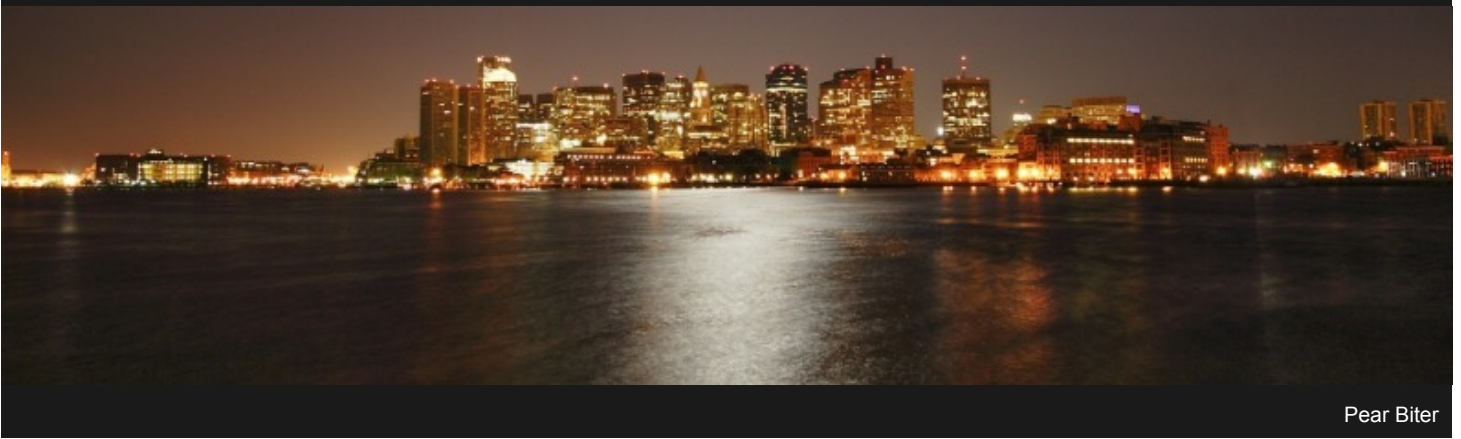




**nileGUIDE**

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



Pear Biter

# Fall Trip to Boston

## **Newton, Boston, Cambridge, 3 Days**

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# Guide Description



**AUTHOR NOTE:** This trip involves some driving in the suburbs of Boston, so you may need to rent a car if you don't have one. For those who are more active, biking to some of the suburbs is possible.

# Itinerary Overview

things to do  
restaurants  
hotels  
nightlife

## Day 1 - Boston, Newton

**DAY NOTE:** Go for a canoe ride on the river right by your hotel. After cleaning up at the hotel, drive over to the DeCordova. The outdoor sculpture park is the best part. Driving through Lincoln is beautiful, especially when the leaves are changing colors.



### DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park

Unique modern art institution



### Aquitaine Bis

Romantic French restaurant

## Day 2 - Boston

**DAY NOTE:** Learn about the Pilgrims' first thanksgiving, then head to Salem and go to the Witch Museum. Salem in October puts on a great show to get ready for Halloween. Head back towards the hotel and stop at Blue Ginger, the best restaurant west of Boston.



### Blue Ginger

Ming style

## Day 3 - Boston

**DAY NOTE:** The Mystic River Reservation and the Frederick La Olmsted National Historic Site are two more places to enjoy the fall in the Boston area. Bring a picnic.



### Mystic River Reservation

Park in Somerville and Medford

# Day 1 - Boston, Newton

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QUICK NOTE

**DAY NOTE:** Go for a canoe ride on the river right by your hotel. After cleaning up at the hotel, drive over to the DeCordova. The outdoor sculpture park is the best part. Driving through Lincoln is beautiful, especially when the leaves are changing colors.

**contact:**  
tel: +1 781 259 8355  
fax: +1 781 259 3650  
<http://www.decordova.org/>

**location:**  
Hopland 2  
Antwerp MA 2000

**hours:**  
Check website for details

## 1 DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park

**DESCRIPTION:** DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park showcases stunning artwork. Julian DeCordova loved to travel and collect art and he bequeathed his beautiful estate to Lincoln to use as an art museum. The result is a contemporary art museum with more than 2,000 works and an outdoor sculpture park featuring around 75 modern sculptures. Both children and adults will be awed by the unique artwork in the sculpture park and the museum has lovely and intriguing artworks. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of psd

**contact:**  
tel: 1 617 734 8400  
fax: 1 617 734 8905  
<http://www.aquitainebis.com/>

**location:**  
11 Boylston Street  
Chestnut Hill MA 02467

**hours:**  
Lunch: M-Sa 11:30a-3p,  
Dinner: M-Th 5:30p-10p, F-Sa  
5:30p-11p, Brunch: Su 10a-3p

## 2 Aquitaine Bis

**DESCRIPTION:** Restaurateurs Seth and Sheri Woods bring a touch of France to Chestnut Hill in the form of this bistro-style restaurant. Decorated in warm shades of brown, Aquitaine boasts a top-notch wine list to accompany tantalizing menu selections, including cassoulet, choucroute and crepes. Save room for dessert because the chocolate torte is a mouth-watering treat that defies description. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Aquitaine Bis

# Day 2 - Boston

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## QUICK NOTE

**DAY NOTE:** Learn about the Pilgrims' first thanksgiving, then head to Salem and go to the Witch Museum. Salem in October puts on a great show to get ready for Halloween. Head back towards the hotel and stop at Blue Ginger, the best restaurant west of Boston.

