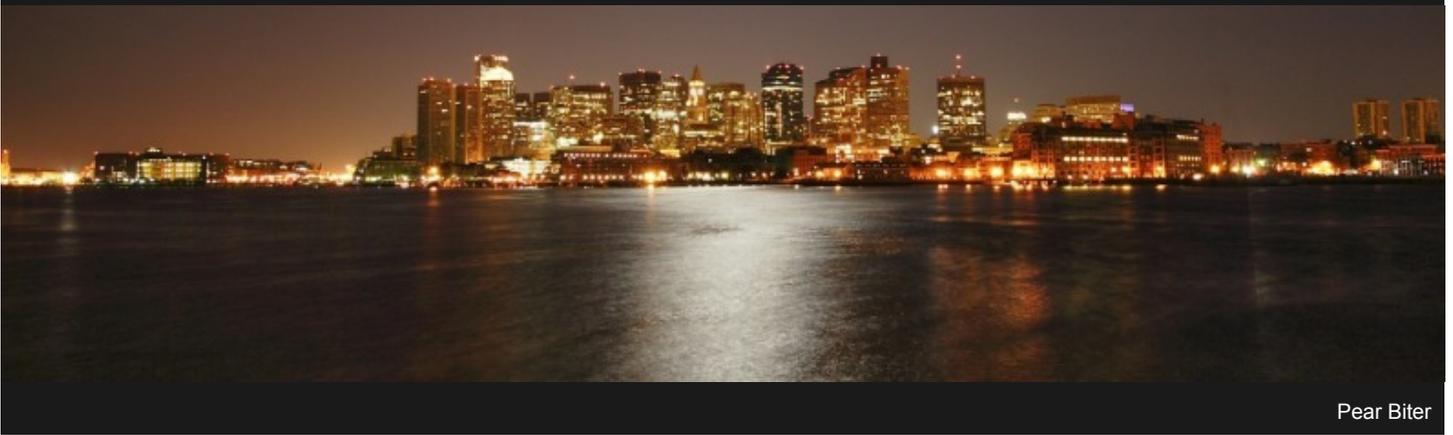




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ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



Pear Biter

Seafood Trip

Boston, 2 Days

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Eat at all the best seafood restaurants, because Boston does seafood best. Enjoy the Boston Harbor, the aquarium, learn about the fish and then eat them!

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Boston

DAY NOTE: Boston Duck Tours take you around the city and out onto the Charles. Next, have a pitcher of beer and fried sea food at the Barking Crab. The Harpoon Brewery is nearby, so go on a tour and try the IPA. Have dinner at Anthony's Pier 4 and end the night at the Sail Loft where you can stand out on the deck next to the water.



Boston Duck Tours

Multi-terrain touring vehicles



Barking Crab

Waterfront Crab Shack



Harpoon Brewery

Tour and taste



Anthony's Pier 4

Seafood with a view



Boston Sail Loft Restaurant

Waterfront seafood and cocktails



Boston Marriott Long Wharf

Overlooking the Harbor



The Boston Harbor Association

A walk along the harbor



New England Aquarium

Amazing undersea world



Neptune Oyster

Nice Catch



Union Oyster House

Daniel Webster Ate Here

Day 2 - Boston

DAY NOTE: The Whale Watch starts early in the morning, and gets you closer to the fish you'll eat later at Legal Sea Foods. After lunch, work off your meal by walking along the new harbor walk to enjoy the ocean from land. Next stop is the New England Aquarium (don't feed the penguins!) and then watch an IMAX movie next door. Get a plate of oysters at Neptune Oyster for an appetizer (try one of each kind and wash it down with champagne) then for dinner, eat at the historic Union Oyster House.



