



Destination Guide: Boston



Top Picks From AAA Travel Editors - Travel information you can trust

AAA Travel Guide: Official AAA maps, travel information and top picks

AAA Travel Guide: Boston includes trip-planning information covering AAA recommended attractions and restaurants, exclusive member discounts, maps and more.

Boston calls itself “America’s Walking City,” and with good reason: driving can be a challenge. What better excuse to park your car and explore on foot? There’s history around every corner.

No trip to Boston would be complete without a walk along the Freedom Trail, a red brick line winding through the Financial District, Beacon Hill and the North End, past more than a dozen famous landmarks—Faneuil Hall, the Old North Church, Paul Revere’s house. Beyond these streets



where patriots walked are scores of distinctive neighborhoods to explore: Cambridge, Back Bay, Charlestown, Brookline, Fenway and the South End. You’ll rub elbows with Yankee pragmatists, Irish fatalists, Kennedy liberals, Brahmin blue-bloods, die-hard Red Sox fans and sleep-deprived students of every stripe—Boston has one of the highest concentrations of colleges and universities in the world. If you can say, “Park the car at Harvard Yard,” without using an “r,” you’ll fit right in.

Essentials

Walk the Freedom Trail, which connects 16 famous sites across the city.

Sit in a pew at the Old North Church, where “one if by land, two if by sea” signaled a revolution.

Buy a souvenir at the Faneuil Hall marketplace, the city’s commercial heart since 1742.

Ride a swan boat across the lagoon at the Public Garden, considered the first public botanical garden in the country.

Catch a Red Sox game at Fenway Park, one of baseball’s oldest and most historic stadiums.

Go where “everybody knows your name,” Cheers Beacon Hill, the model for the long-running TV comedy series.

Watch early-morning rowers on the Charles River, the center of Boston’s sporting life.

Take an evening stroll through Little Italy, where the sights, sounds and aromas will take you to another world.

Find a bargain in the Back Bay at Filene’s Basement, a cherished off-price retailer founded in Boston in 1909.

Treat yourself to a lobster dinner—and don’t forget the bib.

Essentials Map



Get maps and turn-by-turn directions using [TripTik Travel Planner on AAA.com](#)

Essentials Details - [Get additional information on AAA.com](#)

 - GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*

1. Old North Church

193 Salem St
Boston, MA 02113
Phone: (617) 523-6676



2. Faneuil Hall

4 South Market St
Boston, MA 02109
Phone: (617) 242-5642



3. Public Garden

Boylston St & Charles St
Boston, MA 02130
Phone: (617) 522-1966

4. Cheers Beacon Hill

84 Beacon St
Boston, MA 02108
Phone: (617) 227-9605

Boston in 3 Days

Three days is barely enough time to get to know any major destination. But AAA travel editors suggest these activities to make the most of your time in Boston.

Day 1: Morning

Begin at the Visitor Information Center on Boston Common near Tremont Street and follow the Freedom Trail. (The AAA Freedom Trail Walking Tour under Things to Do/Sightseeing features detailed information about historic sites along the way.)

On this first section, you'll see the State House, Granary Burying Ground, King's Chapel, Old South Meeting House and Old State House.

Afternoon

Stop at Faneuil Hall. This bustling 6-acre marketplace includes designer shops, fresh produce and flower stands and pushcarts displaying handmade crafts. If you're not in the mood to shop, enjoy the jugglers, puppeteers and street performers. Take your pick of places to eat, from such casual taverns as Ned Devine's Irish Pub and Durgin Park to upscale eateries such as Kingfish Hall and McCormick & Schmick's.

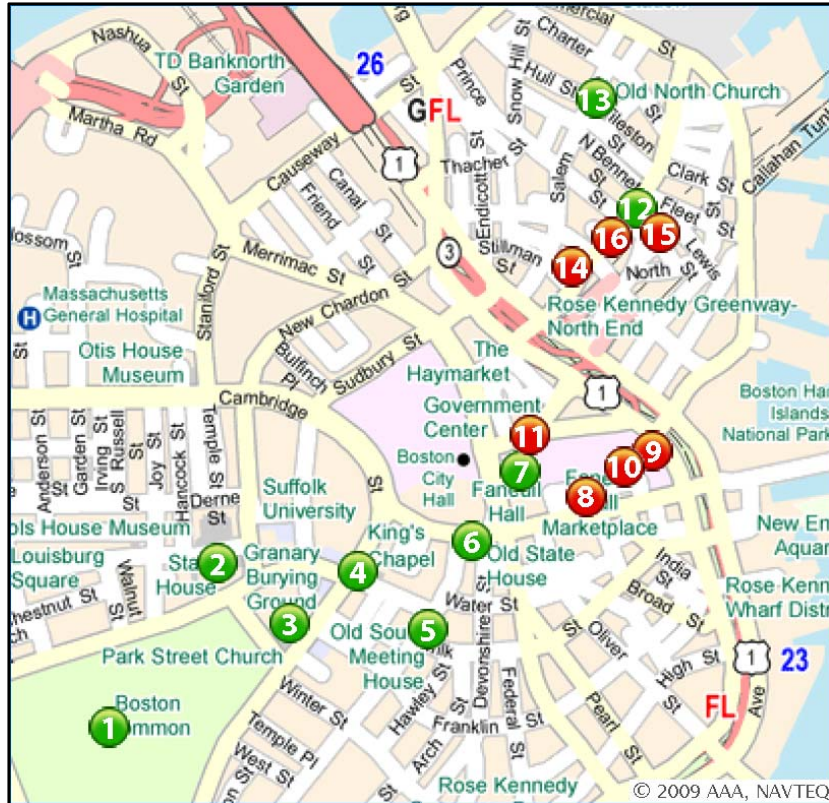
After you've grabbed lunch and a few souvenirs, continue along the Freedom Trail, passing the Paul Revere House, Old North Church and Copp's Hill Burying Ground in the North End.

Evening

You'll find no shortage of Italian food in the North End. One of the oldest restaurants in the neighborhood is the casual and charming Cantina Italiana, a favorite since 1931. Upscale Mamma Maria features five romantic and private dining rooms; The Daily Catch only has 10 tables, but it's worth the wait for some of the freshest Sicilian-style seafood in town.



For dessert, stop at Modern Pastry on Hanover Street. This take-out bakery makes the best ricotta pie, Italian cookies and bomba in the North End, and the Lobster Tail—a flaky pastry filled with sweet cream cheese—is to die for.

Boston in 3 Days – Day 1 Map



Get maps and turn-by-turn directions using TripTik Travel Planner on AAA.com

**Day 1 Details - Get additional information on AAA.com;
AAA Diamond Rating information available on AAA.com/Diamonds**

-  - GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*
-  - Exclusive AAA member discounts available


1. Boston Common
Beacon St & Charles St
Boston, MA 02108


2. State House
Beacon St & Park St
Boston, MA 02133
Phone: (617) 727-3676

3. Granary Burying Ground
Tremont St & Bromfield St
Boston, MA 02108

4. King's Chapel
58 Tremont St
Boston, MA 02108
Phone: (617) 227-2155

5. Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St
Boston, MA 02108
Phone: (617) 482-6439


6. Old State House
206 Washington St
Boston, MA 02109
Phone: (617) 720-1713


7. Faneuil Hall
4 South Market St
Boston, MA 02109
Phone: (617) 242-5642


8. Ned Devine's Irish Pub 
250 Faneuil Hall Marketplace
Boston, MA 02109
Phone: (617) 248-8800



9. Durgin Park 
340 Faneuil Hall Marketplace
Boston, MA 02109
Phone: (617) 227-2038


10. Kingfish Hall 
188 Faneuil Hall Market Pl
Boston, MA 02109
Phone: (617) 523-8862


11. McCormick & Schmick's 
North Market Bldg
Boston, MA 02109
Phone: (617) 720-5522

12. Paul Revere House
19 North Square
Boston, MA 02113
Phone: (617) 523-2338

13. Old North Church
193 Salem St
Boston, MA 02113
Phone: (617) 523-6676


14. Cantina Italiana 
346 Hanover St
Boston, MA 02113
Phone: (617) 723-4577

15. Mamma Maria 
3 North Square
Boston, MA 02113
Phone: (617) 523-0077

16. The Daily Catch 
323 Hanover St
Boston, MA 02113
Phone: (617) 523-8567

Day 2: Morning

Stroll through the botanical beauty of the Public Garden and ride a swan boat around the lagoon (from April to September). Stop to take your picture outside Cheers Beacon Hill, on the north end of the lagoon, where exterior shots for the long-running TV sitcom were filmed.

For a little snack, stop at Finale on the south end of the Public Garden. This dessert mecca serves up such sinful creations as “Dark Chocolate Decadence” and “Temptation for Two.” Order gourmet sandwiches for a picnic, or pick out a few confections for a pastry box to go (after all, you’ll need the energy).

Day 2 Details - Get additional information on AAA.com;
AAA Diamond Rating information available on AAA.com/Diamonds



- GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*



- Exclusive AAA member discounts available

1. Public Garden

Boylston St & Charles St
 Boston, MA 02130
 Phone: (617) 522-1966

2. Cheers Beacon Hill

84 Beacon St
 Boston, MA 02108
 Phone: (617) 227-9605

3. Finale

1 Columbus Ave
 Boston, MA 02116
 Phone: (617) 423-3184

4. New England Aquarium

1 Central Wharf
 Boston, MA 02110
 Phone: (617) 973-5200



5. The Liberty Fleet of Tall Ships

67 Long Wharf
 Boston, MA 02110
 Phone: (617) 742-0333



6. Chart House

60 Long Wharf
 Boston, MA 02110
 Phone: (617) 227-1576

7. Legal Sea Foods

255 State St
 Boston, MA 02110
 Phone: (617) 742-5300

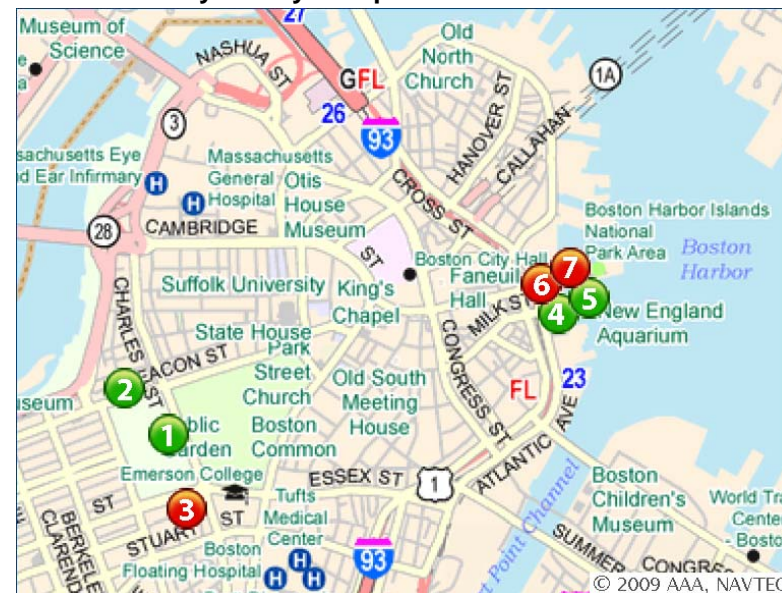
Afternoon

Explore the cool wonders of the New England Aquarium on the waterfront at Central Wharf. Highlights include a colony of African and Rockhopper penguins, a rare collection of Australian sea dragons and an outdoor home for harbor seals. For a behind-the-scenes look, sign up for the 2-hour Trainer for an Afternoon program, which lets you shadow members of the aquarium staff during feeding and training sessions.

Evening

If you’re visiting Boston during the summer (June to September), take a sunset sail aboard the 125-foot Liberty Clipper. This beautiful vessel from The Liberty Fleet of Tall Ships departs from Long Wharf for a cruise around the islands of Boston Harbor; weekend trips range from steak and lobster dinners and wine tastings to a re-creation of the Boston Tea Party. If you prefer to stay on land, Long Wharf boasts two of the city’s most popular seafood restaurants, both with beautiful views of the water: Chart House and Legal Sea Foods.

Boston in 3 Days – Day 2 Map



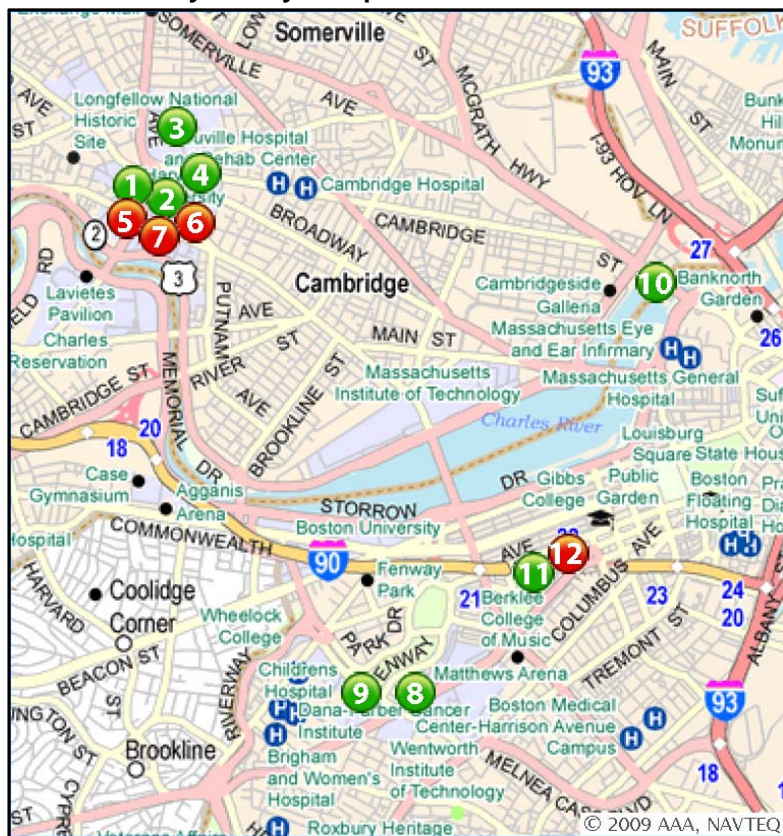
Get maps and turn-by-turn directions using [TripTik Travel Planner](http://TripTik) on AAA.com

Day 3: Morning

Take the subway across the river and explore the hallowed ground of Old Cambridge, which includes the 1761 Christ Church, the 1759 Longfellow House and Harvard University, the oldest institution of higher learning in the country, founded in 1636.

