

## Chapter 3

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# BEACON HILL, BOSTON COMMON, AND THE WEST END

3

Updated by  
Leigh Harrington



 Sights  
★★★★☆

 Restaurants  
★★★★☆

 Hotels  
★★★★☆

 Shopping  
★★★★☆

 Nightlife  
★★★★☆

## NEIGHBORHOOD SNAPSHOT

TOP EXPERIENCES	QUICK BITES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Start the Freedom Trail:</b> From Boston Common, follow the red-painted and brick path to knock off four of its 16 stops.</li> <li>■ <b>Discover the Black Heritage Trail:</b> At sanctuaries, schools, and Underground Railroad sites, this self-guided historical walk visits early Boston's African American community.</li> <li>■ <b>Window shop:</b> Shop Charles Street for clothing, specialty products, and contemporary gifts.</li> <li>■ <b>Embrace your inner science nerd:</b> Explore space, the human body, electricity, and more at the Museum of Science.</li> <li>■ <b>See picturesque history:</b> One of Boston's most photographed locales, Acorn Street features elements from the Colonial era through the Victorian period.</li> <li>■ <b>Gear up for game day:</b> Visit the TD Garden to root for the Boston Celtics or Boston Bruins, or take a spin around The Sports Museum.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Anna's Taqueria.</b> Locals love this Mexicali take-out chain. ☎ 242 Cambridge St., Beacon Hill 🌐 <a href="http://www.annastaqueria.com">www.annastaqueria.com</a> 📍 Charles/MGH, Bowdoin.</li> <li>■ <b>The Paramount.</b> There's usually a line at this cafeteria-style standout, but it moves quickly. ☎ 44 Charles St., Beacon Hill 🌐 <a href="http://www.paramountboston.com">www.paramountboston.com</a> 📍 Charles/MGH.</li> <li>■ <b>Tatte.</b> Incredible tea cakes, coffee, tarts, and Israeli-inspired lunch fare. ☎ 70 Charles St., Beacon Hill 🌐 <a href="http://www.tattebakery.com/boston">www.tattebakery.com/boston</a> 📍 Charles/MGH.</li> </ul>
GETTING HERE	PLANNING YOUR TIME
<p>Beacon Hill is best experienced on foot. Bounded by Cambridge Street, Beacon Street, and Bowdoin Street, the neighborhood is an array of short, tight, winding roads, and street parking (free on Sunday) is at a minimum. To reach Beacon Hill via the T, take the Green Line to Park Street and walk through the Common toward Beacon Street; or take the Red Line to Charles/MGH for access to Charles Street. The Blue Line's Bowdoin stop offers access to both Beacon Hill and the West End.</p> <p>Across Cambridge Street, the West End is home to Massachusetts General Hospital, the TD Garden, the Museum of Science, and residential high-rises. There's plenty of garage parking; street parking is limited. To access by T, take the Red Line to Charles/MGH for the hospital and Charlesbank Park; the Green Line to Science Park for the Museum of Science, or to North Station for the TD Garden.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>From top to bottom, historic Beacon Hill can easily be explored in half a day. Shoppers will want to visit Charles Street after noon, when shops are more likely to be open. Add an extra few hours if you wish to linger on Boston Common or visit the State House or other historical sites. The West End is larger in area, so you'll walk more between attractions. The Museum of Science is worth a full day; smaller museums about an hour each.</b></li> </ul>

Beacon Hill is Boston at its most Bostonian. Redbrick row houses dressed with black shutters and the occasional violet-hued windowpane filter into view, and narrow streets return you to the 19th century just as surely as if you had stumbled into a time machine. Across Beacon Street from Beacon Hill, the wide expanse of Boston Common has provided green space for locals since 1634.

Its history dates to the Colonial Era; in ensuing years, Beacon Hill achieved a narrative that includes the abolitionist movement, politics, and, even, prostitution. Blue-blood Brahmins, with surnames like Cabot and Shaw, are perpetual residents, but the Hill gets a consistent influx of the contemporary at pricey boutiques on its main thoroughfare, Charles Street.

Boston Common had its start as a place for cattle to graze, then as an encampment for British regulars during the Revolutionary War, as a place for public assembly, and today, as a wonderful recreation area.

### Beacon Hill and Boston Common

Once the seat of the Commonwealth's government, Beacon Hill was called "Tri-mountain" and later "Tremont" by early colonists because of its three summits: Pemberton, Mt. Vernon Hill, and Beacon

Hill (named for the warning light set on its peak in 1634). In 1799, settlers leveled out the ground for residences, using it to create what is now Charles Street. By the early 19th century, the crests of the other two hills had also been lowered.

When the Hill's fashionable families decamped for the new development of the Back Bay starting in the 1850s, enough residents remained to ensure that the south slope of the Hill never lost its wealthy Brahmin character. By the mid-20th century, most of the multistory single-family dwellings on Beacon Hill had been converted to condominiums and apartments, which are today among the most expensive in the city.

A good place to begin an exploration of Beacon Hill is at the Boston Common Visitor Information Center, where you can buy a map or a complete guide to the Freedom Trail.

# Beacon Hill and Boston Common



- Sights**
- 1 Acorn Street..... E4
  - 2 Beacon Street..... D5
  - 3 Boston Athenaeum..... H4
  - 4 Boston Common..... F6
  - 5 Boston Common Frog Pond..... F5
  - 6 Boston Common Visitor Information Center..... G5

- 7 Central Burying Ground..... F7
- 8 Charles Street..... D2
- 9 Granary Burying Ground..... H4
- 10 Louisburg Square..... E3
- 11 Massachusetts State House..... G3

- 12 Mt. Vernon Street..... E3
- 13 Museum of African American History..... G2
- 14 Nichols House Museum..... F3
- 15 Park Street Church..... H4
- 16 Park Street Station..... H5
- 17 William Hickling Prescott House..... E4

- Restaurants**
- 1 Harvard Gardens..... E1
  - 2 Moo..... H3
  - 3 1928 Beacon Hill..... E4
  - 4 No. 9 Park..... H4
  - 5 Peregrine..... D2
  - 6 The TipTap Room..... G1



- Quick Bites**
- 1 Anna's Taqueria..... F1
  - 2 The Paramount..... D4
  - 3 Savenor's Market..... D2
  - 4 The Sevens Ale House..... D3

- 5 Tatte Bakery & Café..... D3
- 6 The Upper Crust Pizzeria..... D4

- Hotels**
- 1 The Whitney Hotel Boston..... D2
  - 2 XV Beacon..... H3

**KEY**

- 1 Sights
- 2 Restaurants
- 3 Quick Bites
- 4 Hotels
- 5 Subway station
- 6 Freedom Trail
- 7 Black Heritage Trail

## Sights

### ★ Acorn Street

**STREET** | Often called the city's most photographed passageway, Acorn Street offers its visitors an iconic image of "historic Boston." Short, steep, and narrow, the cobblestone street may be Boston's roughest ride, so leave your car behind. Brick row houses—once the homes of 19th-century artisans and tradespeople—line one side, and on the other, doors lead to Mt. Vernon's hidden gardens. Find American flags, creative door knockers, window boxes, and gas lights aplenty.  *Between W. Cedar and Willow Sts., Beacon Hill*  *Park, Charles MGH.*

### Beacon Street

**STREET** | Some New Englanders believe that wealth is a burden to be borne with a minimum of display. Happily, the early residents of Beacon Street were not among them. They erected many fine architectural statements, from the magnificent State House to grand patrician mansions. Here are some of the most important buildings of Charles Bulfinch, the ultimate designer of the Federal style in America: dozens of bowfront row houses, the Somerset Club, and the glorious Harrison Gray Otis House.  *Beacon Hill*  *Park.*

### Boston Athenæum

**LIBRARY** | One of the oldest libraries in the country, the Athenæum was founded in 1807 from the seeds sown by the Anthology Club (headed by Ralph Waldo Emerson's father). It moved to its imposing, present-day quarters—modeled after Palladio's Palazzo da Porta Festa in Vicenza, Italy—in 1849. Membership in this cathedral of scholarship has been passed down for generations, but the Athenæum is open in part to the public. The first floor houses an art gallery with rotating exhibits, marble busts, porcelain vases, lush oil paintings, and books. The children's room features secluded nooks overlooking the Granary Burying Ground.

