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U.S. SERIES
THE NORTHEAST CORRIDOR

# *Greetings from* BOSTON

48 hours, solo, at your own pace

POCKET EDITION · 2027

48-HOUR GUIDE · SAFETY GUIDE · PLANNING CALENDAR
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# Welcome to Boston

Boston is one of the most walkable big cities in America, and one of the oldest. The streets were laid out before anyone imagined cars, so the whole historic core fits inside a morning's stroll, and every block has a story attached to it.

Traveling alone here is easy. The city is full of students, scholars, and commuters moving on foot, and nobody looks twice at one person at an oyster bar, a museum bench, or a harborfront bench. Boston rewards the traveler who walks slowly and reads the plaques.

## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Read through once before you go. Day One follows the Freedom Trail through Boston Common, Faneuil Hall, and the North End. Day Two covers Beacon Hill, the Public Garden, and the museums, with an evening in the Seaport or Fenway. Section 03 is the new-for-2027 story of the Great Molasses Flood. Winters are cold and icy, so plan layers and good boots from November through March.

## ESSENTIAL QUICK FACTS

**CURRENCY**
US dollar (cards accepted nearly everywhere)

**TRANSIT**
The T subway and buses · about $2.40 a ride

**TIME ZONE**
Eastern (UTC–5; UTC–4 in summer)

**EMERGENCY**
911 · city services 311

**TIPPING**
18–20% in restaurants

**WALKING**
Most sights lie within a 30-minute walk

01 DAY ONE

# The Freedom Trail · Faneuil Hall · The North End

The first day follows the red-brick line across the oldest part of the city, from the Common to the harbor and the North End.

## MORNING · 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

8:30 AM

### Boston Common

The oldest public park in the country, and the starting point of the Freedom Trail. Pick up a map at the visitor center and follow the red line.

*The line is painted or inlaid in brick. If you lose it, look down.*

10:00 AM

### Granary Burying Ground and the Old State House

Paul Revere, Samuel Adams, and John Hancock are buried in the Granary. A few blocks on, a ring of cobblestones marks the site of the Boston Massacre.

*Allow a few minutes at each; the sites are small.*

12:00 PM

### Lunch at Quincy Market

Faneuil Hall's long food hall has dozens of counters, from chowder to lobster rolls. It is easy to eat alone and keep moving.

*Walk past the first stalls; the better counters are farther in.*

## AFTERNOON · 1:30 PM – 6:00 PM

1:30 PM

### The North End

Boston's oldest residential neighborhood, with narrow streets, Italian bakeries, and the Paul Revere House. Walk to the Old North Church, where two lanterns were hung in 1775.

*Stop at a bakery for a cannoli. Order one and eat it on the street.*

4:00 PM

### The Molasses Flood plaque

A small plaque on Commercial Street marks the site of the 1919 disaster described in Section 03. It is easy to miss.

*Look near the North End waterfront park; the plaque is low on a wall.*

5:15 PM

### The Harborwalk

Follow the waterfront path toward the Seaport, with views of the harbor and the downtown skyline.

*The path is flat and quiet in the late afternoon.*

## EVENING · 6:30 PM – 10:00 PM

7:00 PM

### Dinner at the bar — Neptune Oyster

A tiny North End oyster bar with a raw bar, lobster roll, and a short wine list. The bar seats are the best for one.

*It is small, so go early or expect a wait.*

9:00 PM

### Beacon Hill at dusk

Walk up through the gas-lit streets of Beacon Hill after dark, past brick row houses and iron lamps.

*Stay on Charles Street and Acorn Street; the lanes are quiet and well lit.*

02 DAY TWO

# Beacon Hill · The Public Garden · The Gardner Museum

The second day is slower: a brick neighborhood, a garden, a museum, and a ballpark evening.

## MORNING · 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

8:30 AM

### Beacon Hill and Acorn Street

Cobblestone lanes, gas lamps, and flower boxes. Acorn Street is among the most photographed streets in the country.

*Go early, before the tour groups arrive.*

10:00 AM

### The Public Garden

A Victorian garden with a pond, weeping willows, and the bronze ducklings from Make Way for Ducklings. Swan boats run in warm months; check the season.

*Sit on a bench by the pond for a few minutes.*

12:00 PM

### Lunch in Back Bay

Newbury Street is a long row of cafés, galleries, and shops in brownstones. Pick a café with a window seat.