Among the many hidden treasures at the university's art and science museums, don't miss the glass flowers at the Harvard Museum of Natural History, the Chinese jades at the Arthur M. Sackler Museum and the Impressionists on loan to the Sackler during renovation of the Fogg Art Museum.

Boston in 3 Days – Day 3 Map



Get maps and turn-by-turn directions using TripTik Travel Planner on AAA.com

Casual eateries such as John Harvard's Brewhouse, Sandrine's Bistro and Spice Thai Cuisine surround Harvard Square, where you can rub elbows with the locals and watch a speed-chess game.

Day 3 Details - Get additional information on AAA.com;

AAA Diamond Rating information available on AAA.com/Diamonds



- GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*



- Exclusive AAA member discounts available

1. Old Cambridge

Cambridge, MA 02138
Phone: (617) 497-1630

2. Harvard University

1350 Massachusetts Ave
Cambridge, MA 02138
Phone: (617) 495-1573



3. Harvard Museum of Natural History

26 Oxford St
Cambridge, MA 02138
Phone: (617) 495-3045



4. Arthur M. Sackler Museum

485 Broadway
Cambridge, MA 02138
Phone: (617) 495-9400

5. John Harvard's Brewhouse

33 Dunster St
Cambridge, MA 02138
Phone: (617) 868-3585

6. Sandrine's Bistro

8 Holyoke St
Cambridge, MA 02138
Phone: (617) 497-5300

7. Spice Thai Cuisine

24 Holyoke St
Cambridge, MA 02138
Phone: (617) 868-9560

8. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

465 Huntington Ave
Boston, MA 02115
Phone: (617) 267-9300



9. Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

280 The Fenway
Boston, MA 02115
Phone: (617) 566-1401



10. Museum of Science

1 Science Park
Boston, MA 02114
Phone: (617) 723-2500



11. Skywalk Observatory at Prudential Center

800 Boylston St
Boston, MA 02199
Phone: (617) 859-0648

12. Top of the Hub

800 Boylston St
Boston, MA 02199
Phone: (617) 536-1775

Afternoon

Spend the afternoon with Monet, Picasso and Whistler at the [Museum of Fine Arts, Boston](#). If you still have time (and energy), the Venetian-style palazzo of the [Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum](#) is two blocks away. For an art alternative, take the kids to the [Museum of Science](#), which is surprisingly fun for adults too.

Evening

Take in a game at Fenway Park, one of baseball's oldest and most venerable stadiums. If the Red Sox aren't playing, watch the sunset from the 50th-floor [Skywalk Observatory at Prudential Center](#), and then head to [Top of the Hub](#) for dinner and a priceless view of the Boston skyline and the Charles River.

Restaurants

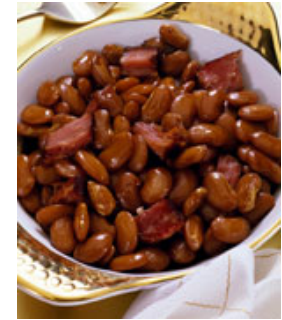
Retro exterior and interior design and a fantastic blend of Asian and Latin cuisine set the lively and whimsical tone at [Betty's Wok and Noodle Diner](#). The chef's creativity is alive and well; some samplings are vegetable stuffed egg rolls, curried onion rings, a coconut custard quesillo and a banana bomba of fried plantain wontons. Patrons also have the option of creating noodle dishes to their own specifications. This hip eatery is in the art district across from Symphony Hall.

Think of the calm and unity of Feng Shui with the remarkable creations of celebrity chef Ming Tsai and you have [Blue Ginger, an East-West Bistro](#). Chef Ming and his wife Polly opened their restaurant in Wellesley in 1998. Working in an open kitchen, the team of chefs creates such delicacies as Indonesian curry pasta with organic coconut shrimp or panko herb-crusted chicken breast; three-vinegar sautéed shrimp with roasted garlic fingerling mashed potatoes and spicy asparagus salad; tea-smoked salmon and beef carpaccio with fresh wasabi; and shiitake-leek spring rolls with three-chile dipping sauce. These are but a few examples from Chef Ming's truly original menu.

Restaurants are plentiful in the historic North End, an area rich in tradition and renowned for authentic Italian cuisine. [Cantina Italiana](#) is likely the

oldest in the neighborhood, serving wonderful favorites of caprise, risotto, gnocchi and parmigiana since 1931. The current chef, Ciriaco "Chuck" Colella, was inspired by his mother's cooking in southern Italy. Chef Colella began as a pastry chef and later honed his skills at the Modena Academy Culinary School in Italy. Guests will enjoy savory Italian dishes in a casual atmosphere.

Another North End gem is [The Daily Catch](#). This tiny eatery—less than ten tables—is a local favorite and serves some of the freshest Sicilian-style seafood in town. A line is typical during peak dinner hours, but it's worth the wait. A wonderful aroma of garlic and fresh herbs wafts from the open kitchen.



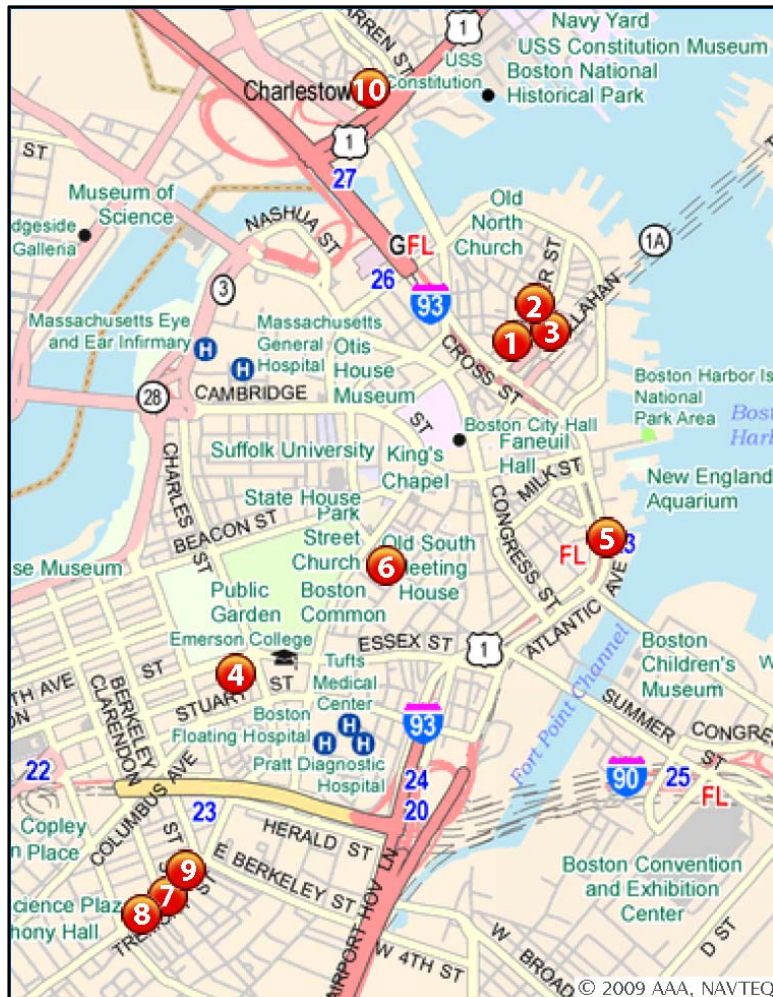
A North End residence dating to 1820 is home to [Mamma Maria](#), which opened in 1984. Here are several private dining rooms with elegant Colonial décor that is warm and comfortable. The chef offers a very nice selection of upscale and creative dishes with a focus on Italian cuisine; the classic carpaccio from Harry's Bar in Venice is a delight. Other favorites are the hand-rolled pappardelle pasta with roasted Sonoma rabbit; and slow-roasted veal shank, served in classic osso-buco style with saffron risotto. The menu offers warm and cold antipasti, roasted meats, grilled seafood and Italian specialties; the flavors of each and the personable service are memorable.

Decadent confections also lure the local clientele to [Finale](#). This "dessert restaurant" offers light dinner fare, but the main draw is dessert—luscious homemade cakes, crème brûlée, tiramisu and more. Treats are created daily and offer such eye appeal, they're hard to resist. This is a popular stop after a show or a Red Sox game; the dress code ranges from jeans to tuxedos. There are two locations, one near Boston Common and the other in Cambridge.

Located in a historic brownstone in fashionable Back Bay, [L'Espalier](#) is one of Boston's premier "special occasion" restaurants. The intimate and

sophisticated atmosphere complements the culinary service and delivery of exceptional and innovative modern French cuisine. Three-course *prix fixe* or seven-course degustation (chef's choice) menus change seasonally. In addition to a standard meat and fish menu, there are caviar and vegetarian degustation menus.

Restaurants Map



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Next door to the Harvard Club in the Eliot Hotel, Clio is another “must stop” for those who appreciate unusual and creative cuisine. Chef Ken Oringer creates a menu of remarkable French dishes with a strong Asian influence. The menu changes often, and these are only a few of the gastronomic possibilities: cassoulette of lobster and sea urchin, Jerusalem artichoke soup, slow-cooked wild Alaskan king salmon and phenomenal pastries.

**Restaurants Details - Get additional information on AAA.com;
AAA Diamond Rating information available on AAA.com/Diamonds**

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Cantina Italiana </p> <p>346 Hanover St
Boston, MA 02113
Phone: (617) 723-4577</p> | <p>6. Locke-Ober </p> <p>3 Winter Pl
Boston, MA 02108
Phone: (617) 542-1340</p> |
| <p>2. The Daily Catch </p> <p>323 Hanover St
Boston, MA 02113
Phone: (617) 523-8567</p> | <p>7. The Butcher Shop </p> <p>552 Tremont St
Boston, MA 02118
Phone: (617) 423-4800</p> |
| <p>3. Mamma Maria </p> <p>3 North Square
Boston, MA 02113
Phone: (617) 523-0077</p> | <p>8. Metropolis Cafe </p> <p>584 Tremont St
Boston, MA 02118
Phone: (617) 247-2931</p> |
| <p>4. Finale </p> <p>1 Columbus Ave
Boston, MA 02116
Phone: (617) 423-3184</p> | <p>9. Sibling Rivalry </p> <p>525 Tremont St
Boston, MA 02116
Phone: (617) 338-5338</p> |
| <p>5. Meritage </p> <p>70 Rowes Wharf
Boston, MA 02110
Phone: (617) 439-3995</p> | <p>10. Olives </p> <p>10 City Square
Boston, MA 02129
Phone: (617) 242-1999</p> |

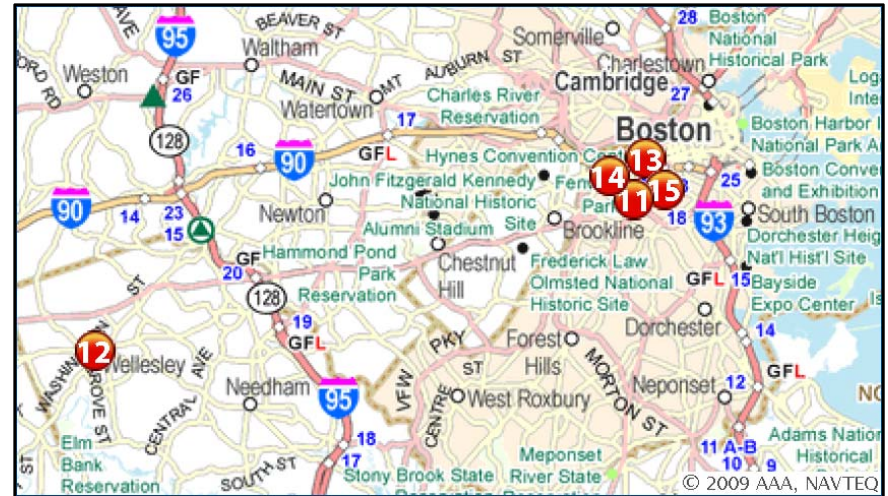
Chic, upbeat decor sets the tone for Meritage, a new concept in dining. Here, the wine is chosen first—with food to match. Arranged by characteristics of wine suitable for pairing, the seasonally changing menu lists small starter-sized portions or large plates. Typical dishes include rack of lamb, braised pork cheeks, ostrich fan filet, quail, duck, rabbit and fresh seafood. Presentations are truly artistic. A knowledgeable staff provides attentive, unobtrusive service.

The historic institution of Locke-Ober is now under the accomplished and capable hands of Lydia Shire, who has managed to maintain the “Old World” charm and delight her guests with both contemporary and classic cuisine. The menu reflects a traditional steakhouse with creative flair: Black Angus filet mignon with béarnaise sauce; sirloin steak au poivre; wiener schnitzel; swordfish with crisp calamari, artichokes and saffron aioli. Steeped in history, the restaurant opened in the 1880s and generally excluded women. In fact, female diners were only allowed to enter during morning hours, a policy still in effect well into the 20th century. Thankfully, times have changed, but the décor is preserved, offering a glimpse of another era along with a taste of incredible cuisine.

Jasper's White Summer Shack sets out to create the atmosphere of a New England clambake, and it succeeds. This lively restaurant, with locations in Back Bay and Cambridge, looks like a rustic clubhouse—a big, open space with picnic tables, paneled walls and lights strung from the ceiling. Diners get to experience not only the feel of a Yankee feast but the fare as well. Steamers, lobsters and corn on the cob will appeal to any landlubber.

Bistro, wine bar, delicatessen—The Butcher Shop captures the essence of a European market in the South End. The storefront overlooks Tremont Street through large picture windows; at the back of the restaurant are large display cases of meats, cheeses and pate. Menu selections include crispy duck confit salad, veal schnitzel, hot dog à la maison and a selection of artisanal cheeses. The entire staff is knowledgeable about wines, preparations, quality and pairings. A butcher also is on hand to answer questions.

