

# BOSTON TEA PARTY

SHIPS & MUSEUM. ★★★★★ DECEMBER 16, 1773

## A REVOLUTIONARY EXPERIENCE<sup>SM</sup>

### THE BOSTON TEA PARTY SHIPS<sup>SM</sup> & MUSEUM REVOLUTIONIZES LEARNING WITH REAL-TIME VIRTUAL TOURS BRINGING THE BOSTON TEA PARTY INTO CLASSROOMS ACROSS THE U.S. AND INTERNATIONALLY

*Through Video Conferencing Technology and Live Actors, Virtual Tours Available from September - May*



*Images: Virtual Tours at the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum.  
Photo Credit: The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum*

BOSTON (June 1, 2019) - **The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum**, a floating museum dedicated to accurately reliving and representing a key time in history (1773-1775) through actors, throwing tea crates overboard, high-tech interactive exhibits, authentic replica ships and an award-winning multisensory film, “Let it Begin Here”, is supplementing teaching curriculums offering virtual tours to learn about The Boston Tea Party, “the single most important event leading up to the American Revolution,” and other aspects of this time in U.S. history, without leaving the classroom. Classrooms around the United States and schools internationally are taking part in these virtual tours.

These virtual tours, presented exclusively by the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum, are a way to bring the immersive experience of visiting the museum directly into classrooms using video conferencing technology allowing students to participate in many defining moments in American History. The experiences unfold in real time and hosts, costumed Colonial actors at the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum, are able to interact directly with the students in classrooms. Students play active roles in these real time sessions and are encouraged to ask questions and participate throughout.

“Every day, the entire team at the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum is passionate about telling and teaching the story of The Boston Tea Party to visitors,” says Shawn P. Ford, Executive Director of the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum. “Our creative team has done a masterful job in creating these cost effective virtual tours for teachers and students who are not able to visit the museum directly to learn about his pivotal time in American History in an interactive and immersive way.”

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## *Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum Virtual Tours 2019/2*

The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum virtual tour program runs between September and May (with limited availability available in April and May). Each program costs \$250 and lasts approximately 45 minutes. All times are subject to availability due to usage space and time zone adjustments.

The following virtual tour program/experiences are available through the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum:

- **The Boston Tea Party**

The Boston Tea Party session covers a range of topics starting with the Stamp Act (1765) and concluding with a discussion on the Battle of Lexington and Concord (1775). Each student receives a character card prior to the experience. Through this virtual tour, the class is led in a debate on the taxes that preceded the Tea Act (1773). Students play an active role recreating the town meeting held just hours prior to The Boston Tea Party debating taxation without representation, and the issues that pushed Massachusetts down the road to revolution. Students assume the role of the Loyalists and Patriots who were in Boston during the early revolutionary era. The class storms aboard one of the authentic replica vessels at the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum, the *Beaver* or the *Eleanor*, and cast off the yoke of tyranny by destroying the Crown's tea. They also get a taste of what life was like for sailors in the 18<sup>th</sup>-century by exploring below decks onboard one the vessels that moored at Griffin's Wharf that fateful night. Finally, the students discover how the Sons of Liberty successfully overcame obstacles to accomplish their goals, and achieve independence.

- **Boston Massacre Trial**

This virtual tour captures the tensions in the town between the occupying force of British regulars and the Sons of Liberty as a result of the Boston Massacre that took place on King Street in Boston in 1770. The class is greeted by John Adams, who presents a compelling argument in defense of the soldiers, and Robert Treat Paine, who argues that the redcoats should be found guilty. Students play the role of witnesses, magistrates and jurors in this emotionally charged, riveting reenactment of the historic Boston Massacre trial, held just months after the tragic event.

- **Adventures at Sea in the Eighteenth Century** (available October 1-April 1)

This virtual tour experience takes place onboard one of the authentic replica vessels at the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum, the *Beaver* or the *Eleanor*, to learn about the challenges an 18<sup>th</sup>-century sailor would typically face on the high seas. The class is invited above and below decks onboard these wooden merchant ships where they discover the adventure, and trials in tribulations, of sailing across the ocean in the eighteenth century.

