

ISBN: 9781640498044
US \$24.99 CAN \$30.99
OSD: 3/16/2021
Trim: 5.375 x 8.375
Trade paperback

MOON

BASEBALL *Road Trips*

TIMOTHY MALCOLM

THE
COMPLETE GUIDE
TO ALL
THE BALLPARKS,
WITH BEER,
BITES,
AND SIGHTS
NEARBY



CONTENTS

HIT THE ROAD	00
--------------------	----

PLANNING YOUR TRIP	00
--------------------------	----

Where to Go	00
-------------------	----

When to Go	00
------------------	----

Before You Go	00
---------------------	----

TOP BALLPARKS & EXPERIENCES	00
-----------------------------------	----

The East Coast00

The East Coast Road Trip	00
--------------------------------	----

Boston * Red Sox	00
------------------------	----

New York * Yankees and Mets	00
-----------------------------------	----

Philadelphia * Phillies	00
-------------------------------	----

Baltimore * Orioles	00
---------------------------	----

Washington DC * Nationals	00
---------------------------------	----

Florida and the Southeast00

Florida and the Southeast Road Trip	00
---	----

Atlanta * Braves	00
------------------------	----

Tampa and St. Petersburg * Tampa Bay Rays	00
---	----

Miami * Marlins	00
-----------------------	----

The Great Lakes00

The Great Lakes Road Trip	00
---------------------------------	----

Pittsburgh * Pirates	00
----------------------------	----

Cleveland * Indians	00
---------------------------	----

Detroit * Tigers	00
------------------------	----

Toronto * Blue Jays	00
---------------------------	----

Chicago and the Midwest 00

Chicago and the Midwest Road Trip	00
---	----

Chicago * Cubs and White Sox	00
------------------------------------	----

Milwaukee * Brewers	00
---------------------------	----

St. Louis * Cardinals	00
-----------------------------	----

Cincinnati * Reds	00
-------------------------	----



The Heartland and Texas 00

The Heartland and Texas Road Trip	00
Minneapolis and St. Paul * Minnesota Twins	00
Kansas City * Royals	00
Dallas, Fort Worth, and Arlington * Texas Rangers	00
Houston * Astros	00

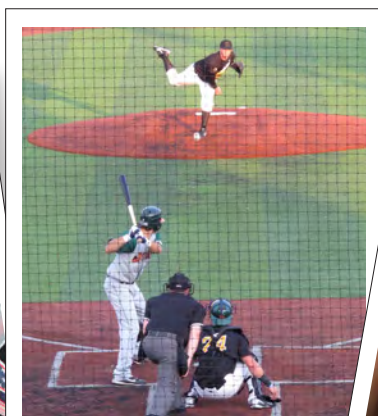
Arizona and Rocky Mountains 00

Arizona and Rocky Mountains Road Trip	00
Denver * Colorado Rockies	00
Phoenix * Arizona Diamondbacks	00

The West Coast 00

The West Coast Road Trip	00
San Diego * Padres	00
Los Angeles * Dodgers and Angels	00
Oakland * Athletics	00
San Francisco * Giants	00
Seattle * Mariners	00

OTHER ROUTES	00
ESSENTIALS	00
RESOURCES	00
INDEX	00
LIST OF MAPS	00
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	00



10 TOP BALLPARKS & EXPERIENCES



1

WRIGLEY FIELD IN CHICAGO

Arguably the mecca of ballparks, this is the classic baseball experience, with brick walls covered in ivy, flags detailing league standings, and a residential neighborhood surrounding the park. Plus, the rowdy outfield bleachers are a hoot (page XX).



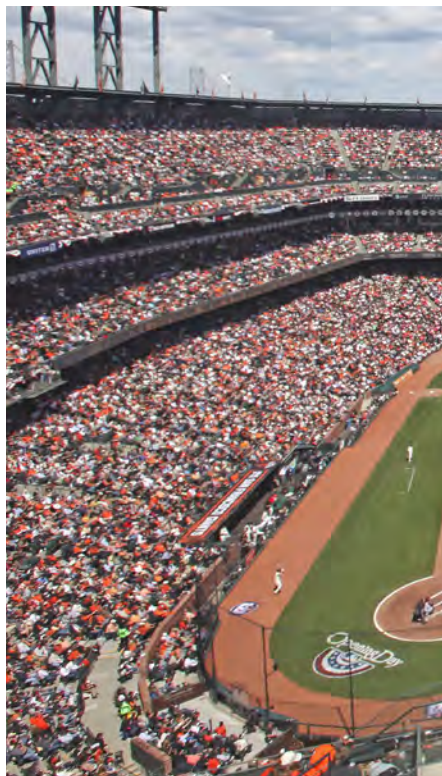
2 FENWAY PARK IN BOSTON

Open since 1912, the angular Boston ballpark has its charms, including Pesky's Pole, obstructed-view seating, a snug grandstand, and oh, the Green Monster. Every baseball fan needs to visit Fenway (page XX).



3 AT&T PARK IN SAN FRANCISCO

Arguably the finest ballpark of the modern era, AT&T Park sits alongside McCovey Cove, into which powerful left-handed hitters mash home runs. You can even rent a kayak and try to snag a ball (page XX).







4

DODGER STADIUM IN LOS ANGELES

The beautiful, timeless Dodger Stadium sits on a hill at Chavez Ravine and embodies the baseball experience. Enjoy the popular Dodger Dogs, the perfect dimensions of the outfield, and the splendid view of the San Gabriel Mountains beyond the outfield fence (page XX).



5

ORIOLE PARK AT CAMDEN YARDS IN BALTIMORE

The quintessential modern-era ballpark has everything you'd want, from the behemoth warehouse stretching across the right field backdrop, to the old-fashioned clock atop the video display, to the smoky scent and lip-smacking taste of Boog's Barbecue along the outfield midway (page XX)



6

SPRING TRAINING IN FLORIDA AND ARIZONA

Every March, hundreds of thousands of fans travel to the Sunshine and Grand Canyon States to catch a couple games and bask in the sunshine. In the Tampa metro area, 6 teams play within a 60-mile radius; in the Phoenix metro area, 15 teams are within a 47-mile radius of one another (pages XX and XX).

7

NEGRO LEAGUES BASEBALL MUSEUM IN KANSAS CITY, MO

Casual baseball fans may not know a lot about this jewel of a museum. A field decorated with statues reveals the important figures in pre-integration black baseball history, including Josh Gibson, Satchel Paige, and Buck O'Neil (page XX).





8

NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM IN COOPERSTOWN, NY

Get lost in baseball's definitive history museum in a town devoted to the sport. You could spend hours inside the hall, lined with the plaques of every inductee (page XX).





9

FIELD OF DREAMS IN DYERSVILLE, IA

Maybe it's inauthentic to celebrate a field created for a 1989 movie, but if you've ever had to ask "Dad? Wanna have a catch?" you will probably weep when you slip on a glove here (page XX).



10

LOUISVILLE SLUGGER MUSEUM IN LOUISVILLE, KY

Learn about the history of the baseball bat, plus see exhibitions at this small but neat must-visit museum. You can even make your own personalized bat (page XX).

BASEBALL ON A BUDGET

Here are some of the most affordable baseball experiences across the nation.

SEATS

At the **Brewers stadium** in Milwaukee (page XX), you can get good terrace seats for \$30 for non-essential opponents, or you can pay closer to \$55 for a lower-level seat.

At **Kauffman Stadium** (page XX) in Kansas City, you can catch a **Royals** game for about \$40 for non-essential opponents. Seats in the upper levels of Kauffman can cost as little as \$11 depending on who's playing and when you're going.

BALLPARK FOOD AND BEER

At **Tropicana Field** (page XX) in St. Petersburg, a \$6 hot dog is a touch pricier than you'd want. However, the loaded and fried options are more like \$8 and represent a better bang for the buck.

The cost of a beer at Pittsburgh's **PNC Park** (page XX) is \$10 for a big domestic beer.

PARKING

At **Target Field** (page XX), parking for a Twins game maxes out at \$15. You'll be able to nab a spot close to the stadium in downtown Minneapolis for \$5-15.

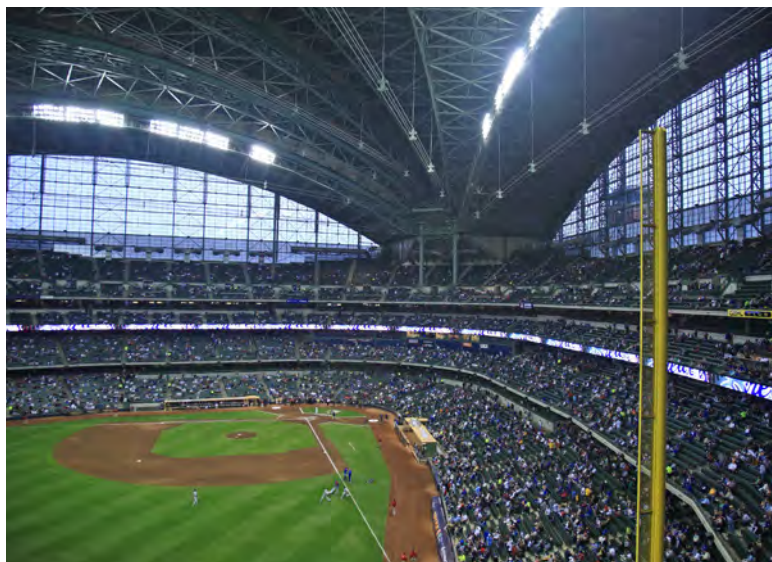
If you're willing to walk a short way, you can get a parking spot in downtown Detroit or Foxtown for \$15. If you want to get closer to **Comerica Park** (page XX), you'll pay around \$25.

HOTELS

In **Detroit** (page XX), the affordable Siren Hotel is within walking distance of Comerica Park.

In **St. Paul** (page XX), you can stay in the historic Saint Paul Hotel, then spend the money you saved on a Lyft ride to the ball park.

Brewers stadium cheapest seats are terrace level



CELEBRATING IN BASEBALL CITIES

Time your visit to these cities so you can catch a game and attend a festival (or two!) all in one trip.

HALL OF FAME WEEKEND, AUGUST

Seeing a favorite player get inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York (page XX), is a bucket-list item.

MLB ALL-STAR GAME, JULY

Serious baseball fans travel to the host city to attend the MLB All-Star Game, or to attend the accompanying Home Run Derby or FanFest exposition.

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS, JULY

Every city has its own Fourth of July celebration, with some of the largest events happening in Washington D.C., New York

City, Philadelphia, Boston, San Diego, San Francisco, and Seattle.

HEART OF AMERICA HOT DOG FESTIVAL, AUGUST

Hosted by the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum (page XX), this Kansas City event celebrates the best ballpark food of all—the hot dog.

MUSIC FESTIVALS

Pitchfork Music Festival, July

This famed festival takes place in Chicago (page XX), lasts for three days, and includes performances from musicians and bands like Robyn, Neneh Cherry, and The Isley Brothers.

Innings Festival, March

This music fest in Tempe, Arizona, coincides with spring training in Arizona (page XX). Past headliners include Sheryl Crow, Blues Traveler, and Cake.

