

Welcome!

Get ready to explore the rich art, history, science, and culture of the SouthCoast region of Massachusetts and its ties to the rest of the world. Surrounded by cobblestone streets once strolled by Frederick Douglass and Herman Melville, the New Bedford Whaling Museum shares the diverse stories of this vibrant maritime region and its people through dynamic exhibitions, programs, and research.

Museum Guidelines

- Backpacks, packages, oversized bags, and umbrellas must be kept in one of the free lockers available in our coatroom.
- Food and drink are only allowed in the Lobby and Harbor View.
- Please do not touch the art or artifacts on display.
- Please avoid running for your safety and the safety of our other visitors.
- Non-flash photography, video, and pencil sketches are allowed for personal use and enjoyment.
- Children under 14 years must be accompanied by an adult.

Highlights Tour

Explore highlights of the collections through a guided tour with a Museum Docent. Tours depart daily from the Museum's Lobby.

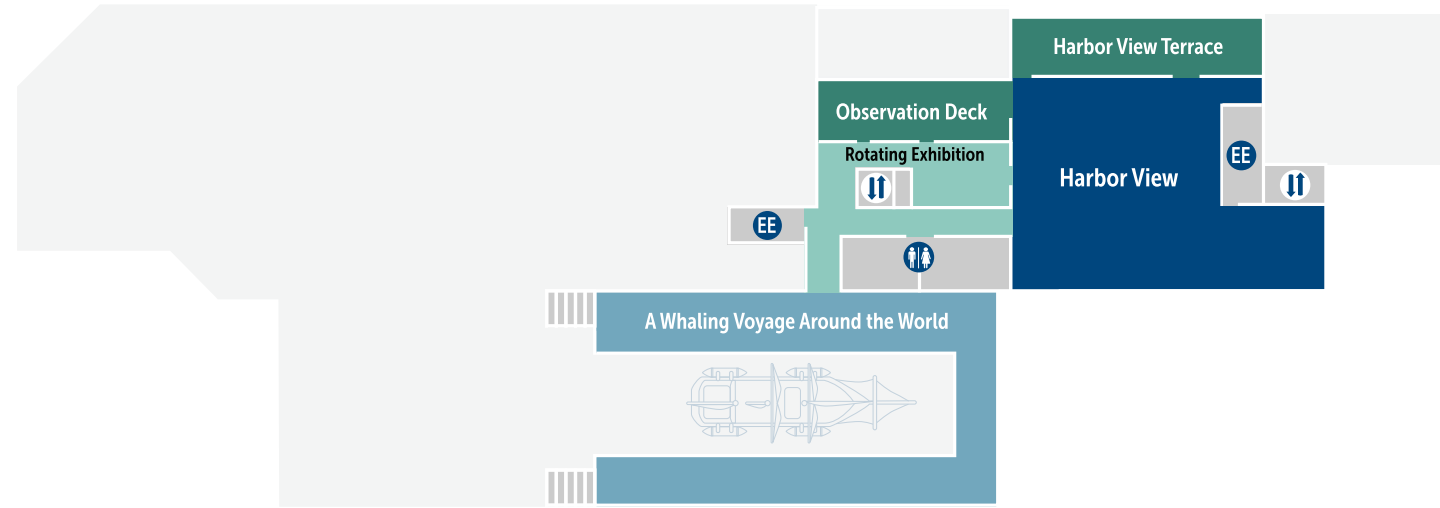
Join Our Crew

Become a member today and enjoy a year of unlimited admission, 10% discount in the Museum Store, discounted or free tickets to Museum programs, and much more.

Sign up today at the Admission Desk.

The Museum reserves the right to photograph or videotape visitors to advance our mission.

