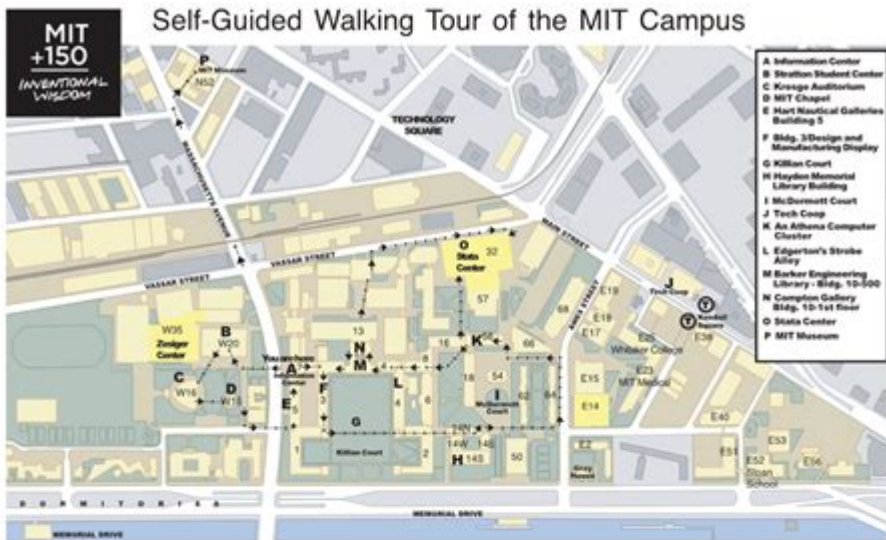


# Mit Self Guided Tour



**Welcome to MIT!**

The following suggested tour route and description should aid you in exploring the campus on your own. The Information Center (Building 7-121) offers student guided tours of the campus. Monday through Friday at 11:00 am and 3:00 pm, excluding legal holidays. Admissions Information Sessions are 2:00 pm.

We suggest that you take your tour in the Lobby of Building 7 (Rogers Bldg.) 77 Massachusetts Avenue. **Letter A** on the map. Even though many of the buildings are named, people usually refer to the buildings by their assigned numbers instead of the

Here at 12:00 AM and 12:00 PM.

We suggest that you begin your tour in the Lobby of Building 7 (Rogers Bldg.) 77 Massachusetts Avenue (**Letter A** on the map). Even though many of the buildings are named, people usually refer to the buildings by their assigned numbers instead of the

names. The numbering system might appear confusing at first, but there is a logical explanation as to how it runs. The buildings east of the Great Dome and Kilian Court (Building 10) have even numbers and those west of it have odd numbers. Thus you will find building 1 and 2 on opposite sides of Kilian Court. When

you see a number on the office doors, the first number refers to the building number and then following the hyphen is the room number. Buildings west of Massachusetts Avenue begin with a "W", those north of the railroad tracks "N", and those east of Ames Street "E". To help you navigate the suggested self-guided tour

route, letters of the alphabet are used to avoid confusion with the build numbers.

**Enjoy your visit!**

First off some background information on MIT to get you started. Although founded in 1861, MIT did not admit its first students until 1865.

William Barton Rogers, a distinguished natural scientist, founded MIT to establish a new kind of independent educational institution relevant to an increasingly industrialized America. He believed that professional competence was best fostered by coupling teaching and research and by focusing attention on real-world

problems. Today education and research, with relevance to the practical world as a guiding principle, continues to be MIT's primary purpose. William Rogers was President of the Institute from 1862-70 and 1879-81.

MIT is independent, co-educational, and privately endowed. Its five schools and one college encompass numerous academic departments, divisions, and degree-granting programs, as well as interdisciplinary centers, laboratories, and programs whose work cuts across traditional departmental boundaries.

MIT is located on 158 acres that extend more than a mile along the Charles River.

Along the route you will see sculptures and buildings by distinguished artists and architects. The central group of MIT's interconnecting buildings, dedicated in 1916, was designed by architect W. Welles Bosworth (Class of 1899). Many other buildings have been designed by leading architects, among them, Alvar Aalto, Eulívio Catalano, I.M. Pei (40), Stephen Hall, Frank Gehry, and Eero Saarinen. Sculptures, murals, and paintings, including works of Alexander Calder, Henry Moore, and Louise Nevelson are found throughout the campus.

