her parents before he could be arrested. Cobbling together a makeshift, one-axle wagon, she rigged up a horse with a straw collar and drove her parents toward Delaware from where they also made their way to St. Catharine's, Ontario, being handed off between many Underground Railroad agents along the way.

Choptank Road, Preston, MD

Linchester Mill

The series of water-powered grist mills situated amidst a secret network of safe houses with the Levertons, the Hubbards and the Kelleys on the west side, and Harriet Tubman's parents Ben and Rit Ross at Poplar Neck on the east side, were a hot bed of activity for freedom seekers. Daniel Hubbard, a known Underground Railroad conductor who lived less than a mile away, worked at the mill and may have helped build it. The milldam provided a possible crossing point over Hunting Creek for fugitives headed to the Ross home at Poplar Neck, to Marsh Creek, or Preston and beyond.

Maryland Route 331 and Linchester Road, Preston, MD 21655, 410-310-9202

James Webb Cabin

James Webb, a free African-American farmer, built this one-room home, with its "potato hole," open fireplace, and loft accessed by a crude ladder, of materials found nearby. Today, likely typical of the housing of most African Americans in the area, the cabin still sits on its original ballast-stone foundation from ships that plied the Chesapeake Bay.

Off Maryland Route 16 on Grove Road, Preston, MD





William Still Family Interpretive Center

The youngest of 18 siblings whose parents had fled the area, William Still was educated and moved to Philadelphia where he became Chairman of the Philadelphia Vigilance Committee of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society, assisting in the escapes of an estimated 1,500 freedom seekers. Harriet Tubman frequently passed through Still's office, seeking protection and support for her rescues. In 1850, Still realized that one of the men he was assisting was his own lost brother Peter, who had been sent to Alabama by his Kentucky enslavers, where he had been sold when Still's mother left Peter and his brother behind on her last escape. Peter's memoir, *The Kidnapped and the Ransomed*, raised enough funds to purchase his enslaved family's freedom. William Still's documentation of the records of more than 1,000 freedom seekers, published in 1871 became one of most important and authentic records of the Underground Railroad in history. Housed in a historic one room "cottage" from 1820, Interpretive Center features a period "slave cabin" interior, exhibits and a "garden patch" highlighting foodstuffs common in gardens cultivated by Eastern Shore enslaved people. Located on the grounds of 4-H Park, Detour Road, Denton, MD 21629



Denton

In the late 1700s when commerce between Maryland's Eastern Shore and Baltimore was mainly by water, Denton, founded in 1781, quickly became a busy loading point for agricultural products from the region.

Caroline County Courthouse

In the era leading up to the Civil War, the Caroline County Courthouse symbolized white legal, political, economic and social power. The slave market, where slaves were auctioned on a regular basis, was located here, and it was also the site of the jail ,where captured runaways and Underground Railroad conductors, were held.
109 Market Street, Denton, MD 21629, Sat 10AM-3PM

The Museum of Rural Life

Four structures together here illustrate life in the late 1700s and early 1800s in rural Maryland. The 1819 Taylor Brown House, was originally built for a merchant and later owned by the Taylors, an African American family. Painter's Ridge, built in 1828, was typical of the one room dwellings that housed more than 80% of the population of the Eastern Shore, the majority of whom were subsistence farmers, eking out a living on a small acreage plot. Chance's Desire is typical of the home of a "middle-class" farmer, able to afford a hall parlor with a fireplace and more than one room. The chimney breast and decorative floor and ceiling were carved from local trees. And Skillington's Right, the 1795 home of a wealthy planter is considered one of the finest examples of colonial architecture on the upper Choptank River.