To see one of the most marvelous sights in Boston academe, take a guided tour, which visits the fifth-floor Reading Room. Among the Athenæum's holdings are most of George Washington's private library, as well as King's Chapel Library, sent from England by William III in 1698. With a nod to the Information Age, an online catalog contains records for more than 600,000 volumes.  *10½ Beacon St., Beacon Hill*  617/227-0270  [www.bostonathenaeum.org](http://www.bostonathenaeum.org)  *From \$10*  *Closed Sun. and Mon.*  *Park.*

### ★ Boston Common

**CITY PARK | FAMILY** | Nothing is more central to the city than Boston Common, the oldest public park in the United States. Dating from 1634, the Common started as 50 acres where freemen could graze their cattle. (Cows were banned in 1830.) Don't confuse the Common with its sister park, the Public Garden, where the Swan Boats glide. Around the park, visit-worthy sites include Brewer Fountain Plaza, the start of the Freedom Trail, the Boston Common Visitor Information Center, the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, the Frog Pond, the Central Burying Ground, and the newly restored Robert Gould Shaw 54th Regiment Memorial.  **TIP** → *This is Freedom Trail stop 1.*  *Bounded by Beacon, Charles, Tremont, and Park Sts., Beacon Hill*  [www.boston.gov/parks/boston-common](http://www.boston.gov/parks/boston-common)  *Park, Boylston.*

### Boston Common Frog Pond

**ICE SKATING | FAMILY** | The Boston Common Frog Pond is a hot spot, no matter the season. In winter (November to March), city dwellers and visitors alike can skate around the man-made pool (skate rentals available), which vibes an atmosphere reminiscent of a Currier & Ives painting. In warm weather, the Frog Pond transforms into a shallow spray pool, free to all. Nearby, a carousel opens for most of the year, and a large playground is open year-round.  *Boston*

## Touring Beacon Street

After the **Boston Athenæum**, Beacon Street highlights begin at No. 34, originally the Cabot family residence and, until 1996, the headquarters of Little, Brown and Company, once a mainstay of Boston's publishing trade. At 33 Beacon, the **George Parkman House** shows off a gracious facade hiding more than a few secrets. One of the first sensational "trials of the century" involved the murder of Dr. George Parkman, a wealthy landlord and Harvard benefactor. He was bludgeoned to death in 1849 by Dr. John Webster, a Harvard medical professor and neighborhood acquaintance who allegedly became enraged by Parkman's demands that he repay a personal loan. At the conclusion of the trial, the professor was hanged; he's buried in an unmarked grave on Copp's Hill in the North End. Parkman's son lived in seclusion in this house overlooking the Common until he died in 1908. The building is now used for civic functions.

Notice the windows of the twin **Appleton-Parker Houses**, built by the pioneering textile merchant Nathan Appleton and a partner at Nos. 39 and 40. These are the celebrated purple panes of Beacon Hill; only a few

buildings have them, and they are incredibly valuable. Their amethystine color was the result of the action of the sun's ultraviolet light on imperfections in a shipment of glass sent to Boston circa 1820. The mansions aren't open to the public.

The quintessential snob has always been a Bostonian—and the **Somerset Club**, at 42 Beacon, has always been the inner sanctum of blue-blood Cabots, Lowells, and Lodges. The mansion is a rare intrusion of the granite Greek Revival style into Beacon Hill. The older of its two buildings was erected in 1819 by David Sears and designed by Alexander Parris, the architect of Quincy Market.

A few doors down at No. 45 resides the grandest of the three homes that Harrison Gray Otis, a U.S. senator and Boston's third mayor, built for himself. They are also the city's most splendidly ostentatious Federal-era houses, all designed by Charles Bulfinch and all still standing. Otis moved in circa 1805 and stayed until his death in 1848. The **Otis House** was once freestanding and surrounded by English-style gardens; today, it's the headquarters of the American Meteorological Society.

*Common, Beacon Hill*  617/635-2120  [www.bostonfrogpond.com](http://www.bostonfrogpond.com)  *Park.*

**Boston Common Visitor Information Center**  
**VISITOR CENTER | FAMILY** | Run by the Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau, this visitor information center not only serves as a well-staffed source of things to see and do, it is a frequent meeting spot for walking tours around town and is the first stop on Boston's historic Freedom Trail.  **TIP** → *Find it on the Tremont Street side of Boston Common, equidistant*

**between the Green Line's Boylston and Park Street T stops.**  *139 Tremont St., Beacon Hill*  617/536-4100  [www.bostonusa.com/plan/visitor-centers-and-guides](http://www.bostonusa.com/plan/visitor-centers-and-guides)  *Park, Boylston.*

### Central Burying Ground

**CEMETERY** | The Central Burying Ground may seem an odd feature for a public park, but remember that in 1756, when the land was set aside, this was a lonely corner of Boston Common. It's the final resting place of Tories and Patriots alike,



Several Founding Fathers rest at the Granary Burial Ground, a picturesque Freedom Trail stop.

as well as many British casualties of the Battle of Bunker Hill. The most famous person buried here is Gilbert Stuart, the portraitist best known for his likenesses of George and Martha Washington. ☒ *Boston Common, along Boylston St., Downtown* 🌐 [www.boston.gov/cemeteries/central-burying-ground](http://www.boston.gov/cemeteries/central-burying-ground) 📍 *Boylston*.

#### ★ Charles Street

**STREET** | You won't see any glaring neon signs, in keeping with the historic character of the area, but Charles Street more than makes up for the general lack of commercial development on Beacon Hill with a plethora of clothing, antiques, and gift boutiques, plus cafés. Once the home of Oliver Wendell Holmes and the publisher James T. Fields (of the famed Bostonian firm of Ticknor and Fields), Charles Street sparkles at dusk from gas-fueled lamps, making it a romantic place for an evening stroll. ☒ *Between Beacon and Cambridge Sts., Beacon Hill* 📍 *Charles/MGH*.

#### Granary Burying Ground

**CEMETERY** | Boston's cemeteries are among the most historic in America, and the Granary, established in 1660, is no exception. Headstones are elaborately ornamented with skeletons and winged skulls among other carved Colonial folk art. Samuel Adams, John Hancock, Paul Revere, and Benjamin Franklin's parents are among the impressive list of the estimated 5,000 folks interred here; there hasn't been a new burial since 1880. Note the winged hourglasses carved into the stone gateway of the burial ground; they are a 19th-century addition. ■ **TIP→ This is Freedom Trail stop 4.** ☒ *95 Tremont St., Beacon Hill* 🌐 [www.thefreedomtrail.org/trail-sites/granary-burying-ground](http://www.thefreedomtrail.org/trail-sites/granary-burying-ground) 📍 *Park*.

#### Louisburg Square

**PLAZA/SQUARE** | Charming Louisburg Square (don't drop the "s") was an 1840s model for a town-house development that was never built on the Hill because of space restrictions. Today, it features a central grassy square enclosed by

a wrought-iron fence and a history of famous tenants, including former U.S. secretary of state John Kerry. ☒ *Between Mt. Vernon and Pickney Sts., Beacon Hill* 📍 *Charles/MGH, Park*.

