

BOSTON

FALL & WINTER GUIDE 2011 – 2012



The best places to eat, sleep and play
in Boston this fall and winter

With more than 50 million reviews and opinions, TripAdvisor makes travel planning a snap for the 50 million travelers visiting our site each month.



INTRODUCTION



TripAdvisor, the most trusted source for where to eat, sleep and play in thousands of destinations around the world, has collected the best insider tips from its 50 million monthly visitors to produce a unique series of travel guides. In addition to the best hotels, restaurants and attractions for every type of traveler, you'll get great advice about what to pack, how to get around and where to find the best views. Be sure to check out the guides at www.tripadvisor.com.



You'll find reviews for more than 520,000 hotels, 125,000 vacation rentals, 155,000 attractions and 715,000 restaurants on TripAdvisor.com. Learn from other travelers what to expect before you make your plans.



PACKING TIPS

1. "You'll never go wrong wearing a **shirt with a Red Sox, Patriots or Celtics logo.**" This is Red Sox Nation, though, so "just don't wear any Yankees gear and you'll be fine."—TripAdvisor Members, Boston
2. "Bring **comfortable walking shoes** because parking is terrible in Boston."—TripAdvisor Member, New York, N.Y.
3. "When it comes to traveling in Boston, it never hurts to pack an **umbrella** and **jacket** because you never know what Mother Nature will throw at you on a day-to-day-basis."—TripAdvisor Member

Inside BOSTON

Boston is part history lesson, part modern metropolis, offering attractions to suit every taste and interest, for the very young and the still very young at heart.

Boston's weather is unpredictable to say the least. Generally, the summers are hot and humid, while the winters are bitter, windy, wet and cold. But spin the wheel of fortune, and you may find yourself trudging through snow in April or donning a t-shirt in February. Autumn is particularly beautiful, as the New England foliage bursts into flamboyant colors.

Depending on your mood at any given moment, you can walk the historic Freedom Trail or people-watch and shop along cutting-edge Newbury Street ... dine on an authentic Italian meal in the North End or sample some "chowdah" at the wharf ... get a glimpse of Paul Revere's monumental efforts or of the Bunker Hill Monument ... take a duck tour on the Charles River or a stroll through the Public Garden ... browse the antique shops of Beacon Hill or have fun with the future at the Museum of Science.

The choice is yours—and isn't it nice to know every choice you make is the right one?

Top VIEWS



BOSTON'S BEST VIEWS



Visitors who are up for a physical challenge can climb the 294 steps of the **Bunker Hill Monument**. "If you can make it all the way up to the top, there is a great view."—TripAdvisor Member, Holliston, Mass.

Bunker Hill Monument, Monument Square, Charlestown, 617 242 5641

"You can get yourself 50 floors closer to the stars at the Prudential Center's **Skywalk Observatory**. It has a 360-degree view of Boston and its surrounding area."—TripAdvisor Member, Boston

Skywalk Observatory, 800 Boylston St., 617 859 0648

"If you want great views of the city within its neighborhoods, check out **Mt. Vernon St.** on Beacon Hill, **Commonwealth Ave.** in the Back Bay, and **Appleton St./West Concord St.** in the South End. All of those streets are very pretty and the architecture is wonderful."—TripAdvisor Member, Boston

"An often overlooked vantage point is from the bridges across the Charles River. The best views of Beacon Hill and Back Bay are from the **Longfellow Bridge**."—TripAdvisor Member, Boston

Longfellow Bridge, between Charles Circle in Boston and Kendall Square in Cambridge.

Where to PLAY

TOP 10 Attractions

1. Freedom Trail, 617 242 5642
2. Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., 617 267 9300
3. Fenway Park, 4 Yawkey Way, 617 267 1700
4. Samuel Adams Brewery, 30 Germania St., 617 368 5080
5. Museum of Science, 1 Science Park, 617 723 2500
6. John F. Kennedy Museum and Library, 200 Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester, 617 514 1600
7. Boston Harbor Islands National Park, 617 223 8666
8. USS Constitution Museum, Bldg. 5, Charlestown Navy Yard, 617 242 5671
9. North End
10. Boston Public Garden, Charles Street, 617 723 8144

FAMILIES



"One of my favorites is the **Museum of Science**. In addition to the exhibit halls, they have an IMAX theater, planetarium, laser show."—TripAdvisor Member, Boston

Museum of Science, Science Park, 617 723 2500

The **Children's Museum** is "one of the greatest places for any family. It is particularly great for families with kids 6 to 15 years old, but for smaller kids, there are many activities as well. Even adults enjoy lots of activities and showrooms like Japanese house and street."—TripAdvisor Member, Jersey City, N.J.

