

CAMBRIDGE SURVIVAL GUIDE

Welcome to Westgate Apartments at MIT!

This booklet will highlight shopping, food guides, activities and essential tips for getting around town -- with or without a car.

We hope you find this a helpful resource and enjoy your time in the Cambridge/Boston area. The original Cambridge Survival Guide was developed by spouses at Harvard University. This booklet is based the original guide, on some various other resources, the Internet, many additions from the Eastgate Graduate Coordinators, advice from former and present Westgate residents, and a few additions of our own.

Enjoy!

The Westgate Graduate Coordinators

Please e-mail with any questions you may have:
westgate-gc@mit.edu

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SHOPPING

Here are a few resources to make your new house a home.

FURNITURE & HOUSEWARE

Antique Shops - along Charles Street

Bernie and Phyl's Furniture

1 East Street, Cambridge

617-868-7999

Bob's Discount

61 Squire Rd, Revere

Building 19

133 Middlesex Ave

Somerville

617-776-4765

Especially good for rugs

Cort Furniture Rental

98 Boylston Street, Boston

617-542-8383

www.cort1.com

Crate and Barrel

48 Brattle, Street, Cambridge

617-876-6300

Jordan's Furniture (2 locations)

Delivery Available

1 Underprice Way (Rte. 9) Natick

508-424-0088

289 Moody Street, Waltham

781-894-6100

Mattress Discounters (3 locations)

194 Alewife Brook Parkway, Cambridge

617-354-0118

872 Commonwealth Ave, Brookline

617-738-0033

425 Boylston St., Boston

617-437-6633

MIT Reuse List

Check out web.mit.edu for details

Pier 1 Imports

One Porter Square, Cambridge

617-491-7626

Putnam Furniture Leasing

614 Mass. Ave., Cambridge

617-354-3358

Workbench Furniture

1050 Mass. Ave., Cambridge

617-876-9754

Roadside Finds

One person's junk is another person's treasure.

Entire apartments have been furnished by things left on the curb. Try the night before garbage day during key move-in/move-out seasons, particularly in the nice neighborhoods (they usually have nicer furniture).

Yard Sales

Particularly take a look in upscale suburbs or in/around student housing towards the end of the school year and throughout the summer. Big sales are also sometimes listed in the Boston Globe.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Economy Hardware

438 Mass. Ave., Cambridge

617-864-3300

TAGS Ace Hardware

Porter Square Shopping Center

617-868-7711

Home Depot Store (2 locations)

75 Mystic Ave., Somerville

617-926-0299

615 Arsenal St., Watertown

617-623-0001

JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING

Target

180 Somerville Ave., Somerville

617-776-4036

KMart

400 Western Ave., Brighton

617-562-4492

Wal*Mart

301 Falls Blvd, Quincy

(617) 745-4390

PHARMACIES

CVS

Central Square, Cambridge

624 Mass Ave.

617-354-4130

Kendall Drug

238 Main St., Cambridge

617-492-7790

Brooks (2 locations)

330 River St., Cambridge

617-492-9070

1740 Mass. Ave., Cambridge

617-876-4010

SUPERMARKETS**Market Basket** (best deal in town)

400 Somerville Ave., Somerville

(Be warned: the place is a zoo on the weekends)

Star Market (2 locations)

14 McGrath Highway, Somerville

617-625-4070

Star University Park

20 Sidney St, Cambridge

617-494-5250

Peapod.com

Delivery service partnered with Stop & Shop Markets. Order your groceries online and Peapod will deliver them the next day at the time you request.

Bread & Circus (Whole Foods Market)

Organic fruits, vegetables, natural meats, etc.

340 River Street

617-876-6990

Trader Joe's

Specialty Foods, Great Prices

727 Memorial Drive, Cambridge

617-491-8582

WAREHOUSE SUPERSTORES**BJ'S**

Big warehouse where you can find all what you need from food to electronic appliances at discounted prices. You have to get a membership card that costs appx. \$45.

www.bjswholesale.com**COSTCO**

Like BJ'S but carries different brands.

Membership also required.

#2 Mystic View Rd, Everett

617-544-4806

www.costco.com**INTERNATIONAL SUPERMARKETS**Chinese & Taiwanese**New 88 Supermarket**

1 Brighton Ave., Allston

617-787-2288

Ming's Supermarket

1102-1108 Washington St., Boston

617-338-1588

Change Shing Tofu Inc., (Tofu Factory)

It's inexpensive and fresh!

37-39 Rogers Street, Cambridge

617-868-8878

Japanese**Yoshinoya**

A little expensive, but good variety.

36 Prospect St., Cambridge

617-491-8221

Kotobukiya

This shop is inside the Porter Exchange Building, on the first floor.

1815 Mass. Ave., Cambridge

617-354-6914

Korean**The Korean Deli**

1759 Mass Ave., Cambridge

617-864-5299

Lotte

297 Mass Ave., Cambridge

617-661-1194

Mirim Trading Co.

Some Koreans say Kimchi from here is the best.

152 Harvard Ave., Allston

617-783-2626

J&K Oriental Food

2376 Mass. Ave. Cambridge

617-547-8723

Reliable Market Inc.

