



Sluggo's Guide to Boston

“I have just returned from Boston. It is the only thing to do if you find yourself up there.” — *Fred Allen*

Here are some tips on how to enjoy your lovely stay in Boston. (*Have corrections or want to donate to the author? See address at the end of this document.*)

Survival Tips

Arriving at Logan

Boston is lucky to have one of the most centrally located airports of any major US city with good connections to downtown via taxi, subway and ferry. To get to downtown Boston, follow the signs to ground transportation and look for the taxi stand. Fare to Boston through one of two harbor tunnels (Callahan or Ted Williams) is about \$20 with tip. The MBTA Blue Line is a cheaper alternative. Take the free 11, 22, 33 or 55 shuttle bus to the Airport subway station. From there, take the inbound train connecting to the Orange Line (at State) and the Green Line (at Govt Center). You can also take the Silver Line bus which stops at each terminal from each terminal and connects to the Red Line at South Station. (Tickets for either option are \$2 cash or get a 30¢ discount by loading money on a CharlieCard -- see *Getting Around Boston*, below.)

Logan info: massport.com, MBTA Info: mbta.com

Money Matters

The exchange rates are best if you a) buy on your credit card and b) get cash at ATMs, which will all accept your US or foreign bank card. Limit your visits to ATMs, because the fee is usually \$5 per transaction (but you make that up in the better exchange rate.) Prices quoted here are in US dollars.

I'm Floored

Buildings street level floors are called “first”, the 2nd floor up is the “second” floor and so on.

Cheap Tickets

Boston was historically a pre-Broadway tryout town, and still has a decent live theatre scene, with most of the theatres clustered in the Theatre District. There is a half-price tickets booth called **BosTix** in Copley Square and another at Faneuil Hall. Most theatres also sell rush tickets a half hour before the show.

www.bostix.org

When I'm Calling You

In Boston you must dial the full 11-digit number to dial *any* North American phone number (even within the same area code.) Most numbers in Boston are in the 617 area code, with the suburbs split between several other codes.

Hotel calls: Hotels tack on a hefty surcharge, so it's best to use a calling card at a payphone instead.

Here are some handy phone numbers:

- Operator, dial **0**
- Police, fire, or ambulance services, dial **911**
- Directory assistance (inquiries), dial **411**
- International Calls: Dial **011**, the country code, and number

A Tip

American's are relatively good tippers by European standards:

- **Restaurants:** 15% for good service, to 20% for exceptional service. With parties of 6 or more, restaurants will often add a tip on automatically; you are always free to speak to the management if you feel the tip is unwarranted.
- **Cabs:** Tip 10-12% of your fare.
- **Bars/Clubs:** Cash tips *are* expected. Tip \$1 per drink.
- **Hotel:** Tip your maid \$1 a day or so.

Smoking in Boston

Smoking is illegal in all businesses in Massachusetts, including all public transport, bars, nightclubs, restaurants and businesses. In Boston, smoking is also illegal on restaurant outside patio space.

Transport in Boston

The Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) – universally called the “T” and marked by the  provides subway & trolley, mainline (commuter), and bus service in eastern Mass. Intercity trains are run by *Amtrak* (see below) mbta.com or Google Maps can provide you with routes via public transit.

Using the

Boston’s subway is the oldest in the United States, opening in 1887 under the Boston Common from Park Street to Boylston stations. It is generally clean and well run, and runs from about 5 AM to 12:50AM. (It shuts down for maintenance due to the single-track design – Boston has no night buses.)

Subway maps are in every T station. Use them to determine what line you want, and follow the signs to the proper line. Slide your CharlieTicket into the reader arrow side up, and pointed toward the machine (and take your ticket out of the machine), or touch your CharlieCard to the black “target” and the barriers will open. You need *not* keep your pass out to exit at your destination.

At the platform level, check the maps for what station and line you want. Check the front and sides of the train for your destination and make sure you know what branch you want and that you are getting on the proper train!

Boston’s subway radiates out from downtown, trains heading out of town are outbound and those headed in towards downtown are inbound (which gets confusing in the core, so they are usually marked *direction-bound*.)

The Greenline has 4 branches (B – E). The “E” trains branches off at Copley, and all other lines branch off at Kenmore. The Redline has two southern braches to Ashmont and Braintree, which split at JFK/UMass.

Using Boston Buses

Boston buses are generally comfortable, air-conditioned, and fairly reliable, but they are horribly under-signed. Until recently, there are only signs that said “bus stop” with no indication of the route #, or where the bus went. This is slowly changing as the T puts up route maps, but check the mbta.com site before you travel.

Board the bus in the front. To pay, place \$1.50 in the coin-slot and/or bill reader, feed your CharlieTicket into the reader (arrow away from you, pointing in), or tap your CharlieCard on the black target. To exit the bus, press the yellow tape to signal for a stop, and exit at rear.

Basic Fares and Transfers

Because they speed entry onto trains and buses, CharlieCards are discounted from the cash or CharlieTicket fare. You can purchase CharlieTickets, CharlieCards, and monthly or visitor passes at any subway station, and refill CharlieCards with cash on any MBTA bus or subway car, or station. You can purchase pre-loaded CharlieCards online at: **commerce.mbta.com**.

