

# Nelson's Best of Boston

Summer 2008 edition (© Aaron Nelson)

## Local Strolling

**Freedom Trail** [www.thefreedomtrail.org](http://www.thefreedomtrail.org) *The ultimate Revolutionary War stroll through history. From Boston Common to the Bunker Hill Monument, it's a bit of a schlep. You don't have to do the whole thing. But a great way to see the city. Just follow the red brick road...*

**Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway** [www.rosekennedygreenway.org/](http://www.rosekennedygreenway.org/) *What the Big Dig hath wrought. The Central Artery/Tunnel Project, better known as "The Big Dig," was the most expensive roadway construction project in the history of the planet with the single exception of the US interstate highway system. Breaking ground in 1991 with a projected budget of \$2.8 Billion, the marathon pork-barrel extravaganza ended up taking 16 years and \$14.6 Billion to complete. Hundreds of leaks in the newly constructed tunnels will provide ongoing employment for construction workers and lawyers for the next century. But the good news is, I can get from Newton Center to Logan in 9 minutes and there is a very pleasant urban park space on the ribbon of land that was once covered by a hideous elevated roadway.*

**Boston Harbor Walk** [www.bostonharborwalk.com/](http://www.bostonharborwalk.com/) *The segment from the North End to Rowe's Wharf is a beautiful walk for a sunny day or a cool evening. You will amble along all manner of wharf (I'm pretty sure this phrase has never been uttered or written before) and end up sipping a cool one on the upscale veranda of the Boston Harbor Hotel.*

**Beacon Hill** [www.beaconhillonline.com](http://www.beaconhillonline.com) *Boston Brahmin-ville. Bust an ankle on ancient cobblestone streets. Plus dozens of antique shops and unique cafes lining Charles Street, the thoroughfare dividing the "flat part of the hill" from "the hill part of the hill" - you'll see what I mean when you're there. Here's a hint - Do not go to Cheers - it's dopey - Do slide into a booth at The Sevens, order a Guinness, and throw some "dahts."*

**Newbury Street** [www.newbury-st.com](http://www.newbury-st.com) *Unabashed couture consumerism. Shop 'til you drop among the Beautiful People. If you can think of a major European style house, we got it right heah in Bahston. Pick up a purse at Marc Jacobs for \$2400, sunglasses at Chanel for \$650, and a pair of socks at Louis Boston for \$275. Grab an espresso al fresco at Croma and you are ready for your close-up.*

**Boston Public Garden** [www.friendsofthepublicgarden.org](http://www.friendsofthepublicgarden.org) *Bucolic setting with pathways gracefully winding around flower gardens. The Swan Boats are here. Family photo op. Great place for a picnic or sipping an iced latte.*

**Faneuil Hall/Quincy Market** [www.faneuilhallmarketplace.com](http://www.faneuilhallmarketplace.com) *The original Boston Market Place circa 1742. Somehow manages to succeed despite being hugely touristy and franchise-y. I think it's because of all the bars and the authentic buildings... mainly the bars. In the old days (1970s), The Black Rose had a special tip jar to fund "humanitarian aid for our IRA brethren". Fun place for a nighttime pub crawl - edgy carnival atmosphere fueled by Sam Adams and subtly hostile street entertainers. You will be targeted if you wear shorts with white sneakers and white socks. Fun fact - yours truly played in the outdoor rock concert series launching the newly reconstructed venue in the summer of 1976... or was it 1975?*

## Charles River Esplanade

[www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/metroboston/charlesR.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/metroboston/charlesR.htm) If you're a runner itching for a warm-up for next year's Marathon, run the bridges. There are lots of them spanning the Charles from Watertown to the Science Museum. There's even a website ([www.angio.net/personal/run/river.htm](http://www.angio.net/personal/run/river.htm)) that gives you mileages for each and every bridge combination. Or rent a bicycle and take a spin. But if you're just looking for a stroll, hop on the Esplanade (you'll have to get over or across Storrow Drive) and walk along the river. You can also walk the river on the Cambridge side, which affords a fine view of Beacon Hill and the city skyline.

**Harvard Square** (Cambridge) [www.harvardsquare.com/](http://www.harvardsquare.com/) Epicenter of the People's Republic of Cambridge. Well, at least it used to be. But despite a Gap, Starbucks, and Bertucci's there are still a zillion great little places to shop and dine. Not to mention the beckoning ivy covered walls of Harvard Yard.

**Back Bay** Beginning at Copley Square, pay a visit to the Boston Public Library, largest municipal public library in the United States. Take a shortcut through the Copley Place Mall, and hold on to your wallet for dear life as you pass Jimmy Choo. End up at the Christian Science Center Plaza, home to the tremendous mother church and world headquarters of Christian Scientists. The reflecting pool and fountain are a peaceful place to sunbathe and unwind after a long day on your feet.

**Arnold Arboretum** [www.arboretum.harvard.edu/](http://www.arboretum.harvard.edu/) You want to see some trees? We got 'em! The oldest public tree garden in the US. Extensive pathways winding through gorgeous parkland. Admission is free.

**The Minuteman Bikeway** [www.minutemanbikeway.org](http://www.minutemanbikeway.org) Despite the information on the website, you can begin cycling in Davis Square (Somerville) and continue west to through part of Cambridge, Arlington, Lexington, and Bedford. I like to pedal into Bedford and have lunch at the counter at Whole Foods. Then turn around and cycle back to Davis Square, ending the trip back in David Square with a scoop of Negative Chip at JP Licks. Round trip is probably around 26 miles.

