

Chapter 10

10

THE SEAPORT, SOUTH BOSTON, AND EAST BOSTON

Updated by Leigh
Harrington



 Sights

★★★★☆

 Restaurants

★★★★★

 Hotels

★★★★☆

 Shopping

☆☆☆☆☆

 Nightlife

★★★★☆

NEIGHBORHOOD SNAPSHOT

TOP EXPERIENCES	QUICK BITES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Explore Camelot: Visit the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum for a look into the life and legacy of Jack and Jackie. ■ Appreciate an architectural marvel: The Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston leans over Boston Harbor in opposition to physics. ■ Take in stunning views: The unparalleled, 360-degree views from Boston Harborwalk of the water and the city's other neighborhoods can't be beat. ■ Eat out: The Seaport District is known for its abundant culinary offerings, from gourmet local bakeries to top national steak houses. ■ Swing it: Geometrically unique swings for adults can be found at the Lawn on D. Snag a beer there, too. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bon Me. Expect chef-crafted contemporary versions of Vietnamese street food. ☒ 313 Congress St., Fort Point 🌐 www.bonme-truck.com South Station, Courthouse. ■ Yankee Lobster Co. This family-owned fish market and take-out seafood shack has been serving the local catch since 1950. ☒ 300 Northern Ave., Seaport District 🌐 www.yankeelobstercompany.com Silver Line Way. <p style="text-align: center;">PLANNING YOUR TIME</p>
<p>GETTING HERE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ You'll spend some time getting around the Seaport. Ambitious travelers can see two museums in a day, have a beer at Harpoon Brewery, and walk part of the Harborwalk. If you have only a few hours, plan an early dinner to enjoy top-notch dining and sunset water views. ■ Safety isn't a concern in the Seaport and South Boston. East Boston is also safe, but its once rough reputation follows it.
<p>Accessing the Seaport District is relatively easy, but the neighborhood is large. From South Station, you can walk anywhere along the Fort Point Channel, but for farther afield take the Silver Line. If you're headed to South Boston, take a Red Line train and get off at Andrew or Broadway. By car, both the Seaport and South Boston have a moderate amount of street (free after 8 pm and all day Sunday) and lot parking.</p> <p>East Boston poses more of a challenge. It's long, lean, and residential, so the best way to explore is by vehicle. Taking public transit is not impossible; ride the Blue Line to Maverick, Wood Island, Orient Heights, or Suffolk Downs and be sure to know where you want to exit. Blue Line and Silver Line trains service Logan Airport.</p>	
<p>GOOD TO KNOW</p>	
<p>Travelers looking for a vibrant nightlife scene should visit South Boston after dark, particularly along Broadway, with its abundance of bars and restaurants.</p>	

While distinctly different, the Seaport, South Boston, and East Boston have one major commonality: Boston Harbor. Historically, the Seaport has supported the textile and commercial fishing industries with its working piers. South Boston and Fort Independence have safeguarded the city from attack by sea since 1643. And, in East Boston, Donald McKay built record-setting clipper ships.

Today, a lot has changed. Over the last 15 years, the Seaport has transformed from an industrial no-man's-land to a vibrant, bustling extension of downtown Boston. Luxury hotels and residences, manicured micro-parks, upscale restaurants both local and national in name, and cutting-edge cultural institutions have all found homes here. Development projects remain in the works, so the face of the Seaport will continue to adjust for years to come.

Heavily populated South Boston has experienced its own renaissance, more so in the form of putting polish on existing multifamily homes and old-timey Irish bars rather than making room for new construction. The neighborhood's residents, both Southie lifers and young professional transplants, walk and walk: they walk to meals, they walk to Boston's best stretch of beaches, and they walk to and around Castle Island for exercise year-round.

Across the harbor, East Boston has been a haven for immigrants, first Italian and then Latino, and today's population

reflects this heritage. Logan Airport is Eastie's crown jewel, but there are only a few other cultural sites to see unless you count the abundance of authentic Latin restaurants.

The Seaport

What's the appeal of the Seaport District? Bostonians have only been able to answer that question recently. As the neighborhood becomes developed, and its former life as a parking lot wasteland fades from peoples' minds, locals have realized its gorgeous potential, something the Moakley Courthouse, the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston, and restaurateur-chef Barbara Lynch recognized more than a decade back.

Start your visit to the Seaport District at South Station, which is actually just across the Fort Point Channel in the heart of Downtown. From there, it's an easy walk to historical and cultural sites like the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum, Fan Pier, and the Boston Children's Museum. If your destination is farther



Sights

- 1 Black Falcon Pier H6
- 2 Boston Children's Museum A3
- 3 Boston Harborwalk D2
- 4 Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum A2

- 5 Fort Point Channel Landmark District B3
- 6 Harpoon Brewery and Beer Hall F5
- 7 Institute of Contemporary Art/ Boston D2

- 8 John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse B2
- 9 The Lawn on D C6

Restaurants

- 1 The Barking Crab B2
- 2 Chickadee G6
- 3 Committee C2
- 4 Coquette D5
- 5 Davio's Northern Italian Steakhouse C1

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The Seaport



6 Legal Seafoods—
Harborside..... E4

7 Lolita Fort Point A3

8 Menton..... B3

9 Pastoral..... B3

10 Row 34..... B4

11 Sportello..... B3

12 Trillium Brewing
Company..... B3

13 Woods Hill Pier 4..... D2

Quick Bites ▼

1 Bon Me..... A3

2 GreCo..... D2

3 Tatte Bakery & Café..... D2

4 Yankee Lobster Co..... F4

Hotels ▼

1 The Envoy Hotel..... B2

2 Omni Boston Hotel
at the Seaport..... D5

3 Renaissance Boston
Waterfront Hotel..... E4

4 Seaport Hotel..... D4

5 The Westin Boston
Seaport District..... D5



afield, say the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, Harpoon Brewery, the Seaport World Trade Center, or the Boston Design Center, head to South Station's subway concourse to catch the Silver Line.

■ **TIP** → **The Silver Line operates three different branches (SL1, SL2, SL3) in the Seaport District and each has different destinations, so make sure you hop on the correct one.**

Of all of Boston's neighborhoods, the Seaport is the least "Bostonian" in appearance. In fact, with all its skyscrapers and shiny glass, the Seaport could have been plucked straight out of New York. It's new; it's fresh; it's young.






Sights

Black Falcon Pier





MARINA/PIER | Surrounded by water on three sides, Black Falcon Pier is a stop on Boston's Harborwalk that seekers of amazing views won't want to miss. There's not much to do out this way at the end of the Seaport District except gaze at the fishing vessels, barges, and cruise ships navigating the inner harbor. Next door, the Boston Design Center offers shopping and dining options.  *Black Falcon Pier, Seaport*  *Dry Dock, Black Falcon.*

★ **Boston Children's Museum**

OTHER MUSEUM | FAMILY | The country's second-oldest children's museum has always been ahead of the curve with creative hands-on exhibits, cultural diversity, and problem solving. Some of the most popular stops are also the simplest, like the bubble-making machinery and the two-story climbing maze. At the Japanese House you're invited to take off your shoes and step inside a Kyoto silk merchant's home. The *Boston Black* exhibit stimulates dialogue about ethnicity and community, and children can dig, climb, and build at the Construction Zone. In the toddler PlaySpace, children under



three can run free in a safe environment. There's also a full schedule of special exhibits, festivals, and performances.  *308 Congress St., Fort Point Channel*  *617/426-6500*  *www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org*  *\$18*  *South Station.*

