

# Charlestown

## Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Counting the 294 steps as you climb to the top of the **Bunker Hill Monument** (p48), then catching your breath while you admire the 360-degree view of Boston, Cambridge and beyond.
- 2 Sipping an ale at the same bar that propped up the founding fathers in the **Warren Tavern** (p50).
- 3 Learning about the long and storied history of the **USS Constitution** (p46) from US Navy sailors.
- 4 Watching the sun set behind the city skyline from **Tavern on the Water** (p50).
- 5 Taking your kids to the **USS Constitution Museum** (p47) to experience the life of a sailor.



For more detail of this area, see Map p245 ➔

## Explore Charlestown

Spend a day following the Freedom Trail and you will end up in Charlestown, as the final two sites are located here. Besides seeing the historic USS *Constitution* and the commemorative Bunker Hill Monument, strolling inland from the Charlestown waterfront provides an opportunity to explore the neighborhood's aged narrow streets, lined with 19th-century Federal and colonial houses. Afterwards, there are a handful of restaurants and cafes surrounding City Sq and lining Main St.

Despite the historic significance, Charlestown retains the distinctive atmosphere of a local neighborhood, with real people (known as "Townies") inhabiting the restored town houses and working in the granite buildings. Even the eateries – however recommended – are places to patronize if you happen to be in the area, not normally meriting a special trip.

Charlestown was incorporated into Boston in 1873; but this neighborhood remains apart, both geographically and atmospherically. On the north shore of the Charles River, it is connected to the rest of the city by the Old Charlestown Bridge. So even though C-town sees its fair share of tourists trudging along the Freedom Trail, the sights and streets will not be as crowded as those in downtown Boston.

## Local Life

➔ **Coffee with Kids** Townies of all ages love the coffee and doughnuts at Zumes Coffee House (p50); but it's especially popular among the mommy set, who bring their kids to play with puzzles and eat grilled cheese sandwiches.

➔ **Sundowners** Little known outside of Charlestown, the Tavern on the Water (p50) attracts the local after-work crowd with its informal atmosphere and unbeatable city view.

➔ **Historic Hang-out** Even though the Warren Tavern (p50) is a historic site of sorts, it's still a favorite place for Townies to drink beers and eat burgers.

## Getting There & Away

➔ **Metro** The closest T-stations are Community College station (orange line) and North Station (junction of orange and green lines), both a 20-minute walk from the Charlestown sights.

➔ **Boat** The MBTA runs the F4 ferry (Map p245; \$1.70) every 15 to 30 minutes between Pier 3 in Charlestown and Long Wharf on the Boston waterfront.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

For a unique perspective on Charlestown and Boston, walk east from the Navy Yard, following the shoreline from pier to pier. Crowded with boats, this working waterfront boasts one of the best views of the Boston Harbor and skyline.

### Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Navy Yard Bistro & Wine Bar (p49)
- ➔ Figs (p49)
- ➔ Max & Dylan's (p49)

For reviews, see p49 ➔

### Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Tavern on the Water (p50)
- ➔ Warren Tavern (p50)
- ➔ Zumes Coffee House (p50)

For reviews, see p50 ➔

### Best Boats

- ➔ USS Constitution (p46)
- ➔ USS Cassin Young (p47)
- ➔ Green Turtle (p185)
- ➔ MBTA Inner Harbor Ferry (F4; Map p245)

For reviews, see p46 ➔