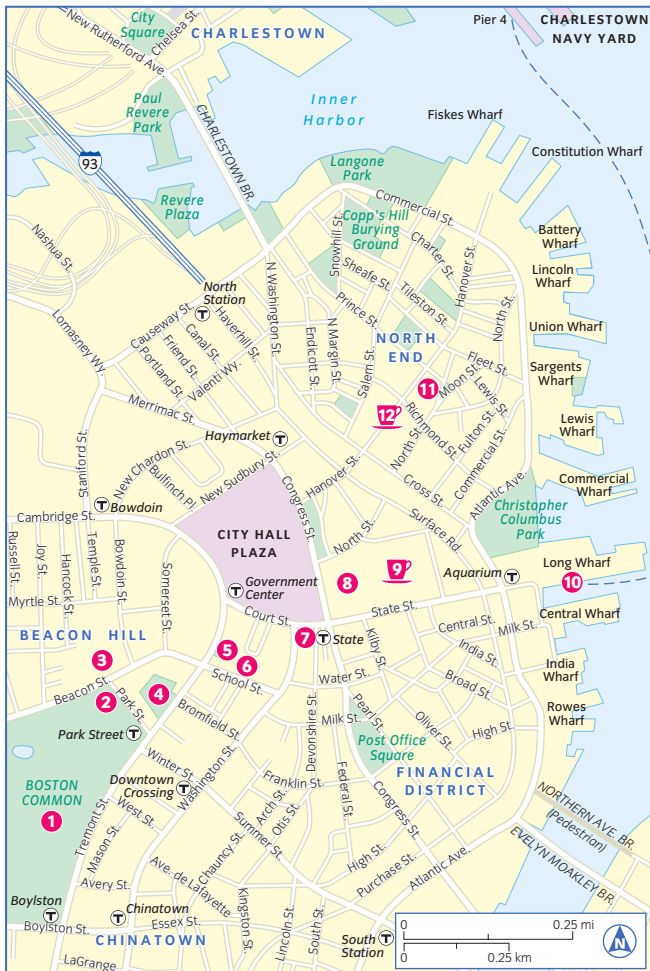


1

# The Best **Full-Day** **Tours**



## The Best in One Day



- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> Boston Common                            | <b>7</b> Old State House              |
| <b>2</b> Robert Gould Shaw Memorial               | <b>8</b> Faneuil Hall                 |
| <b>3</b> Massachusetts State House                | <b>9</b> Faneuil Hall Marketplace     |
| <b>4</b> Old Granary Burying Ground               | <b>10</b> Boston Harbor Water Shuttle |
| <b>5</b> King's Chapel Burying Ground             | <b>11</b> Paul Revere House           |
| <b>6</b> Old City Hall & Benjamin Franklin Statue | <b>12</b> Hanover Street              |

**W**ith just 1 day to spend in Boston, focus on the compact downtown area. You'll follow part of the Freedom Trail, which presents an opportunity to explore three-plus centuries of history. My best advice is twofold: Don't concentrate so hard on the trail that you forget to look up and around. And wear comfortable shoes.

**START:** Red or Green Line T to Park Street

**1 ★ Boston Common.** The oldest public park in the country (bought in 1634, set aside in 1640) is a welcome splash of green in red-brick Boston. As a boy, philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson herded his mother's cows here on the way to school. 🕒 5 min. *Bordered by Beacon, Park, Tremont, Boylston, and Charles sts. Free admission. Daily 24 hr. T: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*

**2 ★★★ Robert Gould Shaw Memorial.** The literal and figurative high point of the Common is this magnificent bronze sculpture by Augustus Saint-Gaudens, unveiled in 1897. Read the plaque on the back before or after taking in the incredible artistry of the front, a relief that took 14 years to design and execute. It honors the first American army

*Robert Gould Shaw (1837–63) died in battle at Fort Wagner, South Carolina.*



unit made up of free black soldiers, the Union Army's 54th Massachusetts Colored Regiment, who fought in the Civil War under the command of Col. Robert Gould Shaw. The sculpture is one of the finest public memorials in the country. 🕒 10 min. *Beacon St. at Park St. Free admission. Daily 24 hr. T: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*