Heart of America Hot Dog Festival hosted by the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum





AT BAT	AVG	OBP	SLG	WALKS	OUTS	MIN	R	H	E	IN
WILSON	.221	.338	.327	0	1	1	000	4	3	5

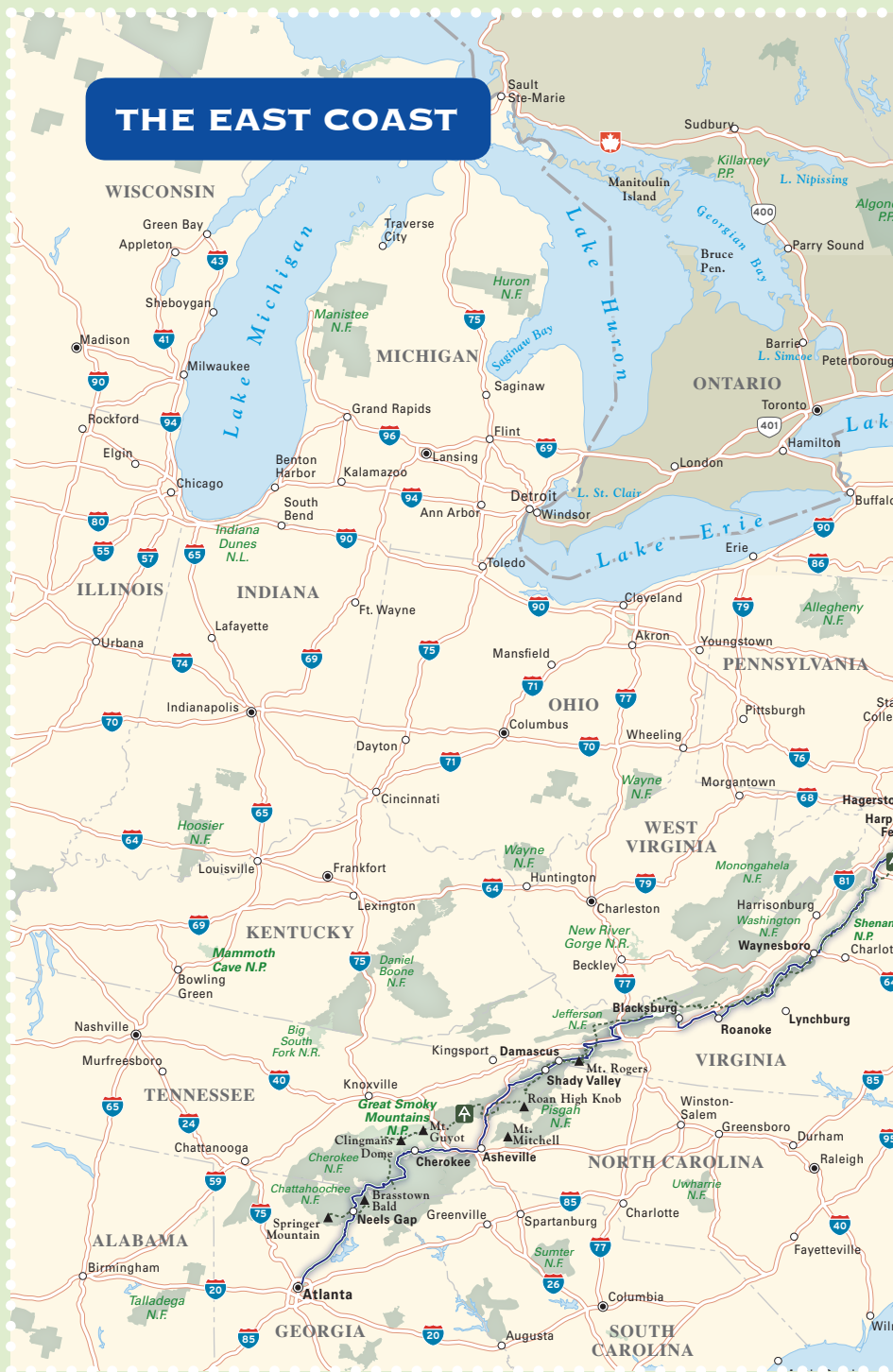
STEINERSPORTS.COM



The East Coast

This relatively short trip takes readers through the serious fandom of East Coast baseball. Get cozy in baseball's oldest and smallest venue, Fenway Park, then visit the Yankees at new Yankee Stadium. Baseball history is everywhere on this trip, including famous gravesites, former ballpark lots, and the birthplace of Babe Ruth. The trip includes raucous Philadelphia and the Baltimore and Washington D.C. areas, including the beautiful Oriole Park at Camden Yards.

THE EAST COAST





The East Coast Road Trip

If you're the type to scoff at another Yankees vs Red Sox tilt on national television, consider taking the drive south from Boston to Washington, D.C. You may find, through discovering some of baseball's finest ballparks, most storied franchises, and loudest fans, that there's just something about the East Coast that translates to great drama. Between Beantown and the Nation's Capital you'll cover 450 miles of ground – approximately the same distance between Atlanta and Tampa – and pass through more than 50 million people – or a higher population than all of Spain. All those folks packed into such a small area? Yeah, the drama is real.

Start this trip in **Boston**, home to baseball's oldest surviving major league venue, **Fenway Park**. Babe Ruth played here, as did Jimmie Foxx, Ted Williams, Carl Yastrzemski, Roger Clemens, Pedro Martinez, and David Ortiz. Its outfield wall is legendary. Its right field foul pole is legendary. There's so much to say about Fenway, and yet you don't have to say a thing once you cast eyes on it.

Boston is a tight, wound-up city with plenty of history, and its natural rival happens to be pretty similar ... just larger by several million people. **New York City**, your next stop, needs no explanation. The enormous metro of five boroughs is home to baseball's most famous team, the **Yankees**, and its forever little brother the **Mets**. Spend a week or two if you'd like, but if you have to get out quick, it's just a 100-minute drive south to **Philadelphia**, where the Phillies set up shop. The fans here are tough but always passionate.

The last stretch of the East Coast road trip includes stops in **Baltimore** and **Washington, D.C.** The former is famous for being home to the Orioles since 1954, but it's also the **birthplace of Babe Ruth**, whose childhood home is a museum. Spend a gorgeous day at Oriole Park at Camden Yards, the venue that kicked off a 20-year love affair

with the retro-classic ballpark, then drive another 45 minutes south to the District of Columbia. Catch a Nationals game here, in the Navy Yard neighborhood, and be sure to walk about the National Mall.

For extra baseball excitement, the East Coast is home to baseball sites like the **Birthplace of Baseball Monument** in Hoboken, New Jersey, where the game is claimed to have begun; the ballparks of the storied **Cape Cod League** out near Boston; and – if you want to make that drive – the **National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum** in Cooperstown, New York. With so much stuffed into this cozy part of the country, you'll have a lot to consider. Just make sure you appreciate all the drama.

PLANNING YOUR TIME

Since the distance from Boston to Washington, D.C., is akin to the distance between Atlanta and Tampa, you can knock out all six ballparks in one trip. You'll have to plan really well, however, to make it all work. Either you'll spend a few days in New York City or visit during a swing period in the weekly baseball calendar (Sunday-Monday or Thursday-Friday), in order to catch both the Mets and Yankees at home. You may have to do the same in the Baltimore-Washington area, as the O's and Nats don't typically overlap home series.

With **one week**, you can do this trip the fast way: Start in Boston on a Saturday, then head to New York for a Sunday and Monday swing. Visit Philadelphia on Tuesday, then drive to Baltimore for Wednesday and D.C. for Thursday. Spend a second day in D.C. sightseeing.

Want to breathe? Do this trip in **10 days to two weeks**. Start on, say, a Thursday and spend two days in Boston, then drive to New York for the weekend, spilling into Monday or even Tuesday. Your midweek will be used up in Philadelphia, and you'll hit the DMV



Photos: (from top to bottom) National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York; birthplace of Babe Ruth; Shea Stadium Home Run Apple on Mets Plaza; Hall of Fame Plaque Gallery.



(D.C.-Maryland-Virginia) over that second weekend. Maybe you arrive on Thursday and that's when you catch the Orioles, or maybe you stay until Monday or Tuesday. Either way, you'll have no trouble finding things to do when not at the ballpark, since these are some of the most historic and touristy cities in America.

You can also **split the trip in half**. Take **one week** to visit Boston and New York, then spend **one week** down the road traveling from Philadelphia to Washington, with a day trip in Baltimore in between.

If you can't find a time to visit both New York ballparks in one trip, consider heading from Boston to one NY venue with a side trip to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in between – for this I suggest going in spring, as those turnpikes are swarmed in the summer, and Hall of Fame tourism spikes in those warmer months. On a second trip, visit the other NY park, then head to Philly and the Baltimore-D.C. area, which all can be done in **a week** if you've already gotten your share of the Big Apple.

The following is my recommendation for the week-long fast way, preferably starting on a Saturday (starting on a Wednesday is also a good option for this trip). A word to the wise, though: If you plan on the fast trip, give yourself enough time to be delayed. The highways between Boston and Washington, D.C., are notoriously busy, especially in the summer and during morning and evening rush hours. Plus, be sure you've invested in an EZ Pass, as you're bound to drive on toll roads sometime during this journey. (I can give you the non-toll routes because I've pulled it off, but it takes far more time and is a headache to execute correctly, so I'd much rather tell you to just get an EZ Pass.) Most every toll in this part of the world is read electronically, though look out for the parkways (Garden State, Taconic State), which may have old-fashioned booths with toll takers or baskets that only accept exact change. If you don't have an EZ Pass, be sure to carry a bunch of loose bills and enough of each coin (\$10 worth of quarters, \$3 worth of each dimes and nickels will do).

Day 1: Boston

Arrive in Boston. Spend the afternoon sightseeing, maybe walking Newbury Street to Boston Common and a bit of the Freedom Trail, then catch a night game at Fenway Park.

Day 2: New York City

Wake early in Boston and drive the 220 miles south to New York City (6 a.m. is a good target for leaving town). Get settled in and take the train to Yankee Stadium for a day game. Afterward, get some rest and have a late dinner with a night (maybe morning?) in the Big Apple.

Day 3: New York City

Sleep in, then take in the city during the afternoon, whether you're checking out sights in Manhattan or walking the neighborhoods in Brooklyn or Queens. Take the train to Citi Field for a night game.

Day 4: Philadelphia

Again, get up early and drive the 100 miles south to Philadelphia. Spend much of your day in Center City and South Philadelphia, enjoy Phillies night game Citizens Bank Park.

Day 5: Baltimore and Washington DC

The best possible outcome is the Orioles have a night game, because it affords you some time to make the 100-mile drive south to Baltimore. If it's a night game, spend the day around the Inner Harbor. After the game at Oriole Park at Camden Yards, consider a late-night drive to Washington D.C. Knocking out those 40 miles now, and not with all the morning traffic, is preferable.

Day 6: Washington DC

Hopefully you're waking up in D.C. If the Nationals have a day game, you're already here, and if it's a night game, spend the day visiting the National Mall.

Day 7: Washington DC

If you have time, get a little more sightseeing in. Hopefully this is a Friday, meaning you still have a weekend ahead of you.

GETTING THERE

Air

If you're driving from Boston to Washington, D.C., and flying in to make the trip, you may choose to arrive at **Logan International Airport** (1 Harborside Dr., Boston, 800/235-6426, www.massport.com, BOS), just north-east of Downtown in East Boston.

