

# The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD



## WHERE TO FIND CHERRY BLOSSOMS IN THE CITY

SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF/FILE

Public Garden cherry blossoms in 2018.

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**W**hen life feels unsettled, like now, it's comforting to know we can count on the arrival of spring's blossoms. Throughout Boston, the cherry trees have begun to offer a welcome burst of powdery pink puffs that peak now and fade away in May. Whether you see these blooms by foot, bike, or the inside of your car, here is where you'll find them.

### CHARLES RIVER ESPLANADE

On the banks of the Charles River along Boston's Esplanade, you'll witness a profusion of cherry blossoms, particularly in the section that runs between the Arthur Fiedler Footbridge off Arlington Street and the ramp to Massachusetts Avenue.

### PUBLIC GARDEN AND BOSTON COMMON

Throughout the Public Garden and in certain areas of Boston Common, you'll see many kinds of cherry trees in bloom. Most are the Kwanzan Cherry cultivar, which has showy, bright pink double flowers and blooms longer than most varieties. In addition to three pale pink Yoshino Cherry — two of which are cuttings from the 3,020 cherry trees Japan gave to Washington, D.C., in 1912 as a gesture of friendship — you'll see lipstick pink Sargent Cherry. Be sure

to see the striking Weeping Higan Cherry with its bowing branches covered in a froth of white-pink blossoms. 4 Charles St., Boston.

### NORTH END

Nestled in and among the North End's residences and businesses you'll find clusters of cherry trees softening the urban edge with soft clouds of pink.

### BACK BAY

Along Beacon and Marlborough streets, the small garden plots in front of many brownstones house large and small cherry trees awash in candy-pink blossoms.

### BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL

On May 16, 2012, Takeshi Hikiyama, the consul general of Japan, gave a gift of cherry trees to Brookline High School in commemoration of the 100-year anniversary of Japan's gift of cherry trees to Washington, D.C. That same year launched the Brookline Cherry Blossom Festival, canceled this year due to COVID-19, but normally a celebratory gathering filled with dancing, musical performances, and food. Nevertheless, you still can see the consul general's gift in all its blooming glory on the school's grounds. 115 Greenough St., Brookline.

### THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM

Still open to the public with social distancing advised, this 281-acre living museum and research center for Har-

vard University has a wide variety of ornamental cherry trees that bloom throughout April and May. In addition to weeping cherry trees, the hot-pink double blossom Kwanzan, you'll find Black Cherry trees, which have drooping racemes of tiny white-pink flowers. Toward the entrance to the Bradley Rosaceous Collection, don't miss what looks like blooming groundcover but actually is Sand Cherry, known for its starry showers of small white blossoms. 580 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge.

### HARVARD UNIVERSITY

In 2012, the university planted six Yoshino Cherry trees to commemorate Harvard's long relationship with Japan, resulting in the Harvard Sakura Garden. The bond was forged in 1875 when Harvard University accepted one of the first Japanese students to study abroad, a gentleman named Komura Jutarō, who subsequently attended Harvard Law School and served in the Japanese Ministry of Justice. You can see the cherry trees near a path by the Littauer Building that leads to the law school. 86 Brattle St., Cambridge.

Finally, you can view cherry blossoms around the world at Google Earth ([earth.google.com](http://earth.google.com)).

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## HERE

### FARM TOURS AND ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, Vt., is offering families a way to experience life on a dairy farm through videos, photos, and interactive content posted to Facebook, Instagram, and the Billings Farm at Home Web page. Kids can virtually meet fuzzy baby chicks, newborn calves, tiny lambs in sweaters, and watch and download content including farm recipes to try at home, animal coloring pages, and other fun activity kits. Beginning April 20, a week of special activities will celebrate Earth Day's 50th anniversary, including presentations on how families can help protect the planet, and crafts for kids using recyclable materials. On April 22, at 1 p.m., the next "Ask Billings Live" series on Facebook allows viewers to ask questions to resident experts. Get updates directly by e-mailing [askus@billingsfarm.org](mailto:askus@billingsfarm.org) and typing "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line. 802-457-2355. [billingsfarm.org/billings-farm-at-home/](http://billingsfarm.org/billings-farm-at-home/)

## THERE

### HOTEL CREDITS SAVE MONEY AND JOBS

As the hospitality industry comes to a standstill, many independent hotels are struggling to pay loyal staff as the properties remain temporarily closed. To help provide a cash flow — and keep people employed — hospitality technologists Porter & Sail have partnered with a number of hotels to sell future credits, offering significant sav-



ings to travelers for future stays all the way through 2022. The process is simple: a \$200 purchase buys a \$300 credit to apply to a future booking against the cost of a stay at that point in time. Guests can buy in as many increments as they'd like, receiving greater savings as they spend more. Please note: Hotel credits do not constitute a booking. Each voucher buyer should book directly with the property they wish to visit. At checkout, the voucher number will be used against any room charges, and in most cases, food and beverage charges. The offer includes such award-winning properties as Cielos Wine Hotel & Spa in Mendoza, Argentina; Acre Resort in Los Cabos, Mexico; Flemings Mayfair hotel in London; and additional hotels in Tulum, Mexico, Los Angeles, New York City, and Nairobi. All proceeds go to the hotels to keep staff employed. Porter & Sail is not taking any fees. [hotelcredits.porterandsail.com](http://hotelcredits.porterandsail.com)

### BOOK NOW, TRAVEL LATER

Always wanted to go on an African safari but were deterred by the price? Take advantage of the once-in-a-lifetime book now, travel later offerings by African Bush Camps. Travelers can save up to 65 percent off standard rates on four packaged specials, visiting some of the company's 15 luxury camps in Botswana, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The catch? New bookings



must be made and confirmed in April for travel before March 31, 2021. Includes accommodations, meals, beverages, internal flights and transfers, two game viewing activities per day, laundry, emergency medical evacuation insurance, and national park fees. African Bush Camps guided safaris, led by naturalists with extensive experience, offer the flexibility to set your own schedule to make the most of your adventure, including walking, talking, and learning, game driving, bird watching, and more. [experience.africanbushcamps.com/breath-of-fresh-air-specials/exabc2020](http://experience.africanbushcamps.com/breath-of-fresh-air-specials/exabc2020)

## EVERYWHERE

### TRAVEL-SIZE HAIR DRYER

Savvy travelers are using their time sitting at home to update gear for future trips. The Bisou Mini Travel Dryer, offered by Le Angelique Hair Tools, is one essential item that is often overlooked. The small hair dryer easily fits into your carry-on or backpack without adding unnecessary weight to your bag. The 1,200-watt heat concentrator enables hair to dry quickly while the mini-diffuser adds volume. Available in a number of stylish colors including pink-cheetah, cherry-blossom, gold, and basic blue and black. \$35 includes free shipping. [leangelique.com/collections/blow-dryers/products/bisou-mini-blow-dryer-blue](http://leangelique.com/collections/blow-dryers/products/bisou-mini-blow-dryer-blue)



### BUG OFF

It's almost bug season! When out walking in the woods, camping, or sitting in your own backyard, stay protected from emerging mosquitoes, biting flies, disease-carrying ticks, and more with Bug Thug offered by Good Stuff Botanicals. The natural pest repellent, uses a combination of insect-repelling essential oils — lemongrass, cedar, mint, thyme, citronella, eucalyptus, and other herbs — to ward off stinging and biting bugs. \$17.99. [thegoodstuffbotanicals.com/bug-thug](http://thegoodstuffbotanicals.com/bug-thug) NEECE REGIS