



## SOWAMS HERITAGE AREA GUIDED TOUR SUMMARY

FINDING THE 17TH CENTURY IN EAST BAY RHODE ISLAND AND NEARBY MASSACHUSETTS

[WWW.SOWAMSHERITAGEAREA.ORG](http://WWW.SOWAMSHERITAGEAREA.ORG)

### Sowams Heritage Area Tour Summaries



The Sowams Heritage Area is composed of eight communities that encompass the territory once occupied by the Massasoit Osamequin and his tribes who first met the Pilgrims after their arrival in Plymouth in 1620.

Today, the Area consists of five communities in Rhode Island (Providence, East Providence, Barrington, Warren and Bristol) and three in nearby Massachusetts (Seekonk, Rehoboth and Swansea).

Based on its history in the 17th century, Sowams can be seen as a pivotal place of cultural exchange between indigenous people and colonizing settlers in North America, yet few details of that story are known by the general public.

Many of the fifty locations in this Area may be seen on a variety of guided and self-guided tours. Each reveals aspects of the life of those First People as well as the process by which English colonists moved into that area and displaced the native inhabitants.

1. 17th Century Providence 90-minute Guided Bus Tour
2. Sowams Heritage Area Guided 90-minute walking tour of 17th century Providence
3. 17th Century Bristol, Barrington and Warren two-hour Guided Bus Tour
4. 17th Century East Bay three-hour Guided Bus Tour
5. 17th Century Rehoboth, Massachusetts 90-minute Guided Bus Tour
6. Additional tours – Guided and Self-guided

For more information on these unique tour opportunities, please review the following pages or contact David Weed, Sowams Heritage Area Project Coordinator, 508-837-9029, [drweed@cox.net](mailto:drweed@cox.net)



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### 1. 17th Century Providence 90-minute Guided Bus Tour

*Discover Providence in the 17th century through visits to Roger Williams' landing place and home site, the historic Weybosset Bridge, the North Burial Ground and the 1663 Charter at the State House.*

**Roger Williams Memorial** – 20-minute orientation to learn about the people who lived in this area for 10,000 years and who welcomed Roger Williams as he founded what is now the City of Providence. Learn about the Massasoit Osamequin who greeted the Pilgrims in Plymouth and helped them survive.

**Slate Park** – A 5-minute stop will show the location where Williams and his party ended after traveling across the Seekonk River from Omega Pond where he first tried to settle.

**India Point** – Pass by India Point where John Brown began trading with India in 1680 and became a successful merchant.

**Steven Hopkins House** – Pass by the oldest house in Providence from 1707 to get an idea of what those first houses in the 1600s were like.

**Weybosset Bridge** – Pause for a 15-minute stop at the end of the first bridge crossing that was constructed prior to 1660 to learn how Providence was first laid out and where all of the first buildings in the city were sited.

**North Burial Ground** – Travel to the City's first burial ground and take a 10-minute stop to visit the grave of Deacon Chad Brown, appointed as the settlement's first minister in 1642.

**State House Charter Room** – Take a 15-minute stop at the Rhode Island State House to see the 1663 charter from King Charles that helped to establish religious freedom in the Rhode Island Colony.

**Return to Roger Williams National Memorial** and go to the excellent Visitors' Center for more on Roger Williams.

**Commercial tour providers who wish to schedule this tour between May 15th and October 15th, 2019 or 2020, please contact David Weed at the email address below.**





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### 2. Sowams Heritage Area Guided 90-minute walking tour of 17th century Providence

*Discover Providence in the 17th century through visits to Roger Williams' home site, the historic Weybosset Bridge, and the 1663 Charter at the State House.*

Gather at the **Roger Williams Memorial Park** for a brief introduction to life in Providence in the 17th century.

Walk past the marker for his **Town House** and over to the Weybosset Bridge (15-minute walk – 0.4 miles).

Learn about the **Weybosset Bridge** and the formation of Providence over its first century from its original Native American settlement to colonial domination.

Walk to the **State House Charter Room** to see the actual 1663 Charter that established Rhode Island as independent from Plymouth Colony and established religious freedom (20-minute walk – 0.7 miles).

Return to the **Roger Williams Memorial Visitors' Center** for more about Williams and Providence in the 17th century (10-minute walk – 0.3 miles).

Total time: 90 minutes

Total distance: 1.4 miles



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### 3. 17th Century Bristol, Barrington and Warren two-hour Guided Bus Tour

*Learn about the earliest history of the encounter between the Pokanoket Tribe and the English settlers in Plymouth during the 17th century. Visit the Massasoit's home and burial site, see where the bloody King Philip War broke out, visit the well of Warren's first settler, and see how the Town of Bristol was settled after the War in 1680.*

Start at **Burr's Hill** in Warren where the Massasoit Osamequin, who presided over 50 years of peaceful relations with the Pilgrims, lived and is now buried (20 minute visit).

Travel past Massasoit's Spring and Sachem's Knoll on the way to the **Myles Garrison site** where the King Philip War began (20 minutes travel).

