

36 hours in... **BOSTON**

BY PAUL RUBIO



Back Bay Boston skyline

One of America's oldest cities, Boston imbues visitors and residents alike with a patriotic spirit and a sense of enchantment. Tenderly embracing history and scholarship, the city is a living museum of Americana and academia.

In the past decade, renewed economic interest in Beantown has thrown a Red Sox's curve ball into the city's college-town persona, rebranding it a thriving metropolis. Nowadays, gourmet restaurants, personality-driven lounges and boutique shops share the limelight with renowned landmarks and relics, proving Boston to be a place where history remains in style. Here, your 36-hour guide to America's trendiest old city.

DAY 1

Make a beeline for Boston's most prestigious neighborhood, Back Bay, and check into the centrally located Loews Boston, an adaptive reuse of the former Boston Police Headquarters, now transformed into an elegant 222-room hotel. Alternatively, put the heavenly beds to the test at the Westin Copley Place, where the pulse of Beantown lies at your

doorstep (as well as the city's superlative shopping district at adjacent Copley Place and proximate Newbury Street). After a quick stroll around Back Bay, venture across the Charles River to Harvard Square in Cambridge for dinner at Alden & Harlow, helmed by Boston's "it" chef, Michael Scelfo, where an evening of exquisitely crafted modern American cuisine awaits. Or, head for the best Italian in town at Giulia near Porter Square, also in Cambridge. After dinner, experience 1920s redux at Wink & Nod, a speak-easy-style cocktail den in the South End, or imbibe in the former DUI holding cell of the Charles Street Prison at Alibi Bar & Lounge at the Liberty Hotel.

DAY 2

Wake up early to play tourist and take the obligatory Duck Tour through Boston—a cool, kitsch and interactive excursion across the city aboard a duck-shaped, amphibious vehicle that travels both on land and water. Next, indulge in some late-morning or early-afternoon retail therapy on Newbury Street, also patronizing the quieter boutiques of the South End. Be sure to stop into the artsy Olives & Grace, a gift

shop that curates small batch goods from across the country, and Farm & Fable, which specializes in vintage cookware and cookbooks. In between purchases, grab a quick bite at one of the city's three b.good eateries, Boston's wildly popular healthy fast-food restaurant.

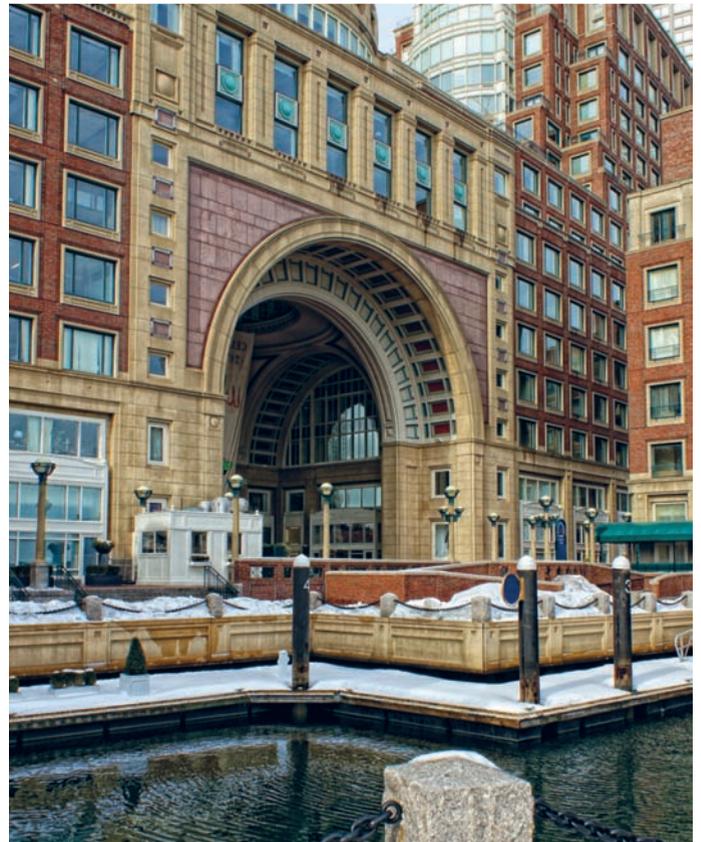
In the afternoon, revive with a walk or jog around the picture-perfect Charles River, catching a glimpse of local life while enjoying the fresh air and prime city views. In the early evening, head to the recently revitalized Seaport District and spend at least a good hour at the Institute of Contemporary Art. Grab your smartphone and look up what's happening that night at the The Lawn on D, an interactive outdoor space with live performances, storytelling, artistic exhibits, games, food trucks and more.

DAY 3

Enjoy your final meal and say goodbye to historic Boston by visiting the Paul Revere House and touring Boston by foot via the Freedom Trail. Live out the lessons of your American history books with lunch at America's original restaurant, the Union Oyster



Clockwise from top: Boston Duck Tour; entrance to Rowes Wharf; George Washington statue in the Boston Public Garden.



House, which dates back to 1826. Novelty, nostalgia and superb seafood all wrapped into one, this National Historic Landmark actually became part of the Freedom Trail nearly two centuries ago, and hasn't looked back since. Nowadays, patrons shuck 'til they drop on New England's most famous oysters or feast on more contemporary lobster dishes in one of seven dissimilar dining rooms.

As you'll soon learn, 36 hours isn't nearly enough time to give Boston the attention it deserves, which means only one thing: it's time to chat with your Travel Leaders agent about planning a return trip as well. **TL**

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WHEN TO VISIT:

For those that shy away from cold weather, the best time to visit Boston is in the summer and fall, where you can experience an early-morning whale-watching tour to see the migratory humpbacks in all their glory outside Boston Harbor.

GETTING AROUND:

The best and most efficient way to get to almost all of Boston's major points of interest is via the "T," which is what locals collectively call the city's public transportation options, which include subway, bus, trolley and ferry lines.

MUST-TRY:

Visitors should not leave Boston without tasting New England clam chowder. Locals say the best can be found at B&G Oyster in the South End. For a twist on the classic, Poe's Kitchen at the Rattlesnake serves up a jalapeño clam chowder that's equally divine.



View of the Boston Harbor at sunset; above, historic cobblestone street in Beacon Hill.