Subway Fares (as of 7/1/2012):

Fare Type	Price	Details / Extras
Cash or CharlieTicket	\$2.50	
CharlieCard	\$2.00	Free transfer to local bus within two hours, and discounted transfer to express bus.
Monthly LinkPass	\$70/mo	Unlimited travel on subway and local buses

Bus Fares:

Fare Type	Price	Details / Extras
Cash or CharlieTicket	\$2.00	
CharlieCard	\$1.50	Free transfer to (different) local bus within two hours, and discounted transfer to subway.
Monthly Local Bus Pass	\$48/mo	Unlimited travel on local buses.

Visitor Passes:

Pass Type	Price	Details / Extras
1-Day Pass	\$11.00	Good for one day/week of unlimited travel (from day purchased) on Subway, Local Bus, Inner Harbor Ferry, and Commuter Rail Zone 1A.
7-Day Pass	\$18.00	

Who is Charlie?

The CharlieCard gets its name from "The MTA Song", often called "Charlie on the MTA," a 1948 song written by Jacqueline Steiner and Bess Lomax Hawes, about a man named Charlie trapped on Boston's subway system, then known as the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA). It was a hit in 1959 when it was recorded by The Kingston Trio, an American folk group.

Amtrak Inter-City Trains

Inter-city train service is provided by the National Passenger Rail Corp, AKA Amtrak. Trains from/to the south originate/terminate at South Station (also stopping at Back Bay) including Acela high speed service to New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington DC. Trains also depart from North Station for Maine and northern routes, including Canada and Chicago. (www.amtrak.com)

Zipcars

Boston is the birthplace of Zipcar (now in several US and European cities.) If you have a Zipcar membership, your card will work here, and Zipcars "live" all over greater Boston. See zipcar.com for more information and reservations.

Taxis

Boston cabs are easily hailed on the street or at taxi stands near attractions and hotels. Cab drivers rarely use the outside lights properly, so look for passengers inside to see if they are free. Taxi fares are \$1.75 for the first 1/8 mile, and 30¢ for each additional mile. Hand luggage and additional passengers are free.

Technically, it's illegal for an out of town cab to pick you up Boston cab in Boston, Cambridge and Brookline. This rule is almost universally ignored. Both Cambridge and Brookline cabs fares are slightly more expensive than Boston. Boston cab companies are:

Boston Cab	617-536-5010	Metro Cab	617-782-5500
ITOA	617-825-4000	City Cab	617-536-5100
Checker Cab	617-536-7000	Town Taxi	617-536-5000

Sightseeing & Attractions

Prices are for a regular adult ticket, expect where noted. See website for other ticket options.

Take a Trolley or Duck Tour! (bostonducktours.com)

Definitely take a tour. They are touristy, but do give you a good overview of Boston. Trolleys generally allow you to “hop on /hop off” privileges and most trolleys start at Copley Square (T Copley). Boston was the first US city to have Duck Tours, which are WWII amphibious landing vehicles which give you the tour, but also take you for a ride on the Charles River. Duck tours depart from The Prudential Center (T Prudential or Hynes) or Boston Museum of Science (T Science Park)

The Freedom Trail (www.thefreedomtrail.org)

Boston Common, 147 Tremont Street, Boston

This red brick trail highlights several of Boston's revolutionary sites, including the State House, Faneuil Hall, the North End, and USS Constitution. Start at the Boston Common Park Ranger station and follow the red line. This is a **must do!** [Free]

T Park Street

☎ 800-SEE-BOSTON

Boston Museum of Fine Arts (mfa.org)

Huntington Avenue (Avenue of the Arts), Fenway

One of the top museums in America, the MFA's encyclopedic holdings are particularly strong in Egyptology, Impressionism, American Art and Decorative Arts. They opened a stunning new “Art of the Americas” wing and a new dedicated modern art wing in 2011.

[\$22, free 2nd admission within 30 days with stub, free Wednesdays after 4P, and selected weekends with any Bank of America card]

T Museum or Ruggles

☎ 617-267-9300

Prudential Skywalk (.prudentialcenter.com/)

Prudential Center, 800 Boylston St. Back Bay

The skywalk Observatory offers breathtaking 360° views of Boston, 700 feet in the air, and is open from 10AM to 10PM. Fun facts about Boston accompany the view. [\$14 – or head to the bar one floor up for the same view, free!]

T Prudential

☎ 617-859-0648

Mapparium (marybakereddylibrary.org)

200 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston

This three-story, walk through stained glass globe, with pre-WWII countries (Prussia, Ottoman Empire, Persia) is a must see. Located in the Mary Baker Eddy Library, the Hall of Ideas and its fountain is also very cool. [\$6 - \$1 discount if you show a Charlie Card]

T Symphony

☎ 0207 766 0120

Boston Public Library (www.bpl.org)
Copley Square, Boston

Ⓣ Copley or Back Bay
☎ 617-536-5400

Housed in the gorgeous McKim building (and the Phillip Johnson addition), the BPL was the first municipally-supported library and first lending library in America with 6 million volumes. Check the Singer murals, the Italianate courtyard, and the stunning Bates Reading Room. New in 2003, are two restaurants in the McKim building. [Free]

