



Tour:

BOSTON SPARKS STEM & HISTORY JOURNEY Middle School Edition

Destination:

Boston, Massachusetts, USA

BOSTON SPARKS: STEM & HISTORY JOURNEY Boston, Massachusetts - Middle School Edition

Day	Meals	Morning	Afternoon		Evening
1	D	Travel to Boston, meet Tour Director, Transfer to your Hotel; Check-In & Refresh; Welcome, Safety & Orientation Briefing			Boston Welcome Dinner
2	B, D	John F Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum with Historical Workshop	Boston Tea Party	America's Freedom Trail Walking Tour	Faneuil Hall & Quincy Market Exploration with Dinner Vouchers
3	B, D	Harvard Museum of Natural History & Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology with STEM Master Class	Broad Discovery Center of MIT & Harvard with Scientist Interview	Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT with Master Class	Boston Harbor Dinner Cruise
4	B, D	Guild Hall Makerspace Workshop	Boston Museum of Science with Planetarium Show & IMAX Presentation		Local Dinner & Indoor Rock Climbing
5	B, D	The New England Aquarium & Simons Theatre Experience	New England Whale Watching Cruise with a Naturalist		Farewell Dinner & Trip Reflections
6	B	Depart Boston for Home			



As with all sample itineraries, please be advised that this is an 'example' of a schedule and that the activities and hotels shown may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.



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A Message From Our Team

At STEM Study Tours, we believe students learn best when they're immersed, engaged, and inspired. Every program is built with intention - blending hands-on discovery, academic depth, and meaningful experiences that help students see the world (and themselves) in new ways. Our goal is for each itinerary to spark curiosity, build confidence, and create moments students carry long after the trip ends. We're honored to partner with schools who share that vision and to help bring learning to life beyond the classroom.

— Michele & The Hammock Expeditions Team

Why Travel With Hammock Expeditions & STEM Study Tours

Schools choose us because we design programs that are organized, intentional, and built around real learning. Our itineraries combine strong academics with smooth logistics, giving teachers confidence and giving students opportunities to explore, ask questions, and grow. We partner with trusted local experts, communicate clearly, and support groups every step of the way so educators can focus on their students - not the logistics.

What Sets Us Apart

- **Purpose-Driven Itineraries** - Students actively participate in meaningful, real-world learning.
- **Safety, Structure & Professionalism** - From 24-hour support to vetted partners and clear communication, we ensure teachers can focus on their students while we handle the logistics.
- **Hands-On, High-Impact Learning** - Our programs emphasize field science, conservation, and experiential learning - the kind that sticks with students long after the trip ends.
- **Student-Centered Design** - We balance learning with fun, reflection with adventure, and structure with flexibility. Every day is crafted to keep students engaged, energized, and supported.
- **A Team That Travels With Purpose** - We're educators, planners, naturalists, and travel professionals who care deeply about student growth. Your goals become our goals.

Our Commitment to You

When you travel with us, you gain a partner who understands your vision, anticipates your needs, and delivers an experience your students will remember for years to come. We're here to support your school, empower your students, and make every moment meaningful.

We want to be your educational partner. Let us know how we may serve you.

Michele, Christina, Izzy, Dana, Taylor, and the Team



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Boston is a city where ideas have shaped nations and discoveries have changed the world. ***Boston Sparks: STEM & History Journey*** invites middle school students into that story through a five-night program built around curiosity, creativity, and hands-on learning. From exploring revolutionary sites to stepping inside world-class science institutions, students experience the connections between innovation and history in real time. Each day offers a mix of interactive STEM activities, landmark visits, and engaging group experiences that help students see how the past and future meet in one extraordinary city.

About Boston... Few places blend heritage and innovation as seamlessly as Boston. Home to the Freedom Trail, MIT, Harvard, and a vibrant waterfront, the city offers students a rare chance to explore both the foundations of American democracy and the frontiers of modern science. Its compact neighborhoods, iconic architecture, and renowned museums create an environment where learning feels natural and discovery is around every corner. Whether examining artifacts from the Revolution or observing cutting-edge research, students experience Boston as a dynamic, welcoming classroom filled with stories, ideas, and inspiration.



Did you know?

