

# Boston, Massachusetts

Welcome to “Bean Town USA”. Boston is the city and port of entry in Eastern Massachusetts, capitol of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and seat of Suffolk County. It is the largest city in population in New England and has a land area of 47.8 sq. miles. Its flourishing harbor lies on an arm of the Massachusetts Bay, at the mouths of the Charles and Mystic Rivers. Boston is the commercial, financial, industrial and cultural center of New England. Across the Charles River is the town of Cambridge, originally the capital of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Today the town is best known for Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. A dream location for literary buffs, Cambridge’s Harvard Square offers one of the greatest concentrations of bookstores in the country.

Much of the city land is devoted to parks and open spaces. In 1634, 48 acres in the center of Boston were reserved for use as a public Common. Adjoining the Common is the Public Garden, planted with a great variety of trees and ornamented with flower beds.

Boston streets lack the uniformity characteristic of most North American cities; this is especially true downtown. The narrow, winding and irregular street cause some traffic congestion, but they are the cherished and picturesque remains of colonial times and the early 19th century.

Boston is rich in structures of historic and architectural interest. Among these are the Old State House, (1748), The North Church (1723), the Old South Meeting House (1729) and Faneuil Hall (1742). Another unique feature of Boston is the blend of the historical and modern building structures side by side in downtown Boston.

Boston Light (1716) at the entrance to Boston is the oldest lighthouse in the United States. The Port of Boston has more than 250 docks, comprising 30 miles of berthing space for large, oceangoing ships.

Boston is the chief commercial and industrial city of New England. It is the insurance center and the seat of the Federal Reserve Bank, District 1. The city’s industry is diversified, but electronics, publishing and printing are most important; food products, clothing, woolen and worsted goods, electrical machinery and footwear are the leading manufactures. It is a principal fishing port. Logan International Airport is located two miles from downtown Boston and it is notorious for its traffic congestion.

A big plus in Boston is its well-marked walking trails. The Freedom Trail

winds its way through colonial Boston, stopping at the home of Paul Revere (built between 1676 and 1680), the Old State House, the Boston Massacre Site, and the Granary Burying Ground, where such illustrious Americans as John Hancock and Samuel Adams are laid to rest. The Old South Meeting House was the locations where a conference was held that set off the Boston Tea Party in Boston Harbor on December 16, 1773.

Boston is a welcoming haven for shopper, many of whom begin their browsing at Filene's Basement for world-famous bargains. (Filene's is a unique fine department store with at least TWO basement floors for a shopper delight.) Literary buffs will enjoy browsing at the Old Corner Book Store, a shop on the Freedom Trail that was built in 1712. Around-the-globe delicacies can be sampled in one day at one place - Quincy Market, whose aisles of food stalls sell international tasties and fast food (including the famous Boston Bake Beans, a must to have in Boston.) Another must stop to quench your thirst, the famous Cheers, the pub that inspired the long-running television series.

Boston has long been widely known as a music center, as well as for its education institutions, libraries and art galleries. Joan Baez got her start at a Cambridge club called Passim's. For music fans of all stripes, the city presents the Wang Center for the Performing Arts and the famous Boston Pops located in Symphony Hall or at the Hatch Shell on the Charles River, during the end of year holiday season and the summer. (The Fourth of July celebration is the largest annual open-air concert in the country.)

Whether visitors enjoy spectator or participant sports, they'll find many recreational opportunities in Boston. In warm weather, one can sail, canoe, row, kayak, and windsurf on the Charles River, or jog, bicycle, and walk on terra firma. The Boston Red Sox play at historic Fenway Park, the Boston Celtics and Boston Bruins compete at the Boston Garden and the New England Patriots hit the gridiron at Sullivan Stadium. Since 1987, runners have met the challenge of the Boston Marathon, a world-class event held each April.

So whether you want to learn, play, shop or just take it easy, Boston is one of the cities where all things are there for the taking.