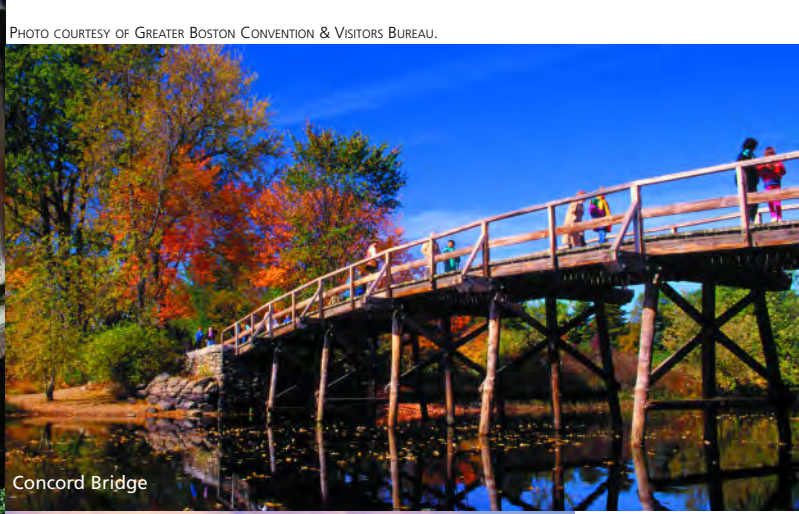




Courtyard at the Gardner Museum
PHOTO COURTESY OF ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM, BOSTON.



Concord Bridge



Boats on the Charles River

PHOTO COURTESY OF GREATER BOSTON CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU.

BOSTON

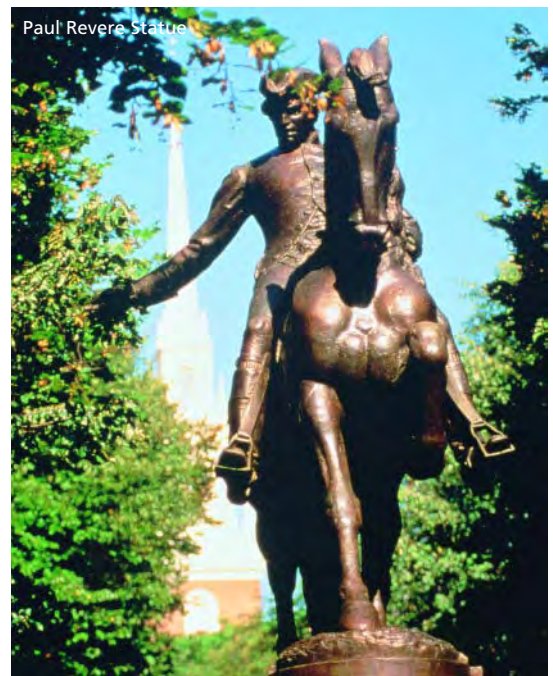
BY JENNIFER CHANDLER

Undoubtedly the most historic city in America, Boston is a vibrant, thriving city renowned for its cultural facilities, world-class educational institutions, champion sports franchises, as well as its place at the very forefront of American history.

Take a walk into the past at some of our nation's most historic spots. Then step into the present day to enjoy the fast-paced excitement at a Boston Celtics or New England Patriots game. Savor an unforgettable meal at one of Boston's top restaurants. See the future at work at Harvard or MIT.