## Local Tours

**Boston by Foot** [www.bostonbyfoot.org/tours](http://www.bostonbyfoot.org/tours)

- Boston by Little Feet (Freedom Trail)
- Victorian Back Bay Walking Tour
- Heart of the Freedom Trail
- Beacon Hill
- North End
- Literary Landmarks

**Boston Duck Tours** [www.bostonducktours.com](http://www.bostonducktours.com) You will look foolish shuttling around the city in a WWII amphibious landing vehicle. But it is fun to plunge into the Charles River, the drivers are "zany", and your (little) kids will like it.

**Fenway Park** [www.boston.redsox.mlb.com/bos/ballpark/tour.jsp](http://www.boston.redsox.mlb.com/bos/ballpark/tour.jsp) Tour the shrine. Home of the 2004, 2007, and 2008 World Series Champion Boston Red Sox. See Yawkey Way, The Green Monster, and the fabled manual scoreboard.

**The Swan Boats in the Boston Public Garden** [www.swanboats.com](http://www.swanboats.com) A quintessential Boston experience. The line can be long, the ride brief and anticlimactic, but what the heck - it's just one of those things you have to do so you can cross it off the list.

## Museums

**Museum of Fine Arts (MFA)** [www.mfa.org/](http://www.mfa.org/) Great permanent collections with an excellent slate of scheduled exhibitions. The café/restaurant is also decent.

**Isabelle Stewart Gardner Museum** [www.minutemanbikeway.org](http://www.minutemanbikeway.org) Three floors of galleries surrounding a gorgeous inner courtyard. Site of the largest art theft in US history (1990). Pick up a cool \$5 Million if you can solve the heist.

**Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA)** [www.icaboston.org/](http://www.icaboston.org/) Newest addition to the Boston arts scene, located in the developing Seaport district. Great looking building housing unique collection of unusual pieces and installations. Wolfgang Puck café.

**Museum of Science** [www.mos.org/](http://www.mos.org/) Great stuff for kids and adults. Immense. Houses the Hayden Planetarium. Laser rock shows, and an IMAX Theater.

**New England Aquarium** [www.neaq.org/](http://www.neaq.org/) The seals are awesome. If you're too lazy to visit in person, check out the giant ocean tank over the internet via live webcam and wonder how all the cute fishies coexist with huge killer sharks.

**JFK Library** [www.jfklibrary.org](http://www.jfklibrary.org) See JFK's rocking chair, and a huge building full of presidential memorabilia, set amidst a panoramic view of Dorchester Bay and the South Boston coastline.

**MIT Museum** [www.mit.edu/museum](http://www.mit.edu/museum) So this is what those geeks across the river do in their spare time. Very cool exhibits with lasers, holograms, kinetic sculptures, robots, and far-out scientific gizmos.

**Boston Children's Museum** [www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org](http://www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org) Here's one strictly for the kids. Hands-on fun and "educational" all at the same time

**USS Constitution** [www.ussconstitution.navy.mil](http://www.ussconstitution.navy.mil) Old Ironsides - our nation's oldest commissioned warship. You will not believe that 450 sailors slept in those tiny hanging hammocks. After taking the tour, ably led by current US Navy sailors, stroll around the Charlestown Navy Yard and check out the chic condominiums, not to mention the MGH/Harvard/MIT Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging. This is where fMRI was invented. [www.nmr.mgh.harvard.edu](http://www.nmr.mgh.harvard.edu)

**Decordova Museum and Sculpture Park** (Lincoln MA) [www.decordova.org/](http://www.decordova.org/) An out-of-town gem, a few minutes away from Walden Pond ([www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/walden](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/walden))

**Franklin Park Zoo** [www.franklinparkzoo.org/](http://www.franklinparkzoo.org/) The San Diego Zoo it ain't, but we do have gorillas and butterflies.

**Harvard University Museums** [www.harvard.edu/museums/](http://www.harvard.edu/museums/)

[Busch-Reisinger Museum](#) (arts of Central and Northern Europe)

[Fogg Art Museum](#) (Western art, Middle Ages-present: Italian early Renaissance, British pre-Raphaelite, 19<sup>th</sup> cent French)

[Sackler Museum](#) (ancient, Islamic, Asian, and later Indian art)

[Straus Center for Conservation](#)

Harvard Museum of Natural History

[Arnold Arboretum](#) (Beautiful parkland tree garden in Jamaica Plain)

[Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology](#)

[Semitic Museum](#)

[Warren Anatomical Museum](#) at Harvard Medical School (Anyone want to see Phineas Gage's skull?)

