



The Final Countdown for Pope Francis 's Visit to Philadelphia

Well the big day is almost here and if you have been watching the news coverage of the Pope's arrival, you should be getting very excited! In today's Pope Alert, we wanted to remind you about road closures, update the rail station changes and give you some ideas on what you can do this weekend IF you have decided not to go to Philadelphia.

In the city, the Ben Franklin Parkway is now closed in both directions so crews can continue setup for the papal visit festivities and towing is going on in restricted areas. The following highway closures will begin at 10 pm on Friday September 25th :

- I-76 eastbound from I-476 to I-95
- I-76 westbound from I-95 to US Route 1
- I-676 will be closed in both directions from I-76 to I-95

I-95 WILL REMAIN OPEN. However, all I-95 exits leading into the no-vehicle area will be closed due to the security perimeter from Broad Street to I-676. In addition the ramps accessing Washington Street and Delaware Avenue will only be open to registered bus traffic. **The Ben Franklin Bridge will also close to vehicular traffic on Friday, September 25th at 10 p.m. until 12 p.m. on Monday, September 28th.** The only vehicles allowed will be emergency vehicles. The bridge will be used as a pedestrian crossing.

Locally, beginning at 5:00 AM on Saturday, September 26th, both southbound and northbound lanes will be closed for vehicle traffic on Church Road from E. Hancock Street in Lansdale Borough to Wissahickon Avenue in Upper Gwynedd Township. The closure of this portion of Church Road, adjacent to the Pennbrook Station, will remain closed until approximately 1:00 PM when, barring any unforeseen circumstances, it will reopen for the remainder of the day. On Sunday the 27th, the roadway will close again at 5:00 AM and attempt to reopen it at 1:00 PM.

Beginning Thursday at 10 pm, Suburban Station WILL BE CLOSED. Your alternative stations are either Jefferson or 30th St Station. On Friday September 25, Regional Rail will operate on an enhanced Saturday schedule. If you are not sure when that is check the SEPTA website for details – www.septa.org. Remember the **ONLY** way you can ride the rails on Saturday and Sunday is with a Papal Pass.

Looking for something to do in the suburbs?

Hatfield Borough will host their annual Fall Festival on Saturday September 26th from 8 am to 3 pm. The event located at Lincoln Avenue in the Borough will feature arts, crafts, yard sales, food vendors, children's games, live music and a car show.

Souderton Borough will host the Souderton Art Jam at Wile Ave and West Reliance Rd in Souderton on Saturday September 26th from 10 am to 5 pm. This juried arts festival will feature music, food poetry, hands on workshops and chalk art for children.

Finally as you have heard numerous times, this is a National Security Event. While law enforcement, the Secret Service and the FBI have done extensive preparations, they are counting on your eyes too. If you see something that is not quite right, say something.

We will give you one more alert on Friday with links to SEPTA that you should have plugged into your phone – just in case. Keep an eye on the weather and get ready for a once in a lifetime experience.