Restaurants Map



Get maps and turn-by-turn directions using [TripTik Travel Planner on AAA.com](#)

Restaurants Details - Get additional information on [AAA.com](#);
AAA Diamond Rating information available on [AAA.com/Diamonds](#)

11. Betty's Wok and Noodle Diner
 250 Huntington Ave
 Boston, MA 02139
 Phone: (617) 424-1950

12. Blue Ginger, an East-West Bistro
 583 Washington St
 Wellesley, MA 02482
 Phone: (781) 283-5790

13. L'Espalier
 774 Boylston St
 Boston, MA 02199
 Phone: (617) 262-3023

14. Clio
 370 Commonwealth Ave
 Boston, MA 02215
 Phone: (617) 536-7200

15. Jasper's White Summer Shack
 149 Alewife Brook Pkwy
 Cambridge, MA 02140
 Phone: (617) 520-9500

Metropolis Cafe is a charming and intimate eatery serving New American cuisine with a strong Mediterranean influence. This South End café uses the freshest seasonal ingredients. A few items to whet the appetite are crab and cod cakes, pan-seared scallops and crème brûlée.

Chefs—and brothers—David and Bob Kinkead are going head-to-head in their South End venture, Sibling Rivalry. The menu is terrific and unique, with a list of common ingredients in the center for each chef to use in dishes of his own. On a night when rosemary and garlic are featured, Chef David may prepare Duxbury mussels with rosemary, grainy mustard, garlic and cream. Chef Bob might offer braised lamb shoulder and grilled rump of lamb with fava beans, baby leeks, garlic confit and a rosemary merlot sauce. This is an exciting and flavorful dining experience with a highly trained staff and trendy décor.

Chef Todd English has taken his Olives concept across the country and all the way to Tokyo, but the original is here in Boston. Olives remains a destination for rustic and creative Mediterranean-inspired fare. The menu evolves seasonally but always lists dishes made from handmade pasta, organic produce and fine selections from land and sea.

Attractions

In a city with dozens of attractions, you may have trouble deciding where to spend your time. Here are the highlights for this destination, as chosen by AAA editors. GEMs are “Great Experiences for Members.”

With more than 550 playful exhibits, Boston’s Museum of Science makes science not only palatable but fun for kids, science-phobes and even jaded adults. There’s so much to do, this museum feels like a theme park. On the waterfront, the New England Aquarium is another perennial favorite. Highlights include the ever-popular penguin exhibit, a 200,000-gallon coral reef display and an outdoor tank for harbor seals.

On the Avenue of the Arts, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston has all the Manets, Monets, Picassos, Rembrandts, Renoirs, Sargents and Whistlers you’d expect to find at one of the country’s premier art venues. I.M. Pei

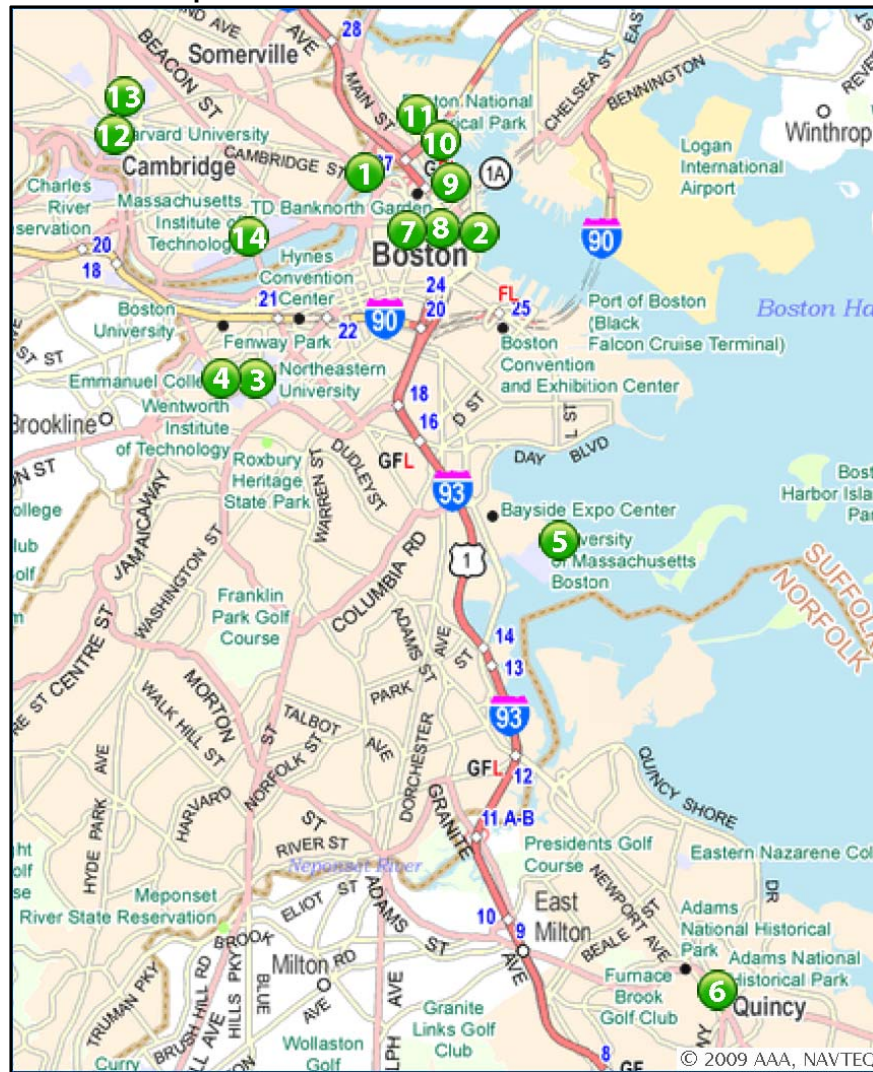
designed the west wing. Nearby is the Venetian-style palazzo of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum with its private collection of paintings, sculptures, furniture and textiles.

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum is another example of I.M. Pei’s architectural vision. This dramatic glass and concrete structure at Columbia Point honors the Boston congressman who became the 35th president of the United States. Adams National Historical Park in Quincy preserves the birthplaces of presidents John and John Quincy Adams, along with their homes and the churchyard containing their graves.

Boston means history, and the 2.5-mile Freedom Trail will lead you past dozens of famous sites. The Boston Massacre occurred in front of the Old State House, where John Hancock was inaugurated as first governor of the commonwealth. Stirring speeches and passionate pleas echoed within the walls of Faneuil Hall, ultimately leading to revolution. Lanterns hung in the steeple of Old North Church signaled Paul Revere’s celebrated midnight ride. Revere forged the original copper sheathing for the warship USS Constitution, nicknamed Old Ironsides during the War of 1812. Bunker Hill Monument marks the site of a critical battle during the British occupation. In the nearby town of Lexington, you can stand on the bridge where war began with “the shot heard ’round the world” in 1775.



With one of the highest concentrations of colleges and universities in the world, Boston is a college town of the highest order—and Harvard University is its most venerable symbol. The Ivy League campus exemplifies the history of American architecture, representing styles from Colonial to ultramodern. There are half a dozen art galleries surrounding Harvard Yard, and the Harvard Museum of Natural History displays an impressive collection of minerals, gemstones, fossils and botanical specimens. Cambridge is also home to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This hotbed of high-tech innovation features a museum with holography displays and other technology-centered exhibits. Eero Saarinen designed the stark, windowless MIT chapel to represent “spiritual unworldliness.”

Attractions Map



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Attractions Details - Get additional information on AAA.com:

-  - GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*
-  - Exclusive AAA member discounts available

1. Museum of Science

1 Science Park
Boston, MA 02114
Phone: (617) 723-2500



2. New England Aquarium

1 Central Wharf
Boston, MA 02110
Phone: (617) 973-5200



3. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

465 Huntington Ave
Boston, MA 02115
Phone: (617) 267-9300



4. Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

280 The Fenway
Boston, MA 02115
Phone: (617) 566-1401



5. John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum

Columbia Point
Boston, MA 02125
Phone: (866) 535-1960



6. Adams National Historical Park

1250 Hancock St
Quincy, MA 02169
Phone: (617) 770-1175



7. Old State House

206 Washington St
Boston, MA 02109
Phone: (617) 720-1713



8. Faneuil Hall

4 South Market St
Boston, MA 02109
Phone: (617) 242-5642



9. Old North Church

193 Salem St
Boston, MA 02113
Phone: (617) 523-6676



10. USS Constitution

1 Constitution Rd
Boston, MA 02129
Phone: (617) 242-5670



11. Bunker Hill Monument

Boston, MA 02129
Phone: (617) 242-5641



12. Harvard University

1350 Massachusetts Ave
Cambridge, MA 02138
Phone: (617) 495-1573



13. Harvard Museum of Natural History

26 Oxford St
Cambridge, MA 02138
Phone: (617) 495-3045

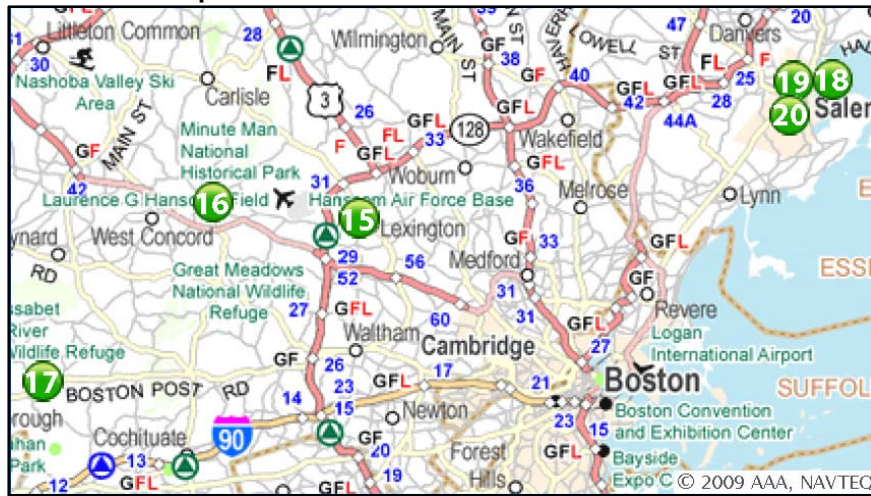


14. Massachusetts Institute of Technology

77 Massachusetts Ave
Cambridge, MA 02139
Phone: (617) 253-4795



Attractions Map




Get maps and turn-by-turn directions using [TripTik Travel Planner on AAA.com](#)

Spiritual enlightenment drew 19th-century intellectuals and writers to Boston, among them Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Nathaniel Hawthorne. The [Concord Museum](#) displays the contents of Emerson's 1882 study and a large collection of Thoreau's possessions, including his bed, desk and chair from Walden Pond. [Longfellow's Wayside Inn of Sudbury](#), made famous in his series of poems published in 1863, includes a 13-room museum, a chapel and formal gardens.

In Salem, you can visit [The House of the Seven Gables](#), actually a collection of six historic buildings including Nathaniel Hawthorne's birthplace and the seven-gabled home that inspired his classic novel. The nearby [Peabody Essex Museum](#), noted for its maritime art collection and 24 restored houses, boasts more than 2.4 million art objects. Five generations of the Phillips family filled the [Historic New England's Phillips House](#) with objects collected during their world travels, including Asian porcelain, rare Persian rugs and English furnishings.

If you have extra time for sightseeing, don't miss AAA GEM attractions in Gloucester, Lowell, Plymouth and Saugus, all within a 40-mile radius.

Attractions Details - *Get additional information on [AAA.com](#):*

 - GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*

 - Exclusive AAA member discounts available

15. Lexington

16. Concord Museum
200 Lexington Rd
Concord, MA 01742
Phone: (978) 369-9609



17. Longfellow's Wayside Inn of Sudbury
72 Wayside Inn Rd
Sudbury, MA 01776
Phone: (800) 339-1776

**18. The House of the Seven Gables**

115 Derby St
Salem, MA 01970
Phone: (978) 744-0991

**19. Peabody Essex Museum**

161 Essex St
Salem, MA 01970
Phone: (866) 745-1876

**20. Historic New England's Phillips House**

34 Chestnut St
Salem, MA 01970
Phone: (978) 744-0440



Events

In addition to its many cultural and historic landmarks, this destination hosts a number of outstanding festivals and events that may coincide with your visit. GEMs are "Great Experiences for Members."

Up to 600,000 people attend [Boston's St. Patrick's Day Parade](#), a city tradition for more than a century. A week of traditional Celtic music and food—not to mention Harp's Lager and Guinness Extra Stout—leads up to a huge parade on the Sunday after March 17. The 3-hour procession of marching bands, bagpipers and floats is best viewed along Broadway, where parties spill out of the local Irish pubs.

The [Boston Marathon](#), the city's signature sports event, attracts top long-distance runners and wheelchair participants from around the world. The 26-mile race starts in Hopkinton and ends at Kenmore Square. Runners must meet qualifying times to enter—and they can't take a shortcut on the subway. The marathon runs on the third Monday in April, which

coincides with [Patriots' Day in Boston](#). This New England holiday commemorates the Battle of Lexington and Concord and “the shot heard 'round the world.” Events along the Freedom Trail include a parade, a wreath-laying ceremony at the grave of Paul Revere and a re-enactment of his historic ride.

Come summer, the city celebrates its Colonial and maritime heritage with the six-day Fourth of July festival known as [Boston Harborfest](#). The downtown and waterfront districts host most of the 200 daily activities for this AAA GEM event, including historic re-enactments, concerts, boat rides, chowder cook-offs, walking tours and family activities. If you can get near it, the Esplanade along the Charles River is the place to be on the evening of July 4th. You'll have plenty of company as an estimated half-million people attend this annual extravaganza that features the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra and one of the nation's top fireworks displays.