**3 ★ Massachusetts State House.** The state capitol is one of the signature works of the great Federal-era architect Charles Bulfinch. Note the symmetry, a hallmark of Federal style, in details as large as doors and as small as moldings. Tours (guided and self-guided) explore the building. Allow time to poke around the grounds, which are dotted with statues and monuments; my favorite is President Kennedy captured in midstride. 🕒 10 min. *to explore outside; 40 min. with tour. Beacon St. at Park St. ☎ 617/727-3676. www.sec.state.ma.us/trs. Free admission and tours. Mon–Fri 9am–5pm (tours 10am–3:30pm). T: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*

**4 ★★ Old Granary Burying Ground.** Established in 1660 yet not even close to being the oldest in Boston, this cemetery is my favorite for its variety of designs and roster of . . . occupants. Consult the map near the entrance for help in locating the graves of, among others, Paul Revere, Samuel Adams, and John Hancock, whose monument is almost as ostentatious as his signature. For more information, see the

“Boston’s Colonial Cemeteries” tour on p 96. 🕒 15 min. Try to visit in the morning, before tour groups clog the walkways. Tremont St. at Bromfield St. Free admission. Daily 9am–5pm (until 3pm in winter). T: Red or Green Line to Park St.

**5 ★ King’s Chapel Burying Ground.** The oldest graveyard in the city dates to 1630, the same year Europeans settled the peninsula. The chapel was completed in 1754. For more information, see the “Boston’s Colonial Cemeteries” tour on p 96. Tremont St. at School St. Daily 8am–5:30pm (until 3pm in winter). T: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.

**6 Old City Hall & Benjamin Franklin Statue.** The seat of local government from 1865 to 1969, this ornate French Second Empire building now holds offices and a steakhouse. In front is the city’s first portrait statue, a likeness of Benjamin Franklin, who was born a block away. School St. at City Hall Ave. (end of Province St.). T: Blue or Orange Line to State.

*A simple tombstone at Old Granary Burying Ground.*



*The Declaration of Independence was read from the Old State House balcony in 1776.*

**7 ★ kids Old State House.** Like a flower on the floor of a forest of skyscrapers, this fancy little brick building crouches amid towering neighbors. The Old State House has stood here since 1713, when Massachusetts was a British colony and State Street was named King Street. (In the 1630s, when the Puritan settlement was in its infancy, the whipping post and stocks awaited sinners on this site.) During a visit to Boston in 1789, George Washington watched a parade from the balcony. The building served as the state capitol from Revolutionary times until the present State House opened in 1798. Today it houses the city’s history museum, a fascinating amalgamation of permanent and temporary displays. The engaging photographs in the permanent collection, which are featured in many rotating exhibits, are worth the price of admission. On the exterior are vestigial traces of British rule—a lion and a unicorn, both royal symbols that predate the

Revolution. 🕒 40 min. 206 Washington St., at State St. and Court St.

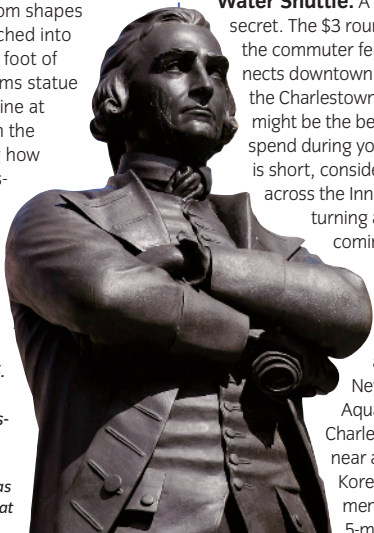
☎ 617/720-1713, ext. 21. [www.bostonhistory.org](http://www.bostonhistory.org). Admission \$5 adults, \$4 seniors, \$1 kids 6–18, free for kids under 6. Daily 9am–5pm (until 6pm July–Aug, until 4pm Jan). T: Blue or Orange Line to State.