## Some other places of note

**Adams National Historical Park** [www.nps.gov/adam](http://www.nps.gov/adam) *You've seen the miniseries; now see the real deal.*

**Longfellow house** [www.nps.gov/long](http://www.nps.gov/long) *Very cool shutters, chimneys, and clapboards. Amazing to think how much writing this guy got done with all of the maintenance his house must have required.*

**Louisa May Alcott** [www.louisamayalcott.org](http://www.louisamayalcott.org) *For all you diehard Little Women fanatics out there.*

**Thoreau's Walden Pond** [www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/walden/](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/walden/) *He was into breaking the law (civil disobedience), isolation, and living in the woods. Reaching for my DSM-IV and thumbing through the Axis II disorders..... Seriously, take a trot around the Pond and keep an eye out for a ring of keys I lost there in 1985. If you find them, you can drive away in the rusting 1974 Toyota Corolla I left in the parking lot 23 years ago. If the weather is warm, bring a suit and take a plunge alongside the townies from Concord.*

**Trustees of Reservations** [www.thetrustees.org/](http://www.thetrustees.org/) *A fabulous collection of properties located all around Massachusetts, notable for beauty and history.*

**Massachusetts Audubon Society** [www.massaudubon.org/](http://www.massaudubon.org/) *More than birds.*

**Minute Man National Park** [www.nps.gov/mima/](http://www.nps.gov/mima/) *Walk or bicycle through the countryside that hosted the opening battle for the birth of our nation. It's bucolic and real old.*

## The Ten Best Movies filmed in Boston

*If you want to get into a Boston frame-of-mind before your visit, check out...*

1. **The Departed** (Leonardo DiCaprio, Matt Damon, Jack Nicholson, Alec Baldwin, Mark Wahlberg, Martin Sheen)
2. **Mystic River** (Sean Penn, Tim Robbins, Kevin Bacon)
3. **Good Will Hunting** (Matt Damon, Ben Affleck, and Robin Williams)
4. **Blown Away** (Tommy Lee Jones and Jeff Bridges)
5. **The Verdict** (Paul Newman, Charlotte Rampling, and Jack Warden)
6. **A Civil Action** (John Travolta and Robert DuVall)
7. **Fever Pitch** (Jimmy Fallon and Drew Barrymore)
8. **21** (Kate Bosworth and Kevin Spacey)
9. **Gone Baby Gone** (Casey Affleck, Michelle Monaghan, Morgan Freeman, Ed Harris)
10. And perhaps the greatest story ever told - **Reverse of the Curse of the Bambino** (starring the 2004 Boston Red Sox)

Speaking of the Boston Red Sox [www.redsox.mlb.com](http://www.redsox.mlb.com). This is a tough ticket - as of this writing there have been 388 consecutive sellouts at Fenway. But if you have any sense of history and you want your life to be complete, suck it up and do what has to be done. [www.aceticket.com](http://www.aceticket.com), [www.stubhub.com](http://www.stubhub.com), or [www.razorgator.com](http://www.razorgator.com). For the truly wild at heart, trot on down to Brookline Ave around 20 minutes before

game time and enter the marketplace of the moment. Just remember, when someone says, "Do you have any tickets?" What he REALLY means is "Do you WANT any tickets?" It's a legal thing. Just play along and it'll be fine. But you didn't hear it from me.

## Golf in Boston

Franklin Park - 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest public US course [www.sterlinggolf.com/franklin](http://www.sterlinggolf.com/franklin)  
George Wright - Hyde Park/Roslindale [www.georgewrightgolfcourse.com/](http://www.georgewrightgolfcourse.com/)

## Golf within an hour or less

- Atlantic Country Club (Plymouth MA) [www.atlanticcountryclub.com](http://www.atlanticcountryclub.com)
- Blackstone National (Sutton MA) [www.blackstonegolfclub.com](http://www.blackstonegolfclub.com)
- Cyprian Keys (Boylston MA) [www.cypriankeys.com](http://www.cypriankeys.com)
- Granite Links (Quincy MA) [www.granitelinksgolfclub.com](http://www.granitelinksgolfclub.com)
- Maplegate (Bellingham MA) [www.maplegate.com](http://www.maplegate.com)
- New England Country Club (Bellingham MA) [www.newenglandcountryclub.com](http://www.newenglandcountryclub.com)
- Old Scotland Links (Bridgewater MA) [www.oldsotlandlinks.com](http://www.oldsotlandlinks.com)
- Pine Hills (Plymouth MA) [www.pinehillsgolf.com](http://www.pinehillsgolf.com)
- Red Tail (Devens MA) [www.redtailgolf.net](http://www.redtailgolf.net)
- Sandy Burr (Wayland MA) [www.sandyburr.com](http://www.sandyburr.com)
- Shaker Hills (Harvard MA) [www.shakerhills.com](http://www.shakerhills.com)
- Stow Acres (Stow MA) [www.shakerhills.com](http://www.shakerhills.com)
- Waverly Oaks (Plymouth MA) [www.waverlyoaksgolfclub.com](http://www.waverlyoaksgolfclub.com)
- Widow's Walk (Scituate MA) [www.widowswalkgolf.com](http://www.widowswalkgolf.com)

And for the hyperkinetic thrill-seeker... No trip to Boston is complete without a visit to *The New York Trapeze School!!!* [www.boston.trapezeschool.com/](http://www.boston.trapezeschool.com/)

## Restaurants

### Back Bay

Davios [www.davios.com/](http://www.davios.com/)

*Great Italian and you could run into Tom Brady and Giselle Bundchen*

Abe and Louie's [www.abeandlouies.com/](http://www.abeandlouies.com/)

*A consistent contender for the title of best steakhouse in Boston.*

Grill 23 and Bar [www.grill23.com/](http://www.grill23.com/)