Korean and Japanese, less expensive than others

45 Union Sq., Somerville

Indian**India Foods and Spices**

80 River St., Cambridge

617-497-6144

Shalimar

571 Mass. Ave., Cambridge

617-868-8311

Central and South American**La International Foods**

Spanish, Brazilian, Haitian, Caribbean food

318 Somerville Ave., Somerville

617-776-8855

La Sultana (Bakery)

40 Maverick Square, East Boston

617-568-9999

European**Cardullo's Gourmet Shop**

6 Brattle St., Cambridge

617-491-8888

Capone Food

Italian Food

14 Bow Street, Somerville

617-629-2296

Moscow International Foods

133 Harvard Ave., Allston

617-782-6644

FARMER'S MARKETS**Haymarket**

Faneuil Hall, Haymarket T stop. Fridays and Saturdays 6am-5pm

Central Square

Parking lot behind Harvest Co-op, Mondays 12-6pm

Morse School

Corner of Memorial Drive and Magazine Street, Cambridge. Saturday mornings in the summer.

Wilson Farms - has great looking (a little more expensive) produce. In the fall, they sell carmeled apples. Lexington
www.wilsonfarm.com

CLOTHES BARGAINS**A.J. Wright**

Somerville Ave. and McGrath Highway, next to Target

Regular, Kids, and Baby Gap

Central Sq. -- lots of sales

Decelle

Porter Square, under Star Market

Eddie Bauer Outlet

South of Downtown Crossing T station

Filene's Basement

Near Downtown Crossing T station
(great deals, but strict 2 week return policy)

Frugal Fannie's

380 Western Ave., Brighton
617-783-3737

Only open Thurs.-Sun.

The Garment District

200 Broadway, Cambridge
New and recycled clothing. Check out the \$1/lb pile

Goodwill

Central Square, Davis Square

Urban Renewals

122 Brighton Ave., Allston

FABRIC/CRAFTS

* If you are driving up Rte. 1 headed north, you can stop at Michael's and then a little farther north you'll see a Christmas Tree Shop (REALLY CHEAP, GREAT FINDS) on the opposite side of the road, make a u-turn and head south and then you can stop at the Christmas Tree Shop and farther south on your way back there is a **Joanne's Fabric Store**.

Chinatown

Various shops in the area have good deals

Pearl Arts and Crafts

Central Square

Sew Low Fabric Discount Store

473 Cambridge St., Cambridge
617-661-8361

OFFICE SUPPLIES AND ELECTRONICS**Best Buy**

Cambridgeside Galleria, Cambridge
617-577-8866

Microcenter

Authorized agent of all major brands. Complete service dept., software, training.
727 Memorial Drive, Cambridge
1-800-562-0058

Staples

57 JFK Street, Harvard Square, Cambridge
617-491-1166

Office Max

400 Western Ave., Brighton
617-783-5718

VIDEO/DVD RENTAL**Blockbuster Video** (2 locations)

1 Porter Sq., Cambridge
617-547-6006

Central Sq.

521 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
617-491-1300

Hollywood Express (2 locations)

765 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
617-864-8400

Twin City Plaza

14 McGrath Hwy
617-628-6000

Free Rentals from Tang

web.mit.edu/tang/www/videolist.htm

SHOPPING MALLS**Shops at the Prudential Center**

Saks Fifth Ave., Lord & Taylor, and many other chic boutiques

800 Boylston St., Boston

Take Green Line to Prudential Center on Huntington

800-746-7778

Copley Place

Neiman Marcus, Tiffany, Disney Store, etc.
100 Huntington Ave.

Close to Back Bay T

617-369-5000

Cambridgeside Galleria

Filene's, Gap, J.Crew, Ann Taylor, etc.

100 Cambridgeside Place

617-621-8666

Quincy Market- Faneuil Hall Marketplace

Large variety of shops and restaurants including
small shops, craft stands, great food court

Close to T at Government Center

Watertown/Arsenal Mall

Target, Marshalls, Old Navy, Filene's Basement,
Gap Outlet, Best Buy, etc.,

550 Arsenal St., Watertown

617-926-4123

Wrentham Premium Outlets (45 min. drive)

Name brand discount stores like Nike, North
Face, Saks Fifth Ave., Barneys New York,
Williams Sonoma, Polo Ralph Lauren, etc., etc.

1 Premium Outlets Blvd., Wrentham MA

BEST BITES IN BOSTON

A Few Restaurant Recommendations

Where to Go for More Recommendations

www.zagat.com

ae.boston.com/dining

boston.citysearch.com

Cheap Food (under \$12/person)

Anna's Taqueria

236 Elm St., Somerville, Davis Sq.

(617) 666-3900

Good and authentic Latin American food. Very casual, no waiters. Fills you up for under \$5.

Antonio's

286 Cambridge St., Boston

MGH T stop on Cambridge St. Boston

(617) 367-3310

Boca Grande

1728 Mass Ave., Porter Sq.

(Less than \$7/person) Amazing Mexican food in a fun, casual environment. Best burritos we've ever had and many more delicious entrees.

Everything is freshly made while you wait. Great for groups and takeout. CASH ONLY.

Tip: There is a Boca Grande on First St., across the street from Cambridge-side Galleria, but the menu is much more limited than at Porter Sq., and it's not as fun an environment. Mostly for business lunches.

Border Cafe

32 Church St., Harvard Sq.

(617) 864-6100

This restaurant is great for a "south-of-the-border meal. Very upbeat atmosphere. Get there early to avoid a wait.

