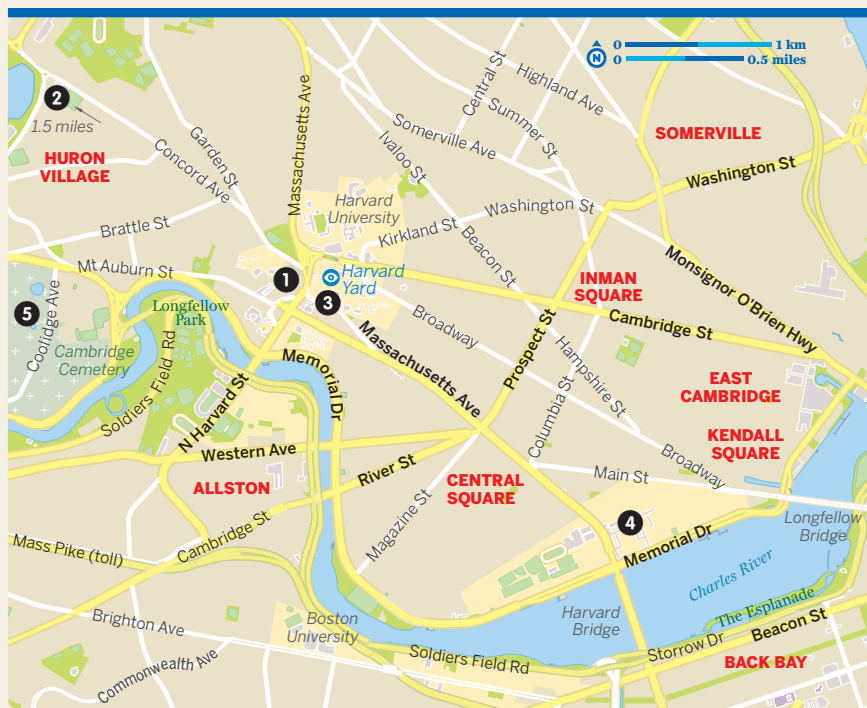


Cambridge

HARVARD SQUARE | CENTRAL & KENDALL SQUARES

Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Browsing the bookstores, rifling through the records and trying on vintage clothing in **Harvard Square** (p148), then camping out in a local cafe (preferably with sidewalk seating) to watch the world go by.
- 2 Cycling the **Minute-man Bikeway** (p159) from urban Cambridge to idyllic Bedford.
- 3 Getting the inside scoop from savvy students on the unofficial **Harvard Tour** (p160).
- 4 Exploring the **MIT campus** (p147) and discovering its fantastic, eclectic collection of public art.
- 5 Strolling around the **Mount Auburn Cemetery** (p149) in search of famous gravestones, impressive artwork and elusive birds.



For more detail of this area, see Maps p266 and p268 ➔

Explore Cambridge

While we count Cambridge as one among many 'neighborhoods' in Boston, truth be told, this independent town has the historical and cultural offerings to rival many major cities. It matches Boston for quality (if not quantity) and diversity of drinking, dining and entertainment options, and with its array of museums, historic sites and university landmarks, you as easily spend a day as spend a year.

But you probably don't have a year. Too bad.

Much of life in Cambridge is centered on the universities – Harvard and MIT – each of which occupies its respective corner of town, with restaurants, shops and clubs clustered around each campus. If you have limited time in Cambridge, you'll probably want to choose one or the other, as there is plenty of activity around either campus to fill a day. (Harvard or MIT...? Harvard or MIT...? Now you know what it's like for the brainiacs who have to decide where they want to go to school.)

Both universities offer excellent (free) campus tours – Harvard is packed with history, while MIT boasts a wealth of public art and innovative architecture. Both universities have interesting and unusual museums showcasing cutting-edge art and science. Both universities have excellent dining and entertainment options in their vicinities. So take your pick.

That said, only Harvard has Harvard Sq. Overflowing with coffee houses and pubs, bookstores and record stores, street musicians and sidewalk artists, panhandlers and professors, Harvard Sq exudes energy, creativity and non-conformity – and it's all packed into a handful of streets between the university and the river. Even if you have your heart set on exploring MIT and its environs, it's worth setting aside a few hours to spend up the road in Harvard Sq.

Local Life

- ➔ **Student bars** Local life is student life. To see it in action go to Shay's Pub & Wine Bar (p153) (Harvard) or Miracle of Science (p152) (MIT).
- ➔ **Campus corners** JFK Park is a favorite local spot for picnics, dogs and frisbee, while the area outside the MIT Stratton Center attracts students and pigeons.
- ➔ **Sidewalk seating** The sidewalk cafe at Holyoke Center gives a front-row seat to watch the buskers, beggars, chess-players, good-deed-doers and other Harvard-Sq hullabaloo.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Metro** Take the red line to Harvard station for Harvard Sq, Central station for Central Sq and Kendall/MIT for Kendall Sq.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

The Harvard Bookstore (p157) hosts lectures, author talks and book readings almost every night, Monday to Friday, presenting a cool opportunity to hobnob with local writers and scholars.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Cambridge, 1 (p150)
- ➔ Hungry Mother (p151)
- ➔ Christina's (p151)
- ➔ Russell House Tavern (p150)
- ➔ Clover Food Lab (p150)

For reviews, see p150 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Casablanca (p152)
- ➔ Café Pamplona (p152)
- ➔ Voltage Coffee & Art (p153)
- ➔ LA Burdick (p152)
- ➔ Plough & Stars (p153)

For reviews, see p152 ➔

Best University Museums

- ➔ Harvard Art Museum (p148)
- ➔ MIT Museum (p147)
- ➔ Harvard Museum of Natural History (p149)
- ➔ Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology (p149)

For reviews, see p148 ➔