Getting to L. L. Bean can be half the fun

L. L. Bean, the world's most famous supplier of outdoor goods, is located in Freeport, Maine, which is 100 miles north of Boston and 36 miles from Portland. Bean's is known for the quality of his merchandise, whether it is in the boats, parkas, and channel shirts are rup- ped and jetty fans. Why drive to Bean's at midnight? Because it's boots, parkas, and chamois shirts are rug-quality of its merchandise; their sweaters, open 24 hours a day, 365 days most years. 95 would be a whole lot faster, but it by-

lot, and trying to find an unoccupied busload disembarks in the front parking at night; during the day busload after retail store in Freeport, Maine, which is cold drinks, as the opportunities to buy

Athens of America, there is no excuse for

terest, small contemporary white tower with a spike on top of it. One brick complex with two white domes and a to Kendall station (if you live on campus), you have to walk halfway there just to get

Charles not viewing 10-5 Sunday. Free admission to MIT stu-
dents, those of Newbaryport, this four-story

Lights, one of Edward Hopper's favorite places is a red beacon located on a rock connected to

ocean cliffs and ends up in a boutique-in-
yard, lit by a skylight four stories above, is around the central courtyard. The court-

Other programs: The Science Museum offers lecture series (nothing's cheap in Cambridge, a physicist's view,

Special programs: There are free con-

IDEAS

SIGHTSEEING IDEAS

MUSEUMS

PIECES

Checking out local treasures

When the everyday gets you down, it's time to reconnect with the past in some way, perhaps in a strange and extraordinary. And museums offer some of the most wonderful ways to get to know the world around you.

BOSTON MUSEUMS

Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave. (617)-267-9300. Tuesdays only, 10-9. Admission $6 adults, $3 students, seniors, and children under 12. The museum houses a diverse collection of European and American art, and a unique collection of Japanese and Chinese art. The most famous exhibit is the Great Sphinx of Giza, a colossal statue of the Pharaoh Khafre, who ruled in the Fourth Dynasty. The museum also houses a collection of African and Oceanic art, as well as a large collection of American art, including paintings by John Singleton Copley and Rembrandt Peale. The museum is open year-round, except for major holidays.

Parliament's attractive, and once for its

Portsmouth's attractive, and once for its

where to eat out: There's a Friendly's right on the waterfront where you can watch the ships go by and eat fast food. Or try the local seafood restaurants, such as the Old Harbor Inn.

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When it's all over and you're back to MIT, you can take Maine 27 south to Boothbay Harbor, or you can continue on 1 to Damariscotta, south from which are the picturesque town of Damariscotta, the state's most northern town, and Damariscotta Beach, at the eastern end of the town.

PROMISES

The Harvard University Museum of Natural History, 16 Divinity Ave. (617)-495-2387 or 2-8700. The museum houses a large collection of objects from the natural world, including fossils, minerals, and ancient artifacts. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10-5, and admission is free on Tuesday and Wednesday, 10-5. The museum is also open late on Friday nights, when the galleries are illuminated and the museum is open until 8 p.m. Special programs: There are free concerts and lectures at the museum every month, as well as guided tours and workshops for children. The museum is located on the campus of Harvard University, in the Natural History Museum. The museum is open year-round, except for major holidays.

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