Chili's

Harvard Sq., Copley Square Mall

China Pearl

9 Tyler St., Chinatown

617-426-4338

A local favorite, great priced dim sum.

Indian Pavilion

Corner of River St. & Mass Ave., Central Sq.

No Name Restaurant

Boston Fish Pier, Northern Ave., Boston

Get off on the South Station T, then get a taxi for \$5 or less to this great place.

Great seafood, famous for its good service and low prices, much recommended. A Boston visit must. CASH ONLY.

Penang

57 JFK Street, Harvard Sq.

617-234-3988

Delicious Malaysian restaurant perched above Harvard Sq. Mango chicken and the curry appetizer are favorites.

Pho Pasteur

35 Dunster St., Harvard Sq.

617-864-4100

Amazingly fresh Vietnamese food that won't break your wallet. Very fast service, and kid-friendly too.

Quincy Market Foodcourt

Faneuil Hall, Gvnment Center T Stop

Large variety from Clam Chowder and seafood entrees for large meal to yummy Gelato for a treat while walking the Freedom Trail.

Red Bones

55 Chester St., Davis Sq.

617-628-2200

www.redbonesbbq.com

Great southern barbeque in a sit-down restaurant environment. Very casual and fun. Delicious pulled pork sandwiches, cornbread and much more. Large portions. CASH ONLY.

S&S Deli

1334 Cambridge St., Inman Sq.

617-354-0777

Great place for Saturday brunch. Classic deli. Have high chairs, good for families. They are also pretty reasonably priced. Don't recommend the hamburgers, but everything else is good.

Shalimar of India

546 Mass. Ave., Central Sq.

617-547-9280

Great Indian food.

Shawarma King

1383 Beacon St., near Coolidge Corner, Boston

617-731-6035

Great Lebanese food.

Stefani's Pizza

783 Main St., near Central Sq.

617-491-7823

Good pizza, different than the national chains. Prices for one pizza are good. Delivery is fast and free.

Thailand Cafe

302 Mass Ave., Central Sq.

617-492-2494

Great food, great price, as authentic as many.

Special Date Nights (\$12-20/person)

Asian Garden

28 Harrison St., Chinatown

(617) 695-1646

Fish tanks in the basement entryway promise superb Hong Kong seafood. Friendly place, and a cut cheaper than the rest.

Black Sheep Restaurant

Kendall Hotel
350 Main Street, Cambridge
617-577-1300

Very classy place.

Chau Chow City

83 Essex St., Chinatown
617-338-8158

Boston Globe: "Three floors, noisy, crowded, and gaudy, this place has stolen the mantle from China Pearl as the dim sum palace."

Cheesecake Factory

Cambridgeside Galleria
617-252-3810

Great appetizers (try the Thai Lettuce Wraps), entrees, and of course, cheesecake.

Dali Restaurant and Tapas Bar

415 Washington St., Somerville

Fabulous restaurant for appetizers or a meal's worth of appetizers. Funky atmosphere. Come early on weekends to avoid lines.

Durgin Park

340 North Market St., Faneuil Hall
617-227-2038

Great New England feel, wait staff hired to act and dress as they did in the 1800s. Fun for the whole family, and the food has a "homemade feel." Medium priced.

Elephant Walk

2067 Mass Ave., near Porter Sq.

A wonderful French/Cambodian restaurant. A nice atmosphere, nice for groups. Dress casual.

Legal Seafoods

5 Cambridge Center, right next to MIT Coop
(617) 864-3400

Great restaurant to take your guests to who really have to have the New England seafood and delicious clam "chowda." Their clam chowder has been served at the last 5 Presidential Inaugurations.

Mary Chung's Chinese Restaurant

464 Mass. Ave., Central Sq.
(617) 864-1991

Excellent food, pot stickers are personal favorite. Take out available, no delivery, great ambiance
CASH ONLY.

Midwest Grill

1124 Cambridge St., Inman Square
617-354-7536

Brazilian Rodizian BBQ, lots of meat, very good, pricey (\$19 for full all you can eat)

North End of Boston

Parking's not great, best is to walk from the Haymarket T stop along the Freedom Trail

Any restaurant in the neighborhood is worth a try! Some recommendations: Mama Maria (\$\$\$), Limoncello (\$\$\$), Mother Anna's (\$ - and very family friendly). Some are cash only.

Papa Razzi

Cambridgeside Galleria
617-577-0009

Good Italian food, authentic rich desserts

Worth The Splurge (\$21+/person)

Call ahead for reservations

Aujourd'hui

200 Boylston St., Four Seasons, Boston
(617) 351-2037

Some say it's the best restaurant in town - \$60-100/person, so make it a special occasion.

Bay Tower

33rd floor of 60 State St., Boston
617-723-1666

Overlooks the Harbor, has a band with dancing, very expensive.

Grill 23

161 Berkeley St., Copley Sq
617-542-2255

Expensive but the best steak in the world. Never had anything like it. Truly phenomenal. Perfect place for special occasion.

Top of the Hub

800 Boylston St., Prudential Building, Boston
617-536-1775

Can't beat the view and the food is high quality.

Family Friendly (prices vary)

Boca Grande (see above)

Border Cafe (see above)

Bugaboo Creek Steakhouse

617 Arsenal St, Watertown
617-924-9000

Fun place with a big talking moose head (kids love it) and the food is exceptional and not expensive.

