

# ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM

Join me for “**Everything Isabella Stewart Gardner!**” in Boston at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum! Our day will begin as we arrive at the museum when it opens, allowing us ample time to settle in and enjoy lunch together. Afterward, we will meet our museum docent for a one-hour guided tour of the galleries.

Following the tour, there will be free time to explore the museum on your own, relax in the stunning Venetian-style courtyard, and perhaps visit the gift shop before we return to Cape Cod. Please note, this tour is limited to 35 participants.

## DOCENT TOUR – LUNCH – FREE TIME



## WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026

### \$149 per person

Nestled in Boston, Massachusetts, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum stands as a testament to the boundless passion and artistic vision of its founder, Isabella Stewart Gardner. Established in 1903, this cultural gem beckons visitors into a world where art, history, and architecture intertwine seamlessly.

The museum’s story is one of remarkable ambition and creativity, with Isabella’s dream of creating a haven for art lovers coming to fruition through her dedication and tireless efforts. The museum’s stunning Venetian-inspired architecture, lush courtyard, and eclectic collection captivate visitors from around the globe.

From ancient artifacts to Renaissance masterpieces to contemporary works, the Gardner Museum offers a journey through time and culture, inviting exploration and discovery at every turn. With its rich history and enduring legacy, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum continues to inspire and enchant generations of art enthusiasts and curious minds alike.

**For more information Karyn Wendell (508) 420-5288 – [Karynmw1@comcast.net](mailto:Karynmw1@comcast.net)**

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Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum – Wednesday, May 13, 2026 - \$149 pp - Please return with payment.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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# ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM

**History and Founding** The museum's story begins with Isabella Stewart Gardner, a remarkable woman with a fervent love for art and culture. Born in 1840, Isabella possessed an insatiable curiosity and an unwavering determination to pursue her passions. In 1860, she married John Lowell Gardner Jr., a prominent Bostonian, and together they embarked on a journey that would ultimately lead to the creation of the museum. Isabella's dream of establishing a museum was realized after the death of her father-in-law, who left her a substantial inheritance. With this newfound wealth, she set out to build a home for her growing collection of art and artifacts. Collaborating with architect Willard T. Sears, Isabella designed a Venetian-inspired palazzo that would serve as both her residence and a museum.

**Architecture** The architecture of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum is as captivating as the art within its walls. Modeled after a 15th-century Venetian palazzo, the building features a distinctive facade adorned with arches, columns, and intricate detailing. A lush courtyard, reminiscent of a European garden, lies at the center of the museum.



*One of the most iconic spaces within the museum is the Venetian-style courtyard, complete with a central fountain, lush greenery, and balconies adorned with vivid flowers. This tranquil oasis offers visitors a moment of respite amidst the bustling city.*

**Collection** The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum is home to a diverse collection of art spanning various cultures, periods, and mediums. Isabella's eclectic taste is evident in the museum's galleries, which showcase everything from ancient artifacts to Renaissance masterpieces to contemporary works. Among the highlights of the collection are pieces by renowned artists such as Titian, Rembrandt, and John Singer Sargent. Notable works include Titian's "Europa," Rembrandt's "Self-Portrait," and Sargent's "El Jaleo." Each artwork is displayed in carefully curated galleries, preserving Isabella's vision of creating a space where art could be experienced intimately.

**The Gardner Heist** The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum gained infamy in 1990 when it became the site of one of the largest art heists in history. In the early hours of March 18th, two thieves disguised as police officers entered the museum and stole thirteen works of art, including pieces by Vermeer, Rembrandt, and Degas. To this day, the stolen artworks remain missing, and the case remains unsolved, despite ongoing efforts by law enforcement and the museum to recover the stolen pieces.

**Legacy and Impact** Despite the notorious heist, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum continues to thrive as a cultural institution and a beloved destination for art lovers worldwide. Isabella Stewart Gardner's legacy lives on through the museum's enduring commitment to preserving and sharing her remarkable collection with future generations. Today, the museum remains a beacon of creativity, inspiration, and beauty in the heart of Boston, inviting visitors to explore the intersection of art, history, and culture.