#### Massachusetts State House

**GOVERNMENT BUILDING** | **FAMILY** | On July 4, 1795, the surviving fathers of the Revolution were on hand to enshrine the ideals of their new Commonwealth in a graceful seat of government designed by Charles Bulfinch. Governor Samuel Adams and Paul Revere laid the cornerstone; Revere would later roll the copper sheathing for the dome. Inside the building, visitors can check out Doric Hall, with its statuary and portraits; the Hall of Flags, where an exhibit shows the battle flags from all the wars in which Massachusetts regiments have participated; the Great Hall, an open space used for state functions that houses 351 flags from the cities and towns of Massachusetts; the governor's office; and the chambers of the House and Senate. Free guided tours are available; call for reservations. ■ **TIP→ This is Freedom Trail stop 2.** ☒ *24 Beacon St., Beacon Hill* 📞 *617/727-3676* 🌐 [www.sec.state.ma.us/trs/trsidx.htm](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/trs/trsidx.htm) ☹ *Closed weekends* 📍 *Park*.

#### Mt. Vernon Street

**STREET** | Mt. Vernon Street runs from the flat of the Hill, past Louisburg Square, and all the way up to the Massachusetts State House. Along with Chestnut Street, it has some of Beacon Hill's most distinguished addresses, but Mt. Vernon is the grander of the two, with houses set back farther and rising taller. Henry James once wrote that Mt. Vernon Street was "the only respectable street in America," and he must have known, as he lived with his brother William at No. 131 in the 1860s. James was just one of many literary luminaries who resided here, including Julia Ward Howe, who composed "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and lived at No. 32, and the

poet Robert Frost, who lived at No. 88. ☒ *Mt. Vernon St., Beacon Hill* 📍 *Park*.

#### Museum of African American History

**HISTORY MUSEUM** | **FAMILY** | The Museum of African American History was established in 1964 to recognize Boston's African American community, from slavery through the abolitionist movement. The Abiel Smith School, the first public school in the nation built specifically for Black children, now serves as the museum's main building, filled with exhibits. Just around the corner, the African Meeting House was built in 1806 entirely by Black labor; in 1832, William Lloyd Garrison formed the New England Anti-Slavery Society here, and in 2011 the building completed a \$9.5 million restoration. ☒ *46 Joy St., Beacon Hill* 📞 *617/725-0022* 🌐 [maah.org](http://maah.org) 🎫 *\$10* ☹ *Closed to walk-in visitors.* 🎟 *Must reserve a ticket online to visit.* 📍 *Park*.

#### Nichols House Museum

**HISTORIC HOME** | The only Mt. Vernon Street home open to the public, the Nichols House was built in 1804 and is attributed to Charles Bulfinch. It became the lifelong home of Rose Standish Nichols (1872–1960), Beacon Hill eccentric, philanthropist, peace advocate, and one of the first female landscape designers. Nichols inherited the Victorian furnishings, but she added a number of Colonial-style pieces to the mix, and the result is a delightful mélange of styles. To see the house, you must take a guided tour. ☒ *55 Mt. Vernon St., Beacon Hill* 📞 *617/227-6993* 🌐 [www.nicholshouse-museum.org](http://www.nicholshouse-museum.org) 🎫 *\$12* ☹ *Closed Sun.–Wed.* 📍 *Park*.

#### Park Street Church

**HISTORIC SIGHT** | If this Congregationalist church at the corner of Tremont and Park Streets could sing, you'd hear Samuel Smith's iconic hymn "America," which was first sung here in 1831. But that's only one fun fact about this historic site. It was designed by Peter Banner and erected in 1810. The Handel & Haydn

## The Black Heritage Trail



Until the end of the 19th century, a vibrant, free, Black community—more than 8,000 at its peak—settled on the north slope of Beacon Hill. Here, Black-owned businesses lined the streets, and the community built houses, schools, and churches that stand to this day. For example, you can visit the African Meeting House, once called the Black Faneuil Hall, where orators rallied against slavery. Visitors can rediscover this 19th-century legacy on the Black Heritage Trail.

Established in the late 1960s, the self-guiding trail stitches together 14 sites along a 1½-mile walk. To tour on your own, pick up brochures from the **Museum of African American History** (☎ 46 Joy St.) or download one online at [www.maah.org](http://www.maah.org). National Park rangers give guided tours Wed.–Sun. Memorial Day through Columbus Day (🌐 [www.nps.gov/boaf/playyourvisit/hours.htm](http://www.nps.gov/boaf/playyourvisit/hours.htm)).

Start at the stirring **Robert Gould Shaw 54th Regiment Memorial** in Boston Common. Shaw, a young white officer from a prominent Boston abolitionist family, led the first Black regiment to be recruited in the North during the Civil War. From here, walk up Joy Street to 5–7 Pinckney Street to see the 1797 **George Middleton House**, Beacon Hill's oldest existing home built by Black Americans. Nearby, the **Phillips School** at Anderson and Pinckney Streets was one of Boston's first integrated schools. The **John J. Smith House**, at 86 Pinckney, was a rendezvous point for abolitionists and escaping enslaved people, and the **Charles Street Meeting House**, at Mt. Vernon and Charles Streets,

was once a Baptist church and later a community center. In 1876 the building became the site of the **African Methodist Episcopal Church**, which was the last Black institution to leave Beacon Hill, in 1939. The **Lewis and Harriet Hayden House** at 66 Phillips Street, the home of freed enslaved people turned abolitionists, was a stop on the Underground Railroad. Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, visited here in 1853 for her first glimpse of fugitive enslaved people. The Haydens reportedly kept a barrel of gunpowder under the front step, saying they'd blow up the house before they'd surrender a single person. At **2 Phillips Street**, John Coburn, cofounder of a Black military company, ran a gaming house, described as a "private place for gentlemen."

The five residences on **Smith Court** are typical of African American Bostonian homes of the 1800s, including No. 3, the 1799 clapboard house where William C. Nell, America's first published Black historian and a crusader for school integration, boarded from 1851 to 1865. At the corner of Joy Street and Smith Court is the **Abiel Smith School**, the city's first public school for Black children. The school's exhibits interpret the ongoing struggle started in the 1830s for equal school rights. Next door is the venerable **African Meeting House**, which was the community's center of social, educational, and political activity. The ground level houses a gallery; in the airy upstairs, you can imagine the fiery sermons that once rattled the upper pews.

Society was founded here in 1815. William Lloyd Garrison began his long public campaign for the abolition of slavery here in 1829. Just outside the church is Brimstone Corner, and whether the name refers to the fervent thunder of the church's preachers, the gunpowder that was once stored in the church's crypt, or the burning sulfur that preachers once scattered on the pavement to attract potential churchgoers, we'll never know—historians simply can't agree. This Freedom Trail site is not open for tours, only services. ■ **TIP→ This is Freedom Trail stop 3.** ☎ 1 Park St., Beacon Hill ☎ 617/523-3383 🌐 [www.parkstreet.org](http://www.parkstreet.org) ☺ Closed as a historic site. Open for services. 📄 Park.

### Park Street Station

**TRAIN/TRAIN STATION | FAMILY** | One of the first four stops on the first subway in America, Park Street Station opened for service in 1897, against the warnings of those convinced it would make buildings along Tremont Street collapse. The copper-roof kiosks are National Historic Landmarks—outside them cluster vendors, street musicians, and partisans of causes and beliefs ranging from Irish nationalism to Krishna Consciousness. The station is the heart of Boston's subway system; "inbound" trains are always traveling toward Park Street. ☎ Park St. at Tremont St., Beacon Hill 🌐 [www.mbta.com](http://www.mbta.com) 📄 Park.

