

Welcome to Boston and enjoy your stay.



Boston, one of the oldest cities in America, evokes a distinct European feel, which is evident in the city's culture. The city's role in the American Revolution has led to the nickname, the "Cradle of Liberty." Boston has developed a progressive culture and attitude, becoming one of the most exciting places in New England, with excellent culinary hotspots and an abundance of attractions and sights. Historical buildings, parks and cemeteries are national landmarks, and the city boasts the birthplaces of many famous patriots, presidents and politicians. The city's architectural treasures include lovely brownstones and cobblestone streets, and gaslamps light the way in many neighborhoods.

Getting Around Boston

Boston may be the most walkable city in the United States, and neighborhoods and districts are easily accessible by America's oldest underground transit system, the MBTA, known around Boston as "the T." The streets in some of Boston's oldest neighborhoods can be difficult to navigate by car. They are believed to follow cow paths trodden in the 17th century, which would explain the labyrinth of one-way streets and rotaries. Adding to the confusion is the Big Dig, a massive renovation of the city's roadways that is now the largest public-works project in the United States. Traveling by T or on foot is usually the best bet for visitors to Boston.



Who's Who in Boston

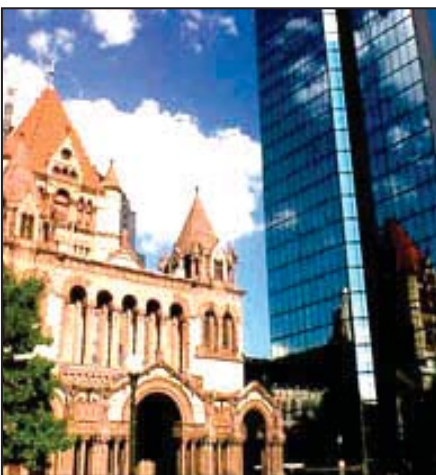
The city and environs draw some 200,000 students to more than two dozen universities, including some of the world's most famous institutions. The regular influx of students from all over the world has played a major role in the entrepreneurial and international spirit of the metropolis. Walk down Newbury Street or go to a nightclub on Lansdowne Street, and you will hear a medley of languages.



Boston has been a magnet for writers, artisans, politicians, and industry leaders throughout its history; Paul Revere, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and Mary Baker Eddy are just a few of the individuals who have left their imprint on the city.

City Living

Each of Boston's neighborhoods has unique characteristics and reasons to be explored. Beacon Hill, or "the flat on the hill," is where Boston's Brahmins once lived. With its impressive row houses and gas-lit cobblestone streets, it is still one of the more exclusive neighborhoods in town. The South End is filled with art galleries and excellent bistros. The North End offers a dizzying array of authentic Italian eateries and is home to several summertime Italian festivals. Popular Newbury Street is a swanky, upscale stretch filled with shops, restaurants and cafés. At the end of Newbury, you can people watch in the Public Garden and "make way for ducklings" on the Swan Boats.



Newbury Street runs through the heart of the Back Bay, where you will find opulent brownstones. Stroll down the grassy mall on Commonwealth Avenue between Massachusetts Avenue and the Public Gardens to get a feel for the way Bostonians lived in the 18th century. Bordering Back Bay is the Charles River, and the parkland along its banks, called the Esplanade where you can rollerblade, bike, or run to your heart's content.

Near the Boston Harbor waterfront is Faneuil Hall Marketplace which is an important stop along the Freedom Trail. It is a great place for souvenir shopping and photo opportunities. Or you can shop where locals shop in Downtown Crossing, which has several blocks of department stores, jewelers, and tiny shops.