**8 ★ kids Faneuil Hall.** Many of the great orators of the past 2-plus centuries inspired audiences to rebellion, reform, and protest here, earning the building the nickname “the cradle of liberty.” One of the best-known speakers was the revolutionary firebrand Samuel Adams (yes, like the beer), whose statue stands outside the Congress Street side of the building. Originally erected in 1742, Faneuil Hall was a gift from prominent merchant Peter Faneuil and was expanded by Charles Bulfinch in 1805. National Park Service rangers give brief but interesting talks in the second-floor auditorium that tell the story. Note the address—Dock Square—and the fact that there isn’t a dock, or indeed any water, nearby. The seemingly random shapes and patterns etched into the stone at the foot of the Samuel Adams statue show the shoreline at various points in the past, illustrating how landfill has transformed the city over the years.

🕒 5 min.; 30 min. for tour. Dock Square (Congress and North sts.).

☎ 617/242-5675. [www.nps.gov/bost](http://www.nps.gov/bost). Free admission. Daily

Samuel Adams was a frequent orator at Faneuil Hall.



9am–5pm; talks every 30 min. until 4:30. T: Green or Blue Line to Government Center, or Orange Line to Haymarket.

**9? ★★ kids Faneuil Hall Marketplace.** The five-building complex incorporates shopping, dining, drinking, live entertainment (think juggling), and people-watching. The Quincy Market building holds a huge food court. At lunch, follow the office workers—lines form at places that earn repeat business.

🕒 30–60 min. Morning is least busy, but afternoons are most entertaining, especially in warm weather. Bordered by State, Congress, and North sts. and Atlantic Ave. ☎ 617/523-1300. [www.faneuilhallmarketplace.com](http://www.faneuilhallmarketplace.com). Mon–Sat 10am–9pm, Sun noon–6pm; many restaurants open earlier and close later. T: Green Line to Government Center, Orange Line to Haymarket or State, or Blue Line to Aquarium or State.

**10 ★★★ kids Boston Harbor Water Shuttle.** A classic open secret. The \$3 round-trip fare for the commuter ferry that connects downtown Boston and the Charlestown Navy Yard might be the best money you spend during your visit. If time is short, consider riding across the Inner Harbor, turning around, and coming right back.

There’s plenty to look at on either end: Long Wharf adjoins the New England Aquarium, and the Charlestown pier is near a dramatic Korean War memorial and a 5-minute walk

## Top Attractions: Practical Matters

A CityPass (☎ 888/330-5008; [www.citypass.com](http://www.citypass.com)) is a booklet of tickets—so you can go straight to the entrance—to the Harvard Museum of Natural History, the Kennedy library, the New England Aquarium, the Museum of Fine Arts, the Museum of Science, and the Prudential Center Skywalk. If you visit all six, the price (\$39 for adults, \$19.50 for youths 3–11) gives adults a 50% discount. An even better savings can be in time when lines at the attractions are long—especially if you have your heart set on visiting the aquarium. The passes, good for 1 year from the date of purchase, are on sale at participating attractions, from the website, through the Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau (☎ 800/SEE-BOSTON; [www.bostonusa.com](http://www.bostonusa.com)), and from some hotel concierge desks and travel agents.

from USS *Constitution* (Old Ironsides) and its museum. But the point is the journey, not the destination—find a place on the deck in good weather, and enjoy feeling the wind in your face as the notion of running away to sea stirs in the back of your mind. In inclement weather, this is still a fun excursion, with excellent views from

the enclosed cabin in all but the worst conditions, but do bundle up. ⌚ 10 min. each way, but allow 1 hr. total to include wait time and a bit of exploring at either end; steer clear during the morning and evening rush hours, when regular commuters are all business. Long Wharf, 1 block from State St. and Atlantic Ave.

*The architectural style of the Revere house is usually described as Tudor or folk Gothic.*





Take a break at a North End cafe to enjoy some cannoli and a cappuccino.

☎ 617/222-4321. [www.mbta.com](http://www.mbta.com).

One-way fare \$1.50 adults, 75¢ kids 5–11, free for kids under 5. Mon–Fri 6:30am–8pm, Sat–Sun 10am–6pm. T: Blue Line to Aquarium.