### contact:

tel: 781 283 5790  
fax: 781 283 5772  
www.ming.com/

### location:

583 Washington St.  
Boston MA 02482-6411

### hours:

Mo to Th from 11:30 AM to 02:00 PM, Mo to Th from 05:30 PM to 09:30 PM, Fr from 11:30 AM to 02:00 PM, Fr from 05:30 PM to 10:00 PM, Sa from 05:00 PM to 10:00 PM, Su from 05:00 PM to 09:00 PM

## 1 Blue Ginger

**DESCRIPTION:** Celebrated Chef Ming Tsai's culinary expertise is put to test at this upscale restaurant located in the suburbs of Boston. You can watch him in action at the open kitchen, as you wait for your food to arrive. The elegant décor with brilliant lighting, hardwood floors and neatly set tables invite you for a fine dining experience. Chef Ming Tsai's East-meets-West cuisine lists many innovative dishes on the menu. Try the Grilled Rare Sesame Tuna with Crispy Somen Noodles & Soy-Dashi Broth, which prepares you well for the main course. Grab a bite of the Indonesian curry pasta with Asian vegetables, rock shrimp and peanuts—it will gratify your taste buds. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Blue Ginger

# Day 3 - Boston

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## QUICK NOTE

**DAY NOTE:** The Mystic River Reservation and the Frederick La Olmsted National Historic Site are two more places to enjoy the fall in the Boston area. Bring a picnic.

**contact:**

tel: +1 617 727 5380

fax: +1 617 626 1351

(Department of Conservation & Recreation)

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/metroboston/mystic.htm>

**location:**

Medford, Everett  
Boston MA 02144

**hours:**

Daily dawn to dusk



## Mystic River Reservation

**DESCRIPTION:** Four parks make up the Mystic River Reservation, which runs through Medford, Somerville and Everett. The Mary O'Malley Park has a boat landing and tennis courts. The Torbert McDonald Park offers many natural sites and trails. Draw Seven Park has two soccer fields and bikeways. The park area called Mystic Lakes is a popular summer spot with its combination of beach facilities and natural shady areas. Sailing and non-motorized boating are allowed on Mystic Lakes. The park is run by the Metropolitan District Commission and admission to the reservation and its parks is free. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Mystic River Reservation

# My List

**contact:**

tel: +1 617 727 1188 x445  
<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/metroboston/charlesR.htm>

**location:**

10 Derne Street  
Boston MA 02116

## 1 Charles River Esplanade

**OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:**

This place is beautiful, but don't hang here after dark

**DESCRIPTION:** The rest of Boston's green spaces have nothing on these 17 miles of riverside walkways. Stroll along Memorial Drive for a glimpse of Boston's skyline, cross the Mass Ave bridge for a windy panorama, and trail the beautiful corridors that flow along Storrow Drive. On summer nights, free concerts at the Hatch Shell – an outdoor music venue – set the scene for nighttime picnics. © NileGuide User



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**contact:**

tel: +1 617 524 1718  
fax: +1 617 524 1418  
<http://www.arboretum.harvard.edu/>

**location:**

125 Arborway  
Boston MA 02130-3500

## 2 Arnold Arboretum

**OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:**

Free parking lines the streets around the Arboretum, but the few small lots fill up during peak seasons.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Arnold Arboretum is a gorgeous park in the heart of Jamaica Plain. Managed by Harvard University and used as a place for their students to study botany, you can be assured that the grounds are perfectly maintained and well manicured grounds. Tagged regional and exotic flora make the Arboretum a learning experience for interested visitors and a good place to teach kids. Most famous for "Lilac Sunday", which is held during the second week of May, visitors flock to the Arboretum year road to explore the changing landscape.

-Jessica Polizzotti, Boston Local Expert  
125 Arborway, tel.&nbsp;617-524-1718

/  
© NileGuide



**contact:**

tel: +1 617 495 3045  
fax: +1 617 496 8206  
<http://www.hmnh.harvard.edu/>

**location:**

26 Oxford St  
Cambridge MA 02138

**hours:**

Daily 9a-5p, Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve,

## 3 Harvard Museum of Natural History

**DESCRIPTION:** In coalition with Harvard University, this museum is three museums in one. The Botanical Museum includes plants, paleontological evidence of ancient plants and a famous collection of flowers made from glass. The Museum of Comparative Zoology has exhibits on paleontology, marine biology and entomology. The Mineral and Geological Museum includes many meteorite samples. Everything from 480 plant species to lizards and insects can be discovered within these museum walls. © wcities.com



"Photo courtesy of Harvard Museum of Natural History."