Children's Museum, 300 Congress St., 617 426 8855

The **New England Aquarium** is one of Boston's top attractions, and for good reason. It appeals to all age groups, the exhibits are interactive, everything is clean and well maintained, the staff is helpful, and there's a hands on tidal pool for kids, plus a toddler play area."—TripAdvisor Member, Salem, Mass.

New England Aquarium, 1 Central Wharf, 617 973 5200

ROMANCE



"**Boston Public Garden** has to be an almost perfect way to spend a couple of hours. For such a public place it has a tranquil atmosphere. The view across the water to a vista of Boston buildings is strangely lovely to look at. I spent one of the most glorious hours of my trip in New England here."—TripAdvisor Member

Boston Public Garden, Charles Street, 617 723 8144

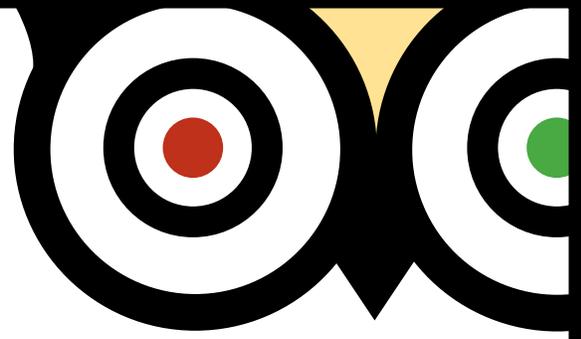
The **Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum** has a lovely setting reminiscent of a Venetian palazzo, complete with a spectacular skylit courtyard. "I love this museum. I cannot even say how many times I have been here. Isabella's collection is outstanding and its display is unique."—TripAdvisor Member, Nantucket, Mass.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 280 The Fenway, 617 566 1401

Sip champagne at the bar or "declare your love to the world from the restaurant/observatory atop the **Prudential** building."—TripAdvisor Member, Boston

Prudential Center, 800 Boylston St., Top of the Hub, 617 536 1775

Where to **PLAY**



BUDGET

The signal from **Old North Church** steeple triggered America's War for Independence. "How can one visit Boston and not go?" The 1723 church is "a historic stop on the Freedom Trail," but also a "fascinating architectural experience."—TripAdvisor Member, Cincinnati, Ohio

Old North Church, 193 Salem St., 617 523 6676

"How can one visit Boston and not go?"

"If you are visiting Boston for the first time, the **Freedom Trail** should be your first activity. The history and sights are amazing. And if you plan it right, it's free!"—TripAdvisor Member, Wisconsin
Freedom Trail, 617 242 5642

Faneuil Hall Marketplace's shops and restaurants offer the "best place to hang out for a day."—TripAdvisor Member, Boston

Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Between North Congress and State Streets and I-93, 617 523 1300

TripAdvisor members have posted more than 8,000,000 traveler photos on the site. The good, the bad and the very candid. It's almost like being there!



ADVENTURE

"Check out the beautiful views of Cambridge along the **Charles River Esplanade** by walking, skating or bicycling along its smooth pathway."—TripAdvisor Member, Boston

Charles River Esplanade, Storrow Drive, 617 626 1250

Catch a concert or cheer on the Bruins or the Celtics at **TD Garden**, a "nice, modern arena with the usual excellent facilities you would expect."—TripAdvisor Member, Wales

TD Garden, 100 Legends Way, 617 624 1000

"While in Boston, we went to **Fenway Park** to take the tour. It was well worth it! Sitting in the Green Monster seats alone was worth the price of admission (even if there wasn't a game). One of the best things we did while on our Boston vacation."—TripAdvisor Member, Cincinnati, Ohio

Fenway Park, 4 Yawkey Way, 617 267 1700



EDUCATIONAL/HISTORICAL

The **John F. Kennedy Museum and Library** "is an excellent museum that is well-planned and thought through in a lovely building at a lovely location. I was really impressed."—TripAdvisor Member, Newport, Wales

John F. Kennedy Museum and Library, 200 Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester, 617 514 1600

"Well worth your time and did I mention it's FREE!"