Chili's (see above)

Chuck E. Cheese

29 Mystic View Rd, Everett

Durgin Park (see above)

Friendly's

560 Arsenal St, Watertown
617-924-3068

Denny's-like atmosphere, family focused, great ice cream, everything else is fair. Low to medium priced.

Full Moon

344 Huron Ave., Huron Village
617-354-6699

Little known secret: has a great kids menu and a full playground inside...tons of time to waste away a day.

Ground Round

355 Concord Ave., Cambridge
617-492-4656

Pho Pasteur (see above)

Pizzeria Uno's

820 Somerville Ave., Cambridge
(617) 864-1916

Many other locations

Good pizza, low to medium priced.

Red Bones (see above)

Summer Shack

149 Alewife Brook Parkway
near Alewife T station, Cambridge
617-520-9500

Great seafood in a casual atmosphere

Ice Cream/Desserts

Bread & Circus (*see "shopping"*)

365 (generic brand) ice cream is to die for!

Cheesecake Factory (see above)

Herrell's Ice Cream

15 Dunster St., Harvard Sq.
(617) 497-2179

neat building and great ice cream, fun family activity

Kimball Farms Ice Cream

343 Bedford Rd, Carlisle, MA
a little ways past the Old North Bridge
(978) 369-1910 (call for directions if needed)
Homemade, huge, and delicious ice cream cones.
There is also a store there, golfing, and a farm with animals for your kids to pet and see. A fun Saturday or summer evening jaunt.

Mike's Pastries

300 Hanover St., North End
617-742-3050

More cannollis, neopolitans and cheesecake than you've ever seen. Try the lobster claw for a new flavor. Famous for being delicious and not very expensive. A must eat in Boston.

Toscanini's

899 Main St. Central Sq.
(617) 491-5877

This ice cream shop has been named Best in Boston for many years. The flavors are wild and delicious.

GETTING AROUND IN BOSTON

A few tips and tricks for finding your way around Boston, Cambridge, and beyond

MAPS -- Pick up a good map at any bookstore or gas station. 'Streetwise Boston' is a favorite of downtown Boston and handy to have if you are wandering the streets of downtown. A good road map will help you maneuver the poorly marked roads of Boston and Cambridge.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION - Boston's public transportation system is operated by the MBTA (Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority). The MBTA runs subways, buses, harbor ferries and the commuter rail. Operation time is 5AM to 12:30AM. Many places can be reached easily with buses and subways.

Subway stations and bus stops are marked with a T sign. You can buy tokens (subway tickets) at every subway stop. T-passes are generally only sold four workdays before and four weekdays after the first of each month. Check with the MIT parking office about a discounted T-pass.

CABS - It is relatively easy to get a cab in Boston or Cambridge. Look for cab stations at Kendall Square, in front of the Marriott Hotel, and in front of the Hyatt Hotel. A cab ride from Westgate to the airport will run you approximately \$15-20. From Westgate to downtown, approximately \$8-12.

MIT SHUTTLE - A free MIT shuttle runs from Kendall Square about every 20 minutes and makes frequent stops throughout campus all the way to Westgate apartments, on the opposite end of campus. Check out the webpage for more information: web.mit.edu

ZIP CAR -- A 'zip car' is available for rent on an hourly or daily basis. Cars are located throughout Boston and Cambridge for pick up. One car is even located at Kendall Square! Cars can be rented by signing up for membership at www.zipcar.com. Ask about MIT student discounts. A great way to run a few errands or get out of town if you don't want to own a car.

ONLINE RESOURCES --

www.mapquest.com -- A good website for getting driving directions. However, beware, Boston streets are so confusing, sometimes even Mapquest gets it wrong! Also, they don't account for construction, which is prevalent around town. Consult a real map along with mapquest for best results.

www.boston.citysearch.com -- An excellent web site that gives you up to date information on events happening around town, restaurants, hotels, sightseeing and much more.

SUBWAY TIPS: GETTING AROUND BOSTON WITHOUT A CAR

Highlighted T Stops and Points of Interest

We've listed whether or not each subway stop has escalators, elevators, or stairs only, to the best of our knowledge. Good to know when dealing with strollers, kids, or just tired feet.

Some tips:

- Be brave: Public transportation is scary at first, but a great way to get around the town.
- T is \$1 each way for the most part.
- Bus Fare is \$0.75 each way.
- Plan ahead, sometimes even if you have a car it makes more sense to take the T.
- See mbta.com for schedules and other info.
- An inexpensive, lightweight umbrella stroller is easy to carry into the subway and a good investment in this town.

RED LINE

Alewife (elevator and escalator)

Bread and Circus

Movie Theater

Fresh Pond Mall Loew's Cineplex

Toys R Us

With a Babies R Us Section

Davis Square (elevator and escalator)

McKinnon's Market (great meat, great prices)

Movie Theater (low cost)

Red Bones Restaurant

Tufts University

Porter Square (elevator and escalator)

Star Market (see "Shopping" - closest to any T)

Near the Cambridge School of Culinary Arts

Catch the Commuter Rail

Shopping along Mass. Ave

Check out the "gloves" in the T stop

Harvard Square (elevator and escalator)

Bartley's Burgers

great greasy burger joint

Bookstores galore

checkout Wordworth Children's

Bookstore

Cambridge Common

ball fields, picnic areas, playground

Cambridge River Festival

Octoberfest along the Charles

Cambridge Public Libraries

Kids singing time, Weds. 10:30-11:30

Harvard Yard

Harvard Museums (*see "Activities"*)

Herrell's Ice Cream (*see "Best Bites"*)

Head of the Charles (*see "Activities"*)

Movie Theatre (Harvard Loew's on Church St.)

