





FACT SHEET

LOCATION	<p>The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum, which opened in June 2012, is located in historic Boston, Massachusetts on the Congress St. Bridge on the Fort Point Channel, in the same body of water where Griffin's Wharf once stood in which the Boston Tea Party took place on December 16, 1773.</p>
ABOUT	<p><i>"The Boston Tea Party – the single most important event leading up to the American Revolution"</i></p> <p>The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum utilizes a unique combination of immersive high-tech interactive exhibits, first-person historical interpretation and performance, 18th-century artifacts to bring guests back in time to the tea crisis of 1773 Boston. Guests are encouraged to throw tea [crates] into Boston Harbor, board authentically restored replica ships and learn about the legacy of the iconic event that became known as the Boston Tea Party. The museum experience features the Robinson Tea Chest – the only known surviving tea chest from the Boston Tea Party, as well as other Boston Tea Party-era artifacts and the award-winning multisensory film, <i>Let it Begin Here</i>. The tours last 1hr.</p>
ACCOLADES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020-2021 Pinnacle Award - Center for Interactive Learning & Collaboration • 'Best Historical Experience' - <i>Yankee</i> '2017 Best of New England' issue • 2016 10Best Readers' Choice Award - '#1 Best Patriotic Attraction' - <i>USA Today</i> • 2014 Certificate of Excellence - <i>TripAdvisor</i> • 'Best of the New 2012' - <i>Boston Globe Magazine</i> • 'Best New Museum' - <i>Yankee</i> '2012 Best of New England' issue 
THE EXPERIENCE: ACT I – THE MEETING HOUSE & TEA PARTY REENACTMENT	<p>Tours begin in the Meeting House where actors, with the help of visitors who are assigned names of actual historic participants of the Boston Tea Party, tell the story leading up to that infamous night on December 16, 1773. Here, visitors hear Samuel Adams speech protesting the tax on tea then march to Griffin's Wharf where guests board the ships and help toss tea crates into the water. Visitors then explore the vessels, meet the captain and see what life was like aboard an 18th-century ship.</p>

<p>HISTORIC SHIPS – <i>BEAVER</i>, <i>ELEANOR</i> & <i>DARTMOUTH</i></p>	<p>The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum currently features two (of the three) historically accurate replica 18th-century ships, the <i>Beaver</i> and the <i>Eleanor</i>, which took part in the Boston Tea Party. The third ship, the <i>Dartmouth</i>, has not yet begun construction.</p> <p>The <i>Beaver</i> replica is more than 100 years old and was originally built in Denmark as a Baltic fishing/cargo schooner. The <i>Beaver</i>'s topsides and deck were redesigned to better represent the original <i>Beaver</i>, a whale ship from Nantucket. This vessel underwent re-timbering and re-planking of the topsides and bow, replacement of the stern, deck, bulwarks, lower masts, bowsprit and rigging.</p> <p>The <i>Eleanor</i> is a re-creation of a second Boston Tea Party ship and is 90 feet on deck. Work included new sides, deck, stern and quarter galleries, bow and all rigging.</p> <p>Fun facts about the ships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fir planks used on the decking of the <i>Beaver</i> are 100-year-old wood reclaimed from a factory in Fall River, Mass. • The 400 sheets of copper on the hull of both ships were from the Paul Revere Copper Company, founded by Revere in 1810 and still in operation. • It took 22,000 bronze nails to install the copper sheets. • Both ships feature crews' quarters and captain's quarters exhibits offering a glimpse into life at sea in the 18th-century. <p>Drawings for the third Boston Tea Party ship, the <i>Dartmouth</i>, have been completed and the ship is slated to be newly built from the keel up. Plans for its construction are forthcoming.</p>
<p>THE EXPERIENCE: ACT II – GRIFFIN'S WHARF, THE DAY AFTER</p>	<p>Guests are then guided indoors where through innovative holographs they hear the perspectives of two women - one a Tory and one a Patriot - who engage in a heated discussion about the truths and consequences of their own views at Griffin's Wharf the next morning.</p>
<p>ROBINSON TEA CHEST</p>	<p>On display in the next phase of the tour is the Robinson Chest the <u>only</u> known tea chest still in existence from the original Boston Tea Party on December 16, 1773. The story is told of how the chest has been protected and preserved for more than two centuries and its 'homecoming' back to Boston. In 1773, John Robinson, a young apprentice, found the chest in the sand just off Dorchester Heights and carried it home. His mother knew that having anything in their possession from the Tea Party was considered treason and could have dire consequences for their family. The chest was kept safe by the Robinson family who brought the chest to New York where it was passed down through generations. This tea chest now lies over the same body of water in which it was thrown overboard nearly 250 years ago.</p>