16 North Second Street, Denton, MD 21629, 410-479-2055, Sat 11AM-4PM Apr 1-Nov 30



Tuckahoe Neck Meeting House

Being some of the earliest and most effective abolitionists in the state, by 1790, Quaker meetings on Maryland's Eastern Shore had been rid of all slave owners. Abolitionist Hannah Leverton from the Linchester Mill, and Quaker women like Lucretia Mott, her sister, Martha Coffin Wright, and many others who spoke here, participated in the first women's rights convention held in Seneca Falls, New York. Tubman ultimately settled in upstate New York and became involved in the women's suffrage campaigns of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Meeting House Road, Denton, MD 21629, 410-479-0655

Greensboro

Merchant and innkeeper Peter Rich purchased 31 acres for "Bridge Town," and another adjoining 200-acre tract, plus 1000 acres on the opposite side of the river. His grandson, Peter Harrington, acquired the property in 1778 and began to sell lots in what became the town of Greensboro.

Camden

After moving into Delaware through Sandtown and Willow Grove, Camden, located just south of Dover, can be traced back to the 1680 settlement of Brecknock, later known as Mifflin's Crossroads and Piccadilly, until more than 100 years later the village of Camden was finally established. Located at the intersection of two colonial roads, the town became a commercial and shipping center by both road and rail.



Camden Friends Meeting House

Established in 1795, early members of the Camden Friends Meeting were abolitionists, providing shelter for freedom seekers coming from further south, through a network of Underground Railroad stations.

122 East Camden Wyoming Avenue, Camden, DE 19934, 302-698-3324

Star Hill African Methodist Episcopal Church and Museum

Formed in 1866, the congregation here was made up of many freed slaves who had first been aided by local Quakers and then, themselves becoming involved in Underground Railroad activities. The church, named Star of the East, reflects the symbol of the star guiding freedom seekers during their escape.

357 Voshell Mill-Star Hill Road, Dover, DE 19901, 302-697-9903





Dover

Few know that this area, once known as the “Lower Three Counties on the Delaware” was under the control of William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania, when Dover was established as the court town of Kent County in 1683. The city was laid out in 1717, and the Delaware State Capital moved here in 1777, to place it in a central location. The Green, Dover’s center square, was the location of rallies, troop reviews, and other patriotic events during the American Revolution, and today, is still the heart of the historic district and the location of the Delaware Supreme Court and the Kent County Courthouse.



Destination Distinctive Accommodations

State Street Inn, 228 North State Street, Dover, DE 19901, 302-734-2294

Relax and enjoy the comforts of a Bed and Breakfast located in a unique home in the Victorian Dover Historic District. Full breakfast each morning.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Grey Fox Grille and Public House, 140 South State Street, Dover, DE 19901, 302-734-1234, All local ingredients, cut steaks and salmon in house, dinner, drinks and brunch.

Frazier's, 9 East Loockerman Street, Dover, DE 19901, 302-741-2420, American home cooking.

Destination Distinctive Retail

Delaware Shoppes, 325 South State Street, Dover, DE 19901, 302-674-1787, Delaware themed gifts, art and more.

DAY FOUR

The Green

William Penn laid out the Green, in the center of Dover, to serve as a gathering place for the growing town. Now part of the First State National Historical Park, it was here that Delaware voted to ratify the U.S. Constitution – making it “The First State.”

John Bell House

Surrounded by dignified government buildings and stately homes, the very early John Bell House, the oldest wood framed structure in Dover, dates from a much earlier time. This fine example of early Chesapeake architecture was actually constructed as a workshop and tavern, one of only a handful still surviving in the United States. Later serving as a post office, print shop, lawyers’ offices, and private residence, the John Bell House is now the interpretive center of this portion of First State Heritage Park. The story of the Dover Eight is told here by First State Heritage Park guides.

43 The Green, Dover, DE 19901, 302-739-9194 M-Sat 9AM-4:30PM



Old State House

The structure that once hosted Delaware governmental functions has a remarkable history in the struggle of the freedom seekers. Free Black Underground Railroad conductor Samuel D. Burris was convicted in 1847 for aiding freedom seekers, served his time and was released to the Quaker operative who had secretly purchased his indenture, before moving his family to California in 1850. He was pardoned by the Governor 168 years later in 2015.

25 The Green, Dover, DE 19901, 302-744, 5054, W-Sat 10AM-4:30PM



Blackbird State Forest

An unspoiled landscape called “Blackbird,” one of Tubman’s landmarks in Delaware, had one or more free Black communities where Tubman and her charges could seek refuge.

