

Downtown & Waterfront

FANEUIL HALL & QUINCY MARKET & AROUND | DOWNTOWN CROSSING & FINANCIAL DISTRICT | WATERFRONT

Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Soaking up the sun, exploring an old fort, splashing in the sea, munching on wild berries, spying on the resident birds and bunnies, and enjoying the seascape from the **Boston Harbor Islands** (p80).
- 2 Taking a **whale-watching boat** (p92) out to Stellwagen Bank to spy on whales, dolphins and other sea life.
- 3 Remembering the first violent confrontation of the American Revolution at the **site of the Boston Massacre** (p84).
- 4 Frolicking with the fish at the **New England Aquarium** (p83).
- 5 Eating, drinking, shopping and general merry-making at **Faneuil Hall & Quincy Market** (p85, p88), Boston's oldest marketplace.



For more detail of this area, see Map p252 ➔

Explore Downtown & Waterfront

Almost every visitor will visit this neighborhood while walking the Freedom Trail, from King's Chapel to the Old South Meeting House, from the Old State House to Faneuil Hall & Quincy Market. Indeed, the marketplace is one of the most visited tourist sites in the country. Even though it's basically a shopping mall (but a *historic* shopping mall!), it's a fun stop to admire the public art, cheer on the street performers and soak up the festive atmosphere.

The marketplace is in stark contrast to the neighborhood's interior streets around Downtown Crossing and the Financial District. This is the Boston of the work-a-day world: old-fashioned shops have been displaced by national chains and luxury hotels cater to business travelers. White-collar workers take lunch breaks at speedy sandwich shops, but after hours the streets are eerily empty.

Along the waterfront, the dismantling of the Central Artery has meant that the call of seagulls and the lapping of waves no longer compete with the roar of the cars. Instead, pedestrians can stroll across the Wharf District parks to the harbor, enjoying the greenery and admiring the Rings Fountain along the way. The focal point of the waterfront is the excellent New England Aquarium. From Long Wharf, you can catch the ferry out to the Boston Harbor Islands for a day of berry picking, beachcombing or sunbathing. Harbor cruises and trolley tours also depart from these docks, while seafood restaurants and outdoor cafes line the shore.

It's basically tourist central, and with good reason. With the sun sparkling off the water and the boats bobbing at their moorings, it's hard to resist this city by the sea.

Local Life

➔ **Lunch Break** Working Boston's favorite lunch spots are Chacarero and Sam La Grassa's (p89). If you don't mind the grit, Falafel King (p89) is a winner.

➔ **Happy Hour** There are still a few downtown bars that feel like neighborhood places, mainly Mr Dooley's Boston Tavern and Silvertone (p90).

Getting There & Away

➔ **Metro** To reach Faneuil Hall & Quincy Market, take the green, orange or blue line to Haymarket, Government Center or State. The Aquarium (blue) and State (orange or blue) stops have waterfront access. Downtown Crossing is at the junction of the red and orange lines; Park St Station, just west of here, sit on both red and green.

➔ **Boat** City Water Taxi stops at Long Wharf on the waterfront, while the MBTA water shuttle runs from Long Wharf to Charlestown Navy Yard.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

If you are following the red brick road, consider purchasing the Freedom Trail Ticket (adult/child \$13/3), which includes admission to the Old State House, the Old South Meeting House and the Paul Revere House.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Chacarero (p89)
- ➔ Casa Razdora (p89)
- ➔ Marliave (p89)

For reviews, see p88 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Woodward (p90)
- ➔ Silvertone (p90)
- ➔ Thinking Cup (p90)
- ➔ RumBa (p90)

For reviews, see p89 ➔

Best Historic Buildings

- ➔ Old State House (p84)
- ➔ Faneuil Hall (p85)
- ➔ Custom House (p87)

For reviews, see p85 ➔