From Logan you can fly via **Air Canada** (888/247-2262, www.aircanada.com), **American Airlines** (800/433-7300, www.aa.com), **Delta** (800/221-1212, www.delta.com), **Frontier** (800/432-1359, www.flyfrontier.com), **jetBlue** (800/538-2583, www.jetblue.com), **Southwest** (800/435-9792, www.southwest.com), **Spirit** (801/401-2222, www.spirit.com), and **United** (800/864-8331, www.united.com), plus several international carriers. Just about every major American city is covered.

You have some options when flying out of D.C. The largest airport in the area is **Washington Dulles International Airport** (1 Saarinen Cir., Dulles, Virginia, 703-572-2700, www.flydulles.com, IAD). Airlines here include **Air Canada** (888/247-2262, www.aircanada.com), **American Airlines** (800/433-7300, www.aa.com), **Delta** (800/221-1212, www.delta.com), **Frontier** (800/432-1359, www.flyfrontier.com), **Southwest** (800/435-9792, www.southwest.com), **Spirit** (801/401-2222, www.spirit.com), and **United** (800/864-8331, www.united.com), plus a whole lot of international carriers.

There's also the smaller **Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport** (Smith Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia, 703-417-8000, www.flyreagan.com, DCA). Making flights only within the continental 48, Reagan is serviced by **Air Canada** (888/247-2262, www.aircanada.com), **American Airlines** (800/433-7300, www.aa.com), **Delta** (800/221-1212, www.delta.com), **Frontier** (800/432-1359, www.flyfrontier.com), **jetBlue** (800/538-2583, www.jetblue.com), **Southwest** (800/435-9792, www.southwest.com), and **United** (800/864-8331, www.united.com).

And farther away is **Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport** (Hanover, Maryland, 410/859-7111, www.bwiairport.com, BWI). It facilitates **Air Canada** (888/247-2262, www.aircanada.com), **Allegiant** (702/505-8888, www.allegiantair.com), **American Airlines** (800/433-7300, www.aa.com), **Delta** (800/221-1212, www.delta.com), **Frontier** (800/432-1359, www.flyfrontier.com), **jetBlue** (800/538-2583, www.jetblue.com), **Southwest** (800/435-9792, www.southwest.com), **Spirit** (801/401-2222, www.spirit.com), and **United** (800/864-8331, www.united.com), plus several international carriers. Flights at BWI come from and go to most large cities in North America.

Flights at BWI come from and go to most large cities in North America.

Train

If you don't want to drive this trip, traveling by rail is an option. **Amtrak** (www.amtrak.com) can be a real treat, though you'll need to be savvy about scheduling four separate trips (Boston to New York, New York to Philadelphia, Philadelphia to Baltimore, Baltimore to Washington, D.C.). The Acela (express, more expensive) and Northeast Regional lines run from Boston to Washington, stopping at every major city along the way. This line is the most frequented of any train line in America, so you'll never be alone, but you should be able to grab a bite to eat and drink while traveling (I suggest just a drink).

In Boston, I suggest starting at **Back Bay station** (Stuart and Dartmouth streets), a 25-minute walk from Fenway and close to plenty of tourist attractions and hotels. Then there's **New York Pennsylvania Station** (34th Street and 8th Avenue) in New York City, **30th Street Station** (2955 Market St.) in Philadelphia, **Pennsylvania Station** (1500 N. Charles St.) in Baltimore, and **Union Station** (50 Massachusetts Ave. NE) in Washington D.C. In each of these cities, you can get off your train and take the subway and/or light rail to the ballpark.



Go Red Sox at Fenway Park

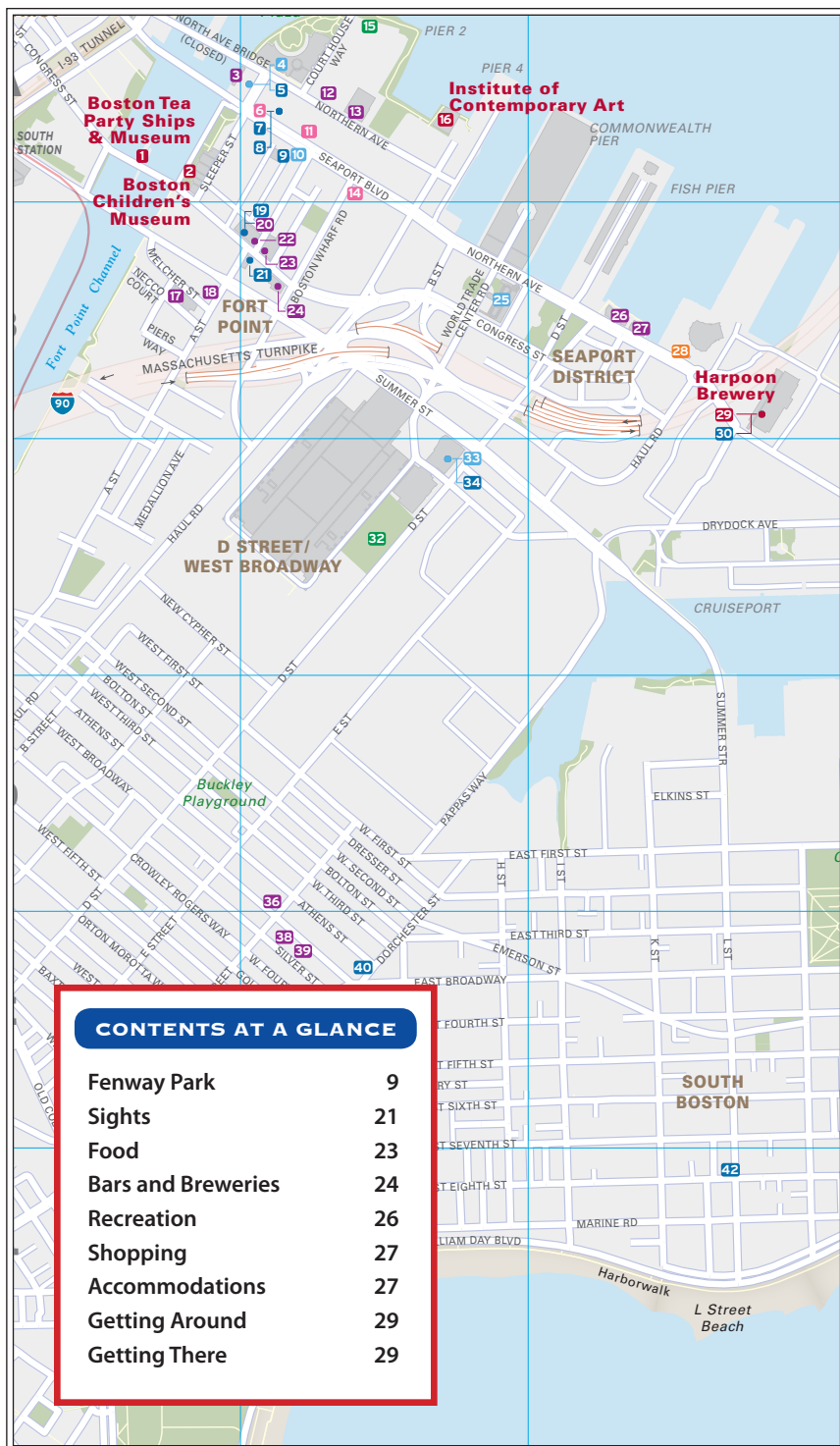
BOSTON RED SOX

On the night of October 27, 2004, I stood outside a building one mile west of Fenway Park. As Keith Foulke hugged Jason Varitek and the Red Sox clinched their first world championship in 86 years, I watched as a literal herd of humans ran past me. I poured these fans red Solo cups of champagne as they cheered, cried, screamed, and became one with the moment. Soon, the area around Fenway Park would be mobbed by thousands of people, most college students, but plenty of them born-and-bred Sox fans from Boston, the suburbs, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, Connecticut, and wherever else. The city partied that evening like it never before partied.

The Red Sox are Boston – scrappy, defiant, ever the underdog ... even when they're the best in the world, and they'll tell you as much. When the Sox are good, Boston is good, and when the Sox aren't good, you're gonna know about it. Still, the fandom bleeds deep. These aren't fair-weather folks here in Beantown: While the Celtics are one of basketball's greatest two franchises, the Bruins have lived a very full and profitable life in professional hockey, and football's Patriots have redefined the idea of a sports dynasty, you're damn right that Boston is a baseball town.

The franchise started in 1901 as the Boston Americans, the American League counterpart to the National's Boston Braves. They'd be renamed the Red Sox in 1908 as they began





CONTENTS AT A GLANCE

Fenway Park	9
Sights	21
Food	23
Bars and Breweries	24
Recreation	26
Shopping	27
Accommodations	27
Getting Around	29
Getting There	29

wearing red socks, and would win championships in 1912, '15, '16, and '18. Those last three titles would be won thanks in part to the exceptional pitching of young hurler George Herman Ruth. The kid could also hit a little, slamming a record 29 home runs in 1919, but owner Harry Frazee needed some dough and sold 24-year-old Ruth to the Yankees. That began decades of misfortune and bad play.

There were highlights, though. Ted Williams, possibly the greatest natural hitter to ever play baseball, spent his entire career with the Sox. Carl Yastrzemski also played every one of his games in a Sox uniform, winning the Triple Crown in 1967, a season that nearly ended with a championship. And in 1975, one of baseball's greatest games – Game 6 of the World Series – ended with Carlton Fisk waving his fly ball fair and over the Green Monster to win the ballgame. There were also lowlights, like Bucky (“freakin’”) Dent homering in a one-game playoff between the Yankees and Sox in 1978, Bill Buckner letting a championship-winning grounder go through his legs in 1986, and – as bad as it gets – the Sox being the last team to integrate, promoting black infielder Pumpsie Green to Boston in 1959, 12 years after Jackie Robinson debuted for the Dodgers.

In 2003, the Sox had another of those terrible finishes, as the Yankees beat them with a late comeback and game-winning home run in Game 7 of the American League Championship Series. But 2004 changed everything – the Sox somehow came back from a 3-0 deficit at the hands of the Yankees, beating them in the ALCS before sweeping St. Louis to win that first title in 86 years. Good times continued, with championships in 2007, 2013, and 2018, making this latest generation of Sox fans the richest in 100 years.

You'd think all that success would calm down a fanbase and give them perspective. Nope. As always, Red Sox fans demand their team is up against the world, whether that world be pundits, the Yankees, or something

else entirely. You know what, though? It's pretty fun to be a part of that. Because when the Sox do win ... boy is it a party – champagne and all.

PLANNING YOUR TIME

Boston is a great long-weekend city. Think about spending a day doing “historic” stuff, including walking the Freedom Trail and visiting the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. Another day might include checking out college campuses and the areas around them, from Boston University to Northeastern to Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). A third day could include checking out a neighborhood like the Back Bay or nearby city like Somerville.

It's definitely most convenient to stay in the proper center of Boston, meaning anywhere from the Back Bay east to Downtown and the North End, but accommodations are priciest there. Alternatively, staying in Cambridge or near Logan International Airport means saving money, but it also means having to schedule more of your time around getting to and from places. My suggestion is to budget for a higher-priced accommodation inside the city proper, but keep a second option outside the city as a backup.

