General Information

About the Peabody Museum

The Peabody Museum is among the oldest archaeological and ethnographic museums in the world with one of the finest collections of human cultural history found anywhere. It is home to superb materials from Africa, ancient Europe, North America, Mesoamerica, Oceania, and South America in particular. In addition to its archaeological and ethnographic holdings, the Museum’s photographic archives, one of the largest of its kind, hold more than 500,000 historical photographs dating from the mid-19th century to the present and chronicling anthropology, archaeology, and world culture.

Location: The Peabody Museum is located at 11 Divinity Avenue in Cambridge. The Museum is a short walk from the Harvard Square MBTA station on the Red Line.

Hours: 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., seven days a week. The Museum is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day.

Admission: Admission is $12 for adults, $10 for students and seniors, $8 for children, 3–18. Free with Harvard ID or Museum membership. The Museum is free to Massachusetts residents Sundays, 9 A.M. to noon, year round, and Wednesdays from 3 P.M. to 5 P.M. (September to May). Admission includes admission to the Harvard Museum of Natural History.

Public Information: 617-496-1027 or www.peabody.harvard.edu

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The Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology is one of the Harvard Museums of Science & Culture (HMSC). The Peabody Museum is adjacent to the Harvard Museum of Natural History, and admission price includes both. Combine your visit to the museums with an exploration of historic Harvard Yard and the popular restaurants and shops of Harvard Square!

Admission
Adults $12
College students $10
Seniors (65+) $10
Youth (3–18) $8
Under 3 Free
Members Free

Hours
Open daily 9:00 am–5:00 pm
Closed January 1, Thanksgiving Day, and December 24–25

Information: 617-496-1027
Group Reservations: 617-495-3216

Free admission to Harvard photo ID holders and one guest.
Free admission to Massachusetts residents with ID (except commercial groups) on Sunday mornings, year-round from 9:00 am–noon and Wednesdays from 3:00–5:00 pm (September–May only).

Public Transportation
Public transportation is strongly encouraged. Take the Red Line to Harvard Square. The Museum is a 10-minute walk north through Harvard Yard to Divinity Avenue. Or bike to Hubway’s Harvard University Gund Hall station at Quincy and Kirkland Streets.

Parking and Directions
Visit the website for details: www.peabody.harvard.edu
Explore the 10,000-year cultural history of six continents across eight galleries in one of the world’s most important anthropology museums.

- See the superb collection of Maya monuments and sculptures in the Latin American galleries
- View stunning murals of the ancient Americas
- Discover the early history of colonial Harvard and its little-known Indian College in the Native American galleries
- Imagine the lives of Lakota (western Sioux) warriors in an exhibit featuring Sitting Bull's war club
- Wander historic galleries with newly restored dioramas in one of the world’s first anthropology museums

OPENING APRIL 2014
THE LEGACY OF PENOBSCOT CANOES
A View from the River
The Collections

The collections of the Peabody Museum span the globe and cover millions of years of human cultural, social, and biological history. Few collections in the world can match its breadth and depth. Strongest in the cultures of North, Central, and South America, the Peabody is also caretaker to important collections from Africa, Europe, the Pacific Islands, and Asia.

North America

The Peabody’s holdings from North America form more than a quarter of its collections, represent every corner of the continent, and span 10,000 years. From the earliest excavations in the Southeast and Mimbres pottery from the Southwest to the Grace Nicholson Collection of California baskets and the Lewis and Clark artifacts, the Peabody boasts a collection that is second to none.

Central America

The Museum hosts an almost unprecedented collection of Maya material culture and monuments from Copán, Holmul, Labna, Piedras Negras, and Uaxactun, fine Aztec artifacts from the Sacred Cenote of Chichén Itzá, and more than 700 plaster casts of monuments at important Central American sites. Ethnographic collections include the Alice P. Melvin Mexican Folk Art Collection and important collections of textiles and masks.

