



**American Revolution Museum+ in Philadelphia**  
**April 10, 2019**

7:45am Depart home  
 8:30am Bus departs Brookdale parking lot #1

**When?** Wednesday April 10

**What?** Experience a memorable visit to the City of Brotherly Love  
 Visit the Museum of the American Revolution

From <https://www.amrevmuseum.org/>

The Museum of the American Revolution is a Philadelphia museum dedicated to telling the story of the American Revolution. The museum was opened to the public on April 19, 2017, the anniversary of the first battle of the war, Lexington and Concord, on April 19, 1775.

Location: 101 S 3rd St, Philadelphia, PA



The museum is located in the historic heart of Philadelphia, the city that served as the headquarters of America's founding. The site is across the street from the First Bank of the United States and two blocks from Independence Hall, the National Constitution Center, Second Bank of the United States, American Philosophical Society, Carpenters' Hall, and the Liberty Bell.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Museum\\_of\\_the\\_American\\_Revolution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Museum_of_the_American_Revolution)

Overview: The museum owns a distinguished collection of several thousand objects including artwork and sculpture, textiles and weapons, manuscripts and rare books. Permanent and special exhibition galleries, theaters and large-scale tableaux bring to life the original "greatest generation," and engage people in the history and continuing relevance of the American Revolution.

The museum serves as a portal to Philadelphia's other Revolutionary landmarks, enriching the existing heritage community and making Philadelphia an engaging and authentic destination for those interested in discovering America's founding.

We had a film and viewing of George Washington's tent (where he resided with his soldiers for 7 years) and another film before meeting for a 3pm docent tour.

**Visit Elfreth's Alley** - [www.elfrethsalley.org](http://www.elfrethsalley.org)

Elfreth's Alley is a historic street in Philadelphia, dating to 1702. (Only a street in Quebec is older.) As of 2012, there are 32 houses on the street, which were built between 1728 and 1836. The Elfreth's Alley Museum is located at #124 and 126. The alley is a National Historic Landmark. Wikipedia

Address: 124-126 Elfreth's Alley, Philadelphia, PA 19106 - Area: 4 acres

Present-day Elfreth's Alley is the product of cycles of urban renewal, decay and on-going preservation efforts. History: Our nation's oldest residential street. Nestled between Second Street and the Delaware River, thirty-two Federal and Georgian residences stand as reminders of the early days of Philadelphia. Designated a National Historic Landmark October 15th, 1966.

Houses are as narrow as 16' with the larger being 20' wide.

**Extra** Walk to Arch Street for entry to Betsy Ross Home, Quaker Meeting House, Ben Franklin's statuary, Graveyard of Ben Franklin and 5 signers of the Declaration of Independence.

It was the alley we came for but the alley was nothing more than an alley. The museum is not open except Friday Saturday and Sunday and then only from noon. So Mary being a good walker and encourager, we went towards Arch Street and found the Betsy Ross House. There we were entertained by the children and some historians and challenged by the tiny little narrow stairways.

Was still much time to spare so we walked to the huge Franklin statuary and then went on to the graveyard. The graveyard contains not only Ben Franklin's grave but also a total of five who signed the Declaration of Independence. Just as importantly – smile - the gravedigger of 50 years is buried there.

We came back by the largest Quaker Meeting House in the world and had a mini tour. What we really did was spread our money around to entry fees at three different places. We watched the tour groups passing by and remembered having "Ben Franklin" give Marie and me a walking tour.

It was with mixed emotions that we entered any place because the weather was so ideal.

**Lunch** *Positano Coast by Aldo Lamberti*  
212 Walnut Street, 2nd Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19106 Tele: (215) 238-0499  
Menu at [www.positanocoast.net](http://www.positanocoast.net)  
Breezy Italian outfit offering a seafood-focused menu, a seasonal open-air dining room

**Guests** Lifelong learning's favorite scholars – Dr. Christopher Bellitto and Rabbi emeritus, Brooks Susman. (We didn't get Rabbi Susman at the last minute. He was apparently walking his dogs early that morning, got tangled in leashes, fell, resulting in some messy injury that needed bandage but not a hospital. He gave us historical commentary via cell phone and the bus speaker.)

**Program** Explore the dynamic story of the American Revolution through an expansive collection of Revolutionary-era weapons, personal items, documents, and works of art that bring to life the original "greatest generation." Immersive galleries, theater experiences, and recreated historical moments showcase the events, ideals and modern-day relevance of our nation's founding. A docent-led highlight tour will be followed by time on your own to further explore – make sure to experience the awe-inspiring presentation featuring General Washington's original headquarters tent. Our first stop will be a stroll down Elfreth's Alley, our nation's oldest residential street. Indulge in a delicious lunch at Positano Coast.