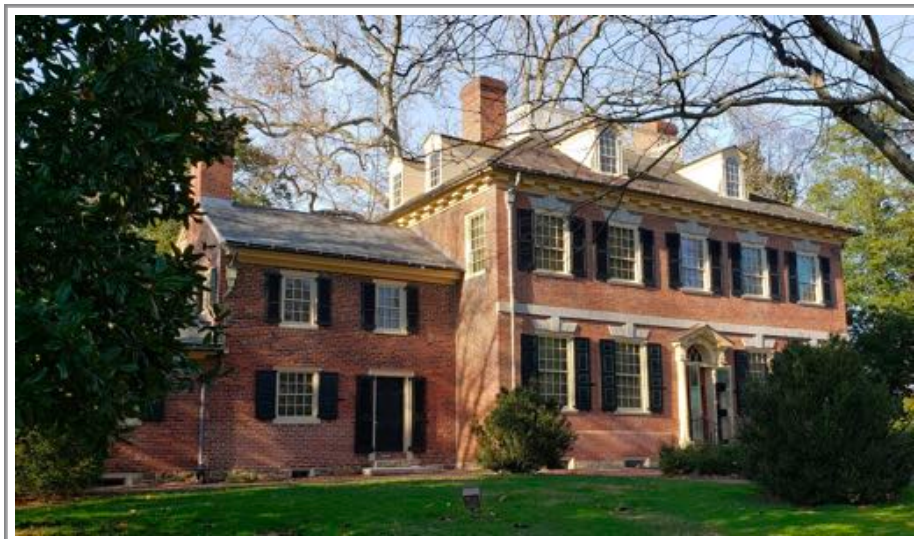
502 Blackbird Forest Road, Smyrna, DE 19977, 302-653-6505

Middletown

Just north of the Forest, Middletown High School hosts a memorial to the lives of Samuel and Emeline Hawkins and their children, Samuel D. Burris, a free Black Underground Railroad operative who guided freedom seekers, and abolitionists John Hunn and John Alston, cousins who once farmed the land here.

Odessa

This important stop on the Underground Railroad and impeccably preserved town was settled by the Dutch in 1662 on Native American land, along a Native American trail that was the shortest distance between the Delaware River and the Chesapeake Bay. Two years later, it fell to the British. By the 1730s, Odessa was fully developed, playing a role as a key shipping point for over a century, until the railroad was laid in Middletown instead of here. That promoted a change of name from Cantwell’s Bridge to Odessa. Today, Odessa is filled with tree-lined streets surrounding beautiful 18th and 19th century homes, plus the Appoquinimink Friends Meeting House.



Historic Odessa Foundation Historic Homes

Tour an enclave of beautifully detailed and preserved 18th and 19th century structures including the Corbit-Sharp House, a National Park Service Network to Freedom site, built in 1774; the Wilson-Warner House dating from 1769; the Collins-Sharp House, built in 1700 and the former Odessa Bank, dating from 1853 that is now the Visitors Center of the Historic Odessa Foundation. Exhibits within the buildings feature over 4,500 decorative arts pieces from 1760-1850. Many pieces of the original family furniture on display, made by prominent Delaware 18th century cabinet makers, are complemented with paintings, prints, textiles, and silver, pewter pieces, plus maps and photographs. Exhibits include “Freedom Seekers: The Odessa Story” highlighting the role Underground Railroad operatives here who assisted freedom seekers to escape. Sam, a fugitive slave who approached the Corbit-Sharp House for help in the mid-19th century, was hidden so cleverly by Mary Corbit that sheriff’s posse failed to discover him. At dusk, Daniel Corbit provided food and money and sent him north.

