Monuments & Memorials Walking Tour

Pilgrim Memorial State Park

SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR

Welcome to Pilgrim Memorial State Park

You've arrived at one of our smallest but most visited state parks in Massachusetts—Pilgrim Memorial State Park. People from all over the world come here to learn more about the story of the Pilgrims and Wampanoag, the local Indigenous People. Like all of the people who have visited before you, you have come to see Plymouth Rock and the associated monuments and memorials. We invite you to take this walk around the park, read its stories, and then think about what each of the monuments and memorials mean to you. Please enjoy your visit.

About the Walking Tour

Pilgrim Memorial State Park is a memorial landscape honoring the courage, endurance, and sacrifice of the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag. Each of the monuments or memorials you visit today was placed into the landscape for a reason. We have taken a broad definition of monuments and memorials to include a few landscape features such as Plymouth Rock, Cole's Hill, and Leyden Street which have been here for centuries.

Samoset (1590–1653) was the first Indigenous person to make contact with the Pilgrims in March of 1621. He startled the colonists by greeting them in English, which he learned from fishermen.

Each stop of the tour shares that story of courage, endurance, and sacrifice. And each holds different meanings and importance for different people. In some cases this symbolism has evolved over time. After exploring each of these monuments or memorials, you can decide for yourself what it means to you.

Pilgrim Memorial State Park is located on Water Street in Plymouth, Massachusetts. The walking tour begins at the Mayflower II. Before you start, view the map on the kiosk outside of the public restroom building to orient yourself. The route is less than 1/4 of a mile and takes about 30 minutes.

- For foot traffic only.
- Please stay on designated paved walkways.
- Cross streets carefully and use crosswalks when available.
- Leave only footprints; take only pictures.
- Observe all posted rules and regulations.

Stop 1: Mayflower II

The Mayflower II is a replica of the original Mayflower, the cargo ship that carried the Pilgrims across the Atlantic in the fall of 1620. She was presented as a gift from the people of the United Kingdom to the people of the United States in 1957 in appreciation of the U.S.'s assistance during World War II and as a symbol of the alliance between the two nations.

One hundred and two passengers and more than 30 crew crowded on board the Mayflower for the 66-day journey across the Atlantic Ocean. Passengers were not allowed on deck and were forced to spend their journey below deck in dark and crowded conditions. Imagine what that journey must have been like.

To many, the Mayflower II symbolizes the great courage that the Pilgrims needed to leave the life they knew for the unknown New World. To some people, the Mayflower II is an enduring symbol of the alliance between the United States and the United Kingdom, and their cooperation against global fascism during WWII.

What did the arrival of the Mayflower mean to the local Indigenous People back in 1620?Remember they had most likely never seen European women and children, although some may have had dealings with European men. And what might the ship symbolize to the Indigenous People of today? What does the Mayflower II symbolize to you?

To get to the next stop, walk along the curved walkway along the harbor over to the Plymouth Rock Portico.

Stop 2: Plymouth Rock

Plymouth Rock means different things to different people. Its meaning is not static or definite, and it has symbolized different things at different moments in history. Oral history tells us this is the spot where the Pilgrims landed in 1620 but that story was never written down by any of the Pilgrims or their children. Plymouth Rock was first identified as the landing place of the Pilgrims in 1741 by Thomas Faunce whose father arrived in Plymouth in 1623. Mr. Faunce's father lived with the Pilgrims and told his son that he heard the story first-hand.

For some, Plymouth Rock symbolizes the suffering and hard times the Pilgrims experienced. To others, it symbolizes the freedom, liberty, and opportunity found in the New World. Plymouth Rock represents suffering and loss of ancestral lands to many Indigenous People and supporters. What does Plymouth Rock mean to you?

To get to the next stop, the Pilgrim Mother Fountain, cross the street at the crosswalk and travel north (keep the harbor on your right).

This is the 1867 canopy that housed Plymouth Rock until 1920, when the current portico was constructed.