Trinity Church (trinityboston.org)
206 Clarendon St, Copley Square, Boston

Ⓣ Copley or Back Bay
☎ 617-536-0944

H.H. Richardson's "Richardson Romanesque" masterpiece is consistently near the top of list of the top 10 buildings anywhere. Take a peek inside the Episcopal church to see John La Farge's painted interior and stained glass. [Free]

New England Aquarium (neaq.org)
Central Wharf, Boston

Ⓣ Aquarium
☎ 617-973-5200

One of the best aquariums in the US has been updated with a Frank Gehry-like aluminum skin, and an Imax theatre. [\$22.95]

Boston Harbor Islands (<http://www.nps.gov/boha/>)
Long Wharf, Boston

Ⓣ Aquarium
☎ 617-223-8666

Explore some of Boston's 34 Harbor Islands. Ferry from Long Wharf takes you to George's Island, with shuttles to other islands. [\$15 Ferry fare] (Also see Friends of Boston Harbor Islands under "Further Afield.")

Institute of Contemporary Art (icaboston.org)
100 Northern Ave, South Boston Waterfront

Ⓣ Courthouse
☎ 617-478-3100

Housed in a stunning new contemporary building on Boston's emerging waterfront, the ICA is one of the oldest contemporary art museums in the US. Emphasis is on installation art and video with a new, and growing permanent collection. There is also a fun bookstore and café run by Wolfgang Puck [\$15, Free Thursdays 5-9PM, Free families with kids last Saturday of the Month]

SoWaMarket (sowasundays.org)
Thayer Street at Harrison Av, South End

Ⓣ E Berkeley
☎ 617-478-3100

Long running and popular market combining a crafts-, farmers- and antiques-market, and food trucks. This is a really great way to spend a Sunday. Also check out Bobby's from Boston and the nearby galleries. [Free; SUNDAYS ONLY 11-4PM April-Nov, Antiques open Sundays year 'round]

Suggested Itineraries

Freedom Trail

Take a day to do the freedom trail (described above.) Make a point of wandering through the **Rose Kennedy Greenway** to the North End, Boston's Little Italy. Check out the first block of Salem Street, just off the Greenway for recommended stores **Acquire** and **Shake the Tree**, and stop at **Neptune Oysters** for some of Boston's best oysters and seafood.

Faneuil Hall / Financial District

Also called Quincy Market (Ⓣ Govt Center, Haymarket - faneuilhallmarketplace.com) Faneuil Hall Marketplace was the first "festival marketplace," and a model for urban malls such as South Street Seaport in NYC. See the inside of famous **Faneuil Hall**, and the museum of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company upstairs. Of course, check out the shops and pushcarts, restaurants and fast food, and the street performers in the marketplace. You can also take a walk to see Boston's first skyscraper, the neighboring **Custom House Tower**, and the lovely **Post Office Square Park**.

Boston Parks Tour

Start at Ⓣ **Park Street** station, and walk across the **Boston Common**, to the **Public Garden**, noting the "suspension" bridge (it's really not) and lagoon with its **Swan Boats**. Also check out the Make Way for Duckling's statues. Follow the main path across the Public Garden to Commonwealth Avenue mall. Follow this to Exeter Street, noting the statues and memorials, including the Boston Vendome Fire Memorial on Dartmouth Street. Take a right on Exeter Street, and follow to the footbridge onto the Esplanade. Follow the Esplanade (to your right), past the Hatch Shell, to the Pedestrian Footbridge at Ⓣ **Charles/MGH**.

The Rose Kennedy Greenway

A mile-long meandering green ribbon of a park left by the Big Dig project, on what used to be the path of the elevated I-93 highway. Start at Ⓣ **South Station**, follow the park to Ⓣ **Haymarket**. Along the way, there are fountains, gardens, lawns, a carousel, the Harbor Islands Pavillion, and on Saturdays in summer, the Greenway Open Market, featuring various crafts. You will also pass the **Aquarium** and the **North End**.

Cambridge

Across the Charles River from Boston is Cambridge: Home to the US's oldest college, Harvard University, and one of its best technical colleges, MIT. Harvard Square (Ⓣ **Harvard Square** - harvardsquare.com) is the epicenter of Cambridge's college town ambience.

Shop 'till you Drop

Take the Ⓣ to **Arlington**, **Copley** or **Hynes** and check out Newbury Street, Boston's charming version of 5th Avenue or Rodeo Drive. Also, at Copley Square, make sure and check out upscale Copley Place (copleyplace.com), and the attached Shops at the Prudential Center (prudentialcenter.com).

Suggested Out of Town Excursions

Friends of Boston Harbor Islands (www.fbhi.org) ☎ 781-740-4290

They offer several tours of Boston Harbor and the north and south coast, including fun Lighthouse tours, most departing from Long Wharf (Ⓣ Aquarium). See website for details [\$17-40, depending on trip.]