The **USS Constitution** (Old Ironsides), the oldest commissioned ship in the U.S. Navy, was undefeated in battle. "My son and I were told by a local that this was the best attraction in Boston and it's FREE! After a five-minute walk from the T, you are rewarded with a tour given by Naval officers who are clearly proud to serve on this beautiful ship. Well worth your time and did I mention it's FREE!"—TripAdvisor Member, United Kingdom
USS Constitution (Old Ironsides), Charlestown Navy Yard, 617 426 1812

The **Museum of Fine Arts** (MFA) is Boston's oldest and largest art institution. The MFA offers a "must-see mix of art and history. Since the size of the museum is a bit big for even a full day's visit, pick something you think you'll like, and let your eyes sink in."—TripAdvisor Member, Bronxville, N.Y.

Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., 617 267 9300



RELAXATION

"**Castle Island** is a great place to watch airplanes coming in for a landing as they dip very low over the park. On the opposite side is Pleasure Bay with views across to Dorchester Bay and South Boston and the JFK Library. ... There are plenty of benches to sit and enjoy the views. Fort Independence is located at the park and is sometimes open for tours."—TripAdvisor Member, Phoenix, Az.

Castle Island, William J. Day Blvd., South Boston, 617 727 5290

Strolling through 265 beautiful acres of "scenic walking paths" at the **Arnold Arboretum**, America's oldest public arboretum, is "a great way to while away an afternoon."—TripAdvisor Member, Boston

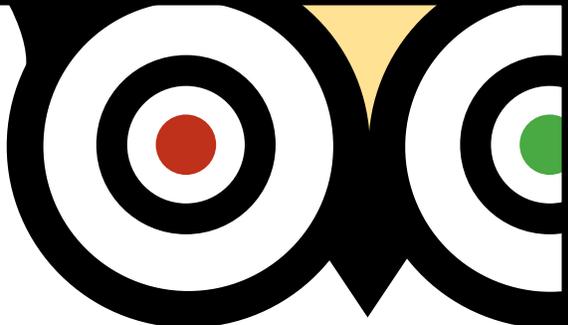
Arnold Arboretum, 125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, 617 524 1718

"There is a spa called **Exhale** that has yoga and Pilates in addition to spa services."—TripAdvisor Member, Commack, N.Y.

Exhale, 28 Arlington St., 617 532 7000

What's the **TOUR**

How to Get Around



The **MBTA**, nicknamed “the T,” includes 4 subway lines, 13 commuter rail lines, 5 boat routes and 170 bus routes servicing Boston and 175 cities and towns in eastern Massachusetts.