Stop 3: Pilgrim Mother Fountain

Twenty-nine women and girls arrived on the Mayflower. Nineteen of them were adults, three of whom were pregnant when they started their journey to the New World. Elizabeth Hopkins gave birth to a son, Oceanus, while at sea. Susanna White gave birth to a son, Peregrine, while the Mayflower was anchored at what is now Provincetown. Sadly, Mary Allerton gave birth to a stillborn son soon after arriving at Plymouth Harbor. Can you imagine boarding the Mayflower in 1620 as a pregnant woman?

We don't have a lot of information about the Pilgrim women, but we do know that English girls of that time were taught to be caregivers from a young age. Many historians believe that the women and older girls were most likely the ones who were tending to the sick and dying during the first winter and thus fared the

worst that year.

By the time of the first Thanksgiving in 1621, only five of the adult women were still living. This monument commemorates the courage and fortitude of those women and girls.

Use the sidewalks along North Street (beside this monument) and Central Street to get to the top of Cole's Hill.

The names on the back of the fountain are incomplete. One female passenger is not included and one is only mentioned as a servant.

Stop 4: Cole's Hill

At the top of the granite stairs, take a moment to enjoy the view. Cole's Hill is a National Historic Site and is named after James Cole (1600—1692), the first settler of Cole's Hill.

If there is a place in the park that represents one of the inroads to the beginning of America, it is here. Cole's Hill marks the site where the Agreement of Peace between the Wampanoag people and the English colonists was made. Additionally, the English colonists and sailors who perished during the first winter were buried here; representing the sacrifices made by so many. It has since become a commemorative landscape where art and memorials shape the way we remember the past.

Pause for a moment to consider the significant events that happened on this hill, some 400 years ago. Is this hill worthy of remembering?

Walk to the next stop, the statue of Massasoit.

Stop 5: The Statue of Massasoit

This statue is of Ousamequin. He was a Massasoit, a Great Sachem or leader, of the Wampanoag Nation. This group of Indigenous People became the first allies of the Pilgrims.

This 1605 map is the earliest map of Plymouth harbor. It shows a thriving village, before it was decimated by European diseases.

The statue recognizes all the Indigenous People who lived here for thousands of years before Europeans arrived. Early European explorers, fisherman, and traders brought diseases for which the Native Peoples had no natural defenses. It is estimated that 70% of the Native American population in this area died from these diseases. The statue also recognizes the assistance the Wampanoag gave the Pilgrims. Without help, it is unlikely the Pilgrims would have survived. What does this statue mean to you?

In front of the statue of Massasoit is the next stop, the National Day of Mourning Plaque.

Stop 6: National Day of Mourning

Since 1970, Indigenous People and their allies have gathered on Cole's Hill to commemorate the National Day of Mourning on Thanksgiving Day. It is a day of remembrance and spiritual connection as well as a protest against racism and oppression which Indigenous People continue to experience

today.

The National Day of Mourning monument reminds us of the great tragedies experienced by Indigenous Peoples that were the result of the establishment of European colonies like the one here at Plymouth. Please take some time to read the plaque and reflect. What does this monument mean to you?

The next stop is the Sarcophagus, the large stone coffin atop Cole's Hill.

Stop 7: Pilgrim Sarcophagus

This sarcophagus holds the bones uncovered during various excavations and floods of Cole's Hill in the 18th and 19th centuries. Pilgrims and sailors who perished the first winter were buried on Cole's Hill; burials continued at this site until 1637.

The sarcophagus recalls the deaths and difficulties of the Pilgrims and sailors during the first winter. On it are the names of the 47 Pilgrims who died. Over the first winter months, half of the passengers and crew died. Of the 33 children, 25 survived. We may never know why the children fared so well, but perhaps they were given extra food and warmth as the hope of the future.

Continue down Carver Street to Leyden Street. There is no sidewalk on the hill side of Leyden Street, please cross carefully to the sidewalk and walk back towards the harbor.