### 11 ★★★ kids Paul Revere

**House.** The more I learn about Paul Revere, the better I understand that he was just a regular guy. On a visit to his North End home, you get a sense of what daily life was like for a successful colonial craftsman. Outfitted with 17th- and 18th-century furniture and fascinating artifacts (including silver pieces created by Revere), the little wood structure is open for self-guided tours, a visitor-friendly format that allows you to set your own pace. A talented silversmith who supported a large family—he

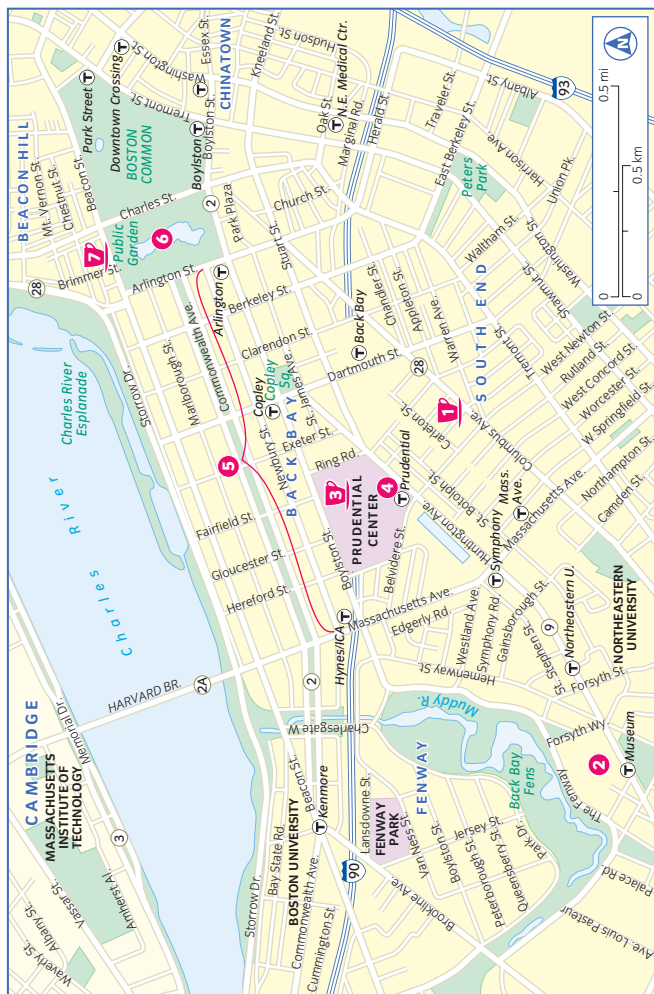
had eight children with each of his two wives—Revere played an important role in the fight for independence. As tensions between British troops and colonists escalated in the last years of colonial rule, he monitored the royal soldiers' activities and helped to keep the Americans apprised of the progress of the rebellion. He left this cozy house over and over again, working to bring about what would end up being the American Revolution—and risking his neck every single time. Could I be that brave? Could you? 🕒 40 min. *Crowds fluctuate, but weekend afternoons are busiest.* 19 North Sq., between Richmond and Prince sts. ☎ 617/523-2338. [www.paulreverehouse.org](http://www.paulreverehouse.org). \$3 adults, \$2.50 seniors and students, \$1 kids 5–17, free for kids under 5. Apr–Dec daily 9:30am–5:15pm (until 4:15pm Apr 1–15 & Nov–Dec); Jan–Mar Tues–Sun 9:30am–4:15pm. T: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.

had eight children with each of his two wives—Revere played an important role in the fight for independence. As tensions between British troops and colonists escalated in the last years of colonial rule, he monitored the royal soldiers' activities and helped to keep the Americans apprised of the progress of the rebellion. He left this cozy house over and over again, working to bring about what would end up being the American Revolution—and risking his neck every single time. Could I be that brave? Could you? 🕒 40 min. *Crowds fluctuate, but weekend afternoons are busiest.* 19 North Sq., between Richmond and Prince sts. ☎ 617/523-2338. [www.paulreverehouse.org](http://www.paulreverehouse.org). \$3 adults, \$2.50 seniors and students, \$1 kids 5–17, free for kids under 5. Apr–Dec daily 9:30am–5:15pm (until 4:15pm Apr 1–15 & Nov–Dec); Jan–Mar Tues–Sun 9:30am–4:15pm. T: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.

