



# The Peabody Essex Museum

Salem, MA

Wednesday, September 12

**7:45 am** - Depart from the Museums' State Street lot located across the street from the Springfield Main Library. Park in the lot and meet the bus at the curbside. **Please arrive by 7:30 am.** On the bus, enjoy a lively, informative lecture by Dominique Batiste, anthropologist and historian, on the rich history of Salem's witches and witch trials. We will make one rest stop on the way.

**The Peabody Essex Museum's** permanent collection offers outstanding works primarily from the 1700s to today: paintings, sculptures, photographs, drawings, textiles, architecture and decorative objects. The roots of the Peabody Essex Museum date to the 1799 founding of the East India Marine Society, an organization of Salem captains and supercargoes who had sailed beyond either the Cape of Good Hope or Cape Horn. Society members brought to Salem a diverse collection of objects from the northwest coast of America, Asia, Africa, Oceania, India and elsewhere.

Enjoy a docent guided tour of the special exhibit the *Empresses of China's Forbidden City*, the first international exhibition to explore the role of empresses in shaping China's last dynasty—the Qing dynasty, from 1644 to 1912. Nearly 200 spectacular works of art from the Palace Museum, Beijing (known as the Forbidden City) tell the little-known stories of opulence and influence and how imperial women lived and engaged with court politics, religion and art. View rare treasures of paintings, decorative arts, costume, jewelry and Buddhist art that have never before been publicly displayed anywhere, and many of which have never been on view in the United States.

Following the guided tour, you are free to tour the permanent collection on your own or join an optional tour of the Yin Yu Tang, a 200-year-old Chinese house brought to America and re-erected at the Peabody Essex Museum. Originally located in China's southeastern Huizhou region, the Yin Yu Tang was the stately, ancestral home to the Huang family for more than two hundred years until 1982 when the last descendants moved from the village. This tour lasts about 45 minutes.

**Lunch is on our own** at the Museum's Atrium Café or choose from several recommended restaurants in the neighborhood of the museum.

**3 pm** – Board the bus for a short tour through Salem on our way back to Springfield with an estimated return by 6 pm.

**Please note:** Non-flash photography of objects in the permanent collection only. No photography permitted in special exhibits and the Yin Yu Tang House. No selfie sticks allowed.

**What to bring:** Camera (please see photo policy above), water and snacks for the bus. Dress in layers for variable temperatures on the bus and museum. Items may be left on the bus. Bottled water is provided for the return home.