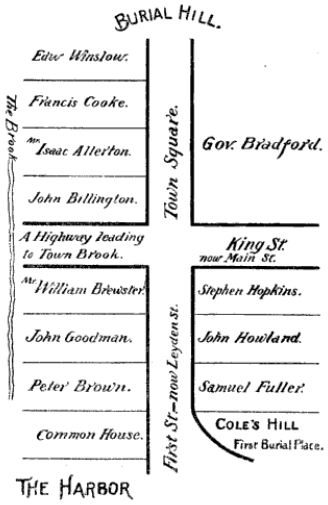
Stop 8: Leyden Street

You are now walking in the footsteps of the Pilgrims as they traveled to and from home, walked to church, returned from their gardens, and went about their daily lives.

Rising above the curving shore of Plymouth Bay, Leyden Street was the first street laid out in the original Plymouth settlement. It is along this street, then named First Street, that the Pilgrims built their houses. It is the oldest continuously used English street in America; people have been living and walking on this street since 1620!

Leyden Street can represent just about everything we think of when we recall the American story. The Pilgrims brought their ideas of freedom, liberty, and justice to life right here. To some, Leyden Street symbolizes home; this is where the Pilgrims lived and died.

To get to the last stop, the Governor Bradford Statue, walk down Leyden Street towards the harbor. Carefully cross Water Street and walk to the Governor Bradford Statue.



Take a look at the map of early Plymouth home lots. Do you recognize any of the names?

Stop 9: Governor Bradford Statue

John Carver served as the first governor of Plymouth colony; William Bradford was the second. Carver died in 1621 and was buried on Burial Hill. He is credited with writing the Mayflower Compact and signing the Treaty of Peace with the Wampanoags.

Governor William Bradford was governor for most of the early days of Plymouth Colony and made sure that both the Mayflower Compact and the Treaty of Peace were followed. Peace persisted for more than fifty years, which is a very long time for a treaty to last. Bradford was governor for most of

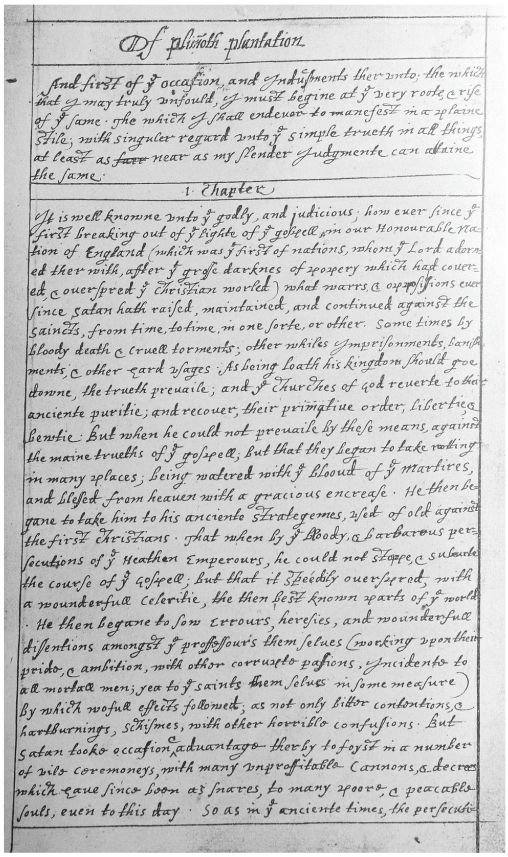
those fifty years. In his retirement, Bradford wrote *Of Plymouth Plantation,* his first-person account of the early years of Plymouth. His book is one of the reasons that we know so much detail about those early years.

To many, this statue symbolizes leadership. To others, it represents the early bond of peace between the English and the Wampanoag up until King Philip's War in 1675.

"It was answered, that all great, and honorable actions, are accompanied with great difficulties; and must be both enterprised, and overcome with answerable courages." - William Bradford

What "great and honorable actions" do you find in these monuments and memorials? Do they represent "difficulties?" If so, were they overcome "with answerable courage" or something more sublime?