## Pictures



It's a short alley with narrow houses and fortunately some have colorful window boxes and shutters or it would be pretty mundane. A construction crew was carefully cementing in some broken cobblestones in the original look. Onto the Betsey Ross House and a walking tour through and up some narrow stairs.



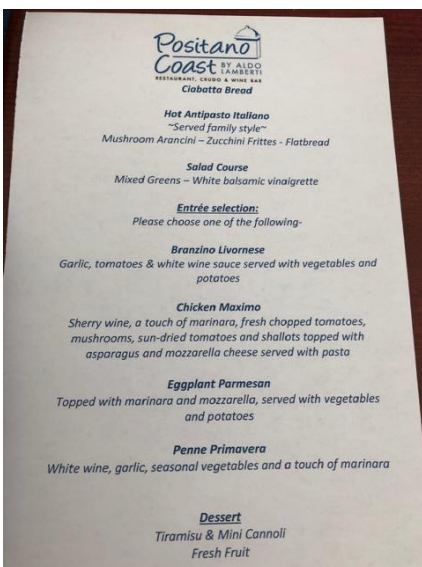
The character of Miss Betsey Ross was quite well done with British accent and costume. She had the youngsters spellbound and us too. She showed how to make a perfect 5-pointed star with some folds and just one cut. After paying entry fee and finishing up, we walked onto the Ben Franklin huge statuary, then later onto the old Burial Ground with not only Ben (with a bunch of pennies tossed on his nothing-looking grave but 5 signatories of the Declaration of Independence buried there. To include the gravedigger of 50 years. The tombs are simple, super old, weathered, and many are unmarked so after paying an entry fee, they sell us a map of the graveyard so we can figure out what we're seeing. There are some plaques.



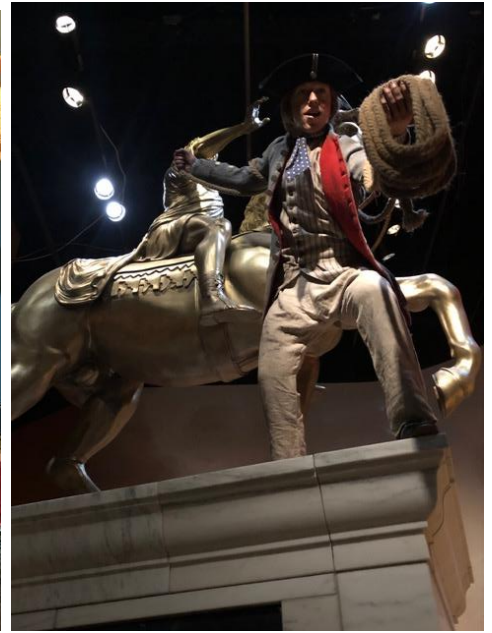


Since there was 1 ½ hours allotted to the Alley and only about 10 minutes of interest, we had a lot of time so we went onto the Quaker Meeting House, the largest in the world but not as large as you might expect. Some interesting features such as the seating of horsehair that apparently never gets bugs or breaks down. Also a curved ceiling at the front that makes like an amplification of the speaker.

We were hungry so could have walked onto the Positano Coast restaurant but this group likes the bus. (Gads but it's tough getting old and just as tough to see what's coming!) Positano on the Italian coast is lovely but my least favorite due to all the tourists and tourist shops. We spent a week traveling these little villages during a hiking trip a couple years ago.



Family style appetizers are super and included three different semi-healthy treats, before a simple salad then a choice from three main courses. I chose the fish, got my own wine, and decided to drink instead of desert. I noticed it didn't take long for my desert to gone by others.



We DID walk to the museum and found films, new displays, Washington's actual tent, and an excellent young docent guy who made it all come to life.

6:15pm      Return to Brookdale

### **Brookdale Bus Trips**

#### **Pros**

We see new places and learn new information that we'd never do on our own.

Transport is easy.

Planning is even easier.

We meet some interesting folks. Sometimes.

Experience some good restaurants.

Have someone else choose the food. I'm not a fan of big menu choices.

Easy to go solo.

#### **Cons**

There are a lot of old folks. Shouldn't we be hanging with the younger crowd? Smile

Old folks complain a lot.

Old folks ask the same questions over and over again.

Our leader Noreen has the Patience of Job.