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5 Must-See Boston Museums

Enjoy fine art or explore the science of bubbles at Boston's top museums.

[Boston](#) is home to some fascinating and unique museums, so deciding where to go and what to see can be overwhelming. U.S. News consulted some of the city's local experts about the top museums. They said whether you're interested in ancient Greece, contemporary art or just a family-friendly activity, Boston has a museum that specializes in what you're looking for – sometimes all in one place.



With a staggering collection of approximately half a million objects, from ancient Egyptian artifacts to cutting-edge contemporary art, the [Museum of Fine Arts, Boston](#), or the MFA for short, is one of the city's must-see museums. Nicholas MacDonald, head concierge at [Hotel Commonwealth](#), says, "People literally come to Boston and stay here just to visit that museum."

The collection is extensive, so there's certainly something to grab everyone's interest, from the works of Claude Monet (there's a gallery dedicated just to the Impressionist painter) to the mummies in the "Art of the Ancient World" gallery, a favorite with kids. Guided one-hour tours, regularly offered and free with admission, are an excellent way to explore the museum.

Suzanne Wenz, director of marketing communications and PR at the [Taj Boston](#) and [Boston Park Plaza](#), says, "I'm a big fan of art and I think the Museum of Fine Arts should be on the top of someone's list when they are visiting Boston. It has a really wonderful collection of art from all periods and all styles."

Nina Senatore, guest experience ambassador at [The Lenox Hotel](#), also loves the museum and says, "It's a phenomenal gift to the city of Boston and its people."

The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston is open Saturday through Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. General admission is \$25 for adults, and \$23 for seniors and students 18 and older with an ID. For those ages 7 to 17, admission is free during weekdays after 3 p.m., weekends and Boston public school holidays; otherwise admission for youths is \$10. Admission is free for children 6 and younger. Wednesday nights after 4 p.m., admission is by voluntary contribution. Full-price adult, senior and student tickets are good for two days within a 10-day period.

Boston Children's Museum

[Boston Children's Museum](#), founded in 1913, is the second oldest children's museum in the country. It offers a variety of hands-on exhibits, from the "Japanese House" – a two-story silk merchant's home from Kyoto, which was brought from Japan and assembled in Boston – to the ever-popular "Bubbles" exhibit – where kids can experiment with the science of bubbles.

"The museum entertains not just children," MacDonald says. "Adults always have a good time as well."

Kids love exploring the "New Balance Foundation Climb," a three-story climbing sculpture made of flowing curved platforms, in the lobby of the museum. While the sculpture is too small for adults, parents can follow along on the stairway and help guide their kids, while taking in some of the best views of downtown Boston and the harbor. A full schedule of special exhibits, festivals and performances is offered, making the museum a lively place to be.

Boston Children's Museum is open Saturday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Admission is \$16 for adults, \$16 for children 1 to 15 and free for infants younger than 12 months. On Friday, admission is \$1 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.