

Liz and Mike's Wedding

July 21, 2007

“A short guide for out-a-townahs (out of towners)”

Prepared by Carol Volpe for www.liz-mike.com

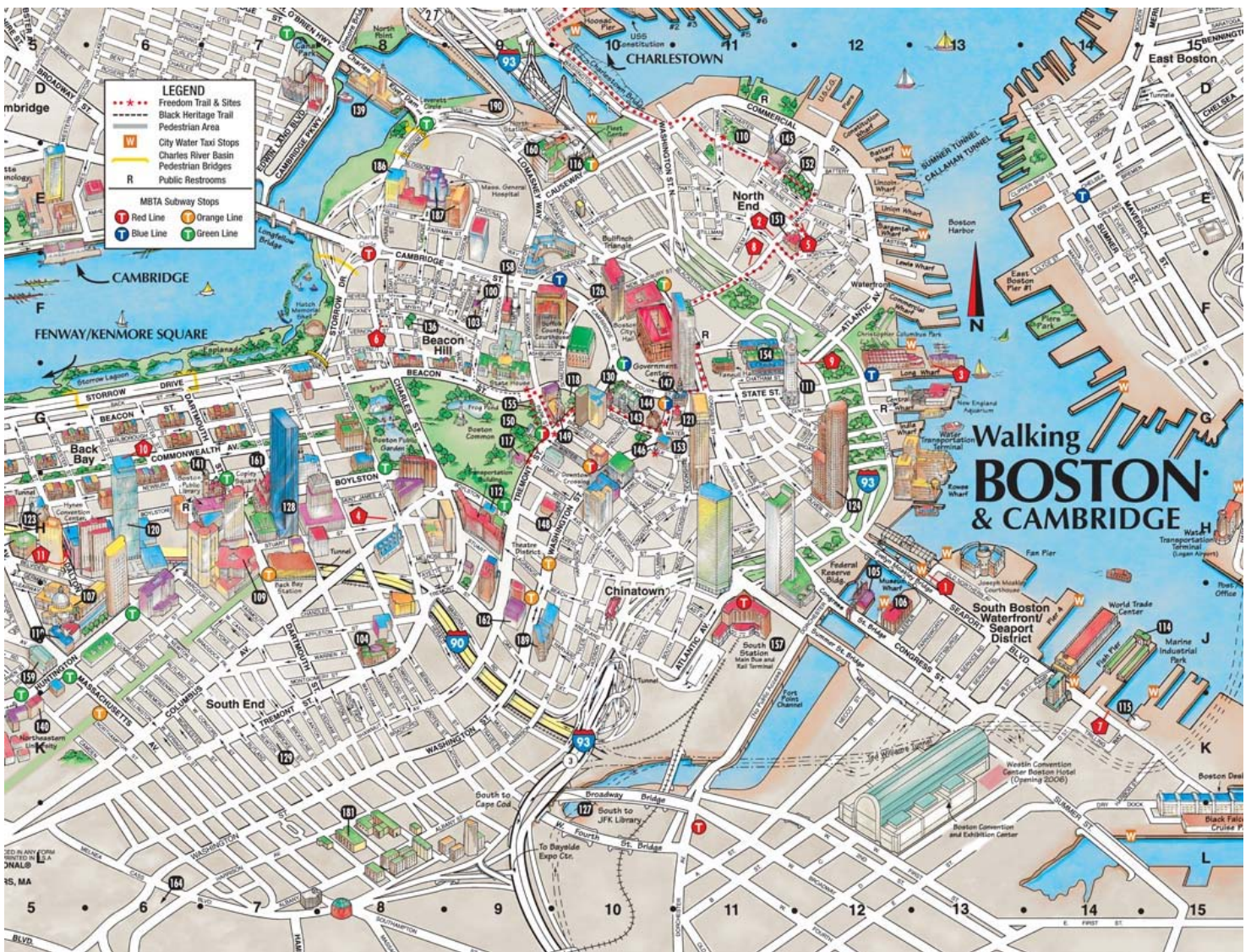
Essential Boston Knowledge

Boston is a compact small city full of diverse neighborhoods, making it perfect to explore on foot. Our subway system called “The T” is pretty easy to use, and cabs are always an option. But before starting out, you will want to learn to understand Bostonians, famous for their accent and unique phrases. Most people know that locals drop their r’s, but you need to know where those letters go once they’ve been eliminated. <http://www.boston-online.com/glossary.html>