*Walk the length of the street, then eat at the far end.*

## AFTERNOON · 1:30 PM – 6:00 PM

1:30 PM

### Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

A Venetian-style palace built around a glass-roofed courtyard, filled with art arranged exactly as its founder wished. Check opening days; it closes one day a week.

*Book a timed ticket online.*

4:00 PM

### Fenway Park

The oldest ballpark in Major League Baseball. Tours run most days, and on game days the surrounding streets fill with fans.

*Check the home schedule before you go.*

## EVENING · 6:30 PM – 10:00 PM

6:30 PM

### Dinner at Union Oyster House

Said to be the oldest restaurant in continuous service in the country, with a bar for oysters and chowder. The back booths feel like another century.

*Sit at the raw bar and ask about the day's oysters.*

8:30 PM

### An evening on the Charles

Walk the Esplanade along the river, with the Back Bay skyline across the water.

*The path is well lit and busy in warm weather.*

03 1919

# The Great Molasses Flood

### DID YOU KNOW?

*Did you know a wave of molasses once swept through Boston's North End?*

In January 1919, a five-story steel tank holding roughly 2.3 million gallons of molasses burst on Commercial Street. A wave about two stories high raced through the neighborhood at around 35 miles an hour. Twenty-one people died and about 150 were injured.

### WHAT HAPPENED

The tank belonged to the Purity Distilling Company, which stored molasses there to ferment into alcohol. The tank was filled to capacity and failed without warning, flattening buildings and sweeping vehicles aside.

### WHY IT MATTERS

The lawsuit that followed was one of the first big class actions in Massachusetts and led to stricter rules on engineering and construction. Many legends add that the area smelled of molasses for years, though accounts vary.

### HOW TO FIND IT

A small plaque on Commercial Street marks the site. It is easy to miss, so look closely near the North End waterfront park. The North End itself is the best place to spend the surrounding hour.

04 WHERE TO EAT

# Oysters, cannoli, and chowder

Boston eats well alone. Many of the best places have a bar or counter, and the North End is one dense block of options.

## BREAKFAST & LUNCH

### Quincy Market
FANEUIL HALL · $10–25
A long food hall with chowder, lobster rolls, and everything in between.

### Pizzeria Regina
NORTH END · $15–25
A North End brick-oven pizzeria that has been in business since the 1920s.

### Modern Pastry
NORTH END · $5–10
A cannoli and a coffee, filled to order, on a historic block.

### Flour Bakery
SOUTH END · $8–15
Sandwiches, pastry, and a long counter for one.

## DINNER & LATE NIGHT

### Neptune Oyster
NORTH END · $30–60
A tiny oyster bar with a lobster roll and a short wine list.

### Union Oyster House
FANEUIL HALL · $25–50
One of the oldest restaurants in the country, with a raw bar.

### Row 34
FORT POINT · $30–55
An oyster house in a former warehouse, with a long bar and a busy room.

### Legal Sea Foods
SEVERAL · $25–50
A local chain with chowder and fresh fish; a reliable bar seat.

05 GETTING AROUND

# Navigating Boston

Boston is compact and walkable. The T subway, buses, and ferries cover the rest, and rideshare fills the gaps.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **The T (subway)** | about $2.40 | Four main lines meet downtown. Pay with a CharlieCard or contactless card. |
| **Airport (BOS)** | Blue Line | A free shuttle runs from each terminal to the Airport station, then the Blue Line reaches downtown in about 10 minutes. |
| **Buses** | about $1.70 | Local bus fares are lower than the subway. Check current prices. |
| **Ferries** | by trip | Harbor ferries run from Long Wharf to the Harbor Islands and Charlestown. |
| **Rideshare** | by trip | Useful late at night, when trains run less often. |
| **Walking** | Free | The Freedom Trail covers about 2.5 miles. |

Brick sidewalks and cobblestones are slippery when wet or icy. Wear shoes with grip, especially in winter.

06 BACKUP PLANS

# Boston on a rainy or snowy day

Boston's weather changes quickly, and winters are cold. These are good places to spend an indoor afternoon.

BACK BAY
### Museum of Fine Arts
One of the largest art museums in the country.

FENWAY
### Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
A Venetian-style palace and glass courtyard.

BACK BAY
### Boston Public Library
A grand reading room and a quiet courtyard.

