

Insider's Guide to **Boston**

COURTESY OF THE ASA BOSTON CHAPTER



Welcome

Boston was originally named Trimountaine for its three prominent hills, two of which disappeared as it grew. Beacon Hill, although reduced in size in the early 1800s, remains with the Commonwealth's capital building on land originally owned by John Hancock and a 23k gold gilded dome. Beacon Hill is also a historic neighborhood of federal-style row houses. Hence, Boston has been referred to as "The City on the Hill."

Boston's second and current name came from Boston, Lincolnshire, England, the British ancestral home of several influential Puritan settlers. In 1822, the town of Boston, which had recently annexed the neighboring town of South Boston, became a city with a population of 45,000. Between 1836 and 1912, the footprint of the city increased by municipal annexation of nine additional towns and land reclamation from the Charles River and Boston Harbor. Still, compared to other major US cities, the size of Boston is quite small. Due to Boston's compact and high-density nature, it is often called "America's Walking City."



Student Guide to Boston

The Boston University Student Chapter of the American Statistical Association polled graduate students about their favorite Boston cafés, bakeries, restaurants, bars, and activities. They hope these suggestions help you explore what Boston has to offer!

CAFES AND BAKERIES

For cafés close to the convention center, students recommend Tatte and Flour Bakery, both Boston staples. If you are exploring outside of the Seaport, students suggest going to Mike's Pastry for its famous cannoli and lobster tails, visiting South End Buttery while exploring the surrounding neighborhood, or stopping by Clear Flour Bread in Brookline for quality bread and pastries.

BUDGET-FRIENDLY MEALS

Close to the Seaport and downtown areas, Greco and Lanner Noodles are convenient Seaport options, while Tora Japanese Restaurant and Yunnan Kitchen are good choices around Chinatown. El Jefe's Taqueria is a student-friendly staple with locations near Boston Common and Boston University. Other budget-friendly recommendations include Parish Cafe, Anchovies, Saloniki, and Kaju Tofu House.

BARS, PUBS, AND BREWERIES

For cocktail and wine bars, students recommend Hecate, Wusong Road Tiki Bar, Parla, hale.y.henry, and Carrie Nation. For a taste of Boston's rich Irish heritage, pub-style choices include Clery's, JJ Foley's, Emmets, and Hopewell Tavern. Students also enjoy Trillium (in the Seaport) and Night Shift for breweries.

DINNER RECOMMENDATIONS

Lolita, Bar Volpe, and Moonshine 152 are great choices in the Seaport and South Boston for participants who do not want to go too far from the conference area. Moving toward downtown and Chinatown, students enjoy Ruka and Qiao Lin Hotpot. In the South End, students suggest SRV, Toro, and Baleia, which may be good fits for a nicer dinner or smaller group outing. For Italian food, students highly recommend going to the iconic North End, specifically Carmelina's, Bacco, and Trattoria Il Panino. Lastly, for those willing to go outside the city, students enjoy Pammy's in Cambridge or Sarma in Somerville for a special-occasion meal.

Please note that Boston dinner reservations tend to fill up quickly, so we recommend making reservations in advance.

ACTIVITIES AND LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

Students recommend doing classic Boston activities such as walking the Freedom Trail, strolling through Boston Common and the Public Garden, and walking along the Charles River Esplanade. Other activities include going to a Red Sox game at Fenway Park, visiting Faneuil Hall, trying different North End bakeries, and going on a Duck Boat Tour. Favorite museums include the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts, and the Institute of Contemporary Art.

Places to Eat at a Glance

Seaport & Fort Point

< 1 mile

2-15-minute walk

Best for quick bites and waterfront and group dining



Chinatown

~1.6 miles

5-10 minutes by the Silver Line

Best for Pan-Asian cuisine and value dining



South End

1.5-2.5 miles

10-15 minutes by taxi

Best for fine dining, wine bars, and diverse cuisines



North End

~3 miles

15-20 minutes by taxi

Best for Italian classics, seafood, and pizza



Places to Eat **Seaport & Fort Port**

COCORICO

A charming neighborhood café serving specialty coffee and light bites—a perfect pre-conference fuel stop.

