

Back Bay

Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Admiring Boston's most evocative and archetypal architecture in Copley Sq, with **Trinity Church** (p114) reflecting in the facade of the **John Hancock Tower** (p116) at one end, and the **Boston Public Library** (p112) anchoring the other end.
- 2 Strolling, cycling or running along the **Charles River Esplanade** (p115).
- 3 Window shopping and gallery hopping on **Newbury St** (p120).
- 4 Feeling yourself at the center of the world in the unusual **Mapparium** (p116).
- 5 Locating the landmarks from the sky at the **Prudential Center Skywalk Observatory** (p116).



For more detail of this area, see Map p260 ➔

Explore Back Bay

Back Bay is not as old as some other Boston neighborhoods, nor is it as historically significant. But thanks to magnificent Victorian brownstones and high-minded civic plazas, it is certainly among the loveliest – and a required destination for all Boston visitors.

Copley Sq represents the best of Back Bay architecture, as it gracefully blends disparate elements like the Renaissance Revival Boston Public Library, the Richardsonian Romanesque Trinity Church and the modernist John Hancock Tower. Copley Sq should be your first stop in Back Bay, good for whiling away an hour or even a day.

After admiring the architecture and browsing the books, you are perfectly placed for an afternoon of window shopping or gallery hopping. Swanky Newbury St is famous among fashion mavens, art aficionados and music lovers, for it is lined with boutiques and galleries (and one legendary music store).

Not surprising, this bustling retail and residential center is also a drinking and dining wonderland, with sidewalk cafes, trendy bars and chic restaurants on nearly every block. It's not quite the same slick scene as the trendsetting South End, but there are still places to see and be seen in Back Bay.

Local Life

- ➔ **Hang-outs** It doesn't get more local than the Corner Tavern (p118).
- ➔ **Outdoors** Perfect for picnic lunches and summer-time lounging, the Charles River Esplanade (p115) is Boston's backyard.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Metro** The main branch of the green line runs the length of Boylston St, with stops at Arlington near the Public Garden, Copley at Copley Sq and Hynes at Mass Ave. The green E-line branch follows along Huntington Ave to Prudential and Symphony.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Visit BosTix (www.bostix.org; p34) on Copley Sq for same-day, half-price tickets to local theater, comedy and music events.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Courtyard (p116)
- ➔ Piattini (p116)
- ➔ L'Espalier (p117)
- ➔ Douzo (p117)
- ➔ Parish Café (p117)

For reviews, see p116 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Flash's Cocktails (p118)
- ➔ Corner Tavern (p118)
- ➔ Bukowski Tavern (p118)
- ➔ Minibar (p119)

For reviews, see p118 ➔

Best Galleries

- ➔ Gallery Naga (p115)
- ➔ Barbara Krakow Gallery (p115)
- ➔ Copley Society of Art (p115)
- ➔ Alpha Gallery (p115)
- ➔ Society of Arts & Crafts (p121)

For reviews, see p115 ➔