

Hotels & Hostels

Want more sleeping recommendations than we could ever pack into this little ol' book? Craving more detail – including extended reviews and photographs? Want to read reviews by other travelers and be able to post your own? Just make your way over to lonelyplanet.com/hotels and check out our thorough list of independent reviews, then reserve your room simply and securely.

SLEEPING

top picks

- 463 Beacon St Guest House (p225)
- Beacon Hill Hotel & Bistro (p221)
- College Club (p225)
- Irving House (p230)
- Inn @ St Botolph (p224)
- Liberty Hotel (p220)
- Newbury Guest House (p224)
- Taylor House (p229)

SLEEPING

Boston offers a complete range of accommodations, from dorms and hostels to inviting guest-houses in historic quarters and swanky hotels with all the amenities. Considering that Boston is a city filled with students, there are surprisingly few accommodation options targeting budget travelers and backpackers.

Most hotels, particularly upscale chains, have no set rates. Instead, rates fluctuate seasonally, if not daily. The high season for hotel rates is roughly defined as April through October, although it's more accurately driven by occupancy and high-profile events. So holidays, university graduations, baseball games and pride parades all affect hotel prices. Rates quoted do not include the 12.45% room tax (not applicable to B&Bs).

Keep in mind that calling a hotel will rarely yield the cheapest rates. Hotels often offer their rack rate, which is a base rate with no discount or special criteria applied; no smart traveler should ever pay rack rates. Better rates are almost always available via hotel websites, booking services and bidding and discount websites (see the boxed text, [below](#)).

ACCOMMODATION STYLES

B&Bs

There are a few B&Bs reviewed in the text. For the most part, however, your best bet is to contact an agency that will try to match your neighborhood desires with the thickness of your wallet. Another benefit of this accommodation is that there's no room tax on B&Bs with fewer than three rooms.

Bed & Breakfast Agency of Boston (☎ 617-720-3540, 800-248-9262, 0800-89-5128 free from the UK; fax 617-523-5761; www.boston-bnbagency.com) Lists over 100 different properties, including B&Bs (single \$70 to \$90, double \$100 to \$160) and furnished apartments (studios \$90 to \$140, one-bedroom apartments \$120 to \$180). Properties are located in Beacon Hill, Back Bay, North End and South

End. Many are pet-friendly and all offer weekly and monthly rates, as well as the occasional low-season deal.

Bed & Breakfast Associates Bay Colony (☎ 781-449-5302, 888-486-6018, from UK 08-234-7113; www.bnboston.com) A huge database of furnished rooms and apartments in Boston, Brookline, Cambridge and the suburbs. Most are unhosted. Prices vary but weekly and monthly rates are usually available.

LONGER-TERM RENTALS

With hordes of students and other transients moving around town, Boston, Brookline and Cambridge are full of summer sublets and longer-term apartments available to rent. Signs are often posted at coffee shops, bookstores and other student hangouts. Univer-

BIDDING FOR TRAVEL

The internet has revolutionized many aspects of travel, not the least of which is finding and booking hotel rooms. Savvy surfers utilize bid-for-booking sites, which offer great rates and an element of adventure. Generally, you can choose a general location and a level of service, but you never know exactly what you're going to get until the deal is done. Here are a few sites and how they work:

Bidding for Travel (www.biddingfortravel.com) The goal of this website is to promote informed bidding when using the services of bid-for-booking websites (see below). Visitors are invited to post their successful bidding history on specific hotels so that others learn the lowest acceptable prices. The site is monitored by an administrator who answers questions and gives advice to subscribers who want to bid.

Hotwire (www.hotwire.com) Choose your dates and your preferred neighborhoods (up to four), and this website will provide a general location, list of amenities, price and star-rating for several options. You learn the hotel name and exact location only after you buy your reservation.

Priceline (www.priceline.com) Choose your desired neighborhood, star-rating and price; enter dates and credit-card info. If Priceline finds something that meets your criteria your reservation is automatically booked; you learn the hotel specifics afterwards. There's nothing to stop you from starting very low and gradually increasing your bid so you get the best price possible. Use this site in conjunction with www.biddingfortravel.com for a great hotel deal.