

# Things To Do in Boston This Weekend

By: Maggie Anderson, G4 Mundy Group

## In Harvard Square:

- Museums: Harvard Art museum (free for everyone, impressive collection), Harvard Natural History Museum (\$10 for non-Harvard students, free for Harvard ID holders + 1 guest, be sure to check out the glass flowers!), Harvard Museum of the Ancient Near East (free, closed Saturdays), Historical Collection of Scientific Instruments (free, closed Saturdays), Houghton library (free, rare book collection)
- Coffee shops: Broadsheet (15 min walk), Faro (7 min walk), Tatte (like 'latte', 5 min walk), Simon's Coffee shop (15 min walk)
- Bookstores: Harvard Book Store, Rodney's Bookstore
- Restaurants/bars: Life Alive (casual organic bowls), Wusong Road (American-chinese food / tiki bar – like an adult Rainforest Café), ONE Ramen (...ramen); Felipe's Taqueria vs. El Jefe's Taqueria (two Mexican food stalwarts); Black Sheep Bagels vs. Bagelsaurus (bagel stalwarts); Nirvana (Indian food), Longfellow bar and Alden & Harlow (upscale American food/cocktails), the Friendly Toast and Tatte (brunch), Barcelona (tapas and wine bar)
- Dessert shops: Mike's Pastry (get an OG cannoli for much cheaper than in the North End), Union Square Donuts, Honeycomb Creamery, JP Licks (ice cream, JP stands for 'Jamaica Plain'), Lizzie's Ice Cream, Zinnekan's Belgian Waffles, Berryline FroYo, literally too many boba places to list
- Harvard Gear: The Harvard COOP, the Harvard shop, J. August, etc.
- Fun shops: Vico style, the Attic, and We Thieves (vintage); Planet records and Armaggedon shop (records); Newbury comics and the Million Year Picnic (comics, etc.), Ward maps (vintage maps and prints and MBTA gear), Petali Flowers (plants, national park items, and Harry Potter stuff)
- Movie Theaters: Brattle Theater, Harvard Film Archive
- Activities (mostly outdoor):
  - The Harvard Science Center plaza has curling and 'ice' bowling as well as free hot chocolate and fire pits – they are on some schedule that I have never been able to figure out
  - Take a walk through Mount Auburn cemetery (like a really pretty park, some famous scientists are buried here!)
  - Walk along the Charles river
  - Explore Harvard Campus – see the sights including Widener library, the infamous John Harvard statue, and Memorial Hall (which looks like a church but is not); free tours are offered through Smith Campus

center but are often sold out, other vendors sell tickets by the main entrance to the Harvard Square T stop just outside of the yard

Things further afield (>15 min walk from Harvard Yard):

## Food

- Brunch places: Brookline lunch (**central square T**, cash only, try the baklava pancakes), Donut Villa Diner (**central square T**, classic diner with tasty donuts), Café Luna (**kendall/MIT T**, upscale, extensive menu), Veggie Galaxy (**central square T**, all vegetarian diner), Tatte and Friendly Toast (multiple locations including Harvard square), Andala Coffee House (**central square T**, Mediterranean café)
- Roxie's Grilled Cheese (**central square T**, there is an arcade bar hidden in the back room)
- Time Out Market (**fenway T**, an upscale food court with bars and a Trillium brewery outpost; in the winter they have a small ice skating rink)
- Quincy Market (**government center T**, food hall packed with vendors next to a historic town hall (Faneuil hall – rhymes with 'Samuel')
- The north end (**haymarket T**, Boston's little Italy packed with Italian restaurants, coffee shops, and dessert shops, I recommend La Famiglia Giorgio's (food), Bova's bakery (dessert, open 24 hrs and cheapest around), Parla (amazing prohibition themed cocktail bar with food), and Caffè Vittoria (coffee or cocktails, cash only))
- Hidden Bars: Backbar (hidden, 20 min walk to union square), Hecate (well hidden, **hynes convention T**, very upscale and tiny), Yvonne's (enter through a fake hair salon, **downtown crossing T**, upscale and large), Saloon (hidden, **davis square T**), the Wig Shop (disguised as a wig shop, **downtown crossing T**)