We hope you have enjoyed and appreciated touring the monuments and reflecting on their symbolism. Meanings vary from person to person and even over time. We invite you to share what you have learned about our complex past with your friends and family. Continue your experience with the history of our state and country by visiting two nearby sites that also tell this story: The National Monument to the Forefathers and Myles Standish Monument State Reservation.



Of plimoth plantation

And first of ye occasion, and ympulsments ther unto: the which that I may truly unfould, I must begine at ye very roote, & rise of ye same: the which I shall endeuor to manefest in a plaine stile; with singuler regard unto ye simple truth in all things, at least as ~~neere~~ near as my slender judgmente can attaine the same.

1. Chapter

It is well knowne unto ye godly, and judicious; how euer since ye first breaking out of ye lighte of ye gospell in our Honourable nation of England (which was ye first of nations, whom ye Lord adorned ther with, after ye grosse darknes of popery which had couered, & ouerspred ye Christian worlde) what warrs, & oppositions euer since satan hath raised, maintained, and continued against the saincts, from time, to time, in one sorte, or other. Some times by bloody death, & cruell torments; other whiles ymprisonments, banishments, & other yard vsages. As being loath his kingdom should goe downe, the trueth preuaile; and ye Churches of god reuerte to their anciente puritie; and recouer their primatiue order, libertie, & beautie. But when he could not prevaile by these means, against the maine trueths of ye gospell; but that they began to take roote in many places; being watered with ye bloud of ye martires, and blessed from heauen with a gracious encrease. He then bethought him selfe how he might ouerturne at once, by some deepe plote, & surprise, as it were, the whole Church of god; and scatter the members, whom he could not deuoure. And seeing ye ancient, and primitiue way of planting Churches was now become common, and stale, by reason of ye spreading of ye gospell, & ye diligente labours of godly preachers in all places, almost, of ye knowne parts of ye world; he layd other plotts, and more subtile practises, as by ye sequell will appeare. And seeing he could not stoppe, & suppresse the course of ye gospell; but that it spredd ouerspred, with a wounderfull celeritie, the then best known parts of ye world; he then began to sow errours, heresies, and wounderfull dissentions amongst ye professours them selues (working vpon their pride, & ambition, with other corrupte passions, ynsidente to all mortall men; yea to ye saints them selues in some measure) by which wofull effects followed; as not only bitter contentions, & hartburnings, schismes, with other horrible confusions. But Satan tooke occasion, & aduantage ther by to foyst in a number of vile ceremonyes, with many vnprofitable Cannons, & decrees which gave since soon as soares, to many poore, & peaceable soules, euen to this day. So as in ye anciente times, the persecutio

The first page from William Bradford's "Of Plimoth Plantation."

This brings us to the end of the Monuments & Memorials Walking Tour at Pilgrim Memorial State Park. Thank you for visiting!

Image credits: Samoset image on page 1: "Samoset comes "boldly" into Plymouth settlement." Woodcut designed by A.R. Waud and engraved by J.P. Davis, 1876. Plymouth Rock Monument photo on page 2: The old Plymouth Rock monument that existed from 1867 to 1920; public domain. Photo of Pilgrim Mother Fountain on page 3: W. Pearl, DCR. Historic map of Plymouth Bay on page 3: Map of Plymouth Harbor by Samuel de Champlain, 1605. Map of early Plymouth home lots on page 4: Alfred Stevens Burbank, Guide to historic Plymouth: localities and objects of interest, 1917. Image of first page of "Of Plimoth Plantation on page 5: First page of "Of Plimoth Plantation" from 1900 publication. Probably is an older image from when the page was in better condition.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) oversees over 450,000 acres of state parks, forests, beaches, bike trails, parkways, watershed lands, and dams across the Commonwealth. DCR's mission is to: *Protect, promote and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources for the well-being of all.*

PILGRIM MEMORIAL STATE PARK
Department of Conservation and Recreation
79 Water Street, Plymouth, MA 02360
(508) 747-5360

dcr
Massachusetts

UPDATED 10/2020