



Salem Witch Museum



deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum



Peabody Essex Museum

MUSEUMS ROAD TRIP

Special
MUSEUMS
Guide

WHILE DISCOVERING BOSTON'S MUSEUMS CAN KEEP YOU BUSY FOR WEEKS, take the time to go beyond city limits and explore Massachusetts' vibrant art and culture institutions. Here are six museums that are just a short trek away. BY SAMANTHA DIMAURO

Fitchburg Art Museum (25 Merriam Parkway, Fitchburg, 978-345-4207, fitchburgartmuseum.org): This family-friendly museum brings art from around the world—including photography, painting, installations and more—to an historic small town in central Massachusetts. An interactive gallery of the wonders of Ancient Egypt—which includes a real mummy—gives insight to one of the oldest and most accomplished civilizations in recorded history.

Peabody Essex Museum (161 Essex St., Salem, 978-745-9500, pem.org): The PEM showcases unrivaled New England art, architecture and maritime artifacts, and is one of the nation's major museums for Asian art. The Asian Export collection includes masterworks reflective of the complex interaction between Eastern and Western cultural traditions.

Salem Witch Museum (19½ N. Washington Square, Salem, 978-744-1692, salemwitchmuseum.com): Experience the drama of history at this staple institution telling the story of the 1692 Salem Witch Trials. On a guided tour, you'll learn about the changing interpretations of witches, the truth behind stereotypes, witchcraft practice today and the frightening phenomenon of witch hunting.

Cape Ann Museum (27 Pleasant St., Gloucester, 978-283-0455, capeannmuseum.org): The art here tells the story of Cape Ann, an idyllic haven on the North Shore that's been attracting artists for decades. The museum's fine art collection includes the largest grouping of works by native son and renowned marine artist Fitz Henry Lane, as well as work by other painters and sculptors inspired by the region.

deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum (51 Sandy Pond Rd., Lincoln, 781-259-8355, decordova.org): A short drive west brings you to this oasis of modern and contemporary art. The Sculpture Park boasts 30 acres of beautifully landscaped lawns, forests, field and gardens on the shore of Flint's Pond in Lincoln—a sprawling campus filled with large-scale, colorful and abstract outdoor sculpture.

Fuller Craft Museum (455 Oak St., Brockton, 508-588-6000, fullercraft.org): South of Boston is the most exciting place to be in the world of contemporary craft. Taking the meaning of "arts and crafts" to a whole other level, this museum showcases the most cutting-edge innovations in craft objects, like machine-powered kinetic sculptures, whimsical rocking chairs and handcrafted artists' books.