Central Square (elevator and escalator)

Burger King

Cambridge Library on Pearl Street

Gap

Mary Chung's (*see "Best Bites"*)

McDonald's

Lots of restaurants (esp. Indian)

Pearl Arts and Crafts (*see "Shopping"*)

Ten Thousand Villages -- great artwork

Wendy's

one of the only places for Frosties

Kendall/MIT (elevator and escalator)

Legal Seafoods (*see "Best Bites"*)

MIT Coop (*see "Shopping"*)

MIT Coop Food Court (slightly pricey)

Movie Theatres (Kendall Sq. Cinema)

Charles/MGH (stairs only)

Hatch Shell

Restaurants

Sailing Lessons

Take a walk along the Esplanade

South Station (elevator and escalator)

Boston Tea Party Ship

(be warned: its museum is closed)

Children's Museum (*see "Activities"*)

Short walk to Aquarium (*see "Activities"*)

South Station itself is fun to explore

ORANGE LINE

Forest Hills (elevator and escalator)

Arnold Arboretum (*see "Activities"*)

Downtown Crossing (stairs to Red Line)

Shopping District, including but not limited to:

Buck-a-Book (great deals, limited selection)
 DSW (shoe outlet store)
 Eddie Bauer Outlet
 Filene's
 Filene's Basement
 Honeydew Donuts (yummy treat while shopping)
 HMV
 Macy's
 Marshall's
 TJ Maxx

GREEN LINE

A few stairs into every subway car, this subway line can be difficult to maneuver with strollers or rolling carts.

Lechmere (ground level)

Cambridgeside Galleria Mall
 Science Park (stairs)
 Museum of Science (*see "Activities"*)
 IMAX Theatre -- inside Museum of Science
 North Station (both Green and Orange Lines)
 Fleet Center
 USS Constitution & Bunker Hill

Government Center

(elevator, but stairs surrounding)

close to Haymarket stop on Green, Orange line
 Faneuil Hall/Quincy Market (*see "Activities"*)
 Government Center
 Haymarket
 Holocaust Memorial
 North End
 Old North Church
 Paul Revere House

Park Street (temperamental elevator)

Beacon Hill (Gas Lamp District)
 Boston Common (*see "Day Trips"*)
 Bull and Finch Pub
 location where the outside of the
 building was used to film the TV series
 "Cheers"
 Capital - gold dome and hall of flags
 Park Street Church
 Public Garden
 Tourist information

Boylston (stairs only)

Chinatown's closeby
 (*see "Shopping" and "Best Bites"*)
 Boston Common Loew's Theatre (\$\$)
 Greatest movie theatre around
 Theatre District

Arlington (stairs only)

Newbury Street
 FAO Schwartz (*see "Shopping"*)
 Kenmore (stairs only)
 Boston University
 starts here and continues down Commonwealth
 Avenue
 Fenway Park - quickest way to get to games

Babcock Street (B line)

Nickerson Field
 check out a WUSA Boston Breakers game
 (soccer)

Coolidge Corner (C Line) (ground level)

Beautiful part of town -- Brookline
 Fun shopping - toy & clothes stores
 JFK Birthplace (*see "Activities"*)
 Trader Joe's (*see "Shopping"*)

Prudential (E Line)

Christian Science Center
 Duck Tours begin
 Prudential Center

Museum of Fine Arts (E Line)

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
 MFA (*see "Activities"*)

BLUE LINE

Aquarium (elevator and escalator)

New England Aquarium (*see "Activities"*)
 Ferries to the Harbor Islands
 Fun part of Downtown
 Legal Seafoods and other restaurants
 Tourist Information
 Whale Watch Tours (*see "Activities"*)

Revere Beach

Quick walk to beach (*see "Activities"*)

Airport (some stairs to tackle)

Airport

ACTIVITIES

**More than you could possibly
do in a year (or five)**

FREE & LOW-PRICED FUN

Boston Common -- the perfect place for picnics, walking, people watching, etc.

- **Shakespeare on the Common** -- look for it during the summer.
- **Frog Pond** - good for wading in the summer and ice skating in the winter (fee for skate rental, but rink usage is free)
- **Freedom Trail** -- You don't have to go very far to learn about American history. Stop by the information booth on the Boston Common (near Park St. T stop) and make your way along the red brick trail to visit such sites as Charlestown Navy Yard, U.S.S. Constitution, Faneuil Hall/Quincy Market, the Old North Church, Bunker Hill, etc. As locals, you have the luxury of breaking up the 3 mile self guided tour if you like. The National Park Service also leads a very informative guided tour for free.