Pass by the site of the **first Baptist Church in Massachusetts** and the **Kicke-muit Cemetery** where soldiers killed in the War are buried (20 minutes travel).

Walk to the **Hugh Cole Well** to learn about Warren's first settler and the colonial settlement before and after the War (20 minute visit).

Pass by three 17th century houses in Bristol and stop at the **Congregational Church** where the Town was established (15 minutes travel and 10 minute visit).

Return to **Burr's Hill** (15 minutes)



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## 4. 17th Century East Bay three-hour Guided Bus Tour

*Learn about the earliest history of the encounter between the Pokanoket Tribe and the English settlers in Plymouth during the 17th century. Visit the Massasoit's home and burial site, see where the bloody King Philip War broke out, stop at the Ancient Little Neck Cemetery and Roger Williams first settlement at Omega Pond, visit the 1643 Newman Church and cemetery, stop at Hunt's Mills, and return to Burr's Hill after stopping at the Hugh Cole Well.*

Start at **Burr's Hill Burial Ground** in Warren where the Massasoit Osamequin, who presided over 50 years of peaceful relations with the Pilgrims, lived and is now buried and visit his Spring at Sowams (40 minutes).

Travel past the 1690 Haile-Nunes Farmhouse and Sachems's Knoll for a brief stop at the **Myles Garrison site** where the King Philip War began before passing by the site of the first Baptist Church in Massachusetts (40 minutes).

Travel to the **Little Neck Cemetery** where Mayflower Pilgrim Elizabeth Tilly is buried and then head to **Omega Pond** where Roger Williams first settled in 1636, passing the two oldest houses in East Providence (40 minutes).

Stop at the **1643 Newman Church and cemetery** before going to **Hunt's Mills and the Ten-Mile River** before passing by the **Kickemuit Cemetery** and stopping at the **Hugh Cole Well site** in Warren and returning to **Burr's Hill** (60 minutes).



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### 5. 17th Century Rehoboth, Massachusetts 90-minute Guided Bus Tour

*Discover the history of the 1643 Rehoboth Purchase by the English Puritans from the Massasoit Osamequin. Visit the site of the first gristmill, pass by the blockhouse built to shelter the colonists during the King Philip War, stop by where some colonists were buried, explore Anawan Rock where the War ended, pass by the site of the early ironworks, and finish at the Carpenter Museum exhibits.*

Gather and park at the **Blanding Public Library** to learn about the early settlement of Rehoboth in the mid-1600s. (10 minutes).

Walk across Bay State Road to the site of the **Bliss Gristmill site** on the Palmer River (10 minutes).

Board the bus to travel past the site of **Block House No. 2** where colonists gathered during the outbreak of the King Philip War and stop at the the **New Palmer River Cemetery** to learn about the King Philip War (20 minutes).

Travel to **Anawan Rock** where you'll have time to walk to the place where the King Philip War ended overlooking the Squannakonk Swamp (30 minutes).

Return to the Library after stopping at the site of the **New Palmer River Ironworks** and the **Carpenter Museum** to see archaeological displays of early tools and artifacts from 17th century Rehoboth (20 minutes).



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### 6. Additional tours – Guided and Self-guided

A variety of additional tours can be arranged with local guides to explore the Sowams Heritage Area. Contact the tour provider directly for more details about the content of each tour and to arrange dates, times and costs.

Hop-on, hop-off 20-minute tours or walking tours or **downtown Bristol or Warren**

Contact the Bristol Historical and Preservation Society to arrange walking tours of historic Bristol, e-mail [info@bhps.necoxmail.com](mailto:info@bhps.necoxmail.com)

Other tours and events in Bristol can be found at [www.explorebristolri.com](http://www.explorebristolri.com)

In Warren, contact Alexander Scott at [tartanengineer@aol.com](mailto:tartanengineer@aol.com)

A self-guided walking tour of the North End of Warren can be found at [www.preservewarren.org/p/north-end-walking-tour.html](http://www.preservewarren.org/p/north-end-walking-tour.html)

**1714 Martin House** Tour (Sundays, 1:00-4:00 p.m., in July and August), Swansea

Provider: Katherine Bergholtz, [katherinebergholtz@comcast.net](mailto:katherinebergholtz@comcast.net)

**Kayak water-access guided tours** of early colonial and Native American sites

Provider: Carl Ferreira, [ferreiracarl@hotmail.com](mailto:ferreiracarl@hotmail.com)

**Tour brochures** for the following self-guided tours are also available on-line at <http://sowamsheritagearea.org/wp/tours/>

- East Bay Bike Path 17th century self-guided tour brochure
- 17th Century Houses self-guided tour brochure
- 17th Century Burial Grounds self-guided tour brochure
- 17th Century Open Spaces self-guided tour brochure
- 17th Century Kayak Access self-guided tour brochure



**Commercial tour providers who wish to schedule any of the guided tours between May 15th and October 15th, 2019 or 2020, please contact the providers directly.**

**For questions, please contact David Weed at the email address below:**

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