New England Aquarium Whale Watches

Watch whales with the experts



Legal Sea Foods

Lots of chowder

Day 1 - Boston

QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Boston Duck Tours take you around the city and out onto the Charles. Next, have a pitcher of beer and fried sea food at the Barking Crab. The Harpoon Brewery is nearby, so go on a tour and try the IPA. Have dinner at Anthony's Pier 4 and end the night at the Sail Loft where you can stand out on the deck next to the water.

contact:

tel: +1 617 267 3825
fax: +1 617 450 0065
<http://www.bostonducktours.com/>

location:

3 Copley Place, Suite 310
(Office)
Boston MA 02116

1 Boston Duck Tours

DESCRIPTION: A fleet of Ducks, brightly colored, vintage World War II amphibious vehicles provide 80-minute, narrated, half-land, half-water tours of Boston. Do not be alarmed when your Duck abandons its wheels and lowers itself onto the Charles River! Tours depart on the half-hour and cover many of Boston's downtown tourist attractions. Keep in mind: Tour guides encourage quacking! Tickets, which may be purchased two days in advance, often sell out quickly, especially on summer weekends. © wcities.com



contact:

tel: 617/426-2722
fax: +1 617 350 5062
<http://www.barkingcrab.com>

location:

88 Sleeper St
Boston MA 2110

hours:

Sun-Wed 11:30am-11pm,
Thurs-Sat 11am-1am

2 Barking Crab

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Close to the Financial District, after work crowds flock to this hot spot, especially during summer months. Be prepared to wait a while for a table, especially outside.

DESCRIPTION: The Barking Crab sits along the edge of Boston Harbor; serves up seafood semi- al fresco in the warmer months and gives diners a clam shack style atmosphere in the heart of Boston. Super casual, and frequented by locals looking to dine or just drink outside The Barking Crab is a popular joint. The meals served here are basic, mostly seafood focused, and prices a bit on the high side (\$29 for a naked lobster roll), but the atmosphere is not to be missed. If summer finds the Barking Crab too crowded for you to get through the door, no worries, it is open all year, and the indoor area is quite charming, even fitted with a cozy fireplace. -Jessica Polizzotti 88 Sleeper St., tel. 617-426-CRAB
www.barkingcrab.com
© NileGuide



seafood

contact:

tel: +1 888 427 7666
fax: +1 617 482 9361
<http://www.harpoonbrewery.com/>

3 Harpoon Brewery

DESCRIPTION: Take a tour of the Harpoon Brewery or enjoy one of their HarpoonFests (2 held in the spring and then again as an Octoberfest). That is if you can find it. All but hidden along

location:
306 Northern Ave
Boston MA 02210

the South Boston waterfront, past the many happening spots along the way, you'll find this Boston original where good beer and good friends can come together. Tours and tastings happen daily.
-Jessica Polizzotti, Boston Local Expert
306 Northern Ave., tel. 888-427-7666
/
© NileGuide

contact:
tel: 1 617 482 6262
fax: +1 617 426 2324
http://www.pier4.com/anthony_s.cfm

location:
140 Northern Avenue
Boston MA 02210

hours:
Lunch: Monday - Friday:
11:30am - 3:00pm, Saturday:
12:00pm - 3:00pm; Dinner:
Monday - Thursday: 3:00pm -
10:00pm, Friday & Saturday:
3:00pm - 11:00pm, Sunday:
12:00pm - 10:00pm

4 Anthony's Pier 4

DESCRIPTION: The interior of this restaurant is as dated as the photos of proprietor Anthony Athanas with celebrities like Bob Hope and Dom DeLouise that hang on the walls. But there is no better place in Boston to enjoy fresh seafood in the summertime than on Anthony's patio, which has a view of Boston's inner harbor and skyline. If you like shellfish, order the clambake special, which gives you shrimp, steamed clams, mussels and lobster. This restaurant also prides itself on its steaks and wine list. © wcities.com



citysearch

contact:
tel: 617 227 7280
fax: 617 723 3467

location:
80 Atlantic Avenue
Boston MA 02110-3614

hours:
M-W 11:30a-11p, Th-Sa
11:30a-1a, Su 11a-10p

5 Boston Sail Loft Restaurant

DESCRIPTION: Locals often forget that the Sail Loft is not just a dive bar on the water in Boston's North End, but also a full service seafood restaurant. Diners are often seated while bar patrons enjoy a cocktail, and on a warm evening crowd onto the small deck that hovers over Boston Harbor. Small and loud, the Sail Loft can see lines of many waiting outside, especially on a warm weekend night. Well worth a stop, even if just to do like a local and enjoy a drink.