Important: Boston has more college students per capita than any American city, which means the city is teeming with families around Labor Day (move-in time), in mid-October (homecoming, parents' weekend time), and in mid-to-late-May (graduation and move-out time). That means reserving hotel rooms and restaurant tables is all-out war. If you plan on visiting Boston either in mid-to-late May, around Labor Day, or in mid-October, lock down those reservations early.

Also, as I note later, you'll want to avoid driving in and around Boston. Public transportation is solid, and Boston is a perfect city for walking.

Fenway Park

There's a reason the writers of *Field of Dreams*, a movie about baseball, family, and America, decided that arguably the film's most pivotal moment had to take place inside Fenway Park. It's because this is the one, the ballpark that screams baseball, the one that caused a 14-year-old me to go into hysterics the first time I laid eyes on it. A deep green, a left-field wall that looks like an impossible giant to a little kid, kooky angles, steel posts in your face, narrow concourses, the smell of hot dogs, and the feeling that you and 30,000 other people are tucked in together to watch something special: Fenway Park is the gem of gems.

As baseball grew in popularity and clubs became stable at the turn of the 20th century, owners sought bigger ballparks – or renovated existing ones – so they could play host to a team and its 25,000 or more fans. These parks, built of steel and concrete, were called “jewel box” ballparks. They include Shibe Park in Philadelphia, the Polo Grounds and Ebbets Field in New York, and Tiger Stadium in Detroit. Just two jewel box parks remain: Wrigley Field in Chicago and Fenway. And like Wrigley, Fenway has its quirks, from

the 37-foot-high Green Monster separating the field of play from Lansdowne Street behind it; to Pesky's Pole, the right field foul pole pushed in toward the field at just 302 (or fewer) feet from home plate. There are plenty more, like restricted-view seats and an outfield “triangle” that makes playing center field a tricky proposition, adding up to make Fenway the most charming little park there is.

The Red Sox have renovated and added onto the ballpark numerous times, especially over the last two decades. Major changes included creating a wider concourse area in the outfield, adding a right field beer-branded “porch,” installing a video board in deep center field, and most intriguingly for fans, popping a couple rows of seats atop the Green Monster. Those chairs are hot tickets; then again, sitting anywhere in Fenway makes for a pretty cool experience ... okay, maybe not in the obstructed-view seats.

Fenway's name comes from the Back Bay Fens, a park of wetlands (fens being a type of wetland) that anchors the Fenway neighborhood. The Fens and Northeastern University are south by southeast of the park.



Boston Red Sox teammates, Ted Williams, Bobby Doerr, Johnny Pesky and Dom DiMaggio. Toby Mendez, is the sculptor of the bronze “Teammates” statue.



Fenway Park

Just north of Fenway is Kenmore Square, a busy transportation hub where three of the four T green lines meet. Kenmore is also a gateway of sorts into both the historic Back Bay neighborhood to the east, and Boston University to the west. On gamedays, expect Kenmore to be packed, whether down in the subway station or in the many restaurants and bars surrounding. The gameday crowd spills around the ballpark, as eateries, drinking holes, shops, and vendors crowd the area while streets close. In short, Fenway Park is an experience. It's one every baseball fan must have.

TICKETS AND SEATING

If you want to see Fenway in all its glory, visiting in mid-summer is the best option as it'll be hot, but it could also be absolutely per-

fect. Choosing to visit in April means risking rain and undoubtedly being in cold weather (bring layers). May can also be pretty wet (and cold at night), so be warned.

And when buying tickets, you'll find that prices are steep most of the time (look, the Sox are popular). Also, the Sox work with a six-tier pricing structure. Essentially, for those midweek games against non-essential opponents, the lowest-price tier, or tier five, is likely to be activated. Possibly tier four, meaning slightly higher prices. But maybe it's the first time in eight years that the Cardinals are coming to town, which means plenty of traveling fans. That might make those games tier two games, raising prices by about 120 percent. Now, if the Sox are hosting the Yankees, no matter the date, prices soar. They would be tier one games, where a seat is nearly 200 percent more than it would



be for tier five game, or diamond tier games, and those will see a markup of nearly 250 percent. Giddyup.

Fenway Park may look like it has a simple seating structure, but it's just as confusing and multi-faceted as other ballparks, if not moreso because of its funny configuration. We'll start in right field, the lowest section next to the visitors' bullpen, and head toward Pesky's Pole toward the infield. That's the **right field lower box** (sections 1-8). About 15 rows up is the **right field upper box** (sections 87-97), and the seats in the back of the first level here are the **outfield grandstand** (sections 1-10).

Starting in shallow right field and extending all the way around to the left-field foul pole, the lowest 13 rows are in the **field box** (sections 9-82). Behind those seats, are seats in the **loge box** (sections 98-164). The seats

in the way back, also starting in shallow right but extending to shallow right, are in the **in-field grandstand** (sections 11-31). The final two sections by the left-field foul pole, way in the back, are in the **outfield grandstand** (sections 31-33). In the outfield, you got the **bleachers** and **upper bleachers** (sections 34-43). The final five rows of the bleachers are upper bleachers.

The second level of seating starts at home plate with the members-only **Dell Technologies Club**. Suites extend in either direction. The one area of non-suite seating here is the **right field roof box** (sections 23-41), going from infield to outfield. Next to that, in right field, is the once-Budweiser but now **Samuel Adams Deck**, typically a pre-reserved group-seating area.

Finally, the third level around home plate is the **home plate pavilion club**

(sections 1-5). Going along the first-base line is the lower-level **pavilion club**, upper-level **pavilion box** (sections 1-13, odd numbered only), and **pavilion reserved** (section 15). Going along the third-base line is the lower-level **pavilion club**, upper level **pavilion box** (sections 2-14, even numbered only), and **pavilion reserved** (sections 16, 18, 20).

And considered third level, you also got the **Monster Seats** (sections 1-10), going from left field foul pole to center field. There are just three rows of seats and a standing-room area. The bleachers and Monster Seats are only accessible from behind their respective sections, though you can access the rest of the park with either ticket.

Where to Buy Tickets

Since Red Sox tickets are among the priciest in baseball, you may want to play the waiting game and hope a cheaper seat opens on StubHub or SeatGeek. That said, for a rival

opponent like the Yankees, you're going to pay a lot regardless.

Also, special to Boston is **Ace Ticket** (534 Commonwealth Ave., 617/783-3333, www.aceticket.com, 9am-8pm Mon.-Fri., 9am-7pm Sat., 9am-5pm Sun.), a reseller with a good reputation in town and a pickup booth right in Kenmore Square, just a three-minute walk from Fenway.

Before checking out, visit **Precise Seating** (www.preciseseating.com), a website that has detailed information on nearly every seat in the ballpark. In other words, check this website before buying a seat with an obstructed view, thanks to one of the support poles holding up the upper deck. The first time I ever visited Fenway I sat behind a support pole, and while I was super happy to be there, I just *hated* that seat. Another great resource is **Headspin Software** (www.headspinsoftware.com/red-sox-fenway-obstructed-view-seats).

If you do get an obstructed-view seat, but you bought your ticket off the Red Sox ticket office, check into the **MLB Ballpark app**. The app gives users an opportunity to upgrade their seat during the game.



GAME COSTS

Tickets: Some of the priciest in baseball. At their most inexpensive, seats in the upper bleachers (the cheapest sit-down tickets in the park) cost \$22. Be prepared to pay at least \$70 for a good seat. Seriously.

Hot dog: A Fenway Frank will set you back about \$5 and change. Too much, but average when compared to the rest of the league.

Beer: Anywhere between \$10 and \$14 for a pint of craft. That's basically average, maybe more than you want to pay

Parking: Forget it. Seriously, take the T or walk, if you can, because prices can hike past \$30 per car, easily. If you park far away, you can pay less than \$25, but again, if you're far enough, just take the T.

Best Seats

I've written about obstructed-view seats, but I haven't yet mentioned that the seats themselves at Fenway are, well, tight. This is an old ballpark that can't really spread out (only up), so fans have always been packed in here, but to me, that's part of the charm. You literally feel like you're on top of the game with 35,000 of your closest friends. Plus, if you're sitting in the grandstand, you may be sitting in oak chairs dating to the 1930s (the navy seats). Seriously. Just know that you're probably going to be squeezed next to people, and that you won't have a lot of leg room.

If you don't want to be in the sun, sit in the grandstand, especially along the third base line. If you're under the upper deck, you won't be in direct sunlight, though check before buying a ticket so you don't sit behind a support pole. Otherwise, the third-base line gets shade first during day games. While seats will be around \$80 a pop, I like

the loge box area from **sections 142 to 149**. Similarly, **pavilion box sections 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12** all offer shade, great views, and a slightly more affordable ticket price at \$60 per person.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

There are five gates at Fenway Park – one at **the left field foul pole** (Gate A), **the right field foul pole** (Gate B), and **home plate or Jersey Street** (Gate D), and **two along the Green Monster** (Gate C, Gate E) – and they open 90 minutes before every game. Jersey Street acts as a concourse of the park and I'll cover that in depth shortly, but essentially the Jersey Street gate offers access to all the Jersey Street food, drink, and merch counters. Once you're in the park you can come out to Jersey Street at any time during the game.

Now, just as Bob Barker used to reward certain unlucky contestants of *The Price is Right* game Hole In One a secret second shot, I'm going to reward you a secret sixth gate at Fenway. Just read Fenway Park Food & Drink (page XX) for more on that.

Though it's an old ballpark with a funny configuration, Fenway has seen its changes through the years. More recently, work has been done to add more concourse space. Look for the **Big Concourse** (right field, grandstand), which wraps around the right end of the outfield and features numerous food vendors and picnic seating, something you couldn't have had at Fenway a couple decades ago. Other concourses in the park correspond to their location – home plate, 1st base, 3rd base.

Like most other ballparks in the majors, Fenway allows bags that are up to 16-by-16-by-8 inches. Soft coolers allowed, but no glass. One 16-ounce sealed plastic bottle of water is permitted, and umbrellas are also allowed but can only be opened during rain delays.

Photos: (from top to bottom) The green the ticket gate at Fenways Park; Fenway Park hot dog special; the red seat section.





YOUR BEST DAY AT FENWAY

Tickets for a Red Sox game tonight? Heck yeah. Let me guide you through the best possible day you can have leading up to, during, and after the game:

Ten hours before first pitch: Start the day with some breakfast at the **Friendly Toast Restaurant** (35 Stanhope St.). An eggs Benedict will fill you right up.

Eight hours before first pitch: You're gonna want to walk off breakfast. Take the Orange Line T from Back Bay (Stuart and Dartmouth streets) to **State** (Water and Devonshire streets), then walk Water Street west to Washington Street to hook up with the **Freedom Trail**. You'll be close to the **Old State House** (206 Washington St.). Continue walking north to see sites like the **Paul Revere House** (19 North Sq.) and the **Old North Church** (193 Salem St.). This walk is just 15 minutes; add in time to stop, learn, and relax, and that's a good hour and change. History by foot!

Six-and-a-half hours before first pitch: While you're up in the North End, walk a few minutes to **Regina Pizzeria** (11½ Thatcher St.) for some of that iconic Boston pie. Then walk off those calories by taking in the rest of the North End; heck, pay a visit to **Mike's Pastry** (300 Hanover St.) if you want.