On Dec. 16, 1773, thousands of colonists rallied at the Old South Meeting House to protest a tax on English tea, one of the first political protests in American history. The event is re-created each year at the [Boston Tea Party](#) re-enactment. The first 600 people are allowed inside the meeting house to hear a spirited debate, and a crowd follows the parade to the harbor. The event is free if you're dressed in Colonial garb.

Theater, opera, ballet, music—the arts are alive in Boston. Nowhere is that more evident than in the annual November concert at Faneuil Hall Marketplace. [Christmas Tubas](#) features more than 200 portly brass instruments playing your favorite holiday carols.

The city celebrates New Year's Eve with [First Night Boston](#), a festival of the arts. This AAA GEM Event kicks off early in the afternoon on December 31 and runs well past midnight. With a schedule of more than 250 theater, film, dance, music and visual art events, you can choose specific offerings or make an entire day and night of it. In the days leading up to New Year's Eve, Copley Square is abuzz with chainsaws as artists compete to carve colossal ice sculptures. High-tech lighting illuminates the works after dark, a stunning sight.

First Night events at the Hynes Convention Center include the Family Festival where the activities are great fun and geared to children. For instance, what happens when Tchaikovsky, hip-hop and ballet meet onstage? It's called the “Urban Nutcracker,” which gets everybody in the place dancing. Around 5 p.m., costumed performers and huge puppets sweep through the downtown streets as part of a Mardi Gras-style procession. The countdown to midnight begins in earnest as thousands gather in Copley Square to ring in the New Year and watch fireworks burst over Boston Harbor.

Things to Do

Shopping

Boston carries on the tradition that great cities equal great shopping. Well-heeled couples peruse exclusive Newbury Street boutiques in the Back Bay, the same neighborhood where scruffy college kids often are seen toting bulging Newbury Comics bags. As scrupulous patrons maneuver around polished antiques crowding tiny Beacon Hill stores, tourists weave their way through the ever-hectic Quincy Market, sampling creamy desserts and fresh *chowdah* along the way. Elsewhere in this age-old burg are shrewd bargain hunters pillaging racks for fashion treasure at Filene's Basement, in business since the days of corsets and ascot ties.

As with almost everything else in Boston, shopping has its ties to history. Transformed into a festive commercial showplace in the mid-1970s, Faneuil Hall Marketplace (T: Government Center or State) often is cited as Boston's foremost urban attraction. Here you'll come across jugglers, magicians and other entertainers performing before rippling crowds. Young schoolchildren, some perplexed by the unusual spelling of the market's name, gleefully skip about bench-studded pedestrian malls. Besotted pigeons peck at crumbs beneath umbrella-shaded tables, while another, much larger species of natives frequents this locale for more substantial gastronomic delights.

The centerpiece of this shopping extravaganza bounded by North, Congress and State streets is Faneuil Hall, Colonial Boston's town meeting place. Financed by wealthy merchant Peter Faneuil, the hall opened in 1742 and was modeled after London's mercantile structures. Open fish and produce stalls occupied the lower floor, and the upstairs meeting room soon became a forum for heated gatherings of patriots who had begun to chafe under British rule. Atop the brick building is a whimsical weather vane that has survived an earthquake (1755), a fire (1761) and thievery (stolen and recovered in 1974). This gold-plated grasshopper—a distinctive item an outsider would have difficulty identifying—was used as a means of detecting potential spies during the War of 1812. It now keeps a watchful eye over hordes of modern-day visitors and residents alike.

Opposite the hall is Quincy Market—a long, narrow, multistoried structure added in the early 19th century. This copper-domed, Doric-colonnaded, glass-canopied edifice maintains a market-stall layout, although the offerings have expanded beyond basic meats and vegetables. Intoxicating aromas fill the bottom-floor colonnade, where you can savor international and specialty foods—from baklava to raw oysters. Troll the brick and cobblestone alleys along both sides of the building, where pushcarts peddle souvenirs and crafts, scented candles and handmade jewelry.

With the additional North Market and South Market buildings and such nationwide stores as the Gap and Coach, shopping for your own goodies at Faneuil Hall Marketplace is a definite possibility; however, it's easy to see this also is the ideal spot to buy gifts for your friends back home. Decide among such keepsakes as aprons, socks and sleepwear adorned with cartoonish lobsters or delicately sketched swans; bottled miniature model ships; an array of sports-related memorabilia celebrating this town's many beloved teams; and pens, T-shirts and hats embossed with "I ♥ Boston!" or the profusely uttered local phrase "*wicked pissah*" (really great).

A phenomenon that perhaps can be attributed to the city's straight-laced Puritan beginnings is the Boston "look," which, traditionally, has clashed with those flaunted by chic New Yorkers and L.A. jetsetters. Though Bostonians have long clung to conservative, time-honored clothing designs, Hub shoppers certainly have never been left wanting, especially when browsing in the Back Bay. Here you'll have no trouble locating the latest Prada clutch, a few key pieces by Mark Jacobs or a hip new pair of Valentino shades.

A number of major retail destinations are scattered about this upscale neighborhood; however, one markedly stands out above the rest. While Big Apple fashionistas haunt Madison Avenue and Hollywood spenders turn up on Rodeo Drive, Boston's own dally along Newbury Street. When the weather is agreeable, suburban families, metropolitan socialites, photo-snapping tourists and budget-conscious students cram sidewalks lined by yellow daffodils and moss-covered Victorian brownstones.

Tree-shaded blocks near the Public Garden shelter high-end retailers such as Giorgio Armani and Brooks Brothers. Nearby, well-dressed mannequins front elegant, locally owned boutiques. Both window-shoppers and serious collectors will be enchanted by Newbury's posh art galleries, including the family-run Vose Galleries.

Closer to Massachusetts Avenue, the thoroughfare's flavor gets funkier. Here Newbury Street shoppers can explore the flagship store of Life is good, a locally bred enterprise that gained steam in the mid-1990s. T-shirts emblazoned with a smiling stick figure named Jake were initially sold on street corners by two brothers who beseeched passersby to "Buy a shirt and feed the skinny man!" Today the company's wiry, optimistic mascot adorns a wide variety of goods—from backpacks to beach balls.

For "a wicked good time," visit Newbury Comics. Founded by two MIT students, the flagship store of this New England chain is inundated with hard-to-find CDs and records as well as quirky pop culture gifts, such as talking Darth Vader action figures and zombie survival kits. This enduring Boston institution helped cultivate Newbury Street's appeal in the late 1970s. Since then a multitude of national merchants—H&M, Lucky Brand

Jeans and Urban Outfitters are just a few—have set up shop, with the hip accessory stores and independent booksellers that once ruled the scene now fewer and farther between.

The Back Bay, the product of a massive 19th-century land reclamation project, also is home to Copley Place (T: Back Bay or Copley), which offers more than 70 stores. Inside this shopping center off Huntington Avenue, manicured hands caress the extravagant purses and knee-high boots lining the walls of Jimmy Choo. Nearby, at sleek Barneys New York, bare feet nervously await a pair of snakeskin heels while another stockinged set model Mary Janes before a full-length mirror. At the mall's core, worn-out shoppers lounge beside a waterfall sculpture in the well-lit atrium, bags from Williams-Sonoma, Neiman Marcus and Ralph Lauren at their feet.

Enclosed bridges link Copley Place to Copley Square's refined Marriott and Westin hotels as well as to The Shops at Prudential Center (T: Prudential), where such stores as Ann Taylor Loft, Godiva Chocolatier and L'Occitane entice passersby strolling glass-roofed arcades. Prudential Tower, the second-tallest building in Boston, soars over the busy retail complex. For a break from the clothes racks, head up to the Skywalk Observatory at Prudential Center and survey the bustling ant-like creatures below. Or, kick back in the South Garden, a tranquil open-air retreat at the southwest corner of the mall, and take in views of the 750-foot-tall skyscraper mingling with the clouds.

Anchoring The Shops at Prudential Center are Saks Fifth Avenue and Lord & Taylor. The latter also is accessible via an entrance on Boylston Street, a busy commercial thoroughfare that is home to a three-story, glass-fronted Apple Store, a dramatic interloper on a block of staid brick and concrete. The Back Bay outlet of off-price retailer Filene's Basement is farther east on Boylston as is high-society jeweler Shreve, Crump & Low. Rub elbows with Massachusetts' upper crust as you peruse emerald-cut diamonds and mabe pearls, 18th- and 19th-century English and American furnishings, silver items and Chinese porcelains. At Boylston's decidedly high-priced Heritage on the Garden complex (T:

Arlington), affluent patrons stock up on clothing and accessories by such chic European designers as Escada, Hermès and Sonia Rykiel just steps away from the Public Garden.

On the opposite side of Boston's vibrant botanical park lies the historic Beacon Hill neighborhood—a true charmer with its gas-lit lamps, cobblestone passageways and whimsical door knockers. At the base of the hill is Charles Street, an eclectic strip where posh boutiques sell contemporary clothing and home furnishings alongside the crème de la crème of Greater Boston's vast antiquing empire. Connoisseurs stalking fine 18th-century furniture, silver tea sets and decorative porcelain pieces will not be disappointed with the treasures amassed here. Several merchants setting up shop along this lovely brick-faced street offer everything from fine Oriental antiques to bric-a-brac, so even casual shoppers may manage to score a few bargain-priced goodies. Discover some surprisingly affordable items at Upstairs Downstairs, which has the air of a roadside country store, or tackle Eugene Galleries' multitude of old prints, photographs and etchings—many of which depict the near and dear “Hub of the Universe.”

Throughout the state, bargain hunters will cherish the absence of sales taxes on single-item clothing purchases of less than \$175, and for those on a budget Greater Boston's assortment of discount outlets is heaven-sent. Brand-name markdowns at T.J. Maxx and Marshalls, both founded in nearby Framingham, lure tourists off the Freedom Trail, which edges the bustling Downtown Crossing shopping district in the north and east. For a few sporty souvenirs, poke around the men's section of the stores, where you'll often unearth Boston Celtics and Red Sox T-shirts as well as a hodgepodge of gear emblazoned with the New England Patriots logo.

Wander through Downtown Crossing (T: Downtown Crossing) any day of the week and you'll likely encounter energetic street performers and boisterous vendors. Spend an hour or two browsing independent jewelers and camera shops; Windsor Button, in operation here since 1936; numerous sporting goods retailers; and such national chains as Borders, H&M and Macy's. Pedestrian malls—on Washington Street between

Winter and Milk streets and on Winter Street between Tremont and Washington streets—attract idlers from the Boston Common (due west) as well as meticulously dressed workers from the Financial District (due east). Packs of lunching men and women effortlessly slurp down overloaded hot dogs as tourists inspect keepsake T-shirts and hoodies neatly plastered on all sides of the ubiquitous Boston pushcart.

Downtown Crossing also is the birthplace of Filene's Basement, one of the country's oldest closeout merchants. The name of the outlet stems from the venerable—but now defunct—Boston-based department store Filene's, which began selling surplus merchandise in this basement-level space in 1909. Each piece of merchandise was automatically and successively marked down in price according to the number of days the item remained unsold; goods not snapped up were given to charity. Fierce crowds reigned at the underground, no-frills shop, where tug-of-war matches sometimes broke out amid clustered bins overflowing with sweaters and lingerie.

The Basement's Downtown Crossing branch is closed until sometime in 2011 as construction workers descend upon the old Filene's department store building. Developers envision a multiuse complex with commercial, residential and educational components. In the meantime Back Bay and suburban outlets of Filene's Basement—tame in comparison to the original, with its communal dressing rooms and frenetic clientele—satiated budget-savvy natives. The "Running of the Brides"—the off-price retailer's notoriously chaotic bridal gown event—continues to take place twice a year in the Hub (it's held annually in other cities). Clothes racks are stripped bare in less than 60 seconds, unabashed brides-to-be try on designer dresses in the aisles, and nerve-racking negotiations transpire over creamy size 8s and 10s.

Just as ardent, though outwardly more reserved, are those scrutinizing shelves in Greater Boston's many used bookstores. Commonwealth Books—crammed with architectural prints, autobiographies, and research materials documenting everything from World War II to Egyptian art—has a shop at the corner of Washington Street and Spring Lane as well as a

downtown branch in the basement of the Old South Meeting House. A few blocks away on West Street, rows of aging paperbacks and hardcovers whisk Brattle Book Shop browsers away to far-off lands. Three stories of collectible postcards, delicate first editions, weathered maps and fanciful novels have tempted buyers since 1825. Rummage through the outdoor area, where a checkerboard mural depicts several Bay State authors, including Dr. Seuss and Nathaniel Hawthorne, who guard over throngs of discounted books.

You're certain to stumble across a few more *alfresco* book sales while window-shopping in nearby Cambridge. Boston's northerly neighbor also is the ideal hunting ground for those on the lookout for rare and out-of-print texts. The university town boasts several great booksellers, including Harvard Book Store, Grolier Poetry Book Shop, Raven Used Books and Schoenhof's Foreign Books, all of which are located in the Harvard Square vicinity. Weed through travel-related guides and novelties at The Globe Corner Bookstore on Mount Auburn Street; scan titles proffered for a mere \$2 apiece by Almost Banned in Harvard Sq. Booksellers on Massachusetts Avenue; or delight young readers with a few gifts from Curious George Books & Toys, located kitty-corner from the Harvard Square "T" station. In the heart of the square you also can pick up a light read for the trip home at the historic Out of Town News kiosk, which carries newspapers and magazines from around the world.

More than 150 stores manage to squeeze into just a few blocks around Harvard Square. The Harvard Cooperative Society, 1400 Massachusetts Ave., is universally known as the Coop (pronounced like the poultry enclosure). Alongside textbooks and dormitory necessities, everything from stationary imprinted with the Harvard insignia to silk ties and caps in crimson (the school's official color) can be bought at the collegiate department store founded by Harvard students in 1882. For a more unique keepsake, search out another collectively owned business, the Cambridge Artists Cooperative Gallery, 59A Church St., and marvel over handmade bracelets and earrings, mosaic frames, and earth-colored plates and jugs.