\$10-20

~5-minute walk

FLOUR BAKERY + CAFE

James Beard Award-nominated baker Joanne Chang's beloved spot—legendary sandwiches, pastries, and coffee. **\$10-20**

~8-minute walk

MADRAS DOSA COMPANY

Authentic South Indian dosas, uttapam, and street food in the heart of the Seaport—great for a quick, satisfying lunch. **\$10-20**

~10-minute walk

THE SMOKE SHOP BBQ

Andy Husbands' award-winning BBQ joint bringing Texas-style brisket and ribs to the Seaport—casual, satisfying, and crowd-pleasing. **\$20-30**

~10-minute walk

JOE'S WATERFRONT

Lively waterfront bar and grill with harbor views, solid pub fare, and an easy-going vibe—perfect for a post-session beer. **\$20-30**

~12-minute walk

BARTACO - SEAPORT

Breezy taqueria with top-tier street tacos, frozen drinks, and a fun communal atmosphere—ideal for a casual group dinner. **\$20-35**

~10-minute walk



COMMITTEE

Vibrant Mediterranean mezze bar with a sweeping outdoor patio, excellent cocktails, and shareable plates. **\$30-50**

~12-minute walk

75 ON LIBERTY WHARF

Popular multi-level bar and restaurant on the waterfront with classic American fare, burgers, and great harbor views. **\$30-50**

~15-minute walk

ROW 34 - SEAPORT

Craft beer-focused oyster bar and seafood restaurant from the Island Creek Oysters team — one of Boston's best for fresh shellfish. **\$30-50**

~10-minute walk

Places to Eat **Seaport & Fort Port**

SERAFINA SEAPORT

Upscale Italian trattoria with housemade pastas, wood-fired pizzas, and a beautiful setting great for business or leisure. **\$30-50**
~10-minute walk

LEGAL SEA FOODS - HARBORSIDE

The Boston seafood institution—dependable chowder, fresh catch, and a prime waterfront perch that's a rite of passage for visitors. **\$30-50**
~12-minute walk

MOXIES BOSTON SEAPORT

Polished American bistro with a seafood-forward menu and sophisticated atmosphere. Great for a team dinner or client lunch. **\$50-100**
~10-minute walk

LOLITA FORT POINT

Chic Mexican restaurant with bold cocktails, creative tacos, and an energetic atmosphere—a fun choice for an evening out. **\$50-80**
~8-minute walk

SAVR

Sleek, modern American dining in the Seaport with a thoughtfully curated menu. Verify current hours before visiting. **\$50-100**
~10-minute walk

ALMA GAUCHA

Upscale Brazilian churrascaria with tableside carved meats, an expansive salad bar, and a festive, celebratory atmosphere. **\$50-100**
~12-minute walk



Places to Eat

Chinatown

HEI LA MOON

One of Boston's best dim sum destinations—cavernous, bustling, and serving a superb selection of dumplings and buns. **\$15-25**
~5 minutes by taxi

PHO PASTEUR

A Boston Chinatown classic — reliable, affordable Vietnamese pho, banh mi, and vermicelli bowls that hit the spot any time of day. **\$15-25**
~5 minutes by taxi

TAIWAN CAFE

No-frills Taiwanese comfort food—scallion pancakes, three-cup chicken, and braised pork rice at very wallet-friendly prices. **\$15-25**
~5 minutes by taxi

D'GURU

Casual Indian restaurant in Chinatown serving a wide range of curries, biryanis, and breads at accessible prices. **\$10-20**
~5 minutes by taxi

FUCHUN JU

Refined Jiangnan-style cooking with delicate flavors—a standout for those craving authentic regional Chinese beyond the usual. **\$15-30**
~5 minutes by taxi

PEACH FARM

Late-night Cantonese seafood specialist beloved for live lobster, whole fish, and traditional Hong Kong-style dishes. **\$20-30**
~5 minutes by taxi

HAPPY LAMB HOT POT

Convivial hot pot restaurant with rich broths, quality meats, and every dipping sauce you could want—ideal for group dinners. **\$20-35**
~5 minutes by taxi

PENANG MALAYSIAN CUISINE

A Chinatown fixture for authentic Malaysian favorites—laksa, char kway teow, and roti canai in a casual, no-fuss setting. **\$20-30**
~5 minutes by taxi