Five hours before first pitch: When finished in the North End, take Salem Street south to the Freedom Trail and head over to **Quincy Market** and **Faneuil Hall** (4 S. Market St.). While here, maybe look for a souvenir. Shop at **I Love Boston Sports** (1 N. Faneuil Hall Marketplace, #370) or **Ros-ter** (Marketplace Center, 200 State St.).



The Bullpen



Cask n Flagon

Four hours before first pitch: You're close to **Government Center** (Tremont and Court streets) and **State** (Water and Devonshire streets), which means you're close to just about every T line, so think about using this time to stop by your hotel. Take a quick break and freshen up for the evening.

Two-and-a-half hours before first pitch: Alright. Get yourself to the Green Line T, and either the B, C, or D lines. Head to **Kenmore** (Kenmore Street and Commonwealth Avenue). Take a picture of the **Citgo Sign** (660 Beacon St.), then walk toward Fenway. Get to Lansdowne Street: Have a drink at **Bleacher Bar** (82A Lansdowne St.) and buy a link from **The Sausage Guy** (49 Lansdowne St.). Raise a toast at the **Cask 'n Flagon** (62 Brookline Ave.), then take a nice walk around the park and onto Brookline Avenue. Find the alley that leads to **The Bullpen** (19-20 Jersey St.). Have one more pint, then leave the bar on Jersey Street, going through the secret sixth gate to get into Fenway.

Half-hour before first pitch: If you do anything on this itinerary, do this: Just walk down one of those tunnels that leads to the seating area. Just do that. Look at the field, the **Green Monster**, **Pesky's Pole**, the Triangle ... all of it. Let your emotions do what they will. It's just beautiful.

During the game: Buy a **Fenway Frank** and a beer. Don't get up.

After the game: If you're still hungry (and thirsty), take the Green Line T, B line, out west to **Sunset Cantina** (916 Commonwealth Ave.). Stay closer to the park and visit **Hojoko** (1271 Boylston St.) for a late-night burger and Japanese whiskey.

GETTING THERE

For years the mantra has been “Take the T to Fenway!” and it applies here: the subway/above-ground trolley car network of the **Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, or MBTA** (www.mbta.com, \$1.70-\$2 bus, \$2.40-\$2.90 subway) is a great way to get to and from the ballpark, as Boston has one of the more sophisticated subway systems in America. The green line is what goes to the park, so if you’re not near it, get to either **Government Center** (Tremont and Court streets), **Park Street** (Tremont and Winter streets) or **Downtown Crossing** (Washington and Summer streets), which all connect to the main green line (Downtown Crossing isn’t a direct connection, but there’s a walkway to Park Street, which is just two blocks away).

When grabbing a green line train, be sure to look for the letters. You’ll want either a B, C, or D train, as the E trains branch out from Copley and head south (the walk from Northeastern station to the park isn’t very long, but it’s the least convenient). The B, C, and D lines all stop at **Kenmore** (Kenmore Street and Commonwealth Avenue) or Kenmore Square, which is where most Red Sox fans get out, as it’s just a three-minute walk to the park. Kenmore Square is full of bars and restaurants, also serving as a gateway to Boston University.

While at Kenmore, look toward the west-bound side of Commonwealth Avenue, then look up. Atop a six-story building on Beacon Street is the famous **Citgo Sign** (660 Beacon St.), that enormous beacon (pun intended) that has forever creeped over the Green Monster. Sure it’s just an advertisement for a multi-national oil and gas company, but to many, it means a lot more.

If you’re on the B or C lines, be sure to exit at Kenmore, as those trains continue west, farther away from the ballpark. If you’re on the D line, you could continue one more stop to **Fenway** (Park Drive and Medfield Street), though it’s actually farther from Fenway than Kenmore. Still, get off at Fenway if you want to visit restaurants and bars either at the

Landmark Center (such as Trillium Brewing) or on Boylston Street near the ballpark (such as Tiger Mama).

Note: T service ends at 1 a.m., so if you’re at the bars nearby and going to last call, get into a ride-share vehicle.

PARK FEATURES AND SIGHTS

Jersey Street, Lansdowne Street

Get to Fenway Park well before the game begins, because you’ll want to spend an hour or so on **Jersey Street**. Outside the ballpark along the first base line, Jersey Street (the former Yawkey Way, renamed because of former owner Tom Yawkey’s legacy of racism) is always a pregame carnival with food vendors, merchandise sellers, and sometimes live music. It acts as part of the ballpark, so be sure to have your ticket ready for scanning. And just around the corner, behind the Green Monster, is **Lansdowne Street**, home to bars and sidewalk vendors. That street is not part of the ballpark, so you should visit Lansdowne before going to Jersey.

The Green Monster

Standing 37 feet tall in left field, the **Green Monster** (left field fence) is one of baseball’s most iconic ballpark quirks. It’s original to the ballpark and made of wood, though in the 1970s the Sox covered the wall in plastic to make it less harrowing for outfielders crashing toward it. Also, it wasn’t always known as the Green Monster, as the wall wasn’t painted green until 1947 and the name didn’t really catch on until just a few decades ago.

The scoreboard? Been there since 1934, and always hand-operated, with workers inside the structure updating all the action from around the league during games (one comes out to the field to update National League scores, because that’s the only way to access that part of the scoreboard). Look closely in the white lines of the American League scoreboard, as you’ll see dots and dashes – that’s Morse Code for former Sox owners Thomas Yawkey and Jean Yawkey.

(This may be the only time you see any reference to Thomas Yawkey at Fenway.) Inside the wall with the workers are thousands of signatures from baseball players, celebrities, fans and other notables.

At first a slew of advertisements covered the Monster, but the green paint job cleaned it up – nothing but the scoreboard. That changed in 1999 with an All-Star Game mural, then in the 2000s with multiple advertisements. Also, nothing ever be atop the Monster – just netting to catch home runs. But then came Coca-Cola bottles, attached to the light fixtures towering over the wall, and then the Monster Seats, opening in 2003 to much fanfare. They provide a stellar view and a chance to be one with baseball history.

Pesky's Pole

At Fenway Park, the outfield fence in right field makes a sharp turn toward the foul line. At the line, the fence makes another sharp turn to ride the line. And at that corner stands the right-field foul pole, anywhere from 295 to 302 feet from home plate. Its placement means balls that might normally be easy fly outs or fouls in other parks can slice past the pole (or hit it) for a comparatively easy home run. That is apparently how diminutive short-stop Johnny Pesky struck a homer or two in his playing days; in time, the pole was named after him (some stories attribute the origin to a specific homer he hit, but it's unclear if stories confirm the homer). Simply, it's **Pesky's Pole** (right field foul pole). When seeing it up close, you may find that people have signed their name on it with a permanent marker. I'm not suggesting anything.

Wally's Clubhouse

For kids, there's **Wally's Clubhouse** (Kids Concourse, Champions Club), a play area for younger fans (essentially 12 and younger) with crawling space, toys, a toddler play area, a balloon artist, face painting, and appearances by Wally the Green Monster, the Sox's giant, furry, green mascot – think somewhere between a Muppe.

The Red Chair

Whether or not you're sitting in the bleachers, cast your eyes to **Section 42, Row 37, Seat 21**. (Or, look at the far-right sign above the right field bleacher sits, then start scanning the rows of seats below that sign. Look for a red chair: that marks the longest-recorded home run at Fenway Park, an alleged 502-foot blast off the bat of Ted Williams in 1946 that hit the head of a fan wearing a straw hat. Apparently the ball tore a hole through his hat. Too good to be true? Well, that's the story they tell, and because of that shot, the single chair marking where that man stood is painted red.

FOOD AND DRINKS

While most major league ballparks constantly bring in new vendors, opt for local flavor, and try to one-up themselves with crazy concessions every year, the Red Sox are relatively subdued with their food offerings. It's possible they just believe people merely need a couple hot dogs and a cold beer to go with a ballgame.

That hot dog is popular, though. You can find the famous **Fenway Frank** (Home Plate Concourse, 1st Base Concourse, 3rd Base Concourse, Big Concourse, Pavilion Level, Home Plate Deck, Right Field Roof Deck, Twins '47 Third Base Deck) all over the place, at any standard concession stand at the park. A basic dog that's been around for about a century, it's the one must-eat at Fenway, and you should top it with mustard and relish.

Local pizza favorite **Regina Pizzeria** (Big Concourse, Gate E Concourse, 1st Base Concourse, Pavilion Level, Home Plate Deck, Right Field Roof Deck, Twins '47 Third Base Deck) is at the park. If you don't have time to visit its original location in the North End (see pg. XX), you can grab a Regina slice, known for its crispy, brick-oven crust and inventive topping combinations.

If you want lobster while at Fenway, you can get at lobster BLT via **Yankee Lobster Co.** (Big Concourse). Or you can get the trusty ol' lobster roll with mayonnaise and celery. And yes, I know, but Yankee Lobster



Photos: (from top to bottom) The green Monster; the classic bullpen cart; famous Fenway franks; Dustin Pedroia of the Boston Red Sox at bat while playing the Padres at home in Fenway Park.





BE A FAN

In this section, I'll offer some commentary on fandom in each city – how nice fans tend to be, what you might expect at a game, and if you should wear those rival colors. Being a born-and-raised Philadelphian who lived in Boston and New York, I can talk for days about the psychology of the fans who live in these East Coast cities. Now, I'm not trying to be a homer, and I've watched sports in every major city in America, but I'm of the belief that by and large, fans in Boston, New York, and Philly are more serious about their sports (not just baseball) than fans anywhere else in the country (Chicago, Oakland, and a few other cities come close). That is to say this whole road trip will feature, in my view, the most intense fans you'll find.

Now then: If you wear the Yankee pinstripes in Boston, prepare for a deluge of taunts ("Yankees suck!" is commonplace). Are there fights? Not often, but they happen. The cardinal rule is to not be the instigator (meaning, don't get drunk and start yelling at people), and if someone taunts you, smile, joke if you want, but never escalate.

Sox fans (excuse me, Sawx fans) are pretty knowledgeable about baseball (they have a lot to say about the Celts, Brady, and hawkey, as well) and when not really rowdy, are a great time (the same applies up and down the East Coast). A good idea is to strike up a conversation about baseball with the friendliest fan sitting near you, or the one wondering why you're wearing another team's cap at Fenway.

The Sox have this tradition and you may have heard of it: As the game heads into the bottom of the eighth inning, you'll hear the first chords of Neil Diamond's iconic 1969 song **"Sweet Caroline."** The whole crowd joins in, emphasizing the trumpet hits in the chorus. Back in 1999 when I heard it for the first time, I was right there with it, blaring the lyrics and dancing. Back then, it was used only when the Sox were winning and the crowd was in good spirits, but since 2002 it's been used at every home game. It's become a divisive topic among Red Sox fandom, with some in the anti-"Sweet Caroline" crowd claiming it's symbolic of the everything-but-the-game ballpark experience that has thrived over the last 15-20 years (not to mention that Sox bandwagon started getting pretty packed starting around 2002-03), and others wondering just why a New York songwriter is being celebrated in Beantown. Me? The song is played out, but by now it's quintessentially Fenway Park, a harmless minute in between inning halves that usually gets the crowd going. It's a good time.

And when the team wins, you'll hear three – count 'em, three! – songs. First is the Standells' 1966 hit **"Dirty Water,"** a self-deprecating track about Boston that registers as well as possible; then it's **"Tessie"** by local punk heroes the Dropkick Murphys (a song that's been with them for more than 15 years); and finally you'll hear **"Joy to the World"** by beloved, uh, Los Angeles band Three Dog Night.