Whatever your interest, the state capital of Massachusetts has something to offer.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GREATER BOSTON CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU



Paul Revere Statue



The Eliot Hotel



Lobby of the XV Beacon



Ritz Fizz

SLEEP

The Eliot Hotel In fashionable Back Bay, steps away from the boutiques and restaurants of Newbury Street and within easy reach of Boston's medical and biotechnology centers and universities, The Eliot Hotel (370 Commonwealth Ave., 617.267.1607) is one of Boston's most luxurious boutique hotels. From the moment you enter The Eliot Hotel, you will be impressed with the refined details cultivated throughout the hotel. Suites and rooms are exquisitely decorated and outfitted with the finest amenities. Be sure to visit the James Beard award-winning Clio Restaurant and the sleek Uni Sashimi Bar for a taste of Chef Ken Oringer's contemporary fusion of French and Asian cuisines. (\$255+)

XV Beacon Situated in a 1903 Beaux Arts Building that juxtaposes cutting-edge technology with extraordinary Jeffersonian styling, XV Beacon (15 Beacon St., 617.670.1500) is a refined landmark hotel that combines peerless personal service with the intimacy of a private residence. Designed to provide the utmost in comfort, all rooms feature unique amenities such as working gas fireplaces and queen poster beds. Complimentary in-town chauffeured Lexus sedan service is also available to all guests. (\$350+)

The Ritz-Carlton Anchoring fashionable Newbury Street and the picturesque Public Garden, the Ritz-Carlton (15 Arlington St., 617.536.5700) in Back Bay is the oldest Ritz-Carlton hotel in continuous operation in the United States. Newly restored to its 1927 elegance with today's technical innovations, this Boston landmark is in walking distance of historic sites, elegant shopping, the Theatre District, as well as the Boston Financial District. Stop by The Bar for a Ritz Fizz, which was created here, or one of its award-winning martinis. (\$389)

The First Thanksgiving

Just an hour outside of Boston, a visit to the historic town of Plymouth, Massachusetts, is well worth a day trip.

Marvel at the famous Plymouth Rock. Board the Mayflower II and learn how your ancestors traveled to the New World. Connect with the pilgrims as you travel back in time at the Plimoth Plantation, a re-creation of Plymouth as it was in the 17th century with a pilgrim village, a native people home site and costumed role-players.

For detailed travel information, contact the Plimoth Plantation at 508.746.1622 or visit www.plimouth.org.



Mistral



EAT

Mistral Located in the city's stylish South End, Mistral (223 Columbus Ave., 617.867.9300) is undoubtedly one of Boston's hottest dining spots. Enjoy Chef Jamie Mammano's acclaimed French Mediterranean cuisine in the dramatic dining room that features high ceilings and arched floor-to-ceiling windows. Or lounge with the smart set in the elegant bar, which, by the way, serves Mistral's entire menu. Favorites include appetizers such as Seared Foie Gras with Confit of Duck in Brioche and Tart Wisconsin Cherries (\$21) or grilled thin crust pizzas with the likes of Beef Tenderloin, Mashed Potato and White Truffle Oil (\$21) as toppings. Open seven nights a week for dinner with a special late-night menu on Friday and Saturday nights; reservations recommended. (Entrees \$26+)

No. 9 Park Located in an elegant townhouse in Boston's historic Beacon Hill, No. 9 Park (9 Park St., 617.742.9991) provides an intimate, European-style setting in which to enjoy Chef Barbara Lynch's refined and regionally inspired French and Italian cuisine. One of the foremost chefs in America, Lynch's accolades include The James Beard Foundation's "Best Chef in the Northeast" and "Best Chef in Boston" by *Boston* magazine. Enjoy an elegant three-course dinner featuring artfully prepared dishes such as Fresh Ricotta Raviolotti with Chestnuts, Sage and Parmigiano-Reggiano (\$17) and Braised Veal Shank with Porcinis, Barley and Prune Gremolata (\$39), or indulge in a nine-course Chef's Tasting Menu paired with exquisite wines (\$185). Dinner is served Monday through Saturday starting at 5:30 p.m., and lunch is served Monday through Friday. Reservations are recommended. (Entrees \$29+)

The Daily Catch If classic Italian seafood is what you are looking for, then head to The Daily Catch (323 Hanover St., 617.523.8567). For more than 30 years, this shoe-box eatery in the heart of Boston's North End has been serving up Sicilian-style seafood and pasta dishes in the pans in which they were cooked. Specialties include a phenomenal Lobster Fra Diavolo, fresh New England lobster, little neck clams, mussels, shrimp and calamari served over linguine in a spicy marinara sauce (\$60 for two guests); and homemade squid ink pasta (\$21). Go early, and be ready to stand in line; this one-room eatery seats only 20 and takes no reservations. (Entrees \$18)

