Cambridge, Massachusetts, was originally settled as New Towne in 1630 by the Massachusetts Bay Company. Situated directly north of Boston, across the Charles River, it was organized as a town when it became the site of Harvard College in 1636 and was renamed for Cambridge, England, in 1638. At the outbreak of the American Revolution, the first American army camped at what is now Cambridge Common.

Several museums are located on the campus of Harvard University. The Harvard Museum of Natural History houses one of Harvard’s most famous treasures, the internationally acclaimed Ware Collection of Blaschka Glass Models of Plants, or the Glass Flowers, which represents more than 780 plant species. The Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology concentrates on anthropological material, with a particular focus on the ethnography and archaeology of the Americas. The Harvard Art Museums—the Fogg Museum, Busch-Reisinger Museum, and Arthur M. Sackler Museum—have played a leading role in the development of art history, conservation, and conservation science and in the evolution of the art museum as an institution. The Harvard Semitic Museum houses more than 40,000 Near Eastern artifacts, most of which derive from museum-sponsored excavations in Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Syria, and Tunisia, with special emphasis on those ancient cultures related to the world of the Bible. The Ethelbert Cooper Gallery of African and African American Art is a university gallery space dedicated to the exhibition of African and African American art and hosts workshops, artist talks, and performances that bring together local residents with diverse art archives and cultural traditions from all over the world.

The MIT Museum, which is located on the Massachusetts Institute of Technology campus, hosts collections of holography, technology-related artwork, archival materials, contemporary art, and the MIT Media Lab. The MIT Museum holds more than one million objects, prints, rare books, technical archives, drawings, photographs, films, and holograms. The Museum of Science features permanent and temporary exhibits, live presentations, IMAX films, planetarium shows, a butterfly garden, 4-D films, Thrill Ride 360°, and Duck Tours and is located on a road overlooking the Charles River connecting Cambridge and Boston.

The Longfellow Bridge over the Charles River was completed in 1891 and was the home of noted 19th-century American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow for almost 50 years. The house also served as headquarters for General George Washington during the Siege of Boston from July 1775 to April 1776. Cambridge offers a variety of opportunities to enjoy performing arts. The American Repertory Theater is a professional theater on Harvard University’s campus that presents a varied repertoire of new plays, progressive productions of classical texts, and collaborations between artists from many disciplines. Hasty Pudding Theatricals, the oldest theatrical organization in the country, produces plays and burlesques with Harvard undergraduate men playing both male and female roles in February and March. MIT’s Music & Theatre Arts Departments present concerts and shows throughout the year. Cambridge Family YMCA in Central Square offers cultural programming that includes music, dance, theater productions, spoken word, and children’s programs.

Parks and Recreation

Cambridge parks offer amenities such as playgrounds; swimming pools and water play sprinklers; foot and bike paths; baseball, softball, and soccer fields; tennis and basketball courts; community gardens; dog parks; street hockey; track; football; golf; ice skating; and skateboarding. The 16-acre Cambridge Common is a major city park as well as a National Historic Landmark. The Common contains the popular Alexander W. Kemp playground, a playing field, lawns, historic monuments, and pathways. The Kemp Playground has a variety of play features to stimulate challenging physical activity as well as creative, exploratory, imaginative, and social play for kids of all ages. Its design consists of a landscape of hills, valleys, sand, wooden branches and stumps, living plant material, and loose wooden blocks. Other playground amenities include a swing set for toddlers, a multidirectional dish-shaped swing that can be used by several children at once, a seesaw with multiple seats at each end, and a merry-go-round that is at ground level to provide wheelchair access.

Education

Cambridge Public Schools educate approximately 7,200 students in 12 elementary schools, five upper schools, and three high schools (a traditional high school, a high school that specializes in technical education, and another that offers a nontraditional high school program). The following private, nonprofit universities offering undergraduate and graduate degrees are located in Cambridge: Harvard University, MIT, Lesley University, and Hult Business School.

Health Care

Cambridge is served by the following health care facilities:
- CHA Cambridge Hospital: 189 licensed beds
- Mount Auburn Hospital: 217 licensed beds
- Spaulding Hospital for Continuing Medical Care-Cambridge: 180 licensed beds

**City Stats**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>City Stat</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>117,133</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Statistical Area Population</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per Capita Personal Income</td>
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Cambridge, MA