### 12? ★★ kids Hanover Street.

This crowded street at the heart of the North End, Boston's best-known Italian-American neighborhood, is filled with restaurants, caffès, and out-of-towners. Explore a bit before settling down with a cappuccino, a cannoli, and an appetite for people-watching. My favorites are Mike's Pastry (301 Hanover St., ☎ 617/742-3050, [www.mikespastry.com](http://www.mikespastry.com);) and Caffè Vittoria (296 Hanover St., ☎ 617/227-7606, [www.vittoriacaffee.com](http://www.vittoriacaffee.com);) \$. **A tip:** Never call the North End "Little Italy," unless you want everyone around you to know you're a tourist.

## The Best in Two Days



- 1** Charlie's Sandwich Shoppe
- 2** Museum of Fine Arts
- 3** Shops at Prudential Center
- 4** Boston Duck Tours
- 5** Newbury Street
- 6** Public Garden
- 7** Cheers



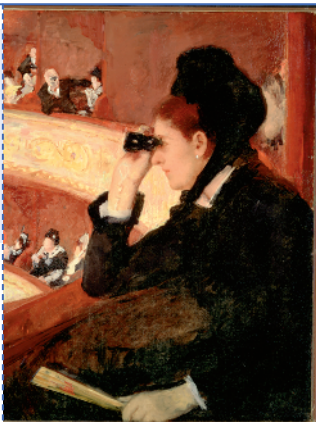
**I**f you followed the one-day tour, you have a feel for downtown Boston and its Colonial legacy. In the 19th century, the city spread westward, building up the neighborhood now known as the Back Bay and spreading into the Fenway. Today you'll see a little of everything. Again, comfortable shoes are key. **START: Orange Line T to Back Bay or Green Line T to Copley**

**1** ★ **kids** **Charlie's Sandwich**

**Shophe.** The Museum of Fine Arts doesn't open until 10am. Blueberry pancakes at this long-time South End favorite make the time fly by. *429 Columbus Ave. (between Holyoke St. and Braddock Park).* ☎ 617/536-7669. \$–\$\$.

**2** ★★★ **kids** **Museum of Fine**

**Arts.** The familiar and the undiscovered meet at the MFA, creating an irresistible atmosphere that makes the museum one of the best in the world. Plan your visit beforehand—you might take a tour, concentrate on a particular period, or head straight to one specific piece. For me, that would probably be a Monet painting (the museum owns dozens), but I reserve the right to substitute a sculpture, a photograph, a mural, a vase, or even a piece of furniture. It's all here; use your time wisely. *See also the mini-tour of the MFA on p. 27.* ⌚ at least 3 hr. Arrive when the doors open, visit on a weekday if possible, and if you're traveling without kids, try to avoid school vacation weeks. *465 Huntington Ave. (between Museum Rd. and Forsyth Way).* ☎ 617/267-9300. [www.mfa.org](http://www.mfa.org). Admission (good for 2 visits within 10 days) \$15 adults, \$13 seniors and students when entire museum is open (\$13 and \$11 when only West Wing is open), \$6.50 kids under 18 on school days before 3pm, otherwise free. Voluntary contribution Wed 4–9:45pm. Entire museum Sat–Tues 10am–4:45pm, Wed



Mary Cassatt's *In the Loge*.

10am–9:45pm, Thurs–Fri 10am–5pm; West Wing only Thurs–Fri 5–9:45pm. Tours Mon–Fri except Mon holidays 10:30am–3pm, Wed 6:15pm, Sat–Sun 11am–3pm. T: Green Line E to Museum or Orange Line to Ruggles.

**3** ? **kids** **Shops at Prudential**

**Center.** The Pru has a good, if generic, food court and several sit-down restaurants (including a branch of Legal Sea Foods; see p 109) that don't require reservations. If the weather's good, picnic in the courtyard. Depending on when your Duck Tour begins (see the next stop), you may want to grab a bite afterward instead. *800 Boylston St.; enter from Huntington Ave. near Belvidere Rd. or from Boylston St. between Fairfield and Gloucester sts.* ☎ 800/SHOP-PRU. [www.prudentialcenter.com](http://www.prudentialcenter.com). \$–\$\$.