*The upscale and grand interior is only outdone by the melt-in-your-mouth filet.*

Eastern Standard [www.easternstandardboston.com](http://www.easternstandardboston.com)

*Great casual place for dinner or drinks in Kenmore Square - just down the street from Fenway Park*

The Capital Grille [www.thecapitalgrille.com/Locations/Boston](http://www.thecapitalgrille.com/Locations/Boston)

Legal Seafoods [www.legalseafoods.com/](http://www.legalseafoods.com/) (multiple locations)

*Continues to excel despite transition to franchise. The dysfunctional family back story is Boston legend.*

Skipjack's [www.skipjacks.com](http://www.skipjacks.com)

*The fish is fresh and the martinis are potent*

L'Espalier [www.lespalier.com/](http://www.lespalier.com/)

*One of the more refined and romantic restaurants in Boston. Jacket recommended.*

Sonsie [www.sonsieboston.com/](http://www.sonsieboston.com/)

Parish Café

*Serving a plethora of sandwiches designed by local chefs.*

## The North End

Mamma Marias [www.mammamaria.com/](http://www.mammamaria.com/)

*Tucked away in a beautiful townhouse, it's a tasty northern Italian hideaway from the droves of tourists on Hanover Street.*

Pizzeria Regina - The Original (11½ Thatcher Street, North End)  
[www.polcaris.com/Regina/history.htm](http://www.polcaris.com/Regina/history.htm)

*Light and crunchy crust, plump tomatoes, gooey cheese...it's amore!*

Café Vittoria [www.vittoriacaffe.com/](http://www.vittoriacaffe.com/)

*Have a cannoli and a cappuccino with some of "our friends"*

Café Pompei

*An equally good option for an after dinner espresso and pastry. By the way, just because you see a blinged out, 2008 Escalade double parked on Hanover Street does NOT mean that YOU can double park on Hanover Street. Know what I mean?*

Prezza [www.prezza.com/](http://www.prezza.com/)

*My personal favorite. Bring your wallet and enjoy.*

Monica's Restaurant/Trattoria [www.monicasfoods.com/](http://www.monicasfoods.com/)

Artu [www.artuboston.com/](http://www.artuboston.com/)

Assagio [www.assaggioboston.com/](http://www.assaggioboston.com/)

*Dine a few doors down from #98, the former home of the North End "Social Club," where the Feds wiretapped Gennaro "Jerry" Angiulo in the early 1980s, heralding the demise of the New England mob.*

Bacco [www.bacconorthend.com/](http://www.bacconorthend.com/)

*The veal Florentine is like-a you Momma made*

Lucca [www.luccaboston.com/](http://www.luccaboston.com/)

*Great place on Hanover Street - heart of the North End.*

## Faneuil Hall/Financial District

Ivy Restaurant [www.ivyrestaurantgroup.com/](http://www.ivyrestaurantgroup.com/)

*Italian tapas: the perfect solution for those of us who are always tempted to order more than one dish of pasta.*

Union Oyster House [www.unionoysterhouse.com/](http://www.unionoysterhouse.com/)

*Dark, creaky, and pricey... a Boston classic.*

Wagamama [www.wagamama.us/](http://www.wagamama.us/)

*Funky and innovative Asian fusion food in a minimalist setting.*

Ruth's Chris [www.ruthschris.com/](http://www.ruthschris.com/)

*The setting is almost as good as the steak - the original Boston City Hall*

Locke Ober [www.lockeober.com](http://www.lockeober.com)

*The definitive Brahmin dining experience. Hugely expensive.*

## South End

Hammersley's Bistro (South End) [www.hammersleysbistro.com](http://www.hammersleysbistro.com)

*Casual and elegant. The outdoor tables provide a good station for people watching*

Tremont 647 [www.tremont647.com](http://www.tremont647.com)

*Have a couple great martinis and you won't mind the close quarters*

Sibling Rivalry [www.siblingrivalryboston.com/](http://www.siblingrivalryboston.com/)

*Two chef brothers. Two dueling menus. Too delicious.*

Union Bar and Grille [www.unionrestaurant.com/home/](http://www.unionrestaurant.com/home/)

## Beacon Hill

Pierrot Bistro Francais [www.pierrotbistrot.com/](http://www.pierrotbistrot.com/)

*Vive la France!*

Lala Rokh [www.lalarokh.com/](http://www.lalarokh.com/)

*The best Persian food in the Colonies*

75 Chestnut [www.75chestnut.com/](http://www.75chestnut.com/)

*Great neighborhood bar to have a bite and watch the game*

The Paramount [www.paramountboston.com/pages/home.html](http://www.paramountboston.com/pages/home.html)

*Upscale cafeteria. Great for breakfast*

Figs [www.toddenglish.com/](http://www.toddenglish.com/)

*Famous chef Todd English does pizza.*

## Chinatown

New Jumbo Seafood [www.newjumboseafoodrestaurant.com](http://www.newjumboseafoodrestaurant.com)

*See the fish swimming around in the tank as you enter? Eat it 20 minutes later.*

*Have a craving for Yu Hsiang Scallop at 1:00 AM?*

Chau Chow City

*Fabulous dim sum brunch, try the calamari. Open until 4AM.*

China Pearl [www.chinapearlrestaurant.com/](http://www.chinapearlrestaurant.com/)