-Jessica Polizzotti, Boston Local Expert
80 Atlantic Avenue, tel. 617-227-7280
© NileGuide



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contact:
tel: 800/228-9290
fax: 617/227-2867
www.marriottlongwharf.com

location:
296 State St
Boston MA 02109

6 Boston Marriott Long Wharf

DESCRIPTION: The landmark Marriott occupies an unbeatable location a stone's throw from the New England Aquarium. It attracts business travelers with its proximity to the Financial District and families with its pool and easy access to downtown and waterfront attractions. The hotel's terraced brick exterior encloses a seven-story atrium that gives the public spaces an airy feel. Rooms, which were renovated in 2008, are large



Boston Marriott Long Wharf

and decorated in upscale-chain-hotel style. They have cherry furnishings, either one king-size or two double beds (with pillow-top mattresses and down comforters), and a table and chairs in front of the window. Without any neighbors in the way, the building gets more natural light than any other downtown hotel. Rooms close to the water afford good views of the wharves and the waterfront; units closer to Atlantic Avenue overlook the Rose Kennedy Greenway. **Facilities:** Restaurant (seafood); cafe and lounge; bar and grill; indoor pool; exercise room; Jacuzzi; game room; concierge; tour desk; 24-hr. business center; room service until 2am; laundry service; same-day dry cleaning; executive-level rooms; rooms for those w/limited mobility. © Frommer's

Day 2 - Boston

QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: The Whale Watch starts early in the morning, and gets you closer to the fish you'll eat later at Legal Sea Foods. After lunch, work off your meal by walking along the new harbor walk to enjoy the ocean from land. Next stop is the New England Aquarium (don't feed the penguins!) and then watch an IMAX movie next door. Get a plate of oysters at Neptune Oyster for an appetizer (try one of each kind and wash it down with champagne) then for dinner, eat at the historic Union Oyster House.

contact:
tel: +1 617 973 5200
<http://www.neaq.org/visit/wwa>
tch/

location:
New England Aquarium
Boston MA 02110

hours:
Apr-Oct: 10a onwards

1 New England Aquarium Whale Watches

DESCRIPTION: There are other boat companies offering whale watches departing from Boston Harbor, but this one by the New England Aquarium is the only one run by an organization dedicated to preserving whales and the waters where they live. Trips last 3.5 to 5 hours. If no whales are sighted on your trip, you receive a voucher for a return free trip. All boats have a galley, souvenir store and interactive exhibits about whales. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:
tel: 1 617 426 4444
fax: 1 617 338 7629
<http://www.legalseafoods.com/>

location:
26 Park Plaza
Boston MA 02116

hours:
Monday - Thursday 11:30am - 11pm
Friday & Saturday 11:30am - 12am
Sunday 12n - 11pm

2 Legal Sea Foods

DESCRIPTION: This establishment is synonymous with good seafood in Boston and now offers several locations along the east coast. Boasting a traditional clam chowder that has been served at five presidential inaugurations, the restaurant also offers a "light" chowder for diet-conscious diners. Steamed lobster dinners are always a good choice. A selection of 30 fresh fish varieties is offered daily, served baked, broiled, steamed or fried. Raw shellfish, salads and vegetables are also available. Legal Sea Foods has a mail-order service, function space and catering. The restaurant has a full service bar. Other locations include the Prudential Center, Long Wharf, Copley Place, and Legal's Test Kitchen. © wcities.com