Provincetown (www.provincetown.com)

Provincetown, at the tip of Cape Cod is famous as an artist colony and haven for Gay & Lesbian's. In addition to the requisite shopping, cruising and dancing, P'Town has some of the best beaches in the state and plenty of National Parkland to explore on foot or bike. The high season runs from May to late July with the attendant crowds. Off season is quieter but still lovely. You can go by car, plane, or ferry:

Car: Route 93S to Route 3S, to Route 6, follow to end, 3 hours

Plane: Cape Air from Logan to Provincetown Airport, 20 mins

Ferry Fast or Slow ferries run late May - late Sept from Commonwealth Pier (**boston-ptown.com**)

Fast Ferry: 3 trips a day, 90 Mins, \$35 one way; Slow Ferry: 1 trip, 3 hours, \$18 one way

Salem (www.salemweb.com) Ⓣ Salem Depot, Rockport/Ipswich Commuter Rail

Salem, AKA "The Witch City" is famous for its Witchcraft Trials, House of Seven Gables, a lovely harbor and the Peabody-Essex Museum, with one of the world's best maritime and Asian art collections. Commuter rail from North Station to Salem Depot (a couple blocks from downtown) takes about 30 mins [\$6, round trip train]

Eating in Boston

Restaurants in Boston have come far from the days of Finnan Haddie and now Boston is one of the worlds best restaurant cities. You can find almost any food in almost any budget, and almost all Boston restaurants are casual.

Keys to symbols: **BW** = beer/wine *only*, **OS** = Outside seating, **CO** = Cash Only

Lunch:

Multi-Location Restaurants

- **Au Bon Pain** – This ubiquitous French bakery/café has soups, sandwiches, salads and desserts.
- **Cosi** - Great pannini sandwiches worth the slightly high price
- **Souper Salad** - A great salad bar, wraps and soups.

Café Jaffa

48 Gloucester Street, Back Bay

Authentic middle east/Mediterranean food like stuffed grape leaves, chicken shwarma and falafel. **BW**

Ⓣ Hynes

☎ 617-536-0230

The Kinsale

Two Center Plaza, Government Center

A great Irish pub in near Faneuil Hall and the Freedom trail. Great Irish specialties, and some not so Irish foods, too. (Good for dinner, too). **OS**

Ⓣ Govt Center

☎ 617-426-8727

The Parish Café

361 Boylston Street, Back Bay
493 Massachusetts Avenue (at Tremont), South End

📍 Arlington
☎ 617-247-4777
☎ (617) 391-0501

You must go here! A unique menu centered on sandwiches from the chefs of Boston restaurants like the Cottonwood Café's always-popular "Zuni Roll" (turkey-bacon wrap) and Ming Tsai's "Blue Ginger" (seared tuna sandwich). A great beer selection too. **OS**

Dinner

Cheap

(Most Entrees \$8-14)

Addis Red Sea (*Ethiopian*)

544 Tremont Street, South End

📍 Back Bay / South End
☎ 617-426-8727

One of the most unique restaurants in Boston serves Ethiopian food on spongy Injera bread. You use the pancake-like bread to scoop up the spicy veggie and meat dishes from your table. A great, very fun communal experience, not for the overly fussy. (addisredsea.com)

PICCO (*Italian*)

253 Shawmut Avenue, South End

📍 Back Bay / South End, Union Park
☎ 617-927-0066

The South End's Pizza and Ice Cream Co, (get it? PICCO) specialized in pizza and ice cream, as well as sandwiches, beer and the most amazing mac 'n' cheese *ever*. Casual, affordable, and a great neighborhood place. (piccorestaurant.com) **OS BW**

The Barking Crab (*Seafood*)

88 Sleeper Street, South Boston

📍 South Station
☎ 617- 426-2722

This fun and funky glorified clam-shack is Boston institution on the fort point channel. Eat in the big tent, or inside in the winter for some cheap, delicious seafood overlooking the water and Boston's skyline. (barkingcrab.com) **OS BW**

Moderate

(Most Entrees \$15-21)

Neptune Oyster (*Shellfish/Seafood*)

63 Salem Street, North End

📍 Haymarket
☎ 617-742-3474

Some of Boston's best seafood and the best raw bar around in a tiny (just 26 seats) but charming space just off the Greenway in Boston's "Little Italy," the North End. (www.neptuneoyster.com)

Stella (*Modern Italian*)

1357 Washington Street, South End

📍 Back Bay / South End, Newton Street
☎ 617-423-0555

Simple but incredibly well-turned out modern Roman food in a modern setting with lots of pretty people. Recommended: grilled sausage starter, pork Milanese, Linguine with asparagus cream & poached egg. (stellaboston.com)

Union (*Modern American*)

1357 Washington Street, South End

📍 Back Bay / South End, Union Park
☎ 617-423-0555

The best meal in Boston currently in a renovated warehouse space with comfy leather banquets, flattering lighting, friendly staff and perfect food. (unionrestaurant.com)

Expensive

(Most Entrees \$21+)

Hammersley's Bistro (Modern American)

Tremont Street, South End

Ⓧ Back Bay / South End

☎ 617-423-2700

One of the pioneers of Boston's restaurant resurrection, Hammersley's has been gaining raves for ever. Casual French for well heeled Bostonians and suburbanites alike. The chicken here is famous. Patio is first-come, first served. (hammersleysbistro.com) **OS**

L'Espalier (French / Local New England)

774 Boylston Street, Back Bay

Ⓧ Hynes Convention Center

☎ 617- 262-3023

In a new, sleek space in the Mandarin Oriental, L'Espalier is justifiably famous in a city filled with high-end dining options. Features sophisticated and modern New England / French cuisine, with an emphasis on artisanal and New England ingredients. The nightly Prix Fixe menu is part of the distinctive experience. (lespalier.com)

Other recommendations: You can also check restaurant reviews by my First Friday dining group at: www.ministryofsluggo.com/ff.html

Shopping Areas

Here are some of the areas to check out for shopping. **Bold** store names have separate listings in the "Shopping in Boston" section below:

Newbury Street (newbury-st.com)

Ⓧ Arlington, Copley, Hynes

Boston's "Rodeo" drive, where hundreds of enchanting shops, restaurants, outdoor cafes, art galleries, and salons are embraced in Boston's old world grandeur. Start at Arlington St with Cartier and watch as Newbury unfurls to its funkier end at Mass. Av. With **Fred Perry**, **Newbury Comics** and Urban Outfitters.