Fans singing Neil Diamond's **"Sweet Caroline"** the bottom of the eighth inning.

is a New England institution, so the name stays. And if you want some **New England clam chowder** (it's the white), that's also out there (Big Concourse, Home Plate Concourse, Right Field Roof Deck).

America does, fact, run on Dunkin', but Boston like zooms on that stuff. **Dunkin' Donuts** (Big Concourse, Gate E Concourse, Cumberland Deck) the official coffee Beantown, and it's available throughout park.

The Sox did add a specialty bar recently in **Tully Tavern** (right field grandstand, \$35-\$75 per game), a ticketed seating area that doubles as a drink spot. Get Tullamore Irish whiskey (thus the name) while sitting on bar stools. The game's on TV here, too.

For just a beer, hit up any one of the beer stands around the concourses for rotating beers from **Sam Adams**, plus **26.2 Brew**, a lighter sea-salt-and-coriander shanty-like

beer from Marathon Brewing, which is owned by Boston Beer Company (which owns Sam Adams). You can also find local stalwart **Harpoon IPA**. But that's about it – Fenway keeps things light in the craft lane. Your better bet is to bar it up around the park before and afterward.

Just Outside Fenway

The most famous vendor around Fenway, parked on Lansdowne, is **The Sausage Guy** (49 Lansdowne St.). Dave Littlefield of South Shore suburb Hingham (with some staff members these days) has been operating his stand since 1992, serving up sweet Italian, hot Italian (get that one), and others before, during, and after Sox games. Get one, especially considering the guy let me and a couple other folks huddle together and watch his TV during Game 4 of the 2004 ALCS, as Dave Roberts stole second base ... the rest becoming history.

There's plenty of food on Jersey Street, too, including Cuban sandwiches, lobster rolls, Fenway Franks, and Pizzeria Regina slices. More on those in a few.

It's basically tradition that before a game (or after), you stop in for a drink at the **Cask 'n Flagon** (62 Brookline Ave., 617/536-4840, www.casknflagon.com, 11am-1am Sun.-Weds., 11am-2am Thurs.-Sat.). Perpetually packed on game days, the bar is nonetheless the perfect place to get a sense of the people, since the pub is right across the street from the park's Green Monster. There's good elevated bar food here, from pizzas to burgers (the Fenway is good), but if you're just going for a beer and to hang out on the patio, I'm with you.

I'm going to call this one "near Fenway," though it's really "in Fenway." Picture this: You grab a beer, then walk a couple steps and stand ... in the freaking outfield of the ballpark? **Bleacher Bar** (82A Lansdowne St., 617/262-2424, www.bleacherbarboston.com, 11am-1am Sun.-Weds., 11am-2am Thurs.-Sat.) is accessible from Lansdowne, around center field beneath the bleachers. If you're going any time around a game, there will be a line and the place will be packed. But if you

can, get in there and enjoy a beer while gazing out the large garage door at ... well, the whole field. You're on ground level beyond the warning track in center field, feet from outfield practice. Just incredible.

Not too long ago, a number of nightclubs lined Lansdowne Street behind Fenway Park. But in recent years, the area has been re-created with chain bars and music venues. The best spot on the new Lansdowne is the **Lansdowne Pub** (9 Lansdowne St., 617/247-1222, www.lansdownepubboston.com, 4pm-2am Mon.-Fri., 11am-2am Sat.-Sun.). A modern-day Irish pub, without all the dirt and rawness, but with live music and drink specials.

Over on Jersey Street, next to the team store, is **The Bullpen** (19-20 Jersey St., 617/247-3353), which is open before, during and after Sox games. You can enter via an alley off Brookline Avenue or via Jersey Street, then you'll head down underground into a vast sports bar where you can throw down a couple Sam Adams with your buds. Tip: When you're ready to enter the park, go to the Bullpen's alley entrance on Brookline and have a beer, then head for the front door at Jersey. There, they'll scan your ticket and get you into the game. No fuss, no muss, and a drink while you get ready.

EVENTS

The Sox host a former player, coach, or personality at **Autograph Alley** (Jersey Street Team Store) before every home game, where John Hancocks are given for free.

There are **myriad tours** (www.redsox.com/ballpark/tours) of Fenway Park that fans can take, but I'll focus on the standard public tours. First is the public tour (9am-5pm daily non-gamedays April-Oct., 9am-three hours before first pitch gamedays April-Oct., 10am-5pm Nov.-March, \$21, \$17 military, \$15 ages 3-12). Follow a docent as she or he tells you Sox history while showing you landmarks like Pesky's Pole and the Green Monster – you'll get to stand up there, too.

Fenway in Fifteen (noon-3pm daily non-gamedays May-Sept., noon-four hours before first pitch gamedays May-Sept., \$15)

takes fans on a whirlwind 15-minute tour that includes a visit to the Nation's Archives at the Royal Rooters Club and Right Field Roof Deck.

You can also take a **Pregame Tour** (three hours before first pitch game days only, \$35-\$45), which includes a visit onto the warning track and stops in the Grandstand and on top of the Green Monster.

For those thinking about taking a spring trip to Fenway, you may want to consider the third Monday in April. That day is **Patriot's Day** (third Monday in April), a holiday in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that commemorates the first battles of the American Revolutionary War. On this day the City of Boston shuts down and becomes a veritable playground. Passing near Fenway Park at Kenmore Square. Then there's a Red Sox game, but it's always at 11am (scheduled as such in 1969 so that fans could see the finish of the marathon after the game, but now the marathon's men's winner crosses during the game).

Still, the early Sox game, along with the Marathon's sheer presence and the fact that it's an off day making for a long weekend, mean it's a pretty eventful fete throughout the city. Drinks pour, cookouts are encouraged,

and spirits are certainly high. It's a pretty awesome day.

SHOPPING

Just Outside Fenway

Lots of things about Fenway Park fight shy of what happens at every other park in the majors. Those posts that block the view for some poor folks in the grandstand? That's one. The unusual right field curve creating Pesky's Pole? Another. How about the official team store not being some glossy, ownerless department store after the home plate entrance? Nope, instead, the **Official Red Sox Team Store** (19 Jersey St., 617/421-8686, www.19jerseystreet.com, 9am-5pm Mon.-Sat., 10am-4pm Sun.) is across the street from the park, founded back in 1947 by Boston-raised brothers Henry and Arthur D'Angelo. Their knack for creating and selling Sox gear soon turned into the nationally known merchandise brand '47, so yes, there's a lot of that here, but the throwback feel of this shop might put a smile on your face. Of course, you'll get the same t-shirts, jerseys, toys, bobbleheads, and plenty of hats here, and the stuff ain't cheap. Now, considering it's outside Fenway, the place is crowded before

Restaurants outside the park



games. Just packed. So maybe come during off hours.

Around the park and in the city, but not affiliated with the Red Sox, are a couple baseball shops. There's a **Baseballism** (71 Landdowne St., 857/315-5823, www.baseballism.com, 10am-6pm daily) across from the park. They sell what I'll call "baseball lifestyle" shirts, as in you wear them to show people you like the sport (think Homer Simpson waving a pennant that says "TV SPORTS"). They also carry hats, but as they don't have a license, they present a vague idea of the team you like. They also have small backpacks ... to carry a glove maybe?

BOSTON SIGHTS

Not as grandiose as say the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the **Museum of Fine Arts** (465 Huntington Ave., 617/267-9300, www.mfa.org, 10am-10pm Weds.-Fri., 10am-5pm Sat.-Tues., \$25, \$23 seniors and students, \$10 ages 7-17, free ages 6 and younger) nonetheless has a well-curated and wide collection of art from across the world. And it's quite close to Fenway Park – just a 10-minute walk south from the park via the Back Bay Fens. The MFA splits its art by global region, with a small wing dedicated to contemporary art. The Americas collection is wonderful, including local interest like that John Singleton Copley painting of Paul Revere, plus works by Frida Kahlo and John Singer Sargent. The museum hosts semi-regular events, including a first-Friday-of-the-month cocktail party for ages 21 and older.

Looking for a fantastic half-day venture? Learn about the life of America's 35th president at the **John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum** (Columbia Point, 617/514-1600, www.jfklibrary.org, 9am-5pm daily, \$14, \$12 seniors and students, \$10 ages 13-17), located south of Downtown on a peninsula shared by the University of Massachusetts' Boston campus. The building is primarily concrete, highlighted by a sharp, angular tower, with a rectangular glass pa-

vilion. The museum takes visitors through major phases and touchpoints of Kennedy's life, including his youth in the Boston area, his valor as a U.S. Navy lieutenant, his time as senator and the landmark 1960 presidential campaign, and his presidency. Special exhibits last six months or more. You'll also find paintings, gifts to and from the Kennedys, and some of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis' clothing. The library holds Kennedy's original papers and correspondence, plus a large collection of papers by author Ernest Hemingway.

Boston's best kid hang is the **New England Aquarium** (1 Central Wharf, 617/973-5200, www.neaq.org, 9am-5pm Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm Sat.-Sun., \$32, \$30 seniors, \$23 children), home to the largest shark and ray touch tank on the East Coast, plus fur seals and Myrtle the Green Sea Turtle, an over 90-year-old reptile who weighs more than 500 pounds.

HUNTINGTON AVENUE BASEBALL GROUNDS

The Red Sox have played at just two home ballparks in their more than 120 years: Fenway Park and the **Huntington Avenue American League Baseball Grounds** (Forsyth Street and World Series Way), which was built in two months in 1901. It closed after the 1911 season and was destroyed just a year later, but a few things happened there: the Americans (the original nickname of the Red Sox) won the 1903 World Series behind a 28-9 season from Cy Young, then took the 1904 AL pennant, and in 1907 debuted a 19-year-old outfielder named Tris Speaker, who'd go on to record 3,514 hits and enter the Hall of Fame as the greatest doubles hitter of all-time. Today the site of the grounds are in the middle of the Northeastern University campus, marked by a plaque and a statue of Young, who recorded 192 of his 511 career wins as a Red Sock.

For ballpark plaque completists, you'll want to visit **Nickerson Field** (Braves Field way and Harry Agganis Way). Today it's home to Boston University track and field,



lacrosse, and other sports, but between 1915 and 1952, it was Braves Field. Here, the Boston Braves played in the National League, winning one pennant in 1948. Also, the longest game in major league history, a 26-inning affair between the Braves and Dodgers in 1920, happened here ... ending in a tie. You'll find a plaque here by walking up Harry Agganis Way to Braves Field Way. All the exists of the old park are the concourses under the grandstand. Fun author fact: Just around the corner from this plaque are three college dormitory buildings, including one (Rich Hall) that was my home in 2002-03.