Boston Harborwalk

TRAIL | For the last 30-plus years, a number of agencies and organizations have been collaborating to create a waterfront walking path along Boston's shoreline—currently, it stretches 43 miles. Boston's Seaport District boasts a hearty portion of the Harborwalk, which winds from the Fort Point Channel, around Fan Pier, up Seaport Boulevard, and out and around the Black Falcon Cruise Terminal. Along the way, pedestrians can see art exhibits, stationary viewfinders, open green spaces, and incredible Boston Harbor views. Marked signs point the way, and maps can be found online.  *Seaport*  *Congress St. Bridge by Children's Museum*  *www.bostonharborwalk.org*  *South Station.*

★ **Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum**

OTHER ATTRACTION | FAMILY | Situated at the Congress Street Bridge near the site of Griffin's Wharf, this lively museum offers an interactive look at the past in a place as close as possible to the actual spot where the Boston Tea Party took place on December 16, 1773. Actors in period costumes greet patrons, assign them real-life colonial personas, and then ask a few people to heave boxes of tea into the water from aboard historical reproductions of the ships forcibly boarded and unloaded the night Boston Harbor became a teapot. There are 3-D holograms, talking portraits, and even the Robinson Half Tea Chest, one of two original tea chests known to exist.

■ **TIP** → **Abigail's Tea Room (you don't need a museum ticket for entry) features a tea tasting of five tea blends that would have been aboard the ships.**  *Congress St. Bridge, Fort Point Channel*  *www.*



Boston Children's Museum is the country's second-oldest children's museum.

bostonteatartyship.com ☎ \$32 📍 South Station.

Fort Point Channel Landmark District

NEIGHBORHOOD | This historic district, which was designated by the City of Boston in 2009, features the city's largest, most cohesive grouping of late 19th- and early 20th-century industrial loft buildings. The Boston Wharf Company owned and developed the area from 1836 to 1882. Today, the small, walkable, revitalized area sits between the Fort Point Channel and the Seaport District and is home to Boston Children's Museum, the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum, working artist studios, and a variety of restaurants. 📍 *Bounded by Seaport Blvd., Summer St., Boston Wharf Rd., and Fort Point Channel, Fort Point Channel.*

Harpoon Brewery and Beer Hall

BREWERY | Harpoon Brewery holds Massachusetts' first-ever brewing permit, obtained in 1986 by three college friends who wanted to create a fresh beer culture in their hometown. Today, Harpoon features guided tours of its Seaport

District facility, sharing its story, fun facts, and samples with beer lovers from around the globe. Harpoon's on-site beer hall pours a rotating lineup of limited-edition and pilot beers, nonbrand beers, and ciders, and it serves handmade pretzels, pizzas, and paninis. 📍 *306 Northern Ave., Seaport* ☎ 617/456-2322 🌐 www.harpoonbrewery.com ☎ \$5 📍 *Silver Line Way, Harbor Street.*

★ Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston

ART MUSEUM | The ICA mounts temporary exhibits by the contemporary art world's brightest talents, as well as curated pieces from its permanent collection, all of which are as cutting edge as the breathtaking, cantilevered edifice jutting out over Boston Harbor that houses them. The ICA's fourth floor is where most happens: incredible art and stunning water views. The Poss Family Mediatheque serves as a great resting spot for families. Live programming, from film festivals to outdoor live music concerts take place regularly. Don't miss the ICA Store on the ground level, where you

can pick up an inventive trinket of your own. ☒ *25 Harbor Shore Dr., Seaport* ☎ *617/478-3100* 🌐 *www.icaboston.org* 🚗 *\$15* ☺ *Closed Mon.* 🏢 *Courthouse.*

John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse

NOTABLE BUILDING | Believe it or not, the public is welcomed in for a visit to this architectural wonder and federal house of justice. Galleries across the courthouse feature rotating exhibitions on a variety of themes, from maritime history to the judicial system. Don't miss Ellsworth Kelly's permanent installation *The Boston Panels* in the courthouse's entry rotunda. It's not uncommon to see a tall ship or a charter vessel docked outside, in season. You can also book an hour-long Discovering Justice tour. ☒ *Fan Pier, 1 Courthouse Way, Seaport* ☎ *617/261-2440.*

★ The Lawn on D

CITY PARK | FAMILY | Stop, rest awhile, and have some fun. That's the purpose of The Lawn on D, a free-to-all open green space that features a plethora of geometrical swings, games like bocce, corn hole, and ping-pong, and chairs for lounging. In warmer weather, you can often catch a live concert or film screening here, or a public art installation. A concession stand makes sure visitors are well-fed. The only catch? You can't bring Fido. ☒ *420 D St., Seaport* ☺ *Closed Nov.–Apr., and during private events* 🏢 *World Trade Center, Silver Line Way.*

Restaurants

As the Seaport District has grown over the last 15 years, so, too, has the quality of its dining options. A few humble “fish shacks” remain in operation as testaments to the area's lucrative industry, but accompanying them today are large-scale and upscale restaurants appealing to 9-to-5ers that now call the area home.

The Barking Crab

\$\$\$ | **SEAFOOD | FAMILY** | Decked out in cheery colors of yellow, red, and green,

this popular, somewhat touristy spot has the feel of a seaside clam shack located smack dab in the middle of Boston. An outdoor patio and lobster tent in summer features stunning views of the Financial District; in winter, dining retreats indoors to a warmhearted version of a waterfront dive, where you'll encounter a classic New England clambake or oysters and littlenecks from the raw bar, followed by meaty, golden crab cakes. **Known for:** lobster rolls; crowds in summer; water views. ☎ *Average main: \$35* ☒ *88 Sleeper St., Fort Point Channel* ☎ *617/426-2722* 🌐 *www.barkingcrab.com* 🏢 *Courthouse, South Station.*

★ Chickadee

\$\$\$\$ | **MODERN AMERICAN** | At the far eastern end of the city and tucked into the Innovation and Design Building, Chickadee is a restaurant you'd wish to stumble over. Make the trek on the Silver Line or simply walk to sample chef-owner John daSilva's curated seasonal menu, rife with unique preparations and locally sourced ingredients. **Known for:** whole-food focused; original, unique cocktails; free parking. ☎ *Average main: \$39* ☒ *21 Drydock Ave., Seaport* ☎ *617/531-5591* 🌐 *www.chickadeerestaurant.com* ☺ *Closed Sun.* 🏢 *Drydock Avenue.*

Committee

\$\$\$ | **MODERN GREEK** | Weekend brunch is a national sport at this popular restaurant known for its modern and inspired take on Greek cuisine and killer cocktails, but it's also open daily for dinner. Come and share meze plates with your dining companions, or, if you've really got a big appetite, dig into one of the “feasts,” which may include a selection of grilled meats or a whole fish. **Known for:** sesame feta meze; trendy vibes; lively scene. ☎ *Average main: \$30* ☒ *50 Northern Ave., Seaport* ☎ *617/737-5051* 🌐 *committee-boston.com* 🏢 *Courthouse.*

★ Coquette

\$\$\$\$ | **FRENCH** | This new addition to the Seaport District has personality in

spades, with pastel purple and bright red chandeliers, plumes of feathers in floral arrangements, and pink napkins on the table. The menu, too, is inspired, featuring French cuisine informed by global flavors meant to be ordered in abundance—two to three plates per diner. **Known for:** colorful decor; spinach dumplings; excellent cocktails. 📍 *Average main: \$55* ☒ 450 Summer St., Seaport ☎ 617/419-8140 🌐 www.frenchcoquette.com 📍 World Trade Center.