Places to Eat

South End

BALEIA

Beautifully appointed South End restaurant celebrating the breadth of Portuguese cuisine—seafood, wine, and genuine hospitality. **\$60-70**
~10 minutes by taxi

BAR MEZZANA

Coastal Italian spot beloved for its crudo bar, handmade pastas, and natural wine list—ideal for an elegant dinner. **\$unknown**
~10 minutes by taxi

MYERS + CHANG

Joanne Chang's Asian-American spot with dumplings, noodles, and wok dishes inspired by Chinese, Thai, and Vietnamese flavors. **\$unknown**
~10 minutes by taxi

KAIA

Modern Greek taverna bringing the Aegean to the South End with mezedes, grilled fish, and an impressive Greek wine list. **\$unknown**
~10 minutes by taxi

OMAKASE

Intimate omakase counter offering a refined multi-course Japanese tasting menu. Reservations essential. **\$unknown**
~10 minutes by taxi

PETIT ROBERT BISTRO

Charming Parisian-style bistro with classic French fare—steak frites, croque monsieur, and excellent prix fixe options. **\$unknown**
~10 minutes by taxi



MANA ESCONDIDO CAFE

A joyful South End spot celebrating Puerto Rican cuisine with mofongo, pernil, tostones, and tropical flavors. **\$unknown**
~10 minutes by taxi

SRV

Intimate Venetian-style wine bar—exceptional cichetti (small bites), excellent natural wines, and a buzzy neighborhood vibe. **\$unknown**
~12 minutes by taxi

THE BANKS FISH HOUSE

Upscale surf-and-turf restaurant in the South End, pairing premium steaks with New England seafood in a refined setting. **\$unknown**
~12 minutes by taxi

BOSTON SAIL LOFT

A beloved waterfront classic with honest New England seafood—chowder, fried clams, and lobster rolls in a casual setting. **\$unknown**
~15 minutes by taxi

Places to Eat

North End



NEPTUNE OYSTER

Tiny, legendary oyster bar in the North End—expect a wait, but the raw bar and hot lobster roll are worth every minute.

\$unknown

~20 minutes by taxi

REGINA PIZZERIA

A Boston institution since 1926—thin-crust, brick-oven pizza that has fueled the North End for a century. Order the original. **\$unknown**

~20 minutes by taxi

MAMMA MARIA

Elegant North End Italian with panoramic views of the historic square—Northern Italian cuisine executed with elegance and care. **\$unknown**

~20 minutes by taxi

LUCIA RISTORANTE

Sophisticated North End Italian with a refined menu of housemade pastas and seasonal secondi in a warm, intimate space. **\$unknown**

~20 minutes by taxi

GIACOMO'S

A famously cash-only North End joint with enormous portions of Italian-American classics—always a line, always worth it. **\$unknown; cash only**

~20 minutes by taxi

LA FAMIGLIA GIORGIO'S

Family-style Italian with legendary portion sizes—perfect for a group looking for a festive, sharing-friendly night out. **\$unknown**

~20 minutes by taxi

RINO'S PLACE

A neighborhood legend in East Boston serving old-school Italian-American with soul. BYOB and cash only, reservations recommended. **\$unknown**

~20-25 minutes by taxi

Practical Tips for Visitors

Getting Around the City

Boston is one of America's most walkable cities—the downtown core, Beacon Hill, Back Bay, and the Waterfront are all connected on foot. The subway (the "T") is the most efficient way to reach Cambridge, the Fenway, and Charlestown. The Red Line connects South Station (near the convention center via Silver Line) to Cambridge. A CharlieCard offers a lower fare than a paper ticket and can be loaded at any T station. Ride-share and bike-share (Bluebikes) are widely available. Driving and parking in central Boston is not recommended.

Getting from the Convention Center to the City

The convention center is in the Seaport District. The fastest route into downtown is the MBTA Silver Line SL1/SL2 from World Trade Center Station (a 5-minute walk), which runs to South Station in about 10 minutes. From South Station, the Red Line connects to Cambridge, and multiple lines fan out across the city. A water taxi from Fan Pier (Seaport) to Long Wharf (Downtown) is a scenic alternative in season.

