

# West End & North End

## Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Strolling the cobblestone streets, browsing the boutiques and soaking up the Old World atmosphere in the North End, then squeezing into one of the candlelit tables at **Pomodoro** or **Marco** (p58) for amazing Italian food and service.
- 2 Gawking at the architecture and appreciating the irony at the **Liberty Hotel** (p185).
- 3 Gazing at the steeple of the **Old North Church** (p55) and imagining the lanterns signalling the Redcoats' approach.
- 4 Discovering how fun science can be at the **Museum of Science** (p54).
- 5 Exploring the quaint but cramped quarters at the **Paul Revere House** (p56), Boston's oldest home.



For more detail of this area, see Maps p246 & p248 ➔

## Explore West End & North End

These side-by-side neighborhoods could not be more different from each other. The West End – formerly a vibrant multicultural neighborhood – was virtually razed by ‘urban renewal’ in the 1950s. Now its streets are dominated by concrete monoliths and institutional buildings, including the extensive facilities of Mass General Hospital and many government buildings. Most visitors to Boston bypass this bleak district, unless they are catching a train at North Station or attending an event at the Garden.

That said, the West End borders Beacon Hill and downtown Boston, putting many historic and cultural sites within walking distance. The West End is actually a convenient and comfortable place to stay, and there are a few fine hotels that offer excellent value for the location.

By contrast, the North End feels like an Old World enclave that has hardly changed in the last century. Italian immigrants and their descendants have held court in this warren of narrow streets and alleys since the 1920s. Old-timers still carry on passionate discussions in Italian and play bocce in the park. The neighborhood’s main streets are packed with *ristoranti* and *salumerie* (Italian delis), not to mention bakeries, pizzerias, coffee shops, wine shops and cheese mongers. The North End is a required destination for everyone who likes to eat.

The Freedom Trail also winds through the North End, past the Paul Revere House, the Old North Church and Copp’s Hill Burying Ground. Indeed, this peninsula was an integral part of Boston long before the Italians arrived: some of these landmarks date back to the 17th century.

So come during the day to see the sights and learn the history, but by all means come back at night for dinner.

## Local Life

- ➔ **Drinks** Watch *futbol*, drink Campari and speak Italian (or just listen) at Caffé dello Sport or Caffé Paradiso (p61).
- ➔ **Saints** North Enders get lively in August, when they celebrate their favorite saints during the weekend Italian Festivals (p61). If you can’t come in August, visit All Saints Way (p57) to see the locals’ fervor.

## Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Metro** For the West End, use the red-line Charles/ MGH or the blue-line Bowdoin station to access sites along Cambridge St. At the junction of the green and orange lines, North Station is more convenient for the northern part of the neighborhood. For the North End, the closest T-station is Haymarket, which lies on both the green and the orange lines.

## Lonely Planet’s Top Tip

Bad news: it’s impossible to park in the North End. Good news: **Parcel 7’s** parking garage (p88) offers three hours of parking for \$3 if you get your ticket validated by a North End establishment.



### Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Marco (p58)
- ➔ Pomodoro (p58)
- ➔ Neptune Oyster (p58)
- ➔ Volle Nolle (p59)

For reviews, see p57 ➔



### Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Caffé Vittoria (p61)
- ➔ Boston Beer Works (p61)
- ➔ West End Johnnies (p60)

For reviews, see p60 ➔



### Best Places to Stock your Kitchen

- ➔ Salumeria Italiana (p62)
- ➔ Polcari’s Coffee (p62)
- ➔ DePasquale’s Home-made Pasta Shoppe (p62)
- Fresh Cheese Deli (p63)
- ➔ Wine Bottega (p63)

For reviews, see p62 ➔