



Full-Day Itinerary (8 Hours)
The "See Everything" Approach

Goal: Hit Harvard, MIT, Charles River, and eat well.

Timeline:

8:30 AM: Arrive at Harvard Yard (early = fewer crowds)

- Walk entrance, see John Harvard Statue, Widener Library
- Take 45-minute Harvard campus tour (official tour is \$20) OR self-guided walk
- 9:30 AM–10:30 AM total

10:45 AM: Harvard Square walk + bookstore browse

- Hit The Coop, browse backstreets
- 45 minutes total

11:30 AM–1:00 PM: Harvard Art Museums or Museum of Natural History

- ☐ Pick one (don't try both; you'll be exhausted)
- ☐ 90 minutes

1:15 PM: Lunch in Harvard Square

- ☐ Felipe's Taqueria OR Tatte Bakery
- ☐ 30-45 minutes

2:00 PM: Red Line to Kendall/MIT (5 min ride)

2:20 PM–3:50 PM: MIT campus walk

- ☐ Self-guided tour (maps available)
- ☐ See Stata Center, walk to river
- ☐ 90 minutes

4:00 PM: Optional: MIT Museum (only \$10, 1-2 hours if interested)

- ☐ OR proceed to Kendall Square

4:30 PM–5:30 PM: Kendall Square exploration

- ☐ Browse modern architecture, rooftop bar if interested
- ☐ Early dinner or drinks at Cambridge Brewing Company

5:45 PM–6:30 PM: Charles River sunset walk

- Best light is about 30 min before sunset
- Walk from MIT toward Harvard along river path

Back to hotel/dinner location by 7:00 PM

Cost breakdown:

- Transportation: ~\$10 (Red Line pass, or Bluebike rides)
- Museums: \$20-30 (choose 1-2)
- Food: \$30-50 (depending on restaurant choice)
- Total: ~\$60-90

Pro tips:

- Start early (8:30 AM) to beat crowds
- Pick one major museum, not two
- Don't try to speed-run everything; you'll hate it
- Comfortable shoes are non-negotiable





Half-Day Itinerary (4–5 Hours)
The "Pick a Focus" Approach

Option A: Harvard Deep-Dive

9:00 AM: Harvard Yard walk + campus tour

☐ 1.5 hours

10:30 AM: Harvard Square exploration

☐ Bookstores, coffee

☐ 45 minutes

11:15 AM: Harvard Art Museums

☐ 1.5–2 hours

☐ (Can do 90 min quick survey of highlights)

12:45 PM–1:30 PM: Lunch in Harvard Square

Done by 1:30 PM

Cost: ~\$30-40 (museum + food + coffee)



Option B: MIT + Kendall Square Focus

9:00 AM: Red Line to Kendall/MIT (or bike 15 min from Harvard)

9:30 AM–11:00 AM: MIT campus walk

☐ 90 minutes

11:15 AM–12:15 PM: Kendall Square exploration

☐ Modern architecture, rooftop views

☐ 60 minutes

12:15 PM–1:00 PM: Lunch at Cambridge Brewing Company or EVOO

☐ 45 minutes

Done by 1:00 PM

Cost: ~\$20-35 (food + possible brewery)



3-Hour Quick Tour: Business Traveler Special

Perfect for: Anyone with a tight schedule, layover from airport, noon arrival.

Timeline:

Goal: Harvard Yard → MIT → Charles River → Eat

12:00 PM: Arrive at Harvard via Red Line/car

12:15 PM–1:00 PM: Harvard Yard quick walk

- See John Harvard Statue, Widener Library exterior, walk through
- 45 minutes (just exterior viewing, no museum)

1:05 PM–1:20 PM: Quick Harvard Square walk

- ☐ 15 minutes (just the main intersection, grab coffee to-go if desired)

1:25 PM: Red Line to Kendall/MIT

- ☐ 5 minutes

1:35 PM–2:15 PM: MIT campus quick walk

- ☐ See Stata Center, walk exterior of major buildings, quick river view
- ☐ 40 minutes

2:20 PM–2:35 PM: Charles River walk (quick stroll)

- 15 minutes (just to say you saw it)

Done by 2:45 PM

Pro tips:

- This is aggressively fast. You're not savoring, you're surveying.
- Skip museums entirely; not enough time.
- Wear comfortable shoes; you're doing 2+ miles of walking.