

A wide-angle photograph of the Boston skyline across a body of water. The skyline includes several skyscrapers and the distinctive white cables of the Zakim-Benjamin Franklin Bridge. The water is dark blue with some ripples, and the sky is a clear, bright blue.

Guide to: A Weekend in Boston



Welcome to Boston. Bostonians are culture vultures. Whether it's Stravinsky's "Symphony of Psalms" performed by the Boston Symphony Orchestra or "I Will Survive" performed by a drag-queen Gloria Gaynor, Boston is into creating and consuming art of every variety. Bostonians are also sports fans. Sure, almost everybody loves to watch the Sox; but Bostonians also recognize that life is not a spectator sport. They are just as likely to be playing on the company softball team as watching the boys on TV. Pick a sport and Boston has an intramural league; find an open space and you'll see someone throwing a Frisbee. Bike paths, basketball courts, boathouses and beaches are always in use by Boston's young, energetic population.

In the following you will find a small selection of the things to do during your free time in Boston.

1 Music & Nightlife

House of Blues (Boston).

Middle East (Cambridge).

All Asia (Cambridge).

Cantab (as Cambridge as it can get).

The Liberty Hotel (an ex-prison, now a hip bar; close to Charles/M.G.H on the Red Line).

Blue Man Group (Sat, 5, 8pm Sun 2, 5pm).

Shear Madness (Sat, 6, 9pm; Sun 3, 7pm).

2 Museums & Sights

The Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA).

The Museum of Fine Arts Boston (MFA).

Harvard Museum of Natural History and Ethnology.

Freedom Trail: The Freedom Trail is a red path through downtown Boston, Massachusetts, that leads to 16 significant historic sites. It is a 2.5-mile walk from Boston Common to USS Constitution in Charlestown.

Back Bay Wine Tasting (Sat, 3 to 5pm).

Tall Ship Sunset Sailing (Sat, Sun 6pm).

Whale Watching (Sat, 10am, 12, 2, 3, 5:30pm; Sun, 10am, 12, 2, 3pm).

Castle Island: Beach & hot dog, fries, and ice cream.

& more...

3 Sports

Going to see a game of basketball or football is definitely worth it, just for the "american experience" of it. If you don't want to spend 50-60\$ on a ticket to see a national league game, you can look for universities games which are already at a really high-level and cost less. Look for Boston College's football team (15-20\$ a ticket).

Boston Bruins (NHL).

Boston Celtics (NBA).

Boston Red Sox (Baseball).

New England Patriots (NFL).

4 And Sports (on your own)

Sailing & Kayaking (experience required).

The Middlesex Fells: A reserve in Medford, good for hiking, mountain biking, climbing, bouldering, cross country-skiing, snow-shoe hikes.

Minute Man Bike Trail: Trail from Davis Square to Bedford, good for cycling, inline skating, running.

Or go run along the Charles River among the hundreds of Bostonians who do their jogging. Really nice spot at sunset, with Boston's skyline in the background.

5 Weekend & Day Trips

Boston is close to a lot of different weekend getaway places. *Cheap car rental*.

5.1. Cape Cod

Service from Boston and from Boston's Logan Airport to Hyannis is provided by Plymouth & Brockton's Logan Direct (508-746-0378). (2 hrs. 10 mins.) Service from Hyannis to Provincetown is also available. Or you can take the ferry: <http://www.bostonharborcruises.com/provincetown-ferry/>.

5.2. New York

Only a 4 hour bus ride to New York: <http://www.gotobus.com/yobus/>.

5.3. Boston Harbor Islands

<http://www.bostonislands.com/>

5.4. Concord

Small New England town with tons of history, outdoor activities (kayaking on the Concord River, swimming in Walden Pond, biking, Minute Man Park). Reachable by bike in the summer from the end of the Red Line in Arlington via the Minute-man bike path through the woods (20km).

5.5. Martha's Vineyard

Via bus or car to Woods Hole and from there with the ferry.

5.6. North Shore

Shore towns and beaches e.g. Gloucester, Rockport, Ipswich, Newburyport all within reach via Commuter Rail/ car.

5.7. Newport

Beautiful coastal town in Rhode Island with old mansions to visit, beaches, music festivals. <http://www.gonewport.com/>.

5.8. Providence

Home of the Rhode Island School of Design and Brown University, reachable via Commuter Rail. <http://www.waterfire.org/>.

5.9. Montreal

5 hours by car, or 7-8 hours by bus.

6 A Tip: Tipping

Tipping is expected in restaurants, bars, and the better hotels as well as by hairdressers, taxi drivers and baggage carriers. In restaurants, wait staff are paid less than the minimum wage and rely upon tips to make a living. Tip at least 15% unless the service is terrible, in which case a light tip will get your point across. At bars, bartenders typically expect a US\$1.00 tip for every drink they serve (at preferred drinking spots, the old rule of fourth round free stands and decent tips help perpetuate that tradition). Never tip in fast-food, take-away or buffet-style restaurants where you serve yourself.