*Boston Duck Tour vehicles are comfortable on land and water.*

**4** ★★★ **kids** **Boston Duck Tours.** Enjoy the best motorized tour of Boston from a vantage point high above the street in a reconditioned World War II amphibious vehicle. The con-duck-tors (ouch) are exceptionally well trained—they have to be licensed to operate the mammoth “Ducks” on water as well as on land, after which memorizing some historical highlights must feel

like child’s play. They narrate a relatively brief but thorough tour on land, and then the vehicle rolls down a ramp and cruises around the Charles River basin. Whee! A captivating combination of unusual perspectives, cooling breezes, and fascinating narration. 🕒 **80 min. for tour.** *Timed tickets go on sale 5 days ahead in person and online; aim for the afternoon, when the action on*

*Public Garden, the first botanical garden in the country, is lovely all year-round.*



the river is liveliest, but don't pass up a morning tour if that's the only option. Boarding behind the Prudential Center, on Huntington Ave. near Belvidere St., or at the Museum of Science, Science Park, off McGrath–O'Brien Highway (Route 28). ☎ 800/226-7442 or ☎ 617/267-DUCK. [www.bostonducktours.com](http://www.bostonducktours.com). Tickets \$26 adults, \$23 seniors and students, \$17 kids 3–11, \$3 kids under 3. Apr–Nov daily 9am to 30 min. before sunset. No tours Dec–Mar. T: Green Line E to Prudential or any car to Copley for Prudential Center; Green Line to Science Park for Museum of Science.

**5 ★★★ Newbury Street.** The best-known retail destination in New England has something for everyone. Newbury Street is famous for art galleries and designer boutiques, where you can see people glancing at four- and five-figure price tags and not batting an eye. That's mostly at the fancy end—as a rule, the closer to the Public Garden, the nicer the neighborhood. Less expensive and more fun are the stores at higher-numbered addresses. Note that the cross streets go in alphabetical order. *Arlington St. to Massachusetts Ave.* ☎ 617/267-2224. [www.newburystreetleague.org](http://www.newburystreetleague.org). T: Green Line to Arlington, Green Line to

Copley, or Green Line B, C, or D to Hynes/ICA.

**6 ★★★ kids Public Garden.** Boston's most beloved park is a perfect place to unwind. The Public Garden overflows with seasonal blooms and permanent plantings (the roses, which peak in June, are particularly lovely). No matter how crowded it gets, it feels serene. Stroll the perimeter, studying the delightfully miscellaneous collection of monuments and statues. Watch the ducks and the swans. The Swan Boats, which ply the lagoon in the summer, are a lovely reminder of a long-ago, less frantic time. For more information, see the tour of the Public Garden starting on p 90. *Bordered by Arlington, Boylston, Charles, and Beacon sts.* Free admission. Daily dawn–dusk. T: Green Line to Arlington.

**7 kids Cheers.** This is it, in all its touristy glory. I wouldn't even mention it, but it's across the street from the Public Garden, and hardly a week goes by without an out-of-towner asking me for directions. *84 Beacon St. (at Brimmer St.)*. ☎ 617/227-9605. [www.cheersboston.com](http://www.cheersboston.com). \$–\$\$.



This flag marks the location of America's most famous bar.

# The Best in Three Days



**A**fter 2 days concentrating on central Boston, this is your chance to spread out a little. The city's Dorchester neighborhood is accessible on the Red Line and home to a unique attraction, John F. Kennedy's presidential library. His alma mater is just a subway ride away, at the heart of an intriguing city that thrives in Boston's shadow. **START: Red Line to JFK/UMass**

**1** ★★★ **kids** **John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum.** Whether or not you remember the Kennedy era, you'll enjoy this museum. Copious collections of memorabilia, photos, and audio and video recordings illustrate the exhibits, which capture the 35th president in vibrant style. The displays begin with the 1960 presidential campaign; a 17-minute film about his early life narrated by Kennedy himself, using cleverly edited audio clips, kicks off your visit. By the time you reach the dim room where news reports of the assassination play, you'll want to shed a tear along with Walter Cronkite. 🕒 **2 hr.** *Arrive when the doors open and you may have the place to yourself; prepare for gridlock on summer weekend afternoons. Columbia Point, off University Dr. N. near UMass-Boston.* 📞 **866/JFK-1960** or 📞 **617/514-1600.** [www.jfklibrary.org](http://www.jfklibrary.org). **Admission \$10 adults; \$8 seniors, students with ID, and youths 13–17; free for kids under 13.**