- ✓ The Boston Tea Party wasn't just a protest; it was a carefully planned act of civil disobedience that helped spark the American Revolution.
- ✓ Boston's Freedom Trail is only 2.5 miles long, but it connects 16 historic sites that shaped the nation's early history.
- ✓ The city's subway system, the T, is the oldest in America — opening in 1897 to reduce traffic from horse-drawn carriages.
- ✓ The waters off Massachusetts are one of the best places in the world to see humpback whales, thanks to nutrient-rich feeding grounds in Stellwagen Bank.
- ✓ The city's innovation ecosystem includes more than 100 colleges and universities, making Boston one of the most concentrated academic regions on the planet. Boston is also home to the oldest public school in the United States, Boston Latin School, founded in 1635.
- ✓ Boston's nickname "Beantown" comes from its famous baked beans, a colonial-era dish made with molasses. In the 1700s, molasses was widely imported through Boston's busy port, and slow-baked beans became a weekend staple — so iconic that the name stuck for centuries.



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Day 1 - Arrival, Orientation & First Connections

Dinner

Upon arrival in Boston, your group meets your Tour Director and gets settled for the journey ahead. After transferring to the hotel and checking in, students have a moment to unpack, refresh, and get comfortable after travel. This first transition is kept calm and organized, giving everyone space to settle into the rhythm of the program before the excitement begins.

The group then comes together for the **Welcome, Safety & Orientation Meeting** — a clear, student-friendly kickoff to the week. Your Tour Director walks through the daily schedule, group expectations, communication procedures, and key safety guidelines for navigating Boston's busy, historic neighborhoods. Teachers appreciate the structure; students appreciate knowing what's ahead. The meeting helps everyone feel grounded, informed, and ready for the adventure. Afterward, the group heads out for a Welcome Dinner, a relaxed chance to connect, enjoy a meal together, and ease into the energy of Boston.

Day 2 - Stories of a Revolution & Voices That Shaped a Nation

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Today's activities include:



John F Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum with Historical Workshop

Students explore the life and legacy of President John F. Kennedy through engaging exhibits and stories that illuminate the challenges and achievements of the 1960s, learning how leadership, communication, and civic responsibility shaped a changing nation. At the hands-on historical workshop, students work with primary sources and artifacts to interpret real events from Kennedy's presidency. It's a thoughtful, interactive experience that helps students connect past decisions to the world they know today.



Boston Tea Party - Students step into one of the most famous moments in American history as they explore how a bold act of protest helped spark the American Revolution. Through engaging exhibits and guided storytelling, they learn about the people, tensions, and decisions behind the Boston Tea Party. A hands-on activity aboard the historic ships lets students examine artifacts and participate in a lively reenactment. It's an interactive experience that shows how ordinary citizens used courage and conviction to shape the nation's future.



Freedom Trail Walking Tour – Students explore Boston's most iconic historic sites as they follow the Freedom Trail, learning how everyday people, bold ideas, and key events shaped the fight for independence. Along the route, guides share stories that bring the Revolution to life, highlighting the leaders, debates, and turning points that defined the era. Students visit landmarks such as the Old State House and Faneuil Hall, seeing firsthand where history unfolded. It's an engaging, story-driven walk that helps students connect the nation's beginnings to the world they know today.



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Faneuil Hall & Quincy Market – Students visit Faneuil Hall, a historic gathering place where early debates and public meetings helped shape the nation, learning how ideas and community engagement influenced the path toward independence. Just steps away, Quincy Market offers a lively stretch of food halls, performers, and local vendors that showcase Boston’s modern energy. As students explore the marketplace, they see how history and daily life blend in one of the city’s most iconic public spaces. Groups will be issued vouchers to use for dinner and dessert this evening.

Day 3 - Cambridge’s Cutting-Edge Science & Research

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Today’s activities include:



Harvard Museum of Natural History & Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology - Students explore two of Harvard’s most fascinating museums, discovering fossils, gems, cultural artifacts, and scientific collections that reveal the story of our planet and its people. As they move through the galleries, they learn how scientists study evolution, ecosystems, and human cultures using real specimens and evidence. It’s a rich, engaging visit that blends natural science and anthropology in a way that sparks curiosity and connection.

