

BOSTON

ENCOUNTER

MARA VORHEES

Boston Encounter

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Color-Coding & Maps

Color-coding is used for symbols on maps and in the text that they relate to (eg all eating venues on the maps and in the text are given a green knife and fork symbol). Each neighborhood also gets its own color, and this is used down the edge of the page and throughout that neighborhood section.

Prices

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MARA VORHEES

Born and raised in St Clair Shores, Michigan, Mara traveled the world before finally settling in the Hub. She now lives in a pink house in Somerville, Massachusetts. She spent several years pushing papers and tapping keys at Harvard University, but has since embraced the life of a full-time travel writer, traveling to destinations as diverse as Russia and Belize. When in Boston, she is often spotted sipping Sam Seasonal in Union Sq and pedaling her road bike along the Charles River. Mara is the coauthor of Lonely Planet's *New England* and the *Boston City Guide*. She has also written for *National Geographic Traveler* and *Boston Globe Travel*. Follow her adventures online at www.maravorhees.com.



MARA'S THANKS

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THE PHOTOGRAPHER

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Cover photograph Boat sails under a bridge on the Charles River with the buildings of downtown Boston in the background, Kevin Fleming/Corbis. **Internal photographs** p142 Brandon Presser; p10 Sharon/Alamy; p4 Stock Connection Distribution/Alamy. All other photographs by Lonely Planet Images, and by Lou Jones except Brian Cruickshank p69; Richard Cummins p15, p32 (top right); Lee Foster p21, p31; Kim Grant p8, p12, p17, p22, p24, p27, p29, p32 (bottom), p36, p43, p59, p60, p80, p135, p137, p138, p146, p149, p151; Hanan Isachar p123; Gareth McCormack p6 (top); Angus Oborn p104, p140.

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FENWAY PARK

Cheer on the Boston Red Sox (p112) like a local

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THIS IS BOSTON

Exiting Kendall Square, the red-line train emerges from the tunnel into the daylight. It trundles over the Longfellow Bridge, offering up 360 degrees of river, sky and city.

The sun glints off the River Charles, framing the sailboats that float silently in the basin. The handsome Back Bay brownstones line up along the shore in an orderly fashion, while the backdrop is a haphazard assembly of skyscraper spires. In the east, the gold dome of the State House peaks out from its perch on Beacon Hill. And in the west shines the Citgo sign. The passengers on the T take a momentary break from their commute to marvel at their city.

If Boston is lovely to look at from afar, she is even more intriguing up close. These narrow streets recall a history of revolution and transformation: Puritans fleeing persecution and setting up their model society; patriots protesting tyranny and building a new nation; philosophers and poets preaching and penning to change their world for the better.

Today, Boston is still among the country's forward-thinking and barrier-breaking cities. This is most evident politically, where it is at the forefront of controversial issues such as supporting same-sex marriage and universal healthcare. It's also visible in the changing landscape of the city; Boston and its environs are now home to some of the country's most cutting-edge architecture and innovative urban-planning projects. Culturally, Boston is shedding its staid and stodgy reputation, with a flourishing contemporary art and film scene.

No single element has influenced the city so profoundly as its educational institutions. As in the past, Boston's universities and colleges continue to attract scholars, scientists, philosophers and writers who shape the city's evolving culture. Students arrive from around the world, an endless source of energy for the youthful city.

Now the train has pulled into Park St station. Elbows out. Eyes alert. Let's see what Boston is all about.

Top Bustling Long Wharf on Boston's waterfront **Bottom** A wintry day on Commonwealth Ave in Back Bay)