When asking directions, remember that Massachusetts Avenue is “Mass Ave” and Commonwealth Avenue is “Comm Ave.” Boston Common is “The Common” and Southie refers to South Boston (where *The Departed* and *Good Will Hunting* were filmed), not the South End which is the neighborhood next to the Back Bay and near . You take the “T”, not the subway and not the MBTA. While Boston Common may be The Common, the Public Garden is not The Garden. That designation is reserved for the much-beloved Boston Garden – the sports arena razed to make way for the new Fleet Center in the mid-1990’s, but now renamed the TD Banknorth Garden, aka The Garden. And if you need to find the bar that inspired the TV series Cheers, ask for directions to the Bull & Finch Pub at the Hampshire House, 84 Beacon Street, not Cheers in Faneuil Hall. There is now a chain of Cheers restaurants inspired by the TV show.

Boston’s weather is varied and you never know what to expect. Average high temperature for July in Boston is 82 and the average low is 69. As unpredictable as it may be, Bostonians embrace the weather and forecasters enthusiastically track storms. We name our storms, even when they’re not hurricanes. People still ask, “where were you during the Blizzard of ‘78?”

“Beantown” – This nickname dates from colonial times. In Puritan New England, Sunday was the day of rest and even lighting a fire violated the Sabbath. But putting a crock of beans to bake in the oven section of a brick fireplace on Saturday was okay. The retained heat cooked the beans in time for Sunday dinner at noon, and “Boston baked beans” got their name.