Davio's Northern Italian Steakhouse

\$\$\$\$ | **STEAKHOUSE** | This popular Boston-born restaurant splits its focus between grilled all-natural steaks and chops and hearty, Italian-inspired dishes. Diners can't get enough of Davio's signature spring rolls, stuffed with Philly cheesesteak or chicken parm, and pasta is made in-house. **Known for:** interesting takes on spring rolls; à la carte steaks and decadent side dishes; excellent wine list. 📍 *Average main: \$55* ☒ 50 Liberty Dr., Seaport ☎ 617/261-4810 🌐 www.davios.com/seaport 📍 Courthouse.

Legal Sea Foods—Harborside

\$\$\$ | **SEAFOOD** | With a roof deck, patio, balcony, and floor-to-ceiling windows, Legal Sea Foods' flagship restaurant features abundant space for diners to take in panoramic views of Boston Harbor no matter the season or the weather, and this view certainly draws a crowd. The menu is classic seafood: from raw bar and sushi offerings to grilled fish, fried fish, and sandwiches, there is plenty to eat here—unless you're a landlubber. **Known for:** prime waterfront location; tasty seafood menu; Legal Sea Food's flagship restaurant. 📍 *Average main: \$32* ☒ 270 Northern Ave., Seaport ☎ 617/477-2900 🌐 www.legalseafoods.com/restaurants/boston-legal-harborside 📍 World Trade Center.

Lolita Fort Point

\$\$\$ | **MEXICAN** | Come for the tacos and margaritas; stay for the nightlife scene and at this lively Mexican joint on the

water. In the moody dining room painted with murals and adorned with red chandeliers or on the bright waterfront patio, you'll start off with a granita palate cleanser, then dive into guacamole and a few sharing plates as you imbibe with the trendy, young Boston crowd. **Known for:** brunch on the patio; bar with stained glass backdrop; Mexican street corn. 📍 *Average main: \$35* ☒ 253 Summer St., Fort Point Channel ☎ 617/369-0931 🌐 www.lolitamexican.com.

Menton

\$\$\$\$ | **FRENCH** | Barbara Lynch's luxurious, France-meets-Italy-inspired eatery is arguably the best restaurant in town (and also Boston's only Relais & Châteaux-awarded property, a prestigious honor). Named for a French town near Italy's border, Menton features just two multicourse menu options: prix-fixe or chef's tasting (with wine pairings if you so choose). **Known for:** opulent dishes; extravagant prices; excellent wine list. 📍 *Average main: \$165* ☒ 354 Congress St., Fort Point Channel ☎ 617/737-0099 🌐 www.mentonboston.com ☺ Closed Mon. and Tues. 📍 South Station.

Pastoral

\$\$ | **ITALIAN** | **FAMILY** | Satisfy your pizza craving with a crispy, wood-fired, thin-crust pie from this Fort Point neighborhood joint. A dozen and a half options run from the traditional margherita to more inventive options; note that the pies are smaller in size, so order a few. **Known for:** wood-fired, Neapolitan-style pizza; family-friendly; casual vibe. 📍 *Average main: \$22* ☒ 345 Congress St., Fort Point Channel ☎ 617/345-0005 🌐 www.pastoralfortpoint.com ☺ Closed Sun. and Mon. 📍 South Station.

★ Row 34

\$\$\$ | **SEAFOOD** | Emphasizing oysters and local craft beers, this contemporary seafood restaurant has a boisterous energy contained only by its soaring ceilings. A neighborhood crowd comes for the excellent menu devoted to raw things,

fried seafood, a variety of “rolls,” and fish-based entrées. **Known for:** local oysters fresh from restaurant’s own oyster farm; seafood—carnivores and vegetarians should head elsewhere; excellent selection of American craft beer. [📍] *Average main: \$31* 📍 383 Congress St., Seaport ☎ 617/553-5900 🌐 www.row34.com 📄 World Trade Center.

Sportello

\$\$ | ITALIAN | One of the city’s most widely awarded chefs, Barbara Lynch serves rustic, hearty Italian food with her team in a casual setting, where diners sit and eat at one long, winding counter. Fare like burrata, lamb meatballs, foccacia, braised rabbit, and bolognese are plentiful and tasty, if on the pricey side of things. **Known for:** pasta made in-house daily, by hand; casual, modern vibe; top-quality ingredients. [📍] *Average main: \$22* 📍 348 Congress St., Fort Point Channel ☎ 617/737-1234 🌐 www.sportelloboston.com ☺ Closed Mon. and Tues. 📄 South Station.

Trillium Brewing Company

\$\$ | AMERICAN | FAMILY | When it comes to craft beer, a lot of Bostonians get excited about Trillium, so do as the locals do and quench your thirst in the ever-crowded ground-level tap room or sit for a quieter meal upstairs to enjoy a small menu of American fare that’s meant to keep you reaching for more. The tap rotates with seasonal and standard Trillium beers, including ciders, sours, and IPAs. **Known for:** fantastic roof deck; hazy IPAs; fun, family-friendly atmosphere. [📍] *Average main: \$20* 📍 50 Thomson Pl., Fort Point Channel ☎ 857/449-0083 🌐 www.trilliumbrewing.com 📄 Courthouse.

★ Woods Hill Pier 4

\$\$\$\$ | MODERN AMERICAN | Featuring floor-to-ceiling windows and sweeping 270-degree views of the Boston Harbor waterfront, this sophisticated and lively restaurant serves up midsized plates that are meant to be shared—two to three per person. The well-curated

menu features meat and produce from the owner’s 360-acre New Hampshire farm, as well as handmade pasta and sustainably sourced seafood. **Known for:** panoramic views of Boston Harbor; pasture-raised, sustainable, and organic farm-to-table ingredients; a killer Sunday brunch. [📍] *Average main: \$45* 📍 300 Pier 4 Blvd., Seaport ☎ 617/981-4577 🌐 www.woodhillpier4.com ☺ Closed Mon. 📄 Courthouse.

Coffee and Quick Bites

Bon Me

\$ | VIETNAMESE | FAMILY | Bon Me’s moniker is a whimsical take on Vietnam’s signature sandwich, the banh mi, and the versions that this local fast-casual restaurant serves are authentic to its spirit, if not with traditional ingredients. Diners can create their own bowls (salad, noodle, or rice), selecting from a variety of proteins, veggies, and sauces. **Known for:** tasty proteins; spicy ginger lemonade that will flare your nostrils; customized bowls. [📍] *Average main: \$11* 📍 313 Congress St., Fort Point Channel ☎ 857/350-4035 🌐 www.bonmetruck.com 📄 South Station, Courthouse.

GreCo

\$ | MODERN GREEK | FAMILY | As far as options for fast-casual meals along Seaport Boulevard go, this is one place you should stop. You’ll get modern, Greek street food here, in the form of pita sandwiches, salads, and build-your-own meals, dressed with sauces, like house-made spicy feta and lemon yogurt, that are so good you’ll be licking it off your fingers. **Known for:** build-your-own salads, pitas, and plates; delicious, authentic doughnut dessert; plenty of seating. [📍] *Average main: \$12* 📍 200 Pier 4 Blvd., Seaport ☎ 617/572-3300 🌐 www.greco-boston.com 📄 World Trade Center.