### William Hickling Prescott House

**HISTORIC HOME** | Now a modest but engaging house museum, this 1808 Federal-style structure was designed by Asher Benjamin. From 1845 to 1859, it was the home of noted historian William Hickling Prescott, and today it's the headquarters for the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Guided tours venture through rooms furnished with period furniture, including Prescott's former study with his desk and "noctograph," which helped the nearly blind scholar write. Fun

fact: Prescott's secret staircase allowed him to escape into his study when bored by guests in the parlor. ☎ 55 Beacon St., Beacon Hill ☎ 617/742-3190 🌐 [nscda.org](http://nscda.org) 🎫 \$10 ☺ Closed Oct.–May for guided tours, unless by appointment. 📄 Park, Arlington.

## 🍴 Restaurants

Eminently walkable, this is one of Boston's smallest and most historic neighborhoods, filled with brick sidewalks, shimmering gas lamps, and 19th-century row houses. On the food front you'll find an appealing blend of fancy and casual restaurants, as well as cafés, along the main pedestrian path of Charles Street. There are also a few standouts near the State House. In general, expect somewhat higher prices in Beacon Hill than you will find elsewhere in Boston.

### Harvard Gardens

🍷 | **AMERICAN** | A Beacon Hill legend, this was the first bar in the city to get its liquor license after the repeal of Prohibition. It opened in 1930, and was owned by the same family until the 1990s. **Known for:** a Reuben sandwich stuffed with corned beef that's made in-house; casual, comfortable vibe that's a little bit different from a typical Beacon Hill experience; a killer, house-made Bloody Mary mixed with the bar's own peppercorn vodka. 📄 Average main: \$17 ☎ 316 Cambridge St., Beacon Hill ☎ 617/523-2727 🌐 [www.harvardgardens.com](http://www.harvardgardens.com) 📄 Charles/MGH.

### Mooo....

\$\$\$\$ | **STEAKHOUSE** | Do dress nicely for a visit to Mooo...., a luxurious, refined steak house inside the swanky XV Beacon hotel that remains civilized despite the restaurant's somewhat whimsical name. Prime, dry-aged steaks are served à la carte, and, although the Japanese A5 Wagyu sirloin will set you back \$190, portions are as exaggerated as the prices. **Known for:** delightful, attentive service; hefty prices; unbelievably delicious

steaks served in a dining room with “cow” art. 📍 **Average main:** \$75 📍 *XV Beacon Hotel, 15 Beacon St., Beacon Hill* 📞 617/670-2515 🌐 [www.moorestaurant.com](http://www.moorestaurant.com) 📍 **Park.**

### 1928 Beacon Hill

\$\$\$\$ | **AMERICAN** | Just off bustling Charles Street, this cozy neighborhood gem is filled to the brim with New England charm in the form of antique-chic decor that celebrates Boston's history. The menu of elevated American classics, from wedge salad to lobster rolls and filet mignon, is well curated, and the cocktails shine. **Known for:** collection of bourbon and whiskey; oysters and lobster; brunch and after-work drink scene. 📍 **Average main:** \$36 📍 *97 Mt. Vernon St., Beacon Hill* 📞 857/233-5662 🌐 [www.1928beaconhill.com](http://www.1928beaconhill.com) 📍 **Charles/MGH.**

### ★ No. 9 Park

\$\$\$\$ | **EUROPEAN** | Welcome to the first and now flagship restaurant in acclaimed chef Barbara Lynch's empire. Even after 25 years, No. 9 Park continues to win rave reviews for Lynch's stellar, unique interpretation of fine French and Italian cuisine. **Known for:** polished service; Lynch's memorably rich, prune-stuffed gnocchi; a chef's six-course, wine-paired tasting menu. 📍 **Average main:** \$48 📍 *9 Park St., Beacon Hill* 📞 617/742-9991 🌐 [www.no9park.com](http://www.no9park.com) 📍 **Park.**

### Peregrine

\$\$\$ | **MEDITERRANEAN** | Owner and chef Josh Lewin serves up a sophisticated take on rustic, coastal Mediterranean food, and diners are meant to rest, order slowly, and enjoy a meal in multiple stages. Everything is made from scratch in the kitchen, and although the preparations are Italian-based, there's a nod to New England ingredients and seasonality. **Known for:** curated wine selection from small vineyards; all-day dining; signature family-style Sunday suppers. 📍 **Average main:** \$35 📍 *The Whitney Hotel, 170 Charles St., Beacon Hill* 📞 617/826-1762 🌐 [www.peregrineboston.com](http://www.peregrineboston.com) 📍 **Charles/MGH.**

### The Tip Tap Room

\$\$ | **AMERICAN** | **FAMILY** | Befitting its name, chef Brian Poe's casual Beacon Hill restaurant focuses on two main things: meat and interesting beers on tap. But, Poe's menu of meat goes beyond steak and chicken staples, and depending on the season and what's readily available from purveyors, dinner entrées may feature bison, camel, ostrich, emu, kangaroo, snake, yak, elk, or antelope. **Known for:** exotic meat specials, like kangaroo and ostrich; amazing local beer menu; a half-dozen-plus styles of meat tips, from steak to swordfish, and even tofu. 📍 **Average main:** \$24 📍 *138 Cambridge St., Beacon Hill* 📞 857/350-3344 🌐 [www.thetiptaproom.com](http://www.thetiptaproom.com) 📍 **Bowdoin, Charles/MGH.**

### ☕ Coffee and Quick Bites

#### Anna's Taqueria

\$ | **MEXICAN** | **FAMILY** | Inspired by the authentic Mexican takeout readily available in West Coast cities, Anna's owner moved to Boston and opened shop more than 25 years ago. This small, local chain has been a hit ever since for its burritos, tacos, and quesadillas. **Known for:** fat, flavorful burritos; bringing the heat with really spicy sauces you can add on; tacos al pastor—marinated, rotisserie cooked pork with pineapples and onions. 📍 **Average main:** \$8 📍 *242 Cambridge St., Beacon Hill* 📞 617/227-8822 🌐 [www.annataqueria.com](http://www.annataqueria.com) 📍 **Charles/MGH.**

#### ★ The Paramount

\$ | **AMERICAN** | **FAMILY** | Don't be surprised to see a queue at this neighborhood hot spot, no matter the time of day. Regulars happily line up for waffles topped with fresh fruit, caramel and banana french toast, huge salads, and hefty sandwiches, all made to order as you do from the counter. **Known for:** decadent, all-day breakfast items; Old Bay—seasoned home fries; long, but quick-moving, lines. 📍 **Average main:** \$12 📍 *44 Charles St.,*

*Beacon Hill* 📞 617/720-1152 🌐 [www.paramountboston.com](http://www.paramountboston.com) 📍 **Charles/MGH.**

#### Savener's Market

\$ | **SANDWICHES** | In need of snacks for a cocktail party or something for the grill, Beacon Hill residents pop over to this market famous for being Julia Child's favorite butcher and known for procuring exotic game meats. Tamer choices include sandwiches, prepared salads, outstanding cheeses, breads, tinned fish, hummus, dips and more—this place is a foodie's nirvana. **Known for:** delicious sandwiches to-go; exotic meat and game selections at its butcher counter; supplying established and emerging chefs with inspiration. 📍 **Average main:** \$10 📍 *160 Charles St., Beacon Hill* 📞 617/723-6328 🌐 [www.savenermarket.com](http://www.savenermarket.com) ☹️ **Closed Sun.** 📍 **Charles/MGH.**

