

Seaport District & South Boston

Neighborhood Top Five

- ➊ Spending an afternoon at the striking waterfront site of the **Institute of Contemporary Art** (p136), contemplating the artistic curiosities on display within and admiring the stunning harbor and city views without.
- ➋ Boarding the **Boston Tea Party Ships** (p137) and tossing crates of tea overboard.
- ➌ Admiring the view and catching a breeze while feasting on the creatures of the sea at **Legal Harborside** (p139).
- ➍ Wriggling, crawling and climbing on the three-story climbing structure at the **Boston Children's Museum** (p137).
- ➎ Sidling up to the bar at **Drink** (p140) for some serious cocktail swilling.



For more detail of this area, see Map p255 ➔

Explore Seaport District & South Boston

Separated from Boston proper by the jellyfish-laden Fort Point Channel, the Seaport District has always afforded a spectacular vista of the Boston Harbor and downtown Boston. Now this up-and-coming district offers all kinds of opportunities to see and savor it.

Following the HarborWalk, it's a pleasant stroll across the Northern Ave Bridge. Once across Fort Point Channel, walk around the Moakley Federal Courthouse to enjoy the landscaped parks and fantastic views from Fan Pier, eventually ending up at the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA). Spend an afternoon admiring contemporary art and feasting on fish and you've got a pretty good sense of what the Seaport District is all about.

Further east, the wharves are dominated by fish-processing facilities and a marine industrial center. But change is afoot, as restaurants, bars and retail open in the new buildings. It's worth visiting the Fish Pier to catch a whiff of what this area used to be, and what it's becoming.

Meanwhile, the rest of South Boston remains well off the beaten path. Former stomping ground of Whitey Bulger and preferred setting for Boston-based mafia movies, 'Southie' lives large in local and national lore.

Despite its reputation, South Boston has its own charm. The waterside community offers great harbor views, as well as Boston's best city beaches. On a hot summer day, Castle Island is a windy, welcoming waterside playscape for families and outdoorsy types.

The 'hood is packed with Irish pubs, but there are also a few notable 'New American' restaurants, should you care to drink something other than Guinness or PBR. This area is getting a glimpse of the gentrification that has transformed other parts of the city, but Southie is still unapologetically old-school.

Local Life

- ➔ **Drinking joint 1** You know it's a local when they don't even put a sign outside. Such is Lucky's Lounge (p140).
- ➔ **Drinking joint 2** For a singular picture of local Southie, visit the regulars at (signless) Croke Park Whitey's (p140).

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Metro** to The Seaport District is a 10-minute walk from South Station (red line), and Broadway Station (also red line) sits at the top of South Boston's main street.
- ➔ **Bus** The silver line bus (SL1 or SL2) runs from South Station through the Seaport District, stopping at Courthouse, the World Trade Center and Silver Line Way.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Thursday nights are free at the ICA while Friday nights at the Boston Children's Museum are only \$1. The reduced admission is from 5pm to 9pm, in both cases.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Sportello (p139)
- ➔ Yankee Lobster Fish Co (p139)
- ➔ Sam's (p139)
- ➔ Channel Café (p139)

For reviews, see p138 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Drink (p140)
- ➔ Lucky's Lounge (p140)
- ➔ Croke Park Whitey's (p140)

For reviews, see p140 ➔

Best Lookout Points

- ➔ Founder's Gallery in the ICA (p136)
- ➔ Sam's (p139)
- ➔ Legal Harborside (p139)

For reviews, see p136 ➔