

IOC GUIDE TO BOSTON

THINGS TO DO

Museums

- [Museum of Fine Arts](#) – One of the most comprehensive art museums in the world, the MFA collection encompasses almost 500,000 works of art. Featured galleries include Monet, Frida Kahlo, and Toulouse-Lautrec and the Stars of Paris. Conveniently located outside of the Fenway area.
- [Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum](#) – In 1990, the single largest property theft in the world occurred at this museum started by Isabella Stewart Gardner and her husband. It remains the biggest unsolved art theft in world history. Also located outside of the Fenway area near the MFA.
- [Institute of Contemporary Art](#) – A museum of contemporary art, the ICA often features interactive exhibits as well as films and social events. See their [calendar](#) for more details on exhibitions and events. Located in the Seaport district
- [Museum of Science](#) – A museum focused around understanding science and technology. Includes interactive exhibits, a butterfly garden, 4-D films, IMAX films, and Planetarium shows
- [Harvard Art Museums](#) – A short walk from Harvard Square, the Harvard Art Museums host a collection of approximately 250,000 objects of varying mediums. The galleries provide another look into artistic history, conservation, and education.
- [New England Aquarium](#) – The Aquarium is a nonprofit research and conservation organization that hosts interactive exhibits and a Giant Ocean Tank.
- [Boston Public Library \(Central Branch\)](#) – An architectural marvel located in Copley Square, the Central Branch of the Boston Public Library is made of two distinct sections that show the city's built evolution.
 - Within the Central Branch is the [Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center](#) that hosts an exhibition gallery, a public learning center with geography maps and texts, and a reading room for collections research.
 - On nice days, markets pop up across the street at Copley Square

Historic Sites

- [Freedom Trail](#) – The 2.5 mile-Freedom Trail connects 16 historic sites significant to American history and the start of the nation in the late 1700s. Visitors can either embark on guided tours or follow the brick pathway through the city, stopping at sites at their own pace. Some of the most notable spots on the Freedom trail include:

- [Boston Common](#) – This sprawling Boston park serves not only as a space for leisure and recreation, but as a time capsule of history. From its role in the Revolutionary War to its expansion with the filling in of Back Bay, the Common is a wonderful (and free) spot to visit for anything from admiring the skyline or learning Boston history.
- [Massachusetts State House](#) – With its shining gold dome, the State House is home to fascinating political and architectural history that represents the evolution of Massachusetts itself. Guide yourself or be taken by an expert on a free tour of the building, its gorgeous rooms and chambers of power.
- [Faneuil Hall](#) – Standing tall since 1742, Faneuil Hall is home to restaurants and shops in a historic brick building.
- [Quincy Market](#) – Just behind Faneuil Hall is Boston's famous Quincy Market. With many restaurants and shops, visitors can wander the same buildings visitors roamed nearly over 200 years ago.
- [USS Constitution](#) – This ship – nicknamed “Old Ironsides” – has never been defeated in battle. The accompanying museum is dedicated to the history of the ship and its significance in American military history.
- [Bunker Hill Monument](#) – Despite being the site of an early loss for colonial forces, the British suffered much larger losses than expected. This signaled hope in the revolution and led to the monument that stands atop the hill today, surrounded by the gorgeous streets of Charlestown.

Activities/Events

- [Tours of Fenway Park](#) – Referred to as "America's Most Beloved Ballpark", Fenway Park is an iconic landmark just steps away from Boston University's campus. Expert tour guides will take visitors through the park's rich history as a Boston site and icon of American baseball.
- [Duck Boat Tours](#) – Hop on a renovated World War II amphibious vehicle to get one of the most comprehensive tours of Boston by land and sea. This is a must-do activity for any first-time visitor!
- Walk around the Boston Harbor and North End
 - If the weather is nice, take a walk down the Rose Kennedy Greenway, a contemporary public park that replaced the central artery highway during the infamous Big Dig.
- Take a photo on [Acorn Street](#)
 - One of the most photographed areas in the city, this quaint street is lined with quaint row houses reminiscent of Boston's colonial era.
- Check out [Meet Boston](#) for an updated calendar of events

