

Beacon Hill & Boston Common

Neighborhood Top Five

- ➊ Breathing in the sweet smell of flowering trees and blooming beds, as you admire the seasonal display in the **Public Garden** (p70). A ride in a swan boat on the lagoon completes an idyllic outing.
- ➋ Exploring the **Massachusetts State House**(p71) in search of the Sacred Cod and the Holy Mackerel.
- ➌ Browsing for trash and treasures in the antique shops that line **Charles St** (p75).
- ➍ Following the **Black Heritage Trail** (p77) to learn about the early African American settlement on Beacon Hill.



For more details of this area, see Map p250 ➡

Explore Beacon Hill & Boston Common

The Boston Common is the starting point for the Freedom Trail and, as such, the starting point for many visitors' exploration of Boston. Whether or not it is the first place you visit in Boston, it is a central meeting point, a jumping-off point for several neighborhoods and an always-enjoyable place for a picnic lunch. You'll likely find yourself passing through more than once.

Besides the Common, several other Freedom Trail sights lie within the borders of Beacon Hill, including the impressive gold-domed Massachusetts State House. This building is the focal point of politics in the Commonwealth – it was famously dubbed 'the hub of the solar system' – and the neighborhood buzzes with the business of local politicians and State House staffers.

But the appeal of this neighborhood lies behind the landmarks, along the narrow cobblestone streets that crisscross the hill. Lined with brick townhouses and lit by gas lanterns, these streets are a delightful setting to spend an afternoon – whether browsing boutiques and haggling for antiques, or just sipping a cappuccino and admiring the quintessentially Bostonian landscape.

Local Life

- ➔ **Book Nook** Local writers and bibliophiles enjoy the artistic atmosphere and historic setting at the Boston Athenaeum (p72).
- ➔ **Local Politics** State House staffers hang out across the street at the 21st Amendment (p74) when their working day is through.
- ➔ **Secret Spot** Escape the crowds on Charles St and retreat to 75 Chestnut (p73) to hobnob with the locals.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Metro** At the junction of the red and green lines, Park St T-station services the Boston Common and sights in the southeastern part of Beacon Hill. Also on the red line, Charles/MGH T station is convenient to Beacon Hill's Charles and Cambridge Sts, as well as the Charles River Esplanade. The blue-line Bowdoin T station is a less-used stop convenient to the eastern end of Cambridge St.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Get a great view of Boston's skyline from the Longfellow Bridge, also known as the 'salt and pepper bridge,' which crosses the river at the top of Charles St.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Paramount (p73)
- ➔ Grotto (p73)
- ➔ 75 Chestnut (p73)
- ➔ No 9 Park (p73)

For reviews, see p73 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ 21st Amendment (p74)
- ➔ Bin 26 Enoteca (p75)

For reviews, see p74 ➔

Best Boutiques & Antiques

- ➔ Artifaktori Vintage (p75)
- ➔ Crush Boutique (p75)
- ➔ Ruby Door (p76)
- ➔ Eugene Galleries (p76)
- ➔ Marika's Antique Shop (p76)
- ➔ Moxie (p77)

For reviews, see p74 ➔