201 Main Street, Odessa, DE 19730, 302-378-4119 Call for tour information.





Destination Distinctive Accommodations

Miller-Dunham House Bed and Breakfast, 207 High Street, Odessa, DE 19730, 302-378-0459 Stay in the heart of historic Odessa.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Cantwell's Tavern, 109 Main Street, Odessa, DE 19730, 302-376-0600

Purposefully built in the finest part of Odessa, Cantwell's Bridge Hotel and Tavern was constructed in 1822, holding court for the next 100 years. Today, the Brick Hotel has been fully restored, and opened its doors as a full service restaurant modeled on an early 19th-century style tavern.

DAY FIVE

New Castle

The first capital city of Delaware was originally named Fort Casimir by Peter Stuyvesant, the Dutch governor who was sent to oversee river traffic in 1651. William Penn arrived here in 1682 and claimed all of present day Delaware in his Three Lower Counties of Pennsylvania. Swedes took over the area, but it was soon returned to the Dutch. The English claimed the land in 1665, naming the settlement New Castle. Residents were so dissatisfied with Penn's rule, he granted them a separate legislature in 1704. On June 15, 1776, the colonial assembly voted to separate from Great Britain and from Pennsylvania. On that day, Delaware was born and New Castle became the first state capitol. The town thrived as a shipping point, while the courts and general assembly also attracted various judges, lawyers and government officials who built handsome houses. The Great Fire of 1824 claimed many of the houses, inns, and warehouses on The Strand, yet spared the many historic houses that still populate the streets. Harriet Tubman spent time in New Castle in 1856, as she attempted to find aid in Wilmington for a group of freedom seekers, ultimately lodging them in a "potatoe hole" at the home of an African-American friend in New Castle.



First State National Historical Park and Welcome Center

The main location of First State National Historical Park tells the unique story of the early settlement of the Delaware Valley by the Dutch, Swedes, Finns, and English.

211 Delaware Street, New Castle DE, 19720, 302-544-6363, Th-Sun
10AM-2:30PM



New Castle Court House Museum

Delaware's most prominent abolitionists and Underground Railroad stationmasters, Thomas Garrett and John Hunn, were tried and convicted here, for aiding the successful 1845 escape of the Hawkins family from slavery in Maryland. Proslavery judge, Roger B. Taney, Chief Justice of the United States, presided over the trial and would later deliver the controversial opinion in the Dred Scott case of 1857, denying African Americans citizenship. At the close of the trial Garrett defiantly told the crowded courtroom, "if anyone knows a fugitive who wants a shelter, and a friend, send him to Thomas Garrett."

211 Delaware Street, New Castle, DE 19720, 302-323-4453 Th-Sun 10AM-2:30 PM, Tour times W-Sat 10AM-3PM and Sun 1:30PM-3:30PM



Wilmington

This largest and most populous city in the state of Delaware was built on the site of Fort Christina, the first Swedish settlement in North America in 1638. It evolved through a Dutch period beginning in 1655 and British colonization in 1664, and finally granted a charter by the English King in 1739. Wilmington found its foothold as a major American city when E.I. du Pont began making gunpowder in a mill on the Brandywine River just outside of Wilmington in 1802.

The DuPont company became a major supplier of explosives to the U.S. military and subsequently had a profound impact on Delaware, fueling the economy for decades. In addition to being first in production of gunpowder, by 1868, Wilmington was producing more iron ships than the rest of the country combined, plus ranked second in carriages and leather. Post-war prosperity introduced residences west of the city, creating the beginning of "suburban development".

Over the years, the duPont family and their affiliates continued to act as devoted patrons of the arts and dedicated conservationists. Today, the former grand homes and properties located throughout the Wilmington area, and the surrounding Brandywine Valley, have become cultural attractions with international appeal on their own.

Center for African American Heritage at the Delaware History Museum

The Wilmington campus of the Delaware Historical Society features the stories of the Underground Railroad at Old Town Hall and the Mitchell Center for African American Heritage, including “Journey to Freedom,” with two thematic sections: “Slavery in Delaware and the Struggle for Freedom,” and “Beyond Bondage— Breaking Down Barriers,” introduce key Delaware figures and experiences, from the founding of African Methodist churches, to the Brown v. Board of Education decision, and beyond.

