



**THE BOSTON TEA PARTY AND  
BOSTON TEA PARTY SHIPS & MUSEUM FUN FACTS  
THE 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOSTON TEA PARTY TOOK PLACE ON  
DECEMBER 16, 2023**

**THE BOSTON TEA PARTY - DECEMBER 16, 1773**

- The Boston Tea Party took place on Dec. 16, 1773. It is considered the single most important event that led to the American Revolution. (If the Boston Tea Party did not take place, we might all still be British subjects today!).
- A couple hundred Colonial men (a.k.a. Patriots) were involved in the Boston Tea Party. These are America's 'original' Patriots. [Sports reference: **Hence the name for the National Football League's New England Patriots**].
- The Boston Tea Party was the culmination of a resistance movement throughout British America against the Tea Act, which had been passed by the British Parliament in 1773. Colonists objected to the Tea Act because they believed that it violated their rights as Englishmen to "No taxation without representation," that is, to be taxed only by their own elected representatives and not by a British parliament in which they were not represented.
- 340 chests of British East India Company Tea, weighing more than 92,000 pounds, were thrown into Boston Harbor on December 16, 1773.
- The value of the tea thrown overboard in today's dollars is approx. US\$1.5 million!

**THE BOSTON TEA PARTY SHIPS & MUSEUM - 306 CONGRESS ST. (CONGRESS ST. BRIDGE) - BOSTON, MA**

- The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum is a popular family and historic attraction having opened in June 2012. It is a floating museum **situated over the same body of water where The Boston Tea Party took place** more than two centuries years ago.
- The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum was voted **#1 'Best Patriotic Attraction'** in *USA Today's* 10Best Readers' Choice Awards 2016.
- The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum provides a unique immersion and experience in history by representing a key time in history (from 1773 to 1775), through live actors, tea throwing re-enactments, high-tech interactive exhibits, authentically restored tea ships and an award-winning multisensory film, *Let it Begin Here*. The Museum tells the story of The Boston Tea Party and immediate aftermath that led to the beginning of the American



Revolution. The tours, which run seasonally every 15 (summer/fall) or 30 minutes (winter/spring), last 1 hr.

- On display at The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum is the **Robinson Tea Chest, the ONLY known tea chest still in existence from the Boston Tea Party** on December 16, 1773.
  - Carved into the Robinson Tea Chest is a game called Nine Men's Morris, an ancient strategy board game.
- Also on display is a **vial of tea** believed to be **from The Boston Tea Party**. This vial of tea is on loan from Old North Foundation of Boston, responsible for the operation of the Old North Church & Historic Site.
- The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum currently features two (of the three) historically accurate replica tall ships, the *Beaver* and the *Eleanor*, which took part in the Boston Tea Party. The ships were built in Gloucester, Mass., one of the oldest shipbuilding (and fishing) towns in America. The third ship, the *Dartmouth*, has not yet begun construction.
  - Fun facts about the *Beaver*:
    - Fir planks used on the original decking of the *Beaver* are 100-year-old wood reclaimed from a factory in Fall River, Mass.
    - The 400 sheets of copper on the sides of the *Beaver* 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.
- Five different blends of tea were thrown into the Harbor during the Boston Tea Party. **All teas are still available today** and can be purchased at the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum and/or tasted at Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum's Abigail's Tea Room:
  - **Bohea**: One of the first teas imported by the East India Company in the 18<sup>th</sup>-century. Bohea was fired or dried over charcoal in tea gardens before being transported to the American colonies. As a black tea, bohea has a rich flavor similar to a contemporary oolong.
  - **Congou**: This black tea was quite prestigious in Colonial America and a favorite of the British upper classes.
  - **Hyson**: This early spring green tea is picked by April 20 each year and was a favorite of both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. This tea was so desired by English consumers that it was taxed at a higher rate than other teas.
  - **Singlo**: Singlo is a term for Chinese green tea encompassing several varieties picked later than early spring hysons. Names for singlo tea include Twanky, Eyebrow, and Gunpowder teas.
  - **Souchong**: This classic black tea came from the Wuyi Mountains in the Fujian province of China. It is famous for its very distinctive smoky aroma. Most of today's souchong exports are smoked with pinewood and are called lapsang souchong.



## THE 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOSTON TEA PARTY - DECEMBER 16, 2023 MAJOR LIVE REENACTMENT

Boston commemorated the 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party on December 16, 2023. Dubbed by John Adams as the “most magnificent movement of all”, the Boston Tea Party is one of the nation’s most iconic events and one that propelled America down the road to revolution and the creation of the United States of America in 1776.

Boston was the **FIRST** to mark the 250<sup>th</sup> 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 was the epicenter and on the world’s stage in honoring the anniversary of the historic event that was the

Boston Tea Party in 2023. More than 25,000 people attended the events on December 16, 2023!

In honor of this anniversary, a committee of Meet Boston, the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party Board of Advisors (BOA) and Revolution 250, a consortium of organizations that worked together to create a series of commemorative programs throughout 2023, planned and culminated a year of programming with a grand-scale live reenactment on the 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party that took place on Saturday, December 16, 2023 at both the Old South Meeting House and Faneuil Hall in addition to Downtown Crossing. A lively procession followed to the waterfront led by fife & drum corps where the Sons of Liberty destroyed 250lbs of actual tea sent from London's East India Company, from tea sent in from Americans from all 50 states and from citizens around the globe, in addition to 374lbs of tea from American veterans, into Boston’s historic waters at the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum located over the same body of water where the Boston Tea Party took two and a half centuries ago!

To watch the major Boston Tea Party reenactment that took place on December 16, 2023, visit [www.BostonTeaParty250.com](http://www.BostonTeaParty250.com).

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