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contact:
tel: + 1 617 482 1722 (The Boston Harbor Association)
fax: +1 617 482 9750 (The Boston Harbor Association)
<http://www.tbha.org/>

location:
374 Congress Street Suite 307
Boston MA 02110

hours:
24 hrs

3 The Boston Harbor Association

DESCRIPTION: Boston Harbor is a beautiful retreat from the city in any season. It is also the departure point for ferries to Cape Cod and the South Shore, whale watches and moonlit cruises. The history of the harbor has not been forgotten; the Boston Tea Party took place here and is recreated annually. The New England Aquarium is located on the water's edge. As you walk by, peek at the large tank to the left of the entrance—sometimes there are harbor seals living in it. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:
tel: +1 617 973 5200
<http://www.neaq.org/>

location:
1 Central Wharf
Boston MA 02110

hours:
July-Labor Day Mon-Thurs
9am-6pm, Fri-Sun and
holidays 9am-7pm; day
after Labor Day-June Mon-
Fri 9am-5pm, Sat-Sun and
holidays 9am-6pm. IMAX:
Thurs-Sat 10am-8pm; Sun-
Mon 10am-6pm

4 New England Aquarium

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

The New England Aquarium is open while being renovated (summer 2012-spring 2013). Although open, many exhibits have been displaced and a visit may want to be withheld until complete.

DESCRIPTION: The adventure begins before you step foot through the door. Watch the Harbor Seals swirl around in the outdoor tank while you wait for tickets, or linger when you finish and recount your time inside. A four-story tank spans the center of this aquatic marvel; filled with marine life this is a sight to be seen. Catch a show in the glass enclosed classroom, plunge your hands into the touch tank or pop by the children's room with your little ones. Whale Watch cruises are available seasonally and are a special way to enhance your day.

-Jessica Polizzotti, Boston Local Expert
1 Central Wharf, tel. 617-973-5200

/
© NileGuide



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contact:
tel: 617/742-3474
<http://www.neptuneoyster.com>

location:
63 Salem St
Boston MA 2113

hours:
Sun-Wed 11:30am-10pm;
Thurs-Sat 11:30am-midnight

5 Neptune Oyster

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Neptune Oyster has no bar for you to linger. No worries, they are happy to call your cell when your table is ready so you'll be able to wander the North End until that time.

DESCRIPTION: The best seafood in Boston can be found at Neptune Oyster. Neptune classics like their overstuffed Lobster Roll served hot with butter maintains the succulent tenderness of the meat while the clam chowder, thinner than most, gets a boost of flavor from a fresh herb (possibly chevril) that gives it an extra special kick. The raw bar is stocked with a fair share of east and west coast oysters, littlenecks, cherrystones, and razor clams as well as cooked cocktail favorites. The no reservations policy of this very cozy space make it imperative that you arrive early or are happy to wait-elsewhere.

-Jessica Polizzotti 63 Salem St., tel. 617-742-3474
www.neptuneoyster.com

© NileGuide



Neptune Oyster

contact:

tel: 617/227-2750

<http://www.unionoysterhouse.com>

location:

41 Union St
Boston MA 02108

hours:

Sun-Thurs 11am-9:30pm
(lunch menu until 5pm); Fri-Sat 11am-10pm (lunch until 6pm). Union Bar daily 11am-midnight (lunch until 3pm, late supper until 11pm)

6 Union Oyster House

DESCRIPTION: Union Oyster House is a taste of Boston history. Opened in 1826, and holding the title of America's oldest restaurant, Union Oyster House still offers one mean oyster bar. Just outside Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Union Oyster House is the perfect place to start your tour. Sit at the first floor raw bar to devour your oysters, or step into the past and explore the rest of the place. Cozy booths line this relic and the smaller scale helps transport diners to a time when things were not so "big". -Jessica Polizzotti, Boston Local Expert 41 Union St., tel. 617-227-2750 www.unionoysterhouse.com
© NileGuide



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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 Zaftigs 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!

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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 Rowes 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 Caffe 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.

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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/) 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. 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/> ©

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. ©