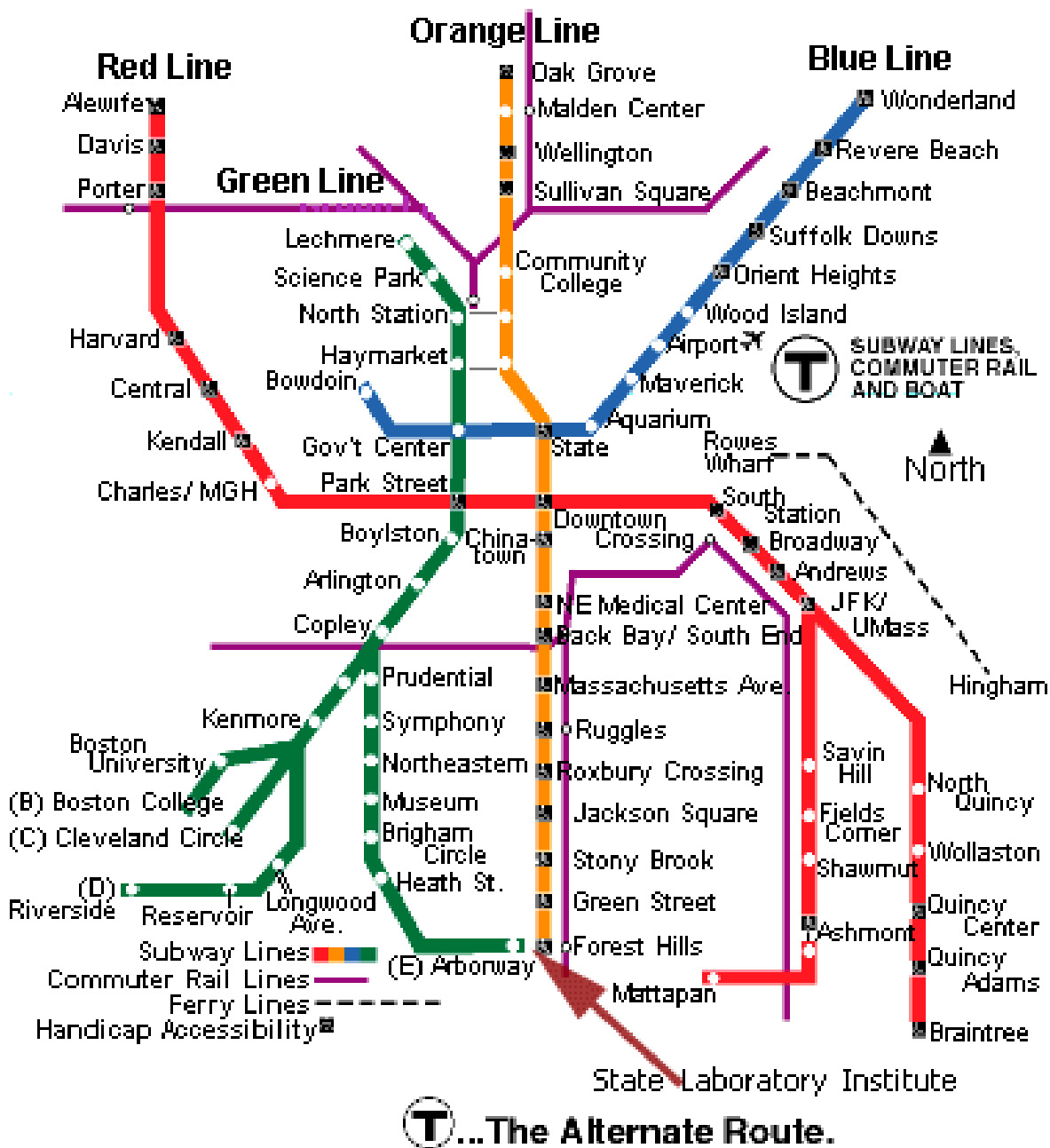


Getting Around

Walk - Boston is an old, compact city and perfect for walking! Use the maps in this guide or grab one from the desk at your hotel.

Cabs – Boston has numerous cab companies, for most of the downtown areas and hotels, you should be able to get one very easily.

Ride the "T" - For those of you looking to ride the T (good idea) you should know that the fare per person each way is \$1.70 if you buy a **Charlie Card** which is a permanent reusable debit card with stored value. The Charlie Card is meant for frequent riders and is available in advance via MBTA.com and some larger stations. *Most visitors just buy a **Charlie Ticket**, which is a paper reusable ticket with stored value available from machines in every station, but each ride then costs \$2.*



Each of the passes used to ride the T uses the name "Charlie" because of a song called "The MTA Song", often called "Charlie on the MTA", is a 1948 song written by Jacqueline Steiner and Bess Lomax Hawes, about a man named Charlie trapped on Boston's subway system, then known as the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA). It was a hit in 1959 when it was recorded by The Kingston Trio, an American folk group. Charlie's wife would hand him lunch through the window as the train sped by each day (As a kid in school when they played the song, I never understood why she didn't give him money instead. But maybe she actually didn't want to see him ☺). (A long time ago you used to have to pay to get on and to get off the T. This practice is largely gone, but still remains at some remote stations).

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_MTA_Song

<http://www.mit.edu/~jdreed/t/charlie.html>

Attractions

Freedom Trail - <http://www.thefreedomtrail.org/> Boston's famous Freedom Trail passes 16 historical sites and is marked by a thick red path, either painted or made of bricks, on the sidewalks. It leads in a 2.5 mile course from the Visitor Center on Boston Common to the Charlestown Navy Yard across the Charles River. Walking tours leave the Visitor Center* every 30 minutes and an entire guided walk takes about 90 minutes. Audio tours are available. There is no need to do the entire tour, and of course, you can just go on your own and quit anytime you've had enough.

*The **Greater Boston Convention and Visitor Bureau Visitor Information Center (VIC)** is located at 147 Tremont Street on Boston Common. Visitors can purchase maps and informative guides about the Freedom Trail. The Visitor Center also distributes free brochures and pamphlets about other Boston attractions. The VIC is an official starting point for the Freedom Trail, where you can pick up a walking tour and additional information about your visit to Boston. Open year round 9:00am to 5:00pm.

To download a printable, detailed PDF map of the Freedom Trail <http://www.thefreedomtrail.org/maps/maps.html>



Boston Common and the Public Garden – These two parks make up the largest park space in the city and were the first of their kind in this country. While the Common and the Gardens are adjacent (bisected by Charles Street) and serve a unified purpose, the two parks spaces have very different characters. The larger, more pastoral Common supports recreational activities and flexible uses and is a great place to people-watch, while the Public Garden is devoted to ornamental design.



