

Chapter 1 : 18 Top-Rated Tourist Attractions in Boston and Cambridge | PlanetWare

*Boston Sights: Or, Handbook for Visitors [R L. Midgley] on www.nxgvision.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. This book was originally published prior to , and represents a reproduction of an important historical work.*

Although the four museums that make up this complex contain treasures such as the artifacts brought back by Lewis and Clark, for most people, the highlight is the more than 3,000 models of species of flowers and plants, some with insects, and all so realistic that you will have trouble believing they are made of glass. Created between 1845 and 1853 by artisans Leopold and Rudolf Blaschka, the flowers are unique in the world, and their secret process has never been replicated. Particularly strong in Native American exhibits, the Peabody Museum shows artifacts and art interpreted as part of a living culture, even when that culture has vanished. You can admire some of the finest examples of Native American arts from many periods and tribes, and also see how these changed as Europeans provided a new market for their goods. The Museum of Comparative Zoology, founded by Louis Agassiz in 1824, contains an extensive collection of fossils, including a 25-million-year-old mastodon. The mineralogy collections include a dazzling display of rough and cut gemstones, a world-renowned meteorite collection, rocks, ores, and minerals from around the world. The Boston waterfront has seen many changes since its early beginnings as a colonial shipping port. After a period of decline for much of the 20th century, new life was breathed into the area in the mid-1970s with an ambitious redevelopment plan. A shuttle-boat also runs to the Charlestown Navy Yard. The Boston Tea Party Ship, a replica of one of the original ships from which the Sons of Liberty dumped tea overboard the night of December 16, 1773, offers tours with a participatory reenactment of the event. You can enjoy lunch, dinner, or Sunday brunch as you savor the views of the Boston skyline from the water. The skyline is especially beautiful at night, when you can take a starlight or full moon cruise. Overlooking the waterfront, the New England Aquarium features more than 20,000 fish and aquatic animals representing over 1,000 species. A man-made Caribbean coral reef houses a large variety of tropical fish and underwater life including sharks, turtles, and moray eels. The Edge of the Sea touch tank allows visitors to handle small invertebrates like crabs, starfish, and urchins. Outside the aquarium, visitors can watch harbor seals play, perform, and live in their enclosed habitat. Across the pier, the USS Constitution Museum provides historical context through interactive exhibits that illustrate life aboard a naval vessel two centuries ago. The 220-foot-tall granite monument marks the hilltop site of the earthen fort built by New England soldiers prior to the Battle of Bunker Hill, the first pitched battle of the American Revolution. In addition to its regular symphony season, the hall is home to the Boston Pops Orchestra, which sets an international standard for performances of lighter music. For many visitors, the highlight of a trip is a Pops concert, either in Symphony Hall or at the Hatch Memorial Shell, an Art Deco outdoor music shell on the riverside Esplanade that has become a Boston landmark. The 160-acre MIT campus is of special interest to fans of modern and postmodern architecture, a living museum of works by noted architects including Alvar Aalto, Eduardo Catalano, I. M. Pei, Frank Gehry, and Eero Saarinen. In addition, the campus displays hundreds of sculptures and art installations that you can see with the help of a self-guided walking tour map, by artists such as Pablo Picasso, Henry Moore, Alexander Calder, Jacques Lipchitz, and Auguste Rodin. Copley Square and Beacon Hill. Seaport Boston Hotel guests enjoy sweeping views across Boston Harbor and the downtown skyline, excellent service, and a no-tipping policy in the hotel and its restaurants. The small Chandler Inn is in the chic South End restaurant and arts neighborhood. For first-time visitors to Boston, the best way to see the attractions and get acquainted with the city layout is to take a Hop-on Hop-off Trolley Tour. This tour stops at all the major tourist attractions and gives you the freedom to stop where you want and see the city at your own pace. However, if you are traveling with children between spring and fall, you might want to consider the Boston Duck Tour, in a revamped WWII amphibious vehicle that has both a land and water portion to the tour. This tour is popular with both adults and kids, but will be much more enjoyable for youngsters than a typical trolley tour. Boating and Whale Watching: Boston Whale Watching Cruises offer a chance to see humpback and fin whales, as well as dolphins and porpoises, in the wild. These three-hour, naturalist-led tours are very popular and claim to have whale sightings on every trip.

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