Although Cambridge residents lament the “invasion” of national chains such as Crate & Barrel, Gap and Urban Outfitters, Harvard Square continues to shelter independent retailers. Funkier, reasonably-priced shops also thrive farther down on Massachusetts Avenue, particularly near Central Square. Pop into Cheapo Records, 538 Massachusetts Ave., and chat with an erudite cast of characters well-schooled in the ways of classic rock, jazz and blues. To the east lies The Garment District, near Kendall Square at 200 Broadway St. Although the secondhand clothes store is quite a hike from both the Central Square and Kendall/MIT “T” stations, a trip here really is like no other. As you enter the colorful warehouse, a colossal mound of clothes lies ahead, with plucky scavengers strewn about the uneven expanse. If diving into this “Dollar-A-Pound” area isn’t your style, try on a retro pair of hip-huggers, a vintage Hawaiian shirt or a summery halter dress from the well-organized second floor, where many items are categorized by decade.

Nightlife

While on par with the country’s most distinctive metropolises in terms of history, culture and cuisine, Boston falls off the radar with a resounding thud when it comes to nightlife. Most clubs shut down by 1 or 2 a.m., and the “T” complicates late-night planning by stopping service around 12:30 a.m. Even if Boston isn’t *exactly* “The City that Never Sleeps,” don’t start fluffing your pillow once the sun sets over the John Hancock Tower. The “Hub of the Universe” still offers a variety of activities to keep you well-entertained after dark.

A massive guiding light for *bah hoppahs* is the city’s landmark CITGO sign. Overlooking Kenmore Square, this red, white and blue icon illuminates not only Fenway Park but also Lansdowne Street, which hosts scores of unofficial block parties after a Red Sox game. Although in sports-zealous Boston, it’s likely a state law for *all* bars to have at least one flat-screen TV tuned in to the must-see game of the moment, this district’s proximity to the Green Monster obviously dictates a heavy presence of sports bars. Munch on swanky versions of bar classics—

pepper jack cheese nachos and sesame chicken tenders—at trendy, retro-stylized amusement facilities such as three-story Jillian’s Boston, at Ipswich and Lansdowne streets, and 24,000-square-foot Kings on Dalton Street. Undergraduates and young professionals pack these upscale, though pricey, activity centers, bowling and shooting pool while sipping neon-tinted martinis. Phone (617) 437-0300 for Jillian’s Boston or (617) 266-2695 for Kings.

If handcrafted lagers are more your style, pop in to Boston Beer Works, on Brookline Avenue across from Fenway Park, for some mako shark skewers marinated in raspberry ale. Basketball and hockey fans regularly head to the brewery’s two-level Canal Street location (near TD Banknorth Garden, home of the Celtics and the Bruins), which features championship billiard tables and more than a dozen of the obligatory flat-screen TVs. Phone (617) 536-2337 for Boston Beer Works—Fenway or (617) 896-2337 for Boston Beer Works—Canal Street.

For many diehard Sox fans, there’s no replacement for the Cask’n Flagon, located on the corner of Brookline Avenue and Lansdowne Street. Dig in on The Dugout (their tasty version of a white pizza) while watching the pre-game spectacle unfold outside Fenway’s emerald-hued left field wall. Daytime patrons scrutinize the Cask’s impressive array of baseball memorabilia, while boisterous twenty-somethings mingle at the neighborhood institution after dark. Thursday through Saturday nights DJs spin a diverse mix, everything from Top 40 hits to hip-hop anthems. Classic rock also reverberates through the old-school hangout, perhaps in tribute to its former existence as a live concert venue (1969-73), when the voices of Jimi Hendrix, Bruce Springsteen and Steven Tyler thundered through the building; phone (617) 536-4840.

Saturated with techno beats, jostling alpha males and body-hugging fashions exhibited by both sexes, Lansdowne Street has long been one of the city’s most popular clubbing destinations. New kid on the block House of Blues, (888) 693-2583, opened in 2009. Like its folk art-loving namesakes across the country, the state-of-the-art music hall and restaurant offers varied musical talents most nights. The very first HOB

operated in a historic Colonial house in the scholarly city of Cambridge 1992-2003.

Live music venues thrive in Boston, long a haven for talented, creative souls. Everyone knows Aerosmith (a.k.a. “The Bad Boys from Boston”) and the big-haired band members of Boston hail from Beantown, but new wave rockers The Cars and the punk-influenced Pixies also practiced their performance skills here before conquering national audiences. In the 1950s and ’60s folk great Joan Baez, along with a young Bob Dylan, entertained patrons of Club Passim, 47 Palmer St. in Cambridge. In addition past guests of The Paradise, 967 Commonwealth Ave., another longtime haunt, include AC/DC, Elvis Costello and U2. Phone (617) 492-5300 for Club Passim or (617) 562-8800 for The Paradise.

For indie rock and alternative sounds, head to Cambridge’s The Middle East Restaurant & Nightclub. Located in Central Square since the early 1970s, this odd assemblage of music halls, eateries and bars along Massachusetts Avenue also welcomes underground hip-hop artists, jazz and blues singers and reggae groups. Adding to the mix are belly dancers—accompanied by a live band on Wednesdays and a DJ on Sunday nights—who entertain diners munching on *falafel* (deep-fried, ground chickpeas) and *tagine* (a slow-cooked North African stew); phone (617) 864-3278.

Jazz and blues jam sessions are the norm at Wally’s Café, which, since its establishment in 1947, has evolved into a training ground for students of The Boston Conservatory, the New England Conservatory of Music and, of course, the neighboring Berklee College of Music. Though Wally’s was originally located across the street (it moved into an unassuming red-bricked structure at 427 Massachusetts Ave. in 1979), this gritty club is all that remains of a district once buzzing with the beats of several dynamic jazz halls; phone (617) 424-1408.

A relative newcomer to the local jazz scene is the Regattabar, which opened in 1985. The sleek club at The Charles Hotel, 1 Bennett St. in Cambridge, has quickly risen to the top of the charts, securing its status as one of the area’s best with sophisticated vibes and top-notch

performers. Gifted vocalists, pianists and brass players also wail at the celebrated Scullers Jazz Club in the Doubletree Guest Suites-Boston, 400 Soldiers Field Rd., where you can survey an undulating Charles River and a star-speckled city skyline. Phone (617) 395-7757 for Regattabar or (617) 562-4111 for Scullers Jazz Club.

As night falls, scores of stand-up comics start work in Greater Boston—a locale known as a breeding ground for gifted humorists. Massachusetts natives include late-night TV host Conan O’Brien (born in Brookline), biting raw Louis C.K. (raised in Framingham and Newton) and chain-smoking ranter Denis Leary (born in Worcester). Highlighting the region’s fresh talent is The Comedy Studio, where you can sip fruity concoctions beside tomorrow’s comedic stars. The venue sits atop longtime Harvard Square dive the Hong Kong Restaurant, 1238 Massachusetts Ave. A few Oriental touches adorn the otherwise sparse third-floor comedy club, which offers the same Chinese cuisine that’s served downstairs.

Before the show starts, order some spicy Szechuan wontons and chop suey, then wash everything down with a Scorpion Bowl. But beware—one too many slurps from the Hong Kong’s trademark, over-the-top cocktail will have you falling off your chair even before the punch lines land. Meant to be shared, the intoxicating drink loaded with extra-long straws also is a fixture at Hong Kong’s Faneuil Hall Marketplace location. (Unless you’re *looking* for a rowdy time, stay clear of next-door Sissy K’s, an obnoxiously loud hangout luring college-age patrons with cheap drinks and not much else.) Phone (617) 661-6507 for The Comedy Studio, (617) 864-5311 for Hong Kong Restaurant at Harvard Square or (617) 227-2226 for Hong Kong Restaurant at Faneuil Hall.

A marketplace by day, Faneuil Hall’s historic setting attracts a mixed crowd. Many residents favor The Comedy Connection, which regularly boasts such bigwig comics as Margaret Cho and Jon Stewart in addition to local favorites. At the mock version of the “Cheers” bar in the Quincy Market building, nobody will know your name but everybody *will* know you’re a tourist. Phone (617) 248-9700 for The Comedy Connection or (617) 227-0150 for Cheers.

For down-home eats and nightly live music, open the stark red door to The Black Rose, 160 State St., a timeless wood-paneled Irish pub on the fringes of Faneuil Hall Marketplace; phone (617) 742-2286. After dinner, be sure to raise your pint glass and toast to new friends at a few more Irish pubs. Peruse the beer selection at Hennessy's of Boston or The Purple Shamrock, both located nearby on Union Street. Or, dance the Irish jig to Somerville, a diverse city just north of Cambridge with a happening nightlife scene of its own. If you have two left feet, visit The Burren—a highly acclaimed Davis Square pub, restaurant and music hall—on a Monday night, when dancing lessons take place. Phone (617) 742-2121 for Hennessy's of Boston, (617) 227-2060 for The Purple Shamrock or (617) 776-6896 for The Burren.

You'll encounter more warm smiles and foamy beverages at historic taverns throughout the age-old city of Boston, including The Bell-in-Hand, 45-55 Union St., in business locally since the town crier christened the operation back in 1795. Just a few steps away is The Green Dragon Tavern, 11 Marshall St., named after a bygone watering hole where 18th-century Revolutionary leaders often met, likely over a few mugs of ale. Samuel Adams still lingers at many a table, as the patriot's image appears on bottled lagers bearing his name. (While you're in town, sample a few of The Boston Beer Co.'s award-winning beverages after touring their local brewery. Phone (617) 227-2098 for The Bell-in-Hand Tavern or (617) 367-0055 for The Green Dragon Tavern.

In Boston you'll spot orange and pink Dunkin' Donuts signs on just about every corner (the diet-busting chain was founded in Quincy); however, the area's multitude of college students frequently converge at more bohemian java joints for spoken word poetry and acoustic riffs. While attending Tufts University in Medford, singer-songwriter Tracy Chapman strummed her guitar at Harvard Square's The Nameless Coffeehouse, 3 Church St. in Cambridge, which also welcomed such comedians as Andy Kaufman and Jay Leno early in their careers. The volunteer-run venue typically offers a show the first Saturday of every month; phone (617) 864-1630.

Even if it's an off week for The Nameless Coffeehouse, laid-back establishments thrive near Cambridge's Ivy League university, so you'll always find Harvard Square ideal for twilight relaxation and reflection. Sip mint tea at Algiers Coffee House in historic Brattle Hall, 40 Brattle St., or savor the flan served up at Café Pamplona, 12 Bow St., a traditional European-style bistro patronized by local intellectuals since 1959. After nibbling on sweet potato fries at the casual Cambridge Common restaurant and bar on Massachusetts Avenue, head downstairs to the lush, dimly lit Lizard Lounge, an intimate showcase for aspiring lyricists and hometown musicians. Alternatively, hard-to-miss Charlie's Kitchen is a beacon on Eliot Street with its mishmash of kitschy neon signs advertising everything from pints of Guinness to "Shish-K-Bab." Phone (617) 492-1557 for Algiers Coffee House, (617) 492-0352 for Café Pamplona, (617) 547-1228 for Cambridge Common, (617) 547-0759 for Lizard Lounge or (617) 492-9646 for Charlie's Kitchen.

Grab a copy of the *Weekly Dig* or *The Boston Phoenix* before heading out for the evening. Both publications offer general bar and club listings as well as detailed information about the latest happenings, including concerts and special events. *The Improper Bostonian* and *Stuff@night* are additional sources documenting trendy and up-and-coming Hub nightspots.

Spectator Sports

The religious zeal with which Boston was founded has been transformed into a modern-day fanaticism for sports. In few other cities do even the most rarefied academics follow their hometown teams with such enthusiasm. When one considers the city's bragging rights to a number of athletic firsts and bests, its sports obsession seems quite justifiable.

Baseball

The first baseball glove was donned on a Boston field in 1875. A year later, a Harvard student caused a stir by wearing a catcher's mask, another first. The beloved Boston Red Sox won the first World Series in 1903 and captured their sixth championship in 2004 after an 86-year drought. Fenway franks, the Green Monster and "The Rocket" are all part

of the enduring lore that surrounds the legendary team, which plays April to late September at Fenway Park (T: Kenmore). Fenway, one of the game's oldest and most historic stadiums, has been home to the Red Sox since 1912.

The park's seats are usually filled for regular season games. Tickets should be purchased well in advance; phone (617) 482-4769 or (877) 733-7699.



Basketball

The Boston Celtics, one of the most successful franchises in professional sports history, were National Basketball Association champions for 7 years running between 1959 and 1965—the longest consecutive winning streak of any NBA team. In 2008 the Celtics won their 17th NBA championship after a 22-year-long drought. Hallowed Boston Garden was the Celtics' home until 1995, when the aging facility was replaced by the gleaming TD Banknorth Garden on Causeway Street (T: North Station). While faithful fans may forever mourn the Garden's passing, most appreciate the new arena's larger size and more comfortable amenities. Home games are played October through April; phone (866) 423-5849 for tickets.

Followers of college basketball root for the Big East Conference Boston College Eagles, Boston University Terriers and Northeastern University Huskies of the America East Conference, and the Ivy League's Harvard University Crimson.

Football

The Oneida Football Club, purportedly the nation's first organized football team, played on the Boston Common between 1862-65. The NFL's New England Patriots are one of only two teams to win three Super Bowls in a 4-year span, becoming the seventh franchise to win back-to-back Super Bowls. Zealous spectators watch home games at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, about 45 minutes south of downtown Boston via I-95; phone (800) 543-1776.

Supporters of college football turn out for the Boston College Eagles, who play at Alumni Stadium, and the Harvard University Crimson, who play Ivy League ball at Harvard Stadium.

Greyhound Racing

Dog racing fans can watch the greyhounds throughout the year, with simulcast racing offered in Raynham at Raynham-Taunton Greyhound Park, 1958 Broadway, (508) 824-4071, and in Revere at Wonderland Dog Track, (781) 284-1300, which can be reached via the Blue Line subway train.

Note: Policies concerning admittance of children to pari-mutuel betting facilities vary. Phone for information.

Hockey

The Boston Bruins were the first American team to receive a National Hockey League franchise. Historically one of the NHL's most successful teams, the brawling "B's" are five-time Stanley Cup champions. The Bruins face off at the TD Banknorth Garden from October through April. Those interested in seeing the Bruins in action should purchase tickets well in advance; phone (617) 624-2327.