UPPER LEVEL (UL)

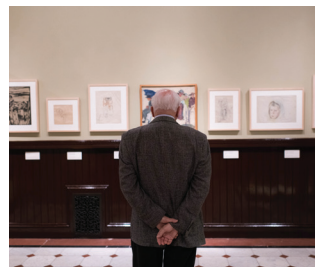


EXHIBITIONS



A Whaling Voyage Around the World

Take a voyage around the world on a whaling vessel and encounter diverse cultures from the Azores and Cape Verde, to Brazil and Cape Horn, to the Pacific Islands, Pacific Northwest, and the Arctic.



Rotating Exhibitions

Rotating Exhibitions engage our permanent collections and mission through the exploration of art, history, science, and culture.



Harbor View

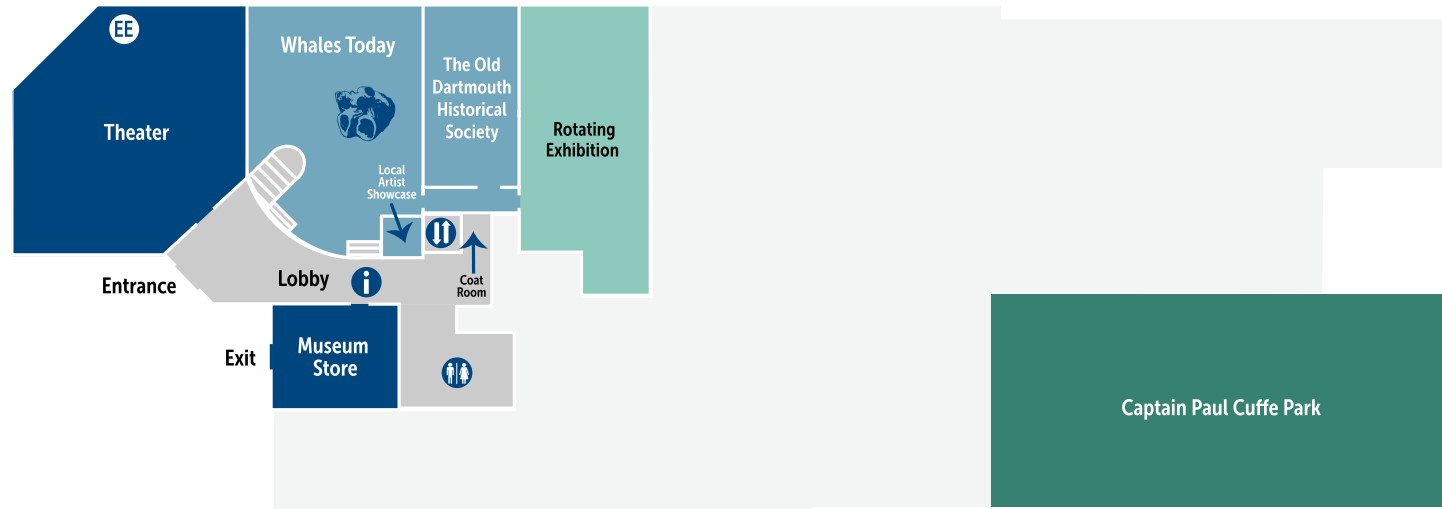
Enjoy the 180-degree view of New Bedford harbor, the highest-grossing commercial fishing port in the United States.

