



# History



MetroWest Boston offers a number of attractions in the region for history enthusiasts, as well as being a convenient home base for visits to historical sites in other areas of New England. We recommend the following:

### American Heritage Museum (Hudson, MA)

North America's most extraordinary museum of military and world history features **an astounding collection of historic aircraft, tanks, armored vehicles, classic automobiles** and **rare relics** from the Revolutionary War through WWII to today, including **immersive exhibits, living history events** and over a dozen **one-of-a-kind artifacts**. Start your tour in a WWI trench listening to a nurse tell the tale of treating wounded soldiers at the Front; while she's talking, bombs explode around you and the ground shakes, giving you a glimpse of what it would have been like to truly be there.



### Framingham History Center (Framingham, MA)

The Center provides exhibition group tours, guided walking tours, and behind-the-scenes collections access for groups to explore documents and artifacts of enormous importance in American history, such as **John Hancock's signature**, two of only four **suffragette pins** left in existence, **tune books from the American Revolution**, **Civil War-era slavery documents**, **Indigenous artifacts** and more. FHC's curator will pull pieces based on your group's interests, allowing you to see history up close.

### Longfellow's Wayside Inn (Sudbury, MA)

The inn began life in 1716, making it **the oldest operating inn in the United States**. Explore the historic buildings on this amazing property through a self-guided tour, including the early 1800's **Old Barn**, now a farm stand with displays of antique farming tools and other artifacts; the **Grist Mill**, a reproduction of the 1700's original built by Henry Ford, founder of Ford Motors, in 1929; the **Redstone Schoolhouse**, a charming one-room schoolhouse built in 1798 that gained fame as the school in the poem "Mary Had a Little Lamb"; as well as the **Martha-Mary Chapel**, **Longfellow Memorial Garden** and **Josephine's Pond**. With prior arrangement, your group can also examine pieces from the inn's archives and receive a history talk from the innkeeper over lunch in the preserved dining room.





### Old Sturbridge Village (Sturbridge, MA)

Explore the 200+ acres and 40 historical buildings of this **recreated 1830s rural New England town**, chat with costumed historians as they work the tasks of the past, and be inspired by the stories of early 19th century rural life. Every season lends different magic to the Village with special events and activities planned throughout the year. Self-guided tours are easy with maps and schedules distributed at arrival. Guided tours and special programs are available for a fee for groups of all ages.

### Sudbury Historical Society & Museum (Sudbury, MA)

View galleries that trace Sudbury's history from the **first Indigenous inhabitants, to colonial settlement**, to growth and expansion, leading to modern times. The Center runs a number of lectures and special programs, plus **private walking tours** of Wadsworth Cemetery, which holds the remains of Capt Samuel Wadsworth and features a monument to him and 28 of his men who fell there during a day-long battle in 1676 against King Philip of the Pokanoker Wamponoags. Also buried there is **Israel Howe Browne**, whose former home stands directly across the street which was once a stop on the **Underground Railroad**.



### Franklin Public Library & Historical Museum (Franklin, MA)

The oldest public library in the U.S. holds **Benjamin Franklin's books**. The town was named for the famous statesman, and its citizens asked him to donate a bell for the town's meetinghouse. He famously replied that he'd rather donate books instead, "Sense being more important than Sound." These 116 books became the core of the first lending library in America. Make an appointment to stop afterwards at the **Franklin Historical Museum** to see other relics of the town's storied past, including antique furniture, clothing, tools and household objects, as well as an enormous collection of old photographs.

### Natick Historical Society & Museum (Natick, MA)

The collection includes rare books, household treasures, and historical prints, plus **memorabilia of Natick's famous abolitionists, including Harriet Beecher Stowe and Henry Wilson**, Vice President to Ulysses S. Grant. The Society also offers fascinating historical walking tours of Natick and its Cultural District.



Come see what we have to offer in the heart of Massachusetts!  
For other historical attractions, links to venues, and more, please visit us  
online at [www.metrowestvisitors.org](http://www.metrowestvisitors.org). For help coordinating your group tour, contact  
Executive Director Stacey David at [sdavid@metrowestvisitors.org](mailto:sdavid@metrowestvisitors.org)