The South End (southend.org)

Ⓧ Back Bay or Union Park

The heavily gay South End has become in recent years the equivalent of NYC's SoHo with galleries, restaurants and shops galore. The main two shopping areas are Tremont Street between W. Canton and E. Berkeley Streets (Check out **Uniform**, **Sault New England**, and Motley) and Washington Street between E. Berkeley and Union Park Streets (Check out Lekker, Boomerangs and Reside on Washington, and Gracie Finn, Michelle Willey and Hudson along Union Park St.).

Downtown Crossing (downtowncrossing.org)

Ⓧ Downtown Crossing

A pedestrianized shopping district in the heart of Boston, this area contains Macy's, as well as restaurants, and clothing discounters TJ Maxx, Marshall's and H&M.

Harvard Square (harvardsquare.com)

Ⓧ Harvard

The famous Coop, Out-of-Town news stand and lots shops and restaurants stand alongside stores **Cardulo's** gourmet shop, **Black Ink** The garage mall, which includes a **Newbury Comics** store.

Coolidge Corner (harvardsquare.com)

Ⓧ Coolidge Corner

This area in the surrounded-by-Boston suburb of Brookline has some wonderful stores, particularly check out Goose Chase (great for gifts), PaperChase (scrap booking & paper supplies). There's also a Pier 1.

Malls in Boston include:

Cambridgeside Galleria, 100 Cambridgeside Pl, Camb. ☎ 617-621-8666 🚇 Lechmere
Over the river in Cambridge features J. Crew, Gap, Best Buy and Borders Books.

Copley Place, 100 Huntington Av, Boston ☎ 617-369-5000 🚇 Back Bay
Upscale shops include Tiffany, Armani Exchange, Hugo Boss, etc.

Faneuil Hall, 3 Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston ☎ 617-536-1300 🚇 Govt Ctr
The first “festival marketplace” (think South Street Seaport in NYC), this contains some mall giants, local stores (including the **MFA Store**) mixed with pushcarts and LOTS of restaurants.

Shops at Prudential, 800 Boylston Street, Boston ☎ 617-746-7778 🚇 Prudential
Linked to Copley Place by a skybridge, includes a food court, Barnes & Noble and several clothing stores (mostly for women.) Hint: Stop at the Information desk for a FREE “Pruferred” card to get discounts all over the Pru

Unique Shopping in Boston

While Boston has many chain stores, Newbury Street, especially contains some unique stores. Here are some others around the city:

Black Ink, Charles St, Beacon Hill ☎ 617-723-3883 🚇 Charles/MGH
Fun store specializing in offbeat gift items, house wares, cards, stationary, stamps. Also carries a wide range of Tintin items. (*Location also in Harvard Square*)

Cardullo's, 6 Brattle Street, Cambridge ☎ 617-491-8888 🚇 Harvard
Deli and wine shop with meats, cheese, condiments, specialty foods from around the world. This is the place to get your Jaffa Cake or Kinder candy fix. (**cardullos.com**)

Fred Perry, 301 Newbury, Back Bay ☎ 857-233-4698 🚇 Hynes
One of only two Fred Perry stores in the US. Pricey but durable menswear from the British tennis legends line. (**fredperry.us**)

ICA Shop, 100 Northern Ave., Boston ☎ 617- 266-5152 🚇 Courthouse
This store has some fun contemporary art-related home goods, toys, and jewelry as well as a good selection of books, and videos based on ICA shows. (**icaboston.org**)

Museum of Fine Arts Shop, Faneuil Hall, Boston ☎ 617-720-1266 🚇 Courthouse
Art-related home clothes, prints, home goods, toys, stationary, and jewelry as well as a good selection of books, and videos based on ICA shows. (Also in the MFA itself, which has a much larger book selection.) (**mfashop.com**)

Newbury Comics, Newbury Street, Back Bay ☎ 617- 267-4930 📍 Hynes
Originally a comic store (hence the name) now carries music, along with pop-culture ephemera, clothing, and yes, comic books. *Also in: Fanueil Hall, Harvard Square, suburbia.* (**newbury.com**)

Sault New England, 577 Tremont St, South End ☎ 857-239-9434 📍 Bay Bay / E Berkeley
Modern haberdashery featuring menswear, books, home accessories and gifts with a focus on products with a New England style. (**saultne.com**)

Uniform, 511 Tremont Street, South End ☎ 617-247-2360 📍 Back Bay / E Berkeley
Men's wear store featuring Penguin, rag & Bone, Ben Sherman, as well as sneakers and messenger bags. (**uniformboston.com**)

Nightlife

There are a concentration of gay clubs in the South End, The Fenway and the Theatre District There is very little "after-hours" nightlife in Boston. There is *no smoking* in Massachusetts bars. For an up-to-date list of bars, find "In Newsweekly" available all around town. EdgeBoston has a good list of gay Boston area nightlife: **edgeboston.com/index.php?ch=nightlife**

❗ Indicates Sluggo's picks for a must-visit.