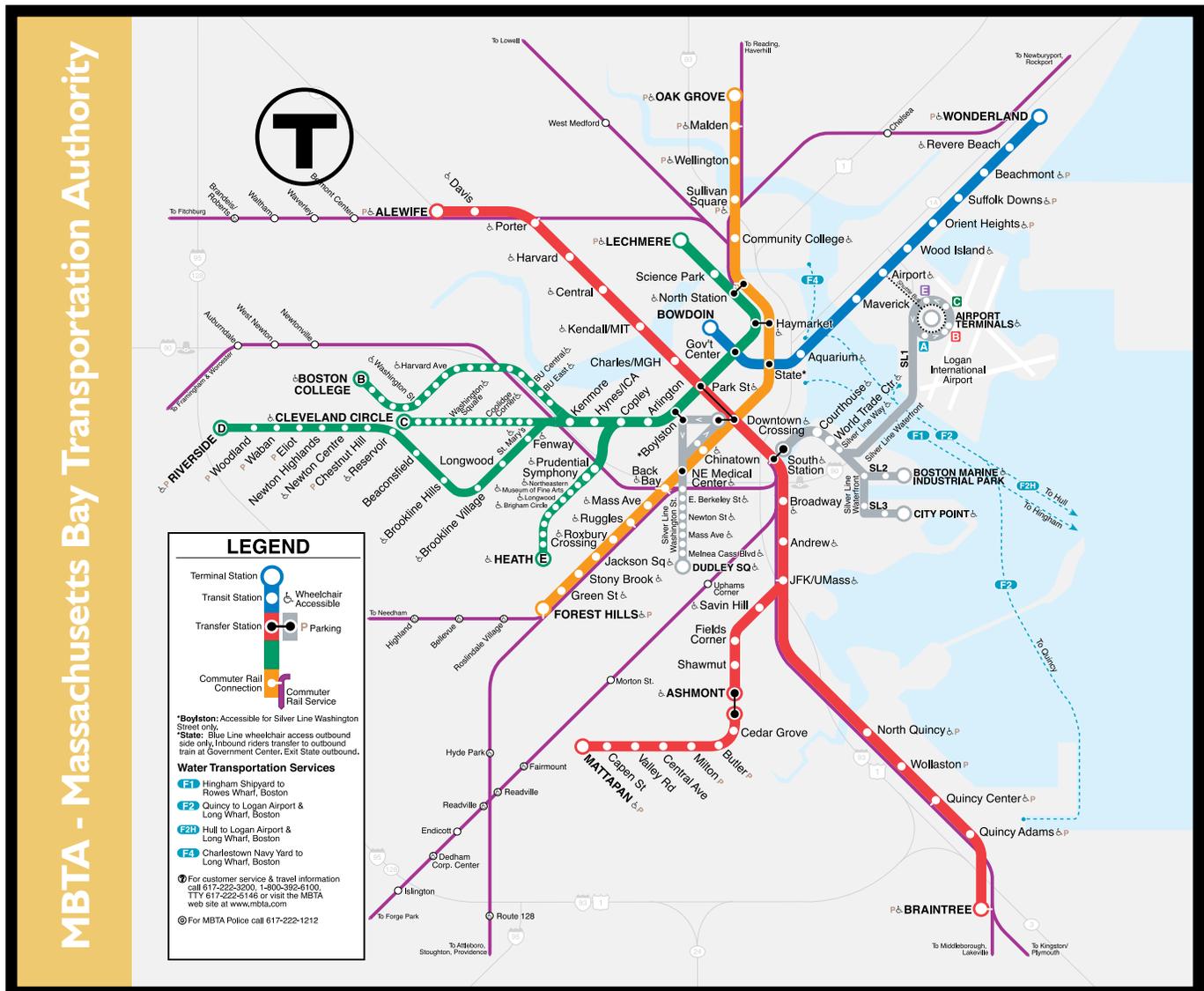
MBTA, <http://www.mbta.com>

Old Town Trolley Tours “was really interesting and you could get on and off wherever you wanted to.”—TripAdvisor Member, Cardiff, Wales

Old Town Trolley Tours, <http://www.trolleytours.com>

Talking Street Tour is a recorded city guide narrated by Steven Tyler of Aerosmith fame. “A lot of walking tours are a bit boring or superficial, but this one has really good stories at pretty much every stop. There’s an explanation of the Boston Massacre that really explains how it happened or (my favorite) a stop about a truly bizarre ‘molasses flood.’”—TripAdvisor Member, Philadelphia, Pa.

Talking Street Tour, <http://www.iampify.com>



WHERE to eat



FAMILIES

Eastern Standard Restaurant offers a casual take on breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as the only alfresco dining experience in Kenmore Square. “The food is excellent and the service we experienced was superb.”—TripAdvisor Member, Dublin, Ireland

Eastern Standard Restaurant, Hotel Commonwealth, 528 Commonwealth Ave., 617 532 9100

Everyone in the mood for something different? Find something for every taste at **Faneuil Hall Marketplace**. There’s “every type of food you could want, from Boston’s famous clam ‘chowdah’ to pizza, Thai, Mexican and pastries.”—TripAdvisor Member, Boston

Faneuil Hall Marketplace, between North Congress and State Streets and I-93, 617 523 1300

The Upper Crust, on Beacon Hill, is where pizza is raised to an art form. “We have NEVER had a pizza as good!”—TripAdvisor Member, Boston

The Upper Crust, 20 Charles St., 617 723 9600

Want more information on Boston? TripAdvisor.com offers free weekly e-mail updates filled with new deals, reviews and articles for Boston or any other destination you choose.