You may wish to visit the MIT Museum, 265 Massachusetts Avenue (Bldg. N52), and several galleries on campus. The campus newspaper The Tech (available in Lobby 7 in the Kiosk Display Space bin) carries campus, research and arts news and features.

10,360-20,000 retirement is 15,364 students. Undergraduate enrollment is 4,232 students. Graduate enrollment is 6,152 students. Women have 5,112 students. There are 1,871 students in 1971. In fall 2009, there were, 7,816 women enrolled as undergraduates (45 percent) and 1,916 as graduate students (31 percent). Non-graduate students are represented by 218 undergraduates, and 10th graduate students. There are 2,722 international students registered at MIT. 291 international students and 2,331 graduate students, for the current academic year. There are approximately 1,025 students. The total number of students is 213, about 213 women. The total teaching staff, including faculty, lecturers, instructors, and teaching assistants, is 1,704. The total number of employees about 18,500.

Seventy-four present and former members of the MIT community have won the Nobel Prize, including eight current faculty members: H. Robert Horvitz, medicine/physiology (2002); Wolfgang Ketterle, physics (2001); Richard R. Schrock, chemistry (2005); Phil A. Sharp, medicine/physiology (1993); Samuel C. C. Ting, physics (1976); Susumu Tonegawa, medicine/physiology (1987); Frank Wilczek, physics (2004); and Peter Diamond, economic sciences (2010).

Thirty-five current and former members of the MIT faculty have received the National Medal of Science. Six former members of the MIT faculty have been awarded the Kyoto Prize. There are 74 Guggenheim Fellows, 7 Fulbright Scholars, and 21 MacArthur Fellows among current MIT faculty and staff.

The Alumni Association, consists of approximately 122,000 former students

### Walking Tour Routes

**Route:**  
(A) Leave Building 7 lobby and cross Massachusetts Avenue. Central and Harvard Squares are to your right, and the Harvard Bridge leading into Boston is on the left.

(B) Enter the Julius Adams Straton Building, Bldg. W220 which houses the Student Center. The architect for the building was Eduardo Catalano - 1965. A major renovation was completed in 1989 and the architect

When you enter the Student Center on the first floor you will find Lawlor's Market, Durkin Donuts and Cambridge Grill, Anna's Tapateria, Copy Tech 'Express', Bank of America, and a youth

Coop (MT's Bookstore). The main store of the Tech Coop, which sells books, is located in Kendall Square, 3 Cambridge Center (Building NE 20). Lavender's Market carries a wide variety of items including take-out food.

In the basement there is a U.S. Post Office, an optical shop, two hair salons, a tailor and dry cleaning.

Take the center stairway to the second floor to see the Lobdell dining facility, the Catherine N. Stratton Lounge, and the Jerome B. Wiesner Student Art Gallery. You can exit the building from this level.

The 4th and 5th floors house many of the student activities. There are approximately 200 recognized organizations and clubs. Many of them are open to both faculty and students.

Before visiting Kresge Auditorium you may want to visit our new sports facility the Ziegler Center

(G) After leaving the Student Center walk toward Kresge Auditorium (Bldg. W15). As you walk towards Kresge you will see the athletic facilities on your right, including the new Zeigler Sports and Fitness Center.

M.I.T. offers one of the most extensive men's and women's programs of NCAA Intercollegiate Sports competition of any college or university in the country. Physical education is required for all undergraduates. Approximately 20% of the undergraduates also compete in intercollegiate athletics, and about 75% of all students (graduates and undergraduates) take part in

intramural sports. There are 33 varsity teams. MFT competes mostly against Division III New England colleges and Ivy League schools.

**Krege Auditorium (Bldg. 216):** The building was designed by Eero Saarinen. Its initial occupancy was 1955. The main auditorium seats 1,200 people. The Little Theatre, with capacity of 212, is used for the theatrical productions including the Drama Shop and Shakespeare Ensemble. Dressing rooms are rehearsal rooms for the Choral Society. Concert and Jazz Bands, and various ensembles.

Among Kresge's interior features is its outer shell, which is one eighth of a sphere that floats free in the rest of the auditorium. Three deeply sunk, abutments support the shell, while the auditorium interior is built up from it ground. The roof of the building is only supported in three places and in the middle it is only 3 1/2 inches thick. A Wyllie Organ is located in the main auditorium.