*Perennial contender for Best of Boston*

## Waterfront/Seaport

Sel de la Terre [www.seldelaterre.com](http://www.seldelaterre.com)

*Great French bistro around the corner from the Aquarium. Crusty bread*

Boston Harbor Hotel (Waterfront) [www.bhh.com](http://www.bhh.com)

*Have a drink in the outdoor café on the waterfront. Tables can be hard to come by and the food is mediocre and overpriced; but you can't beat the view*

Barking Crab [www.barkingcrab.com/](http://www.barkingcrab.com/)

*Max casual. Outdoor, picnic tables right alongside the channel. Fresh seafood.*

Chart House [www.chart-house.com/loc-boston.html](http://www.chart-house.com/loc-boston.html)

*Located in the building that once housed John Hancock's office. The view is special; the seafood is fair.*

No-Name Restaurant

*On the Boston Fish Pier - where all the boats unload. From George's Bank to your tummy in no time flat. Cheap and FRESH. The Seafood Chowder is a meal in itself.*

Legal Test Kitchen [www.ltkbarandkitchen.com/site/](http://www.ltkbarandkitchen.com/site/)

*Wanna' be a guinea pig for one of the premiere seafood purveyors in New England? Here's your chance. This place is SUPPOSED to be experimental. Marvel at the latest in food service technology. Eventually, an avatar will custom prepare the perfect meal for you, based on an instantaneous analysis of your breath and body composition. In the mean time, don't complain if the waiter steers you toward something that sounds weird. Just go with the flow and keep thinking about the contribution you're making for gastronomical science.*

Morton's Steakhouse [www.mortons.com/](http://www.mortons.com/)

*If you insist on going against the seafood grain, get a steak here.*

## Charlestown

Olives [www.toddenglish.com](http://www.toddenglish.com) *It's Todd English's world; we're just eating in it.*

Warren Tavern [www.warrentavern.com](http://www.warrentavern.com)

*The oldest tavern in the Bay State. Circa 1780. This place IS history. The décor is authentic colonial, Sam Adams is on tap, and the food is positively revolting. Paul Revere was regularly tossed out on Thursday nights for rowdiness.*

Tangierino [www.tangierino.com/](http://www.tangierino.com/)

*Relax with a hookah in the Casbah Lounge.*

## Cambridge

Rialto [www.rialto-restaurant.com](http://www.rialto-restaurant.com)

*Italian swankitude in Harvard Square? Yes! In the Charles Hotel. Continue the swankfest at the jazzy Regattabar, a few steps away.*

Casablanca [www.casablanca-restaurant.com/](http://www.casablanca-restaurant.com/)

*Per the website: Is it the mildly exotic atmosphere? The enticing Mediterranean cuisine? The chance to tinkle at the bar elbow-to-elbow with a nuclear physicist, a poet, or the next Kanye West? Who knows? Visit and find out.*

East Coast Grill [www.eastcoastgrill.net/](http://www.eastcoastgrill.net/)

*Try the Extremely Hot Crispy Hell Bone if you dare*

Craigie Street Bistrot [www.craigiestreetbistrot.com/](http://www.craigiestreetbistrot.com/)

*They're not kidding when they call this place "A hidden gem." An inside source tells me CSB was recently rated The Number 1 Restaurant in the World! The food is truly delectable; good luck finding it.*

Harvest [www.harvestcambridge.com/](http://www.harvestcambridge.com/)

*A Harvard Square institution. Cool, relaxing, and elegant. The food is expensive but very good. Dine al fresco weather permitting. It's transcendent.*

Upstairs on the Square [www.upstairsonthesquare.com/](http://www.upstairsonthesquare.com/)

*Lots of Harvard professorial types getting plastered at the bar. The pizza is tasty and the desserts are yummy. A bit on the pricey side - but what the hey...*

Oleana [www.oleanarestaurant.com](http://www.oleanarestaurant.com)

*Award winning venue for major foodies. Voted one of the best alfresco dining experiences in town.*

## Coffee, Tea, and Dessert

Mike's Pastry (North End) [www.mikespastry.com/](http://www.mikespastry.com/)

*Possibly the best cannoli west of the Mediterranean.*

flour bakery + café (South End and Waterfront) [www.flourbakery.com/](http://www.flourbakery.com/)

*The hazelnut-almond dacquoise should be illegal*

Trident Booksellers (Back Bay) [www.tridentbookscafe.com/](http://www.tridentbookscafe.com/)

*Crème Brulee and The Paris Review*

Finale (multiple locations) [www.finaledesserts.com/](http://www.finaledesserts.com/)

*Outrageous sweets*

Tealuxe (multiple locations) [www.tealuxe.com/](http://www.tealuxe.com/)

## Cheap and Quick Eats

Boloco (multiple locations) [www.boloco.com/](http://www.boloco.com/)

*A local chain serving up hot burritos and cold fruit smoothies*

Steve's Greek Cuisine (Back Bay)

*No frills dining, but they make a mean falafel.*

The Upper Crust (multiple locations) [www.theuppercrustpizzeria.com](http://www.theuppercrustpizzeria.com)

*Thin crust pizza - cheap and tasty!*

Deluca's Market (Back Bay and Beacon Hill) [www.delucasmarket.com](http://www.delucasmarket.com)