Christmas Day, New Year's Day

**contact:**  
tel: 978-465-5753  
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/parkerriver/>

**location:**  
Bewvuryport MA 01950

## 4 Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

**DESCRIPTION:** Located on a coastal barrier island, the refuge consists of a range of habitats including salt marsh, beach/dune, freshwater marsh/pool, and grassland. The Parker River NWR was established to preserve habitat for migratory waterfowl, especially American black duck. The refuge important nesting area for the threatened piping plover and least tern. The refuge also provides important resting/feeding habitat for shorebirds, wading birds, raptors, and passerines. Major wildlife management programs include those related to the piping plover (beach closure, predator control, monitoring), white-tailed deer (monitoring, control), waterfowl (banding, surveying), and marsh/pool habitat (pest plant control, water level manipulation). The refuge provides wildlife-oriented recreational opportunities including waterfowl and deer hunting, surf fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and shellfishing. Beach use (swimming, sunbathing, beach combing), bicycling, and other non-wildlife oriented activities occur. The refuge receives about 275,000 visits per year. The refuge is located in the NE corner of Massachusetts.



photo courtesy of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

**contact:**  
tel: 617 661 3866  
fax: 617 661 8866  
<http://www.evoorestaurant.com>

**location:**  
350 3rd Street  
Boston MA 02143

**hours:**  
Mo to Th from 05:30 PM to 10:00 PM, Fr to Sa from 05:30 PM to 11:00 PM

## 5 Evoo

**DESCRIPTION:** This restaurant has a popular Mediterranean/French fusion menu. Modern and casual, it attracts a young crowd. There is a bit of a bar scene, but the noise level stays tolerable. Try the oxtail and shiitake mushroom spring rolls with peanut-lime dipping sauce or the cornmeal fried oysters for appetizers. The duck, duck, goose—marinated roasted duck leg, seared duck foie gras, slices of goose breast, lentils, French beans, escarole and sherry ginger sauce—is one of the unusual and enjoyable entrees. The restaurant has a full service bar. © wcities.com

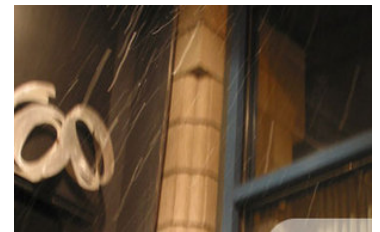


Photo courtesy of Evoo



# Boston Snapshot

## Local Info

From the cobbled streets of the North End to the newly-designed Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston offers a distinct blend of history and modernity that keeps visitors returning for more! Landmarks like the Bunker Hill Monument and the Old North Church are ties to the American Revolution, while posh shopping on Newbury Street keeps visitors in touch with the latest fashions and foods. Each neighborhood is a pocket of local culture, and locals bursting with Boston pride who are eager to show visitors the best of "Beantown."

## Beacon Hill

Beacon Hill nestles between the quaint shops of Charles street and the activity of Boston Common. Home to many Boston elite, you'll find impressive townhouses here, high-end markets and boutiques, and fine foods. Young professionals also flock to this neighborhood and congregate at local pubs. It's just a few block from the banks of the Charles River!

## South End

The South End also offers a quaint setting, with brick sidewalks, chic restaurants and endless blocks of cozy coffee shops and cafe's. Well-kept dog parks line the side streets, and it's just a short walk to Back Bay and Newbury Street. The area is also considered one of the most "gay-friendly" parts of the city.

## North End

Need an Italian fix? Come to Boston's North End. Shops like Mike's Pastry are not-to-be-missed, and you can also pick up the historical Freedom Trail here.

## Newbury Street

Newbury Street is a downtown thoroughfare with the most posh shopping Boston has to offer, not to mention top-of-the-line restaurants and cafes. The Public Garden marks the beginning of this stretch, and there you can find the famous "Make way for Ducklings" statues and the Swan Boats.

## Waterfront

Faneuil Hall Marketplace is a must-see by the waterfront, and if you linger in the plaza outside on a nice day you're almost sure to see a fun street performer to add flavor to your trip! Souvenir shops abound here,

and it's one of the stops on the Freedom Trail. Just a few blocks away is Downtown Crossing, as well as the New England Aquarium (great for kids).

## Jamaica Plain

Just outside the city, Jamaica Plain is "up and coming" and has started to attract more and more of the city's families and young professionals. Jamaica Pond and the Arnold Arboretum offer beautiful outdoor settings, and Victorian homes line the streets. Also, right downtown is the famous J.P. Licks ice cream shop ("Jamaican Plain" being the namesake). Don't forget to stop there!

## Brookline

Home to enclaves such as Coolidge Corner and Washington Square, Brookline offers the best Jewish Deli's in town! Local movie theaters, bookstores and bars welcome visitors and create a lively atmosphere. Check out Zafitigs and the Publick House to hit up some of the best of Brookline's food and drink scene.

## Somerville

Davis Square is a lively Somerville hub, and this area also houses Tufts University. Just a short ride on the Red Line from Boston's center, Somerville gets you just outside the city but still offers a little urban flair and hustle-bustle. Somerville draws a crowd looking for quality housing at an affordable, and recent college grads often flock to this area. In Davis Square, be sure to check out Redbones for some of the best BBQ around.

## Cambridge

Set on the banks of the Charles River, Cambridge teems with college students, as it's home to both Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Kendall Square is a mecca for technology and science research and entrepreneurship, and Harvard Square offers colorful shops and eateries. Street performers are a common sight, as are outdoor chess tables, rowing teams on the waters of the Charles River, and bicyclists cruising Memorial Drive. Cambridge is definitely worth the short trip across the river!

© NileGuide

## History

Native Americans had been living on the Boston peninsula for more than 2,000 years when Captain John Smith, famous for helping lead the settlement of Virginia to the south, sailed into the harbor in 1614. Smith mapped the area between Cape Ann to the north and Cape Cod to the south and called it New England. He named the largest river in the area the Charles, after the British prince. In 1620, the Puritans, chased out of England for their religious beliefs, landed in nearby Plymouth, and founded the first permanent European settlement in the Boston area.