TOP 10 Restaurants

1. Atlantic Fish Company, 761 Boylston St., 617 267 4000
2. Island Creek Oyster Bar, 500 Commonwealth Ave., 617 532 5300
3. Menton, 354 Congress St., 617 737 0099
4. Neptune Oyster, 63 Salem St., 617 742 3474
5. Modern Pastry Shop, 257 Hanover St., 617 523 3783
6. Charlie’s Sandwich Shoppe, 429 Columbus Ave., 617 536 7669
7. Rino’s Place, 258 Saratoga St., 617 567 7412
8. Mike’s Pastry, 300 Hanover St., 617 742 3050
9. Ten Tables, 597 Centre St., Jamaica Plain, 617 524 8810
10. Nico, 417 Hanover St., 617 742 0404

ROMANCE

“**Mistral** is an absolute delight. Our experience there was flawless—from the amazing summer corn and lobster soup to the attentive service and relaxing atmosphere. Modern, warm and inviting.”—TripAdvisor Member, Oakdale, Calif.

Mistral, 223 Columbus Ave., 617 867 9300

“I highly recommend **Grotto**, tucked in below street level with cozy brick walls and warm tones. It’s not huge, so you feel like you’re eating someplace intimate and special. The art and funky chandeliers add a lot. And the food is delicious.”—TripAdvisor Member, Boston

Grotto, 37 Bowdoin St., 617 227 3434

“We just celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary by dining at **No. 9 Park**. Our waiter was knowledgeable and attentive, and the food was wonderful. On the waiter’s recommendation, we tentatively ordered the prune-filled gnocchi. It was amazing.”—TripAdvisor Member, Rhode Island

No. 9 Park, 9 Park St., 617 742 9991

BUDGET

“If you want to grab some fresh cheese, crackers and other delectable treats, **Formaggio** is your destination.”—TripAdvisor Member, Boston

South End Formaggio, 268 Shawmut Ave., 617 350 6996

Brown Sugar Cafe offers “excellent Thai food, very good service and is not at all expensive. This is one of my favorite places in and around Boston.”—TripAdvisor Member, Boston

Brown Sugar Café, 1033 Commonwealth Ave., 617 787 4242

On the weekend, consider “a dim sum brunch in Chinatown. Boston has some of the best dim sum in the country—I would highly recommend **Hei-La Moon**.”—TripAdvisor Member, Boston

Hei-La Moon, 88 Beach St., 617 338 8813

WHERE to eat



HIDDEN GEMS

Sel de la Terre, serving French fare and seafood, is “the best French bistro food in Boston. Period. Get the *steak frite* and feel like you are in Paris—I did.” —TripAdvisor Member, Newport News, Va.

Sel de la Terre, 255 State St., 617 720 1300

“With all the places to eat in Boston’s North End, we keep going back to **Taranta** because the food, wine and service are the most consistent. Do yourself a favor and seek this place out.” —TripAdvisor Member, Boston

Taranta, 210 Hanover St., 617 720 0052

“I am a big fan—and a bit of a regular—of **Toro**. It’s deep in the South End, but well worth the drive, walk or cab ride. This is what Spanish tapas dream they could be.” —TripAdvisor Member, Cambridge, Mass.

Toro, 1704 Washington St., 617 536 4300

HEALTH-CONSCIOUS

“You’ll be cooking your own food” at **Shabu-Zen**, a shabu-shabu restaurant where patrons cook their vegetables, meat and fish in pots of boiling broth. “Get ready for a work-out of your chopstick hand. Very fun!” —TripAdvisor Member

Shabu-Zen, 16 Tyler St., 617 292 8828

“For those of you who eat gluten-free, **Elephant Walk** is fantastic. All the chefs are trained, and they have a separate fryer for gluten-free foods to avoid cross contamination. I highly recommend a cooking class and dinner, too!” —TripAdvisor Member, Boston

The Elephant Walk, 900 Beacon St., 617 247 1500

“I have to credit **Grasshopper** for opening my eyes to the wonders of vegan cuisine. It was a fast favorite—by ‘vegan,’ they must mean delicious! You’ll be eating leftovers for days.” —TripAdvisor Member, Boston

Grasshopper, 1 N. Beacon St., 617 254 8883

SPECIAL EVENTS



Cheer on the racers as they hit the pavement of Franklin Park for the 13.1-mile **Boston Half-Marathon**, created by the organizers of the famous Boston Marathon as a fundraiser to help maintain the city’s parks. (October 9)