Horse Racing

Thoroughbreds run at Suffolk Downs Racetrack in East Boston. Flat races are held from September through June; harness races are simulcast January 1 to mid-December, with some interruptions. Phone (617) 567-3900 for a schedule.

Note: Policies concerning admittance of children to pari-mutuel betting facilities vary. Phone for information.

Recreation

The Charles River plays a central role in Boston's sporting life. Miles of jogging and bicycling trails follow the river's course through town. Anglers preserve the centuries-old tradition of fishing on the banks of the Charles. And one of the city's loveliest vistas is the early morning sight of a lone scull gliding on the water.

Bicycling

As a Boston pastime, bicycling hails back to the time ladies gathered their bustles to ride sidesaddle around Boston Common. Although the city has never been overly conducive to two-wheeled travel, it does have several safe and extremely popular bicycle paths. Visitors can explore them after a stop at Community Bicycle Supply, 496 Tremont St., which has mountain bikes and other hybrid bicycles for rent spring through fall (weather permitting); phone (617) 542-8623.

The Greenbelt Bikeway originates at the Boston Common and follows the Emerald Necklace, a 6-mile chain of parks that includes the Commonwealth Avenue Mall, the Back Bay Fens, and the Riverway, Arborway and Jamaicaaway before ending at Franklin Park.

The Dr. Paul Dudley White Bikeway is named for President Dwight D. Eisenhower's personal physician, a devoted cyclist and, appropriately enough, a heart surgeon. The approximately 14-mile round-trip follows the north side of the Charles River beginning at the Museum of Science, passing through Cambridge and Newton. At Watertown Square the path crosses the river and heads back toward Boston along its south bank. Several footbridges, particularly the one at the busy intersection of Arlington and Beacon streets (near the Public Garden) minimize interaction with vehicle traffic.

The Minuteman Bikeway is an 11-mile path running along an old railroad bed; it begins at the Alewife "T" station (the northern terminus of the Red Line) and passes through the towns of Arlington, Lexington and Bedford.

For information about other area bicycle paths, contact the Division of Urban Parks and Recreation, which operates public recreation facilities throughout the city; phone (617) 626-1250.

Note: Bicycles are allowed on subway trains only during non-peak hours, and are not permitted on the Green Line at any time.

Fishing

Fishing sustained the Massachusetts Bay Colony in the 17th century, and

a maritime foundation supported the Boston economy until well into the 1800s. Today's casual angler can take advantage of several freshwater locations in and around the city. The Charles River, although muddy, is home to catfish, sunfish and crappie. The fishing gets better farther upstream, particularly in the vicinity of Watertown. Jamaica Pond, on the Jamaicaaway in Jamaica Plain, is stocked with trout and bass. Although numerous joggers trod around the pond, there are enough woody spots at the water's edge to make it a peaceful getaway.

Nonresidents must purchase a fishing license. A special 3-day license can be obtained from the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, 251 Causeway St., Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114-2152; phone (617) 626-1590. Licenses may also be obtained at local town halls, sporting goods stores and retail outlets.

In Gloucester Charlie's Charters, 415 Main St., offers daily morning and afternoon fishing charters mid-May to mid-October; phone (978) 281-8992. Yankee Fishing Fleet, 75 Essex Ave. in Gloucester, runs chartered deep-sea fishing trips year-round; phone (800) 942-5464. Other charter services are located along Essex Avenue. The pier at man-made Castle Island, off William J. Day Boulevard in South Boston, is reputed to be one of the city's best saltwater fishing spots. The *Massachusetts Saltwater Sportfishing Guide* can be obtained from the Division of Marine Fisheries, 251 Causeway St., Boston, MA 02114; phone (617) 626-1520.

Golf

Due to the rigorous winters, golf is not an all-year proposition in Greater Boston. Courses are busy on summer weekends; players should phone in advance to reserve a tee time. Several 18-hole courses are open to the public, including Braintree Municipal Golf Course, 101 Jefferson St. in Braintree, (781) 843-6513; Brookline Golf Public Club at Putterham, 1281 W. Roxbury Pkwy. in Chestnut Hill, (617) 730-2078; Brookmeadow Country Club, 100 Everendon Rd. in Canton, (781) 828-4444; Franklin Park Golf Course, 1 Circuit Dr. in Dorchester, (617) 265-4084; Newton Commonwealth Golf Course, 212 Kenrick St. in Newton, (617) 630-1971;

and Sheraton Colonial Golf Club, 1 Audubon Rd. in Wakefield, (781) 876-6031.

Horseback Riding

Some of the longest and most scenic bridle paths are in the Blue Hills Reservation, where rates average \$50 an hour; phone (617) 698-1802. Check the telephone directory for a complete listing of stables and riding academies in the Boston area.

Jogging and Walking

The banks of the Charles River are the most popular spots for joggers; Storrow Drive in Boston and Memorial Drive in Cambridge are top routes. Loop runs of varying distances can be tailored by taking advantage of the several bridges that cross the river. Contact the Division of Urban Parks and Recreation for information on other city jogging paths; phone (617) 626-1250.

Walking is, of course, the best way to see Boston. Perhaps the most popular route is the Freedom Trail, easily followed via a red line painted on the sidewalk. It conveniently links a number of historic sites. Along the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway, tree-lined parks connect several vibrant districts, including Chinatown and the North End. A byproduct of the Big Dig, the greenbelt follows the former path of the bygone elevated Central Artery.

Tennis

The Division of Urban Parks and Recreation maintains tennis courts throughout the Boston metropolitan area, and nearly all are available on a first-come-first-served basis. There also are courts at Marine Park in South Boston. For other locations phone (617) 626-1250.

Water Sports

Boston Harbor is good for more than dumping tea. The Boston Sailing Center on Lewis Wharf specializes in sailboat charters or a picnic cruise to the Boston Harbor Islands; phone (617) 227-4198.

The Charles River—christened by Prince Charles of England (later the ruler Charles I) in 1605—has figured prominently in history; Paul Revere rowed across it before taking off on his midnight ride. Later the river was plied by tugboats and freight vessels, and a foul stench from stagnant tidal mud flats often hung in the air. In the early 20th century the Charles River Basin was created, stretching some 9 miles upstream from the harbor.

Today recreational craft rule the Charles, and boathouses and marinas line its banks. Community Boating, 21 David G. Mugar Way near the Boston side of the Longfellow Bridge and the Charles/MGH “T” station, offers a 1-day visitor pass with unlimited sailboat use April through October. Sailing lessons also are available; phone (617) 523-1038.

Harvard and other collegiate rowing crews routinely use the river basin for practice sessions. The Charles River Canoe and Kayak Center, 2401 Commonwealth Ave. in Newton, has canoes, kayaks, rowboats and rowing shells available for rent from April to early November. Kayaking classes for all levels are offered; phone (617) 965-5110.

Winter Sports

When the weather turns frosty, Bostonians head for the Boston Common’s Frog Pond, which is transformed from a wading pool to an ice-skating playground November to mid-March. A nearby kiosk houses ice-making equipment, a warming room and skate rental facilities. Ice-skating also is popular on the lagoon at the Public Garden. The Beacon Hill Skate Shop, 135 S. Charles St., has equipment rentals; phone (617) 482-7400. Public ice-skating rinks are scattered throughout the city; phone (617) 626-1250 for information about locations and hours of operation.

Performing Arts

The performing arts in Boston began in elaborately bedecked theaters, where the likes of Charles Dickens, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Oscar Wilde gave lively readings. Although lingering Puritan prejudice against artistic expression delayed the inception of splashier productions (one 19th-century hall was named the Boston Museum in hopes of

camouflaging what went on inside), entertainment here has a long history. The nation's first orchestra, for example, was founded in Boston in the early 19th century; it performed the country's first oratorio in King's Chapel in 1815.

Boston's Theatre District, centered along Tremont and Stuart streets just south of the Boston Common, was once well established as a stopover for productions en route to Broadway. Architect Clarence H. Blackall designed several of the extravagant movie palaces that remain standing in the area. Now lavishly restored, these historic theaters provide an elegant backdrop for 21st-century performances. Landmarks include the Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., (617) 880-2460; the Cutler Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., (617) 824-8000; The Opera House, 539 Washington St., (617) 259-3400; and the Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont St., (617) 423-4008.

Citi Performing Arts Center encompasses The Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., as well as one of the city's most versatile facilities, The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., a 1920s motion picture house that now hosts large-scale operas, musicals and ballets; phone (617) 482-9393 or (866) 348-9738. The real news in Boston theater, though, is not the touring blockbusters but the proliferation of upstart repertory groups staging vibrant new works, with performing space provided by such facilities as the rehabilitated Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St.; phone (617) 426-5000.

BosTix is Boston's largest ticket agency and a center for entertainment information. Two kiosks—at Faneuil Hall Marketplace and at Copley Square near the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth streets—sell full-price advance tickets as well as half-price tickets for same-day performances, beginning at 11 a.m. (a "daily menu" of available events is posted at each). Credit cards are not accepted; cash and traveler's checks are. The Faneuil Hall booth is open Tues.-Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-4; the Copley Square booth is open Mon.-Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-4. Both are closed major holidays. Phone (617) 723-5181 for recorded information.

Calendar, published each Thursday by *The Boston Globe*, carries listings of the city's cultural events for the week. *The Boston Phoenix*, a weekly newspaper, contains movie, theater, gallery and other events listings. Another weekly, *The Improper Bostonian*, also has information about the arts and entertainment.

Dance

The Boston Ballet Company, 19 Clarendon St., the city's premier dance company, presents a repertoire of classical and modern works at Citi Performing Arts Center. Tickets are offered by subscription, but they can be obtained for individual performances 1 week prior to the performance; phone (617) 695-6950 or (800) 447-7400. José Mateo Ballet Theatre, 400 Harvard St. in Harvard Square, is an up-and-coming troupe that stages innovative contemporary programs; phone (617) 354-7467.

Film

Most cinemas in downtown Boston show single features, often on a reserved-seat basis, at an average price of \$9. Classic, repertory and foreign films are offered at universities and neighborhood theaters, usually at a lower admission. The Brattle Theatre, 40 Brattle St., is a landmark film house that satisfies both classic-movie buffs and fans of the obscure; phone (617) 876-6837 for the 24-hour film line. Loews Cineplex Harvard Square, 10 Church St., shows films at the artier end of the mainstream spectrum; phone (617) 864-4581.

The Harvard Film Archive, in the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts at 24 Quincy St., presents an excellent mix of classics, documentaries and little-seen curiosities; phone (617) 495-4700. Kendall Square Cinema, One Kendall Square in East Cambridge, features low-budget independent films and art house fare; phone (617) 499-1996.

In Boston non-mainstream films are shown at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 465 Huntington Ave.; phone (617) 369-3306. The Art Deco Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St. in Brookline, features retrospectives, foreign films, documentaries, kung fu action spectacles and more; phone (617) 734-2500.

Music

Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., is home to the Boston Symphony Orchestra as well as the Boston Pops Orchestra and is lauded for its outstanding acoustics. The Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO) presents more than 250 concerts each year, with world-class soloists appearing regularly. The season runs from October through April; in July and August, the orchestra appears at the Tanglewood Music Center in Lenox. Wednesday evening and Thursday morning rehearsal tickets are considerably less expensive and are sometimes available to the public; phone (617) 266-1200, or (888) 266-1200 for program information.

Under the direction of maestro Arthur Fiedler, the Boston Pops Orchestra is often credited with attracting a wider audience to classical music. Fiedler ended a 50-year reign as conductor in 1979, but the “Pops” is as popular as ever. Now conducted by Keith Lockhart, BSO members offer a “light” program of concerts featuring a mix of classical, show tunes and popular music at Symphony Hall from early May to early July. The Boston Pops also makes a week of appearances at the Hatch Memorial Shell on the Charles River Esplanade in conjunction with Fourth of July festivities. These free concerts are among Boston’s most delightful summertime events.

Two noted concert halls are located in museums. The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum features soloists and chamber music performances in the Tapestry Room Sat.-Sun. at 1:30 throughout the spring and fall. Phone (617) 278-5150 for schedule information or (617) 278-5156 to purchase tickets. Concerts also take place at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 465 Huntington Ave.; phone (617) 267-9300 for information.

The Boston Camerata presents vocal and instrumental concerts of medieval, baroque and Renaissance music, plus occasional 19th-century American folk music, at various locations around the city; phone (617) 262-2092.

The presence of the New England Conservatory of Music, the Berklee College of Music and several highly acclaimed university music programs diversifies the Boston music menu. Restored Jordan Hall, 30

Gainsborough St. at the New England Conservatory (across the street from Symphony Hall), can accommodate a full orchestra but also is acoustically suited to intimate chamber music performances; phone (617) 585-1260. The hall is home to the Boston Philharmonic; phone (617) 236-0999. The Berklee Performance Center, 136 Massachusetts Ave., is well known for its jazz programs; phone (617) 747-2261.

Free chamber music and concert performances are given at Boston University Concert Hall, in the Tsai Performance Center at 685 Commonwealth Ave. on the Boston University campus; phone (617) 353-8724 for schedule information. MIT presents a chapel organ series, and Harvard and Radcliffe offer choral and band concerts.

Noontime concerts and recitals are given at King’s Chapel, 58 Tremont St., and at Trinity Church in Copley Square; phone (617) 227-2155 and (617) 536-0944, respectively. The Celebrity Series presents a varied program of events, from orchestras and chamber groups to dance companies and recitals. Performances are given at venues throughout the city, including Symphony Hall, Citi Performing Arts Center and Jordan Hall; phone (617) 482-6661.

Opera

The Boston Lyric Opera Company presents three productions each season at The Shubert Theatre of the Citi Performing Arts Center. Both classic and 20th-century works are performed; phone (617) 542-4912 for performance and schedule information. The Opera Boston is a professional opera repertory company; phone (617) 451-3388 for ticket and schedule information.