A few years later, William Blackstone, a scholar and clergyman from the Plymouth settlement, set out in search of solitude. He found himself, his bull and several hundred books at the foot of Beacon Hill. In 1630, Blackstone lured other Puritans to Boston with promises of ample fresh water. He soon was in the middle of a bustling community that included the first governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, John Winthrop.

The town was named Boston (Native Americans had called it Shawmut) after the town of the same name in England, which had been named after St. Botolph, the patron saint of fishing. From the beginning, the growing town used the Atlantic Ocean as its lifeline, and over the next 40 years, Bostonians built more than 730 ships. As Boston became a center for publishing, education and trade, the strict moral teachings of the Puritans clashed with the zeal of the emerging merchant class. By 1680, the once independent colony was firmly under British control. As Paul Revere's famous engraving of 1768 shows, British warships conveyed troops to the city in response to protests over the Stamp Act of 1765, which required tax stamps to be placed on any published materials. The act was later rescinded after protests by the "Sons of Liberty," who included Samuel Adams, John Hancock, John Adams, Patrick Henry and James Otis.

But the British Crown issued mandates that imposed additional taxes on the colony. By 1770, there was one British soldier in town for every four colonists. The powder keg exploded on March 5, 1770, with the Boston Massacre. The site where British troops fired into a crowd of colonists, killing

## Boston Snapshot continued

five people, is marked today by a ring of cobblestones at Congress and State Streets.

On December 16, 1773, a mob led by Samuel Adams boarded three ships and dumped their cargoes of tea overboard in "The Boston Tea Party". The British parliament responded by sending even more troops to close off Dorchester Neck, the only land entrance to Boston. The "shot heard round the world" was fired in Lexington on April 19, 1775, when a group of colonial militiamen engaged in battle with British regulars. The American Revolution had begun.

The tide turned for the Bostonians with George Washington's first major victory on March 16, 1776. Using the cover of night, the rebel army moved much of their artillery to the top of Dorchester Heights. British troops awoke to find enough cannon staring down at them to destroy their fleet anchored in Boston Harbor. On March 17, Evacuation Day, they fled the city, and the date has been a city holiday ever since.

Post-Revolutionary Boston had a population less than a third of what it had been just prior to the war. But the early years of the 19th Century were boom times for Boston, which added thousands of new residents every 10 years, along with mills, tanneries and factories. Eventually annexed by the city were fast-growing suburbs: Roxbury, Jamaica Plain and Dorchester. Landfill was another way to meet the ever-increasing demands for more space: Mount Vernon gave up tons of dirt and gravel to form Charles Street at the base of Beacon Hill. The Back Bay, once a soggy bank along the Charles River, was built on top of landfill.

It was during these prosperous times that Frederick Law Olmsted, one of the nation's foremost landscape architects, designed the "Emerald Necklace." This is a series of green spaces that connects the Boston Common, Public Garden and Commonwealth Avenue Mall to parks of Olmsted's design like the Arnold Arboretum, Franklin Park and the Back Bay Fens.

The end of the Civil War signaled an end to Boston's booming economy. Newly constructed rail lines eliminated trade from Boston's waterfront. Factories around the country produced goods more cheaply than in Boston, and the shoe and textile industries vanished by the 1920s. With

the arrival of the Great Depression of the 1930s, Boston's economy seemed doomed. The renovation of Boston finally came at the hands of Mayor John Collins, who undertook a massive restructuring of the city in the 1950s. Many old landmarks were destroyed, but he also created many jobs and helped pump dollars into the slowly reawakening economy.

The John Hancock Tower, designed by famed architect I.M. Pei, soared skyward in 1975 as Boston's tallest building. In 1978, renovated Quincy Market symbolized a new period of growth. The 1990s saw the beginning of the giant urban renovation program known as the Big Dig, designed to bury Interstate 93.

Boston, now one of the country's major centers of high-tech development and a popular tourist destination, has entered the new millennium with the energy, perseverance and heady spirit that have always been the city's trademarks.

©

### Hotel Insights

Thousands of visitors visit Boston and the surrounding areas each year, especially in the spring and summer. Accommodations range from resort-like establishments to inexpensive hostels and motels. Business travelers can choose from locations near the heart of the Financial District or hotels in the high tech neighborhoods of Waltham and Lexington. An excellent public transportation system vastly increases your lodging options. Keep in mind that with many colleges and universities in the greater Boston area, room availability is tied to the academic calendar. If your travel plans require that you stay in Boston during the September or the May commencement seasons, book your room as early as possible.

### Downtown

You can reach downtown hotels by taking the water shuttle directly from the Logan Airport, an excellent alternative to sitting in traffic in the Sumner Tunnel. In addition to a great location, many downtown hotels offer fabulous views and beautiful rooms. Business travelers will be close to the Financial District, and tourists are within walking distance of Faneuil Hall Marketplace, the New England Aquarium, the quaint North End and the TD Banknorth

Garden, previously known as the Fleet Center.