**While in Kresge Plaza** you can view some of the living groups located along the River. Most undergraduates live in MIT Institute houses or in MIT-affiliated dormitories, sororities, and living groups because of the importance of the residential program to students' social and intellectual development. All unranked first-year students live within one of the Institute's residence halls—except for those who commute from the homes of their parents or close relatives.

**Graduate Single-Student Housing:** Approximately 2,000 single-graduate students live in MIT's five campus houses.

**Student Family Housing:** Wingate - this five-building complex located at the west end of campus.

**(B) Proceed to the Chapel (Slide W15)**  
You can enter the Chapel unless it is being used for

a service or function. The architect for the building was Eero Saarinen, 1955. There are currently 32 active and long-standing student religious organizations. The Chapel bell tower and bell were designed by sculptor Theodore Rozsak. Sunlight striking the moat around the windowless Chapel is reflected upward into the arches at the base and appears in sparkling dots of light on the interior walls. Behind the altar is a sculpture by Harry Bertola. This sculpture is also used to hold water bottles.

**(E) Walk across Massachusetts Avenue. Enter the main complex at 12 Mass. Ave. State**

**Exit the main gallery**

Enter Lobby 7 (A) and turn right to enter the center hallway, known as "The Infinite Corridor". The hallway is almost 1/2 of a mile long. Twice a year the sun shines the length of the corridor (weather permitting) and people gather to watch. Many of the

**IF** Turn right into Blvd.

3 and look at the 2.02T (Design and Manufacturing 1) display in the glass case. Signs in the case will explain the

(G) Proceed to the end of the Slide 3 corridor and exit left into Kuttan Court. As you enter the courtyard on your left is the sculpture "Three-piece Reclining Figure, Draped" by Henry Moore. On the other side of the courtyard is the 11-piece granite sculpture "Guenette", by Michael Heizer, placed on a pedestal built by the M.I.T.

The sculpture is in the Art & Permanent Collection by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. The sculpture's title is the name of the town in Quebec where the ivory



MIT self guided tour offers a unique opportunity for visitors to explore one of the world's leading institutions of higher education at their own pace. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, is renowned for its cutting-edge research, innovative technologies, and commitment to education in science, engineering, and technology. For those who wish to experience the campus without the constraints of a scheduled tour, a self-guided option provides the freedom to discover the school's rich history, iconic architecture, and vibrant community.

# Understanding MIT: A Brief Overview

When considering a MIT self guided tour, it's essential to understand the institute's background and significance. Founded in 1861, MIT has played a crucial role in advancing technology and scientific research. The campus spans 168 acres along the Charles River, featuring over 100 buildings, each with its unique architectural design and historical importance.

## The Campus Layout

MIT's campus is divided into several key areas that are notable for their distinct characteristics:

1. Main Campus: This area includes the iconic Great Dome and the Infinite Corridor, which connects many of the buildings.
2. East Campus: Home to the School of Architecture and Planning and the Media Lab, this area showcases innovative designs and modern facilities.
3. West Campus: Primarily housing the School of Engineering, it features laboratories and research facilities.
4. Athletic Facilities: MIT also boasts extensive athletic facilities, including the Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center.

## Planning Your Self Guided Tour

To make the most of your MIT self guided tour, proper planning is essential. Here are some practical steps to ensure an enriching experience:

### 1. Research and Prepare

Before embarking on your tour, familiarize yourself with MIT's history, notable alumni, and current research initiatives. Resources to consider include:

- MIT's official website
- Campus maps available online
- Books and documentaries about MIT

### 2. Create an Itinerary

An itinerary can help structure your visit. Consider the following highlights to include:

- The Great Dome: A symbol of MIT, this architectural marvel is worth a stop.
- Kresge Auditorium: Known for its unique design, this auditorium hosts various events.
- The MIT Museum: Offers exhibitions on science, technology, and history.
- The Stata Center: A modern architectural piece designed by Frank Gehry.

### **3. Gather Essential Items**

As you prepare for your tour, make sure to bring the following items:

- A smartphone or camera for photos
- A water bottle to stay hydrated
- Comfortable walking shoes
- A notebook for jotting down observations

## **Key Attractions on Your MIT Self Guided Tour**

During your MIT self guided tour, there are several must-see attractions that reflect the institution's innovative spirit and academic excellence.

### **1. The Great Dome**

The Great Dome is one of MIT's most recognizable landmarks. Built in 1916, this domed structure houses the Barker Engineering Library and features classical architectural elements. Visitors can take pictures and enjoy the view of the surrounding area from the dome's steps.