504 North Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19801, 302-655-7161

Old Town Hall

Once the site of abolitionists’ and pro-slavery meetings, the Old Town Hall was constructed in 1798 with unheated and spartan jail cells in the basement, used to temporarily imprison captured freedom seekers.

505 North Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19801, 302-656-0637

Tubman-Garrett Riverfront Park

Named for Quaker abolitionist Thomas Garrett who lived in the nearby neighborhood, and his friend and collaborator Harriet Tubman, who used this area as a main entry location into Wilmington.

40 Rosa Park Drive, Wilmington, DE 19801, 302-425-4890





Destination Distinctive Accommodations

Hotel DuPont 42 W. 11th Street, Wilmington, DE, 19801, 302-594-3100 Once the headquarters for the DuPont Company, guests are transported back to the Gilded Age in a landmark example of Italian and Renaissance architecture.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Le Cavalier 42 W. 11th Street, Wilmington, DE, 19801 302-594-3153 Located inside the Hotel DuPont, Le Cavalier is a new school, modern brasserie. Reservations recommended.

Chelsea Tavern, 821 North Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19801 302-482-3333, Popular gastro pub using only the freshest local ingredients complemented with craft beers.

Big Fish Grill at the Riverfront 720 Justion Street, Wilmington, DE 19801 302-652-3474 Highly rated local seafood.

Banks Seafood, 101 South Market Street, Wilmington, DC 19801, 302-777-1500 More great seafood.

Destination Distinctive Retail

Riverfront Market, 3 South Orange Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

A.R. Morris Jewelers 802 Market St., Wilmington, DE 19801, 302-888-2436 A wide selection of engagement rings, wedding bands, jewelry, watches, and other fine gifts.

Town and Shore, 221 North Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19801, 302-648-4516 Clothing, accessories, luxury handcrafted leather goods.

Morgan's of Wilmington, 222 Delaware Street, Wilmington, DE 19801, 302-658-0968 Women's boutique.

DAY SIX

Centerville

This quaint 18th century village listed on the National Register of Historic Places is surrounded by country estates, nestled deep in the Brandywine Valley.



Kennett Square

Many prominent Kennett Square Quakers aided freedom seekers on the Underground Railroad from their close proximity to Delaware, yet it was the site of violent incidents. In 1820, John Reed, a "self emancipated" slave living in Kennett Square fought off his old master and overseer who had come to capture him, killing both. In January 1852, Joseph C Miller of West Nottingham, Chester County, was lynched in Maryland, where he had gone to try to obtain the freedom of a young African American woman who had been kidnapped from his home.

Kennett Underground Railroad Center

Located in the historic Dr. Isaac Johnson House in downtown Kennett Square, the Kennett Underground Railroad Center is dedicated to telling the stories of the courageous people who participated in aiding freedom seekers. The work of the center was featured in a PBS series “Movers and Makers” exploring the abolitionists of Kennett Square.

120 North Union Street, Kennett Square, PA 19348, 484-544-5070

Hamorton Village

Because Quakers were very hesitant about using their religious meetings as a forum for discussions about slavery and political issues, these gatherings often formed on the grounds outside Quaker meetings. As a solution, Dr. Bartholomew Fussell, who had established a sabbath school for enslaved people while in Baltimore, and aided more than 2,000 freedom seekers in Chester County, moved to Hamorton and opened a Boarding School for Girls, regardless of color, and offering the location as a meeting place. Less than a year later, the Hamorton Academy and Hall of Free Discussion was constructed.

Hamortom Historic District, Junction of US Route 1 and PA Route 52, Kennett Township, PA



Longwood Progressive Meetinghouse/Chester County Visitors' Center

As the discussions regarding the aiding of freedom seekers and slavery in general heated up in Chester County, a group of progressive Quakers who fully believed in abolition and freeing enslaved people, split from their meeting to form the Longwood Progressive meeting in 1853. They built the Longwood Progressive Meetinghouse in 1855. Founding members Eusebius and William Barnard, and their cousin Simon, were all prominent station masters on the Underground Railroad. Harriet Tubman came to Kennett Square on her famed 1854 Christmas Day escape when she led her three brothers to freedom, staying at the home of Longwood Progressive members in Pennsbury Founder Castner Hanway was charged with treason for refusing to assist federal marshals hunting fugitive slaves, spending three months in prison. Another founder, Thomas Garrett, was heavily fined for his participation in the Underground Railroad, sending freedom seekers to the homes Hannah and John Cox, Dinah and Isaac Mendenhall, as well as others who were closely associated with Longwood.