Boston Common and Public Garden



Boston Common, bound by Tremont, Beacon, Charles, and Boylston Streets, contains walking paths, open green spaces, a "frog pond" with a fountain frequented by children on hot steamy days, play areas, and a war monument. The oldest public park in the country, Boston Common's history goes back as far as 1634, when the Massachusetts government purchased land from a Boston settler for use as a public livestock grazing area. It also served as a public green: official functions such as hangings, parades and drills took place there, and British troops camped there. The gallows were removed in 1817 and in 1830 the grazing of cattle was prohibited. It is a pastoral in English style with a very open character and informal layout.

The Public Garden, 24 acres bounded by Arlington, Boylston, Charles, and Beacon Streets, was established in 1837, and is the first public botanical garden in the United States. Adjacent to the Common was a brackish swamp known as the Back Bay. In the latter half of the 19th century, Boston began filling the Back Bay in order to make possible future expansion and development. The filling of the Back Bay went hand-in-hand with Frederick Law Olmsted's "Emerald Necklace," a circumferential parks plan for the Boston area. A new residential boulevard, Commonwealth Avenue, was created as part of the Back Bay project. At its end, between the new infill and Boston Common, would be the Boston Public Garden, the landscape design of George V. Meacham, winner of a public competition for which he received an award of one hundred dollars. Flower beds provide color from April to October, and the thousands of plants grown in the city greenhouses maintain a continuous ever-refreshing variety. Numerous works of public art adorn its winding paths that skirt its three acre lagoon. The Public Garden is famous for its swan boats and has inviting walks and lovely bridge views.



Emerald Necklace

The Boston Common and the Public Garden are part of the Emerald Necklace, a series of parks all connected to each other. The network includes the Esplanade, the Commonwealth Avenue Mall, the Back Bay Fens, Olmstead Park, Jamaica Park, Arnold Arboretum and Franklin Park.

The Swan Boats - <http://www.swanboats.com> are located in The Public Garden.



Famed in the stories Make Way For Ducklings and The Trumpet of the Swan, the Swan Boats are the only boats of their kind in the world. Each April for over 120 years, the Swan Boats have appeared in the Public Garden Lagoon. This Boston tradition dates back to the 1870's when Robert Paget, whose descendants continue to operate the business, was granted a boat for hire license by the City of Boston. In 1877, he capitalized on the bicycle principle and with the help of others, developed a catamaran which housed a paddle wheel arrangement that was foot-propelled. To cover the captain, Robert suggested a swan! The idea came to him from his familiarity with the opera Lohengrin. The opera is based on a medieval German story in which Lohengrin, a knight of the Grail crosses a river in a boat drawn by a swan to defend the innocence of his heroine, Princess Elsa. The present boats are replicas of the originals, but have five or six benches, carrying up to 20 passengers. The Swan Boats driver paddles passengers around the Public Garden Lagoon for a 15 minute cruise. Summer hours: (June 21 to Labor Day) 10 am to 5 pm Open 7 days per week, weather permitting. Swan boats do not operate on rainy, windy, or extremely hot days. General Information: 617-522-1966



Beacon Hill - an early 19th century neighborhood with narrow streets. The row houses are nearly all in brick in Federal, Victorian and Georgian styles. This National Historic District is exceptionally well-preserved, with well maintained charming houses, low-traffic streets paved with cobblestones and gas-lit street lighting. Until the end of the 18th century, the south slope of Beacon Hill was a pasture owned by painter John Singleton Copley. He sold it to the Mount Vernon Proprietors, to which the architect Charles Bulfinch belonged. They designed quality residences on the south slope. Halfway the 19th century, Beacon Hill had become a very popular district, especially the south slope which attracted some wealthy Bostonians. Today the area is still a great place to live in, a 19th century district in the heart of a 21st century city. The most prominent building on Beacon Hill is the new **State House**. It was built in 1795 by Charles Bulfinch. The dome is covered with 23 1/2 carat gold leaf.

Boston's North End - Can you recite lines from The Godfather? Do you grab people behind the ears and kiss them on both cheeks? Do the words gnocchi, panini, and cappuccino make you hungry? If you answered "si" to any of these questions, then the North End is definitely for you.