Bars

All are: 21+, open 7 days and unless noted close at 2AM.

❗ **The Alley**, 14 Pi Alley, Boston ☎ 617-263-1499 📍 Gov't Center
Friendly bearish and leatherish crowd, pool tables and an upstairs balcony, where it's bear night every night, but especially busy after-work on Friday, on Saturday, and for Sunday "Bearaoke" from 8p-12m. Also periodic theme nights such as "Underbear" underwear party **thealleybar.com**

Eagle, 520 Tremont Street, South End ☎ 617-542-4494 📍 Back Bay / S. End
Not your usual Eagle leather bar (vestiges remain in the various leather club flags), but more a cruisy Neighborhood hangout, with Jack, its infamous sarcastic bitchy barman, and the nastiest bathroom around.

❗ **Club Cafe**, 209 Columbus Ave, South End ☎ 617-536-0966 📍 Back Bay / S. End
Retro-garage theme doesn't really jibe with the sweater and A&F wearing set that go here. A good place to take your tolerant parents. Packed on Thursday nights, and very popular Tea dance on Sundays. No cover. **clubcafe.com**

dbar, 1236 Dorchester Ave, Dorchester ☎ 617-257-4490 📍 Ashmont
Newest evidence of the gay Diaspora in Boston, as the "scene" moves southward to Boston's traditionally Irish, and rapidly gentrifying Dorchester. Restaurant before 11, turns into a gay disco as tables are cleared and lights start flashing. Parking lot and ample free on-street parking.
dbarboston.com

Fritz , 26 Chandler Street, South End ☎ 617-482-4428 🅒 Back Bay / S. End
Sports-oriented bar in the bottom of the Chandler Inn hotel draws a large crowd on Sunday afternoon.

Jacques , 79 Broadway, Bay Village ☎ 617-426-8902 🅒 Arlington
Infamous drag bar in the tiny Bay Village neighborhood (near the Theatre District and Park Square.)
Closes at Midnight! jacquescabaret.com/

Ramrod, 1254 Boylston St, Fenway ☎ 617-266-2986 🅒 Hynes, #55 bus
New England's "largest leather and levi bar" with Friday night is the busiest night, with a range of guys from bears to guys in fetish gear and can get pretty frisky in the backroom. Be Warned: Other nights of the week are pretty dire. The supposed dress code in the backroom (leather pants, chaps, vest or jacket, uniform, rubber) is *not* enforced, other than rare event nights. ramrodboston.com

Clubs

Many clubs in Boston are one-night weekly gay nights at otherwise straight clubs. Most charge a cover to enter. All clubs are 21+ unless noted. Clubs in Boston also close at 2AM

Machine, 1256 Boylston Street, Fenway ☎ 617-536-1950 🅒 Hynes, #55 bus
House music, pretty boys, mixing with the leather men upstairs at Ramrod. A little strange. Very busy on Fridays, and not so much any other night. *Open Thurs - Sat only!* machineboston.com

The House of Blues , 15Lansdown Street, Fenway ☎ (888) 693-2583 🅒 Kenmore
Chris Harris And Rafael Sanchez Presents: Epic Saturdays, Bostons gigest gay dance party featuring the best in global house DJs and performers as well as Bostons best bartenders and dancers has moved to the HoB (formerly Avalon) every Saturday night..
Saturday Only! **Cover:** Free before 11 p.m.; \$15 after chrisharrispresents.com

Estate , 1 Boylston Place, Theatre District ☎ 617-351-2581 🅒 Boylston, NE Medical
Gay night at this otherwise-straight nightclub in "The Alley" (off Boylston Street, between Charles and Tremont Streets) is called Glamlife with Rich LaDue spinning hip hop and Top 40 dance.
Thursday Only **Doors:** 10 PM Free chrisharrispresents.com

Paradise, 180 Mass. Ave, Cambridge ☎ 617-494-0700 🅒 Central, #1 Bus
Not to be confused with *The Paradise Rock Club* in Boston. Strippers (sorry, just to g-strings) upstairs, and decent top-40 music downstairs. *Open 7 days a week. No Cover.* paradisecambridge.com

Rise, 306 Stuart Street, Park Square ☎ 617-423-7473 🅒 Arlington
Boston's only after-hours club. *hours/fees at website* *Fri - Sunday* riseclub.us

Lesbian Club Nights

All lesbian clubs in Boston are one- (or more) night weekly dyke nights at otherwise straight clubs. Most charge a cover to enter. All clubs are 21+ unless noted. Clubs in Boston close at 2AM

Club Café Thursdays (See Listing Above)

Machine 2nd Saturdays (See Listing Above)

Midway Café 3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain ☎ 617-524-9038 🅒 Green Street
Every Thursday night is Ladies night at the Midway Cafe. DJ Summers' Eve spinning Queeraoke with over 30,000 songs to choose from.
Thursday Only **Doors:** 9 PM, \$5 cover **midwaycafe.com**

Milky Way Lounge, 284 Amory St., Jamaica Plain ☎ 617-524-3740 🅒 Stony Brook
Every Sunday the Milky Way Lounge presents Satellite, a queer night for ladies. Live entertainment varies from week to week and includes Fireball Drag Bingo, spoken-word events and jazz.