★ Tatte Bakery & Café

\$ | BAKERY | FAMILY | This upscale bakery and café takes pastries to the next level.

From tea cakes to the Jerusalem bagel, expect hearty baked goods with an air of elegance and influenced by the owner's Israeli heritage. **Known for:** traditional North African shakshuka; signature nut tarts that are as pretty as they are tasty; convivial atmosphere. **📍 Average main:** \$12 📍 200 Pier 4 Blvd., Seaport 📞 617/765-7600 🌐 www.tattebakery.com 🏠 Courthouse.

★ Yankee Lobster Co.

\$\$ | SEAFOOD | FAMILY | There's nothing fresher than eating fish the same day it's caught, and that's what you get at this family-owned seafood shack. Open since 1950, the local favorite serves fresh oysters, crab cakes, fried oysters and clams, steamers, and lobster. **Known for:** lobster, lobster, lobster; being simple and authentic; limited seating options. **📍 Average main:** \$20 📍 300 Northern Ave., Seaport 📞 617/345-9799 🌐 www.yankeelobstercompany.com 🕒 Closed Tues. 🏠 Silver Line Way.

Hotels

The Envoy Hotel

\$\$\$\$ | HOTEL | Visitors and locals like to hang out at The Envoy, where a design-forward aesthetic provides a comfortable yet stylish vibe. **Pros:** 24-hour fitness center includes Peloton bikes; excellent on-site restaurants and rooftop bar; beautiful views overlooking the Fort Point Channel. **Cons:** bar crowds can be loud and rowdy; no rollaway beds available; a bit fancy for kids. **📍 Rooms from:** \$525 📍 70 Sleeper St., Seaport 📞 617/338-3030 🌐 www.theenvoy-hotel.com 🚗 136 rooms 🍷 No Meals 🏠 Courthouse.

★ Omni Boston Hotel at the Seaport

\$\$\$ | HOTEL | Opened in 2021, this Omni hotel debuts a chic, modern counterpoint to its grande dame Downtown property, Omni Parker House. **Pros:** year-round, outdoor, heated pool with bar area; seven food and drink options on-site;

brand-new accommodations. **Cons:** far from Back Bay and Beacon Hill shopping; tight restrictions on pet policy. **📍 Rooms from:** \$350 📍 450 Summer St., Seaport 📞 617/476-6664 🌐 www.omnihotels.com 🚗 1,054 rooms 🍷 No Meals 🏠 World Trade Center, Silver Line Way.

Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel

\$\$\$ | HOTEL | Set near Boston's working fish piers, the Renaissance plays to a watery theme—in the modern lobby, blue-and-green glass orbs complement a suspended glass lighting fixture, and the spiral staircase was created to look like a nautilus shell. **Pros:** sleek lobby bar and lounge; close to airport transportation and convention center; indoor pool and 24-hour fitness center. **Cons:** no on-site restaurant; hordes of conventioners; far from the Back Bay and Boston Common. **📍 Rooms from:** \$325 📍 606 Congress St., Seaport 📞 617/338-4111, 888/796-4664 🌐 marriott.com/hotels/travel/boswf-renaissance-boston-waterfront-hotel 🚗 471 rooms 🍷 No Meals 🏠 World Trade Center.

Seaport Hotel

\$\$\$ | HOTEL | FAMILY | Adjacent to the World Trade Center and not far from the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, the Seaport Hotel is awash with badge-wearing, convention-going suits. **Pros:** beautiful on-site gym and fitness center; pick your own pillow; complimentary bikes. **Cons:** slow elevators; swamped during conventions; far from the Back Bay and South End. **📍 Rooms from:** \$375 📍 Seaport World Trade Center, 1 Seaport La., Seaport 📞 617/385-4000 🌐 www.seaportboston.com 🚗 428 rooms 🍷 No Meals 🏠 World Trade Center.

The Westin Boston Seaport District

\$\$\$ | HOTEL | The Westin is connected to the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center and provides comfortable accommodations and exceptional service. **Pros:** connected to the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center; pet-friendly for animals up to 50 lbs.; nice fitness center with a

pool. **Cons:** clusters of meeting-goers; lobby can get hectic; not within walking distance of the Back Bay and South End. **\$ Rooms from: \$350** ☎ 425 Summer St., Seaport ☎ 617/532-4600 🌐 www.marriott.com 🚗 793 rooms 🍷 No Meals 📍 World Trade Center.

Nightlife

BARS

★ Drink

COCKTAIL LOUNGES | Barbara Lynch handles this elegant den as only a chef of world-wide acclaim would—like a restaurant. Behind the bar, tenders use herbs, infusions, and elixirs to custom-create a top-shelf libation for your palate; that is, there is no drink list. There are low, beamed ceilings and a wooden bar that snakes through the space, maximizing room for a discerning cocktail crowd. A limited menu features snacks and things, including a legendary burger. Drink is one of the best bars in Boston, and it's hugely popular, so you'll likely wait in line to get in, but once you do, there's room to breathe. ☎ 348 Congress St., Fort Point Channel ☎ 617/695-1806 🌐 www.drinkfortpoint.com 📍 South Station.

Kings

THEMED ENTERTAINMENT | Calling all gamers to this massive bar and restaurant that entertains with upscale-style bowling, billiards, air hockey, shuffleboard, foosball, and more. The '80s kids among us can wax nostalgic while playing the retro arcade games they remember from their childhood, including *Pac-Man*, *Super Mario Bros.*, and *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*. The kitchen makes burgers, wings, tacos, and more. Kings' Draft Room serves up beers and sports. Anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult, and no one under age 21 is admitted after 9 pm. ☎ 60 Seaport Blvd., Seaport ☎ 617/401-0025 🌐 www.kings-de.com 📍 Courthouse.

Lucky's Lounge

BARS | Located on a corner midway into the Fort Point area, this hangout was here well before anything else called the neighborhood home. Low-lit and subterranean, it replicates a Rat Pack-era speakeasy as much as it can in modern-day Boston. On the menu, find a mix of Southern-inspired dishes, Asian plates, and other snackable, shareable fare. Lucky's is known for its live music, too. ☎ 355 Congress St., Fort Point Channel ☎ 617/357-5825 🌐 www.luckyslounge.com 📍 South Station.

COMEDY CLUBS

Laugh Boston

COMEDY CLUBS | More than 300 people per show can share a laugh with the local comics and national headliners who take the stage at one of Boston's favorite comedy clubs. Doors are open to anyone ages 16 and older because comedic material is typically R-rated. There's a two-item minimum per person from the drink or food menu—can you really say no to a pitcher of Coors and a warm pretzel? ☎ 425 Summer St., Seaport ☎ 617/725-2844 🌐 www.laughboston.com 📍 World Trade Center.

Shopping

National and international brands like L.L. Bean, Away, and Outdoor Voices have set up along Seaport Boulevard, and a few local entrepreneurs have moved in, too. In summer, shop local at the Seaport Summer Market next to Seaport Common.

FOOD

Cardullo's Gourmet Shoppe

FOOD | Cardullo's has been a local stand-out for gourmet global food items for the last 70 years, although it recently opened its Seaport location, a bit of a departure from its Harvard Square origins. Artisan and international wines and beer, chocolates and sweets, jams, crackers, teas and coffee, cured meats, cheese,



Built in 1801, Fort Independence is the centerpiece of Castle Island. It's open for free tours on summer weekends.

and foodstuffs made in the New England region stock the shelves. A deli counter serves awesome sandwiches to-go. ☒ 99 Seaport Blvd., Seaport ☎ 857/350-4579 🌐 www.cardullos.com 🏢 Courthouse.