Feed the ducks -- anywhere along the Charles or at the Pond in the Public Gardens

Hatch Shell - that big half-dome on the Boston Esplanade by the Charles River

Concerts - classical to rock, mostly free

Free Friday Flicks - every Friday night in the summer, a family friendly movie begins at dusk. Lots of fun, sometimes free snacks given away
www.state.ma.us/mdcHatchShellEvents.htm

Museums:

Free passes to various museums are available at Cambridge Public Library branches. Call up to 1 month ahead to reserve them.

www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~CPL/

Museum of Science

Free with MIT ID all the time (spouse ID as well)

www.mos.org

The Museum of Fine Arts, Weds. evenings after 4 pm -- www.mfa.org

Harvard museums (Fogg, Sackler, Peabody, etc.), Saturday mornings until noon, or show your Cambridge Public Library card for free admission anytime

www.artmuseums.harvard.edu

Boston Center For the Arts, free exhibits in the galleries -- 617-426-5000, www.bcaonline.org
Institute of Contemporary Art, Thursdays from 5-9pm, 955 Boylston St., Boston
617-266-5152

Museum of Our National Heritage, always free, 33 Marrett Rd., Lexington (781-861-6559)

Worcester Art Museum, between 10AM and noon on Saturdays, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester
508-799-4406

Movies at the Boston Public Library and its branches

Lectures and programs at Cambridge and Boston library branches

Boston Conservatory, 8 Fenway, Boston. Free student concerts (617-912-9122)

www.bostonconservatory.edu

The New England Conservatory of Music, 290

Huntington Ave., Boston. Call the Concert Line at 617-585-1122 for info on free concerts

(mostly student performances)

www.newenglandconservatory.edu

Window Shop on trendy Newbury Street

Collect leaves during the fall foliage season

Emerald Necklace -- Walk all or part of the scenic seven mile ribbon of green connecting nine Boston parks, beginning at the Boston Common.

Hammond Pond (Chestnut Hill Tstop) great nature hike

Arnold Arboretum, 265 acres containing 6,000 varieties of trees and plants from around the world in Jamaica Plain. Mother's Day is usually also known as "Lilac Sunday" -- don't miss it!

Mount Auburn Cemetery -- is the beautiful home of the graves of Charles Bullfinch, Winslow Homer, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and many others.

Explore **Beacon Hill's architecture**, window boxes, gas lamps, and cobblestones on foot.

Blue Man Group -- volunteer to be an usher and see the show for free. See blueman.com for details. Other theaters may have similar deals.

MIT Sailing Lessons -- look on the MIT website for further information on sailing lessons on the Charles River -- only steps away from your front door!

WORTH THE SPLURGE

Duck Tours -- if you haven't seen these amphibious vehicles around downtown Boston or on the Charles, then check out:

www.bostonducktours.com

IMAX at the New England Aquarium

Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO)

Ask about student discounts

New England Aquarium

Theater District (Arlington T Stop, Green line) plays and musicals

Trolley rides -- many different companies -- can get picked up right at Kendall Sq.

THINGS TO DO WITH KIDS

Make Way for Ducklings -- trace the route of the Robert McCloskey children's book and visit the duckling statues in the Public Gardens

New England Aquarium (Blue Line T Stop)

Museum of Science (free w/MIT ID)

Children's Museum (\$1 Friday nights)

www.bostonkids.org

Frog Pond/Boston Common (see above)

Swan Boats -- Public Gardens, Boston

Bring some bread for the ducks, too.

Fire Stations -- Unless there's an emergency, most firemen are very friendly and will show you around the trucks and station and maybe even let the kids try on hats and boots or sit in the driver's seat.

Apple Picking - in the fall. Some places also have farm animals, too. See

www.state.ma.us/dfa/ for farm listings.

TOTALLY BOSTON ACTIVITIES

Dim sum in **Chinatown**

Filene's Basement downtown

First Night - this city wide, day long New Year's Eve celebration originally started in Boston

Fourth of July on the Esplanade or the Charles River.

JFK Birthplace (Brookline) - a great area of town and a great walk from Coolidge Corner on the Green Line

Red Sox games:

www.adstickets.com/red_sox.htm

BEST PARKS

Massachusetts Forests & Parks

<http://www.state.ma.us/dem/forparks.htm>

Arnold Arboretum (Jamaica Plain)

Boston Common

Crocker Park in Marblehead is a good picnic spot & a grand view of the yacht-filled harbor

Esplanade

Public Garden

Soldier's Field Road Park - has a great wading pool with sprinklers

Walden Pond (Concord) go early in the summer, they have maximum capacity rules

BEST BEACHES

Castle Island

Crane's Beach (Ipswich)

Duxbury Beach

Marblehead Beach (Salem)

Plum Island

Revere Beach -- can get there on the Blue Line

Rockport

Walden Pond (Concord)

Wingoesheck Beach (Gloucester) - Directions on internet www.gloucesterma.com/beaches.htm. Has white fine sandy beach and is very shallow for a ways out and has tide pools. Great for kids. Water is warm because it is so shallow. Parking is \$15/day this year and they will only let residents park if it is a busy weekend day.

OUTDOOR/ SPORTS

Esplanade -- perfect for walking, jogging, running, rollerblading, or biking

Head of the Charles -- this nationally famous crew regatta marks the arrival of fall. Walk the banks and cheer on the colorful crew teams as they race down the Charles.

Boston Marathon -- Free to watch. Very inspiring. Go cheer for the runners anywhere between Hopkinton and Boston and you might end up on TV!

Somerville "Last Night" 5K -- held December 31st at 11:30PM in Davis Square. A great and healthy way to bring in the New Year!