The North End is the city's oldest residential community, where people have lived continuously since it was settled in the 1630s. It has been home to a number of immigrant populations. Before the waves of immigrants began to arrive, however, the North End was home to some of Boston's wealthiest residents and later to the first community of African Americans created by freed and escaped slaves. In the early 1800s, the Irish began to migrate to the North End in huge numbers and dominated the neighborhood until approximately 1900. The North End then became one of the centers of Jewish life in Boston and Hebrew inscriptions can still be found on several buildings. In the early 20th century, it became the center of the Italian community of Boston. Today it is still largely residential and well-known for its small, authentic, Italian restaurants.

During July and August in the North End religious processions with music and food take place almost every weekend. On July 22, 2007 the St. Domenic Society will have a Procession beginning at 2pm in North Square.



Activities

Duck Tour – <http://www.bostonducktours.com> – Boston Duck Tours operates a fleet of restored World War II era DUKWs. These amphibious vehicles played an important role in both the European and Pacific theaters of the war. The tour is 80 minutes long, and a great way to see the city. Approximately 20 minutes of the tour is on the water.



A limited number of tickets go on sale at 8:45am five days in advance at ticket booths located in the Prudential Center, the Museum of Science, Faneuil Hall, or over the internet via the website listed above. Once these tickets are sold out, the only other way to get tickets is to go to one of the ticket booths early on the day of the tour. Since only a portion of tickets is released for advance sales, same day tickets are available at the ticket booths, which open at 8:30am. **However, these tickets sell out quickly, so advance purchase is recommended, especially in the summer.** Individual tickets are not sold by phone. If you purchase advance tickets, you can use your printed internet confirmation as your ticket and go directly to the Duck Stop boarding area. If you are not able to print the confirmation, you should still go directly to the Duck Stop and a Guest Service Representative will tell you where to sit for boarding. Boarding and seating are first come, first served. Duck Tours suggests you arrive at the departure location on Huntington Ave. 30 minutes before tour time, and boarding normally begins 15 minutes prior to tour departure time. You should dress for the weather, wear sunscreen and a hat, etc. as most Ducks have a few seats in the rear that are uncovered. All tours go rain or shine, and there are no refunds. Questions? 617-267-DUCK

Old Town Trolley Tours - www.oldtownrolley.com/boston.htm 1 hour and 45 minute narrated tour of Boston, covering 100 points of interest, 18 stops. Tours depart from boarding locations about every 15-20 minutes. Reservations not required. Patrons with eTickets can board at any Old Town Trolley boarding location. Daily from 9am to 5pm. 18 Stops: New England Aquarium/Faneuil Hall, North End, USS Constitution, North Station, Old State House Museum, State House/Common, Cambridge/MIT/Harvard, Antique Row, Fenway Park, Back Bay/Skywalk, Christian Science Plaza/Symphony Hall, Copley Place, Copley Square/Newbury Street, South End, Theater District, South Station/Fort Point Channel, Convention Center, Seaport District. Hop on and hop off all day with free reboarding. Note: A one-day pass is sold online for \$28.80 and a 2-day pass us \$43.20, with free hop on and hop off privileges.



Boston City Pass – <http://www.trustedtours.com/store/Boston-City-Pass-C236.aspx> - Sold online for \$39.90, this booklet of tickets provides free admission and allows you to bypass ticket lines at The Museum of Science, New England Aquarium, Skywalk Observatory, Museum of Fine Arts Boston, Harvard Museum of Natural History, and the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum. You have 9 days to use tickets. Saves about half the cost of individual admissions if you purchased all 9 separately.

GoBoston Card - <http://www.gobostoncard.com/whatis.html> It's a credit card sized card that you carry which includes admission to the Boston area's most [popular attractions](#). You do not need to pre-purchase tickets. To use the Go Boston Card for the Duck Tour, you may make advance reservations up to 5 days in advance for a reservation fee of \$5.00 per person. A link to book your tickets will be provided on your confirmation email after you complete your online purchase.

New England Aquarium - <http://www.neaq.org/index.flash4.html> - Central Wharf. More than 70 exhibits with aquatic animals from around the globe. In the summer, afternoon crowds can be daunting, so make this your first stop in the morning, or invest in a Boston Citypass which allows you to skip the ticket line. The Simons IMAX Theatre, which has its own building hours, and admission fees, is worth planning for, too. Its 85-foot-by-65-foot screen shows 3-D films with digital sound that concentrate on the natural world. Carol's favorite exhibit is the penguins.

