



**TOP DESTINATIONS
TO CELEBRATE AMERICA
1776-2026**



Destination America

From small towns to big cities, communities everywhere are coming together to mark this incredible milestone in the most memorable ways. We've gathered up the best and most exciting events happening across the country this summer so you can plan the perfect road trip and be part of the celebrations.

America is calling — let's go make some history!



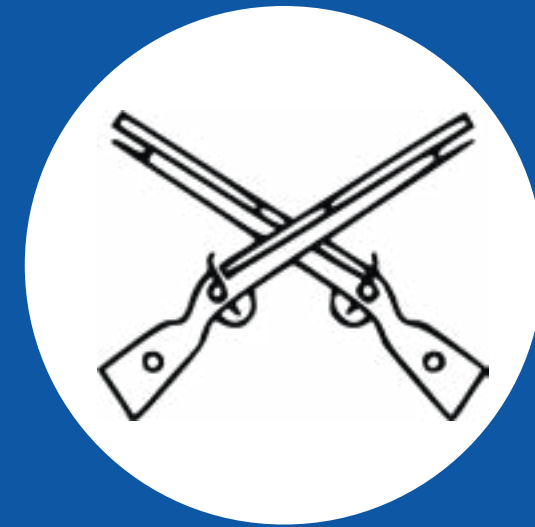
Celebrating the Semiquincentennial: A Journey Through Revolutionary America

Rolling across America in an RV becomes something deeper during the nation's 250th anniversary—a moving tribute to the spirit that built this country. Every mile carries the echo of generations who chased possibility across open roads, and every sunrise over a new horizon reminds us of the freedom we're still blessed to explore.

This journey isn't just about destinations; it's about rediscovering the land that shaped us, sharing campfire stories with family, and feeling the quiet pride of belonging to a nation defined by resilience, hope, and endless opportunity. In celebrating America you honor not only where we've been, but the boundless promise of where we can go next.

Historical Timeline Reference

- 1607 - Jamestown, Virginia founded
- 1620 - Pilgrims land at Plymouth, Massachusetts
- 1630 - Boston founded
- 1754-1763 - French and Indian War
- 1765 - Stamp Act protests begin
- 1770 - Boston Massacre
- 1773 - Boston Tea Party
- 1774 - First Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia
- 1775 - Battles of Lexington and Concord (April 19)
- 1775 - Battle of Bunker Hill (June 17)
- 1776 - Declaration of Independence signed (July 4)
- 1777 - Battles of Saratoga (turning point)
- 1777-1778 - Valley Forge winter encampment
- 1781 - Battle of Yorktown (British surrender)
- 1783 - Treaty of Paris officially ends war
- 1787 - Constitution written in Philadelphia
- 1789 - George Washington inaugurated in New York City



Optional Extended Stops

Lexington & Concord, Massachusetts

1-2 days

Sites of the first battles of the American Revolution (April 19, 1775). Visit Minute Man National Historical Park, North Bridge, and battle reenactments scheduled for April 2026.

Saratoga, New York

1-2 days

The Battles of Saratoga (1777) were the turning point of the Revolution, convincing France to support the American cause. Saratoga National Historical Park offers battlefield tours and living history programs.

Valley Forge, Pennsylvania

1 day

Site of the Continental Army's brutal winter encampment (1777-78). Valley Forge National Historical Park is just outside Philadelphia.

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

1-2 days

While Civil War history (1863), Gettysburg represents the ongoing struggle to achieve America's founding ideals of liberty and equality.

PHILADELPHIA, PA

Duration: 7-10 days

Best Timing: Late June - Early July 2026

Why Philadelphia for America 250?

Philadelphia is the epicenter of the semiquincentennial celebration as the birthplace of American independence. This is where the Declaration of Independence was signed at Independence Hall on July 4, 1776.

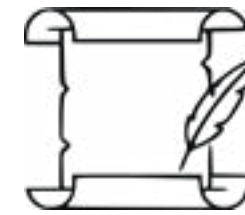
Historical Significance

Founded by William Penn in 1682, Philadelphia became the most important city in colonial America. It hosted both Continental Congresses, witnessed the birth of the Constitution in 1787, and served as the nation's capital from 1790-1800. The city was home to Benjamin Franklin and countless other Founding Fathers who shaped the nation.