Canoeing/kayaking -- several places to rent canoes or kayaks on the Charles

Cross-Country Skiing

Apple Picking

Whale Watching

Harbor Cruise

Celtics (basketball at the Fleet Center)

Bruins (hockey)

New England Patriots (football)

MISCELLANEOUS FUN

Discount movies: MIT shows movies in one of the lecture halls every weekend for \$3. Listings can be found at lsc.mit.edu

Swing Dancing:

Weds. Nights: MIT Student Center 8:30-11:30 PM, free.

Holiday Pops are great to go to in December. The Boston Pops put on a Holiday/Christmas program with festive songs, a sing-a-long, and Santa. www.socialweb.net/Events/12900.lasso

DAY TRIPS IN AND AROUND BOSTON

Easy and Exciting Day Trips – Closer than You Think

Arlington-Bedford Bike Path - Paved Bike Path from Arlington to Bedford. This path is 11 miles one way. There are many different places to pick up the trail. If you want to go where it's the prettiest, pick it up in Lexington. This is great for running, walking, and of course, rollerblading.

The Berkshires -- Two hours west of Boston, the rolling hills, beautiful mansions and lakes will take your breath away. Don't miss the exceptional Norman Rockwell Museum. Visit the quaint towns of Lenox, Stockbridge and Lee. Tanglewood Music Center, the summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, offers great outdoor concerts for the whole family during July and August. In the fall, don't miss the changing foliage. For shoppers, there is great outlet shopping in Lee and in Manchester, VT just north of Lee.

The historic Red Lion Inn in Stockbridge is a great place to stay if you want to make a weekend out of it.

www.berkshires.org

Boston Common/Quincy Market -- Venture downtown and ride the swan boats and feed the ducks in the Public Gardens at the Common or venture down to Quincy Market for some shopping and clam chowder at one of the many restaurants. It's best to take the T to Park Street on the Red Line.

Burlington, VT - In northern Vermont, on the banks of Lake Champlain, Burlington is a bustling city with lots to do and see. Approximately a 3 hour drive from Boston, Burlington is home to Ben & Jerry's ice cream company, Vermont Teddy Bear Factory, and borders Stowe Mountain Resort. Ben & Jerry's offers a fun tour of their factory and of course offers samples of their delicious ice cream! The Teddy Bear Factory is fun for kids and also offers factory tours.

www.central-vt.com/web/benjerry/

Stowe is a beautiful mountain town and resort. Great skiing in the winter and beautiful scenic drives in the summer. It's a great place to stay overnight if you want to make a weekend out of it. The Von Trapp Family, featured in the movie the Sound of Music, owned a home there that has been turned into a beautiful lodge with great accommodations year round.

www.trappfamilylodge.com

If you want to extend the trip over a weekend, take the ferry from Burlington across Lake Champlain to Lake Placid region.

Cape Cod -- 2 hours south of Boston is Cape Cod -- land of beautiful beaches, lighthouses, quaint towns, and scenic drives. The Cape is always fun and can be really inexpensive if you go in the off season. Our favorite towns are Chatham (great shopping) and Hyannis. A great day trip but if you want to make a weekend out of it, catch the ferry to Martha's Vineyard or Nantucket from Hyannis. www.capecod.com

Concord, MA -- A must see! Only a fifteen-mile drive from Cambridge. A quaint town with historic sites such as Walden Pond, the Alcott Home (Little Women author), the Old North Bridge, Emerson's home, Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, etc.

www.frommers.com/destinations/concordma

Gloucester, MA -- America's oldest seaport, Gloucester is located 30 miles northeast of Boston. The stunning, rugged beauty of Gloucester's coastline, the long, sandy beaches and the clear blue Atlantic Ocean have attracted visitors ever since. An attractive downtown, museums and tours on land and sea all make it a great destination.

For a free brochure packet,

call 1-800-649-6839 or check out their website,

www.gloucesterma.com

Lexington, MA -- A fifteen mile drive from Cambridge, on the way to Concord. The location of the beginning of the Revolutionary War. Don't miss the great multi-media presentation about the beginning of the war at the ranger station at Minuteman National Historic Park. (You can also stop at Wilson Farms just off Rte. 4 -- see "Shopping - Farmer's Markets.")

www.frommers.com/destinations/lexingtonma

Maine - (Ogunquit, Kennebunkport and Kittery) One hour north of Boston. Kittery is a shopper's paradise with tons of outlets and shops to choose from. For info, see www.thekitteryoutlets.com

To experience Maine at its best, though, drive north along scenic Route 1 to Ogunquit, best known for its beach and cliff walk, and then to Kennebunkport, summer home to the Bush family and a quaint waterfront town full of restaurants, shops, and beaches. Don't forget to stop off at a local restaurant for some Maine lobster. The 'Lobster Pound' in Ogunquit is a popular choice for a casual lobster dinner.