The Boston Harbor Hotel on Rows Wharf is a beautiful and modern hotel with balconies and a rotunda overlooking the harbor. For a truly unique piece of Boston's history, be sure to check out the Omni Parker House, the country's oldest continuously-operating hotel. The Boston Marriott Hotel on Long Wharf is another splendid choice for both business and leisure travelers seeking modern accommodations and a great view. A little further inland is the Millennium Bostonian and Langham Hotel, both offering distinctive lodgings and impeccable service.

### Back Bay

Back Bay lodgings tend to be pricey, but offer a location near downtown, Cambridge, the Theater District and exclusive Newbury Street. The deluxe Sheraton Boston Hotel on Dalton Street offers excellent service and amenities, along with the Hilton Boston Back Bay located across the street. For all-suite elegance, try The Eliot Hotel on the corner of Commonwealth and Massachusetts Avenues, with its marble bathrooms and polite doormen. The Back Bay is also home to such famous hotels as the Ritz-Carlton, Four Seasons and Fairmont Copley Plaza.

The elegant Lenox Hotel is located on Exeter and Boylston Streets, parallel to Newbury Street and close to the Shops at Prudential Center. Also nearby is the more modern Colonnade Hotel.

Two mammoth hotels with slightly lower rates are the Westin Copley Place and the Boston Marriot Copley Place. They have fine dining on the premises, are adjacent to large shopping areas, and have comfortable rooms. There are also several brownstones in the Back Bay area that have been converted into modest bed & breakfast lodgings, which are available for long-term stays by both business persons and those on extended visits. One such place to try is 463 Beacon Street Guest House.

### Theater District

This area also has some good hotels that are typically lower in price than its Back Bay and downtown neighbors. However, this area is a little rougher around the edges as well, particularly in the wee hours of the morning. Bordering Chinatown, the

## Boston Snapshot continued

Public Garden and the South End, you will find many good nightclubs, lounges and restaurants within easy walking distance. The Courtyard Boston Tremont Hotel is a classy hotel located next to the Wang Center for the Performing Arts. Around the corner is The Radisson, which offers good rates, even during the summer peak tourist season.

### Cambridge

Cambridge is an excellent alternative to high-priced downtown. Many hotels cater to families visiting students at nearby Harvard University and MIT. The Inn at Harvard, the Charles Hotel in Harvard Square and the Harvard Square Hotel all put you close to the prestigious campus. Harvard Yard is a stone's throw away from any of these lodgings, and the MBTA Red Line will take you to downtown destinations.

Featuring personal attention and an intimate setting, A Cambridge House is a beautifully restored mansion on a quiet, tree-lined street. The Hyatt Regency Cambridge is on the banks of the Charles River and has breathtaking views of the Boston skyline. Close to the Museum of Science is the high tech-oriented Royal Sonesta Hotel, with modern amenities like Wi-Fi.

Despite the city's wealth of options, Boston has an extremely low hotel room vacancy rate, especially between the months of April and November. Be sure to book your room early and check your reservation often. The good news is that despite the lack of competition for guests, the lodging establishments here have sterling reputations, and you are almost guaranteed a good night's sleep, wherever you choose to stay.

©

### Restaurants Insights

Seafood is a Boston favorite, as is the traditional Yankee boiled supper, but this ethnic melting pot has an eclectic selection of menus.

#### Waterfront

Seafood rules the dining scene here, enticing visitors with clam chowder and lobster. Anthony's Pier 4 on Northern Avenue is a popular and well-established spot. Legal Sea Foods is a local chain that is popular with residents and tourists

alike, and has served their clam chowder at several recent presidential inaugurations. The Barking Crab has beer and crab cakes galore, and the Daily Catch will entice you with its specialties from the sea.

#### Faneuil Hall

You can find Yankee suppers, Irish fare, seafood and pub grub in this historic downtown marketplace. Durgin-Park has pot roast and boiled dinners. The Black Rose is a good spot for a pint of Guinness. There are also food courts for a quick bite.

#### Beacon Hill

This beautiful, old-fashioned neighborhood is known for its intimate and romantic places, including The Hungry I and Todd English's famous Figs. Although there is often a wait for a table, the inviting cobblestone streets and gas-lit alleyways are perfect for a pre-dinner walk.

#### North End

The North End is home to historic landmarks and the best Italian food in Boston and perhaps in all of New England. Hanover Street is packed with such popular establishments as Pomodoro, Mamma Maria, Mike's Pastry and Caffè Vittoria.

#### Chinatown

With the highest concentration of late-night dining options in the city, Chinatown eateries are crowded well into the night. Among the best are Chau Chow City and East Ocean City.

#### Newbury Street

Fusion restaurants and countless cafes line this busy Back Bay street. Stephanie's on Newbury and Sonsie Bistro & Cafe are swank spots for the dining elite. Davio's has great Italian food and a cozy atmosphere. 29 Newbury is known for celebrity spotting and chic dining in an intimate setting. For special occasions, L'Espalier is a truly romantic French restaurant.

#### South End

The South End, with its quaint row houses and manicured buildings, has a variety of dining options to choose from. On a walk along Columbus Avenue and Tremont Street in this neighborhood, you will encounter restaurants offering modern French and American food, Ethiopian cuisine and down-home southern cooking.

Tremont 647 and Mistral are two hotspots in this area.

### Cambridge

On the other side of the Charles River, Cambridge has many hidden jewels, many of which are priced out of the student budget range and offer a fine dining experience in this cosmopolitan little city. Casablanca is an obvious choice for Humphrey Bogart fans, and Chez Henri serves French cuisine with a South American twist. The Border Cafe is the place for margaritas and quesadillas.

