

# The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD

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**B**oston can be an expensive place to visit. There's no denying it. But it's still possible to not spend big to sleep, see, and do a lot here. There are reasonably priced and free attractions throughout the city, if you know where to look.

## HOTELS

The **Beacon Hill Friends House** has two simply furnished guest rooms and shared bathrooms. The bonus here is the location — it's in the heart of an ultra-posh area. <https://bhfh.org/>

The **Boston Hotel Buckminster's** neighbor is Fenway Park. Along with two-bedroom suites that accommodate families, there's laundry facilities and free Wi-Fi. [www.bostonhotelbuckminster.com/](http://www.bostonhotelbuckminster.com/)

Within walking distance of the USS Constitution and the water ferry to downtown, the **Constitution Inn** offers basic rooms, indoor pool, and discounted parking. [www.constitutioninn.org](http://www.constitutioninn.org)

## TRAILS, TOURS, AND WALKS

Starting at the Robert Gould Shaw 54th Massachusetts Regiment Memorial, across from the gold domed State House, the **Black Heritage Trail** meanders through Beacon Hill where African Americans lived and worked in the 19th century. Download the app; [www.nps.gov/bost/planyourvisit/app.htm](http://www.nps.gov/bost/planyourvisit/app.htm)

The **Freedom Trail**, a 2.5-mile path of red paint and red bricks on the sidewalks, begins at the Boston Common Visitor Information Center. The 16 sites along the trail, 13 of them free, are about how the Revolutionary War started in Boston. The Old South Meeting House, Old State House, and the Paul Revere House charge admission. [www.thefreedomtrail.org](http://www.thefreedomtrail.org)

In the Back Bay, you can tour architectural gems; the Boston Public Library and Trinity Church. During a free guided **Art & Architecture tour** of the library you view murals by John Singer Sargent. Trinity Church is decorated to the nines with stained glass windows by John LeFarge and William Morris. Free guided tours are Sundays at 11 a.m. [www.bpl.org/central/tours.htm](http://www.bpl.org/central/tours.htm), [www.trinitychurchboston.org](http://www.trinitychurchboston.org)

Walk or bike Frederick Law Olmsted's **Emerald Necklace**, stretching for miles along rose gardens and parks. [www.emeraldnecklace.org](http://www.emeraldnecklace.org)

When you're in Cambridge, enjoy the flora and fauna at **Mount Auburn Cemetery**, the country's first landscaped cemetery. Many famous people lie within Mount Auburn's 170 acres; Oliver Wendell Holmes and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, to namedrop. Download an app, [mountauburn.org/](http://mountauburn.org/)

## MUSEUMS

Boston and Cambridge, famous for



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# BOSTON ON THE CHEAP

Places to stay and things to do that won't break the budget



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Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, have a boatload of art institutions that offer free admission days.

The **Museum of Fine Arts** is free Wednesdays from 4 to 9:30 p.m. The **Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum** is filled with treasures Mrs. Gardner collected on her world travels. If your

name is Isabella or you're there on your birthday, you get in free. [www.mfa.org](http://www.mfa.org), [www.gardnermuseum.org](http://www.gardnermuseum.org)

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[museum.org](http://www.museum.org)

In the trendy Seaport District are the **Institute of Contemporary Art** and the **Children's Museum**. The ICA offers unique exhibits and killer views of Boston's waterfront. Free Thursdays 5 to 9 p.m. The multitude of hands-on exhibits at the Children's Museum will keep the kids busy for

hours. On Fridays from 5 to 9 p.m., admission is \$1 per person. [www.icaboston.org](http://www.icaboston.org), [www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org](http://www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org)

Take advantage of these free Boston museums: the **Commonwealth Museum** has documents detailing the history of Boston, the **West End Museum** exhibits show a vibrant neighborhood that was decimated by an urban renewal project of the 1960s, and the **Boston Fire Museum** displays antique fire equipment. On the top floor of Faneuil Hall is the **Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company**. Founded in 1638, this is the oldest artillery company in the world. Exhibits show military artifacts dating back four centuries. [www.commonwealthmuseum.org](http://www.commonwealthmuseum.org), [www.westendmuseum.org](http://www.westendmuseum.org), [www.bostonfiremuseum.org](http://www.bostonfiremuseum.org), [www.ahac.us.com](http://www.ahac.us.com)

MIT's **List Visual Arts Center** has beautiful contemporary art by Frank Stella and Pablo Picasso. Get an audio guide and step outside because sprinkled throughout the campus you'll see the works of artists Alexander Calder, Anish Kapoor, and Sol LeWit. Free. [listart.mit.edu](http://listart.mit.edu)

The **Harvard Museum of Natural History**, home to the world-famous Blaschka glass flowers, and the **Peabody Museum of Archeology & Ethnology** are both free for Massachusetts residents on Wednesdays, 3 to 5 p.m. and Sundays, 9 a.m. to noon. [www.hmn.harvard.edu](http://www.hmn.harvard.edu), [www.peabodyharvard.edu](http://www.peabodyharvard.edu)

**Harvard's art museums**, the Fogg, Busch-Reisinger, and Arthur B. Sackler, contain amazing collections of European, Asian, Egyptian, and American art, ceramics, and textiles. Free to Cambridge residents every day and Massachusetts residents Saturdays 10 a.m. to noon. [www.harvardartmuseums.org](http://www.harvardartmuseums.org)