Marblehead, MA -- 20 miles north of Boston -- A beautiful yacht and mansion town with a great park on the beach, too. A Christmas walk through the streets of old Marblehead is a must for an authentic New England Christmas. Call the Marblehead Chamber of Commerce at 781-621-2868 for more information. www.marbleheadchamber.org

Newport, Rhode Island - An hour and a half outside of Boston, this city is full of shopping, beautiful beaches, the mansions on Bellevue Avenue and Ocean Drive, the Cliff Walk -- a 3 mile coastal path that travels behind several estates and much more. For information, see <http://www.newportri.com/>

Old Sturbridge Village, MA -- About one hour west of Boston. People are dressed in the costume of the 1830s and go about their business in character. www.osv.org

Plymouth, MA - 45 miles south of Boston, Plymouth Plantation and the Mayflower are located here. Plymouth Rock, the landing place of the Mayflower is smaller than you would imagine, but a must see. While you're there, make a quick trip to the Cranberry World Visitors Center, 225 Water St., Plymouth (508-747-2350).

Quincy, MA -- 14 miles south of Boston, Quincy is great for John Adams fans or anyone who is interested in the American Revolution. For info, see www.quincyonline.com

Salem, MA - 25 miles north of Boston. Learn about the history of the Salem witch trials. Visit the House of Seven Gables of Nathaniel Hawthorne fame. Things are especially fun around Halloween (but the day of Halloween is

not ideal for children -- can get a bit scary with festivities centered around adults). For info, see www.frommers.com/destinations/salemma/

Sharon, VT - 135 miles NW of Boston, this can be a fun trip for LDS families or those curious about LDS history, for it is where Joseph Smith, the first prophet of the LDS Church, was born. Excellent facilities there, Information Center, and fun places for families. For info, see www.sharonvt.org

GETTING AWAY FROM IT ALL

Weekend escape secrets, tried and tested! Proven to relieve you of stress

Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard

These two islands off the coast of Cape Cod are wonderful weekend getaway year round. Its possible to do both in the same weekend but experts recommend doing them one at a time. They are both accessible by ferry from Hyannis, MA and Woods Hole -- see schedules online and island information at www.islandferry.com

What to do: Once on the islands, rent a bike or a car and explore the many beaches, town centers and sights. Both islands are unique and offer different diversions and attractions.

Where to stay: Stay at one of the many bed and breakfasts or rent a cottage with a group of friends through one of the many rental agencies. Check out fodors.com for recommendations. Don't forget to stop at the Chamber of Commerce located near the ferry dock and get maps and brochures (free).

Acadia National Park

Located in Bar Harbor in northern Maine, Acadia is approximately 6 hours north of Boston. It encompasses 47,633 acres of granite-domed mountains, woodlands, lakes and ponds, and ocean shoreline ideal for walking, hiking and biking. www.nps.gov/acad

What to do: By automobile you can drive the 27-mile Park Loop Road which includes views of some of the most dramatic scenery along the eastern seaboard. Other summer activities include fishing, boating, carriage rides, and wildlife viewing. During the winter, the carriage roads and the closed portions of the Park Loop Road are ideal for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

Where to stay: If you are the adventurous type, check out one of the many campgrounds available nearby listed on the website. For those of you seeking a quaint B&B or inn, check out accommodations in nearby Bar Harbor center at fodors.com.

New York City

This city is a wonderful weekend getaway no matter what season. With wonderful restaurants, shopping and hotels, you can't go wrong! You can sometimes find great round trip airfare, but it's also recommended taking the Amtrak train from Boston's South Station. You really don't need a car in NYC and parking can be very expensive (and difficult to find). For more info, see

<http://www.nycvisit.com/home/index.cfm>

About once a year, MIT Spouses and Partners offers a great deal for a NYC bus trip -- starting early in the morning and getting home again that very night. Check out the website: mit.edu/medical/spousesandpartners for any further information.

What to do: Take in a Broadway show, stroll through Central Park, shop on 5th Ave., and visit one of the many museums. Take a circle line boat tour around Manhattan island or enjoy a day of shopping along the streets of Soho.

Where to Stay: A few favorite and convenient hotels are the Doubletree Times Square, The Marriott Times Square, The Westin Essex House on Central Park, and the St. Regis on Fifth Avenue.

Theatre Tip from the Pros: You can get half price tickets to Broadway shows at the TKTS booth in Times Square on the day of the show. Tickets are \$37.50 and you must pay in cash. Shows available vary, but are posted at 2 pm on a large screen outside the booth. The booth opens at 3 pm so get in line early. Otherwise, for advance ticket purchases, see ticketmaster.com. [Playbill.com](http://playbill.com) lists all Broadway and Off-Broadway shows currently running with a brief description.

Lake Placid:

Located in the northeastern portion of the Adirondack wilderness of New York State, approximately 5 hours from Boston, the Lake Placid region is a popular year-round resort. The Olympic facilities used for the 1932 and 1980 Olympic Winter Games. For info, see <http://www.lakeplacid.com/>

What to do: Don't miss the bobsled run, a Gondola ride on Whiteface mountain, aerial displays year round, Santa's workshop, Highfalls Gorge and a biathlon course.

Where to stay: A wide range of accommodations are available. A few favorites are the Mirror Lake Inn, The Hilton Resort, and the Hyatt on Mirror Lake.

Where to eat: For a great casual BBQ lunch, try Tail-O'-The-Pub, a five-minute drive from the lake, but well worth it. For dinner, try Great Adirondack Steak and Seafood - a great atmosphere.

CAMPING IDEAS:

<http://www.acane-camps.org/>

Coast of Maine

Baxter State Park (Maine)

www.baxterstateparkauthority.com

White Mountains (New Hampshire)

www.whitemtn.org

Bar Harbor, Maine

barharborinfo.com