Often the best way to find a good meal in Boston is by exploring on foot. Every neighborhood in Boston has interesting choices, from gourmet to pub grub.

©

### Nightlife Insights

Once considered ultra-conservative and boring, Boston has become a world-class metropolis with endless ways to educate, enthrall, entice and, of course, entertain. Vibrant nightlife and a surge of innovative restaurants have added options to an existing stable of world-class museums and theaters, making Boston an entertainment magnet in New England.

### Museums and Galleries

Boston has a magnificent selection of art complexes—large to small, American to Asian, local to national. Many museums offer specials and discounts for students. Boston's enormous Museum of Fine Arts and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum are the best-known and most popular. Kids love the Children's Museum, and everyone loves the Museum of Science, with its theater and planetarium.

Newbury Street, South End and Brookline boast a diverse array of galleries, many of which showcase the region's up-and-coming artists.

### Theater and Music

Boston has dozens of theaters, including outstanding regional theaters and venues for touring Broadway shows. The Wang Center for the Performing Arts, the American Repertory Theatre and the Charles Playhouse are among the better-known theaters.

## Boston Snapshot continued

There is also a lively and varied music scene, including the world-renowned Boston Symphony Orchestra, which performs at Symphony Hall. The free performance by the Boston Pops on the Charles River Esplanade every Fourth of July is not to be missed. Both ensembles have summer performances at Tanglewood Music Center, a beautiful outdoor concert hall in the Berkshire mountains.

For mainstream music, check out the TD Banknorth Garden, the city's largest musical and sporting venue. The Paradise and Avalon are other venues for pop music concerts. In warmer months, the Hatch Memorial Shell on the Charles River Esplanade is famous for its free classical, jazz and rock concerts. Jazz clubs range from sleek hotel venues such as Scullers and the Regattabar to lively, standing-room-only favorites like Wally's Cafe and Bob's Southern Bistro. Irish music is also very popular in Boston, with live Irish sessions occurring almost nightly at the Brendan Behan Pub, The Burren and the Grand Canal, to name a few.

### Parks

Rollerbladers and runners flock to the Charles River Esplanade. The Public Garden and Boston Common fill with walkers and strollers in the spring, which is about the time that the famous Swan Boats reappear. The Commonwealth Mall, which runs parallel to Newbury and Marlborough Streets, overflows with walkers, many accompanied by their dogs. One little-known oasis is the Back Bay Fens with its gorgeous rose and community gardens. The Arnold Arboretum is a 256-acre horticultural treasure. From April to October, you can rent a sailboat on lovely Jamaica Pond. Many of these parks are part of Boston's so-called "Emerald Necklace," a series of green spaces preserved or designed by the famous landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted, who also designed New York's Central Park.

In South Boston, on historic Castle Island, you can walk around old Fort Independence and watch planes take off from nearby Logan International Airport.

### Sports

Watch the Celtics play basketball and the Bruins play hockey at the TD Banknorth Garden. You will never forget watching the storied Red Sox play baseball at historic

Fenway Park, which many fans consider the finest stadium in the country. The Boston Marathon and the Head of the Charles Rowing Regatta are two annual events that attract thousands of spectators and top athletes from all over the world.

### Nightlife

Boston has many options for the music lovers, young professionals and hipsters who enjoy the varied nightlife. A word to night owls: All establishments close promptly at 2a and the MBTA stops running at 12:45a, so be prepared to take a cab home.

Lansdowne Street, located next to Fenway Park, boasts various clubs, each with a different theme. Avalon, which is the largest, boasts an impressive list of visiting DJs and live acts. For a more polished atmosphere, consider the Leather District. Off the beaten path between South Station and Chinatown you will find numerous places catering to a cosmopolitan crowd.

### Things to Do Insights

Boston is not a city where you take a tour merely out of a sense of obligation. You may find yourself simply inspired to wander around this architectural theme park of cobblestone paths, antique brownstones and 18th century buildings. Explore quaint neighborhoods and discover quiet corners within the city.

**Freedom Trail** Visitors to Boston take a walk down Freedom Trail to explore 16 of the city's most important historical attractions and monuments. Among them are the Bunker Hill Monument, Boston Common, Granary Burying Ground and Copp's Hill Burial Ground. The West Street Grille is a welcoming place to stop for a meal at the end of the tour.

**Museum of Fine Arts** The Museum of Fine Arts opened in 1876 and is considered one of the best in the country. Behind the Museum, is a secluded park, Back Bay Fens, which is convenient for taking a stroll. Nearby Canestaro is a family-friendly Italian restaurant that is well-known for its quality. When you've finished your meal, walk over to Copley Place or the Shops at Prudential Center, two large malls that have hundreds of stores and restaurants to explore.

**Boston Common** Located in the historic neighborhood of Beacon Hill is Boston Common, the country's oldest park, which also contains a public garden and frog pond. Also in this area is the Old State House, Boston's oldest public building. Stop into the nearby Museum of Science, which contains hundreds of educational and interactive exhibits, or shop at the Faneuil Hall Marketplace, which also offers many unique dining options.

**Back Bay** Back Bay is a neighborhood filled with brownstones and tree-lined streets. The Boston Public Library can be found in this area. The nearby Fenway Park is home to the Boston Red Sox. The Brown Sugar Cafe is just a few blocks away as is the Boston University Observatory, where you can look through professional-grade telescopes and learn about the history of space.