Boston Half Marathon, Starts at Franklin Park, 617 236 1652, <http://www.baa.org>

Chow down on free samples of healthy snacks and learn from cooking demonstrations at the delicious **Boston Vegetarian Food Festival**. (October 29 – 30)

Boston Vegetarian Food Festival, Reggie Lewis Athletic Center, 1350 Tremont St., 617 424 8846, <http://www.bostonveg.org>

Get ready for the holiday season with music and entertainment at the **Faneuil Hall Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony**, when the Mayor and special guests will light up the square with over 300,000 lights. (November 19)

Faneuil Hall Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, Faneuil Hall Marketplace, 617 523 1300, <http://www.faneuilhallmarketplace.com>

Find that one-of-a-kind gift at **Swedish Yuletide!** Annual Christmas Fair, featuring traditional and contemporary Scandinavian goods, food, music and activities for the kids. (December 3)

Swedish Yuletide!, Cyclorama, Boston Center of the Arts, 539 Tremont St., 978 598 7550, <http://www.sweaboston.org>

Relive a defining moment in American history at the **238th Anniversary Boston Tea Party Reenactment** at the Old South Meeting Hall, where the original protest took place. (December 11)

238th Anniversary Boston Tea Party Reenactment, Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., 617 482 6439, <http://www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.org>

Starting early in the afternoon and continuing into the night, downtown Boston brings the New Year to life with ice sculptures, interactive exhibitions, outdoor entertainment, family activities, fireworks and a Grand Procession during **First Night Boston**. (December 31)

First night Boston, Various venues, 617 542 1399, <http://www.firstnight.org>

Featuring artists from Scotland, Brittany, Ireland and Quebec, the **Boston Celtic Music Festival** will warm up the winter with lively music and dance performances. (January 6 – 7)

Boston Celtic Music Festival, Various venues, 617 492 7679, <http://www.bcmfest.com>

The **Boston Wine Expo** will offer up over 1800 wines, as well as demonstrations and culinary offerings from top chefs, all to delight foodies and oenophiles alike. (January 16 – 22)

Boston Wine Expo, Seaport World Trade Center and Seaport Hotel, 200 Seaport Blvd., 877 946 3976, <http://www.wine-expos.com/boston>

Where to STAY



FAMILIES

“We love the location of the **Courtyard**, convenient to restaurants and shopping. Last time we took the Duck Tour, which starts right around the corner. This time, the location was even handier, as we walked back from a Red Sox game at Fenway. It’s nice to have a hotel in town where you feel comfortable and at home.”
—TripAdvisor Member, Bethesda, Md.

Courtyard Boston Copley Square, 88 Exeter St., 617 437 9300

Marriott’s Custom House, a historic landmark dating to 1847, overlooks Boston Harbor. “The Custom House staff could not have been friendlier and more accommodating. We were offered a crib, a rollaway bed—whatever we needed.”
—TripAdvisor Member, Northport, N.Y.

Marriott’s Custom House, 3 McKinley Square, 617 310 6300

At the **Radisson**, “the balcony was a bonus—great to see the city views, particularly at night when everything was lit up. The location was within walking distance of everything we needed, with easy access to T for longer trips.”
—TripAdvisor Member, United Kingdom

Radisson Hotel Boston, 200 Stuart St., 617 482 1800

Have questions about Boston? Get insider advice from local experts in our forums. The majority of questions are answered within 24 hours.



ROMANCE

“The **Lenox** is amazing! We did the romantic package, which included a private limo tour of Boston. We had a private tour of Harvard and the Old North Church. This is still our favorite anniversary, even after eleven years of marriage!”
—TripAdvisor Member, Texas

The Lenox Hotel, 61 Exeter St., 617 536 5300

“My girlfriend and I stayed here for four nights. Everything about **Boston Harbor Hotel** oozes class, from the doorman to the room service.”
—TripAdvisor Member, Ireland

Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, 617 439 7000

Fashionable **Back Bay Hotel** is located in a 1920’s Back Bay landmark building. “My wife and I are back from a wonderful weekend at Jurys. The location is ideal; the service is excellent. The bed was too comfortable, causing us to sleep through our morning agendas.”
—TripAdvisor Member, New York, N.Y.