THE FREEDOM TRAIL



An essential Boston experience: Walking the **Freedom Trail** (www.thefreedomtrail.org), a host of monuments, historic sites, and markers that tell the story of Beantown's role in the American Revolution. You can do the trail **via a tour** (Boston Common Visitor Information Center, 139 Tremont St., 11am, noon, 1pm daily, \$12, \$10 seniors and students, \$6.50 ages 6-12, free ages 5 and younger), which will last 90 minutes and hit all the important spots, or you can do it yourself by following the dark red line on the sidewalk and street. This line is the trail itself, connecting sites like the **Old North Church** (193 Salem St., 617/523-6676, www.oldnorth.com, 9am-6pm April-Oct., 10am-4pm Nov.-April); **Bunker Hill Monument** (43 Monument Sq., 617/242-7275, www.nps.gov, 10am-5pm daily); **Old State House** (206 Washington St., 617/720-1713, www.boston-history.org, 9am-5pm daily, \$12, \$10 students and seniors, ages 18 and younger free) or the backdrop of the Boston Massacre; and **Paul Revere House** (19 North Sq., 617/523-2338, www.paulreverehouse.org, 9:30am-5:15pm daily April-Oct., 9:30am-4:15pm Tues.-Sun. Nov.-April, \$5, \$4.50 seniors and students, \$1 ages 5-17, free ages 4 and younger). Walking the Freedom Trail is a great way to get your historical fill of Boston in a few hours.



Photos: (from top to bottom) TBoston Museum of Fine Arts; the Freedom Trail; Faneuil Hall.

FANEUIL HALL MARKETPLACE

Beyond City Hall and just before the waterfront and North End is the historic Faneuil Hall Marketplace, known popularly by its two main attractions. First is **Faneuil Hall** (4 S. Market St., 617/523-1300, www.faneuil-hallmarketplace.com, 10am-9pm Mon.-Sat., 11am-7pm Sun.), opened in 1743 to be the centerpiece of Boston commerce and community. It's where Samuel Adams voiced concerns about the tyranny of the British monarchy, and where local politicians worked and gathered. It's also where slaves were bought and sold. It's very much a symbol of America, right and wrong, and it's a highly popular tourist attraction with folks in Colonial garb leading tours and street musicians welcoming visitors in. Walk in to see the Hall as it would've looked in the late 18th century— or just take some snaps of the iconic exterior: red-brick strong and sure of itself.

If exiting Faneuil Hall from the back, you'll be just in front of **Quincy Market** (4 S. Market St., 617/523-1300, www.quincy-market.com, 10am-9pm Mon.-Sat., 11am-7pm Sun.), an indoor food and gift marketplace built in 1823, and another major tourist attraction. Quincy Market is home to more than 100 shops, and many of them food focused, but don't expect the height of culinary ingenuity here. (More, if you have kids and need a pit stop with tables, chairs, and nearby bathrooms, head to the centrally located food court under a great dome.) This is first and foremost made for tourists to spend a few hours and shop in controlled chaos. Still, make a point to walk through it once.

While at the market you may be drawn in by the sight of **Cheers** (1 Faneuil Hall Marketplace, 617/227-0150, www.cheers-boston.com, 11am-10pm Sun.-Thurs., 11am-11pm Fri., 11am-midnight Sat., under \$50). Yes, the bar area looks a bit like what you saw on the iconic TV show, and yes, there is a fair amount of memorabilia to be found (look for Sam Malone's Red Sox jacket). But lower those expectations – this is essentially a crowded tourist trap bar in-

side a tourist attraction. It's better to avoid and, instead, head toward Beacon Hill to find the "real" spot.

FOOD

NEAR FENWAY PARK

Friends, let me tell you about the best plate of nachos I've ever eaten. They're the South of the Border nachos at **Sunset Cantina** (916 Commonwealth Ave., 617/731-8646, www.sunsetboston.com, 11am-1m Sun.-Thurs., 11am-2am Fri.-Sat., under \$50), perfectly layered and covered with all the goods while maintaining that crispy base.

Closer still to Fenway is the hellishly fun **Hojoko** (1271 Boylston St., 617/670-0507, www.hojokoboston.com, 5pm-1am Sun.-Weds., 5pm-2am Thurs.-Sat., under \$40). This hotel-attached izakaya-style joint does small plates in a funky setting with wood walls and an active bar. And seriously, get the cheeseburger.

For something even wilder, head to **Tiger Mama** (1363 Boylston St., 617/425-6262, www.tigermamaboston.com, 5pm-11pm Sun.-Thurs., 5pm-midnight Fri.-Sat., 11am-2:30pm Sun., under \$50). Inside this neon space you'll find cuisine from Thailand, Singapore, China, and other Southeast Asia spots, along with a menu of tiki drinks.

OTHER NEIGHBORHOODS

Wanna be a capital "T" tourist? Okay, *Cheers* was shot before a live studio audience ... in Los Angeles. Only the exterior shot of the pub showed Boston, and it happened to be the location of the longtime Bull & Finch Pub, inside the very beautiful Hampshire House in the Beacon Hill neighborhood of the city. In 2002, after years of being mobbed by tourists wanting to see the "location" of the famous series, the owner changed the name of the Bull & Finch to **Cheers** (84 Beacon St., 617/227-9605, www.cheersboston.com, 11am-11pm daily, under \$50). Go

downstairs (seriously) to sit at the bar, which is a replica of the famous TV set. That's right – grab that seat at the far end and be Cliff Clavin. The food at this Cheers is pretty decent – burgers, sandwiches, pasta, and more, much of it named after the characters – but be warned ... you're asking for a crowd if you're going on a weekend day in the spring or summer.

Now then, you're in Boston: get some oysters. Visit **Row 34** (383 Congress St., 617/553-5900, www.row34.com, 11:30am-10pm Sun.-Thurs., 11:30am-11pm Fri.-Sat., under \$70) for all the greatest hits from New England, plus a stellar beer selection, great wine list, whole fish, burgers, and lobster rolls. It's a big place with high ceilings, and it's wicked fun.

But wait! There's another pastry spot just across the street, and people like it just as much, and its cannoli are also highly touted. This is **Modern Pastry** (257 Hanover St., 617/523-3783, www.modernpastry.com, 7am-11pm Sun.-Thurs., 7am-midnight Fri.-Sat., under \$30), which has fancier digs thanks to its gorgeous green display, a brick interior, and more dedicated seating space. You don't get as many cannoli here, but the specialties (lobster tail pastry, anyone?) are fun. Cash only here, and like Mike's, prepare for a line.

But before visiting Mike's or Modern for that end-of-night cannoli, opt for a cappuccino and tiramisu at **Caffé Vittoria** (290-296 Hanover St., 617/227-7606, 8am-midnight daily, under \$20). The café opened in 1929 and hasn't lost any bit of its original charm. Admire the coffee machines at any of its three bars before grabbing a seat at a round-top. Like many North End haunts, the place can get crowded, so be choosy (weekdays are always better).

BARS AND BREWERIES

NEAR FENWAY PARK

Call me a sucker for nostalgia, but so many fun memories have been made at **The**

Dugout Café (722 Commonwealth Ave., 617/247-8656, noon-2am Mon-Sat.), more appropriately known as “Le Duj-oh.” This is a serious dive. Walk down the steps into this basement bar and revel in beer pitchers, cheap pizza, and free popcorn while the games are on. The booths are comfy, the crowd can either be bumping or paltry, but either way, it's like home.

As much as it is a college bar town, Boston is known for breweries, too. Though craft insiders will tell you it had some rocky years recently, **Trillium Brewing Company** (401 Park Dr., www.trilliumbrewing.com, 11am-11pm Sun.-Weds., 11am-midnight Thurs.-Sat.) remains a necessary stop for beer lovers. Go to its Fenway neighborhood location, inside shopping-and-entertainment spot Landmark Center, for a taproom experience, as the original location is only for growler fills and to-go sales. It'll be crowded here, but it's worth it to try a couple New England IPAs.

OTHER NEIGHBORHOODS

This is supposed to be satire. A bespoke cocktail bar called **Drink** (348 Congress St., 617/695-1806, www.drinkfortpoint.com, 4pm-1am daily) accessible through some pseudo-secret door and down some stairs, where you give the bartender your flavor preferences has to be satire, right? Somehow, Drink avoids being a punch line, probably because the drinks are so darn good and the vibe is so freaking effortless. Essentially give the mixologists an idea of what you want and they'll go for it. It's a great place to go after (or before) a nice dinner. Best to visit on a weeknight when there isn't the possibility of a line (people love it here). Also there's food here, and I suggest the burger with its perfect brioche bun.

For the authentic Irish pub experience – since you're in the land of *The Departed*, *Good Will Hunting*, and *Mystic River* – head to **Brendan Behan Pub** (378 Centre St., Jamaica Plain, Mass., 617/522-5386, www.brendanbehanjp.com, noon-1am daily),

named after the famous Irish novelist and playwright. There's a dark and cozy vibe here, Irish music on Saturday evenings, and a draft list that includes Guinness (naturally), plus a whole lot of exceptional beers. Don't expect an onslaught of Irish culture though, but instead, a friendly dive atmosphere; also, it's cash only.

My favorite brewery in the Boston area is **Night Shift Brewing** (87 Santilli Hwy., Everett, Mass., 617/294-4233, www.night-shiftfamily.com, 11am-11pm Mon.-Sat., 11am-8pm Sun.). With a pretty big taproom including televisions, games, merchandise, and a long bar setup. It's accessible by walking 15 minutes over the Malden River via the Wellington orange line stop on the T, or you can drive or get a ride.

If you're a big beer fan, you have to pay homage to the originator of the modern movement. The **Samuel Adams Boston Brewery** (30 Germania St., 617/368-5080, www.samueladams.com, 11am-5pm Mon.-Sat.) opened in 1988, and while some may debate whether it's craft these days, it nonetheless became the biggest brewery in America that doesn't do the fizzy yellow stuff, breaking ground for thousands more. Visit the brewery for a tour that includes tastings, or head to the taproom (11am-8pm Mon.-Sat., noon-6pm Sun.), which showcases both tried-and-true styles and experimental varieties.

If you're up in Cambridge, get thee to **Lamplighter Brewing Co.** (284 Broadway, Cambridge, Mass., 617/945-0450, www.lamplighterbrewing.com, 11am-10pm Sun.-Mon., 11am-midnight Tues.-Sat.). The taproom looks right into the brewhouse, so you can watch the team work while sipping their product. Attention to detail is great here, and the bar with its honeycomb tile panel is quite cute. The front of the house includes a coffee shop with plenty to drink and morning grub like breakfast tacos (yes, seriously).

Photos: (from top to bottom) The green the ticket gate at Fenways Park; Fenway Park ramp to stadium; the red seat section.





THE CAPE COD LEAGUE

For many college players, heading to the eastern shore of Massachusetts offers a wealth of opportunity in the summer. **The Cape Cod League** (June-mid-August, www.capecodbaseball.org) was established in 1885 and became NCAA-sanctioned in 1963, meaning enrolled college players in NCAA programs are permitted to partake, long as they have at least one year of eligibility remaining and have attended at least one year of school. It's also a wood-bat league, helping big-league hopefuls get familiar with the stick after using metal bats for so long. Because of the Cape Cod League's strong reputation, the competition is pretty good – some will tell you that it's like watching double-A baseball. Each team in the league will have a couple guys who become big-leaguers within a few years.

There are 10 teams in the league that each play a 44-game schedule, so games are nearly every day, with games generally beginning between 4pm and 7pm. A three-round postseason finishes the season in August. All games are free but donations are welcome; all you need to do is bring a lawn chair and/or a blanket and pull up at a safe, designated seating spot. While watching, players may come by and ask for donations – maybe they'll even chat with you.

Here's a listing for all 10 Cape Cod League parks:

Clem Spillane Field (Wareham Gatemen) – Viking Drive after 54 Marion Road, Wareham

Doran Park (Bourne Braves) – Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical School, 220 Sandwich Road, Bourne, Mass.