*Get your sandwich to go at the Beacon Hill location and picnic on the Common. The ducks will be happy to eat any leftover crumbs.*

## Nightclubs and Bars

Kenmore/Fenway/Lansdowne Street

Foundation Lounge [www.thefoundationlounge.com/](http://www.thefoundationlounge.com/)

*Sophisticated and upscale.. You get the vibe*

Game On [www.gameonboston.com/](http://www.gameonboston.com/)

*A favorite haunt for Sox players. It's literally built into Fenway Park - so what would you expect? Jonathon Papelbon may have debuted his signature dance here after one too many Harpoon IPAs.*

Cask N' Flagon [www.casknflagon.com/](http://www.casknflagon.com/)

*Steps from Fenway Park, the outdoor patio is a landing zone for Manny Ramirez home runs over the Green Monster in left field.*

Tequila Rain [www.tequilarainboston.com/](http://www.tequilarainboston.com/)

*Spring Break 52 weeks a year. This one was recommended by Erin and Aly, 20-something Neuropsy techs. I know nothing.*

Quincy Market/Faneuil Hall/Waterfront

Ned Devine's Irish Pub [www.neddevinesboston.com/neddevines/](http://www.neddevinesboston.com/neddevines/)

*Somehow they managed to combine the words "upscale" and "Irish pub" in one sentence. Accurately.*

Hard Rock Café [www.hardrock.com](http://www.hardrock.com)

*Newly re-opened*

Bell in Hand Tavern [www.bellinhand.com/](http://www.bellinhand.com/)

*Karaoke and fistfights. The entertainment is nonstop.*

The Black Rose [www.irishconnection.com/index.php?id=41](http://www.irishconnection.com/index.php?id=41)

*Authentic Irish food, traditional Irish music, and non-stop Irish attitude.*

Tia's [www.tiasboston.com/](http://www.tiasboston.com/)

*The expansive outdoor patio is always packed, but worth the wait.*

The Sail Loft

*The wooden paneling and brass fixtures are reminiscent of a ship's cabin, complete with a deck overlooking the harbor. More than one weary "sailor" has pitched into the brine after a few too many tankards of grog. Inquire about the availability of life jackets while you're still thinking clearly.*

South End

The Beehive [www.beehiveboston.com/](http://www.beehiveboston.com/)

*Live jazz and a casually hip atmosphere*

Pho Republique [www.phorepublique.net/](http://www.phorepublique.net/)

*The décor would make Walt Disney proud. Gigantic brass gongs, weathered floorboards and incredible coconut martinis.*

Back Bay

Vox Populi [www.voxboston.com/](http://www.voxboston.com/)

- The people speak. The people eat. The people imbibe.*
- Lir WDNNSW (We don't need no steenking website!)  
*A classic Irish pub with plenty of local brews on tap. The space is tight and it can get LOUD*
- Saint [www.saintniterly.com/](http://www.saintniterly.com/)  
*An interesting space. Now I know what a "Bed-Pod" is.*
- Gypsy Bar [www.gypsybarboston.com/](http://www.gypsybarboston.com/)  
*Frequented by celebs and trendsetters; a place to see and be seen*
- Cuffs at Jury's Hotel [http://bostonhotels.jurysdoyle.com/jurys\\_boston/RESTAURANTBAR](http://bostonhotels.jurysdoyle.com/jurys_boston/RESTAURANTBAR)  
*Located in the former Boston Police Headquarters. Find Whitey Bulger's initials carved into one of the tables and win a "Get out of jail forever" card.*

## Beacon Hill

- Harvard Gardens [www.harvardgardens.com/](http://www.harvardgardens.com/)  
*BB and N? Nobles? Phillips Andover? A haven for prep school grads of all ages. Try the vodka infused pineapple martini.*
- Alibi [www.alibiboston.com/](http://www.alibiboston.com/)  
*Located in the Liberty Hotel, this jail turned swanky bar maintains much of its original architecture. Some say that you can see the ghosts of inmates past reflected in your wine glass...*
- The Sevens WDNNSW  
*A Beacon Hill Institution. Very few touristas. Slide into a booth and order a Black and Tan.*
- Bin 26 Enoteca [www.bin26.com/](http://www.bin26.com/)  
*The walls are papered in wine labels at this cozy connoisseur's hangout.*
- 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment [www.21stboston.com](http://www.21stboston.com)  
*Prohibition bites the dust. Half of Boston becomes unemployed. Raise a glass, brothers and sisters.*

## Financial District

- Revolution Rock Bar [www.revolutionrockbar.com/](http://www.revolutionrockbar.com/)  
*Boston's sexiest rock bar? I live in Newton so I'll take your word for it.*
- Radius [www.radiusrestaurant.com](http://www.radiusrestaurant.com)  
*Upscale*
- Blu [www.blurestaurant.com/](http://www.blurestaurant.com/)  
*In the LA Sports Club. Eat healthy and drink martinis - all at the same time. Then hit the gym for a cardio burn class. Shower. Repeat.*

## Leather District/Chinatown/Theater District

- Felt [www.feltclubboston.com/](http://www.feltclubboston.com/)  
*Billiards and beautiful people.*
- The Estate [www.theestateboston.com/home.htm](http://www.theestateboston.com/home.htm)  
*Join the hottest people in the city as we sweat. Kind of says it all.*