#### The Sevens Ale House

\$ | **AMERICAN** | This classic dive bar has been serving beer and wine (no liquor) since 1933. Today, it's pleasantly untrendy and an easygoing alternative to Beacon Hill's tony stuffiness, with its battered dark wood bar and booths, simple setup, dartboard, perfectly poured pints, and great pub food. **Known for:** a tasty French dip; a no-frills environment; great selection of small producer craft beers in addition to the usual suspects. 📍 **Average main:** \$11 📍 *77 Charles St., Beacon Hill* 📞 617/523-9074 📍 **Charles/MGH.**

#### ★ Tatte Bakery & Café

\$ | **ISRAELI** | This upscale bakery and café with several locations in Boston 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:** signature nut tarts that are as pretty as they are tasty; convivial atmosphere; traditional North African shakshuka. 📍 **Average main:** \$12 📍 *70 Charles St., Beacon Hill* 📞 617/723-5555 🌐 [www.tattebakery.com](http://www.tattebakery.com) 📍 **Charles/MGH.**

### The Upper Crust Pizzeria

\$\$ | **PIZZA** | Walk into the Upper Crust's first location, and you'll see the staff pulling scratch-made dough in the open kitchen. The Neapolitan-style pizza—you can order by the slice (they're huge) or by the pie—is really tasty, and toppings go creatively beyond a classic cheese or pepperoni. **Known for:** creative topping combinations; limited seating options; deliciously thin, Neapolitan-style pizza crust. 📍 **Average main:** \$20 📍 *20 Charles St., Beacon Hill* 📞 617/723-9600 🌐 [www.theuppercrustpizzeria.com](http://www.theuppercrustpizzeria.com) 📍 **Charles/MGH.**

### 🏨 Hotels

If you want calm, serenity, and class, then stay on Beacon Hill, one of the poshest neighborhoods in Boston. Its streets are lined with elegant brick buildings holding unique shops and restaurants, within close proximity to many other neighborhoods, including the Back Bay, Downtown, and Government Center.

#### ★ The Whitney Hotel Boston

\$\$\$\$ | **HOTEL** | This luxury boutique hotel fits right in with its Beacon Hill surroundings, views of which you can enjoy while you relax in-room in a plush Frette bathrobe with a cup of Nespresso coffee. **Pros:** excellent location within walking distance of the Back Bay, the West End, and Downtown; excellent restaurant on-site, Peregrine; complimentary bicycles. **Cons:** high noise levels from traffic in Storrow Drive-facing rooms; long wait for the valet; high valet fee. 📍 **Rooms from:** \$600 📍 *170 Charles St., Beacon Hill* 📞 617/367-1866 🌐 [www.whitneyhotelboston.com](http://www.whitneyhotelboston.com) ↗️ *65 rooms* 🏠 **No Meals** 📍 **Charles/MGH.**

#### ★ XV Beacon

\$\$\$\$ | **HOTEL** | The 1903 Beau-Arts exterior of this intimate, luxury boutique hotel is a study in sophistication and elegance. **Pros:** rooftop deck with amazing city

views; complimentary Lexus car service; dogs of any size welcome for no fee.

**Cons:** can be expensive on weekends during peak months; no view from classic rooms; some rooms are small. 📍 *Rooms from: \$900* 📍 *15 Beacon St., Beacon Hill* ☎ *617/670-1500* 🌐 *www.xvbeacon.com* 🚗 *63 rooms* 🍷 *No Meals* 📄 *Park.*

## 🍷 Nightlife

There are no dance clubs in this leafy, patrician enclave. In fact, nightlife options are scarce, but not altogether missing, and most live up by the State House.

### BARS

#### Carrie Nation

**BARS** | Right around the corner from the Massachusetts State House, this bar channels speakeasy vibes with jazzy tunes, tasty food, and fantastic cocktails. On Sunday, check out the buffet brunch and drag show; you'll need to reserve a ticket. 📍 *11 Beacon St., Beacon Hill* ☎ *617/227-3100* 🌐 *www.carrienation-cocktailclub.com* 📄 *Park Street.*

#### Cheers

**BARS** | This pub—dismantled in England, shipped to Boston, and reassembled—formerly known as The Bull & Finch, later became the inspiration for the now-classic TV series *Cheers*. Enjoy a burger at the model bar of the Hollywood set and imagine Sam and Diane walking in the door and calling your name. The crowd tends to be heavily tourists, so locals stay away. No children after 10 pm. 📍 *84 Beacon St., Beacon Hill* ☎ *617/227-9605* 🌐 *www.cheersboston.com* 📄 *Park, Arlington.*

#### Roxanne's

**BARS** | With a wall lined in tropical wallpaper and a neon purple sign, this cocktail bar offers a rare nightlife outpost in the Beacon Hill neighborhood, and a trendy one at that. On the menu, the ingredients that make up the drink offerings are just as creative as their names and include such things as butterfly pea

flower-infused gin and Aztec chocolate bitters. This place is popular, so reservations are strongly recommended. 📍 *6B Beacon St., Beacon Hill* ☎ *857/338-1113* 🌐 *www.roxannesboston.com* 📄 *Park Street.*

### The 21st Amendment

**BARS** | Named for the amendment that ended Prohibition, this longstanding convivial pub, right across the street from the State House draws legislators, lobbyists, and neighborhood regulars who trade gossip and insider info over notched wooden tables and beers. The food is surprisingly good. 📍 *150 Bowdoin St., Beacon Hill* ☎ *617/227-7100* 🌐 *www.21stboston.com* 📄 *Park.*

## 🛍 Shopping

Most of the commerce that happens in Beacon Hill today happens on its main thoroughfare, Charles Street. Until recently, Charles Street was a premier destination for antiques shopping, but over the last few decades, posh, independently owned gift, jewelry, and women's clothing boutiques have moved in and taken over the expensive commercial real estate of this upper class neighborhood.

### ANTIQUES

#### Boston Antiques and Lamp Shades

**ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES** | This flea market-style collection of dealers has been in business since 1981. The shop focuses on lamp shades (as its name indicates), plus vintage items, china, silver, home decor pieces, pillows, and jewelry. 📍 *119 Charles St., Beacon Hill* ☎ *617/367-9000* 🌐 *www.bostonantiquesandlampshades.com* 📄 *Charles/MGH.*

#### Upstairs Downstairs Home

**ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES** | This Beacon Hill standout features furniture and home decor in a variety of styles. While much of it is antiques or vintage pieces from Federal and Asian to art deco and mid-century modern, some items are new

and/or reproduction pieces. Artwork by local artists and antique prints rounds out the selection. 📍 *69 Charles St., Beacon Hill* ☎ *617/367-1950* 🌐 *www.upstairs-downstairsboston.com* 📄 *Charles/MGH.*

### CLOTHING

#### Crush Boutique

**WOMEN'S CLOTHING** | Find weekend casual outfits, jeans, silky shifts, and even party attire at this feminine boutique. Accessories are not overlooked, as Crush offers jewelry and handbags that will dress up any ensemble. 📍 *138 Charles St., Beacon Hill* ☎ *617/720-0010* 🌐 *www.shopcrush-boutique.com* 📄 *Charles/MGH.*

#### December Thieves

**WOMEN'S CLOTHING** | The edgiest clothing boutique on the Hill, December Thieves stocks fashion-forward, contemporary, emerging designers and brands from Europe, Asia, Latin America, and other places across the globe. Find a curated and wildly fun array of apparel, scarves, handbags, jewelry, beauty products, and home decor. 📍 *51 Charles St., Beacon Hill* ☎ *857/239-9149* 🌐 *decemberthieves.com* 📄 *Charles/MGH.*