Straight Bars of Note

And some straight bars of note (all these serve food also):

Delux, 100 Chandler St. South End ☎ 617-338-5258 🅒 Bay Bay/S End
Cramped, crowded, noisy, and kitschy, but great food.

The Kinsale, 2 Center Plaza, Govt Center ☎ 617-742-5577 🅒 Govt Center
One of Boston's many Irish pubs, this one is right along the Freedom Trail, is a lot of fun and had good food.

The Oak Bar, 138 St James Ave **Boston** ☎ 617-267-5300 🅒 Copley
Masculine, clubby, bar at the Copley Plaza hotel is a great place for a drink before dinner.

Top of the Hub, Prudential Center, Boston ☎ 617-536-1775 🅒 Copley
Drinks on the 52nd floor of New England's 2nd highest building. What more do you need to know?
Business casual dress code recommended.

Music Venues

Boston, with its large college crowd, hosts one of the better music scenes in the country, with local, national, and international bands. Check the Boston Phoenix paper (online at bostonphoenix.com) for weekly listings of bands, or check with the venues listed:

House of Blues , 15 Lansdowne Street, Fenway	☎ (888) 693-2583	🅒 Kenmore
TD Banknorth Garden , Causeway St., Boston	☎ 617-931-2000	🅒 North Station
FleetBoston Pavilion , 290 Northern Av, S Boston	☎ 617-728-1690	🅒 South Station
The Paradise , 967 Commonwealth Av, Allston	☎ 617- 562-8800	🅒 "B" Line

The Middle East , 472 Mass. Av, Cambridge	☎ 617- 497-0576	🚇 Central
The Orpheum Theatre , 1 Hamilton Pl, Boston	☎ 617-679-0810	🚇 Park
T.T. the Bear's Place 10 Brookline St, Cambridge	☎ 617-492-0082	🚇 Central
Tweeter Center , 885 S Main St, Mansfield, MA	☎ 508-339-2333	🚇 N/A
Gillette Stadium , 1 Patriot Pl, Foxborough, MA	☎ 800-543-1776	🚇 Special Trains

Guide to Gay Clubbing by Night

Here are my picks for what to do what night.

Sunday – Head to **Fritz** in the south end in the late afternoon (5 – 7p) for a very busy, friendly (or as friendly as Boston gets) crowd. You can then head to nearby **Club Café** for tea dance from 4p to 1a. Another fun, friendly option is Bearaoke at the **Alley** from 8-midnight. (No covers for any of these!)

Monday - Wednesday – Boston is quite quiet these nights, though **Fritz** will always have a crowd.

Thursday – It's the new Friday, with options all over town! **Club Café** is packed with lesbians in the front bar, and a-list, sweater wearing gay men in the back as likely to check your credit rating as your ass. After Club Café, head over to the **Eagle**, or to **Paradise** in Cambridge for dancing. **Estate** is packed for free hip-hop and Top 40 night.

Friday – **Machine** a dance club, below the **Ramrod** in the Fenway is packed tonight. **The Alley** will be busy after work till about 9pm.

Saturday – If you are into bears, Saturday is your night, as **The Alley** is packed with 'em. Most bars will be somewhat busy. For dancing, Cambridge's **Paradise** is especially busy tonight, the Fenway, House of Blues **Epic** draws a pretty, younger crowd.

After Work Scenes: **Club Café** and **Fritz** are reliably busy with after-work crowds. **The Alley** is full of bears on Fridays.

Fun Boston Facts

Here are some little known facts about Boston. OK, little known to you.

Hancock Weather Beacon

One of Boston's most treasured landmarks: The flashing weather beacon that sits atop the old John Hancock Tower, (next door the another Boston landmark, the 60-story glass John Hancock tower.) The tower began forecasting the weather, using predictions from a meteorological company on the 26th floor, in 1950. Its predictions inspired a poem:

Steady blue, clear view

Flashing blue, clouds due

Steady red, rain ahead

Flashing red, rain instead

(Except in the summer, when flashing red means the Red Sox game has been postponed.)

<http://www.aviewoncities.com/boston/hancocktower.htm>

(You can check the status of the beacon on the [boston.com](http://www.boston.com) homepage.)

The Sacred Cod

The fishing industry was so important to Colonial Boston that the cod is a symbol of the Commonwealth and in fact the official state Fish. The Sacred Cod has hung at the back of the House chamber in the State House (and previously the Old State House) since 1784. The Senate never convenes without the 5 foot, carved pine Cod present, and it is turned to face whichever party is in control of the Senate.

