

Friends of Mount Auburn

Guided Group Tours

Mount Auburn welcomes group visits year-round. Guided walking tours of the Cemetery are available for educational and non-profit groups on a wide variety of topics (*see Tour Options below*). Tours generally last approximately 90 minutes.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Groups wishing to schedule a guided tour the Cemetery should apply for permission **at least two weeks in advance** of visiting. Those wishing to visit in the spring (late April through May) or fall should book their tours well in advance, as our calendar fills quickly.

Tours can be arranged seven days per week between April and October, subject to staff availability. Tours are available Monday – Saturday between November and March.

The fees for guided tours are as follows:

Monday – Friday, 9AM – 3 PM	\$125 per guide
Monday – Friday, 4 PM – 6 PM, <i>available seasonally</i>	\$150 per guide
Saturday & Sunday, 9 AM – 3 PM	\$150 per guide

* *Groups larger than 30 people will require at least two guides.*

Tour fees should be made payable to the *Friends of Mount Auburn* and are due on the day of your group's visit. Cash, check and credit card (Visa & MasterCard) are accepted as payment. There is no deposit required to reserve a group tour.

To schedule a visit to Mount Auburn for your group, please complete the group visit registration form on our website, www.mountauburn.org. You may also inquire about scheduling a tour by telephone by calling our Group Tours extension, **617-607-1986**. Please be as specific as possible with the reason for your visit, the size of your group and the type of tour that you would like to schedule. A member of Mount Auburn's Education & Visitor Services staff will contact you regarding your visit within three days of receiving your request.

Tour Options

Discover Mount Auburn

Mount Auburn, designated a National Historic Landmark, is one of the country's most significant designed landscapes. Here the arts of horticulture, architecture and sculpture combine with the beauty of nature to create a place of comfort and inspiration. This walking tour will focus on the stories of history, monuments and the lives of those buried here.

* *Stops during this tour can be customized according to your group's interests, provided the tour is arranged with enough advanced notice. For example, the tour can be tailored to include visits to the graves of those buried here with connections to your organization.*

Horticultural Highlights

Mount Auburn Cemetery is one of the most beautiful and historic landscapes in America. Its impressive collection of over 5,000 trees represents 630 taxa. Thousands of shrubs and herbaceous plants weave through 175 acres of hills, dells, ponds, woodlands and clearings. Plant species from around the world that grow in a northern temperate climate can be seen on the grounds, including individual specimens recorded as Massachusetts state or New England champions of their species. Walking tours will be customized to highlight areas of seasonal interest.

* *Tours in the spring and fall seasons should be requested well in advance, as our calendar fills quickly.*

Network to Freedom – African American Heritage & Abolition

In 2006 Mount Auburn Cemetery was designated as a site in the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, a program of the National Park Service. This tour will focus on the individuals with connections to the Underground Railroad and the abolitionist movement now buried at Mount Auburn Cemetery, including Harriet Jacobs, freedom seeker and author of the slave narrative *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (1861).

A Place for Repose – Attitudes toward Death & Bereavement

Bostonians founded Mount Auburn Cemetery in 1831 for both practical and aesthetic reasons: to solve an urban land use problem created by an increasing number of burials in the city and to create a tranquil and beautiful place where families could commemorate their loved ones with tasteful works of art in an inviting setting. This walk will focus on the changes in attitudes toward death, nature and family life from the time of Mount Auburn's founding through the present day.

Stories in Stone – Monument Studies

There are approximately 45,000 monuments at Mount Auburn. Each of these monuments tells a story about the individual or family that it honors. During this walking tour we will examine some of the common symbols and architectural motifs that appear on monuments throughout the Cemetery. We will also visit some of the more significant works of art on the grounds. Issues of monument preservation will also be discussed.

Modifying the Landscape – Landscape Design & History

Mount Auburn's landscape has continually evolved since its founding in 1831. The Cemetery's own professional staff and consulting landscape designers and architects have had a hand in creating the landscape that exists today. During this walking tour we will explore different areas of the Cemetery that reflect changes in aesthetics, as they related to landscape design.

A Place for Heroes – Notable Figures Buried or Commemorated at Mount Auburn

Mount Auburn Cemetery is the resting place for more than 1,000 people of note. These individuals are remembered today for their lasting impact on improving the world around us. Specific thematic tours can focus on Mount Auburn's notable *Poets, Authors, Notable Women, Artists, Architects, Politicians, Musicians, Physicians, Scientists, or Reformers.*

* *Specialized tours to visit the graves of specific notable figures are available with enough advanced notice.*

Custom Tours

We are happy to create custom tours tailored to the interests of your group. Our docents have given tours on a wide host of topics, ranging from monument studies to landscape design and history, and African-American heritage and abolition to notable figures commemorated at Mount Auburn. Please give us a detailed description of your group's interests, and we will do our best to create a highly-personalized tour.

Group Tour Policies

- Payment for your tour is **due two weeks prior** to the visit date. At this time a member of our staff will contact you to confirm the final number of visitors in your group.
- Mount Auburn does not offer rain dates. Group tours are all-weather, so we ask that you come prepared with umbrellas, raincoats, and appropriate footwear if precipitation is in the forecast. Tours will only be cancelled for severe or hazardous weather.
- Mount Auburn does not offer refunds without **one week's notice** before your scheduled visit. If your visit is cancelled due to severe weather and we cannot accommodate your chosen date, a full refund will be issued.