KEY

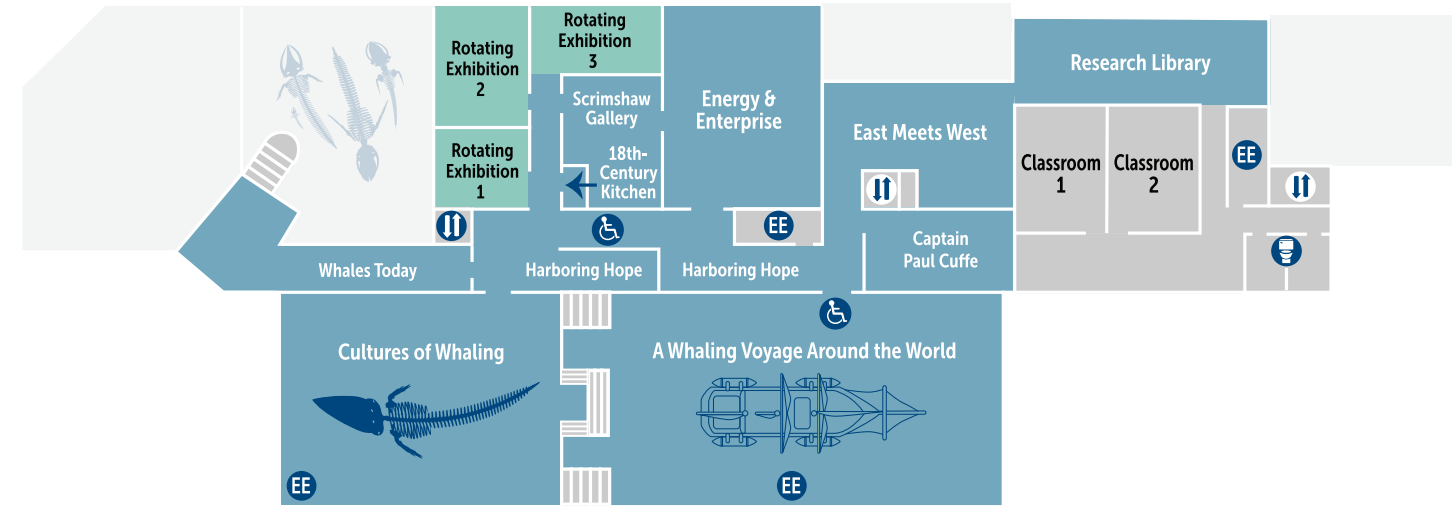
- Restrooms
- All-Gender Restrooms
- Information
- Elevator (L/LL-ML)
- Elevator (ML-UL)
- Stairs
- Emergency Exit
- Ramp



LOBBY (L) & LOWER LEVEL (LL)



MAIN LEVEL (ML)



EXHIBITIONS



Whales Today

Dedicated to the science and behavior of whales, the current threats they face, and contemporary ocean preservation and marine mammal conservation efforts.

Theater

Explore the natural world with our new 3D movies. Ask the Admission Desk for pricing and movie schedule.



The Old Dartmouth Historical Society

Dive into the history of our Museum and learn more about local artists and glass production.

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Captain Paul Cuffe Park

An outdoor, open-space park dedicated to the legacy of Captain Paul Cuffe, a prominent merchant, whaler, philanthropist, and civil rights advocate.

Local Artist Showcase

Showcasing artists of Massachusetts' SouthCoast

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EXHIBITIONS



Whales Today

Highlighting marine mammal research efforts, including bioacoustics and tagging, and historic and current marine mammal conservation efforts.

Harboring Hope in Old Dartmouth

Explore the colonial history of settlement in the Old Dartmouth region of Massachusetts.

Cultures of Whaling

Discover the geography, environment, and habitats that have contributed to the hunting of whales for food, bones, and oil around the world.

A Whaling Voyage Around the World

Experience a voyage aboard a whaling vessel – sign up, learn about the crew and life on shipboard, and then return to port to consider how people around the world learned about whaling through popular entertainments.

18th-Century Kitchen

Take a step back in time and explore a recreated 18th-century domestic kitchen.

Captain Paul Cuffe: His Work, Vision, and Living Legacy

Discover the life, times, and legacy of Captain Paul Cuffe, a prominent merchant, whaler, philanthropist, and civil rights advocate.

East Meets West

Explore the intersections between New England and 19th-century ports in China, India, the East Indies, and Japan.

Research Library

Researchers of all ages and levels of interest are able to dive deeper into our archives with the assistance of a staff member. Open to the public by appointment.

Energy & Enterprise: Industry and the City of New Bedford

Discover the people, products, and infrastructures behind historic New Bedford industries.

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Scrimshaw Gallery

Examine compelling and representative pieces from the largest scrimshaw collection in the world.