<http://www.museumofhoaxes.com/pranks/sacredcod.html>

Make Way for Ducklings

Robert McCloskey's famous children's book "Make Way for Ducklings" is set in and around the Boston Public Garden. The ducks are memorialized by Nancy Schön's immensely popular sculpture of them in the Public Garden. Ducklings are regularly sawed off at the feet, only to be found and returned later. For your reference the ducks are: Mother duck, Jack, Knack, Lack, Mack, Nack, Ouack, Pack, and Quack. <http://www.schon.com/public/ducklings-boston.php>

T Colors

The MBTA lines are color coded, and yes, the colors have a history: The **Red Line** goes to Cambridge, home of Harvard, whose school color is Crimson. The **Blue Line** goes under the harbor and to the seaside north of Boston. The **Green Line** goes to Boston's leafy suburbs. The **Orange line** used to run down Washington Street, which was originally called Orange Street. The **Silver Line** bus rapid transit line is supposed to evoke speed, and we don't talk about what the Yellow stripe on the buses represents.

http://www.mbta.com/insidethet/taag_history.asp

Molasses Flood

On Wed, January 15, 1919, a 90-foot-wide cast iron tank storing 2 ½ million gallons of molasses (slated to be made into rum) ruptured. It emptied its entire contents into Commercial Street in the space of a few seconds. The result was a flash flood of the sweet, sticky, deadly goo. More than 150 people were injured and 21 were killed by a 8-foot high wall of 35-MPH Molasses!

urbanlegends.about.com/library/weekly/aa123197.htm

Parker House

The Parker House on Tremont Street, opened in 1855, is the oldest continually operated hotels in America and the first hotel with an elevator. It gave the world Parker House rolls and Boston Cream Pie. Guest have included Joan Crawford, JFK, Charles Dickens and most infamously, John Wilkes Booth – 8 days before assassinating Lincoln. It also employed Malcolm X as a waiter, and Ho Chi Mihn as a busboy!

<http://www.iboston.org/mcp.php?pid=parkerHouse&laf=pap>

Boston Firsts

Boston lays claim to the first World Series victory (by the Boston Pilgrims in 1903), first subway, first public park, first public secondary school, first publicly funded library, first credit union, first submarine sandwiches in America, first demonstration of ether, first telephone, first drawbridge, first chocolate factory, and first animal hospital. It also was the scene of the first witch hanging in the colonies.

Boston Slang

See also: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston_slang

The Basement: Filene's Basement discount clothing store

Bay State: Massachusetts

Bay Stater: A Massachusetts resident

Bubler: Water fountain

The Cape: Cape Code, the easternmost arm of Massachusetts

(To Get) Carded: (pron: cahded) To be asked for ID for liquor

Fenway: The Fenway neighborhood, Fenway Park (home of the Red Sox), or the Back Bay Fens park.

Frappe (Pron: Frap): chocolate (or other) syrup, ice cream, and milk (called a milkshake elsewhere)

The Garden (Pron: Da Gahden): TD Banknorth Garden home of the Celtics and Bruins.

The Irish Riviera: Coastal suburban towns of the South Shore of Massachusetts inhabited by upper middle class Irish-Americans

Jamaica Spain: Jamaica Plain, a neighborhood of Boston, after its large Hispanic population.

JP: Jamaica Plain (see: Jamaica Spain)

Jimmies: Chocolate Sprinkles

Massholes - Derogatory term for residents of Massachusetts, especially of Boston drivers (not generally used by Bay Staters)

Milkshake: Milk and chocolate syrup, without ice cream (called chocolate milk elsewhere)

Packie: A package, or liquor store

Pissah: Cool (as in "wicked pissah" meaning very cool)

P-Town: Provincetown, Mass (at the end of Cape Cod)

Regular Coffee: Coffee with cream and sugar, as this is the "normal" way to drink it

Rozzie: Roslindale.

Southie: South Boston (not to be confused with the South End)

Statie: A Massachusetts state trooper

The T: The MBTA public transit system (bus, subway and train).

Wicked: (Pron: Wickid) Very. As in "I tried wicked hard"

Uey: (Pron: yoo-ee) A U-turn, as in "and then you pull a uey at the corner"

Roads:

Comm Av: Commonwealth Avenue

Mass Av: Massachusetts Avenue

Mem Drive: Memorial Drive

Storrow: Storrow Drive

Guidebooks

Sure you look dorky carrying around your guidebooks, but hey, would you rather miss stuff?



Eyewitness Guide to Boston, DK Publishing

ISBN: 0789466457

I have these guides for every major city I've been to, and the Boston version is no exception. It has neighborhood-by-neighborhood information, bird's-eye maps, fascinating tidbits, and great walking tours. Absolutely gorgeous production and worth every penny.



Pop-Up Map, Compass Maps Ltd.

(London map shown)

These pocket-size folding maps help orient you and point out major attractions in the city center. A "must have" at all times.



Improper Bostonian

This large-format weekly magazine with entertainment, shopping and events, gay and lesbian listings and theatre. It looks a lot like Timeout magazine. Comes out on Thursdays and it's free and newspaper boxes all over town.



Boston Phoenix

The alternative "arts and culture" newspaper is available all over town and from newspaper boxes. It also comes out on Thursdays and is free.

Websites

www.mbta.com - Greater Boston trains, subway and buses.

www.nextbus.com – real time, mobile-browser-friendly bus tracker.

www.amtrack.com - US inter-city and international rail service.

[www.timeout.com /Boston](http://www.timeout.com/Boston) – What's going on in Boston entertainment.

www.cityofboston.com - Official website of the City of Boston.

www.superpages.com - National yellow pages online

www.iboston.org - In interactive guide to Boston's history and architecture.

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MBTA SUBWAY MAP



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