Buying Museum Tickets

Boston's major museums—the MFA, Gardner, Harvard Art Museums, MIT Museum, Museum of Science, New England Aquarium, and JFK Library—all benefit from advance online booking, particularly on weekends and during school vacation weeks. Many offer free admission one day per week or on certain evenings. The Boston CityPASS and Go Boston Card bundle multiple attractions at a discount and may be worthwhile for visitors planning to visit four or more paid attractions.



Places to Go at a Glance

Downtown Boston and the Freedom Trail

Colonial History / Landmarks / Within Walking
Distance of BCEC



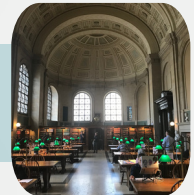
Beacon Hill and Boston Common

Green Spaces / Historic Neighborhood / Public
Garden



Back Bay and Copley Square

Victorian Architecture / Skyline Views / Newbury
Street



Fenway and the Museum Mile

World-Class Art / Baseball / The Emerald Necklace



Cambridge - Harvard and MIT

World-Renowned Universities / Art / Science /
Natural History



Waterfront and Charlestown

Naval History / Presidential Library / Harbor Views



Experiences and Special Tours

Aquarium / Science / Duck Tours / Family-Friendly



Places to Go **Downtown Boston & the Freedom Trail**

THE FREEDOM TRAIL

A 2.5-mile self-guided walking trail marked by a red brick line connecting 16 significant colonial and revolutionary-era landmarks.

Location/Getting There: Begins at Boston Common Visitor Center; fully walkable from downtown hotels and the convention center via the Silver Line to Downtown Crossing

Tip: The full trail takes 2–3 hours. Free to walk independently; guided tours available from the Freedom Trail Foundation. Download the free app for audio commentary.

OLD STATE HOUSE

Built in 1713, the Old State House is the oldest surviving public building in Boston—the site where the Declaration of Independence was first read to Bostonians in 1776 and where the Boston Massacre occurred just outside its doors.

Location/Getting There: 206 Washington St., Downtown Boston; State Street T stop (Blue & Orange Lines)

Tip: One of the Freedom Trail's most rewarding stops—the museum inside is compact but excellent.

FANEUIL HALL & QUINCY MARKET

Faneuil Hall has been a Boston meeting place and marketplace since 1743, earning the nickname “The Cradle of Liberty.” The adjacent Quincy Market complex offers dozens of food vendors and shops.

Location / Getting There: 1 Faneuil Hall Square, Downtown Boston; Haymarket or Government Center T stops (Green & Blue Lines)

Tip: Faneuil Hall's Great Hall is free to enter. The marketplace is an easy lunch stop—the clam chowder bread bowls are a Boston staple.



Places to Go **Beacon Hill & Boston Common**



BOSTON COMMON

America's oldest public park (est. 1634), serving for centuries as a gathering place, military muster ground, and open-air stage—today a beloved urban green in the heart of the city.

Location / Getting There: Tremont St. & Park St., downtown Boston; Park Street T stop (Green & Red Lines)

Tip: Free and open year-round. The Frog Pond is a popular wading pool in summer. A good starting point for the Freedom Trail.

BOSTON PUBLIC GARDEN

The first public botanical garden in the United States (est. 1837), famous for its flower beds, weeping willows, Make Way for Ducklings statues, and Swan Boats.

Location / Getting There: Adjacent to Boston Common; Arlington T stop (Green Line)

Tip: Swan Boats operate April–September. Free to enter.

BEACON HILL

One of Boston's most picturesque neighborhoods, with Federal-style brick rowhouses, gas-lit lanterns, Acorn Street (one of the most photographed streets in America), and the gold-domed Massachusetts State House at its crest.

Location / Getting There: North slope and south slope of Beacon Hill; Park Street or Charles/MGH T stops (Red & Green Lines)

Tip: Best explored on foot. Wander up Mt. Vernon St. and along Acorn St. in the morning before crowds arrive. Charles St. is lined with antique shops and cafes.

Places to Go Back Bay & Copley Square

COPLEY SQUARE

Boston's most architecturally distinguished public square, surrounded by Trinity Church (H.H. Richardson, 1877), the Boston Public Library (McKim, Mead, & White, 1895), and the John Hancock Tower—a perfect tableau of Victorian and modernist Boston.

