

Faneuil hall of fame! Hub landmark No. 4 for tourist traffic

By Colneth Smiley Jr. | Saturday, May 10, 2008 | <http://www.bostonherald.com> | Local Coverage

Sam Adams beats Mickey Mouse as a tourist draw. According to ForbesTraveler.com, which recently listed America's 25 Most Visted Tourist Sites, the historic **Faneuil Hall** Marketplace ranks fourth, one spot above vacation destination Disney World.

Built in 1742, Faneuil Hall was Boston's commercial center for centuries and was the site where famous orator-turned-revolutionist Sam Adams rallied colonists to gain independence.

"You put yourself in the era and feel like you're involved in the revolution. The historic end of it, anyways," said Bette Robbins, visiting from Naples, Fla. "Boston is for those who appreciate the history of our country," said Robbins' husband, Joe. "Compared to Europe, America is very young, and this is where it all started. This is the cradle of history for Americans."

"I'm not a fan of Disney World, but both attractions have their own niche and attract different types of tourists," said Wanda McManus of Bridgewater, admiring the architecture of the Great Hall of Faneuil Hall with her husband, Peter, on their 20th wedding anniversary.

"There's so much about Boston that's interesting," added Peter McManus. "I enjoy the old paintings and sculptures of historical figures. All the history that's developed here - it's powerful."

Lt. John F. McCauley is the curator of the museum of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts Armory, nestled on the top floor of Faneuil Hall. On a good day, McCauley says the museum sees an average of 200 to 300 visitors, so he isn't surprised about Faneuil Hall's high ranking among tourist attractions.

"We're located in the middle of a commercial area, and people who come here for the shops or food are really surprised when they find us here. We have history in our own back yard," McCauley said.

"We get people from all over the world, and the tourists appreciate the site more than the locals, but we're working on bringing more who want to understand what they're looking at."

Many Faneuil Hall workers noted that Boston sports teams play a role in luring visitors to the marketplace.

"The **Red Sox [team stats]** have a draw all over the world and that really helps with tourism," said Charlestown resident Jason Britton, who works as a City View Trolley tour guide. "On the best day there will be a sea of people out here. The shops here are like the shops in New York, and everyone loves the open-air markets."

"We get a mix of seniors on tour buses, students on field trips, visitors from all over the world and other states. Boston is a compact city, so everyone usually walks to the major sites, and this one is at the top."

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