## Cambridge/Somerville

- Regattabar [www.regattabarjazz.com](http://www.regattabarjazz.com)  
*Upscale jazz venue in Harvard Square*
- Ryles [www.rylesjazz.com](http://www.rylesjazz.com)  
*Funkier jazz joint, in Inman Square. Pat Metheny used to strum here before he became a guitar G\*d.*
- Club Passim [www.clubpassim.org/](http://www.clubpassim.org/)

*As Club 47, epicenter of the 1960s hootenanny scene in Cambridge. Joan Baez played here when she was 17! Now that's folk cred!*

The Middle East [www.mideastclub.com/](http://www.mideastclub.com/)

*Belly dancing on Tuesdays, Hip-hop on Thursdays, retro punk on Saturdays. If only people in the real Middle East could be so accommodating of diversity.*

Johnny D's Uptown Lounge <http://johnnyds.com/index-reg.html>

*Eclectic does not begin to describe the range of musical styles that take the stage at this classic venue in Davis Square, Somerville. How about folk, blues, reggae, funk, soul, jazz, bluegrass, country western, salsa, R&B, hard rock, Texas swing, West African, fusion, Latin, disco.... And the food is decent.*

## Larger Live Music and Theatre venues

Bank of America Pavilion [www.livenation.com/venue/getVenue/venueId/496](http://www.livenation.com/venue/getVenue/venueId/496)

Paradise Rock Club [www.thedise.com/](http://www.thedise.com/)

Orpheum Theater [www.massconcerts.com/venues/orpheumtheatre.htm](http://www.massconcerts.com/venues/orpheumtheatre.htm)

*I saw the Grateful Dead, NRPS, and Captain Beefheart here in the 60s and 70s. Don't lick anything.*

Tweeter Center Performing Arts (Mansfield, MA) [www.livenation.com/venue/getVenue/venueId/479](http://www.livenation.com/venue/getVenue/venueId/479)

*Tom Petty, June 14th*

*Rush "Snakes and Arrows" tour, June 15th*

Berklee Performance Center [www.berkleebpc.com/](http://www.berkleebpc.com/)

Boston Symphony Hall - Boston Symphony Orchestra, Boston Pops [www.bso.org](http://www.bso.org)

*Broadway's Leading Man (June 17th, June 18th)*

*Edgefest- Amanda Palmer (June 19th, June 20th)*

*Jazzfest Pops/Dizzy Gillespie (June 21st, June 22nd)*

Tanglewood [www.bso.org/bso/index.jsp?id=bcat5240070](http://www.bso.org/bso/index.jsp?id=bcat5240070)

*Summer home of the BSO in Lennox MA, in the heart of the picturesque Berkshires.*

Somerville Theater [www.somervilletheatreonline.com/somerville/index.php](http://www.somervilletheatreonline.com/somerville/index.php)

Agannis Arena [www.bu.edu/agganis/](http://www.bu.edu/agganis/)

*The best college ice hockey venue in the US hosts other events as well.*

TD BankNorth Garden [www.tdbanknorthgarden.com/](http://www.tdbanknorthgarden.com/)

*Site of the venerated Boston Garden and home of the Celtics and Bruins.*

*Tom Petty, June 13th*

Citi Performing Arts Center <http://www.citicenter.org/>

Other events: [www.Bostix.org](http://www.Bostix.org)

## Shopping

- Newbury Street – Boston's version of Rodeo Drive
- Copley Place – More marble than you can shake a stick at. And the fountain in the middle of the mall is real ugly.
- Prudential Mall – Is it my imagination? Or is this place truly endless?
- Haymarket - Local vendors aggressively selling fresh produce. Fridays and Saturdays only.

## Day Trips (within 2 hours of Boston)

- Whale Watch  
*New England Aquarium <http://www.neaq.org/visit/wwatch/>  
Massachusetts Bay Lines <http://www.massbaylines.com/whalewatch/default.html>*
- Take the hydrofoil to Provincetown [www.bostonharborcruises.com/](http://www.bostonharborcruises.com/)

- Fly to Nantucket [www.flycapeair.com/](http://www.flycapeair.com/)
- Boston Harbor boat cruises  
*Boston Harbor Cruises* [www.bostonharborcruises.com/](http://www.bostonharborcruises.com/)  
*Mystery Cruises* [www.mysterycafe.com/boston\\_cruise.html](http://www.mysterycafe.com/boston_cruise.html)  
*Odyssey Cruises* [www.odysseycruises.com/](http://www.odysseycruises.com/)

**Further afield:** Excursions in the New England (for those looking to spend additional time vacationing and touring in the region)

**Cape Cod** Keep driving past Hyannis. Avoid Route 28 unless your idea of a good time is sitting in a traffic jam inching past millions of tee-shirt shops and cheesy knick knock stores. Head for Wellfleet and have a beer and some deep fried clams at the Beachcomber [www.thebeachcomber.com](http://www.thebeachcomber.com), overlooking Cahoon Hollow Beach. Truro has gorgeous beaches on both sides - Bay and Ocean. Provincetown is ... you'll just have to go there and see. Stroll down Commercial Street, take a spin through Shop Therapy, and have dinner at The Red Inn. If you're feeling athletic, rent a bicycle and ride the bike trails through Province Lands to Race Point. The 22 mile Cape Cod Rail Trail [www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/southeast/ccrt.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/southeast/ccrt.htm) is also quite nice and there are dozens of places to rent bicycles. Or if you just want to SEE athletic, take in a Cape Cod League baseball game [www.capecodbaseball.org](http://www.capecodbaseball.org). These guys are pros. Meander back to Boston along Route 6A, which winds along the Bay side through many quaint towns.

