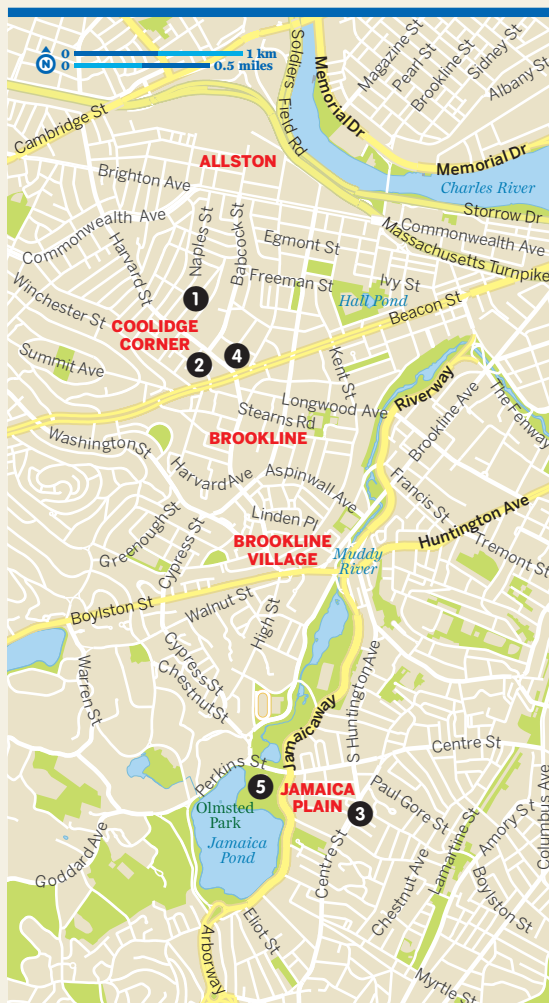


# Streetcar Suburbs

BROOKLINE | JAMAICA PLAIN



## Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Taking a pilgrimage to the **birthplace of John F Kennedy** (p164), touring the home and listening to Rose Kennedy's reminiscence of her family's time, and then following the NPS walking tour to see the schools, churches and other places from Kennedy lore.
- 2 Sitting in the balcony at the **Coolidge Corner Theatre** (p168) and catching an art-house flick.
- 3 Enjoying an evening of delightful food, music and camaraderie at **Tres Gatos** (p166).
- 4 Browsing the stacks, listening to a lecture or finding a bargain at the **Brookline Booksmith** (p168).
- 5 Cycling along the **Emerald Necklace** (p165), from downtown Boston to Franklin Park.

For more detail of this area, see Maps p270 & p271 ➔

## Explore Streetcar Suburbs

Brookline and Jamaica Plain (among others) are streetcar suburbs, residential areas that developed around Boston in the late 19th century. They are geographically isolated from other parts of Boston, though transitionally connected, yes, by streetcar (or metro now). Both JP and Brookline maintain distinct identities and unique ‘neighborhood’ atmospheres that make them attractive, off-the-beaten-path destinations for travelers.

Brookline was built as a modest, middle-income neighborhood, suitable for young families, which explains the draw to Joseph and Rose Kennedy, who moved here in 1914. Today, JFK admirers and history buffs make the pilgrimage to Beals St to see the birthplace of the United States’ 35th president. The tour only takes an hour, but it’s easy to while away the rest of the afternoon lunching at Jewish delis and browsing boutiques and bookshops.

By day, Coolidge Corner is a hub of shopping and eating. After dark, things quiet down, although the local cinema – a retro movie house – draws crowds for its international films and balcony seating. For a more raucous good time, check out the music clubs in nearby Allston and Brighton.

Further south, Jamaica Plain was actually a summer-time retreat for wealthy Bostonians who built stately homes overlooking the quaint glacial pond. JP’s open spaces are still part of this outer neighborhood’s appeal: the cooling breezes off Jamaica Pond, the diverse flora at Arnold Arboretum, the solemn landscaping of Forest Hills Cemetery and the extensive recreational facilities at Franklin Park. If you want to enjoy the great outdoors but you can’t leave the city, head to Jamaica Plain instead.

Downtown JP is Centre St – that’s where you’ll find an eclectic assortment of eateries for lunch or dinner and delightful neighborhood shopping, as well as some drinking options if you are in the mood for Guinness.

## Local Life

- ➔ **Brookline Local** Shop at Rubin’s Kosher Deli (p166); get a bite to eat at the Regal Beagle (p166).
- ➔ **JP Local** Go jogging around Jamaica Pond (p170); take your dog for a drink at Brendan Behan Pub (p168).

## Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Metro** Two branches of the green line traverse Brookline. Take the C-line to Coolidge Corner or the D-line to Brookline Village. Travelling to Jamaica Plain, orange-line stations Green St and Stony Brook provide the easiest access to Centre St and Jamaica Pond. Use Forest Hills station to reach JP’s major sights, which are further out.

## Lonely Planet’s Top Tip

The Coolidge Corner Theatre is not just a cinema. The theater offers a wide variety of programming for all segments of the population, including: @fter Midnite (horror and comedy for the late-night set); Europe’s Grand Operas (high-def screenings straight from the best opera houses on the continent); Off the Couch (film accompanied by psychoanalytic discussion); and Sounds of Silents (silent-film classics accompanied by live music performance).

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Ten Tables (p166)
- ➔ Tres Gatos (p166)
- ➔ Zaftigs Delicatessen (p165)
- ➔ Zenna Noodle Bar (p166)
- ➔ Kookoo Café (p166)

For reviews, see p165 ➔

## Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Brendan Behan Pub (p168)
- ➔ Publick House (p168)
- ➔ The Haven (p168)
- ➔ Samuel Adams Brewery (p168)

For reviews, see p168 ➔

## Best Urban Oases

- ➔ Arnold Arboretum (p164)
- ➔ Forest Hills Cemetery (p164)
- ➔ Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site (p164)
- ➔ Jamaica Pond (p170)
- ➔ Franklin Park (p165)

For reviews, see p164 ➔