Shopping is one of the top reasons people visit Boston – above sightseeing and museums!

Newbury Street – www.newbury-st.com - a renowned, eight-block stretch whose shops cater to every taste, from upper-crust to cutting-edge. This is Boston's version of Fifth Avenue, and its historic storefronts offer glimpses of Boston during the mid-to-late 19th century. Among the open-air coffee shops, cafes, antique stores, custom clothiers, and designer boutiques are some of the city's true architectural gems, including the Art Deco Taj Hotel (formerly the Ritz Carlton), Richard Upjohn's Church of the Covenant (1865), and the Temple for the Working Union of Progressive Spiritualists (now Waterstone's Booksellers), finished in 1884.

Faneuil Hall Marketplace, also called **Quincy Market** – www.faneuilhallmarketplace.com is stocked with quaint stores and tourist-friendly souvenir shops, and it has an amazing food court. Located at the intersection of Congress and North Streets, it's a short walk from the Government Center stop on the Green line. In 1742, Faneuil Hall was built by Boston's wealthiest merchant, Peter Faneuil, as a gift to the city. It was home to merchants, fishermen, and meat and produce sellers, and provided a platform for the country's most famous orators. Firebrand Samuel Adams rallied the citizens of Boston to the cause of independence from Great Britain in the hallowed Hall, and George Washington toasted the nation on its first birthday. To better accommodate the merchants and shoppers, Faneuil Hall was expanded in 1826 to include Quincy Market, which was designed in the then-popular Greek Revival style and later named for Boston Mayor Josiah Quincy. By the mid-1900's, the buildings had fallen into disrepair and many stood empty. The once-thriving marketplace was tagged for demolition until a committed group of Bostonians sought to preserve it in the early 1970's. Through the vision of Jim Rouse, architect Benjamin Thompson and Mayor Kevin White, the dilapidated structures were revitalized,

thoroughly changing the face of downtown Boston. The 1976 renovation was the first urban renewal project of its kind, one which spawned imitations in this country and abroad.



Faneuil Hall is famous for its street performers, which began as a way to entertain construction workers during construction of Quincy Market. The Street Performers are selected during the annual Street Performers Audition held the last weekend in April.

The marketplace includes the Colonnade, with 35 food stalls lining the Quincy Marketplace, containing fresh homemade foods from all over the world. There are also 49 owner-operated and nationally owned shops with a unique selection of merchandise. The marketplace also includes 18 restaurants, including Boston's premier comedy club, as well as the famous Durgin Park, in business for 130 years.

The Quincy Market Colonnade is open 10am – 10pm; the North and South Market stores are open 10am – 9pm Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, everything is open from noon – 6pm. Restaurants and pubs are open late every evening. Info: 617-523-1300

Downtown Crossing – www.downtowncrossing.org is the next stop for any avid shopper, located at the corner of Washington and Summer Streets. This browser's paradise – pedestrian-friendly, no cars allowed – is home to one of the city's most famous attractions for stylish bargains: Filene's Basement. There are more than 150 independent jewelers (mainly in two Jewelers Buildings, at 333 and 387 Washington Street) and over 200 retailers. Small specialty stores complement department stores like Macy's and Borders. Pushcart vendors offer an assortment of merchandise.



Charles Street - at the foot of Beacon Hill is home to some interesting, small shops. As you head up Charles Street you'll pass The Ruby Door, Wish, and French Dressing, to mention a few. On the corner of Pickney Street is Beacon Hill Chocolates, which sells beautiful and delicious artisan chocolates, which they will pack in vintage photo boxes for you, that is if you can resist the temptation to eat them immediately.

The South End - home to a large number of great little shops (and two of our favorite couples). Parlor, Turtle, and Aunt Sadie's contain unique treasures. Sara Campbell on Plympton Street is one of Liz's favorite stops. There are also lots of interesting, small restaurants in the South End, most situated between Tremont, Berkley, and Washington

Streets. Residents in the South End treat their doggies like royalty, and you'll often see a pooch perched on a chair or tied to the table while Fido's owner has lunch. Doggie day care is popular, and offer pick up and drop off services in a little bus. Polka Dog Bakery is a good place to find special treats for your four-legged friends. Notice the bowls of water many businesses place outside for thirsty pets.