**Newport RI** The mansions [www.newportmansions.org](http://www.newportmansions.org) and Cliff Walk [www.cliffwalk.com](http://www.cliffwalk.com). See how the Vanderbilts and Carnegies whiled away the summers, counting their dough by the seashore. The New York Yacht Club owned The Americas Cup for 132 years, and Newport hosted the race for the last 53 - until we lost to the Aussies in 1983. The cup and the race are gone, but don't despair - you can charter one of the former Cup winners! Take your choice - American Eagle, Intrepid, Weatherly, others. Or for short money - you could just visit the Museum of Yachting [www.moy.org](http://www.moy.org). And while you're at it, check out Rod Laver's shorts at The International Tennis Hall of Fame [www.tennisfame.com/](http://www.tennisfame.com/).

**The Islands - Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket** The **Vineyard** has three principal towns - Oak Bluffs, Vineyard Haven, and Edgartown - each with its own distinctive character. The best beaches on MV are Lucy Vincent, East Beach on Chappaquiddick, and Lambert's Cove. Keep your eyes open and you'll see some celebrities - Larry David, Walter Cronkite, David Letterman, Carly Simon. Play golf with Bill Clinton at Farm Neck. Or if you're into dead celebrities, take the hike to John Belushi's grave in Chilmark. **Nantucket** - think cobblestones and whaling. Cisco Beach is awesome - pounding surf. Bike the loop from Town to Siasconset and then side up to the bar at the Rope Walk on Straight Wharf. But go somewhere else for dinner. Company of the Cauldron or Trattoria Sfoglita. Ship's Inn is a cozy B and B. Try the White Elephant for more luxurious accommodations.

**New Hampshire and the White Mountains** Win a half gallon of maple syrup and a ski pass to Loon Mountain if you can pronounce Kangamangus Highway correctly on

the first try. Bostonians love New Hampshire. Thanks to the absence of a state sales tax, it's where we all go to buy our booze. Which leads to world-class traffic jams around Super Bowl weekend. They also sell lots of fireworks and reasonably priced guns. And thanks to the absence of a state income tax, it's where the woodsy ones among us go to retire. New Hampshire-ites refer to Massachusetts as TAX-achusetts. Which is pretty clever, given the fact that the utter lack of a tax base for funding their educational system results in the equivalent of a 5<sup>th</sup> grade education for all high school grads. But NH does have great skiing in the White Mountains (Bretton Woods, Loon, Wildcat, Attitash, Waterville Valley), cool license plates ("Live Free or Die"), and Hart's Location [www.hartslocation.com](http://www.hartslocation.com) - first town to report voter results in the US Presidential election.

**Maine - Acadia and beyond** Sunrise first strikes the US at Cadillac Mountain in Acadia National Park. The start (or end) of the 2161 mile long Appalachian Trail [www.outdoors.org/](http://www.outdoors.org/) is on top of Mount Katahdin in Baxter State Park. And Maine is the ancestral home of the lobster and the moose. You can eat one and hit the other with your car. Just kidding. Actually, be careful of Mr. Moose - especially if you are driving along one of Maine's unlit paper company roads in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway at night. Number 1 - He cannot see very well. Number 2 - He weighs around 1500 pounds and looks like ink moving across a black background. Number 3 - If you do hit him, you will probably be walking back to L.L. Bean's ([www.llbean.com](http://www.llbean.com)) where you suddenly realize that those night vision goggles with the camo trim were actually reasonably priced. Whatever you do, do NOT go to the outlet stores in Kittery - a Down East version of hell. Do take the ferry from Camden to Isleboro, find a stretch of rocky coast line, eat a lobster, spend a night or two at The Colony in Kennebunkport ([www.thecolonyhotel.com/maine/](http://www.thecolonyhotel.com/maine/)), take a hike in Baxter, drive around Moosehead Lake, have dinner at the Greenville Inn ([www.greenvilleinn.com/](http://www.greenvilleinn.com/)), check out Portland ([www.portlandmaine.com/](http://www.portlandmaine.com/)), and watch the sun rise on top of Cadillac Mountain ([www.nps.gov/acad/](http://www.nps.gov/acad/)). Come in winter and ski at Sugarloaf or Sunday River. Or rent a "camp" up in the woods and read Stephen King stories in front of a crackling fire - just have the 12 gage ready.

**Vermont and the Green Mountains** Greenest state in the nation. Just driving up Route 100 will suck the stress right out of you. You will oooh and ahhh for hours. The Ben and Jerry's tour ([www.benjerry.com/](http://www.benjerry.com/)) isn't what it used to be. But you can still get a free scoop of Cherry Garcia, and the countryside is positively bucolic. Situated on Lake Champlain, Burlington is home to the University of Vermont. Many UVM grads some how can't make it out of town after graduation - it's just too pristine, outdoorsy, and mellow. Vermont skiing is tops in New England - Stowe, Killington, Jay Peak, Sugarbush, and Okemo are the best.