

# The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD



PHOTOS BY JEFFREY O'CONNOR

Cycleboat Boston offers pedal-powered sightseeing tours of Boston Harbor. It has pedal stations for 10 riders — with coolers for easy-reach-beers set up in front of stations.

## CYCLING ON WATER — WITH BEER

BY LAUREN DALEY | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

**W**hat if you and your crew could cycle on water while drinking beer, eating snacks, and soaking in city views from a crazy new vantage point?

It's real. It's called Cycleboat, and one has arrived in Boston.

Cycleboat Boston offers pedal-powered sightseeing tours of Boston Harbor. It has pedal stations for 10 riders — with coolers for easy-reach-beers set up in front of stations — and can accommodate up to 16 people.

The boats, made by Cascade Cycleboat in Bend, Ore., are pedal-powered — but there's also a motor, so just relax if you want. BYOB and food: pizza, wine and cheese, cupcakes — anything your heart desires. (Hey, you're burning it off, right?) And Instagram the Boston skyline from the water.

We got the skinny on water-cycling from Mark Jacobson, general manager of Cycleboat Boston.

**So tell us a little bit about Cycleboat Boston.** Cycleboat Boston is a new company started by people with a long history in the Boston area — Paddle Boston: Charles River Canoe & Kayak started in Newton in 1974. [It's] an active way to see and experience Boston Harbor.

Every Cycleboat Boston tour is led by a US Coast Guard Licensed Master Captain. Pedals are connected to a drivetrain that turns a paddlewheel in the stern. By raising and lowering the paddlewheel, the captain can adjust how easy

it is to pedal. The boat also has a motor to help.

**How long is the tour? Where do people go?** The tours are about two hours start to finish; we spend about 90 minutes on the water. The tour focuses on the inner harbor, which has fantastic views of the city. Our public tours start and finish at Pier 6 Restaurant in Charlestown, and many people enjoy a meal or drinks at the bar after the tour. But for our private charters, we pick people up and drop them off all over the city.



Cycleboat Boston can accommodate up to 16 people.



**Is this year-round, or seasonal?** We plan to run at least through Columbus Day, and after that we'll see how the weather goes. We will put the boat back in the water in April and be ready to go again next May.

**What do you like about it, personally?** Being out on the Cycleboat is much more social than being in your own kayak or paddleboard. Everyone pedals as much or as little as they like, and no one gets left behind. I never get tired of the views and [even on] really hot days, there's always a breeze.

**Do you do night tours?** Yes, as the days have been getting shorter, we've been booking the City Lights Tour. When you're out in the harbor in the middle of the day, it's like those old Richard Scarry books with every type of boat zipping around doing something different. At night, things quiet down, and it feels like we have the place to ourselves with the city lights sparkling all around us.

**Can kids go?** Yes, kids of any age are welcome on a private charter, and kids ages 6 and up are welcome on public tours.

**Do you have to be in good shape to do it?** The number one thing people say at the end is it was easier than they expected. The pedal moves very smoothly and 10 people pedaling [lightly] can really move the boat along. If a group wants to relax, the captain just adds a bit more assist from the motor. It's not like a spin class . . . but sort of a nice walk on the water with your friends.

Learn more at [cycleboatboston.com](http://cycleboatboston.com). Interview was edited and condensed. Lauren Daley can be reached at [ldaley33@gmail.com](mailto:ldaley33@gmail.com).

## HERE

### ICONIC HOTEL GETS

#### MULTI-MILLION-DOLLAR REHAB

Everything old is new again at the 128-year-old Harbor View Hotel on Martha's Vineyard. Offering spectacular views of Edgartown Harbor, the storied hotel revealed a new look this summer, after a \$15 million renovation that elevated every aspect of the guest experience. Look for a fresh design throughout the guest rooms and public spaces, two new restaurants — Bettini Restaurant and Roxana Bar — led by Executive Chef Patrice Martineau, and the Presidential Sky House, a new four-bedroom penthouse suite. Fans of film and great white sharks can check out the special Jaws Tour, focused on the infamous locations and stories behind the making of the movie. Fall rates from \$439. Available through Oct. 15. 844-248-1167, [www.harbor-viewhotel.com](http://www.harbor-viewhotel.com)

