

1

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



The Best in One Day



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

With 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 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.mass.gov/statehouse. Free admission and tours. Mon–Fri 9am–5pm (tours 10am–3:30pm). T: Red or Green Line to Park Street.

4 ★★ 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

Robert Gould Shaw led the 54th Massachusetts Colored Regiment in the Civil War.





A simple tombstone at the Granary Burying Ground.

“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.

7 ★ kids Old State House Museum. 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.

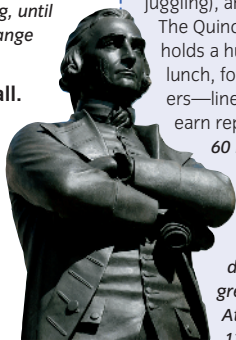
The Declaration of Independence was read from the Old State House balcony in 1776.



206 Washington St., at State and Court sts. ☎ 617/720-1713, ext. 21. 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 using a Charles Bulfinch design 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. Free admission. Daily 9am–5pm; talks every 30 min. until 4:30pm. Ground-floor shops close later. T: Green or Blue Line to Government Center, or Orange Line to Haymarket.



Samuel Adams spoke frequently at Faneuil Hall.

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. 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 \$3.40 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 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

Top Attractions: Practical Matters

A CityPass (☎ 888/330-5008; www.citypass.com) is a booklet of tickets—so you can go straight to the entrance—to the Museum of Fine Arts, the Museum of Science, the New England Aquarium, the Prudential Center Skywalk Observatory, and either the Kennedy Library or the Harvard Museum of Natural History. If you visit all five, the price (\$44 for adults, \$28 for youths 3–11) gives adults nearly a 45% discount on buying tickets individually. 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), and from some hotel concierge desks and travel agents.

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. ☎ 617/222-4321. www.mbta.com. One-way fare \$1.70 adults, free for kids under 12 with a paying adult. 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

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



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 silver-smith 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. \$3.50 adults, \$3 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.

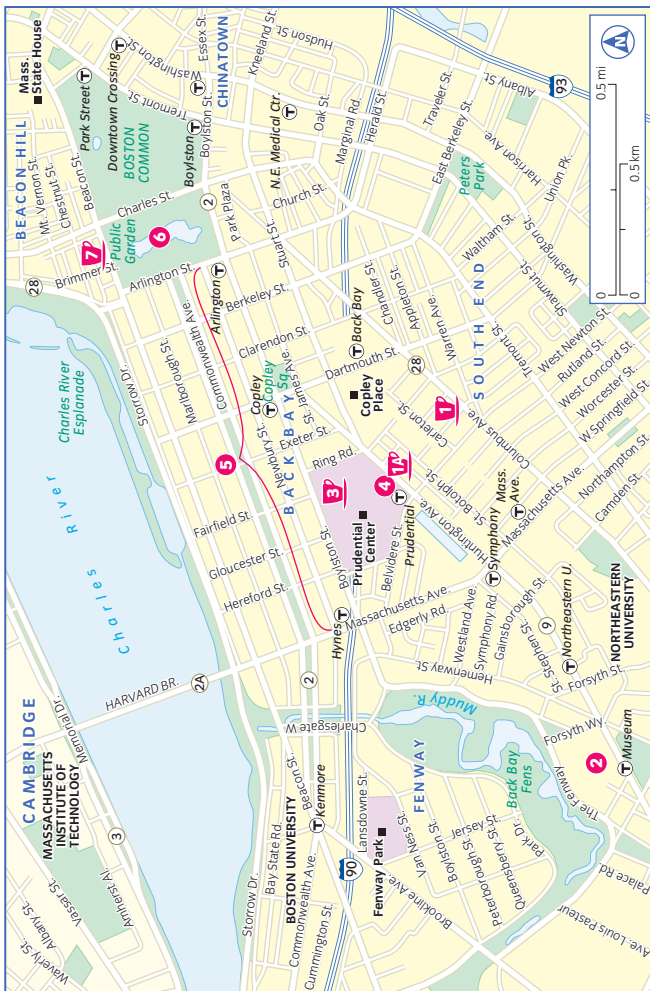
12P ★★ **kids Hanover Street.** This crowded street at the heart of the North End, Boston's best-known



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

Italian-American neighborhood, is filled with restaurants, cafes, and out-of-towners. The increasingly sophisticated retail options include several boutiques at the less busy end of the street, past the firehouse at Charter Street. Explore a bit before settling down with a cappuccino, a cannoli, and an appetite for people-watching. My favorite destinations are Mike's Pastry (301 Hanover St., ☎️ 617/742-3050, www.mikespastry.com; \$) and Caffè Vittoria (296 Hanover St., ☎️ 617/227-7606, www.vittoriacaffe.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

If you followed the 1-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 Shoppe. The Museum of Fine Arts doesn't open until 10am. Blueberry pancakes at this long-time South End favorite make the time fly by. If it's Sunday, when Charlie's is closed, head to **Brasserie Jo** (1A) (see p 105). 429 Columbus Ave. (between Holyoke St. and Braddock Park). ☎ 617/536-7669. \$-\$\$\$. No credit cards.

