

5 on-the-go tasty SANDWICHES

26 PASTRAMI / CORNED BEEF SANDWICH

AT: SAM LAGRASSA'S
44 Province St
Downtown ②
+1 617 357 6861
samlagrassas.com

A favorite among Boston's downtown workers, Sam LaGrassa's is known for its hearty, towering pastrami and corned beef sandwiches, made with top-quality meats and fresh ingredients. The bustling lunchtime spot offers a casual setting, perfect for an affordable and satisfying midday meal that keeps locals coming back for more.



27 MONICA'S MERCATO & SALUMERIA

27 ITALIAN SANDWICH

AT: MONICA'S MERCATO
& SALUMERIA
130 Salem St
North End ③
+1 617 742 4101
monicasnorthend.com

Don't let the line outside Monica's fool you, it's well worth the wait. Known for its hefty, flavorful Italian sandwiches filled with high-quality meats and fresh vegetables, this beloved spot delivers every time. Afterward, stroll a few blocks to the Greenway and enjoy your meal on what was once an aboveground highway.

28 BANH MI

AT: BA LE
1052 Dorchester
Avenue
Dorchester ⑧
+1 617 265 7171
balebanhmiboston.com

Ba Le is a Vietnamese grocery store stocked with favorite Vietnamese snacks and baked goods. Most importantly, it is known to have the freshest *banh mi* in town. Each *banh mi* is made to order with deliciously flaky, freshly baked buns, and is even better when paired with a refreshing Vietnamese iced coffee.

29 JOHN GOUDA-MAN CREPE

AT: PARIS CREPERIE
278 Harvard St
Coolidge Corner ⑦
+1 617 232 1770
pariscreperie.com

Paris Creperie offers both sweet and savory crepes in the heart of Coolidge Corner, but the winner is the John Gouda-Man crepe, packed with smoked turkey and gooey Gouda cheese. This unassuming spot is perfect for a quick lunch before browsing the nearby bookshops and vintage stores.

30 LAMB GYRO

AT: GRECO
225 Newbury St
Back Bay ①
+1 617 589 1178
grecotrulygreek.com

At Greco, you can enjoy classic gyro wraps brimming with fresh ingredients tucked into warm, soft pita bread. The crowd favorite is the tender lamb gyro, stuffed with traditional ingredients, including hand-cut fries. Don't miss the crispy zucchini chips with tangy tzatziki sauce.

5 HOOKAH and SMOKE LOUNGES

171 S&A CIGARS

52 Mt Auburn St
Watertown ⑦
+1 617 923 2111
cigargod.com

S&A Cigars, run by a friendly father-son team, attracts regulars with its extensive selection of cigars, including rare and hard-to-find options. The shop also features a cozy lounge with a poker table and TV, offering a relaxed, comfortable space where smokers can unwind and enjoy their cigars.

172 APEX NOIRE

150 State St
Downtown ②
+1 857 772 7164
apexnoire.com/
Downtown

Set in the heart of Faneuil Hall, Apex Noire transforms the cannabis experience as Boston's first experiential dispensary with a bar. The unique top-floor bar offers a laid-back atmosphere with great music and drinks. Friendly and knowledgeable staff help customers navigate its bountiful and varied inventory.

173 STANZA DEI SIGARI

292 Hanover St
North End ③
+1 617 227 0295
stanzadeisigari.com/
NorthEnd

Housed in a former 1920s speakeasy beneath Boston's North End, Stanza Dei Sigari exudes old-world charm with premium cigars and spirits. Marked by a large smoking stogie above the door, its dimly lit interior features cozy booths, a full bar, and an extensive selection of liquors.

174 HABIBI'S LOUNGE

1217 Commonwealth
Avenue
Allston ⑨
+1 617 955 -2064
habibislounge.com

Habibi's Lounge, opened by a Lebanese student, offers flavorful tobaccos, Middle Eastern snacks, and sweet tea. Guests can unwind on cushioned couches around handmade mosaic tables as traditional Arabic music plays. The relaxed atmosphere and welcoming service make it a favorite spot for enjoying hookah.

175 ANDALA COFFEE HOUSE

286 Franklin St
Central Square ⑨
+1 617 945 2212
andalacoffee.com

Tucked away on a quiet street, Andala Coffee House has a cozy, Jerusalem-inspired atmosphere in an 18th-century residence. Fresh coffee, delicious Middle Eastern snacks and hookahs are available on the charming vine-covered patio or inside the welcoming cafe, making it a popular space for study sessions and casual gatherings.





60 PLACES TO SHOP

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5 noteworthy ARCHITECTURAL LANDMARKS

241 BOSTON CUSTOM HOUSE

3 McKinley Square

Downtown ②

+1 617 310 6300 ext 4

The Boston Custom House, constructed in 1847 with a clock tower added in 1915, was Boston's tallest structure until 1964. Originally a hub for maritime duties, this neoclassical building now serves as a Marriott timeshare hotel. Its observatory offers stunning harbor views and is accessible to the public during limited hours for a fee.

242 BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

700 Boylston St

Back Bay ①

+1 617 536 5400

bpl.org/locations/central

The Boston Public Library, a pioneering institution established in 1848, merges beaux arts and brutalist architecture. Home to over 23 million items, it boasts one of the largest collections in the U.S., featuring historical treasures from as early as the tenth century. Its grand interiors and vast resources make it a cultural and architectural landmark.



241 BOSTON CUSTOM HOUSE



5

NEIGHBORHOODS

to get lost in

291 BEACON HILL

②

Beacon Hill is the embodiment of Boston with its narrow, gas-lit streets and historic brick row houses. This picturesque neighborhood, rich in old-world charm, offers Federal-style and Victorian architecture, once home to literary figures like Louisa May Alcott and Henry David Thoreau. You can even explore their former residences along Pinckney Street and the charming Louisburg Square.