#### Dress

**WOMEN'S CLOTHING** | True to its name, this locally owned specialty store curates designer party dresses, but the selection doesn't end there. Women will also find tops and pants, shoes, accessories, handbags, and even a few home goods items. 📍 *70 Charles St., Beacon Hill* ☎ *617/248-9910* 🌐 *www.dressboston.com* 📄 *Charles/MGH.*

#### East Coast Ivy

**WOMEN'S CLOTHING** | This ultra-tiny space makes on-trend clothing at a mid-range price point its business. From tops and dresses to swimwear, these are apparel items designed for going out of the house. 📍 *88 Charles St., Beacon Hill* ☎ *717/364-6842* 🌐 *east-coast-ivy.myshopify.com* 📄 *Charles/MGH.*

### French + Italian

**WOMEN'S CLOTHING** | Exquisite European fabric and design comes to this upscale neighborhood boutique that spotlights emerging designers from Paris, Milan, and New York. Pieces can be expensive, but they're meant to be versatile wardrobe staples. 📍 *119 Charles St., Beacon Hill* ☎ *857/990-3141* 🌐 *www.frenchitalian.com* 📄 *Charles/MGH.*

#### Helen's Leather

**SHOES** | Channel your inner Western spirit at this family-owned shop specializing in cowboy wear, including hand-tooled boots embroidered, dyed, and crafted from leather and exotic skins. Browse leather sandals, jackets, briefcases, luggage, and other accessories from top quality brands, including Lucchese, Dan Post, Frye, and Old Gringo. 📍 *110 Charles St., Beacon Hill* ☎ *617/742-2077* 🌐 *www.helensleather.com* 📄 *Charles/MGH.*

#### Whitney + Winston

**MIXED CLOTHING** | This too cute—and a bit bohemian—mom and kid clothing store features looks from fairly expensive, small brands, and there's no question as to its place in Beacon Hill society. This is where the neighborhood women come to buy frocks that aren't made to be worn to the office. There's also a nice selection of toys and kid gift items, including stuffed animals and sensory jars. 📍 *113 Charles St., Beacon Hill* ☎ *617/720-2600* 🌐 *shopcrushboutique.com/collections/whitney-winston* 📄 *Charles / MGH.*

### GIFTS

#### ★ Beacon Hill Chocolates

**CANDY** | Let this store's aroma entice you to enter before it wows you with stunning display cases lined with local and European artisan chocolates that you can buy by the piece. You can also shop a vast array of gourmet chocolate bars, some bagged candy, and a few flavors of gelato. Yum! 📍 *91 Charles St., Beacon Hill* ☎ *617/725-1900* 🌐 *beaconhillchocolates.com* 📄 *Charles/MGH.*

## Blackstones

**SOUVENIRS** | If you've shopped Charles Street in the last 45 years, you'll recognize this long-standing shop, now in a much larger location. Many of the gifts, books, and greeting cards on display are made in the United States and locally focused. The back room boasts an awesome selection of spices, Swedish dish cloths, and small kitchen utensils. ☎ 40 Charles St., Beacon Hill ☎ 617/227-4646 🌐 [www.blackstonesbeaconhill.com](http://www.blackstonesbeaconhill.com) 📍 Charles/MGH.

## Flat of the Hill

**SOUVENIRS** | Look for the lifelike golden retriever that guards the entrance to this shop named for its location at the base—or, flat—of Beacon Hill. The semi-preppy selection includes loads of candles, unique jewelry, hand-woven totes from Mexico, and a well-curated range of fancy souvenirs like Boston University winter hats and embroidered canvas Massachusetts travel bags. ☎ 60 Charles St., Beacon Hill ☎ 617/619-9977 🌐 [www.flatofthehill.com](http://www.flatofthehill.com) 📍 Charles/MGH.

## ★ Gus & Ruby

**STATIONERY** | Sure, we love our technology, but we still also really love paper products and that's the majority of what this cool gift store stocks. First, explore the entire section devoted to wares by Rifle Paper Co., and then pick up something for the cherished infant in your life from the edited selection of precious and expensive baby clothing. There are also artful gift items focused on the cities of Boston and Portland, Maine. ☎ 99 Charles St., Beacon Hill ☎ 617/651-5151 🌐 [gusandruby.com](http://gusandruby.com) 📍 Charles/MGH.

## The Happy Journey

**TOYS** | Need a unique gift for a tot under the age of three years old? This small store stocks books and toys you definitely won't find at big chain stores. If you've got kids with you, there's a nice back room where they can play while you shop. ☎ 73 Charles St., Beacon Hill ☎ 617/936-3917 📍 Charles/MGH.

## Paws on Charles

**PET STORES** | If there is one constant in Beacon Hill, it's the number of dogs that live with residents of the neighborhood and are always walking along Charles Street or in the Common. This makes it only more fitting that there's a pet shop nearby, filled with dog food and treats, leashes, collars, and chew toys. Want to dress up the pooch? This place has you covered. ☎ 123 Charles St., Beacon Hill ☎ 617/936-4163 🌐 [www.pawsoncharles.com](http://www.pawsoncharles.com) 📍 Charles/MGH.

## Rugg Road Paper Company

**STATIONERY** | This longtime Charles Street destination attracts patrons who like to put pen to paper. Elegant greeting cards from Crane and The British Museum pair up with notebooks from Moleskin, and a healthy selection of pens. ☎ 105 Charles St., Beacon Hill ☎ 617/742-0002 🌐 [www.ruggroadpaper.com](http://www.ruggroadpaper.com) 📍 Charles/MGH.

## JEWELRY

### Persona Jewelry

**JEWELRY & WATCHES** | Using precious metals and a variety of gemstones, Gary Shteyman crafts gorgeous, unique pieces from his in-store workshop for Persona's own line of fine jewelry. Elsewhere in the store, necklaces, earrings, bangles, and bold cocktail rings by a few local designers fill the cases. ☎ 62 Charles St., Beacon Hill ☎ 617/266-3003 🌐 [www.personastyle.com](http://www.personastyle.com) 📍 Charles/MGH.

## BEAUTY

### Follain

**COSMETICS** | If you're focused on eco-friendly choices as much as you are personal beauty, stop into this boutique that got its start right here in Boston. Follain carries all manner of skin care, face and hand wash, makeup, and more by clean beauty brands both local and national. Not sure what's right for you? Try it out—there's even an in-store sink to wash off what you don't like. ☎ 65 Charles St., Beacon Hill ☎ 857/233-5211 🌐 [follain.com](http://follain.com) 📍 Charles/MGH.

# The West End

One of Boston's less-traveled neighborhoods, the West End features primarily recent construction—the brick tenements housing myriad ethnic groups and the tangled web of streets of the old West End were razed in the 1960s in the name of urban renewal. A few structures survived, namely Massachusetts General Hospital and the former Suffolk County Jail, which now houses The Liberty, a luxury hotel.

Today, the West End remains largely residential, except for Causeway Street and its offshoots. This is where the TD Garden holds court, hosting Bruins and Celtics games. In recent years, a number of hotels and restaurants have moved in.

Where the Charles River separates the West End in Boston from the city of Cambridge, the Museum of Science puts a cool spin on technology, earth sciences, and more. And, on the skyline one can spy the Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Memorial Bridge, a majestic and modern piece of transportation architecture.

## 👁️ Sights

### The Ether Dome at Mass General Hospital

**HISTORIC SIGHT** | **FAMILY** | Tiny, but well worth the 15 minutes you'll spend here if you're already in the neighborhood, this operating theater is open to the public because of its historical significance. In fact, it served as Mass General Hospital's first operating room, in use from 1821 to 1867, and it was here where the world witnessed the first public demonstration of surgical anesthesia, in 1846. Today, the room contains two 19th-century operating chairs complete with red velvet to mask patients' blood, a teaching skeleton, and, interestingly, an authentic Egyptian mummy. ☎ Mass General's Bulfinch Bldg., 55 Fruit St., West End ↕ Enter historic gray Bulfinch

Bldg. at its main door, Ether Dome is on 4th floor ☎ 617/724-8009 🌐 [www.mass-general.org/museum/exhibits/ether-dome](http://www.mass-general.org/museum/exhibits/ether-dome) ☹ Closed Sat.–Sun. 📍 Charles/MGH.

### Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Memorial Bridge

**BRIDGE** | Dedicated in 2002, the Zakim Bridge is the crown jewel of Boston's legendary Big Dig construction project. The Zakim rings in at 1,432 feet, is one of the widest cable-stayed hybrid bridges ever built, and is the first to use an asymmetrical design. At night, the illuminated bridge glows different colors. ☎ Old West End.

### ★ Museum of Science

**SCIENCE MUSEUM** | **FAMILY** | From its perch above the Charles River, the Museum of Science sits half in Cambridge and half in Boston. This unique trait is the first of many at this 70-plus-year-old institution that's focused on science, technology, and hands-on learning. Diverse permanent exhibits explore dinosaurs, the electromagnetic spectrum, modern conservation, math, motion, nanotechnology, the natural world, space travel, and more. The Theater of Electricity hosts explosive daily lightening shows. Add-ons to admission include: the multisensory 4-D Theater, the Charles Hayden Planetarium, and the newly renovated Mugar Omni Theater with IMAX programming. ☎ Science Park, 1 Museum of Science Driveway, Old West End ☎ 617/723-2500 🌐 [www.mos.org](http://www.mos.org) 🎫 \$29 🕒 Timed tickets required; reserve in advance. 📍 Science Park.

### Otis House

**HISTORIC HOME** | The stately Federal-style manor on Cambridge Street was designed by Charles Bulfinch for former Boston mayor and lawyer Harrison Gray Otis. Today, the National Historic Landmark serves as the headquarters for the heritage organization Historic New England, and visitors can stop in for guided tours that offer insight into

wealthy domestic life during the early 1800s. ☒ 141 Cambridge St., Old West End ☎ 617/994-5920 🌐 www.historicnewengland.org/property/otis-house 🗨️ \$15 ☺ Closed Mon.–Thurs. 🚗 Charles/MGH, Bowdoin.

**Paul S. Russell, MD Museum of Medical History and Innovation**  
**SCIENCE MUSEUM** | The campus of Mass General Hospital is a fitting site for this small museum dedicated to the hallowed medical institution's past, present, and future discoveries. Shiny copper and glass walls enfold interesting exhibits on topics like patient care, fMRI development, depression and dementia, and targeted cancer therapy. Interactive displays ask visitors to try out mirror therapy and train for laproscopic surgery like a doctor would. Historical artifacts—some quite terrifying—are peppered around the space for an eye-opening lesson in our forefathers' medical techniques. A few temporary exhibits and films rotate in and out. ☒ 2 N. Grove St., Old West End ☎ 617/724-8009 🌐 www.massgeneral.org/museum ☺ Closed Sun. 🚗 Charles/MGH.

**The Sports Museum**  
**SPORTS VENUE | FAMILY** | The fifth and sixth levels of the TD Garden house The Sports Museum, where displays of memorabilia and photographs showcase New England-based amateur and pro sports history and legends. Test your sports knowledge with interactive games, see how you stand up to life-size statues of heroes Carl Yastrzemski and Larry Bird, and take an hour-long tour of the museum. ☒ 100 Legends Way, West End ➔ Use TD Garden's The Hub on Causeway grand entrance for access ☎ 617/212-6814 🌐 www.sportsmuseum.org 🗨️ \$20 ☺ Closed during games and TD Garden events; check up-to-date calendar on website. 🚗 North Station.

**TD Garden**  
**SPORTS VENUE | FAMILY** | This mammoth, modern facility opened in 1995 to the

## Duck Boats



Have you noticed the unusual looking, boat-like vehicles touring around Boston's streets? While carrying more than half a million people every year, these **Boston Duck Tours** (☎ 617/267-3825) are amphibious journeys that venture into the Greenway and the Back Bay, Downtown, and the West End, to explore the city's many points of interest before coasting into the Charles River. You might even get to captain for awhile; 80-minute tours (🗨️ \$49) depart from the Prudential Center, the Museum of Science, and, seasonally, the New England Aquarium.

chagrin of diehard local sports fans who occasionally still grieve the crusty, old Boston Garden. Today, the home arena of the Boston Celtics (basketball) and Boston Bruins (hockey) seats nearly 20,000 patrons and also hosts headlining musical acts, Disney on Ice, wrestling events, and Boston's famed Beanpot tourney. ☒ 100 Legends Way, Old West End ➔ Use The Hub on Causeway grand entrance for access to TD Garden ☎ 617/624-1000 🌐 www.tdgame.com ☺ Closed during ticketed events 🚗 North Station.

## 🍴 Restaurants

**A&B Kitchen & Bar**  
 \$ | AMERICAN | FAMILY | Sourcing ingredients from small, family farms is the main goal of this local, casual restaurant where hungry diners clamor for salads, burgers, and a few entrées. With its proximity to the TD Garden, it can and does get busy on game days, and service tends to slow down. **Known for:** hot spot before Bruins and Celtics games; delicious burgers; nice patio in fair weather. 📍 Average



<p><b>Sights</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 The Ether Dome at Mass General Hospital ..... B4</li> <li>2 Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Memorial Bridge ... D2</li> <li>3 Museum of Science..... A2</li> <li>4 Otis House.....C6</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 Paul S. Russell, MD Museum of Medical History and Innovation ..... B6</li> <li>6 The Sports Museum.... D3</li> <li>7 TD Garden ..... D3</li> </ul> <p><b>Restaurants</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 A&amp;B Kitchen &amp; Bar..... E3</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 Alcove..... E3</li> <li>3 Momosan Ramen Boston by Morimoto ..... D3</li> <li>4 Scampo..... A5</li> </ul> <p><b>Quick Bites</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Hub Hall..... D3</li> <li>2 Night Shift Brewing Tap Room ..... E3</li> </ul>	<p><b>Hotels</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 The Boxer Boston ..... D4</li> <li>2 citizenM Boston ..... D4</li> <li>3 Courtyard by Marriott Downtown Boston/ North Station..... E3</li> <li>4 Hotel Indigo Boston Garden..... D4</li> <li>5 The Liberty..... A5</li> </ul>
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main: \$15 ☒ 115 Beverly St., Old West End ☎ 857/449-2251 🌐 [www.anbkitchen.com](http://www.anbkitchen.com) ☺ Closed Mon. 📍 North Station.

### Alcove

\$\$\$ | CONTEMPORARY | A mix of New England seafood dishes, European-style charcuterie, and an international flair to most everything else describes what you'll see on the menu at this West End restaurant with a view; you're meant to share plates with your guests, but you can also order solo if that's your preference. Meals here are comfortable, with coastal vibes and spectacular views of the Zakim Bridge. **Known for:** fantastic, small-producer wine program, with hands-on customer approach; fantastic views; tasty weekend brunch. ☎ Average main: \$28 ☒ 50 Lovejoy Wharf, West End ☎ 617/248-0050 🌐 [www.alcoveboston.com](http://www.alcoveboston.com) 📍 North Station.