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. Admission (good for 2 visits within 10 days) \$17 adults, \$15 seniors and students, \$6.50 kids 7–18 on school days before 3pm, otherwise free. Free for kids under 7. Voluntary contribution Wed



Mary Cassatt's In the Loge.

4–9:45pm. Sat–Tues 10am–4:45pm, Wed–Fri 10am–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 108) 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 St. or from Boylston St. between Fairfield and Gloucester sts. ☎ 800/SHOP-PRU. www.prudentialcenter.com. \$-\$\$\$.

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. Wheel! 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 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. Tickets \$31 adults, \$27 seniors and students, \$21 kids 3–11, \$6 kids under 3. Apr to mid-Dec daily 9am to 30 min. before sunset. No tours mid-Dec to 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. T: Green Line to Arlington, Green Line to Copley, or Green Line B, C, or D to Hynes/ICA.*

Boston Duck Tour vehicles are comfortable on land and water.





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

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.

7P 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.

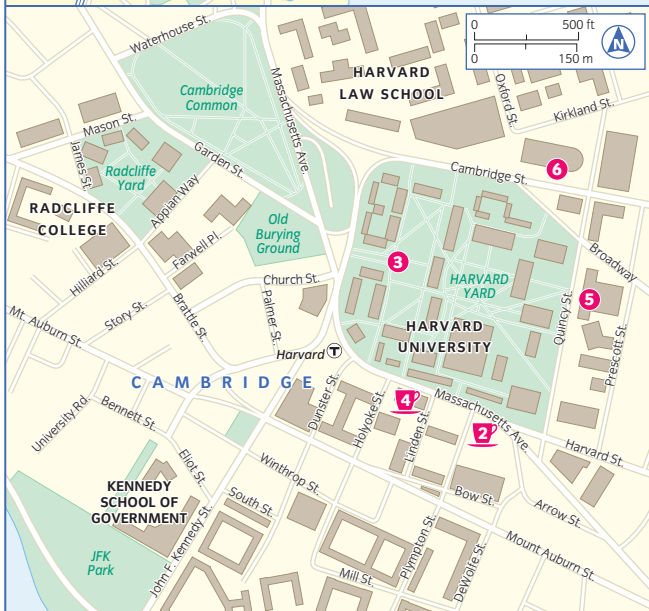
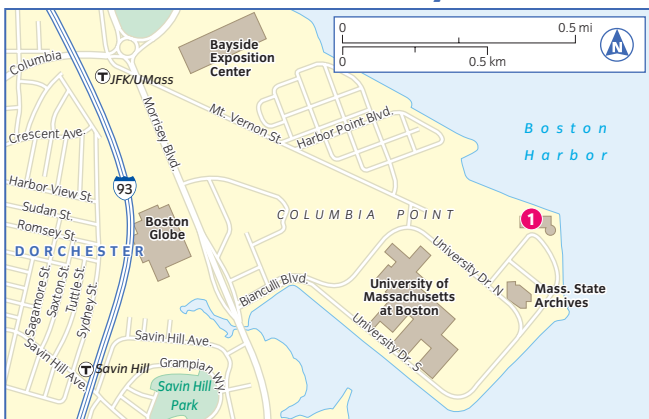
84 Beacon St. (at Brimmer St.).

☎ 617/227-9605. www.cheersboston.com. \$–\$\$.



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




The Best in Three Days




- 1** John F. Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum
- 2** Mr. Bartley's Burger Cottage
- 3** Harvard Yard
- 4** J.P. Licks
- 5** Harvard Art Museum
- 6** Memorial Hall

After 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. Admission \$12 adults; \$10

seniors, students with ID, and youths 13–17; free for kids under 13. Sur-charges 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. Closed Sunday. **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.

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



The most popular stop is the John Harvard statue in front of University Hall. The most popular stop should (according 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. Across the way is majestic Widener Library; climb the steps for a sensational view. 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.hno.harvard.edu/guide. **Tours Mon–Sat; check website for schedule.** **T: Red Line to Harvard.**

4 ★★★ **kids J.P. Licks.** A break already? Hey, college is hard! You need gourmet ice cream, in flavors both plain and fancy. **1312 Massachusetts Ave. (between Holyoke and Linden sts.)** ☎ 617/492-1001. \$.

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



5 ★★ **Harvard Art Museum.**

The university’s art collections are both classic and contemporary, with a quarter-million objects in three individual institutions. They represent everything from Roman sculpture and Japanese woodblock prints to Impressionist masterpieces and modern photography. While the Fogg and Busch-Reisinger museums undergo renovation (through 2013), a long-term exhibition called “Re-View” takes up the Arthur M. Sackler Museum incorporating objects from all three museums. 🕒 *2 hr.* **Seldom truly mobbed, except when a large class is studying a particular work (which can be fun if the students know their stuff).** **485 Broadway (at Quincy St.).** ☎ 617/495-9400. www.harvardartmuseum.org. **Admission \$9 adults, \$7 seniors, \$6 students, free for kids under 18; free for everyone before noon Sat and daily after 4:30pm. 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.).** ●