- **Anecdotes from the Boston Tea Party**

This virtual tour regales the class with the humorous anecdotes from the night of the infamous Boston Tea Party. Students discover funny stories and close encounters that happened on Griffin's Wharf that infamous night as they play the part of actual historic characters involved.

- **Ladies of the American Revolution**

Through this virtual tour, students meet the influential founding mothers as they induct the class into the Daughters of Liberty. Students discover the creative ways that Colonial women resisted tyranny, sacrificed for the cause of liberty and how these women were crucial to the success of the American Revolution.

## *Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum Virtual Tours 2019/3*

Teachers in 37 states have already booked virtual tours and, internationally, schools in Canada, United Kingdom, Australia and Spain have also taken part in these remote learning, virtual tour experiences offered by The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum.

"The Boston Tea Party virtual tour session allows my Midwestern land-locked students to truly step into the experience and even participate in it a bit. They get to be a part of the fury leading up to it, they get a tour below decks, and they get to cheer on the actors as they dump the tea overboard. It makes the event much more real to our 21<sup>st</sup>-century kids," says Mary Robison - 5th Grade Social Studies Teacher, Westfield Intermediate School, Westfield, IN.

Teachers can book virtual tours by contacting the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum directly at (617) 531-6241 or via email to [groups@bostontepartyship.com](mailto:groups@bostontepartyship.com).

Not only are teachers across the United States utilizing these virtual tours in their classrooms, but also senior community centers in Ohio, Illinois and Florida have taken part in these virtual tours to stimulate and educate seniors in a fun and interactive way.

According to Emily Abrahamson, Life Enrichment Manager at Greenfields Geneva, a Friendship Senior Options Community in Geneva, IL, "Our senior community launched a brand-new series in 2018 called Exploring the World Our Way. Each month we embark on a virtual field trip to a different museum, cultural institution, or national park using tools like Skype, Zoom and Blue Jeans. We've 'traveled' all around the world, but our most favorite and memorable experience was with the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum. Residents were transported back to the 1770s and got to be in character themselves with speaking roles provided by the museum. We supplied colonial hats and even served Boston-themed fare in the dining room that evening. Our residents are still raving about it more than a year later! Huzzah!"

The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum, which opened in June 2012 and is owned and operated by Historic Tours of America, is situated over the same body of water where The Boston Tea Party took place 245 years ago. The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum is open 7 days/week from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (summer/spring) and from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (fall/winter). Tours run every 30 minutes in the fall/winter and every 15 minutes in the spring/summer and last 1 hour.

### **ABOUT BOSTON TEA PARTY SHIPS & MUSEUM:**

The Boston Tea Party, "the single most important event leading up to the American Revolution," occurred the night of Dec. 16, 1773. Opened in June 2012, The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum, owned and operated by Historic Tours of America, is dedicated to accurately reliving and representing a key time in history (1773-1775). Through actors, tea throwing reenactments, high-tech interactive exhibits, authentic replica ships: the Beaver and the Eleanor, and an award-winning multisensory film, *Let it Begin Here*. The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum is open 7 days/week from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Summer/Spring) and from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Fall/Winter). Tours run every 30 minutes in fall/winter and every 15 minutes in spring/summer and last 1 hr. Closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum was voted 'Best Historical Experience' in *Yankee* '2017 Best of New England', #1 'Best Patriotic Attraction' in *USA Today's* 10Best Readers' Choice Awards 2016, 'Best New Museum' by *Yankee* in 2012 and 'Best of the New 2012' by *Boston Globe Magazine*. To learn more visit [www.bostontepartyship.com](http://www.bostontepartyship.com) or call 1-855-(TEA)-1773. The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum is located at on the Congress Street Bridge at 306 Congress St., Boston, MA.

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### **MEDIA CONTACT:**

Stephanie Loeber  
Loeber Communications  
Ph: 617-510-0577  
E-mail: [stephanie@loebercommunications.com](mailto:stephanie@loebercommunications.com)