Neighborhoods

- [Back Bay](#) – Home to Newbury Street and the Prudential Center, Back Bay is a center for shopping and dining (particularly for those with fine taste). From BU's campus, continue East down Commonwealth Avenue and you'll find yourself amongst the historic brownstones that mark the neighborhood.
- [Beacon Hill](#) – Situated next to the State House and the Public Garden, Beacon Hill is arguably Boston's most picturesque neighborhood. The neighborhood is known for its cobblestone streets, tree cover and well-preserved brick row homes.
- [Charlestown](#) – At the very end of the Freedom Trail rests historic Charlestown. The beautiful neighborhood with historic roots is just across the river from Downtown, making it a perfect spot to see the city skyline.
- [Chinatown](#) – Boston's Chinatown is dense with bakeries, restaurants, food markets, and more, making it a great neighborhood to visit to experience a taste of another culture.
- [Downtown](#) – A center for finance and government, Boston's Downtown is a classic American center city. Just steps from the common, the Freedom Trail winds through skyscrapers, bypassing the recently renovated City Hall Plaza and Boston Public Market.
- [Jamaica Plain](#) – JP is a diverse community with bountiful greenspace. Known as a haven for progressive Bostonians, Jamaica Plain is home to many local shops for socially conscious shoppers.
- [North End](#) – Across the greenway from Downtown, the North End is quintessential Boston, dense with historic sites on its narrow streets. The neighborhood is also the historic home to Boston's Italian community with many restaurants and famous bakeries.
- [Seaport](#) – A newer neighborhood, Seaport has reclaimed part of Boston's industrial waterfront to make way for a sleek, modern district with all kinds of activities.

RESTAURANTS

Fenway/Kenmore Neighborhood

- [Tatte Bakery & Café](#) (\$) - Popular, stylish Israeli-French bakery chain with breakfast dishes, sandwiches, cakes, tarts & pastries alongside gourmet coffee.
- [El Pelon Taqueria](#) (\$) - Made-to-order Mexican street eats like fish tacos & beefy burritos are topped with house-made salsas.
- [Saloniki Greek](#) (\$) - Greek fast casual from chef Jody Adams with custom plates, pitas & more.
- [Sweetgreen](#) (\$) - Locavore-friendly counter-serve chain specializing in salads, soup & bowls.

- [Sweet Cheeks Q](#) (\$\$)- American barbeque featuring meat from local New England farms.
- [Yard House](#) (\$\$)- High-end sports-bar chain with a huge menu of New American fare & an extensive list of draft beers.
- [Time Out Market](#) (\$\$)- Home to multiple restaurants of varying cuisines with a common sitting area
- [Pescador](#) (\$\$\$)- Focused on coastal seafood in a variety of forms from main dishes to toppings
- [Bab Al-Yemen](#) (\$\$)- Rare find for Boston serving Yemeni food
- [India Quality](#) (\$) - Decades-old Kenmore Square institution that is known for its excellent North Indian food
- [Futago Udon](#) (\$) - Hot and cold udon options, including some more unique spins
- [Hojoko](#) (\$\$)- Hip izakaya in Verb Hotel serving Japanese tavern-style fare with craft beers & frozen cocktails.
- [TsuruTonTan](#) (\$\$)- Known for its different types of udon from all over Japan and culmination of an original blend of flour and techniques

Brookline

- [Mei Mei](#) (\$\$)- Upbeat outfit serving carefully sourced Asian-American fusion fare like scallion pancake sandwiches.
- [Sol Azteca](#) (\$\$)- Veteran Mexican eatery for traditional plates & margarita choices.
- [Café Landwer](#) (\$-\$\$\$)- Diner-café hybrid serving Israeli dishes with modern twists and a variety of coffees, pastries, and other drinks. Full breakfast, lunch, and dinner menus are available.
- [Taberna de Haro](#) (\$\$\$)- Spanish tapas joint with a wine list that's about as thick as a phone book