300 Greenwood Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348



Old Kennett Meetinghouse

Home of all area Quakers before the split with Progressives, the Kennett Monthly Meeting house known as Old Kennett, was constructed in 1710 on land deeded from William Penn. Even though Quakers adopted an official stance of neutrality during the Revolutionary War, the cemetery at the Old Kennet Meeting House saw the first shots fired in the Battle of the Brandywine. After the split, the remaining Quakers of the Kennett Monthly Meeting disowned Progressives in the area until 1874.

489 Meetinghouse Lane, Kennett Square, PA

Oakdale

Oakdale, built in 1840, and also known as the Isaac Mendenhall Estate, was the home of Dinah and Isaac Mendenhall, associated with the Longwood Progressive Meeting and very active in the Underground Railroad. The carriage house was used to harbor freedom seekers. This is a private residence. Do not disturb the family.

508 Hillendale Road, Chadds Ford, PA





Barnard House

Soon to open as the Underground Railroad Heritage Center, home of the Barnard's, founders of the Longwood Progressive Meeting, served as a station on the Underground Railroad. All freedom seekers who arrived here were given food, clothing, and rest before moving on to the next safe house in the dead of night. Even the Barnard children were involved in the effort, transporting freedom seekers on their journey if their father was off doing religious visits. When conditions warranted, freedom seekers were hired for work on the farm before being sent north.

715 Wawaset Road, West Chester, PA 19382

Honeycomb Union African Methodist Episcopal Church

Honeycomb Union, formed in 1852, was a main stop on the Underground Railroad and as a safe house for runaway slaves. In addition to slave records found in the church's attic, secret code books detail purchases of land by African Americans, which at the time, were considered illegal. Likely, the church bought the land for the African American farmers, who then lived on the property and worked the land.

Barren Road and Vanleer Avenue, Media, PA 19063, 610-566-2822

Trinity UAME Church

Originally chartered in 1839 by free African Americans, the congregation is still very active and welcoming.

418 Olive Street, Media, PA 19063, 610-565-2309

Providence Friends Meeting House

The first meeting of Providence Friends was held at the home of Thomas Minshall as early as 1682, and the land for the Meeting Houses was donated by his sons. The first, the log cabin now on the front lawn, was built in 1700 and expanded with a stone addition. A small stone schoolhouse, with an underground space, was built in 1809. The first stone meetinghouse was constructed in 1814 using stones from the original building's stone addition.

105 North Providence Road, Media, PA 19063, 610-566-1308



Darby Friends Meeting House

The first recorded meetings of the Darby Friends are dated 1684. Their first meeting house was also a log cabin. The present meeting house constructed in 1805, appears unaltered from its original design including tiered built-in benches on the front and sides, offset with facing benches along the rear wall. Electric lighting and utilities have been added, but otherwise the building retains its original form.

1017 Main Street, Darby, PA 19063, 215-247-3729

Upper Darby Township Underground Railroad Walking Tour

Take the 4.5 mil walking tour in Upper Darby Township that takes you past a number of historic sites associated with the Underground Railroad.

Eden Memorial Cemetery

The oldest existing African American cemetery in the United States.

1434 Springfield Road, Darby, PA 19023, 610-583-8737





Philadelphia

Walking the streets of this very historic and well preserved city, it is hard to imagine that once at the water's edge, women “had lighted their fires on the bare earth and slung their kettle between two poles on a stick traverse,” outside of the caves they lived in. It's even harder to imagine that the part of the city laid out by William Penn, now only encompasses a few blocks amidst the thriving metropolis. It must have been rousing when the delegates and townspeople cheered as the Declaration of Independence was read and the Liberty Bell rang out. But as we have come to understand, this meant different things for European Americans and African Americas, even though they were both in the United States of America. Today, in Philadelphia, there are over 30 historical markers related to the Underground Railroad, abolitionists, slavery, and African American heritage. There are also several locations to visit that reveal the story.