Eldredge Park (Orleans Firebirds) – 78 Eldredge Park Way, Orleans, Mass.

Lowell Park (Cotuit Kettleers) – 10 Lowell Ave., Cotuit, Mass.

McKeon Field (Hyannis Harbor Hawks) – 120 High School Rd., Hyannis, Mass.

Red Wilson Field (Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox) – Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School, 210 Station Ave., South Yarmouth, Mass.

Stony Brook School (Brewster Whitecaps) – 384 Underpass Rd., Brewster, Mass.

Veterans Field (Chatham Anglers) – 702 Main St., Chatham, Mass.

Whitehouse Field (Harwich Mariners) – 75 Oak St., Harwich, Mass.

RECREATION

You can go whale watching while in Boston. **Boston Harbor Cruises** (1 Long Wharf, 617/227-4321, www.bostonharborcruises.com, 7am-8pm daily, under \$60) offers a tour that begins by the New England Aquarium and heads out to Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary to look for whales, dolphins, and other creatures. Other tours include a trip north toward Bunker Hill and the USS Constitution, and a trip on Codzilla, a 70-foot speedboat that can turn on a dime and is designed to get you wet.

One long-accepted way to see the city in a very unusual manner is by taking a trip via **Boston Duck Tours** (www.boston-ducktours.com, March-October, \$45.99, \$36.99 seniors and military, \$30.99 ages 3-11, \$10.50 ages 2 and younger). These half-truck, half-boat transports depart from three spots in the city including the **New England Aquarium** (1 Central Wharf), and both drive on the streets past major attractions and head into the Charles River to give guests a different view of the city. The tours are safe, though pricey, and you're bound to have to "quack" at people when you pass them. To each his own.

PARKS

Boston Common

Established in 1634, **Boston Common** (139 Tremont St., 5am-11pm daily) is the city's public greenspace, a 50-acre parkland of lounging, walking, skating, cycling, and criss-crossing. Previously a cow pasture and a British camp before the American Revolution, it now has a little for everyone. The Frog Pond in the middle of the park has a spray pool that operates during the summer, and softball fields host games when the weather is warm. Also, look for multiple monuments including the Boston Massacre Monument, also known as the Crispus Attucks Monument, signifying the death of five men, including Attucks, at the hands of the British. Attucks's death marked the beginning of the American Revolution. The Massachusetts State House (24 Beacon St., 8am-6pm Mon.-Fri.) faces the Common's northeastern end.

Boston Public Garden

Just across the street from the western end of Boston Common is the **Boston Public Garden** (4 Charles St.), one my absolute favorite places. This simply devised park is the first botanical garden in America, with pathways that wind about and connect to one another. A major feature of the park is the pond at its center, in which you can ride in **Swan Boats** (617/522-1966, www.swanboats.com, 10am-4pm daily April-late June, 10am-5pm daily late June-Labor Day, \$4, \$3.50 seniors, \$2.50 children). A driver will do all the work as you sit back and around the pond for 15 minutes. While at the park, also look for the **"Make Way for Ducklings" installation**, celebrating the official children's book of Massachusetts, in which the Public Garden plays an important role.

bostonports.com, 10am-8pm Mon.-Sat., 10am-7pm Sun.). This very pro-Beantown store offers a few witty pieces of clothing and wall prints. They're not licensed, though, so don't expect official merch here.

Nearby, is **Roster** (Marketplace Center, 200 State St., 617/737-1091, rosterstores.com, 10am-9pm Mon.-Sat., 11am-7pm Sun. non-winter, 10am-7pm Mon.-Thurs., 10am-9pm Fri.-Sat., noon-6pm Sun. winter) a good choice for women, especially, as it carries licensed women's gear (that isn't just pink) from brands like '47, Mitchell & Ness, New Era, and more. Plenty of jerseys here, too. Find v- or scoop neck shirts, hats, and hoodies representing all Boston pro teams. Men's apparel also available here, including tanks and baseball-style shirts.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Finding an affordable place to stay close to the action in Boston can be nearly impossible. From September to June the city is crawling with college students, which means family visits on weekends. Add the usual tourism, and prices get jacked up quite a bit. In summer it's no different: Between even more tourism, conventions, college visits and, yes, people eager to put down thousands of bucks to check out the Sox, there are few cheap hotel rooms left when the temperature climbs above 75 degrees. My advice: Get rooms well in advance, consider staying outside of the inner city, and don't try to scoff too much when you see a nightly rate higher than \$300. It's typical.

NEAR FENWAY PARK

Just around the corner at Kenmore Square is the **Hotel Commonwealth** (500 Commonwealth Ave., 617/933-5000, www.hotelcommonwealth.com, \$250-\$1,000), which really leans into the Fenway experience, and how. Some of the priciest rooms here include the Baseball Suite with themed artwork, books, and in-room memorabilia; the Fenway King,

SHOPPING

Over inside Faneuil Hall Marketplace is **Love Boston Sports** (1 N. Faneuil Hall Marketplace, #370, 617/531-3521,

MAJOR TEAM RIVALRIES

BOSTON RED SOX VS NEW YORK YANKEES

It's hard to top this one. The Sox and Yanks have been disliking each other for more than 100 years in a battle that has included the sale of Babe Ruth, Bucky "freakin'" Dent's home run in a one-game playoff in 1978, the epic 2003 American League Championship Series, the incredible Boston comeback of 2004, and a fight between hall of fame pitcher Pedro Martinez and coach Don Zimmer. Don't get caught in between.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS VS SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

This rivalry has spanned the nation, starting when both clubs shared space as New York City's National League clubs. Both teams headed West in the 1950s, taking their feud with them in the process. The Dodgers, representing the flash and pizzazz of L.A., have had a longer run of success, but the Giants, more of a working man's club, most recently won the big one ... and three times. Sadly, there has been fan violence in this rivalry, though very recently that has thankfully cooled.

CHICAGO CUBS VS ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

While it's the National League's lovable losers versus its most decorated franchise, this enduring rivalry is as much about success as it is about territory. Both teams tried hard in the heyday of radio to expand their fanbases, so across the Midwest you'll see clear dividing lines between Cubs fans and Cardinals fans, primarily depending on what signal those folks were able to hear back in the day.

NEW YORK METS VS PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES

In every sport, New York against Philadelphia is a rivalry. It goes like this: New York gets all the headlines, and Philly annually has to punch up to get what they believe is rightfully theirs. The Mets and Phils were never really good at the same time until 2007, when the former choked historically and the latter played well enough to win the division on the last day. That type of fall-on-your-face sadness has been a symbol for this feud between vocal East Coast fanbases. (Also, two wildly opposite opinions of Chase Utley.)

HOUSTON ASTROS VS NEW YORK YANKEES

Before 2013 there would've never been a reason for these two to dislike each other, but when the 'Stros moved to the American League and became good, things escalated. First were the playoff battles (that the Astros have won every time), and then came the 2019-20 sign-stealing controversy that enraged New Yorkers against the Bayou City club and its proud fanbase.

which offers a view into the park (though it's hard to see the field) from its balcony; and the Fenway Park Suite, which has a slightly better view from its balcony (that also has chairs from the park), along with gifts like Fenway dirt. The ground floor of the hotel includes **Eastern Standard** (528 Commonwealth Ave., 617/532-9100, www.easternstandardboston.com, 7am-2am daily, under \$70), whose debut at Kenmore Square in 2005 signaled a sea change for the now bustling, gentrified gateway to Fenway Park. Inside what once was legendary punk club the Rathskeller, Eastern Standard offers upscale food and environs for the everyday crowd, along with a heckuva cocktail list.

The hotel also has a **number of Red Sox packages** that include game tickets, even Monster Seats. Get the **Bucket List package** that includes two seats right above the dugout, a VIP tour, a visit to the top of the Green Monster, a signed baseball from a Sox legend, a scoreboard message during the game.

Then there's the **Knuckle Sandwiches** package: Starting at \$10,000, get Monster Seats, autographed swag.

OTHER NEIGHBORHOODS

There are plenty of upscale and "independent" hotels in Boston (including the Omni Parker, Copley Square, the Bostonian, and

the Boston Park Plaza) – just reserve a room well in advance and know that a lot of these accommodations will cost upwards of \$600 a night. For something slightly cheaper, try the **Godfrey Hotel** (505 Washington St., 617/804-2000, www.godfreyhotelboston.com, \$300-500), just a block from Boston Common in the heart of the city. King and queen rooms available.

But if your budget isn't so high, opt for a less-expensive alternative like the **Midtown Hotel** (220 Huntington Ave., 617/262-1000, www.midtownhotel.com, \$125-\$250).

GETTING THERE

AIR

Flying into Boston? You'll undoubtedly be arriving at **Logan International Airport** (1 Harborside Dr., 800/235-6426, www.massport.com, BOS), a 5-mile drive of 10 minutes when the traffic is great; if not, it's more like 20 minutes, but it's close by just northeast of Downtown in East Boston.

From Logan you can fly via **Air Canada** (888/247-2262, www.aircanada.com), **American Airlines** (800/433-7300, www.aa.com), **Delta** (800/221-1212, www.delta.com), **Frontier** (800/432-1359, www.flyfrontier.com), **jetBlue** (800/538-2583, www.jetblue.com), **Southwest** (800/435-9792, www.southwest.com), **Spirit** (801/401-2222, www.spirit.com), and **United** (800/864-8331, www.united.com), plus several international carriers.

TRAIN

It may be a shock, but **Amtrak** (www.amtrak.com) serves Boston at two stations. The larger hub is **South Station** (700 Atlantic Ave., www.south-station.net), which opened in 1898 and is located south of Downtown Boston. Both the T silver line bus and red line subway stop at South Station.

Closer to Fenway Park, near the Back Bay area of the city, is the somewhat conveniently named **Back Bay station** (Stuart and

Dartmouth streets). Amtrak lines that serve Boston include the Northeast Regional and express sister route Acela.

BUS

Greyhound (800/231-2222, www.greyhound.com) stops at **South Station** (700 Atlantic Ave.). Could last as short as four hours and 20 minutes. Take **Megabus** (508/746-0378, www.megabus.com).

GETTING AROUND

PUBLIC TRANSIT

I highly recommend getting around Boston via the **Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, or MBTA** (www.mbta.com, \$1.70-\$2 bus, \$2.40-\$2.90 subway), better known as the T. It's a good system that reaches all the necessary tourist spots, plus there are multiple T stops near Fenway Park. The Green Line is the main west-east line that offers a connection to hub stations like **Government Center** and **Park Street** (Tremont and Winter streets), and out west breaks into four routes that run through major college campuses and outskirt neighborhoods like Allston-Brighton. The Orange Line runs southwest to north, connecting to the **Back Bay station** (Stuart and Dartmouth streets), used by Amtrak, and heading north through Downtown. Boston and heads northeast, reaching notable stops like **Aquarium** (State Street and Atlantic Avenue) and **Airport** (Transportation Way and Service Road). Finally, the Silver Line is a system of bus routes.

Stations to know include Government Center, Park Street, **State** (Water and Devonshire streets) and **Downtown Crossing** (Washington and Summer streets).

TAXI, UBER, AND LYFT

Lyft and Uber are generally cheaper than taxis in Boston, and by a couple dollars per ride. Also, none of the operators are strong.