## Museums

- Museum of Fine Arts (**museum of fine arts T**, free for Harvard ID holders, \$27 otherwise, absolutely massive)
- Isabella Stewart Gardner museum (**museum of fine arts T**, free for Harvard ID holders, \$13 for other students, typically requires timed entry ticket, art museum in a Venetian palace with a pretty courtyard)
- Museum of Science (**science park/west end T**, \$29 admission, a science center with a planetarium – generally geared towards a young audience)
- Institute of Contemporary Art (**south station T** + **courthouse T** or 15 min walk, free with Harvard ID or \$15 for other student ID, modern art right on Boston harbor)

- Boston Tea Party Ships and Museum (**south station T**, over the water near the harbor in Fort Point Channel, skip the museum and tour and go to Abigail's tea room for \$4 unlimited historic teas, HUZDAH!)
- New England Aquarium (**Aquarium T**, can get 50% tickets as a Harvard student or \$32 dollars with college ID, not a museum but a similar vibe, large central tank, some African penguins, and a giant pacific octopus, offers whale watching tours when the weather is nice)
- Boston Public Library main branch (**Copley T**, free, large, beautiful reading room, courtyard, and other rooms with art and ornate decoration, also see the Map Tea Room for afternoon tea or cocktails)

### Activities

- Walk the freedom trail (**park street T**, starts at Boston Common, iconic walk through Boston with stops at numerous historic sites including graveyards, the site of the Boston massacre, Paul Revere's house, Old North Church where the lanterns were hung to warn the British army was coming; I recommend stopping in the North End before crossing the bridge to the Beacon Hill Monument – its far)
- Check out Boston Common and the Boston Public Garden (**park street T**, pretty downtown parks with sculptures, trees, and an ice skating rink in winter)
- Walk on the Rose-Kennedy Greenway (**government center or haymarket T**, when the highway was moved underground a long park was built on top, my favorite part stretches from haymarket/the North End to south station)
- Walk along the Esplanade (**Charles/MGH T**, a nice park along the Charles river with sculptures, canals, and a beer garden in the summer)
- Visit Bow Market (20 min walk to Union square, a collection of small food vendors, restaurants, shops, a brewery (Remnant), a wine bar, and a pinball parlor; has nice fire pits in the courtyard)
- Visit MIT's campus (**kendall/MIT T**, see buildings designed by IM Pei and walk the infinite corridor to the great dome)
- Go shopping on Charles Street (**Charles/MGH T**, antique shops and boutiques on a street in the beautiful Beacon Hill Neighborhood, I also recommend going inside the nearby Liberty Hotel which was built in a former jail – you can still see some of the cells)
- Go shopping in Back Bay (**arlington to hynes convention T**, the main shopping thruway is Newbury street which has restaurants and stores galore, also see beautiful houses along Commonwealth Ave. and the upscale Prudential center mall)

- Visit the city's best and most unique book shops (multiple locations, Brattle Book Shop (**park street T**), Trident Booksellers (**hynes convention T**), Beacon Hill Books & Café (**charles/MGH T**), and Commonwealth Books (**government center T**))
- Go vintage shopping (multiple locations, some of my favorite shops include Great Eastern Trading Co (**central T**), High Energy Vintage (20 min walk), and the Garment District (**kendall/MIT T**))
- Visit the SoWa vintage market on Sundays (**broadway T**, an indoor subterranean vintage market with relatively pricey clothing and antiques, also see the artist studios upstairs in the same building)
- Check out local breweries (multiple locations, some of my favorites include Aeronaut (12 min walk), Remnant (20 min walk, in Bow Market), Lamplighter (25 min walk), Trillium (**south station T** or **fenway T** by the Time Out Market), Samuel Adams Taproom (**government center T**), and Democracy Brewing (**park street T**))
- Visit the top of the Prudential Center (**copley T**, \$30 or \$10 for college students on Thursday nights, newly constructed, see Boston from above at the top of the "Pru")
- Check out historic and famous Fenway Park (**kenmore T**, walk around the outside or visit the Bleacher bar – a dive bar built into the side of the park that opens up onto the field – to see inside the park for free year round)
- Go ice skating (multiple locations, there are outdoor seasonal rinks in kendall square (**kendall/MIT T**), boston common (**park street T**), Time Out Market (**fenway T**) and year-round rinks in Somerville (15 min walk, Veteran's Memorial Rink) and the north end (**north station T**, Steriti Memorial Rink))