Destination Distinctive Accommodations

Thomas Bond House, 129 South Second Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106, 215-923-8523

Exquisitely restored 1769 Bed and Breakfast.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Red Owl Tavern, 433 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106, 215-923-2267 Modern tavern in the heart of the Old City, across from the Liberty Bell

Destination Distinctive Retail

Philadelphia Independents, 35 North Third Street, Philadelphia, PA

DAY SEVEN

Independence Hall National Historic Park

Important decisions about slavery and freedom occurred at Independence Hall, Congress Hall, and Old City Hall, during the forming of the United States, which unfortunately were part of a series of compromises that declared that for representation purposes, African Americans were only three/fifths of a person. The location that later served as a gathering place for speeches made by abolitionist Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.
520 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106 215-965-2305

William Still's Last Residence

When Harriet Tubman made her own escape to freedom in 1849, she settled in Philadelphia, working as a domestic to earn money to support herself and her rescue missions. William Still, who had moved to Philadelphia to become the head of the Philadelphia Vigilance Committee, aided Tubman, as well as others, providing shelter, food, clothing, transportation, and money for passage north. He kept a secret journal that was published in 1872, which show who he assisted, including their names, where they came from, condition, and methods of escape. Keeping these records was risky, but they later assisted separated families locate one another.
244 South Twelfth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107, 267-773-7316



African American Museum in Philadelphia

Visit to experience African American heritage, culture and the arts come alive in four exhibition galleries documenting people of the African Diaspora. While Philadelphia and the region are the main focus, diverse collections cover civil rights activities, performing arts, and other special topics. Mack Franklin donated his collection of over 500,000 photographs and negatives which deliver a visual history of virtually every social, cultural, and political event in Philadelphia during his lifetime between 1922-2009.

701 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA

Belmont Mansion

Richard Peters, owner of Belmont Mansion, built in the early 19th century, served in a variety of positions, including Speaker of the Pennsylvania Assembly, State Senator, and Judge of the United States District Court. Also an environmental scientist, he converted the Belmont Estate into a working model farm to promote scientific agriculture and also served a member of the Pennsylvania Society for the Abolition of Slavery, opposing the Fugitive Slave Act of 1793. Located in Fairmount Park, the mansion reopened in the summer of 2007 as The Underground Railroad Museum at Belmont Mansion “dedicated to colonial history and the 19th century network of people and places known as the “underground railroad.” Learn the story of Cornelia Wells, who were freed by Judge Peters and who worked in the household as a paid servant.

2000 Belmont Mansion Drive, Philadelphia, PA Tu-Th 11AM-4PM, Adults \$7



Mother Bethel AME Church

Founded in 1787, Mother Bethel AME Church, the mother church of the nation's first black denomination, sits on the oldest parcel of land in the United States continuously owned by African-Americans. The church also memorializes Rev. Richard Allen, its founding pastor and first bishop, with the basement crypt serving as a museum, housing Allen's tomb and other intriguing artifacts, including original pews, the original pulpit constructed and used by Rev. Allen, old ballot boxes used to elect church officers, and muskets from when Allen raised black troops during the War of 1812.

419 South Sixth Street, Philadelphia, PA

Johnson House Historic Site

The Johnson House Historic Site is one of Philadelphia's few accessible, intact historic stops on the Underground Railroad open for tours. During the 19th century, the house was owned by a family of Quaker abolitionists who worked with other European Americans, and African Americans — free and enslaved — to secure safe passage to freedom along the Underground Railroad.

6306 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 215-438-1768 to request a tour email info@johnsonhouse.org for a time slot on Fri or Sat, Noon, 1PM, 2PM, or 3PM