South Boston

Never to be confused with the city's South End neighborhood, South Boston (Southie, as locals know it) still feels largely Irish and working class, even though the area has fully gentrified over the last two decades. In doing so, young professionals—drawn to Southie's waterfront, beaches, and green walking spaces—have bought condos in converted triple-deckers along Day Boulevard or up and down streets named for alphabet letters from A to P. The farther down the alphabet, the closer you are to historic Castle Island and Pleasure Bay.

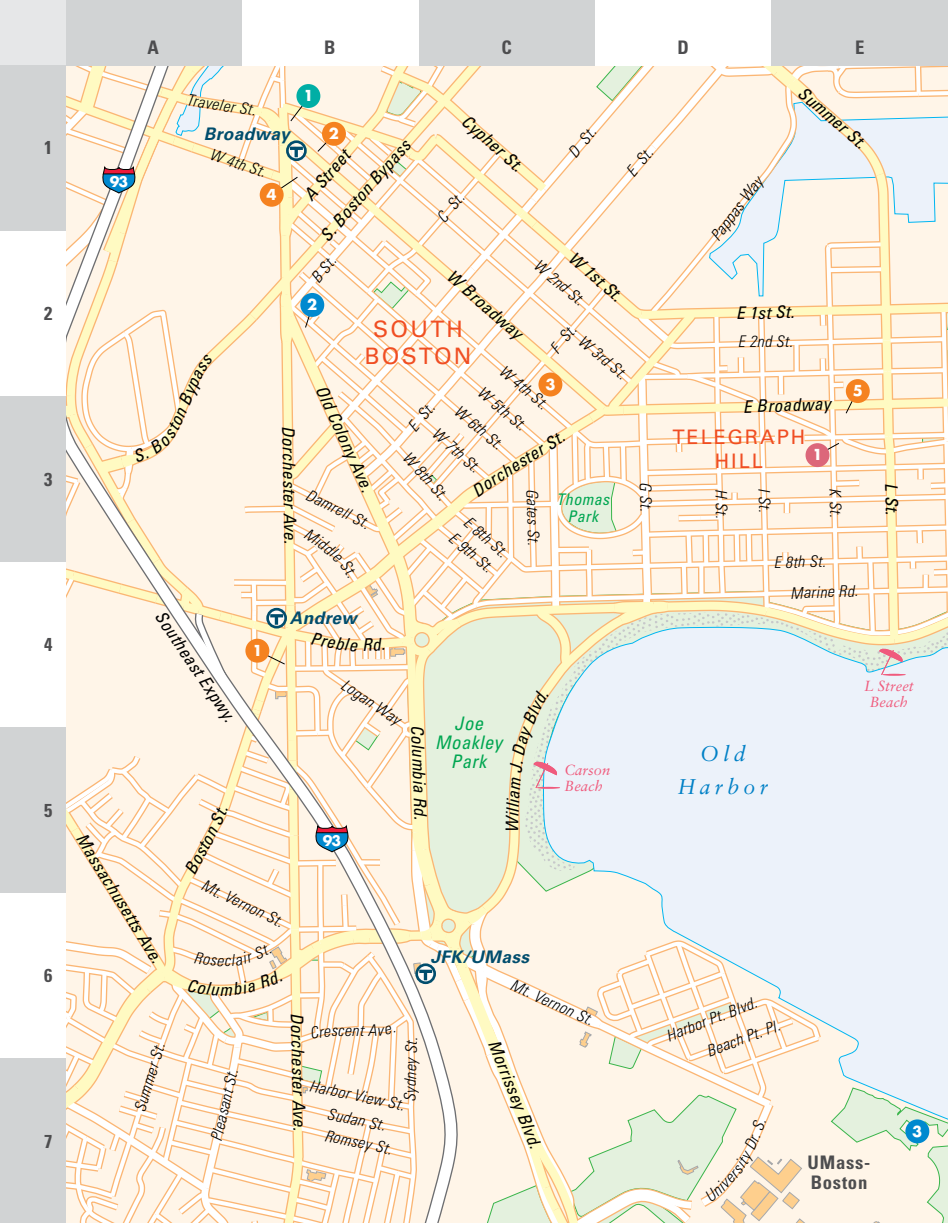
Irish-Americans still hold sway here, as the city's raucous annual St. Patrick's Day parade and numerous Irish bars attest.

Long-standing residents are hearty folk; every January 1 they follow tradition and run into the frigid waters off L Street Beach for a quick dip. Southie is also famously where Whitey Bulger held court over the Irish mob during the 1980s and early 1990s.

Sights

Castle Island

HISTORIC SIGHT | FAMILY | Although it once was, Castle Island is no longer, well, an island. Today, this tip of South Boston is accessible by car and by foot from Day Boulevard. Castle Island's centerpiece is Fort Independence, built in 1801 (although there have been battlements on-site since 1644) and open for free tours on summer weekend afternoons. Castle Island is a popular spot for South Boston residents to walk their dogs, jog, or cycle, whether just around the island itself or along the water-set Pleasure Bay Loop. There's also a nice playground for kids. If you get peckish, stop by Sullivan's (known locally as Sully's). Open February



Sights

- 1 Castle Island I2
- 2 Castle Island Brewing Company B2
- 3 John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum E7

Restaurants

- 1 Cafe Polonia B4
- 2 Fox & the Knife Enoteca B1
- 3 Lincoln Tavern & Restaurant C2
- 4 Moonshine 152 B1
- 5 Roza Lyons E3

Quick Bites

- 1 Joseph's Bakery E3
- 2 Sullivan's Castle Island I2

Hotels

- 1 Cambria Hotel Boston B1

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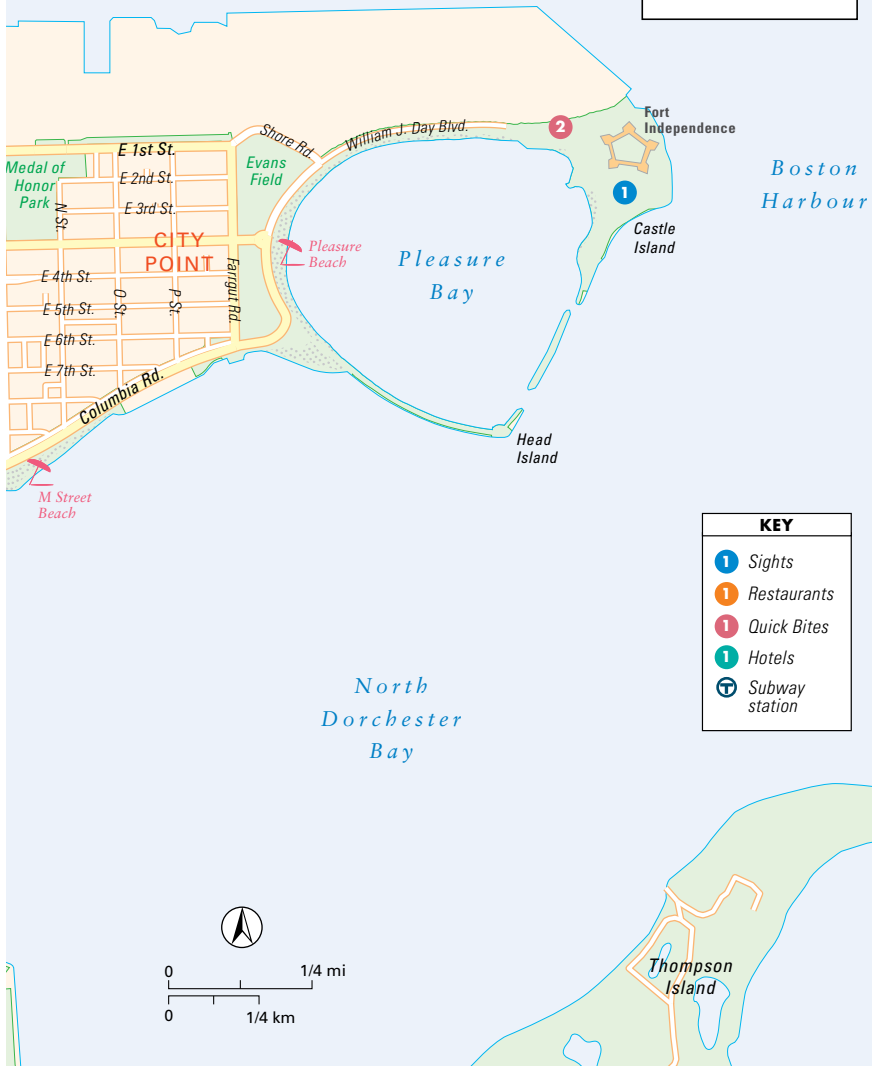
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Reserved Channel