Location / Getting There: Dartmouth St. & Boylston St., Back Bay; Copley T stop (Green Line)

Tip: Free to visit and photograph. Trinity Church offers interior tours (verify hours and fees). The Boston Marathon finish line is on nearby Boylston St.

PRUDENTIAL TOWER'S SKYWALK OBSERVATORY

A glass-enclosed 360° observation deck on the 50th floor of the Prudential Tower, offering the only unobstructed panoramic view of Boston and surrounding New England from above.

Location / Getting There: 800 Boylston St., Back Bay; Prudential T stop (Green Line – E Branch)

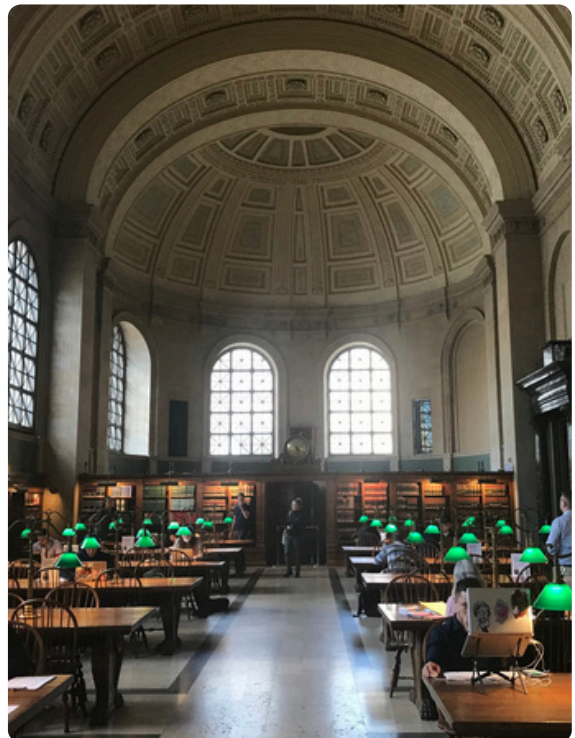
Tip: Best visited on a clear day—visibility can reach 100+ miles. Evening visits offer a dramatic city skyline. Book tickets online to avoid queues. (Verify current admission before visiting.)

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

A magnificent McKim, Mead, & White Beaux-Arts building (1895) housing a world-class research collection, spectacular murals by John Singer Sargent, a tranquil interior courtyard, and rotating art exhibitions—all free to enter.

Location / Getting There: 700 Boylston St., Back Bay; Copley T stop (Green Line)

Tip: Free admission. Don't miss Sargent's 'Triumph of Religion' mural cycle on the third floor. The courtyard cafe is an excellent lunch spot.



Places to Go

Fenway & the Museum Mile

FENWAY PARK

Home of the Boston Red Sox since 1912 and the oldest Major League Baseball park in America, an intimate, quirky, and utterly beloved stadium where the Green Monster left-field wall is as famous as any player.

Location / Getting There: 4 Jersey St., Fenway; Kenmore T stop (Green Line B/C/D)

Tip: Behind-the-scenes ballpark tours run year-round (not on game days – check schedule online). Attending a game is highly recommended; buy tickets early for popular match-ups.



MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

One of the largest and most comprehensive art museums in the United States, with exceptional collections spanning ancient Egypt, Impressionism, American art, Asian art, and contemporary works across more than 450,000 objects.

Location / Getting There: 465 Huntington Ave., Fenway; Museum of Fine Arts T stop (Green Line – E Branch)

Tip: Allow at least 3–4 hours—the scale is vast. Wednesday evenings after 4 p.m. are pay-what-you-wish. The museum restaurant and cafe are excellent.

ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM

A uniquely personal museum built around the eclectic collection of Boston socialite Isabella Stewart Gardner, housed in a Venetian-style palazzo with a stunning four-story interior courtyard garden, and famous as the site of the world's largest unsolved art theft.

Location / Getting There: 25 Evans Way, Fenway; Ruggles T stop (Orange Line) or Museum T stop (Green Line E)

Tip: If your name is Isabella, admission is free! The courtyard is open year-round and worth the visit alone.