Theater

Although small in stature, Boston’s Theatre District brims with lavish period decor. In the 1920s the area around the intersection of Tremont and Stuart streets was a glamorous stopover for Broadway-bound plays testing the waters in the city’s grand playhouses. By the 1970s the atmosphere was best described as seedy. Thanks to urban renewal and a resurgence of the performing arts, several of these palaces have found new life.

One of the most intimate is the Wilbur Theatre, which sat through a few dark years before reopening in 1995. The Colonial Theatre is perhaps the city's grandest, a masterpiece of gilded ornamentation, grandiose chandeliers and lavish frescoes incongruously tucked into an office building. Built specifically for legitimate theater and opened in 1900, the Colonial presents a variety of major shows, often musicals straight from their Broadway runs.

The Cutler Majestic Theatre is another ornate reminder of the Theater District's heyday. The 1903 Beaux-Arts building endured a stint as a movie theater in the 1950s before undergoing a substantial renovation under the auspices of Emerson College. Drama, opera and dance productions, both student and professional, are staged here.

The renovated 1910 Shubert Theatre sparkles with brass railings and gold touches in the refurbished lobby. The venue draws major touring productions and is part of the Citi Performing Arts Center, which also encompasses the theater district's most visible landmark: The Wang Theatre. It opened in 1925 as a spectacular motion picture house in the style of Radio City Music Hall (a facility it predated). Also known as the Metropolitan Theater and the Music Hall, it was renamed in the early 1980s for a generous benefactor and renovated to accommodate large-scale performances. The enormous building has a particularly impressive succession of lobbies, all of them appointed in sumptuous style with columns of Italian marble, stained glass, gold leaf decoration and florid ceiling murals.

Smaller theaters and those associated with area colleges and universities also have made a name for themselves. The three stages at the Boston Center for the Arts are devoted to nurturing homegrown talent. The center is known for its often-provocative theater performed in a bare-bones setting. Offbeat productions also appear at the New Repertory Theatre, 321 Arsenal St. in Watertown; phone (617) 923-8487. Classics mix with regional premieres at the Lyric Stage, 140 Clarendon St. on the second floor of the YWCA building; phone (617) 585-5678.

The Huntington Theatre Company, 264 Huntington Ave., is affiliated with Boston University. This resident theater group stages classics as well as new plays; phone (617) 266-0800. The American Repertory Theatre, one of the East Coast's most respected repertory companies, performs during the school year at Harvard's Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St. in Cambridge; phone (617) 547-8300. Experimental works are produced on the smaller of its two stages; the main stage offers new American plays and freewheeling adaptations of the classics. Brandeis University's Spingold Theatre offers high-caliber productions during the winter theater season; phone (781) 736-3400.

Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Theatricals put on one production each spring in the New College Theatre, 12 Holyoke St. The student-written musical comedy features an all-male cast whose female characters are played in drag. The troupe also picks the Hasty Pudding Man and Woman of the Year each February. Past honorees include Mel Gibson, Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts; phone (617) 495-5205.

Two area theaters present long-running shows. The Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St. (between Charles and Tremont streets), presents the Blue Man Group and "Shear Madness," a comic murder mystery that differs every time it is presented. The elaborate illusions of Le Grand David and His Own Spectacular Magic Company unfold on two stages in Beverly: the Cabot Street Cinema Theater, 286 Cabot St., and the Larcom Theater, 13 Wallis St. Both theaters are about a 30-minute drive northeast of downtown Boston; phone (978) 927-3677 for the Cabot Street Cinema Theater or (978) 922-6313 for the Larcom Theater.

AAA Walking Tours – The Freedom Trail

Brush up on your knowledge of history by following Boston's Freedom Trail. The national recreation trail passes many of the city's historic sites. Each stop represents a chapter in American history, with vivid reminders of events that led to American independence. Nowhere else in the city does the shout of "The British are coming! The British are coming!" resonate louder than along the Freedom Trail.

The trail, which begins at Boston Common and ends at Bunker Hill Monument in Charlestown, is simple to follow. Red bricks or granite stones embedded into the sidewalk form a line that guides you from place to place; in some places the red line is painted onto the sidewalk or street.

Here, we divide the trail into two sections, which can be explored in one outing or divided over 2 days. Plan to spend most of the day walking the Boston portion (especially if you tour the attractions)—from Boston Common to Copp’s Hill in North End. The Charlestown section may take as long as a half-day if you decide to tour the USS *Constitution* and take in the many sights in the Charlestown Navy Yard.



Begin the tour at the Visitor Information Center on Boston Common near Tremont Street. The 44-acre park, bounded by Beacon, Charles, Boylston, Tremont and Park streets, once belonged to Boston’s first white settler, William Blackstone, who arrived in 1622. When the Puritans disembarked in 1630, they settled in Charlestown but later moved their hamlet across the river due to the presence of a natural spring that provided much-needed drinking water. Originally called *Shawmut*, or “Living Waters,” by the American Indians, Puritans renamed the area

Boston after a town in England of the same name. The grassy area became common land—“the common”—occupied by grazing cattle and eventually used as a training field for the military.

And now, onward! Follow the red stripe through this pentagon-shaped green oasis that has the reputation of being the country’s first public park. Note the absence of bovines. Cows were banished in 1830 after Beacon Hill (north of the park) became a well-to-do neighborhood; affluent residents opposed having farm animals inhabit their front yards.

Continue toward the golden dome of the Massachusetts State House. Once at Beacon Street, you will approach the Robert Gould Shaw and 54th Regiment Memorial. During the Civil War, numerous African-Americans wanted to join the fight, but U.S. Army policy prohibited them from doing so. The rule was modified, but an African-American regiment still required a white commanding officer. The monument, created by Augustus Saint-Gaudens, honors the first regiment of free African-American soldiers recruited in the North and the son of a prominent Boston family who led the troop.

The Massachusetts State House sits across Beacon Street opposite the memorial. Designed by Charles Bulfinch, a Boston native who studied architecture in England, the building’s central (original) section features an arched brick portico supporting Corinthian columns. A cornice, balustrade, pediment, stunning golden dome and cupola finish the building, adding an imperial feel. The dome, originally covered in wooden shingles, was adorned with copper from Paul Revere’s company in 1802 and was gilded following the Civil War. The State House holds prominence as a city landmark and is often referred to as the New State House to distinguish it from the Old State House on State Street.

The building sits on Beacon Hill (the tallest of Boston’s three hills), land once owned by John Hancock, the colony’s richest merchant. Beacon Hill earned its name from a primitive alarm signal that sat atop the hill. In the event the city was attacked, the “beacon” would be lighted as a signal for help. The area remains one of Boston’s most well heeled neighborhoods. Elegant Federal-style row houses line Beacon Street and Park Street, once known as Bulfinch Row.

Follow the trail back along Park Street to Tremont Street. Overlooking the Common’s northeast corner, also known as “Brimstone Corner,” is the stately Park Street Church. The sobriquet was allegedly assigned as a result of fiery sermons dispensed by street preachers and soapbox orators; a more likely explanation is that brimstone (an ingredient in gunpowder) was stored in the church’s crypt during the War of 1812.

The church was built in 1809 on the site of the town granary, which was removed after the State House was completed. Praised by Henry James as “the most interesting mass of brick and mortar in America,” this graceful, white-steeped church also is rich in history. William Lloyd Garrison launched his passionate crusade against slavery from the pulpit in 1829, and Samuel Smith’s hymn “America” was first sung publicly during the church’s 1832 Fourth of July celebration.

Next door, on land that was once part of Boston Common, is the Granary Burying Ground, where the first body was interred in 1660. This tree-shaded sanctuary is the final resting place for Revolutionary War heroes, nine Massachusetts governors, soldiers and residents of early Boston, some honored with curious epitaphs. Samuel Adams, John Hancock and Robert Treat Paine—all signers of the Declaration of Independence—lie here, as do Paul Revere, Peter Faneuil, Ben Franklin’s parents and the five victims of the Boston Massacre.

Extraordinary engravings on some of the headstones attract return visitors. Carvings of skeletons, urns, winged skulls and otherworldly cherubs add a bit of eerie aura to the grounds. Three types of grave markers exist: headstones, most of which have been moved so many times over the years that they no longer correspond to the actual graves; table tombs (appropriately shaped); and vaults, owned by families and usually containing several bodies.

As you wander around the cemetery, note the epitaph on the Franklin obelisk; it was written by their youngest son, Ben. Another interesting stone sits next to the tomb of John Hancock and marks the grave of “Frank, servant to John Hancock, Esqr.” The fact that the stone lacks a last name has led some to believe that Frank was Hancock’s slave.

Turn left when exiting the graveyard and continue north. Follow Tremont Street to School Street. King’s Chapel is the gray building on the corner. In the late 1600s, King James II ordered that there be an Anglican church built in the colony. Puritans were irate and refused to sell land for its construction; the governor provided an easy remedy in 1687 by seizing a portion of the adjacent burial ground, the city’s oldest. Construction of the

present granite church began shortly thereafter. Church of England services were held here for British officers and the governor, and, on his visit in 1789, President Washington sat in the Governor’s Pew. The simple exterior hides an elaborate interior. Take note of the columns on the portico—they are actually wood painted to resemble stone.

Sharing space with the church is the King’s Chapel Burying Ground. The first burial is said to have taken place just months after the area was settled, in 1630. This being said, most of those interred are Puritans, who we surmise might not be pleased to have their eternal resting place next door to an Anglican church.

This burial ground is akin to a museum featuring the works of 17th- and 18th-century craftsmen. Gravestones here are notable for their artistry rather than for the names they feature. One such epitaph, arguably the most striking in Boston, marks the grave of Joseph Tapping; etched into the stone is an elaborate depiction of Father Time surrounded by Latin expressions of fatality.

Other headstones to note belong to Mary Chilton, the first Pilgrim to touch Plymouth Rock; William Dawes, who accompanied Paul Revere on his daring midnight ride; and John Winthrop, the first Massachusetts governor. William Paddy’s stone is said to be the oldest existing grave marker in Boston. (By the way, the large cage on the front right side of the graveyard is not a tomb but a ventilator shaft for the subway.)

As you walk down School Street, look down (if you haven’t been doing so already, following the red stripe) and note the hopscotch-patterned mosaic marking the site of the country’s first public school. The Boston Latin School opened its doors in 1635 and was honored by the subsequent naming of this street, which was laid out in 1640. Cotton Mather, Samuel Adams and Benjamin Franklin were educated there. A few steps farther is Old City Hall, constructed in 1864 in the French Empire style. Gracing the courtyard is sculptor Richard Greenough’s bronze statue of Benjamin Franklin, the first commemorative statue erected in the city. Bronze tablets depict his many achievements: printer, scientist, inventor, military officer, politician, statesman and signer of the

Declaration of Independence. Across the courtyard is a statue of Josiah Quincy, Boston's second mayor.

At the corner of School and Washington streets is the site of the Old Corner Bookstore. The small brick house is a former residence and apothecary shop on land previously owned by William Hutchinson, whose wife, Anne, was banished from Boston in the 1630s by Puritans incensed at her divergent religious teachings. It later served as the headquarters of the estimable publishing firm Ticknor and Fields, becoming Boston's mid-19th century literary center in the process. Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Harriet Beecher Stowe all gathered here; both "The Scarlet Letter" and the words to the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" were printed by this publishing house. When the bookstore moved to larger quarters, the house began a slow decline that lasted until the early 1960s, when it was restored. A jewelry retailer currently occupies the space.

Diagonally across the street at 310 Washington St. is the Old South Meeting House. Built in 1729, this Georgian-style congregational church was the largest building in Colonial Boston and thus was frequently used as a town meeting site when crowds were too big for Faneuil Hall. Its principal associations are with the heated gatherings of political protestors in the years prior to the Revolution. Enraged citizens met here following the Boston Massacre and also on Dec. 16, 1773, when Bostonians met to consider the new British tax on tea; the Boston Tea Party immediately followed. The church was abused by British troops who occupied the town during the siege on Boston—livestock roamed the church, and its pews and pulpit were used for firewood and building stables. After 1776 the pulpit was re-created and the pews were rebuilt. The Old South Meeting House remained a church until the 1870s and now contains historical exhibits.

Follow the trail north on Washington Street to the Old State House at the head of State Street. Now surrounded by skyscrapers, the building once was the town's grandest edifice. Located in close proximity to markets and wharves, the building's lower floor originally functioned as a busy

merchant's exchange. The Old State House gained its real measure of importance as the setting for stirring speeches and debates between royal officials and American patriots. The center of Colonial government, it was the meeting place of the Massachusetts Assembly, the Court of Suffolk County (later to become the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court) and the Boston town government.

Representatives of the Massachusetts Assembly originally met in the second floor rotunda. A visitor's gallery was installed in 1766 in Representatives Hall—the colonists took the opportunity to jeer at those who voted for the royalists.

The trail resumes on the north side of the Old State House. On the building's east gable beneath the clock is a balcony from which royalists made their official decrees to the colonists. On July 18, 1776, however, the tables were turned when the Declaration of Independence was first read publicly in Boston from the same balcony. The Boston Massacre occurred below the balcony in 1770. What began as a dispute over a barber bill led to a riot and left five dead. Patriots used the incident as propaganda to stir up anti-royalist feelings. A circle of stones marks the site. Looking up, you'll note the gilded lion and unicorn—symbols of Great Britain—atop the building. These are replicas, installed in 1882; the originals were torn down and burned in 1776.

The Old State House was eventually outgrown, and government business relocated to the newer Bulfinch-designed Massachusetts State House on Beacon Hill. After being rented to various merchants until the 1830s, the Old State House briefly became Boston's City Hall. When the building was threatened with demolition in 1880, the city of Chicago attempted to purchase it for use as a tourist attraction. A group of citizens were insulted; forming the Bostonian Society in 1881, they determined to preserve the Old State House.

A statue of Samuel Adams, the "organizer of the Revolution," stands in front of the next stop, Faneuil Hall. Prosperous merchant Peter Faneuil (pronounced "fannel") donated the original building to the city in 1742, when it dominated the Boston waterfront.