### FALL FARM FESTIVAL

Those looking for fun fall experiences should check out the Davis Mega Farm Festival in Sterling. Every weekend Sept. 14 through Oct. 28, visitors can enjoy craft beer and wine, award-winning Kansas City-style barbecue, homemade apple cider donuts, a changing roster of live music (including folk, country, blues, and classic rock), and more. Included in the admission fee are more than 50 family-friendly attractions, including volleyball, laser tag, zip line, hay bale obstacle course, and the Mega Maze, a corn maze encompassing 8 acres of corn and almost 3 miles of puzzling path-



ways. Tickets can be purchased online or at the gate. Adults \$21.95; children ages 5 to 12 \$18.95. 978-422-8888, [davismegafarmfestival.com](http://davismegafarmfestival.com)

### BOSTON HOTEL WRITING COMPETITION

Calling all writers! The Hotel Commonwealth is encouraging aspiring authors to submit their work to a Writer in Residence Contest for a chance to win a free two-week stay at the Kenmore Square digs (Dec. 15-30). The winner will stay in style at the Ben Mezrich Suite Takeover, named for the novelist who recently debuted his latest tome, "Bitcoin Billionaires." Applicants must submit a writing sample of the first 500 words or less of their project, and may also submit a 100-word or less description/proposal of their work. All submissions will be judged by Mezrich himself, as well as a panel from Hotel Commonwealth and the Boston Book Festival. The winning writer will also receive an opportunity to present their manuscript

at a fall reading of select authors. Free to apply. One submission allowed per person. 617-993-5000, [www.hotel-commonwealth.com/packages/writers-in-residence-submission/](http://www.hotel-commonwealth.com/packages/writers-in-residence-submission/)

## THERE

### SPANISH IMMERSION PROGRAM IN MEXICO CITY

Kick your Spanish language skills into high gear with Fluenz's weeklong immersion program in Mexico City. Designed specifically for English speakers who want to learn Spanish, the program provides five hours a day of



PRINCETON UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM

one-on-one instruction with an accomplished team of coaches. Headquartered in stylishly renovated colonial mansions in the fashionable Polanco district, the program has perks and amenities that include airport pickup/drop-off, boutique hotel accommodations, daily breakfast and lunch prepared by a private chef, and a roster of activities that introduce visitors to Mexico City, including a reserved table at Pujol (rated one of the top 20 restaurants in the world), private nighttime tour of the Archeological Museum, evening lectures in Spanish and English, late-afternoon yoga, and more. When you leave Mexico, the same coaches can continue to work with you on live video. Twice-a-month sessions are limited to 10 students. Fall classes begin Sept. 8. \$5,220 double occupancy (each participant); \$5,620 single occupancy. Non-participating companions/spouses are welcome for a fee of \$890. 877-358-3695, [fluenz.com/spanish-immersion/](http://fluenz.com/spanish-immersion/)

### MONUMENTAL IMPRESSIONIST EXHIBIT IN DENVER

Art aficionados won't want to miss "Claude Monet: The Truth of Nature" opening at the Denver Art Museum, the only US museum stop for this exhibition, the most comprehensive survey of the legendary French Impressionist's paintings in two decades. (Oct. 20 through Feb. 2) Featuring more than 120 paintings that span the

artist's career, the exhibition focuses on Monet's continuous dialogue with nature as seen through his extensive travels in Normandy, London, the Netherlands, Norway, and the sunny Mediterranean. Additionally, the show examines the artist's shift to painting multiple images of the same subject, including haystacks, poplars, Waterloo Bridge, and his iconic water lilies. Reserve tickets and entry time online. Adults \$27; ages 6-18 \$5. 720-913-0130, [denverartmuseum.org/exhibitions/claude-monet](http://denverartmuseum.org/exhibitions/claude-monet)

## EVERYWHERE

### FRENCH PRESS COFFEE ON THE ROAD

If you can't imagine a camping expedition or road trip without a perfect cup of coffee in hand, you may want to consider Planetary Design's travel coffee makers and accessories. Enjoy French press coffee made in durable restaurant-grade stainless steel containers that won't shatter when dropped. The double-walled, vacuum-insulated exterior keeps coffee hot even when camping in the snow. Available in four colors, and two sizes, 32-ounce medium, 48-ounce large. \$52-\$62. For a single cuppa brew, the 16-ounce Double Shot's newly redesigned cup features spill-proof press/drink lid, and laser-welded handle for left- or right-handed drinkers. \$39. The Camp Coffee Kit includes a 32-ounce French press, two stainless steel cups, coffee scoop, one Airscape stainless container (for transporting beans or grounds) and handy carry bag. \$145. [planetarydesign.com](http://planetarydesign.com)

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