

## Discovering Boston

**W**hen you attend the 2008 AAG Annual Meeting in Boston, keep in mind that right outside your doorstep is an educational experience in itself: a city rich in history and culture filled with diverse and vibrant neighborhoods and capable of suiting anyone's fancy.

Whether your interests tend toward the leisurely or the active, the intellectual or the more playful, a variety of stops are available to let you enjoy yourself during your visit. The trick is finding where your expectations will best be met. From the Marriot Copley Place Hotel, located at Copley Square, there are a number of interesting sites within walking distance or nearby via the MBTA (Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority). We review a number of these sites below.

### Family Activities

For those of you with children of all ages, we list a number of places here that will provide a fun day for the whole family. All listings below are accessible via public transport, the T.

The **Prudential Skywalk Observatory**, located on the 50th floor of the Prudential Building, offers spectacular views of the city. Boston's **Museum of Science** includes live presentations, an IMAX theatre, and lots of science and tech gadgets to keep the kids interested. The **Gilliland Observatory**, located atop the Museum of Science's roof, is open for free viewing on Friday evenings. The **New England Aquarium** features a unique central tank as the main attraction. The aquarium houses sharks, many varieties of exotic fish and a huge sea turtle.

The **Harvard Museum of Natural History** is one of the nation's finest university-based natural history museums. See dinosaur remains, gemstones and other natural phenomena. **Boston Children's Museum** offers a broad selection of activities for kids of all ages, with a strong emphasis on "hands on" exhibits. Experience Boston with a stroll along **Charles River**, and enjoy views of the city and its many buildings including the **MIT Dome**. Dating back to 1634, **Boston Common and Public Gardens** provide 75 acres of green

space and great views of the State House and includes the well-known swan boat rides.

**Fenway Park** is the home ballpark of the Boston Red Sox—the reigning champions of Major League Baseball—and is the oldest of all current Major League stadiums. More than 7,500 Major League games have been played there, more than at any other ballpark. The champion Red Sox host the Texas Rangers on April 18-20.

### For the Gourmand

There are a variety of restaurants, food courts and markets close to the conference center. Try **Faneuil Hall Marketplace**, located in the heart of downtown Boston. In the **North End**, **Italian Center** has more than 87 restaurants—sandwich shops, pizzerias, carryout kitchens, cozy family-run dining rooms, and elegant restaurants, rosticceria and cafes. It also features fresh New England seafood. **Chinatown** has as many Chinese, Japanese, Cambodian, and Vietnamese restaurants and markets. **Newbury Street** includes many upscale stores, art galleries, interesting local restaurants, and coffee places/bookstores. **Quincy Market** has great shops and nifty peddler carts galore. **Haymarket** is an outdoor market with great local ambience where you can find fruits, vegetables, fish and other products at great prices. Tightly packed brick buildings housing boutiques and eateries of various kinds line **Charles Street**, which runs right into the Boston Public Gardens.

### Tours and Walking Trails

The Freedom Trail is a 2½ mile walk through American history that is clearly marked by a red painted line or red bricks set into the sidewalk. It begins at Boston Common, meanders through Boston center, passes through the North End, and finally crosses the Charles River to the USS Constitution and Bunker Hill Monument in Charlestown. The **Old State House** dates back to 1713. It was the center of all political life and debate in colonial Boston, and it remains the city's oldest public building. When you follow the Freedom Trail's red line you'll eventually arrive at the **Old South Meeting House**. It was built

in 1729 as a Puritan Church but has become better known as the site of the Boston Tea Party. The **Paul Revere House** is open daily. Located at 19 North Square, it is one of the stops on the Freedom Trail. Located next to Harvard University, **Harvard Square** is a lively area to walk through with bookstores, restaurants and street music of all kinds.

### Arts and Culture

Located at 301 Massachusetts Avenue, **Symphony Hall** is home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. The Boston Opera House is located at 539 Washington Street. The **Theatre District** offers a variety of entertainment options, from musicals to Broadway-bound extravaganzas. Museum of Fine Arts: The **Boston Museum of Fine Arts** is an elegant and impressive space filled with captivating masterpieces from around the world. The museum offers several hands-on art and drop-in programs for families and children. The **Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum** was built around the turn of the century to house a fine private collection of Italian Renaissance masterworks. The **John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum** portrays the life, leadership, and legacy of President Kennedy and is located on a ten-acre park, overlooking the sea. It is accessible by public transport.

### A Word to the Wise

While we do insist that you make the most of your visit to this great urban center by venturing outside the conference hotel, we also feel we should point out that Boston tends to be windy and that April is typically a chilly month. Temperatures and other variations in weather can happen quickly, so be sure to venture outside only after securing the appropriate items to ensure your comfort. Make sure to layer clothing and be prepared for a sudden shower. In addition, make sure you watch out for Boston traffic, especially in the Downtown area. If you rent a car, driving is known to be difficult in Boston. See Boston and have fun, but also make sure you are prepared! ■

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