**Franklin Park Zoo** With animals from all over the world, the Franklin Park Zoo is a popular attraction for families. The nearby Forest Hills Cemetery is filled with beautiful Gothic architecture. The Arnold Arboretum is just a few steps away, and contains hundreds of plant species. The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum contains many documents and artifacts from Kennedy's life and the Cold War era. The Fish Pier Restaurant & Market is just north of the Library.

**North End** The North End neighborhood is a largely Italian community that is filled with history. The Old North Church is the oldest religious building in Boston. Drop into Gelateria for some traditional, Italian gelato. Just up the road is Christopher Columbus Park, which features stunning views of the harbor. Lucca Restaurant & Bar is a nearby dining option where guests can enjoy some rustic Italian dishes.

Whether you travel by foot, trolley, bike or car, you are sure to bump into a museum, historic site or architectural gem at almost every turn in Boston and Cambridge. From Paul Revere's ride to John F. Kennedy's presidency, Boston has long been a place where history is made, and its popularity as a tourist destination attests to the ease with which you can explore it.

**Self-Guided Tours** Freedom Trail( +1 617 242 5642/ +1 617 242 5689/ <http://www.thefreedomtrail.org/>) Beacon Hill

## Boston Snapshot continued

Walking Tour( +1 617 523 9490/ <http://www.beaconhillonline.com/>)

**Guided Tours** Freedom Trail Players( +1 617 357 8300/ <http://www.thefreedomtrail.org/>) Boston By Foot( +1 617 367 2345/ <http://www.bostonbyfoot.org/>) Boston Duck Tours( +1 617 267 3825/ <http://www.bostonducktours.com/>) Black Heritage Trail( +1 617 742 5415/ <http://www.nps.gov/boaf/>)

**Culinary Tours** North End Market Tour( +1 617 523 6032/ <http://www.northendmarkettours.com/>) Boston Bike Tours( +1 617 308 5902/ <http://www.bostonbiketours.com/>)

**Trolley Tours** Discover Boston Multilingual Trolley Tours( +1 617 742 1440/ <http://www.discoverbostontours.com/>) Old Town Trolley Tours( +1 800 868 7482/ <http://www.historictours.com/boston/>)

**Boat Tours** Boston Harbor Cruises( +1 617 227 4321/ +1 877 733 9425/ <http://www.bostonharborcruises.com/>) The Charles Riverboat Company Tours( +1 617 621 3001/ <http://charlesriverboat.com/>)  
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## Travel Tips

### Getting There

#### Air

Logan International Airport(BOS)+1 617 568 5000/<http://www.massport.com/logan/>

BOS is located four miles(6.5 kilometers) from downtown, and services the following airlines:

Aer Lingus(+1 800 474 7424/<http://www.aerlingus.ie/>) Air Canada/Air Canada(+1 888 247 2262/<http://www.aircanada.ca/>) Air France(+1 800 237 2747/<http://www.airfrance.com/>) Air One(+1 888 935 9247/<http://www.flyairone.com/>) AirTran Airways(+1 800 247 8726/<http://www.airtran.com/>) Alaska Airlines(+1 800 252 7522/<http://www.alaskaair.com/>) Alitalia(+1 800 223 5730/<http://www.alitaliausa.com/>) American(+1 800 433 7300/<http://www.aa.com/>) American Eagle(+1 800 433 7300/<http://www.aa.com/>) British Airways(+1 800 247 9297/<http://www.british-airways.com/>) Cape Air(+1 800 352 0714/<http://www.flycapeair.com/>) Continental(+1 800 525 0280/ <http://www.continental.com/>)

Delta(+1 800 221 1212/ <http://www.delta.com/>) Finnair(+1 800 950 5000/ <http://www.finnair.com/>) Iberia(+1 800 772 4642/ <http://www.iberia.com/>) Icelandair(+1 800 223 5500/ <http://www.icelandair.com/>) JetBlue Airways(+1 800 538 2583/ <http://www.jetblue.com/>) Lufthansa(+1 800 645 3880/ <http://www.lufthansa.com/>) Midwest(+1 800 452 2022/ <http://www.midwestexpress.com/>) Northwest/ KLM(+1 800 225 2525/ <http://www.nwa.com/>) SATA(+1 800 762 9995/ <http://www.sata.pt/>) Spirit Airlines(+1 800 772 7117/<http://www.spiritair.com/>) Swiss International Airlines(+1 877 359 7947/<http://www.swiss.com/>) TACV(+1 866 359 8228/ [www.caboverde.com/](http://www.caboverde.com/)) United Airlines(+1 800 241 6522/<http://www.ual.com/>) US Airways(+1 800 428 4322/<http://www.usairways.com/>) Virgin Atlantic Airways(+1 800 862 8621/<http://www.virginatlantic.com/>)

### From the Airport

Public Transit: Ground transportation options abound starting with the wonderfully efficient Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority(+1 800 392 6100/<http://www.mbta.com/>) train system. Locally known as "the T," it operates daily from 5:30a-12:30a, exiting the airport about every ten minutes. Fares start at\$1. For added convenience free Massport shuttles scoot passengers between the terminals and trains.