Copley Place - the only mega mall located within Boston city limits. You'll find over 100 shops including Neiman Marcus, Coach, Louis Vuitton, Gucci, and Jimmy Choo. The complex also has a handful of restaurants, including a branch of Legal Sea Foods 617-266-6800, but no food court.

The Shops at Prudential Center - connect to Copley Place via a walkway, and have a food court, pushcarts with souvenirs and accessories, a post office, more than 40 shops and boutiques, and five restaurants.

Wrentham Village Premium Outlets – NOT in Boston– but if you have an extra day and you love to shop, Wrentham is about a 45 minute drive, and some of the hotels run bus trips during peak times. 170 Outlet Stores including Off 5th, Banana Republic, Coach, JCrew, Barneys, Burberry, BeBe, Mikasa, Williams-Sonoma, Gap, Nine West, Calvin Klein, Sony, Nike, Reebok, Ferragamo, and many more. Bring your AAA card and visit the Customer Service Desk in the rear of the first strip behind Off 5th adjacent to the Food Court. (as you enter the complex, turn right and keep going all the way to the right, Off 5th is the last store.)

Restaurants

Things to try...lobster, clams, New England clam chowder, local scrod, Boston cream pie (actually a cake), "Ben and Jerry's" Vermont ice cream, Sam Adams and Harpoon beers, Boston Beer Works' "Boston Red," named after the Red Sox baseball team, and a frappe (milkshake made with ice cream).

Visit www.bostonchefs.com or www.Zagat.com for menus and prices. Massachusetts state law prohibits the sale of alcohol, including wine and beer, after 2am, so bars and most restaurants will close by then. There are some late night restaurants in Chinatown and Kenmore Square, frequented by people leaving dance clubs and bars. Liquor sales are also restricted to dinner only on Sundays, although a few places (mostly in the South End) are allowed to serve cocktails with their Sunday brunches

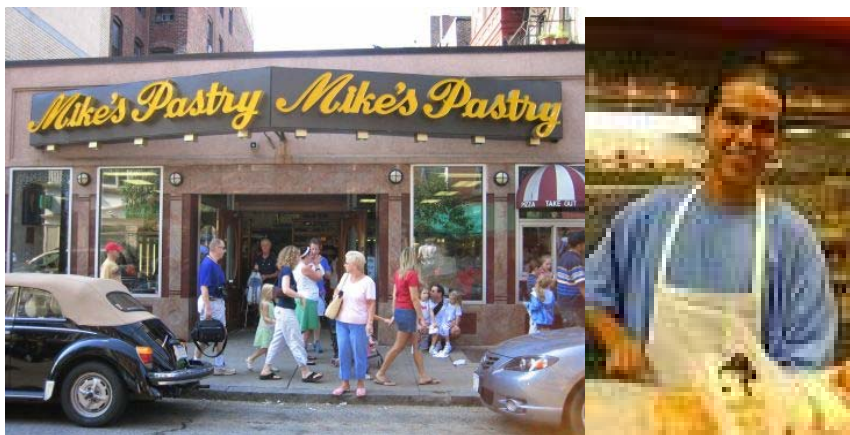
Icons...

Durgin Park 240 Faneuil Hall Marketplace 617.227.2038 Legendary for its generous portions and historically rude waitresses, the portions are still large, but the waitresses are now polite. Durgin Park began in 1826 as a lunch hall for produce and meat market workers. Seating is family-style at long tables, making for lively conversation with strangers. Traditional favorites include baked beans, Indian pudding, and prime rib of beef big enough to hang over the edge of the plate.

Union Oyster House – 41 Union Street 617.227.2750 Some dishes have probably not changed much since Daniel Webster was a regular in the 1830s, and people still point to the booth where John F. Kennedy used to have Sunday brunch and read the paper.

The North End – Boston's Italian Neighborhood...