STEM Master Class - Students deepen their learning in a hands-on STEM Master Class led by Harvard educators, investigating scientific questions through guided experimentation and data analysis. Working with real tools and evidence, they practice problem-solving, collaboration, and inquiry-based thinking. It’s an energizing session that helps students connect museum discoveries to real scientific processes and the skills used by researchers today.



Broad Discovery Center of MIT & Harvard – Students visit the Broad Discovery Center, a collaborative space where scientists from MIT and Harvard work together to explore genetics, biomedical research, and the science behind human health. Through interactive exhibits and real research stories, students learn how scientists use data, technology, and teamwork to investigate diseases and uncover new discoveries. It’s an inspiring look at how modern science pushes boundaries and helps shape the future of medicine.

Broad Scientist Interview - Students meet directly with a working scientist, hearing firsthand how research questions are formed, tested, and turned into real-world breakthroughs. During the session, they ask questions, examine examples of current studies, and learn what it’s like to work in a cutting-edge research environment. It’s a motivating, behind-the-scenes experience that helps students connect classroom science to real careers and real impact.



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Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT – Students visit the Koch Institute, a world-class research center where biologists and engineers work together to understand cancer and develop new ways to treat it. Through interactive exhibits and real research stories, they learn how scientists study cells, genetics, and innovative technologies to tackle one of medicine’s biggest challenges. The visit highlights how collaboration, creativity, and problem-solving drive discoveries that can change lives.

Koch Biomedical STEM Master Class - Students take part in a hands-on Master Class led by MIT educators, exploring how scientists design experiments, analyze data, and test ideas in the lab. Working with real tools and models, they investigate how cancer cells behave and how researchers develop new approaches to diagnosis and treatment. It’s an engaging, inquiry-based session that helps students connect cutting-edge research to the scientific skills they’re building in school.



Boston Harbor Dinner Cruise - Students enjoy a relaxing evening on the Boston Harbor Dinner Cruise, taking in skyline views and learning how the waterfront has shaped the city’s history and growth. As they sail past landmarks and working ports, they see how Boston’s maritime past connects to its modern identity. A buffet dinner and open-air decks give students time to unwind, socialize, and enjoy the atmosphere after a full day of exploration. It’s a fun, scenic experience that lets students see Boston from a whole new perspective.

Day 4 - Creativity, Innovation & Hands-On Adventure

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Today’s activities include:



Guild Hall Makerspace Workshop – Students dive into a hands-on makerspace workshop where they design, build, and test a project using tools like 3D printers, circuitry kits, and fabrication materials. Working in small teams, they follow a design challenge, sketch solutions, and iterate on their creations through trial and error. The session encourages curiosity, creativity, and collaboration as students refine their ideas and learn from each attempt. It’s an energetic, STEM-driven experience that shows how makers use engineering and imagination to solve real problems.



Boston Museum of Science – Students explore the Boston Museum of Science, discovering hands-on exhibits that spark curiosity about engineering, physics, biology, and the world around them. As they move through interactive galleries and live demonstrations, they learn how scientists use evidence, experimentation, and creative problem-solving to understand natural phenomena. It’s an engaging visit that blends discovery with real-world STEM connections.

Planetarium & IMAX Presentation - Students continue their experience with a Planetarium show that takes them on a journey through the stars, exploring planets, constellations, and the science of our universe. They then enjoy an IMAX film that brings science to life on a giant screen, immersing them in big ideas and



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breathtaking visuals. Together, these shows create an exciting, cinematic extension of their museum learning.



Indoor Rock Climbing - Students take on an indoor rock climbing session that blends physical challenge with teamwork and confidence-building. Guided by trained instructors, they learn basic climbing techniques, practice problem-solving on different routes, and support one another as they reach new heights. The experience encourages perseverance, communication, and trust while giving students a fun, active break from their academic day. It's an energizing adventure that helps them stretch their comfort zones in a safe, encouraging environment.

Day 5 - Exploring Boston's Blue Planet

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Today's activities include:



New England Aquarium & Simons Theatre – Students explore the New England Aquarium, discovering sea turtles, penguins, stingrays, and vibrant marine habitats while learning how scientists study ocean ecosystems and conservation challenges around the world. Their experience continues at the Simons Theatre, where a giant-screen 3D film immerses them in ocean exploration and wildlife storytelling, deepening their understanding of the underwater world through stunning visuals and science-driven narratives. It's an engaging, cinematic extension of their aquarium learning.



