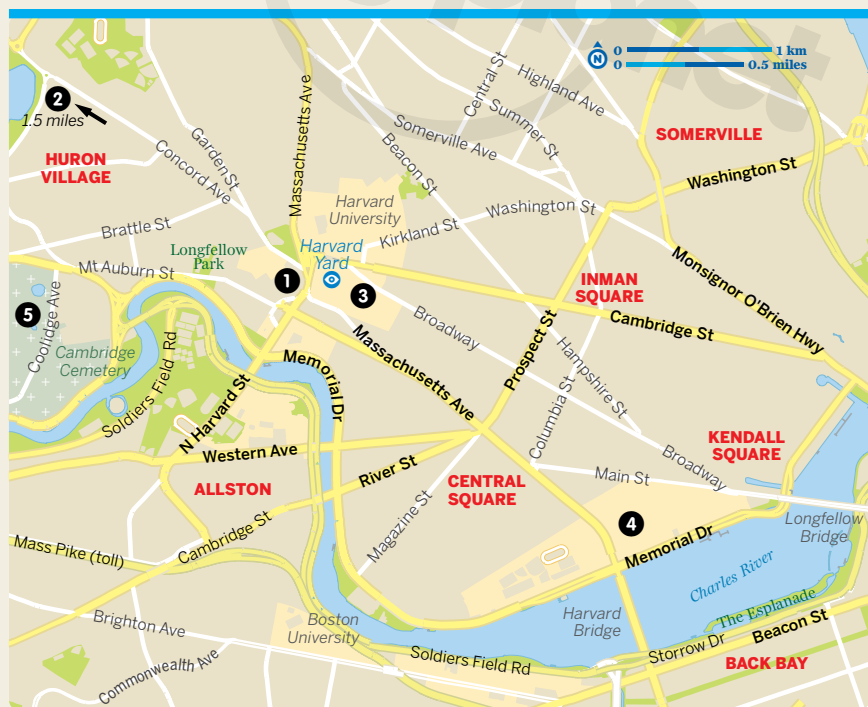


Cambridge

HARVARD SQUARE | CENTRAL & KENDALL SQUARES

Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Browsing the bookstores, rifling through the records and trying on vintage clothing in Harvard Sq (p151), then camping out in a local cafe (preferably with sidewalk seating) to watch the world go by.
- 2 Cycling the **Minute-man Bikeway** (p153) from urban Cambridge to idyllic Bedford.
- 3 Checking out the varied collection and superb architecture at the **Harvard Art Museums** (p142).
- 4 Exploring the **MIT campus** (p141) and discovering its fantastic, eclectic collection of public art.
- 5 Strolling around the **Mt Auburn Cemetery** (p143) in search of famous grave-stones, impressive artwork and elusive birds.



For more detail of this area see Maps p250 and p252 ➔

Explore Cambridge

Here, we count Cambridge as one among many 'neighborhoods' in Boston. But truth be told, this independent town has the historical and cultural offerings to rival many major cities. Certainly, it matches Boston for quality (if not quantity) and diversity of drinking, dining and entertainment options. Exploring museums, historic sites and university landmarks, you could just as easily spend a day as spend a year.

Much of life in Cambridge is centered on the universities – Harvard and MIT – each of which occupies its respective corner of town, with restaurants, shops and clubs clustered around each campus. If you have limited time in Cambridge, you'll probably want to choose one or the other, as there is plenty of activity around either campus to fill a day. (Harvard or MIT...? Harvard or MIT...? Now you know what it's like for the brainiacs who have to decide where they want to go to school.)

Both universities offer excellent (free) campus tours – Harvard is packed with history, while MIT boasts a wealth of public art and innovative architecture. Both universities have interesting and unusual museums showcasing cutting-edge art and science. Both universities have excellent dining and entertainment options in their vicinities. So take your pick.

All that said, only Harvard has Harvard Sq. Overflowing with coffee houses and pubs, bookstores and record stores, street musicians and sidewalk artists, panhandlers and professors, Harvard Sq exudes energy, creativity and nonconformity – and it's all packed into a handful of streets between the university and the river. Even if you have your heart set on exploring MIT and its environs, it's worth setting aside a few hours to hang out up the road in Harvard Sq.

Local Life

- **Student bars** Local life is student life. To see it in action go to Shay's Pub (p147) in Harvard Sq.
- **Campus corners** JFK Park is a favorite local spot for picnics, dogs and Frisbee, while the area outside the MIT Stratton Center attracts students and pigeons.
- **Sidewalk seating** The sidewalk cafe at the Smith Campus Center (p144) gives a front-row seat to watch the buskers, beggars, chess-players, good-deed-doers and other Harvard Sq hullabaloo.

Getting There & Away

- **Metro** Take the red line to Harvard station for Harvard Sq, Central station for Central Sq and Kendall/MIT for Kendall Sq.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

The **Harvard Bookstore** (p152) hosts lectures, author talks and book readings almost every night, Monday to Friday, presenting a cool opportunity to hobnob with local writers and scholars.

Best Places to Eat

- Alden & Harlow (p146)
- Clover Food Lab (p143)
- Life Alive (p146)
- Hungry Mother (p147)

For reviews, see p143 ➡

Best Places to Drink

- Café Pamplona (p147)
- Beat Hotel (p147)
- Green Street Grill (p148)
- State Park (p148)
- LA Burdick (p147)

For reviews, see p147 ➡

Best University Museums

- Harvard Art Museums (p142)
- MIT Museum (p141)
- Harvard Museum of Natural History (p142)
- Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology (p142)

For reviews, see p14 ➡