SEE

Fenway Park Visit the park where The Babe pitched, The Kid hit, Yaz dazzled and Manny and Ortiz still thrill young fans today. Tours of Fenway Park (*Yawkey Way, Gate D, 617.226.6666*) will give fans a behind-the-scenes look at America's most-beloved ballpark. The tours include the press box, broadcast booths and the control room; the new Red Sox Hall of Fame Club; the .406 Club; the new Legends Suite; the Dugout Seats; and Pesky's Pole. When the field is available, fans may also have the opportunity to walk along the warning track and come face-to-face with the fabled Green Monster. Tours leave from the Souvenir Store across Yawkey Way hourly, seven days a week, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or three hours before game time. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$11 for seniors and \$10 for children. Advance ticket sales are not available. Walk-up sales are encouraged.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum (*280 The Fenway, 617.566.1401*) is a real gem in Boston's Back Bay. The museum displays an art collection of world importance, including works that rank among the most significant of their type. Some of most noteworthy paintings include Giorgione's *Christ Bearing the Cross* (c.1500), Raphael's *Lamentation* (c.1504), Titian's *Rape of Europa* (c.1562), Rembrandt's *Self-Portrait, Age 23*, and John Singer Sargent's *El Jaleo* (1882). Modeled after a 15th-century Venetian palace, the building itself is a work of art. Visitors can roam the floors casually and observe the artworks in a beautiful setting, unlike at modern museums with tall, painted walls and fluorescent lights everywhere. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors; children under 18 are admitted free.

Boston Freedom Trail The Freedom Trail is a three-mile walking tour of 16 nationally significant historic sites in Boston. A unique collection of museums, churches, meeting houses, burying grounds, parks, a ship and historic markers that tell the story of the American Revolution, the path is marked by a red line painted or bricked into the sidewalk. The Freedom Trail begins in Boston Common and ends in Charlestown at the Bunker Hill Monument. Most hotels offer free historic brochures that contain maps but, for a more informative trek, consider taking one of The Freedom Trail Foundation's 90-minute walking tours. (Call 617.357.8300 for tour details.)

SHOP

Faneuil Hall Marketplace (Quincy Market) For almost 200 years, Quincy Market has played an integral role in the lives of Bostonians. Adjacent to historic Faneuil Hall, where Revolutionary War assemblies, antislavery rallies and women's suffrage meetings were held, Quincy Market was built in 1826 to bring "progress" to Boston. Renovated in 1976, Quincy Market now houses restaurants, bars and push-cart vendors. Boutiques and shops fill the buildings surrounding the original historic building. Faneuil Hall Marketplace is a great location to dine, shop and people-watch. With artists and entertainers often at the Faneuil Hall end of the building, it's a bustling place and a very popular tourist attraction.

Charles Street Charles Street is the local shopping district for the upscale Beacon Hill neighborhood. Located at the base of Beacon Hill, it begins at Charles Circle, near Massachusetts General Hospital, and ends between Boston Common and the Public Garden. Similar in character to parts of London or Amsterdam, the buildings on Beacon Hill are highly dense and the businesses on Charles Street cater to the local community. Peruse the antique stores, gift shops, art boutiques and specialty clothing stores.

Newbury Street Whether you like to shop or just people-watch, a visit to Newbury Street should be on your list. A wonderful place to wander, Newbury Street is an upscale shopping area in Boston's historic Back Bay. Shop at boutiques featuring men's and women's fashions, pamper yourself at one of the luxurious spas and salons, or just relax and people-watch at a café table of one of the many bars and restaurants that line the street. Newbury Street begins at the Public Garden and ends at Massachusetts Avenue. ...etc.



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