*Surcharges may apply for special exhibitions. Daily 9am–5pm (last film at 3:55pm). T: Red Line to JFK/UMass, then take free shuttle bus.*

**2** ★★★ **kids** **Mr. Bartley's Burger Cottage.** Fantastic burgers are the thing here, but I've also had excellent veggie burgers, hummus, and cheese steaks. Make sure you try the unbelievable onion rings. **1246 Massachusetts Ave. (at Plympton St.), Cambridge.** 📞 **617/354-6559.** \$.

**3** ★ **Harvard Yard.** Harvard, the oldest college in the country (founded in 1636), welcomes visitors and offers free guided tours when school is in session. Even without a guide, the stately main campus (two adjoining quads known as Harvard Yard), is worth a look. The most popular stop is the John Harvard statue in front of University Hall. The most popular stop should (according

*I. M. Pei designed the Kennedy library to suit its location on Dorchester Bay.*





*You can always tell a Harvard man, but you can't tell him much.*

to me) be Sever Hall, where the rounded archway around the front door forms a “whispering gallery.” Stand on one side and speak softly into the molding; someone standing next to you won’t be able to hear, but a listener at the other end of the archway will. Sever Hall is next to Memorial Church, which is open to the public except during services. Across the way is majestic Widener Library; climb the steps for a sensational view of this part of the campus. To begin exploring, visit the website or stop in at the Events & Information Center to take a tour or pick up a map. ⌚ 30 min.; longer if you take a tour. **Events & Information Center, 1350 Massachusetts Ave. (between Dunster and Holyoke sts.)** ☎ 617/495-1573. [www.harvard.edu](http://www.harvard.edu). **Tours Mon–Sat; check website for schedule. T: Red Line to Harvard.**

**4? ★★★ kids** **Toscanini’s.** A break already? Hey, college is hard! You need gourmet ice cream, in flavors both plain and fancy. Join the real college students and take your treat across the street, then find somewhere to perch in the Yard. **1310 Massachusetts Ave. (between Holyoke and Linden sts.)** ☎ 617/354-9350. \$.

**5 ★★ Fogg Art Museum.** The Fogg is not too small and not too big; it’s just right. The collections are both classic and contemporary, with—out an overwhelming emphasis on anything. I particularly like the 19th-century American and European paintings and drawings, but I’m easily distracted by everything from contemporary sculpture to Flemish landscape painting. The Fogg adjoins the Busch-Reisinger Museum, which specializes in art of northern and central Europe, and is a block away from the Arthur M. Sackler Museum, the university’s repository of Asian and ancient art. I have a soft spot for the Fogg, but you may prefer one of the others. One admission fee covers all three—explore away. ⌚ 2 hr. **Seldom truly mobbed, except during special exhibitions or when a large class is studying a particular work (which can be fun if the students know their stuff).** **32 Quincy St. (at Broadway).** ☎ 617/495-9400. [www.artmuseums.harvard.edu](http://www.artmuseums.harvard.edu). **Admission to Fogg, Busch-Reisinger, and Sackler museums \$7.50 adults, \$6 seniors and students, free for kids under 18; free for everyone before noon Sat. Mon–Sat 10am–5pm; Sun 1–5pm. T: Red Line to Harvard.**

**6 ★ Memorial Hall.** Anything but a stereotypical red-brick Harvard building, “Mem Hall” is a Victorian-era (1874) structure in an unusual style known as Ruskin Gothic. Polychrome (multicolored) brickwork sets off quirky archways, and the floor plan mimics a Gothic cathedral, with a dining hall in place of the nave and Sanders Theatre, a lecture and concert hall, in the apse. The transept is a hall of memorials that lists the Harvard men who perished in the Civil War, but only if they fought for the Union. ⌚ 10 min. **Stay away during mealtimes to avoid being trampled by hungry students.** **45 Quincy St. (at Cambridge St.)** ●