Like the Old South Meeting House, it was the scene of tumultuous gatherings held to protest England's tightening control over the colonies. Here, patriots protested the Sugar Act and set forth the principle of "no taxation without representation." It also was the site of the first of the "Tea Meetings" on Nov. 5, 1773. After being fired up by oratory, angry crowds frequently emerged from the "Cradle of Liberty" and engaged in reckless action; the governor's mansion was virtually destroyed by one mob after the 1765 passage of the Stamp Act.

Atop the hall, the gilt grasshopper weather vane is a Boston landmark. In place since 1742, it was a symbol used to screen out spies, for every *true* Bostonian could surely identify the figure crowning Faneuil Hall. The sturdy weather vane has survived an earthquake, a fire and a grasshopper-napping in 1974 (it was thankfully found unharmed). Green glass doorknobs serve as the insect's eyes; inside the stomach are coins and other mementos.

Opposite Faneuil Hall between Clinton and Chatham streets is Faneuil Hall Market, more commonly called Quincy Market. Constructed in 1825, the huge building features a domed central pavilion and Greek porticoes. For nearly 150 years this area served as a retail and wholesale distribution center for meat and produce. Renovated in the 1970s, Quincy Market today consists of three long buildings separated by tree-lined malls. Food stalls, shops, restaurants, a flower market, pushcart vendors, and a gaggle of street entertainers and musicians all add up to a shopping and eating extravaganza. A cigar-smoking likeness of former Boston Celtics coach Red Auerbach rests on one of the South Market benches.

From the marketplace, follow the trail along Union Street. Between Union and Congress streets is a small island known as Carmen Park, the home of The New England Holocaust Memorial, an ethereal monument comprising six etched glass towers dedicated to the Jews who lost their lives in Nazi death camps.

To the right of Union Street is the city's old business district, known as the Blackstone Block, where pigs and chickens as well as people walked

the tiny, winding dirt alleys in the 17th and 18th centuries. This part of Boston grew up along the narrow "neck" that once separated the Shawmut Peninsula from the North End. Street names echo previous landscapes and residents: Marsh Lane, Creek Square, Salt Lane and Scott Alley.

Items easily pictured on a sign were often chosen for tavern names (for example, Bell-in-Hand or Boston Stone). Some names have been reincarnated and can be seen marking the entrances of newer establishments—one such watering hole is The Green Dragon Tavern, which takes its name from one of Boston's most famous pubs where secret meetings took place during the Revolution. The Union Oyster House, built around 1713, is one of the oldest restaurants in the country; it is rumored that Daniel Webster was a regular patron.

Bearing right onto Marshall Street, just past The Green Dragon Tavern, you'll see the Ebenezer Hancock House, a three-story brick house situated at an angle to the street. Built around 1760, it was occupied by John Hancock's brother, the deputy-paymaster-general of the Continental Army.

Continue to Blackstone Street. On Fridays and Saturdays The Haymarket takes place along Blackstone between North and Hanover streets. Vendors no longer sell hay, but the open-air gathering continues—the Boston institution is a swirl of sights, sounds and smells. Savvy shoppers and no-nonsense North End vendors banter over displays of fruits and vegetables. Meat and cheese shops line the street. Saturday is busier, and by the end of the day the area is usually strewn with garbage and leftover produce. First-timers should heed these two pieces of advice: Do not touch the displays, and watch for a "heavy thumb" on the scale.

After passing over Blackstone Street, walk through a portion of the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway—several acres of linear urban green space traversing the path of the old elevated Central Artery—toward Cross Street. You're now entering North End, Boston's Italian district. The heart of Boston's first neighborhood, Hanover Street is lined with Italian groceries and little cafés.

Following the Revolution, the North End succumbed to poverty and vice; visiting sailors populated brothels and gambling dens. Richmond Street was known as the “murder district,” and North Street was called Ann Street after not-so-ladylike ladies. After 1851, North Street was widened, its name changed, and the brothels were demolished. The district now attracts tourists and is a respectable community.

At the corner of North and Richmond streets, look to the right to see the cupola atop Faneuil Hall. Then proceed on North Street to the Paul Revere House, the two-story clapboard structure on the left overlooking North Square. Revere was a silversmith by trade but also dabbled in engraving, copper plating and working as express rider delivering messages for the patriots. His most famous jaunt took place April 18, 1775; thanks to poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, nearly every school-aged child is familiar with his midnight ride.

Built in 1680, the house is a rare example of early Colonial urban architecture and is said to be Boston’s oldest building. Puritan ministers Increase Mather and his son Cotton also lived on this site. Behind the house are pretty gardens planted with medicinal herbs and flowers used during Colonial days. Next to the Paul Revere House is the Pierce/Hichborn House. Built about 1711, it is one of the city’s earliest surviving brick structures and is an excellent example of early Georgian architecture.

Also on North Square is the brick Mariners’ House, which served as a refuge for sailors. Note the anchor on front; it still offers accommodations to seamen. Across the square is the church where Father Edward Taylor once preached to Boston’s seamen; it now is an Italian Catholic church.

Following the trail, the next point of interest is St. Stephen’s Church, which is situated at the curve of Hanover Street. This red brick church with a white cupola and golden dome was originally called the “New North Church” to distinguish from the Old North Church (see below). Built in 1804, it is the only Bulfinch-designed church still standing in Boston. Revere’s firm, Revere Copper and Brass, cast the bell that was hung in

the belfry in 1805; a display inside shows pieces of the Revere copper that originally covered the dome.

Across Hanover Street from St. Stephen’s Church are the brick walls of Paul Revere Mall (also called the Prado), which lies between Hanover and Unity streets. Laid out in the early 1930s, this restful, tree-shaded enclave features bronze plaques saluting the achievements of various North Enders. Near the Hanover Street boundary is Cyrus Dallin’s dashing equestrian statue of Revere.

A gate at the opposite side of the mall leads to a courtyard behind the Old North Church. Ascend the stairs to the church—perhaps Boston’s most “revered” landmark. Built in 1723 and officially called Christ Church, it’s the oldest church building in Boston (hence the nickname). The Old North Church played a key role in Paul Revere’s celebrated midnight ride, the subject of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s much-recited lyrical poem. The poet described how church sexton Robert Newman hung lanterns in the belfry arch of the Old North Church—“one if by land, two if by sea”—as a signal from Revere that the British were about to march. The lanterns flickered for a short moment, then Newman fled the church (supposedly by climbing out a window), while Revere mounted his horse “And so through the night went his cry of alarm, To every Middlesex village and farm.”

The church’s exterior, inspired by the London churches designed by British architect Christopher Wren, was constructed using locally-made bricks. Inside, numerous historical treasures can be seen, including brass nameplates that designate family pews—the Reveres occupied No. 54. Along the church’s right aisle is the window through which Newman fled the church; bricked over in 1815, it was rediscovered in 1989 during restoration work. Newman also is remembered with a plaque in the small garden on the church’s north side. Looking up, you’ll see the 191-foot-tall steeple, which was blown over twice by hurricanes but was rebuilt according to original plans; the eight belfry bells were cast in 1744 and range in weight from 620 to 1,545 pounds each. They bear the

inscription: “We are the first ring of bells cast for the British Empire in North America.”

Heading uphill on Hull Street, turn around to catch a great view of the Old North Church. Copp’s Hill Burying Ground (sometimes called “Corpse Hill”) is on the right, on a promontory overlooking Boston Harbor. Atop North End’s highest point, the graveyard is named for a shoemaker who originally owned the land; it was established as a cemetery in 1660 when the King’s Chapel Burying Ground became overcrowded.

Copp’s Hill holds the graves of Old North Church sexton Robert Newman; Increase Mather, his son Cotton and Cotton’s son Samuel, all three Puritan clergymen and educators; and Prince Hall, who led Boston’s early free African-American community. During the Revolution, British soldiers camped here. Notice the headstone for Capt. Daniel Malcolm; it is said that damage to this grave marker was incurred when redcoat troops used it for target practice.

There is a pleasant view of the harbor and of Charlestown Navy Yard from this location—look for the distinctive rigging of the USS *Constitution*.

Continue past the cemetery to Commercial Street. At this point, the Freedom Trail travels across the Charlestown Bridge and visits the USS *Constitution* and the Bunker Hill Monument. We recommend stopping here and embarking on the Charlestown portion another day. From this point, it’s best to take the “T” back to Boston Common (Park Street stop) or Faneuil Hall (State Street stop). The closest station is North Station just a few hundred yards away on Causeway Street; to get there from the corner of Commercial and Hull streets, continue south on Commercial Street, which turns into Causeway Street.

Begin the Charlestown portion of the tour by crossing the Charlestown Bridge, following the red stripe.

At the foot of the bridge in Charlestown is City Square, the Puritans’ point of settlement in 1629. They named the area after King Charles, who issued the colony’s charter. Due to the lack of fresh water, most of the

original settlers moved to what is now Boston Common, and until the Revolution, Charlestown remained mostly unpopulated grassland.

Once across the bridge, the trail comes to a fork (it circles Charlestown). Since the last guided tour of the USS *Constitution* begins at 3:30 (at 5:30, April through October), we recommend visiting the ship first. To do so, turn right at the first traffic light onto Chelsea Street. Proceed for one block, then turn right onto Warren Street. At the end of Warren, turn left onto Constitution Road, following the path to the USS *Constitution*.

Built at Edmund Hartt’s shipyard in the North End—a short distance from its present berth at Pier One—the ship was launched in 1797. Constructed from live oak, red cedar, white oak, pitch pine and locust wood, the 54-gun warship was designed to defeat equal opponents and out-sail stronger ones. Paul Revere provided the original copper sheathing.

The *Constitution* gained undying fame and the nickname “Old Ironsides” (a reaction to the resiliency of the ship’s wooden sides) as a result of engagements with the British during the War of 1812. After exploring the Charlestown Navy Yard, continue along the trail to the Bunker Hill Monument. You’ll pass charming 19th-century Victorian homes and a delightful park called Winthrop Square, once a military training field. Facing the square on Adams Street are decorative Greek Revival and Italianate townhouses.

The Battle of Bunker Hill, of course, is misnamed; the battle actually took place on neighboring Breed’s Hill. Critical to the British occupation of Boston was control of the hills on the Charlestown peninsula; patriots under Col. William Prescott fortified the peninsula by hastily constructing fence-rail shelters and taking up sniper positions at Breed’s Hill, which was smaller and closer to the city.

The British advanced. In order to save ammunition and keep a steady barrage capable of breaking the enemy’s charge, the American strategy was to withhold fire and use their weapons carefully—a tactic that gave

rise to the legendary order not to shoot until they saw “the whites of their eyes.” After the command, the patriots fired with first-rate accuracy.

Prescott and his men finally retreated north toward Cambridge, while British forces entrenched themselves as far as Bunker Hill. They had captured the hill and won the battle, but at great cost: Nearly half of the 2,200 redcoats who fought were either killed or wounded. Of an estimated 2,500 to 4,000 colonists engaged, 400 to 600 were casualties. Although a technical victory for the British, the battle provided an important psychological boost to American patriots: They proved they could face the British in traditional field combat.

In 1823 the Bunker Hill Monument Association was formed to purchase the battleground and erect a permanent monument. Solomon Willard’s 221-foot-tall obelisk was dedicated June 17, 1843, with a speech by Daniel Webster. A statue of Colonel Prescott stands in front of the granite tower. Inside, a flight of 294 steps leads to the top—the climb is taxing, but the views are impressive.

The monument is the last stop on the tour. To return to downtown Boston, follow the red-striped trail back through Charlestown, cross the bridge and take the “T,” following the above directions. A more scenic option is to retrace your steps to the Navy Yard and catch the water shuttle operated by MBTA. The boat, which departs from Pier 4 at the Navy Yard, will take you to Long Wharf on the downtown waterfront, which is a few blocks west of Faneuil Hall. Ferries depart the Navy Yard Mon.-Fri. every 15 minutes 6:45 a.m.-8:15 p.m., Sat.-Sun. every 30 minutes 10:15-6:15. One-way fare is \$1.70; 85c (ages 5-11 and senior citizens). Phone (617) 227-4321 for more information.

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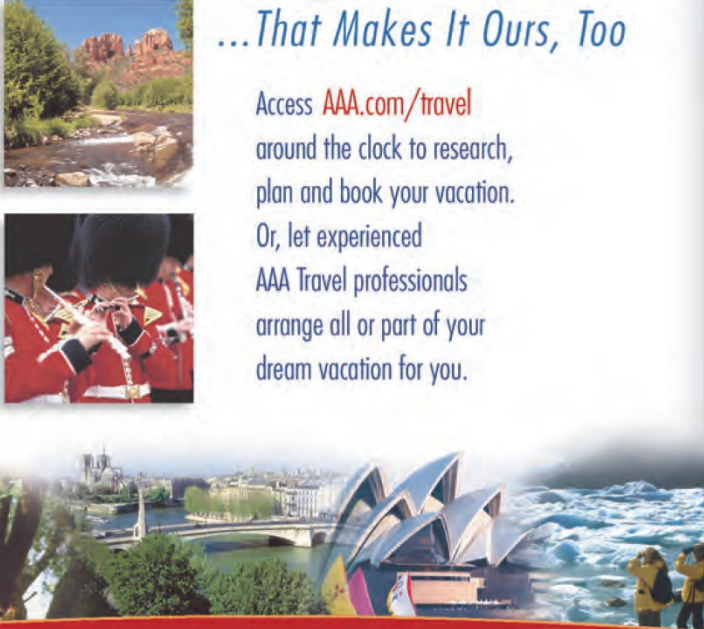
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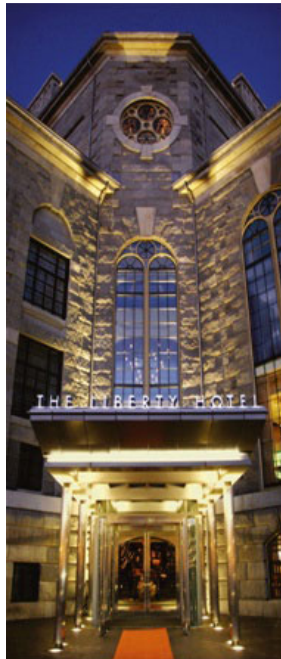
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