

FAQs: Group Tours at the Emily Dickinson Museum

(Education groups, please visit the [Education](#) page)

Is the Museum wheelchair accessible?

Our Tour Center, bathroom, and first floor of the Homestead and The Evergreens and a portion of the museum grounds are wheelchair accessible. Due to their historic architecture, the second floors of each house are not accessible to visitors who cannot ascend the stairs. [Read more.](#)

Are the houses air-conditioned?

Yes.

Is there bus parking?

The Museum driveway is a steep grade, with little space for turning around, preventing buses and large vehicles from driving in. Buses should pull alongside the sidewalk on Main Street in front of the Museum on the metered side to unload passengers safely. A town ordinance prohibits buses from idling longer than five minutes. Bus parking is available in [Amherst College's South Parking lot.](#)

What if we are running late?

If your group experiences delays, please call the Tour Center (413) 542-2947 to notify our staff who will accommodate your group to the best of their ability. We reserve the right to shorten your tour to conclude at the scheduled time.

Is there a place to store items?

No, the Museum does not have lockers, coat checks, or other space for personal items. We recommend leaving backpacks and large bags in your vehicle. Smaller bags may be worn inside the historic houses.

My group visit is funded by a municipality and will not be able to pay until after services are rendered. Can we still come?

Yes! Please let us know, and your Museum staff contact will work with you to arrange an alternative payment plan. Group Tour rates are firm, but the Museum can accept full payments (in place of our deposit procedure), if provided with proof of your organizational status.

How long will my visit be?

Groups of 11–22 should plan for a visit of approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes, including tours and shopping time. Groups of 23–56 should plan for a visit of approximately 2 hours. Keep in mind that you should arrive ten minutes in advance of your scheduled start time, so tours can begin and end as planned.

What will our group experience at the Museum?

Visitors step inside the world of Emily Dickinson as they learn from knowledgeable tour guides and explore the restored and preserved rooms of the Homestead and The Evergreens! The houses are replete with authentic 19th-century decor, including many highlights from the Museum's collection of 8,000 original family objects. Beyond the walls, groups may experience the beautiful landscape that inspired Emily Dickinson's poetry, from blossoming flower beds in the spring to golden fall foliage. Guests will leave with Dickinson's verses ringing in their ears and a deeper understanding of her cultural context, daily life, formative relationships, and vibrant personality.

Due to space limitations, we may ask you to divide your group into two smaller groups to see the houses at staggered start times. A staff member will plan and share the best schedule for you. Please speak with your staff contact if you have questions about your schedule for the day.

Where can we go for lunch?

The town of Amherst offers a wide variety of dining options within walking distance from the Emily Dickinson Museum! Search online for restaurants on Main Street, South Pleasant Street, and North Pleasant Street to make nearby dining plans. Johnny's Tavern, 33Boltwood, and Bistro63 are popular for large group reservations. If your group is smaller or willing to split up, cafes like Black Sheep and The Works are popular lunch and coffee spots. Certain cafes also provide group catering with advanced notice. Several chain restaurants are within a 10-minute drive of the Museum on Route 9 in Hadley, MA.

Can we eat on site?

The Museum grounds are open to the public dawn to dusk, and your group is welcome to stay and enjoy it, weather permitting! We do not have outdoor tables; however, benches are available around the site, and you are welcome to bring blankets for a picnic-style lunch near the gardens and orchard. At this time, we do not have an indoor space suitable for group dining.

What else can we do in the area?

- See Emily Dickinson's grave site in West Cemetery, make an appointment to view special collections at the Jones Library or Amherst College's Frost Library, head to the Amherst History Museum, or find stops on the [Amherst Writers Walk](#).
- Visit any of the [nearby Museums](#) of the Five College Consortium, which boast diverse collections spanning art, history, and science.
- Support local businesses in [Downtown Amherst](#) or Northampton, take a walk on the Norwottuck Rail Trail, visit the Smith College Botanical Gardens, or make stops at Yankee Candle and Tree House Brewing Company.

How can I share feedback about my experience?

We would love to hear from you after your visit. Please email edmreservations@emilydickinsonmuseum.org.