South Boston



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through November, come to this Castle Island institution of more than 60 years for a hot dog and fries. Views of the harbor and its outlying islands are expansive. ☒ 2010 Day Blvd., South Boston ☎ 617/727-5290 🚗 Broadway (then catch Bus 9 or 11 going east).

Castle Island Brewing Company

BREWERY | This taproom takes up an entire corner of the Cole Hersee Building. In nice weather, the garage windows in the front roll all the way up to reveal a contemporary rendezvous spot for craft beer lovers. Find signature brews, from IPAs to lagers, as well as some limited releases, on draft. Children are welcome if they're accompanied by adults. ☒ 10 Old Colony Ave., South Boston ☎ 617/977-4017 🌐 castleislandbeer.com 🚗 Broadway.

★ John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum

LIBRARY | The library-museum is both a center for serious scholarship and a focus for Boston's nostalgia for her native son. The stark, white building (another modernist monument designed by I. M. Pei) at this Dorchester Bay-enclosed site pays homage to the life and presidency of John F. Kennedy, as well as to members of his family, including his wife, Jacqueline, and brother Robert.

The library is the official repository of JFK's presidential papers and displays re-creations of his desk in the Oval Office and of the television studio in which he debated Richard Nixon in the 1960 election. Permanent exhibits focus on his life before politics, the 1960 Presidential election, the Peace Corps, and the U.S. space program (currently under renovation). Two theaters show films about JFK's life. There's also a permanent display on the late Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. The facility also includes a store and a small café. ☒ Columbia Point, Dorchester ☎ 617/514-1600 🌐 www.jfklibrary.org 🚗 \$18 🕒 Closed Mon.–Wed.

🚗 JFK/UMass, then free shuttle bus every 20 min.

🍴 Restaurants

★ Cafe Polonia

\$\$ | **POLISH** | **FAMILY** | People come to Boston for certain things—colleges, Irish pubs, Fenway Park—and Polish food isn't usually one of them. But, if you do land here, this authentic Polish restaurant in Southie is a must-stop. **Known for:** pierogi, beet soup, stuffed cabbage and kielbasa; Polish beer; food worth traveling for. ☎ Average main: \$18 ☒ 611 Dorchester Ave., South Boston ☎ 617/269-0110 🌐 www.cafepolonia.com 🚗 Andrew.

★ Fox & the Knife Enoteca

\$\$\$ | **MODERN ITALIAN** | Chef-owner Karen Akunowicz steps up with hearty, traditional Italian food inspired by her time as a chef and pasta maker in Italy. Locals love it so much that in order to score a table, especially on the weekends, you have to book a reservation about a month or so out. **Known for:** award-winning chef; focaccia; excellent service. ☎ Average main: \$25 ☒ 28 W. Broadway, South Boston ☎ 617/766-8630 🌐 www.foxandtheknife.com 🕒 Closed Mon. 🚗 Broadway.

Lincoln Tavern & Restaurant

\$\$ | **AMERICAN** | Young professionals living in the area will tell you that this place is a South Boston institution, and they flock here regularly, especially for brunch served every day of the week. Don't expect a quiet meal; the atmosphere here is loud and lively at all hours, and there's often a line at the door to get in. **Known for:** neighborhood favorite; brunch; bloody Marys. ☎ Average main: \$21 ☒ 425 W. Broadway, South Boston ☎ 617/765-8636 🌐 www.lincolnsouthboston.com 🚗 Broadway.

Moonshine 152

\$\$ | **FUSION** | Diners who appreciate flavor and spice will adore chef-owner Asia Mei's creative kitchen endeavors, which often mix up elements of American,

Chinese, Mexican, Vietnamese, Thai, and Spanish cuisines. A lively local crowd comes for dinner and to get their hands on such crave-worthy dishes as the tofu-mushroom burger and various street tacos, but the menu does change frequently. **Known for:** friendly service; unpretentious atmosphere; interesting, flavorful dishes. ☑ *Average main: \$22* ☒ *152 Dorchester Ave., South Boston* ☎ *617/752-4191* 🌐 *www.moonshine152.com* ☺ *Closed Mon.* 📍 *Broadway.*

Roza Lyons

☑ | **AMERICAN** | This casual but upscale neighborhood bar and restaurant doesn't attract too much of a crowd, even though it should. The kitchen serves hearty American comfort food made with fresh ingredients. **Known for:** craft beer; steak and avocado salad; low-key atmosphere. ☑ *Average main: \$17* ☒ *709 E. Broadway, South Boston* ☎ *617/902-9333* 🌐 *www.rozalyons.com* 📍 *Broadway.*

☕ Coffee and Quick Bites

Joseph's Bakery

☑ | **BAKERY** | **FAMILY** | You won't get many frills at this traditional Italian-style bakery that's tucked a bit off the main drag, but you will get loads of sweets in the form of cream puffs, eclairs, pastry twists, Italian cookies, and loaves of *scali* bread (braided and coated in sesame seeds). There's also a deli that serves sandwiches to go. **Known for:** pan pizza; brewed flavored coffee; Italian desserts. ☑ *Average main: \$8* ☒ *258 K St., South Boston* ☎ *617/268-1133* 🌐 *www.josephsdeli-southie.com.*

Sullivan's Castle Island

☑ | **FAST FOOD** | **FAMILY** | Family-owned and established in 1951, this beach-style dairy bar—affectionately nicknamed Sully's—serves fried seafood, hot dogs, hamburgers, and soft-serve ice cream at Castle Island every spring, summer, and fall. Don't expect frills or indoor seating—there is no need since its surroundings

provide sloping lawns, picnic tables, benches, and beach vistas for lunching.

■ **TIP** → **Fries don't automatically come as a side with sandwiches, so if you want them, make sure you order them.** **Known for:** long lines but quick service; fried seafood, burgers, and hot dogs; great views.