Taxi: A fleet of taxis can be found outside every terminal. Depending on traffic rides to downtown last 15-20 minutes. Taxis charge a flat rate for all destinations exceeding a 12-mile downtown radius. Should you be traveling beyond 12 miles be sure to agree to an exact rate before entering the cab. The Boston Police Department posts a list of flat rates at:[http://www.massport.com/logan/getti\\_typeo\\_taxis.html#ratechart](http://www.massport.com/logan/getti_typeo_taxis.html#ratechart). If you opt to rent a car be advised that downtown is not conducive for driving, especially if unfamiliar with Boston's maze of narrow one-way streets.

Shuttle: For a shuttle bus/van, call the reputed Back Bay Coach(+1 617 746 9909) which provides a shared van service to most downtown hotels.

Free bus service from the airport terminals to the Logan Boat Dock on the south side, makes the water shuttle service efficient and conveniently quick. Boats exit at

regular intervals for a seven-minute ride to Rowes Wharf.

### Train

South Station on Atlantic Avenue, Back Bay Station on Dartmouth Street, and North Station on Causeway Street make train travel into Boston extremely convenient. All three stations are linked to the MBTA subway allowing for easy downtown access. Amtrak(<http://www.amtrak.com/>) is the chief carrier. The Acela Express links with Washington DC, the Lake Shore Limited with New York City, and the Downeaster with Portland, Maine.

### Bus

The main bus terminal is located on Atlantic Avenue, adjacent to the train station. Passengers can then access downtown via MBTA's Red Line subway. Greyhound( <http://www.greyhound.com/>), Bonanza(<http://www.bonanzabus.com/>) and Concord Trailways(<http://www.concordtrailways.com/>) all service Boston.

### Highway

I-90, or as locals call it the "Mass Pike," a state-long toll road, funnels traffic in from all points west. I-93, downtown's main artery, runs north/south. I-93 north combines with US-1 making it the main thoroughfare for traffic approaching from Canada, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. I-93 south joins with Route 3, connecting Boston with Cape Cod. I-95 south connects Boston with Providence and the Connecticut Shoreline.

### Getting Around

#### The T

The MBTA's(+1 617 222 3200/<http://www.mbta.com/>) bus system services all of downtown and beyond. Most are wheelchair accessible. Family passes are available. Boston's subway system(+1 617 222 3200/<http://www.mbta.com/>), the oldest in the nation, rates as the fastest way to scoot around. The color-coded lines are easy to decipher. The Red Line slices through downtown in a northwest/southeast direction servicing Harvard Square, MIT and South Station. The Green Line wanders in a west/east direction accessing the Boston Common, Copley Square and Fenway Park. The Blue Line juts in a northeast/southwest direction stopping at Logan Airport, Suffolk Downs

## Boston Snapshot continued

and the New England Aquarium. And the Orange Line drifts in a north/south direction depositing passengers at such noted stops as North Station, the Fleet Center and Chinatown.

### Taxi

Taxis are readily accessible, yet expensive when compared with other forms of public transportation. Cab stands can be found at most major hotels and at busy visitor points such as Faneuil Hall, South Station and Harvard Square. Metro Cab(+1 617 787 5438) and Town Taxi(+1 617 536 5000) are two of Boston's bigger cab companies.

### Car Rental

Another attractive ground transportation option is Zipcar, which operates in certain cities in Canada and the U.S. This new breed of rental car allows you to rent on an hourly basis rather than a daily basis. Be sure to register online before your trip. Zipcar(+1 866 404 7227/ <http://www.zipcar.com>)

### Ferry

The inner harbor ferries offer a refreshing alternative for city commuters. Long Wharf(New England Aquarium), Lovejoy

Wharf(North Station), Rowes Wharf(Boston Harbor Hotel), Courthouse, and World Trade Center Boston are the main drop-off and pick-up points.

### Bicycle

Bicycling is not recommended for downtown Boston. There are no bike lanes and drivers tend to scoff at the idea of sharing the road. Cambridge, however, is very bike friendly.

### Walking

Walking is Boston's best mode of travel. The downtown area is inordinately compact making it possible for one to walk from North End to Back Bay in less than half a day.

**Traffic Information** For up-to-date traffic information, go to:<http://www.smarttraveler.com/scripts/bosmap.asp?city=bos&cityname=Boston/>  
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### Fun Facts

**Boston State:** Massachusetts **Country:** United States

### Boston by the Numbers:

Population: 600,000(city); 3,200,000(metropolitan) Land Area: 48 sq mi/ 124 sq km Elevation: 10 ft/ 3 m Average Annual Rainfall: 17 in/ 420 mm Average Annual Snowfall: 41 in/ 1040 mm Average January Temperature: 36°F/ 2°C Average July Temperature: 82°F/ 28°C

**Quick Facts:** Major Industries: Tourism, Education, Government, Publishing and Printing Electricity: 110 volts AC Time Zone: GMT-5(GMT-4 daylight saving time); Eastern Standard Time(EST) Country Dialing Code: 1 Area Codes: 617& 857

### Did You Know?

Boston is home to the nation's first public park(The Boston Commons 1640), the first public library(1653) and the first subway(1897).

On January 15, 1919 the Great Molasses Flood occurred in the North End of Boston- a tank burst at the Purity Distilling Company, dumping over 2 million gallons of molasses into the streets and killing 21 people. Some say that on hot days, the streets have the faint odor of molasses.  
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