SCIENCE PARK
### Museum of Science
Hands-on exhibits and a planetarium.

WATERFRONT
### New England Aquarium
A giant ocean tank and a harbor view.

CAMBRIDGE
### Harvard Art Museums
Three collections under one glass roof.

07 NEIGHBORHOODS

# Know your neighborhoods

BRICK & GAS LAMPS
### Beacon Hill
Cobblestone lanes and Federal row houses.

ITALIAN BOSTON
### North End
Bakeries, red sauce, and the Paul Revere House.

BROWNSTONES
### Back Bay
Newbury Street, the library, and Copley Square.

WATERFRONT
### Seaport
New restaurants, a harbor view, and a modern art museum.

BALLPARK & MUSEUMS
### Fenway
The Red Sox, the Gardner, and the MFA nearby.

ACROSS THE RIVER
### Cambridge
Harvard, MIT, bookstores, and cafés.

08 GOOD TO KNOW

# What nobody tells you

- Walk. Most of the historic core is within a 30-minute stroll, and the best discoveries come on foot.
- Winters are cold, icy, and windy. Pack layers, a warm coat, and shoes with grip from November through March.
- Oyster bars and chowder counters are the easiest places to eat alone. Sit at the bar.
- The T stops running around 1 a.m. Use rideshare after that, or plan to head back earlier.
- Tip 18–20% in restaurants. A meals tax is added to the bill.
- Timed tickets are worth booking ahead for the Gardner Museum, Fenway tours, and any major exhibit.

## WHEN TO GO

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Sep–Oct** | Best overall | Crisp days, fall color, and the Head of the Charles Regatta in October. |
| **May–Jun** | Second best | Mild, green, and lively before summer crowds. |
| **Jul–Aug** | Peak season | Warm and busy, with harbor festivals and outdoor concerts. |
| **Nov–Mar** | Off-season | Cold and quiet, with holiday lights and lower prices. |

09 SOLO TRAVELER SAFETY

# Is Boston safe?

Safe, with standard city awareness. The historic core, Back Bay, Beacon Hill, and the Seaport are busy and well lit. The main risks are pickpockets in crowds, icy sidewalks in winter, and a few streets near the South End and downtown that feel quieter late at night.

## NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY AT A GLANCE

| | |
|---|---|
| **Beacon Hill** | ●●●●● |
| **Back Bay** | ●●●●● |
| **North End** | ●●●●○ |
| **Faneuil Hall (daytime)** | ●●●●○ |
| **Boston Common (daytime)** | ●●●●○ |
| **Downtown Crossing late at night** | ●●●○○ |
| **Outside the central core at night** | ●●●○○ |

## COMMON SCAMS

Street performers and petitioners may ask for money or a signature. Decline politely and keep walking. Never leave belongings visible in a parked car.

## HEALTH & MEDICAL

Massachusetts General Hospital is the main downtown hospital. Pack layers in winter and walk carefully on ice. Carry travel insurance.

## SOLO TRAVELERS

Share your plan with someone back home and keep your phone charged. Stay on busy streets at night, and use rideshare after the T stops.

## EMERGENCY CONTACTS

| | |
|---|---|
| **Police, fire, medical** | 911 |
| **City services and non-emergency** | 311 |
| **Poison Control** | 1-800-222-1222 |
| **Nearest ER (Downtown)** | Massachusetts General · 55 Fruit St. |

10 PLANNING CALENDAR

# Boston, month by month

Exact dates shift each year, so confirm before booking.

**MAR** ST. PATRICK'S DAY

- South Boston's parade is one of the largest in the country, and Irish pubs fill across the city.

**APR** BOSTON MARATHON

- The marathon runs on Patriots' Day in April, and the streets near Copley fill with spectators.

**JUL 4** INDEPENDENCE DAY

- The Boston Pops play on the Esplanade, followed by fireworks over the river.

**OCT** FALL

- The Head of the Charles Regatta fills the river with rowers, and the foliage peaks.

**NOV–DEC** HOLIDAYS

- Lights on the Common and the Public Garden, and Christmas markets.

**DEC 31** NEW YEAR'S EVE

- Family events across the city and fireworks over the harbor.

# BOS

*Every Stop, Mapped*

Scan the code to open the free interactive Boston map — every stop in this guide, filterable by day, food, and transport.

goingsolo.life/maps/boston

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