South America

Some of the Peabody’s earliest accessions—collected by Louis Agassiz and his son Alexander—form the backbone to Peabody’s South American ethnographic collections. Particularly noteworthy are the collection of nineteenth- and twentieth-century featherwork headdresses and ornaments from the Amazon Basin and the William Farabee collection of Bolivian and Peruvian ceremonial and domestic objects. Important archaeological collections include Chimú, Nazca, and Moche pottery; Inca and Chimú metalwork; and an exceptional collection of prehistoric Andean textiles.

Asia

The Museum’s Asian holdings are very fine, with one of the earliest collections of objects made and used by the Ainu, Japan’s indigenous people; Japanese ceramics; colorful textiles made by the Kachin, tribal peoples of northeastern Myanmar, and by the Shan, a people related to the Thai; Siberian hide costumes and carved wooden household items; and the Owen Lattimore Collection from Mongolia and the Quentin Roosevelt Collection from Tibet. Archaeological materials dominate the Asia collections with an extensive collection of excavated artifacts from Tepe Yahya (Iran), Tarsus (Turkey), and Vietnam.
Africa
The Museum's holdings include over 20,000 items in four significant collections. The three principal collections, gathered from Liberia, southern Cameroon, and Uganda during the first half of the twentieth century, include a diverse range of objects used in daily or ritual life. The fourth collection contains more than 200 musical instruments ranging from drums to hand pianos. Archaeological collections are represented by George Reisner and Oric Bates's excavations in Egypt and Nubia.

Oceania
Collected by eighteenth-century Boston merchants, traders, and researchers during their Pacific voyages, the 23,000 items of this collection include many rare and exceptional pieces. Highlights include Easter Island tapa figures and carved wooden statues; Hawaiian feather capes and helmets; Maori carved door panels, bowls, and human figures; Javanese shadow puppets; and Micronesian canoes and shell jewelry.

Europe
In addition to extensive Paleolithic collections from France, especially from the site of Abri Pataud where Cro Magnon man once lived, there are materials from Neolithic through Iron Age Europe, with the notable collection of the Duchess of Mecklenburg excavations in Slovenia. The European collection also includes a portion of the French archaeologist/political activist Gabriel de Mortillet's collections from Central Europe, a “Venus” figurine from the Grimaldi Cave in Italy, and Neolithic stone tools from northwestern Europe.

Paintings & Drawings
Numbering nearly 200 paintings and 950 works on paper, the Peabody's collection of artwork is an important and complementary addition to the object collections. About half, representing the David I. Bushnell, Jr. Collection of American Art, contains works by Alexander de Batz, George Catlin, Charles Bird King, George Gibbs, Edward Kern, John Webber, and over 130 oils, watercolors, and drawings by Seth Eastman, the foremost pictorial historian of the American West. There are also painted portraits of Native Americans by E.A. Burbank, some being the only extant representation of the subject. Other significant pieces include the works of Jean Charlot depicting the monumental architecture of Mesoamerica, twentieth-century works by Native American artists, an extensive series of Inuit prints, and thirty-eight works depicting people and places in India and Tibet by Andre Chéronnet Champollion.

Records & Photographic Archives
The holdings of both the records and photographic archives add inestimable value to the artifact collections. Together they form a rich depository that documents the Peabody collections.

The papers and manuscripts housed in the archives include institutional (departmental and Museum) records, special collections, and extant material associated with anthropological/archaeological expeditions, faculty members, and related research projects.

Ranging from daguerreotypes to colored transparencies, photographic images in the Peabody's collections number about half a million and traverse the archaeology and ethnology of the world, with particular emphasis in those areas where the Peabody's holdings in material culture are the richest. Major photographic collections include Native American cultures and portraits, Mexico, northern Central America, China and Southwest Asia, Africa, and pre–Columbian objects and art.
Four Museums

THE HARVARD MUSEUMS OF SCIENCE & CULTURE offer captivating public programming for all ages, permanent galleries, and dynamic rotating exhibits—from a 42-foot-long Kronosaurus to delicate Glass Flowers; from massive Maya and Egyptian monuments to instruments used by Benjamin Franklin. The HMSC museum partnership brings you closer to Harvard University’s distinctive collections and vital research on human civilizations, biodiversity, and the history of Earth and science.

Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology
Among the oldest archaeological museums in the world, the Peabody contains one of the finest collections of human cultural history in existence. View towering Native American totem poles and large Maya sculptures up close, examine precious artifacts of the ancient world, and take classes and attend public lectures based on the museum’s world-class collections and scholarship.

Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments
Harvard has been acquiring scientific instruments for teaching and research since 1672. This collection, established in 1948, is one of the three largest university collections of its kind in the world and contains telescopes, timepieces, computers, optical equipment, and much more.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
Home to the world-famous Blaschka Glass Flowers from the Harvard University Herbaria, the newly renovated Earth & Planetary Sciences Gallery, and the outstanding collections of Harvard’s Museum of Comparative Zoology, HMNH is one of New England’s most popular museums, with over 200,000 visitors each year.

Harvard Semitic Museum
The Harvard Semitic Museum explores the rich history of cultures connected by the family of Semitic languages. Home to the University’s collections of over 40,000 Near Eastern artifacts, the museum collection includes pottery, cylinder seals, sculpture, coins, and cuneiform tablets—many from Harvard-sponsored excavations in Israel, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, Cyprus, and Tunisia.

Photo Credits: David Barron/The Oxygen Group, Mark Craig, Charles Mayer, Patrick Rogers, Shutterstock, Samantha van Gerbig, and Faith Sutter
Membership Benefits

INDIVIDUAL, STUDENT, AND SENIOR members receive the following benefits:

• Unlimited free admission to all HMSC museums and the Harvard Art Museums
• Invitations to behind-the-scenes and select special events at all Harvard Museums of Science & Culture
• 10% discount at all HMSC museum shops (excluding books at the Peabody Museum) and at the Harvard Art Museums shop
• 10% discount on HMSC adult programs
• Discounts at select local restaurants (see website for details)
• Free admission to museums and science centers worldwide through the ASTC Passport Program (see website for details)
• Reading room privileges at Harvard’s Ernst Mayr, Tozzer, and Botany Libraries

HOUSEHOLD members receive the benefits above, plus:

• Unlimited free admission for an additional adult and up to four children (18 or under)
• 10% discount on children’s programs

SUPPORTING members receive the benefits above, plus:

• Unlimited free admission for an additional adult (i.e., friend or childcare provider)
• Two one-day guest passes

SUSTAINING members receive the benefits above, plus:

• Four one-day guest passes
• Free parking for up to four visits to the museums
• Invitations to exclusive member events

PATRON members receive the benefits above, plus:

• Eight one-day guest passes
• 20% total discount at all HMSC museum shops (excluding books at the Peabody Museum)
• Free parking for up to ten visits to the museums
• Book autographed by a museum-featured author
• Invitations to exclusive Patron events

Membership Levels

$35......Student/Senior
$50......Individual
$85......Household
$50 for Harvard ID holders
$125......Supporting
$250......Sustaining
$500......Patron

Become a member today!

Name
Dr. Mr. Ms. Mrs.
Name 2
Dr. Mr. Ms. Mrs.
Name 3 (Supporting and above)
Dr. Mr. Ms. Mrs.
Street, Apt.
City State Zip
Phone Email
☐ Gift Membership for Name
Address
City State Zip
Membership Level
☐ Student/Senior $35 ☐ Supporting $125
☐ Individual $50 ☐ Sustaining $250
☐ Household $85 ☐ Patron $500
☐ HUID Holders* $50 ☐ Additional Gift $
Payment Information
Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express
☐ Check (payable to Harvard University/HMSC)
Card number Expiration date
Signature
Name as it appears on card
Billing address: ☐ Same as above
City State Zip
Please send to:
Harvard Museums of Science & Culture
Membership Office
26 Oxford Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
Memberships are non-refundable or transferrable.
*Please verify or include copy of HUID for discount
INTERNAL USE ONLY
DATE INITIAL $