### Momosan Ramen Boston by Morimoto

\$\$ | JAPANESE FUSION | Iron Chef Masaharu Morimoto brings his signature Japanese fusion to this casual ramen spot next door to the TD Garden. Of course, ramen (six styles, and a dozen toppings) is only one portion of the menu, which also features sushi, small plates, and grilled fish, meat, and seafood. **Known for:** A5 waygu steak seared tableside; extra busy during TD Garden events; extensive sake menu. ☎ Average main: \$20 ☒ 80 Causeway St., Old West End ☎ 617/263-8800 🌐 [www.hubhallboston.com](http://www.hubhallboston.com) 📍 North Station.

### ★ Scampo

\$\$\$\$ | ITALIAN | The Italian word "scampo" translates to "escape" in English, and that's what this restaurant at The Liberty hotel—the former site of the Charles Street Jail—is: an escape into chef-owner Lydia Shire's delectable, buttery take on Italian-American cuisine. Everything is made from scratch, down to the bread, and including a dozen different exceptional pastas and nearly as many crusty pizzas. **Known for:** tandoori-oven-cooked,

crusty pizzas (the lamb is a classic) and breads; eclectic vibe; unique meal specials on the weekends. ☎ Average main: \$41 ☒ The Liberty Hotel, 215 Charles St., Old West End ☎ 617/536-2100 🌐 [www.scampoboston.com](http://www.scampoboston.com) 📍 Charles/MGH.

## ☕ Coffee and Quick Bites

### Hub Hall

\$ | INTERNATIONAL | FAMILY | Situated in the TD Garden, this unique food hall serves up more than a dozen different food and drink options, many of which are little sister outposts for chefs and restaurants local to the Boston and New England area. Try barbecue at The Smoke Shop or Italian desserts at Mike's Pastry. **Known for:** packed during Celtics and Bruins games; lots of Boston favorites under one roof; quick service. ☎ Average main: \$14 ☒ 80 Causeway St., Old West End ☎ 617/263-8900 🌐 [www.hubhallboston.com](http://www.hubhallboston.com) 📍 North Station.

### Night Shift Brewing Tap Room

\$ | AMERICAN | More than just a tap room, this place satisfies a variety of different needs, although beer is at the forefront; there are more than two dozen beers on tap—as well as a couple hard seltzers and some nonalcoholic varieties. The lunch and dinner menu has items made from scratch like salads, sandwiches, flatbreads, and main dishes. **Known for:** roasts its own coffee beans; tasty food; brews its own beers. ☎ Average main: \$17 ☒ 1 Lovejoy Wharf, Old West End ☎ 617/294-4233 🌐 [www.nightshiftbrewing.com](http://www.nightshiftbrewing.com) 📍 North Station.

## 🏨 Hotels

### The Boxer Boston

\$\$\$\$ | HOTEL | This lovely boutique hotel in one of Boston's only flatiron buildings features a contemporary, "industrial chic" look. **Pros:** always free Wi-Fi; Peloton machines in fitness center; close



Overlooking the Charles River, the Museum of Science—sitting half in Cambridge and half in Boston—focuses on science, technology, and hands-on learning.

to popular areas. **Cons:** far from Back Bay shopping; area can be rowdy at night by the TD Garden; small rooms. ☎ Rooms from: \$400 ☒ 107 Merrimac St., Old West End ☎ 617/624-0202 🌐 [www.theboxerboston.com](http://www.theboxerboston.com) ↗ 80 rooms 🌐 No Meals 📍 North Station.

### citizenM Boston

\$\$\$ | HOTEL | Boston's citizenM hotel is one of only a few of its kind in the United States; the brand keeps the jet-setting traveler in mind, but not necessarily one who is overly wealthy, just one who appreciates the finer things in life. **Pros:** bold, contemporary, and colorful aesthetic; attached to North Station; open kitchen filled with snacks and drinks, 24/7. **Cons:** strictly no more than two people per room; no pets; small rooms. ☎ Rooms from: \$300 ☒ 70 Causeway St., Old West End ☎ 617/861-4360 🌐 [www.citizenm.com](http://www.citizenm.com) ↗ 272 rooms 🌐 No Meals 📍 North Station.

### Courtyard by Marriott Downtown Boston/North Station

\$\$\$ | HOTEL | FAMILY | Guest rooms at this Marriott property are clean and comfortable, and the views are pretty good, too, from 14 stories up. **Pros:** free Wi-Fi; close to popular tourist destinations like Faneuil Hall; check-out time at 12 pm. **Cons:** no extra flourishes; far from Newbury Street shopping and universities; no pets allowed. ☎ Rooms from: \$340 ☒ 107 Beverly St., Old West End ☎ 617/725-0003 🌐 [www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com) ↗ 220 rooms 🌐 No Meals 📍 North Station.

### Hotel Indigo Boston Garden

\$\$\$ | HOTEL | Fresh off a renovation, Hotel Indigo takes up a small plot in the West End with just under 100 hotel rooms. **Pros:** rooms have a cool design where the past meets the present; pets allowed for \$75 per stay; proximity to TD Garden and popular tourist attractions like Faneuil Hall. **Cons:** small fitness center; can be loud because of TD Garden events;

pricey per night parking.  **Rooms from:** \$300  280 Friend St., Old West End  617/720-5544  [www.ihg.com](http://www.ihg.com)  88 rooms  No Meals  North Station.

### ★ The Liberty

\$\$\$\$ | **HOTEL** | Few places in town can rival the soaring lobby—ringed by several layers of revamped metal catwalks—of the chic Liberty, formerly Boston’s Charles Street Jail. **Pros:** Lydia Shire’s popular restaurant Scampo; exclusive daily events, including art exhibits, live music, and yoga sessions; proximity to the Esplanade and Beacon Hill. **Cons:** very small fitness center; parking is expensive; loud in-house nightlife.  **Rooms from:** \$450  215 Charles St., Old West End  617/224-4000  [www.liberty-hotel.com](http://www.liberty-hotel.com)  298 rooms  No Meals  Charles/MGH.

## Nightlife

### Banners Kitchen & Tap

**BARS** | The name of this bar pays tribute to the championship banners for the Boston Bruins and Boston Celtics that are hanging next door from the ceiling of the TD Garden. This is a sports bar to the max, featuring beers, burgers, and other bar classics, plus the biggest indoor LED TV screen on the East Coast and the second-level Topgolf Swing Suite, which hosts a variety of sports simulation games.  82 Causeway St., Old West End  617/263-8200  [www.patina-group.com/banners](http://www.patina-group.com/banners)  North Station.

## Activities

### SPORTS

#### Boston Bruins

**SPORTS VENUE** | **FAMILY** | In 1924, the Boston Bruins became the first U.S. ice hockey team to enter the NHL. The Bruins have been playing at the Garden since 1928 (although the original Boston Garden was rebuilt in 1995) and have

won six Stanley Cup titles over that time. Spectators can see the championship banners hanging in the rafters above the ice and the stands, which are packed for every home game, despite high ticket prices. Fans are loud, vocal, and extremely loyal, so spectators with delicate personalities won’t feel comfortable. Saturday afternoon games are a win for the family. Seasons run from October until April; playoffs last through early June.  TD Garden, 100 Legends Way, West End  617/624-2327  [www.nhl.com/b Bruins](http://www.nhl.com/b Bruins)  North Station.

#### Boston Celtics

**SPORTS VENUE** | **FAMILY** | The Boston Celtics franchise is tied with the L.A. Lakers for the most championship titles in the NBA, with 17 banners, which is at least 10 more than any other team. So, what to expect at a Celtics game from today’s squad? An all-around fun experience, a charged atmosphere and devotion, from the fans to the team and the team to the fans. You’ll hear “Let’s Go, Cel-tics” no matter the score. The season runs from late October to April, and playoffs last until mid-June.  TD Garden, 100 Legends Way, Old West End  866/423-5849  [www.nba.com/celtics](http://www.nba.com/celtics)  North Station.