Places to Go Cambridge – Harvard & MIT



HARVARD ART MUSEUMS

Three world-class museums united under one stunning Renzo Piano-designed roof: the Fogg (European and American masters), Busch-Reisinger (Germanic art), and Arthur M. Sackler (Asian and ancient art)—more than 250,000 works.

Location / Getting There: 32 Quincy St., Cambridge; Harvard T stop (Red Line), 5-min walk

Tip: Admission is free for Harvard affiliates and children; modest fee for general visitors. The building—with its glass atrium—is an architectural highlight.

MIT MUSEUM

A dynamic museum celebrating MIT's culture of innovation with interactive exhibits on robotics, artificial intelligence, holography, and the history of discovery.

Location / Getting There: 314 Main St., Kendall Square, Cambridge; Kendall/MIT T stop (Red Line)

Tip: The museum moved to a new, larger facility in Kendall Square in 2022. The holography collection is impressive.

HARVARD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

A classic Victorian natural history museum housing the famous Glass Flowers (a collection of 4,300 botanically accurate glass models), dinosaur skeletons, gems and minerals, and zoological specimens from around the world.

Location / Getting There: 26 Oxford St., Cambridge; Harvard T stop (Red Line), 10-min walk

Tip: The Glass Flowers alone are worth the visit—an astonishing 19th-century scientific achievement unlike anything else in the world.



Places to Go Waterfront & Charlestown

USS CONSTITUTION “OLD IRONSIDES”

The world’s oldest commissioned warship still afloat, launched in 1797 and famously undefeated in battle—open for tours at the Charlestown Navy Yard alongside a museum about her history and the age of sail.

Location/Getting There: Charlestown Navy Yard; accessible by MBTA water shuttle from Long Wharf (Downtown) or a 20-min walk from North Station

Tip: The ship and nearby Bunker Hill Monument make a natural pair for a Charlestown half-day. Free admission to the ship and yard. Museum is also free.

BUNKER HILL MONUMENT

A 221-foot granite obelisk marking the site of the Battle of Bunker Hill (June 17, 1775)—one of the first major battles of the American Revolution; climb its 294 steps for a sweeping view of Boston Harbor.

Location/Getting There: Monument Square, Charlestown; MBTA water shuttle from Long Wharf or 20-min walk from North Station

Tip: Free to climb (no elevator). The adjacent lodge museum tells the story of the battle. Combine with *USS Constitution* for a full Charlestown morning.

JOHN F. KENNEDY PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

An I.M. Pei-designed building on Columbia Point overlooking Boston Harbor, housing a comprehensive account of JFK’s life, presidency, and the turbulent era of the 1960s.

Location / Getting There: Columbia Point, Boston; JFK/UMass T stop (Red Line), then free shuttle bus to the library

Tip: Allow 2–3 hours. The building’s dramatic glass atrium with harbor views is itself a highlight.



Places to Go Experiences & Special Tours

NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM

Home to a four-story, 200,000-gallon giant ocean tank with sharks, sea turtles, and thousands of tropical fish, alongside penguin exhibits, harbor seal pools, and a whale-watching boat program in season.

Location / Getting There: 1 Central Wharf, Downtown Waterfront; Aquarium T stop (Blue Line)

Tip: Buy tickets in advance online to skip the entrance queue, especially in summer. The whale-watching boat tours (seasonal) depart from the same pier and are outstanding—book separately.

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

One of the country's great science museums, with more than 700 interactive exhibits spanning astronomy, engineering, life sciences, and technology, plus a planetarium, IMAX theater, and live animal presentations.

Location / Getting There: 1 Science Park, Cambridge/Boston border; Science Park T stop (Green Line – E Branch)

Tip: Allow 3–4 hours minimum. The Lightning! live electricity demonstration is a crowd favorite. Purchase combination tickets for the planetarium or IMAX to maximize value.

BOSTON DUCK TOURS

The most entertaining way to see Boston's highlights: an 80-minute narrated tour in a renovated WWII amphibious vehicle (DUKW) that rolls through the city's historic streets before splashing into the Charles River.

Location / Getting There: Departs from the Prudential Center, Museum of Science, and New England Aquarium; seasonal (April–November)

Tip: Book well in advance in summer—tours sell out regularly. A great orientation to the city for first-time visitors and families with children.