### **2. The Infinite Corridor**

Stretching nearly a quarter of a mile, the Infinite Corridor connects several buildings on campus. This corridor is famous for its unique lighting and stunning architectural features. Along the way, you'll find various displays and art installations that showcase student and faculty work.

### **3. MIT Museum**

The MIT Museum is a treasure trove of science and technology exhibits. It features interactive displays, innovative technologies, and historical artifacts, including models of famous inventions. Admission is typically charged, but it's a worthy stop for those interested in the intersection of art and science.

### **4. The Stata Center**

Designed by renowned architect Frank Gehry, the Stata Center is a striking example of contemporary architecture. It houses the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL) and features a series of irregularly shaped structures. Visitors will appreciate its unique design and the innovative work being conducted inside.

## 5. The MIT Chapel

Designed by architect Eero Saarinen, the MIT Chapel is a serene space ideal for reflection. The chapel features a simple yet elegant design, with a beautiful stained glass window and a tranquil outdoor space. It serves as a reminder of the importance of spirituality and peace amid the bustling campus.

## Experiencing Campus Culture

An important aspect of your MIT self guided tour is experiencing the campus culture. MIT is not just about its buildings and history; it's also about the vibrant community that thrives here.

### 1. Student Life

As you walk the halls, take note of the various student organizations and activities. MIT students are known for their creativity and commitment to innovation. Look for:

- Hackathons: Events where students come together to create software or hardware projects in a short time.
- MakerSpaces: Facilities where students can collaborate on projects using tools and technologies.
- Clubs and Organizations: From robotics to photography, there's an organization for nearly every interest.

### 2. Public Art Installations

MIT's campus features numerous public art installations that reflect the institution's commitment to creativity. Some notable pieces include:

- The "Alchemist" sculpture by Arnaldo Pomodoro.
- The "Statue of the MIT Beaver," a beloved mascot.
- The "MASS MoCA" installation, which showcases contemporary art.

### 3. Dining Options

During your tour, consider stopping for a meal or snack. MIT offers several dining options, including:

- The MIT Dining Halls: Serving a variety of cuisines with options for various dietary preferences.
- Cafés: Perfect for a quick coffee or snack, with many located within the main buildings.
- Food Trucks: Often stationed around campus, providing diverse and delicious options.

# Tips for a Successful Self Guided Tour

To enhance your MIT self guided tour experience, consider the following tips:

- Download a Campus Map: Having a digital or printed map can help you navigate the campus more efficiently.
- Check for Events: Look for any special events or exhibits happening during your visit that you can attend.
- Respect the Space: As you explore, remember that MIT is an active campus with students and faculty engaged in their work. Keep noise levels down and be respectful of private areas.

## Conclusion

A MIT self guided tour is an enriching experience that allows visitors to immerse themselves in the world of innovation, creativity, and academic excellence. By exploring the campus's architectural marvels, engaging with its vibrant culture, and appreciating its rich history, you will gain a deeper understanding of what makes MIT a leader in education and research. Whether you're a prospective student, a tech enthusiast, or simply a curious traveler, MIT's campus offers a wealth of opportunities to learn and explore at your own pace. So grab your map, put on your walking shoes, and get ready to discover the magic of MIT!

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the MIT Self Guided Tour?

The MIT Self Guided Tour is a personalized exploration of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology campus, allowing visitors to navigate through key locations and learn about the history, architecture, and innovations of the school at their own pace.

### How can I access the MIT Self Guided Tour?

You can access the MIT Self Guided Tour by visiting the official MIT website, where you will find downloadable maps and resources, or you can use various mobile apps that provide guided audio and visual content.

### What are some key highlights of the MIT Self Guided Tour?

Key highlights include the Great Dome, the MIT Museum, the Infinite Corridor, and various laboratories and research centers that showcase MIT's pioneering work in science and technology.

### Is the MIT Self Guided Tour suitable for families?

Yes, the MIT Self Guided Tour is suitable for families, as it includes engaging educational content and interactive experiences that cater to visitors of all ages.

### Are there any costs associated with the MIT Self Guided Tour?

No, the MIT Self Guided Tour is free of charge; however, some specific attractions or events may have admission fees.

## Can I take the MIT Self Guided Tour at any time?

Yes, you can take the MIT Self Guided Tour at any time, although it's advisable to check for any special events or closures on campus that might affect your visit.

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