☑ *Average main: \$10* ☒ *2080 Day Blvd., South Boston* ☎ *617/268-5685* 🌐 *www.sullivanscastleisland.com* ☺ *Closed in winter.*

🏨 Hotels

Cambria Hotel Boston

\$\$\$ | **HOTEL** | One of very few lodgings in South Boston outside of the Seaport District, this hotel attracts a younger, trendy traveler with simple but well-appointed guest rooms, contemporary art, and snazzy dining and drinking options on-site. **Pros:** large, 24-hour fitness center; seasonal rooftop bar with spectacular views; easy walk to the South End, Back Bay, and Seaport District. **Cons:** no pets; no cribs, no extra beds available; far from most of Boston's universities. ☑ *Rooms from: \$315* ☒ *6 W. Broadway, South Boston* ☎ *617/752-6681* 🌐 *www.cambriaboston.com* ↗ *159 rooms* ☺ *No Meals* 📍 *Broadway.*

East Boston

A drive into East Boston shows off street after street of multifamily homes and commercial squares laden with restaurants and markets catering to its varied ethnic communities, primarily Italian, Asian, and Latino. In the last few years, this waterfront neighborhood—"Eastie" as it's called by longtime locals—has begun to undergo a renaissance as modern, luxury apartments pop up on Jeffries Point. Any visitor to Boston who arrives by plane has been to Eastie—it's home to Logan International Airport. We'll let you in on a secret: East Boston features



The 300-acre Belle Isle Marsh Reservation is all that remains of the salt marsh landscape that once covered Boston when the early settlers arrived.

absolutely amazing views of Boston Harbor and the downtown skyline.

Sights

Belle Isle Marsh Reservation

TRAIL | FAMILY | This 300-acre patch of remaining wetland environment is indicative of the salt marsh landscape that covered Boston when early settlers arrived and which today has been filled in. As you walk or run Belle Isle's gravel paths, listen to the sound of the marsh's diverse bird community, which includes the American kestrel, belted kingfisher, great blue heron, northern harrier, and saltmarsh sparrow. Boardwalks venture into the marsh for great viewing and photo ops. ☎ 1399 Bennington St., East Boston ☎ 617/727-5350 🌐 www.mass.gov/locations/belle-isle-marsh-reservation 📍 Suffolk Downs.

Downeast Cider House Taproom

BREWERY | You've got to really look for the garage doors that mark the entrance to this zero-frills local taproom. Once

you make it inside the industrial space, you can sample flights of Downeast's fresh, unfiltered cider varieties—many of which are only available at the cider house. Bring some food to eat if you want—none is served here—and your dog. ☎ 256 Marginal St., East Boston ☎ 857/301-8881 🌐 www.downeastcider.com ☺ Closed Mon.–Wed. 📍 Maverick.

HarborArts & The Shipyard Gallery

MARINA/PIER | FAMILY | Whimsical murals on cement barriers, colorful wooden chairs mounted on the outside wall of a commercial building, large-scale sculpture: together these pieces and more generate an arty feel in the industrial setting of East Boston's working shipyard. HarborArts curates a rotating collection of works by local and international artists across 14 acres, completely open to the public for perusal. ☎ 256 Marginal St., East Boston ☎ 617/561-1400 🌐 www.bhsmarina.com/shipyard-gallery 📍 Maverick.

ICA Watershed

ART MUSEUM | FAMILY | The Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston's seasonal outpost first opened in 2018 after renovations to a dilapidated former copper-pipe facility in East Boston's working shipyard and marina. Every summer, a single large-scale, immersive art installation makes the 15,000-square-foot space its own. A smaller gallery delves into the shipyard's history. ☒ *256 Marginal St., East Boston* 🌐 www.icaboston.org/ica-watershed ☹ *Closed Oct.–Apr.* ☞ *Water shuttle transportation from the ICA's Seaport location to the Watershed is included with general admission* 📄 *Maverick.*

Madonna Queen of the Universe National Shrine

RELIGIOUS BUILDING | A 35-foot golden and green statue of the Virgin Mary standing atop a globe dominates the Pope Paul VI Pilgrim Plaza that welcomes curious visitors and religious pilgrims to this Roman Catholic shrine. From its perch in Orient Heights, the shrine also boasts some pretty spectacular views of Logan Airport and the downtown skyline. Beneath the plaza, a sprawling sanctuary offers a quiet retreat, and some holy relics are on display. Masses are offered weekly in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. ☒ *150 Orient Ave., East Boston* 📞 *617/569-8792* 🌐 www.madonnaqueenshrine.com 📄 *Orient Heights.*

Piers Park

CITY PARK | FAMILY | Sandwiched between Marginal Street and Boston Harbor, the gorgeous, landscaped, waterfront Piers Park features a grassy, green retreat from urban life and sweeping views of downtown Boston to the southwest. It is so named because of its many long piers that jut into the inner harbor. For a bit of historical knowledge: it's also in close proximity to the facility site where naval architect Donald McKay built his reputedly fast clipper ships. Take a stroll down the promenade and let the kiddos enjoy

the large playground. ☒ *95 Marginal St., East Boston* 📞 *617/561-6677* 🌐 www.pierssparksailing.org 📄 *Maverick.*

🍴 Restaurants

Mirroring the makeup of its residents, East Boston's restaurant scene satisfies a variety of tastes, from the authentically ethnic to modern American. Foodies can dig into some of the city's best Latino and Italian fare, while closer to Eastie's coast, new, upscale restaurants serve up trendier, chef-driven options.

★ **Angela's Cafe**

\$\$ | **MEXICAN | FAMILY** | Colorful and airy, this East Boston Mexican restaurant reflects the culture of many living in the neighborhood, and its eponymous cook re-creates dishes from her native Puebla. Locals love it for its authenticity and extensive selection of small, snacky plates (mmm, *queso fundido*) and hearty main courses (*chilaquiles, mole poblano*). **Known for:** house-made guacamole; chicken and queso chilaquiles; brunch. ☑ *Average main: \$18* ☒ *1012 Bennington St., East Boston* 📞 *617/874-8251* 🌐 www.angelascafeboston.com 📄 *Orient Heights.*

Cunard Tavern

\$\$ | **AMERICAN** | On this once industrial stretch of the Boston Harbor waterfront sits this gastropub, fittingly at the former site of the Cunard Steamship Company and Wharf. From within a contemporary and lively environment, peruse a Southern-inspired menu, regional craft beer, and wide windows that open onto the street. **Known for:** notable brunch; seasonal roof deck with great views and a walk-up window bar; high prices for what you get. ☑ *Average main: \$22* ☒ *24 Orleans St., East Boston* 📞 *617/567-7609* 🌐 www.cunardtavern.com 📄 *Maverick.*

The Quiet Few

\$ | **AMERICAN** | One look at the neighborhood bar's menu will have you holding back belly laughs, even as it's grumbling

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East Boston



Sights

- 1 Belle Isle Marsh Reservation..... I2
- 2 Downeast Cider House Taproom C6
- 3 HarborArts & The Shipyard Gallery... C6
- 4 ICA Watershed..... C6
- 5 Madonna Queen of the Universe National Shrine G1
- 6 Piers Park C6

Restaurants

- 1 Angela's Cafe G2
- 2 Cunard Tavern C6
- 3 The Quiet Few..... C6
- 4 Rincon Limeño D3

