

FAQ

Where is the Marathon taking place?

In multiple areas throughout the Museum and the Seamen's Bethel across the street (Johnny Cake Hill). The timing is detailed in this program.

Can I get a seat in the Seamen's Bethel?

If you did not sign up for the drawing for a seat, you can still see Father Mapple's sermon via livestream in the Harbor View Gallery (Upper Level).

Can I come and go?

Yes, you may enter and exit through the Museum's main entrance as you please.

If I haven't signed up, can I still read?

Reading spots have all been assigned. However, you can sign up at the reader log-in table to be a "stand-by" reader.

Is there food and drink available?

Yes, food and beverages will be available for purchase in Whales Today (Lower Level) throughout the weekend.

Where can I buy Moby-Dick Marathon merchandise?

Merchandise will be available for purchase in our Museum Store (Lobby).

General Rules

No backpacks or oversized bags – free lockers are provided near the front desk. Food and drink is only allowed in Whales Today (Lower Level).

For additional questions or to view the livestream, scan code below or visit whalingmuseum.org



Voyage Passport

Get a stamp at the Admission Desk for every 4-hour "watch" you stay at the Museum throughout the weekend. Collect all 6 "watch" stamps by the end of the Marathon and show your Passport to an event staff member to receive your prize.

Your Name

WATCH 1 Noon - 4:00 PM	WATCH 2 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM	WATCH 3 8:00 PM -Midnight
WATCH 4 Midnight - 4:00 AM	WATCH 5 4:00 AM - 8:00 AM	WATCH 6 8:00 AM - End



MOBY-DICK MARATHON

new bedford
whaling museum

2025

#mdm25



Schedule

Saturday, January 4

9:30 AM

Stump the Scholars *Cook Memorial Theater (L)*

Bring your burning questions to the Melville Scholars for a lively discussion about Melville's novels, art, and poetry – plus a chance to earn an “I Stumped the Scholars!” pin.

10:00 AM

The Little Whalers' Story Time, Craft & Scavenger Hunt *Classroom (ML)*

Calling all kiddos! Join us for an hour of story time and craft activities, led by staff from the New Bedford Free Public Library, then go on your own exciting whale scavenger hunt! Prizes available upon completion.

11:25 AM

Extracts *A Whaling Voyage Around the World (ML)*

Read by members of the Melville Society Cultural Project.

12:00 Noon

“Call Me Ishmael” *A Whaling Voyage Around the World (ML)*

With the strike of eight bells, the *Moby-Dick* Marathon 25-hour reading begins with those three famous opening words.

1:30 PM

Father Mapple's Sermon *Bethel or Harbor View Gallery (UL)*

Reading moves to the Bethel for the Sermon, where reserved seating is available for pre-selected audience. Additional seating for livestream viewing available in the Harbor View Gallery.

2:00 PM

Portuguese Mini-Marathon *Cook Memorial Theater (L)*

Dozens of participants at the Museum join together with readers in mainland Portugal, the Azores, Madeira Islands, and Cape Verde Islands to read the shortened adaptation of *Moby-Dick* created by Tiago Patricio in Portuguese.

2:10 PM

Main Marathon Continues *Harbor View Gallery (UL)*

Main *Moby-Dick* Marathon live reading returns to the Museum.

2:30 PM

Chat with Melville Scholars *Research Library (ML)*

Exclusive access to Melville Scholars to ask them anything and everything Melville!

3:00 PM

Make Your Mark *Classroom (ML)*

Take a creative pause and craft a personalized bookmark to help keep your place throughout the Marathon.

6:30 PM

Cousin Hosea's Chowder Hall and the Decanter Taproom *Whales Today (LL)*

Recharge and warm up with complimentary chowder or purchase other offerings from one of the food and beverage vendors on-site.

7:30 PM

Midnight on the Forecastle *Cook Memorial Theater (L)*

Chapter 40 as performed by Culture*Park.

8:00 PM

Main Marathon Continues *Cook Memorial Theater (L)*

Sunday, January 5

8:00 AM

20th Hour Treat *Whales Today (LL)*

Get fueled up for the home stretch. Main Marathon moves back up to the Harbor View Gallery (UL)

9:30 AM

Chat with Melville Scholars *Research Library (ML)*

Exclusive access to Melville Scholars to ask them anything and everything Melville!

1:00 PM

Epilogue *Harbor View Gallery (UL)*

Prizes for the hearty souls that make it through the entire night (See Voyage Passport enclosed for instructions).

**Times are approximate and are dependent on the reading pace of the Marathon.*

Welcome!

Are you ready to be taken back in time to hunt for the elusive white whale?

The *Moby-Dick* Marathon is an annual celebration marking Herman Melville's 1841 departure from the Port of New Bedford aboard the whaleship *Acushnet*. Over the next 25-hours, you will be joined by scholars, students, fishermen, community leaders, and thousands around the world for a cover-to-cover live reading of this epic adventure.

A heartfelt thanks goes out to our extraordinary volunteers who manage the weekend's activities and to our brave readers who bring the story to life each year.

The Marathon Livestream

You don't have to miss a minute! The entire Marathon is livestreamed. Go to whalingmuseum.org to follow along.

Sponsors

Ishmael Sponsor



Melville Sponsors



Whaler's Crew

