



Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum



Wednesday, April 26

8:30 am – Meet and board the bus at the State Street parking lot located across from the Springfield Main Library.

8:45 am – Depart from the Museums' State Street lot Park for Boston with one rest stop on the way.

11 am – Estimated arrival at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Built to evoke a 15th-century Venetian palace, the Gardner Museum provides an atmospheric setting for Isabella Stewart Gardner's art collection of more than 2,500 objects—from ancient Rome, Medieval Europe, Renaissance Italy, Asia, the Islamic world, France, and America.

11:30 am - Group lunch reservation at Café G. Main course and beverage included. Order at the Café.

12:30-1:30 pm - Meet in the lobby for a guided highlights tour of the permanent collection. Explore the history and exceptional permanent collection of paintings, sculpture, tapestries, furniture, and decorative arts with a docent-guided tour. The remainder of the afternoon is free to explore the museum on your own.

One hundred and twenty years ago, Isabella Stewart Gardner first welcomed visitors to her museum on New Year's Day, 1903. On that evening, guests listened to the music of Bach, Mozart, and Schumann, gazed in wonder at the courtyard full of flowers and viewed one of the nation's finest collections of art. The Gardner Museum galleries have remained essentially unchanged, except that in 2012 a new **70,000 square foot** distinctive architectural addition was completed. Designed by the Renzo Piano Building Workshop, the addition is approximately fifty feet behind the original structure; it stands no higher than the surrounding building and features materials that respectfully complement the existing site and neighborhood.

"Years ago, I decided that the greatest need in our country was art... We were a very young country and had very few opportunities of seeing beautiful things, works of art... So, I determined to make it my life's work if I could." *Isabella Stewart Gardner on the creation of her museum, 1917.*

3 pm – Meet the bus at the drop off point and return to Springfield for an estimated return by 5:30 pm.

What to bring: Camera, water/snacks for the bus. Dress in layers for variable temperatures on the bus and museum. Items may be left on the bus or checked in the museum. Bottled water is provided for the return home.

Please call 413-314-6482 for more information.