The Back Bay Hotel, 350 Stuart St., 617 266 7200

“Boston at its best.”

BUDGET

Carruth House represents “Boston at its best. Charming hostess, charming house, charming neighborhood, in fact charming everything!”
—TripAdvisor Member, Manchester, England

Carruth House, 30 Beaumont St. Dorchester, 617 436 8260

“We would definitely recommend the **John Jeffries House**. Very comfortable and convenient as the subway is just across the road. There are restaurants of excellent standard along Charles Street, a dry cleaner nearby and a small supermarket as well.”
—TripAdvisor Member, Sydney, Australia

John Jeffries House, 14 David G. Mugar Way, 617 367 1866

For “a very nice and friendly B&B,” try **Nolan House**. “The location is great, the hosts are very helpful and the breakfast is just wonderful. We enjoyed the hospitality very much and really recommend this place as a reasonably priced B&B.”
—TripAdvisor Member, Zurich, Switzerland

Nolan House, 10 G St., South Boston, 617 269 1550

LUXURY

Hotel Commonwealth is housed in a 100-year-old brownstone. “Overall, our entire stay was a pure pleasure. It’s a beautiful hotel with outstanding service and it’s in a great location. Just to let you know—I am extremely critical and I found nothing to complain about here—really!”
—TripAdvisor Member, Swansea, Mass.

Hotel Commonwealth, 500 Commonwealth Ave., 617 933 5000

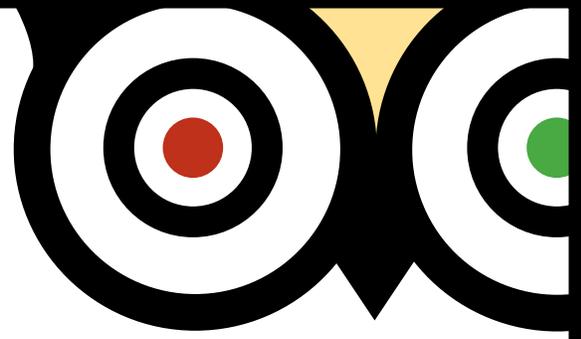
“This was my first time at a boutique hotel, and I absolutely loved it! The rooms were very quiet, the roof deck offered a great view, and the bar had a lot of life. This hotel felt as comfortable as home: relaxing, romantic and perfect. The **XV Beacon** is our top choice for a Boston hotel.”
—TripAdvisor Member

XV Beacon, 15 Beacon St., 617 670 1500

“The **Four Seasons Boston** is very modern, yet outrageously opulent. Marble floors and high ceilings in the foyer set the tone for a wonderfully luxurious stay. Our room was beautifully appointed and every member of the staff was charming and went out of their way to help.”
—TripAdvisor Member, West Yorkshire, U.K.

Four Seasons Boston, 200 Boylston St., 617 338 4400

Where to **STAY**



HIDDEN GEMS

“**The Inn** is Boston’s best-kept secret! Quiet, well-appointed rooms make this my first choice. It’s the little special touches that make the difference, from thick bathrobes to the many varieties of coffee available 24-7. Centrally located, it’s a quick trip via the Green Line to anywhere.”—TripAdvisor Member, Columbia, S.C.

The Inn At St. Botolph, 99 Saint Botolph St., 617 236 8099

“There is only one problem with the **Boston Yacht Haven**. The place is so inviting that you may not want to explore the rest of Boston. It is a working marina for yachts that come from all over to tie up here and offers ten spacious guest rooms, most with a sweeping view of the harbor or the city skyline.”—TripAdvisor Member, Dallas, Texas

Boston Yacht Haven, 87 Commercial Wharf, 617 367 5050

“We chose the **Kendall** over more recognizable names based on the reviews on TripAdvisor, and we couldn’t have been more pleased. There was a gorgeous solarium with comfortable sofas for reading, plus wine and cheese in the evenings.”—TripAdvisor Member, Knoxville, Tenn.

Kendall Hotel, 350 Main St., Cambridge, 617 577 1300

“The place is so inviting that you may not want to explore the rest of Boston.”

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Edited/compiled by Kristyn Lak Miller, Michelle Schwartz and Kris Horton

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