292 CHINATOWN

②

Boston's Chinatown is a vibrant hub of Asian cultures, offering an authentic cultural experience with its myriad of Chinese and Vietnamese eateries, bakeries, and late-night spots. This bustling neighborhood is famed for its annual celebrations like Lunar New Years and the August Moon Festival, showcasing its rich traditions and community spirit.

5 MUSIC and ART-CENTRIC FESTIVALS

386 REVERE BEACH INTERNATIONAL SAND SCULPTING FESTIVAL

Revere, MA ⓘ
North of Boston
[internationalsand
sculptingfestival.com](http://internationalsandsculptingfestival.com)

Revere Beach's annual sand sculpting festival, occurring over a weekend in July, transforms the historic shoreline into a spectacular display of intricate sand art crafted by global artists. Each year introduces a new theme, attracting large crowds with live music, diverse food vendors, and fireworks. This festive, family-friendly celebration brings creativity to life on America's first public beach.

387 BOSTON CALLING MUSIC FESTIVAL

65 North Harvard St
Allston ⓘ
bostoncalling.com

Boston Calling, hosted at the Harvard Athletic Complex, is an annual three-day music festival in late May featuring top bands and emerging artists across four stages. With visual art installations and a 100-foot Ferris wheel, it draws thousands of music lovers, both local and tourists, for a dynamic celebration of music and creativity.

388 LOWELL FOLK FESTIVAL

Lowell, MA ⓘ
North of Boston
lowellfolkfestival.org

Downtown Lowell transforms each July, towards the end of the month, into a hub of traditional music, dance, and crafts. As the second-largest free folk festival in the U.S., it features multiple stages showcasing diverse music performances, ethnic foods, and local arts. This festival continues celebrating folk heritage from its predecessor, the National Folk Festival.

389 HARVARD SQUARE MAYFAIR

Brattle St
Harvard Square
[harvardsquare.com/
38th-annual-mayfair-
harvard-square](http://harvardsquare.com/38th-annual-mayfair-harvard-square)

Every spring at the start of May, Harvard Square hosts MayFair, a celebration of the arts, food, and community. The event features three stages of diverse live music, including folk, rock, and funk. Local restaurants set up outdoor dining, and the streets come alive with food vendors, street performers, and chalk art on the streets, creating a festive atmosphere.

390 PORCHFEST

Somerville
[beta.somerville
artscouncil.org/
porchfest/porchfest-2024](http://beta.somervilleartscouncil.org/porchfest/porchfest-2024)

Mid-May, Somerville's porches transform into stages for an annual, decentralized festival that showcases local musicians across various genres. Residents open their porches for intimate performances, and visitors are encouraged to bring chairs or blankets to enjoy the music in a relaxed atmosphere, fostering community connections in a festive setting.

5 ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS

411 A SANCTUARY CAFE

80 Charles St
Beacon Hill ②
asanctuarycafe.com

A Sanctuary Cafe in Beacon Hill is ideal for kids, offering a safe, playful environment where families can interact with friendly, resident cats. With separate areas for cats and food, it ensures a clean and comfortable space for families.



413 SWAN BOAT RIDE

412 HARVARD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

26 Oxford St
Harvard Square ⑨
+1 617 495 3045
hmnh.harvard.edu

The Harvard Museum of Natural History offers children an exciting journey through the natural world. With engaging exhibits on dinosaurs, marine life, and mammals, children can explore and learn about diverse ecosystems. It is a fantastic destination for all.

413 SWAN BOAT RIDE

AT: BOSTON PUBLIC GARDEN
4 Charles St
Beacon Hill ②
+1 617 522 1966
swanboats.com

Since 1877, the Swan Boat Ride has been a beloved Boston tradition, offering families a tranquil cruise through the Public Garden's lagoon. Inspired by the Richard Wagner opera *Lohengrin*, these foot-powered boats with fiberglass swans delight children with views of ducks and swans.

414 WHALE WATCHING TOUR

MEET AT:
1 Long Wharf
Waterfront ③
+1 617 748 1450
cityexperiences.com/boston/city-cruises/whale-watch

From mid-May through November, the New England Aquarium and Boston Harbor City Cruises host whale-watching tours departing from Boston Harbor. Families can spot humpback, finback, and minke whales, and might even see dolphins and other marine life. Engaging onboard naturalists enhance the adventure with fascinating facts.

415 NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM

1 Central Wharf
Waterfront ③
+1 617 973 5206
neaq.org/visit/animal-encounters

At the aquarium, children can experience up-close animal encounters, like observing Atlantic harbor seals while learning about their biology and habitat from trainers. Other interactive exhibits include observing penguin species in their daily routines. It's ideal for all those fascinated by ocean life.

5

COASTAL *excursions*

441 **ROCKPORT**

Cape Ann
North of Boston ①

Rockport, located on Cape Ann's tip, has charming seaside galleries, lobster rolls with ocean views, and iconic landmarks like Motif #1, often called the most-painted building in the world. Visitors can spend the day exploring Bearskin Neck's shops and stroll sandy beaches before enjoying sunset views from Halibut Point State Park.



442 **IPSWICH**

North of Boston ①

Crane Beach's expansive sands and scenic dunes are perfect for walking or horseback riding. From Castle Hill, the grand estate of Richard Teller Crane Jr., there are sweeping views of the beach and Atlantic Ocean. The estate's historic mansion and beautifully landscaped grounds offer a glimpse into New England's past and are worth exploring.