VIAL OF TEA FROM THE BOSTON TEA PARTY	<p>In conjunction with the last known surviving tea chest from The Boston Tea Party, on display is a vial of tea also believed to be from The Boston Tea Party. This vial of tea is on loan from Old North Foundation of Boston, which operates the Old North Church & Historic Site, home to the famous Old North Church, Boston's oldest surviving church building which became famous on the evening of April 18, 1775 when church sexton Robert Newman and vestryman Captain John Pulling, Jr. climbed the church steeple and hung two lanterns (one if by land, and two if by sea) as a signal from Paul Revere (followed then by his famous midnight ride) that the British were invading by sea and not land, launching the American Revolution.</p> <p>It is believed that the provenance for this vial of tea can be traced back to the family of Reverend Thaddeus Mason Harris (1768-1842), a Unitarian clergyman who lived in Dorchester, Mass., who, as legend has it, gathered tea as a five-year-old boy when the tea thrown overboard and was carried by the tide to the beaches of Dorchester Neck Flats. The family purportedly bottled tea in numerous glass vials. Years later, Reverend Harris' mother, Rebecca Harris (1745-1801), passed a vial of the tea to her daughter Hannah Waite (1780-1845). Since then, the tea has been passed on numerous times ultimately landing with Old North Church. Another provenance of the tea, also stemming from the Harris family, was, as legend has it, shaken out of the boot of a participant of The Boston Tea Party on his return home.</p>
THE DEBATE BETWEEN KING GEORGE III AND SAM ADAMS	<p>While King George III and Sam Adams never met in real life, visitors engage with an exhibit that blend their personal correspondence into a dramatized debate between two iconic figures. This exhibit features state-of-the-art "talking portraits" in the museum's portrait gallery.</p>
THE EXPERIENCE: ACT III – THE MINUTEMAN THEATRE	<p><i>Let it Begin Here</i> – the final segment of the tour, guests watch an award-winning, emotionally charged epic short film that authentically recounts the events and participants that led to the American Revolution and the "shot heard round the world." <i>Let it Begin Here</i> has won numerous awards including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bronze Winner, History/Biography Documentary - 33rd Telly Awards 2012</i> • <i>Award of Excellence, History/Biography - The Indie Fest Awards 2012</i> • <i>Award of Merit, Direction - The Indie Fest Awards 2012</i>
ABIGAIL'S TEA ROOM	<p>Named after Abigail Adams, local resident (Quincy, Mass.) and wife of the second President of the United States, John Adams, the tea room (seats 120), offers beautiful waterside views and serves visitors a selection of hot and cold teas, coffee, lemonade, cider, beer, wine, whiskey flights from Boston-based distilleries (\$17.73), along with an assortment of sandwiches, soups, salads, ice cream and baked goods such as scones, muffins & cookies</p>