Allston

- [Santouka](#)(\$\$) - Hearty ramen spot offering silky smooth tonkotsu soups
- [Coreanos](#) (\$) - Meals ranging from traditional Korean dishes to Mexican-fusion options
- [Ajeen](#)(\$\$) - Lowkey Lebanese cafe serving Middle Eastern staples such as falafel, shawarma, kebabs, and famous for its flatbread (called manakish in the Levant)
- [Happy Lamb](#) (\$\$) - Popular Chinese restaurant offering delicious, authentic hot pot
- [Rhythm n Wraps](#) (\$\$) - Nutritious and flavorful vegan food with a Caribbean-inspired twist
- [Mala Restaurant](#) (\$\$)- Busy Chinese cafe focusing on spiced-to-order Sichuan eats in a cozy, contemporary setting

- [88 Food Connection](#) (\$) - Food court offering Asian stalls featuring Uyghur cuisine, pho, poke bowls, boba tea, and Korean-style donuts for dessert!

Back Bay

- [Lucy Ethiopian Cafe](#) (\$\$) - Warm East African cafe serving injera bread with combo platters
- [Buttermilk & Bourbon](#) (\$\$\$) - If you're in the mood for Southern eating, try this quirky lounge with New Orleans flare
- [Little Whale Oyster Bar](#) (\$\$) - You can't leave Boston without trying classic New England seafood!
- [La Voile](#) (\$\$\$) - Elegant destination for classic French cuisine, including a nightly fixed-price menu
- [Serafina](#) (\$\$) - With a modern take on classic Italian dining, this restaurant offers outdoor seating with views of lively Newbury Street

GETTING AROUND BOSTON

- [The Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority](#): Hours of operation vary, but most bus and train service starts around 5 AM and ends around 1 AM. Tickets and passes are available at fare vending machines located at subway stations.
 - Fare vending machines accept:
 - Cash
 - Credit/debit cards
 - Contactless credit/debit cards
 - EBT cards
 - [The T \(train\)](#): There are four main subway lines—the [Green](#), [Blue](#), [Orange](#), and [Red](#) lines—with 125 stops throughout the region. All routes stop near Boston Common, right downtown.
 - All underground stations have ticket machines to buy reloadable CharlieCards or CharlieTickets. A one-way trip costs \$2.40.
 - [Buses](#): T buses connect neighborhoods in Greater Boston with each other, and offer service to several surrounding cities and towns, from Bedford and Medford to Saugus and Salem.
 - CharlieCards and CharlieTickets work on all buses. A one-way trip costs \$1.70.
 - You can also purchase an \$11 one-day [Linkpass](#) for unlimited trips on subway and local buses

- [Boston University Shuttle](#): Boston University offers a free shuttle service with multiple routes around campus. All bus lines run through the Charles River Campus. The 1BU line continues to the Medical Campus and the Fenway line continues to BU's Fenway campus.
 - The [Terrier Transit App](#) has live locations of the BU Shuttle along with updates on the T and bus lines.
- **Biking**: Bluebikes are the city's public bike share program with over 400+ stations. You can buy a pass from any Bluebikes station or through the [app](#).
 - Steps:
 - Find an available bike nearby, and get a ride code or use your member key to unlock it.
 - Take as many short rides as you want while your pass is active.
 - Return your bike to any station, and wait for the green light on the dock to make sure it's locked.
- **Rideshare**: [Uber](#) and [Lyft](#) options are widely available around the city. You can reserve a ride in advance or plan a last minute trip out.

SAFETY

- The Charles River Campus has [multiple safety protocols](#) to mediate any potential emergency.
 - Emergency telephones have been installed in many Charles River Campus and Medical Campus areas. In an emergency, simply press the red button to be connected directly to help.
 - [Scarlet SafeWalk](#) provides walking escorts to students and employees seven nights a week, from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. (3 a.m. on weekends). They can be reached at (617) 353-4877
- The [Boston University Police Department](#) is highly familiar with BU's campus and can respond to emergencies at all times. They can be reached at (617) 353-2121.