<http://www.northendboston.com/dining.htm> Home to more than 87 restaurants – sandwich shops, pizzerias, carryout kitchens, cozy family-run dining rooms, and elegant restaurants, remains most known for its Italian restaurants. You can hardly go wrong by strolling through the neighborhood and just going into one of the many small, family restaurants. After dinner you have to go and stand in line at Mike's Pastries at 300 Hanover Street (between Parmenter/Richmond and Prince Streets) to sample a canola or two. They are the best in the city! www.mikespastry.com.



MON:	8 AM to 9 PM
TUES:	9 AM to 8 PM
WED:	8 AM to 9 PM
THURS:	8 AM to 9 PM
FRI:	8 AM to 10:30 PM
SAT:	8 AM to 11 PM
SUN:	8 AM to 9:30 PM

South End – lots of small, distinct restaurants...

Icarus – 3 Appleton Street - 617.426.1790. New American cuisine is the forte of this comfortable restaurant. The chef-owner is active in efforts to build sustainable local farming and fishing. The menu descriptions include information on who grew or caught the ingredients.

Flour Bakery & Café – 1595 Washington Street, between Concord and Rutland – 617.267.4300. Owner/chef Joanne Chang serves delicious breakfast and lunch baked goods, from a ham-and-cheese croissant, to an unbelievable raspberry pop tart. Sit at the communal table and order a house blend coffee or a house made raspberry seltzer to go with your treat.

Union Bar and Grille – 1357 Washington Street, corner of Union Park in the South End – 617.423.0555. This wonderful little restaurant is famous for its freshly baked cornbread. Instead of the usual roll basket, they bring out a miniature skillet-baked cornbread that's addictive. The menu is varied, and the desserts to die for.

Tremont 647 – 647 Tremont Street, about 2 blocks from where Liz and Mike live, and this is where they went on their first date. The restaurant serves "bold American cuisine in a fun and funky atmosphere". The chef is Andy Husbands, who is the author of "The Fearless Chef" www.tremont647.com

Back Bay – home to many great restaurants including...

Abe & Louie's – 793 Boylston Street (near Fairfield) 617.536.6300 Great steaks

Capital Grille – 359 Newbury Street (bet. Hereford St. and Mass Ave) 617.262.8900
Famous for dry-aged steaks and wine list.

Davio's – 75 Arlington Street – 617.357.4810 Great steaks and pasta dishes.

Grill 23 – 161 Berkeley Street (Stuart St.) 617.542.2255 Great steaks and great service

Legal Sea Foods – 2 locations, both in Back Bay – Famous for fresh local seafood.
– 100 Huntington Ave (bet. Dartmouth & Exeter Sts.) 617.266.7775
– 800 Boylston Street (Ring Rd.) 617.266.6800

Morton's – 1 Exeter Plaza – 617.266.5858 Another great steakhouse

Oak Room – 138 St. James Avenue (bet. Dartmouth & Trinity Sts.) Attached to the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel 617.267.5300

Papa Razzi – 271 Dartmouth Street (bet. Boylston & Newbury Sts.) 617.536.9200
Casual Italian restaurant chain.

Smith & Wollensky – 101 Arlington Street (Stuart St.) 617.423.1112 One more great steak house

Tapeo – 266 Newbury Street – 617.267.4799 Combination restaurant and tapas bar specializing in small plates.

Upper Crust – 222 Newbury Street (Fairfield St.) 617.262.0090 The founder, Jordan Tobins, went to high school with Mike and now has a chain of award-winning pizza shops. They make traditional Neapolitan-style pizza (thin crust, chunky sauce), and you can eat in or call ahead and take advantage of free delivery.

Steak Houses

Abe & Louie's - 793 Boylston St. 617.536.6300

Bonfire – Park Plaza Hotel – 50 Arlington St. 617.262.3473

Capital Grille - 359 Newbury St. 617.262.8900

Fleming's – 217 Stuart St. 617.292.0808

Grill 23 – 161 Berkeley St. 617.542.2255

Morton's - 699 Boylston St. 617.266.5858

Oak Room

(attached to Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel) 138 Saint James Ave. 617-267.5300

Ruth's Chris - 45 School St. 617.742.8401 Carol's favorite (if you can't get a table in the restaurant ask if you can sit in the bar)

Smith & Wollensky - 101 Arlington St. 617.423.1112