	<p>including sugar, M&M®, peanut butter cup, triple chocolate chip, oatmeal raisin etc. Guests also can gossip with Patriot women (servers) about life in Boston in 1773. Tea tastings include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3.99 taste sample 5 teas - the same blends thrown overboard during the Boston Tea Party. • \$8.95 - includes a ceramic limited edition souvenir mug • \$16.50 - Abigail's Tea Platter - Includes pot of Abigail's Blend tea, 2 scones and toppings (serves up to 4 people)
GIFT SHOP	<p>Visitors, exiting from the museum and/or the tearoom, make their way into the retail store where they have the opportunity to purchase memorabilia, souvenirs and items relating to colonial Boston and The Boston Tea Party that are exclusively sold at the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum.</p>
HOURS & TOUR PRICING	<p><i>Museum Winter/Spring Hours:</i> <i>*Daily - 10:00 a.m. - 4 p.m. (last tour begins at 4 p.m.)</i> <i>Tours: run every 30 minutes and last approx. 1 hr</i></p> <p><i>Museum Summer/Fall Hours:</i> <i>*Daily - 10:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. (last tour begins at 5 p.m.)</i> <i>Tours: run every 15 minutes and last approx. 1 hr</i></p> <p><i>Pricing:</i> Adult - starts from \$32.00 Child - \$25.00 Children 3 and under - Free</p> <p>Tickets can be purchased at the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum Congress Street box offices or via the Web site - www.bostonteapartyship.com.</p>
'HOMETOWN PASS' PROGRAM	<p>Any current Massachusetts resident is eligible for a free ticket to the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum when they bring along someone who buys a full price adult ticket. Massachusetts Residents must sign-up for the program by going to www.hometownpass.com then print out the Hometown Pass and bring it to the Museum. A valid driver's license, government issued ID or voter's registration must be shown at the ticket booth in conjunction with the Hometown Pass. The accompanying adult guest ticket must be purchased at the Museum ticket booths. Tickets may not be purchased online and may not be purchased using any other discounts or coupon. The Hometown Pass Programs is valid indefinitely.</p>
VICE PRESIDENT and EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – SHAWN P. FORD	<p>A 30+-year veteran with Historic Tours of America®, Shawn started his career with the company as a tour conductor with Old Town Trolley Tours® of Boston. In 1989, Shawn was named general manager of the former Boston Tea Party Ship & Museum. Shawn created Historic Tours of America's International and Domestic Sales Department where he represented the company in the tour and travel industry with the American Bus Association, the National Tour Association, U.S. Tour Operators Association</p>

	and United States Travel Association. Shawn is the past president of the Boston chapter for SKÅL and has served on numerous tourist industry related boards and commission.
MASTER SHIPWRIGHT – LEON POINDEXTER	With more than 30 years experience, Leon Poindexter was the architect and contractor for the <i>Beaver</i> and <i>Eleanor</i> at the Gloucester Marine Railway, the nation's oldest shipyard in Gloucester, Mass where he restored and retrofitted two vessels, the full rigged ships <i>Eleanor</i> and the <i>Beaver</i> , for the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum. He is a master shipwright of many historic vessels & replicas and consultant to maritime museums. He builds, repairs and restores large traditionally-built historic wooden sailing vessels and their rigs, of which many are on the National Register of Historic Places. Leon learned his trade from some of the last of the "old timers" who worked in the famed shipyards of Essex and Cape Ann, Mass. He has also worked on many important vessels including the <i>USS CONSTITUTION</i> and the <i>USS MASSACHUSETTS</i> and was master shipwright for and created the <i>HMS Surprise</i> used in the Academy Award-winning movie "Master and Commander" starring Russell Crowe.
TEA MASTER – BRUCE RICHARDSON	Bruce Richardson, the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum's tea master, is a leading tea expert involved in tea's American renaissance for more than 25 years. A writer/author, photographer, tea blender, and frequent guest speaker, Bruce spends much of his time educating Americans in the art of celebrating the communal cup of tea. He has appeared on television, radio and as a guest speaker at professional seminars such as World Tea Expo. He is a member of the editorial board for <i>Fresh Cup</i> magazine, is a columnist for <i>TeaTime</i> magazine and a contributing editor for <i>TEA</i> magazine.
PARKING	With Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum ticket validation, guests receive partial discounts at these nearby garages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atlantic Wharf Garage - 280 Congress St. • Farnsworth Street Garage - 17 Farnsworth St.
250th BOSTON TEA PARTY ANNIVERSARY & REENACTMENT – Sat., December 16, 2023 	<p>Boston will be the FIRST to mark the 250th anniversary of a landmark historic event in the United States' journey to independence leading to the semiquincentennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of a free nation in 2026. Boston will be the epicenter and on the world's stage in honoring the anniversary of the historic event that is the Boston Tea Party throughout 2023.</p> <p>The 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party Board of Advisors (BOA), Meet Boston and Revolution 250, a consortium of organizations working together to commemorate the 250th anniversaries of the events that led to the American Revolution, is working on creating a series of commemorative programs throughout 2023, culminating in a grand-scale reenactment celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party which</p>

	<p>will be taking place on Saturday December 16, 2023 (the actual anniversary).</p> <p>Details of all 2023 programming and information on the major Boston Tea Party reenactment on December 16, 2023 is available at www.BostonTeaParty250.com.</p>
CONTACT INFORMATION	<p>Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum 306 Congress Street on the Congress Street Bridge Boston, MA 02210 Ph: 1-617-338-1773 Web site: http://www.bostonteapartyship.com</p>
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