RV Camping

- Timberlane Campground (Clarksboro, NJ - 20 min from city)
- West Chester/Philadelphia KOA
- Philadelphia South/Clarksboro KOA

Must-See Sites



National Constitution Center



Liberty Bell Center



Museum of the American Revolution



Benjamin Franklin's Grave at Christ Church Burial Ground



Independence Hall
(where it all happened)



Betsy Ross House

We Be People



Washington, D.C.

Duration: 5-7 days

Best Timing: Spring (Cherry Blossoms) or July 4th

Why Washington D.C. for America 250?

As the nation's capital, Washington D.C. will host spectacular commemorations on the National Mall and throughout its world-class museums.

Historical Significance

Though not founded until 1790, Washington D.C. was specifically designed to be the permanent capital of the United States. The city's location between Maryland and Virginia was a compromise brokered by Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson. Pierre L'Enfant's grand design created a city of monuments and memorials that honor America's democratic ideals.

RV Camping

Cherry Hill Park (College Park, MD - Metro accessible)

Capitol KOA (Millersville, MD)

Greenbelt Park (NPS campground)



Monuments & Memorials

The National Mall is home to some of the most iconic landmarks in the country, including the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, Jefferson Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and the World War II Memorial.



Government Buildings

Get a firsthand look at American democracy in action by visiting the U.S. Capitol, the White House, and the Supreme Court.



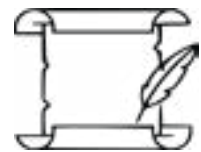
Neighborhoods

Don't forget to explore the charming neighborhoods of Georgetown, Dupont Circle, and the vibrant waterfront at The Wharf.



Museums

The Smithsonian Institution is the world's largest museum complex and best of all, it's free! Highlights include the National Museum of Natural History, National Air and Space Museum, National Museum of American History, and the National Museum of African American History and Culture.



Other Must-See Attractions

The Library of Congress, the National Zoo, the National Archives (where you can see the actual Declaration of Independence and Constitution), Ford's Theatre, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum are all worth a visit.



Need Helping Planning Your Visit?

Below is a link for a Packed 3 Day Itinerary for [Washington DC](https://www.visitcity.com/en/washington-dc/itinerary-by-day/3).

<https://www.visitcity.com/en/washington-dc/itinerary-by-day/3>

Washington D.C. is an incredible city packed with history, culture, and inspiration around every corner. With the 250th anniversary celebrations in full swing this summer, there has never been a better time to visit the nation's capital!

Boston, MA

Duration: 6-8 days

Best Timing: June (Battle of Bunker Hill anniversary) or April (Patriots' Day)

Why Boston for America 250?

Boston is the birthplace of the American Revolution. The first shots of the war were fired nearby at Lexington and Concord, and Boston's revolutionary spirit sparked the movement for independence.

Historical Significance

Founded in 1630 by Puritans, Boston became a hotbed of revolutionary activity by the 1760s. The Boston Tea Party (1773), Boston Massacre (1770), and Paul Revere's Midnight Ride (1775) all occurred here. The city's patriots organized resistance to British rule and inspired the colonies to unite for independence.

2026 Celebration Highlights

- Knox Trail 250 - January-July commemoration of Henry Knox's artillery journey
- Evacuation Day 250 - March 17, parade celebrating British withdrawal from Boston
- Paul Revere's Ride 250th - April 18-19, reenactment from Boston to Lexington
- Battle of Bunker Hill 250th Anniversary - June 15-17, massive reenactment
- Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular - July 4th on the Charles River Esplanade (official event)
- Sail250 Tall Ships - International tall ships visiting Boston Harbor
- Revolutionary Reenactments - Throughout spring and summer at historic battle sites

Day Trips from Boston

Lexington and Concord (Battles of Lexington and Concord sites)

Salem (witch trial history)

Plymouth (Mayflower and Plymouth Rock)

Must-See Sites



Freedom Trail
(2.5-mile walk through
16 historical sites)



Boston Tea Party
Ships & Museum



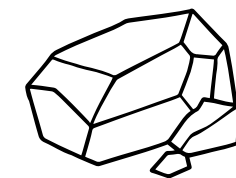
Old North Church



Bunker Hill Monument



Salem Witch Trials



Plymouth Rock



Need help planning your visit?