New England Whale Watching Cruise - Students head out onto the open ocean for a whale-watching cruise led by a trained naturalist who explains how scientists study marine mammals and protect their habitats. As the boat travels to feeding grounds off the Massachusetts coast, students watch for humpbacks, finbacks, and other species while learning about migration, behavior, and conservation. It's an exciting, real-world science experience that brings ocean ecology to life in a memorable and meaningful way.

Please be advised that whale watching tours are seasonal. If they are not available at the time you intend to travel, we will be happy to find a suitable activity for replacement.

Farewell Dinner & Reflections Evening - The Farewell Dinner brings everyone together for a relaxed, celebratory meal where students and teachers can unwind and enjoy their final evening in Boston. After dinner, the group transitions into a guided reflections session designed to help students process what they've learned and experienced throughout the trip. Through thoughtful prompts, shared highlights, and small-group conversations, students connect personal moments to the broader themes of culture, history, and science explored during the week. It's a warm, memorable closing experience that strengthens community, encourages gratitude, and gives the trip a meaningful sense of completion.



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Day 6 - Closing the Journey

Breakfast included, dependent upon departure time

On the final morning, students have breakfast, pack up, check out, and load their luggage onto the coach, keeping the process smooth and organized as the group prepares for the journey home. This brief transition gives everyone a chance to reset, review the travel plan, and make sure all belongings are accounted for. With the group ready and the coach secured, the morning sets a calm, structured tone for departure.

As the group begins the trip home, students reflect on the many experiences that shaped their time in Boston — from hands-on STEM learning and makerspace creativity to ocean science, wildlife encounters, and unforgettable adventures. They leave with new knowledge, shared memories, and a stronger sense of curiosity about the world. As you settle into your seat for the ride back, we hope the discoveries you've explored, the questions you've asked, and the moments you've shared throughout this program leave you feeling inspired, confident, and eager for your next adventure.

Farewell Boston!



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Middle School Edition

Minimum Booking Numbers: 20 students

What's Included:

- ✓ Round-trip flights or motorcoach transfers
- ✓ 5-nights' accommodation in the Boston-metro area (typically outside of the city center)
- ✓ Airport transfers in Boston plus transportation to scheduled activities
- ✓ Breakfasts & dinners daily starting with dinner on arrival and ending with breakfast on departure
- ✓ John F Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum with Historical Workshop
- ✓ Boston Tea Party excursion
- ✓ America's Freedom Trail with Historical Guide
- ✓ Faneuil Hall & Quincy Market
- ✓ Harvard Museum of Natural History with Master Class
- ✓ Harvard's Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology
- ✓ Broad Discovery Center of MIT & Harvard with Scientist Interview
- ✓ MIT's Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research with Master Class
- ✓ Boston Harbor Dinner Cruise
- ✓ Guild Hall makerspace Workshop
- ✓ Boston Museum of Science with IMAX Presentation & Planetarium
- ✓ Indoor Rock Climbing experience
- ✓ The New England Aquarium & Simons Theatre experience
- ✓ New England Whale Watching Cruise with a Naturalist (seasonality permitting)
- ✓ Dedicated Tour Director
- ✓ 24-hour emergency cover

What's Not Included:

- ☒ Fully comprehensive insurance (**mandatory**)
- ☒ Transfers to/from home airport
- ☒ Baggage costs, pay directly to airline if required
- ☒ Baggage handling; everyone should be able to pull / load their own bag
- ☒ Lunches plus any snacks/beverages other than at meal times
- ☒ Meal selections other than ones provided for the entire group (we are generally able to cater for allergy conditions, vegetarians, halal and in some cases vegan)
- ☒ Sightseeing / Entertainment / Transport not shown in Itinerary
- ☒ Cost of personal passports, visas or visa waiver fees
- ☒ Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel
- ☒ Hotel incidental deposits & bills – mini-bar, movies, etc.
- ☒ **Gratuities – drivers, hotel services, area guides, tour director**
- ☒ Credit card fees if individuals wish to pay via credit card instead of ACH (online check)
- ☒ Additional taxes, fuel surcharges or fees levied by governments / suppliers

As always, our staff are always available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming. If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.