For more information, visit the Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau, 1-888-SEE-BOSTON, [www.bostonusa.com](http://www.bostonusa.com)

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## HERE

### NATURE AND CULTURAL CYCLING

Spring is coming — really! — meaning it's time to start planning warm-weather excursions. VBT, a biking and walking tour company, is offering a new trip in 2019, "New York to Rhode Island: The Hamptons, Shelter Island & Newport." Offered May through October, the six-day, five-night tour cycles through scenic and cultural routes from seaside villages in eastern Long Island to the historic Cliff Walk promenade overlooking Newport's Gilded Age mansions. Highlights include wine tasting at Sag Harbor's Wölffer Estate Vineyard; strolling trails at Elizabeth A. Morton National Wildlife Refuge and Mashomack Preserve; visit to the Montauk Point Lighthouse; chowder chowing in Greenport; and a cruise around lower Narragansett Bay on the Jamestown-Newport ferry. Includes five nights in harborside inns, 10 meals, van support, two VBT trip leaders, and more. Rated easy. Limited to 20 guests. Also new this year: E-Bikes (with electric motor assist) are available on first come, first serve basis. From \$2,595, 800-245-3868, [www.vbt.com/tours/new-york-to-rhode-island-bike-tour/](http://www.vbt.com/tours/new-york-to-rhode-island-bike-tour/)

### NEW WILDERNESS TRAILS IN MAINE

Good news for outdoor enthusiasts: The National Park Service has contracted the Appalachian Mountain Club of Maine to build new hiking trails in the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, an 87,500-acre wilderness area that was designated a new national monument by President Obama in 2016. The vast area, lo-



CHRIS SHANE

cated east of Baxter State Park, has had little development other than its main Loop Road, a 16-mile dirt road leading to access points and starts of trails with scenic views. With no welcome center or staff, most of the park is too rugged for some travelers. With the AMC trail additions, more visitors can experience a taste of the wilderness. There will also be a new trail to Deasey Pond and an ADA-compliant trail to Lynx Pond, with a viewing platform at the end. [www.outdoors.org/](http://www.outdoors.org/)

## THERE

### HOTEL DEBUTS IN LONDON

Have you heard of SE1? Touted as one of London's hottest districts on the south bank of the River Thames, this culturally dynamic area is a stone's throw away from Tate Modern, British Film Institute, and Borough Market. Visitors to the neighborhood may want to check out — and stay at — Bankside, a design-forward hotel that

recently made its stylish debut. One of the newest Autograph Collection Hotels, part of Marriott International, Bankside boasts 161 airy-residential style rooms with modern mid-century influences, creative space with live-work lounges, art-filled interiors, and a restaurant and bar with outdoor terrace serving a relaxed seasonal menu. For a fun twist on the mini-bar, a carefully stocked vending machine sells a small collection wine, spirits, pre-blended cocktails, soft drinks, and snacks on each guest-room floor. You



won't need cash to access the goodies; your room key charges all purchases to your account. Rates from \$375. [www.banksidehotel.com/](http://www.banksidehotel.com/)

### AROUND THE WORLD IN 21 DAYS

Those looking for a once-in-a-lifetime trip at less than a bank-breaking price may want to consider Around the World, a 21-day tour recently launched by smarTours. The six-country whirlwind expedition begins in New York and ends in Los Angeles, spending multiple days visiting London, Cairo, Bangkok, Bali, Sydney, and Fiji. Highlights include Windsor Castle; the Great Pyramids and Sphinx of Giza; Buddhist Temples in Bangkok; Tanah Lot in Bali; Sydney Opera House; and Fiji's Garden of the Sleeping Giant. Includes international airfare, first-class hotels, 26 meals, air-conditioned motor coach ground transportation, and comprehensive sightseeing with experienced, English-speaking guides. Five tours are scheduled, departing in July, August, September, October, and November. Rates from \$6,499. Reserve by March 29 to secure this early booking discount. 800-337-7773, [www.smartours.com/tour/around-the-world/](http://www.smartours.com/tour/around-the-world/)

## EVERYWHERE

### PORTABLE ESPRESSO MAKER

Serious java junkies will want to get their hands on the Wacaco Nanopresso Portable Manual Espresso Machine. Weighing in at less than 12 ounces (336 grams), this elegant and innovative machine is a must-have gadget for campers, hikers, and all coffee con-



noisseurs traveling to places without a barista on every corner. To use the device, all you need is ground coffee and hot water. Featuring a patented pumping system, Nanopresso brews a perfect shot of espresso complete with dense crema layer. It even provides a detachable cup for comfortable sipping. \$64.90. [www.wacaco.com/pages/nanopresso](http://www.wacaco.com/pages/nanopresso)

### BAG OFFERS EASY IN-FLIGHT ACCESS

Tired of trying to jam your personal flight essentials into the seat pocket in front of you? Genius Pack's High Altitude Flight Bag offers a solution for storing and easily accessing all your important stuff — including headphones, pens, smartphones and tablets, magazines, passport, snacks, medicines, and more. The sleek, water-resistant bag features straps that wrap around your closed food tray, keeping the bag (and your necessary accessories) within easy reach. No more jumping up to get things from the overhead bin, or reaching down under the seat. Features top grab handle and removable padded shoulder strap. Available in four colors. \$68 includes free shipping. [www.geniuspac.com/products/high-altitude-flight-bag](http://www.geniuspac.com/products/high-altitude-flight-bag) NECEE REGIS