Here is a 3 Day Packed [Itinerary for Boston](#)
or visit

<https://www.visitcity.com/en/boston/itinerary-by-day/3>

Celebration Highlights

- Times Square Ball Drop - New Year's Eve kicks off 2026 with America 250 celebration
- Times Square Ball Drop #2 - July 3, 2026 (first time ever outside New Year's Eve)
- Sail4th 250 - July 3-8, largest international maritime event in U.S. history
- 60+ tall ships from 20+ countries
- International Naval Review (40+ vessels)
- International Aerial Review (100+ aircraft, Blue Angels)
- Public ship tours July 5-8
- Fleet Week - Moved to July for America 250
- Macy's 50th July 4th Fireworks - Over Manhattan skyline
- Homecoming of Heroes Parade - July 6, ticker-tape parade for Global War on Terror veterans

Must-See Sites

- Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island
- Federal Hall (where Washington was inaugurated)
- Fraunces Tavern (where Washington said farewell to his officers)
- Trinity Church and Cemetery (Alexander Hamilton's grave)
- Museum of the American Revolution exhibits
- Brooklyn Bridge and waterfront views

RV Camping

- Liberty Harbor RV Park (Jersey City, NJ - NYC views)
- Cheesecake State Park (Old Bridge, NJ)
- Black Bear Campground (Florida, NY)



Need help planning your visit?

Here is a 3 Day packed [itinerary for New York City](https://www.visitacity.com/en/new-york-city/itinerary-by-day/3) or visit <https://www.visitacity.com/en/new-york-city/itinerary-by-day/3>

New York, NY



Duration: 5-7 days

Best Timing: July 3-8 for Sail4th 250 or New Year's Eve/Day

New York (then New Amsterdam) was founded by the Dutch in 1624 and taken by the British in 1664. During the Revolution, nearly one-third of all battles were fought on New York soil. George Washington was inaugurated as the first president at Federal Hall in New York City on April 30, 1789, and the city served as the nation's capital from 1785-1790.

Why New York for America 250?

New York played a crucial role in the Revolution and served as the first capital of the United States. The city will host the largest international maritime celebration in U.S. history.

2026 Celebration Highlights

- Virginia's Independence 250th - May 15 in Williamsburg
- Virginia 250 Passport - Visit 70+ historic sites, collect stamps, win prizes
- Mount Vernon Revitalized Exhibit - "George Washington: A Revolutionary Life" opening spring 2026
- Patriots Path Reopening - March 14, 2026, at Mount Vernon with Revolutionary War encampment
- Colonial Williamsburg Programs - Year-round revolutionary-era programming

Must-See Sites

- Mount Vernon (George Washington's Estate)
- Washington's Mansion and gardens
- New Revolutionary Life exhibit
- Museum and education center
- Pioneer Farm
- Distillery and Gristmill

Colonial Williamsburg

- Governor's Palace
- Capitol Building
- Historic trades demonstrations
- Revolutionary City reenactments

Yorktown Battlefield

- Site of the Revolutionary War's final major battle (1781)

Duration: 4-5 days

Best Timing: May-June or September-October

Why Virginia for America 250?

Virginia was the largest and most influential colony, providing four of the first five presidents and leading the push for independence.



Jamestown (1607) was the first permanent English settlement in North America. Virginia's House of Burgesses (1619) was the first legislative assembly in the colonies. Virginia patriots like Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, and George Washington led the revolutionary cause. The decisive Battle of Yorktown (1781) ended the war on Virginia soil.

RV Camping

- Williamsburg KOA
- American Heritage RV Park (Williamsburg)
- Anvil Campground (Williamsburg)



Need help planning your visit?

Here are more things to do in [Williamsburg VA](#)

or visit

<https://www.visitacity.com/en/williamsburg/activities/all-activities>





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