Quick Bites

- 1 Santarpio's Pizza..... C5

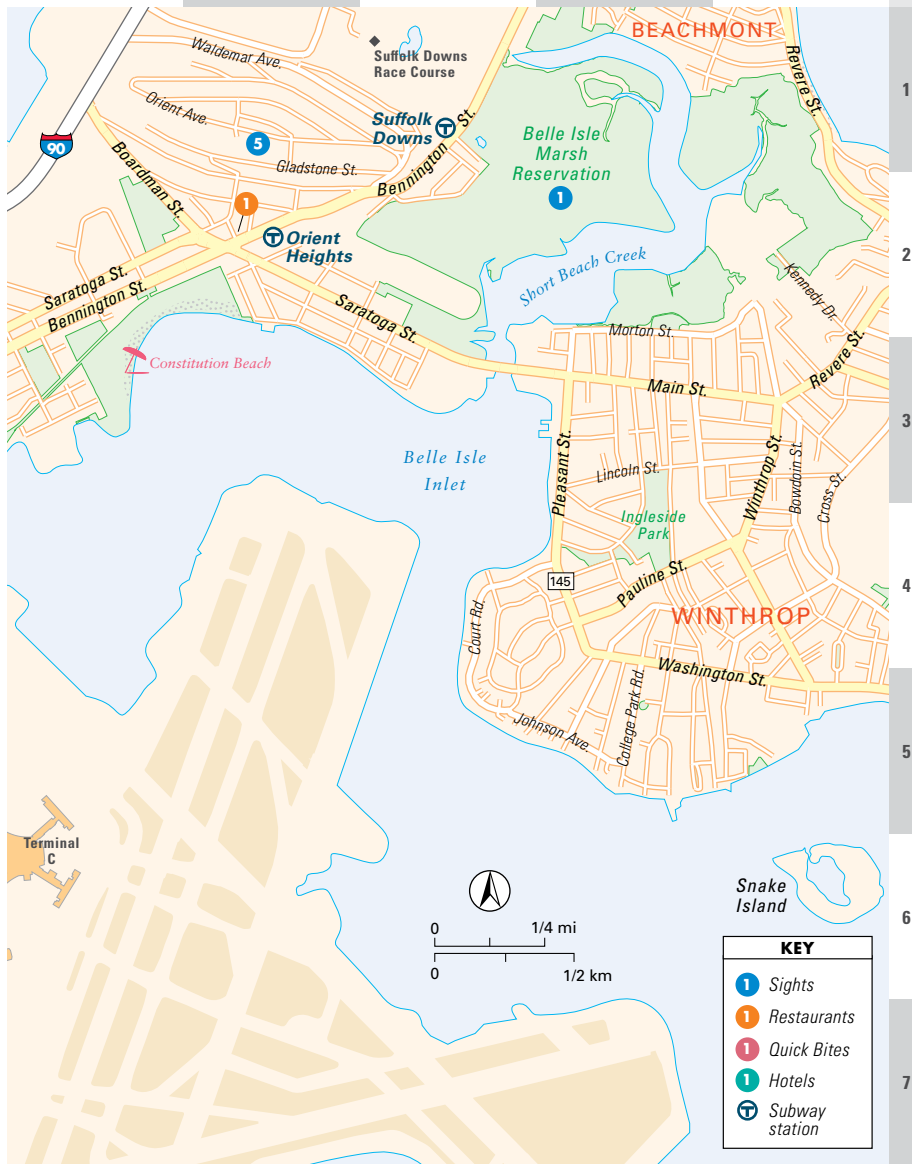
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Hotels



- 1 Hilton Boston
Logan Airport E5
- 2 Hyatt Regency
Boston Harbor D7

with hunger. Plates are interesting and well thought-out, with a flair for Frito corn chips. **Known for:** huge selection of whiskies, including flights and top-shelf, off-the-menu options; creative meals; very crowded during peak hours. **☎ Average main:** \$13 ☒ 331 Sumner St., East Boston ☎ 617/561-1061 🌐 www.thequietfew.com 📺 *Maverick*.

Rincon Limeño

\$\$ | PERUVIAN | FAMILY | Authentic Peruvian food is beautifully presented in a wonderfully warm and inviting space. Sip a much-talked-about pisco sour while perusing the menu, which includes traditionally prepared dishes, seafood and ceviche, and smaller plates called *piqueos*. **Known for:** lemony ceviche mixto; anticuchos, a Peruvian classic; long lines, so making a reservation is advised. **☎ Average main:** \$23 ☒ 409 Chelsea St., East Boston ☎ 617/569-4942 🌐 www.rinconlimeno.com 📺 *Wood Island*.

☕ Coffee and Quick Bites

Santarpio's Pizza

\$ | PIZZA | FAMILY | Stepping into this family-owned East Boston pizza joint is like stepping into the 1980s, even though it first opened way back in 1903. Every table is full on a Saturday night at 7 pm, and don't be surprised to see a line that runs out the cramped front doorway. **Known for:** legendary pizza; really long lines during peak hours; unapologetically casual atmosphere. **☎ Average main:** \$15 ☒ 111 Chelsea St., East Boston ☎ 617/567-9871 🌐 www.santarpiospizza.com.

🏨 Hotels

Hilton Boston Logan Airport

\$\$\$ | HOTEL | FAMILY | Quiet rooms, competitive prices, and the only hotel actually connected to the airport make this Hilton a good choice for in-and-out visitors to Boston. **Pros:** attached via skywalk to Logan terminals A and E; most rooms

have great views of downtown Boston; free shuttle to subway or water taxi.

Cons: standard check-in time is late, at 4 pm; not walking distance to attractions, restaurants, or shopping; pay for Wi-Fi. **☎ Rooms from:** \$375 ☒ 1 Hotel Dr., East Boston ☎ 617/568-6700 🌐 www.bostonlogan.hilton.com ➡ 604 rooms 🏠 No Meals 📺 *Airport*.

Hyatt Regency Boston Harbor

\$\$\$ | HOTEL | FAMILY | Half the rooms at this hotel have sweeping views of either the city skyline or the ocean; the other half overlook Logan Airport runways. **Pros:** close to airport; 24-hour airport shuttle; restaurant and bar on-site. **Cons:** late standard check-in, at 4 pm; daily destination fee; effort to get to downtown sights. **☎ Rooms from:** \$375 ☒ 101 Harborside Dr., East Boston ☎ 617/568-1234 🌐 www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/massachusetts/hyatt-regency-boston-harbor/bosha ➡ 270 rooms 🏠 No Meals 📺 *Airport*.

🍷 Nightlife

Next Door Speakeasy & Raw Bar

BARS | In order to score 90 minutes at a table in this exclusive bar (the waitlist to get in is booked up months in advance), you must be dressed up, charm the person guarding the door, and most important, first find the entrance—it's not obviously marked. Craft cocktails have a flair for the dramatic, made with unique premium and small-label brands, creative liqueurs, and other interesting juices, syrups, and ingredients. The food is fantastic, but secondary to the cocktails. ☒ 107 Porter St., Boston 🌐 www.nextdooreastie.com ➡ No casual shorts, beachwear, flip-flops, tank tops, ripped pants, baseball caps, or hats. 📺 *Maverick*.

The Tall Ship Boston

BARS | This historic-style ship sidles up to an East Boston pier and features outdoor drinking, games like corn hole, live music, and more alfresco fun. The unique

destination does offer some food in the form of raw oysters and a couple of snack boards, and drinks are slightly overpriced, but let's be honest: you're paying for the view. If you happen to be dining in the area, there's a free shuttle to the ship from local restaurants on the weekends. The ship is 21+ after 7 pm. ✉ *1 East Pier Dr., Boston* ☎ 617/307-7714 🌐 www.tallshipboston.com 📺 *Maverick*.