Welcome to Westgate Apartments at MIT!

This booklet will highlight shopping, food guides, activities and essential tips for getting around town -- with or without a car.

We hope you find this a helpful resource and enjoy your time in the Cambridge/Boston area. The original Cambridge Survival Guide was developed by spouses at Harvard University. This booklet is based on the original guide, on some various other resources, the Internet, many additions from the Eastgate Graduate Coordinators, advice from former and present Westgate residents, and a few additions of our own.

Enjoy!

The Westgate Graduate Coordinators

Please e-mail with any questions you may have: westgate-gc@mit.edu
SHOPPING
Here are a few resources to make your new house a home.

FURNITURE & HOUSEWARE
Antique Shops - along Charles Street
Bernie and Phyl's Furniture
1 East Street, Cambridge
617-868-7999
Bob's Discount
61 Squire Rd, Revere
Building 19
133 Middlesex Ave
Somerville
617-776-4765
Especially good for rugs
Cort Furniture Rental
98 Boylston Street, Boston
617-542-8383
www.cort1.com
Crate and Barrel
48 Brattle, Street, Cambridge
617-876-6300
Jordan's Furniture (2 locations)
Delivery Available
1 Underprice Way (Rte. 9) Natick
508-424-0088
289 Moody Street, Waltham
781-894-6100
Mattress Discounters (3 locations)
194 Alewife Brook Parkway, Cambridge
617-354-0118
872 Commonwealth Ave, Brookline
617-738-0033
425 Boylston St., Boston
617-437-6633
MIT Reuse List
Check out web.mit.edu for details
Pier 1 Imports
One Porter Square, Cambridge
617-491-7626
Putnam Furniture Leasing
614 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
617-354-3358
Workbench Furniture
1050 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
617-876-9754
Roadside Finds
One person’s junk is another person’s treasure. Entire apartments have been furnished by things left on the curb. Try the night before garbage day during key move-in/move-out seasons, particularly in the nice neighborhoods (they usually have nicer furniture).

Yard Sales
Particularly take a look in upscale suburbs or in/around student housing towards the end of the school year and throughout the summer. Big sales are also sometimes listed in the Boston Globe.

HOME IMPROVEMENT
Economy Hardware
438 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
617-864-3300
TAGS Ace Hardware
Porter Square Shopping Center
617-868-7711
Home Depot Store (2 locations)
75 Mystic Ave., Somerville
617-926-0299
615 Arsenal St., Watertown
617-623-0001

JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING
Target
180 Somerville Ave., Somerville
617-776-4036
KMart
400 Western Ave., Brighton
617-562-4492
Wal*Mart
301 Falls Blvd, Quincy
(617) 745-4390

PHARMACIES
CVS
Central Square, Cambridge
624 Mass Ave.
617-354-4130
Kendall Drug
238 Main St., Cambridge
617-492-7790
Brooks (2 locations)
330 River St., Cambridge
617-492-9070
1740 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
617-876-4010
SUPERMARKETS
Market Basket (best deal in town)
400 Somerville Ave., Somerville
(Be warned: the place is a zoo on the weekends)
Star Market (2 locations)
14 McGrath Highway, Somerville
617-625-4070
Star University Park
20 Sidney St, Cambridge
617-494-5250
Peapod.com
Delivery service partnered with Stop & Shop Markets. Order your groceries online and Peapod will deliver them the next day at the time you request.
Bread & Circus (Whole Foods Market)
Organic fruits, vegetables, natural meats, etc.
340 River Street
617-876-6990
Trader Joe's
Specialty Foods, Great Prices
727 Memorial Drive, Cambridge
617-491-8582

WAREHOUSE SUPERSTORES
BJ'S
Big warehouse where you can find all what you need from food to electronic appliances at discounted prices. You have to get a membership card that costs appx. $45.
www.bjswholesale.com
COSTCO
Like BJ'S but carries different brands. Membership also required.
#2 Mystic View Rd, Everett
617-544-4806
www.costco.com

INTERNATIONAL SUPERMARKETS
Chinese & Taiwanese
New 88 Supermarket
1 Brighton Ave., Allston
617-787-2288
Ming's Supermarket
1102-1108 Washington St., Boston
617-338-1588
Change Shing Tofu Inc., (Tofu Factory)
It’s inexpensive and fresh!
37-39 Rogers Street, Cambridge
617-868-8878
Japanese
Yoshinoya
A little expensive, but good variety.
36 Prospect St., Cambridge

Korean
The Korean Deli
1759 Mass Ave., Cambridge
617-864-5299
Lotte
297 Mass Ave., Cambridge
617-661-1194
Mirim Trading Co.
Some Koreans say Kimchi from here is the best.
152 Harvard Ave., Allston
617-783-2626
J&K Oriental Food
2376 Mass. Ave. Cambridge
617-547-8723
Reliable Market Inc.
Korean and Japanese, less expensive than others
45 Union Sq., Somerville

Indian
India Foods and Spices
80 River St., Cambridge
617-497-6144
Shalimar
571 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
617-868-8311
Central and South American
La International Foods
Spanish, Brazilian, Haitian, Caribbean food
318 Somerville Ave., Somerville
617-776-8855
La Sultana (Bakery)
40 Maverick Square, East Boston
617-568-9999
European
Cardullo’s Gourmet Shop
6 Brattle St., Cambridge
617-491-8888
Capone Food
Italian Food
14 Bow Street, Somerville
617-629-2296
Moscow International Foods
133 Harvard Ave., Allston
617-782-6644
FARMER’S MARKETS
Haymarket
Faneuil Hall, Haymarket T stop. Fridays and Saturdays 6am-5pm
Central Square
Parking lot behind Harvest Co-op, Mondays 12-6pm
Morse School
Corner of Memorial Drive and Magazine Street, Cambridge. Saturday mornings in the summer.
Wilson Farms - has great looking (a little more expensive) produce. In the fall, they sell carmeled apples. Lexington
www.wilsonfarm.com

CLOTHES BARGAINS
A.J. Wright
Somerville Ave. and McGrath Highway, next to Target
Regular, Kids, and Baby Gap
Central Sq. -- lots of sales
Decelle
Porter Square, under Star Market
Eddie Bauer Outlet
South of Downtown Crossing T station
Filene’s Basement
Near Downtown Crossing T station (great deals, but strict 2 week return policy)
Frugal Fannie’s
380 Western Ave., Brighton 617-783-3737
Only open Thurs.-Sun.
The Garment District
200 Broadway, Cambridge
New and recycled clothing. Check out the $1/lb pile
Goodwill
Central Square, Davis Square
Urban Renewals
122 Brighton Ave., Allston

FABRIC/CRAFTS
* If you are driving up Rte. 1 headed north, you can stop at Michael’s and then a little farther north you’ll see a Christmas Tree Shop (REALLY CHEAP, GREAT FINDS) on the opposite side of the road, make a u-turn and head south and then you can stop at the Christmas Tree Shop and farther south on your way back there is a Joanne’s Fabric Store.
Chinatown
Various shops in the area have good deals
Pearl Arts and Crafts
Central Square
Sew Low Fabric Discount Store

OFFICE SUPPLIES AND ELECTRONICS
Best Buy
Cambridgeside Galleria, Cambridge 617-577-8866
Microcenter
Authorized agent of all major brands. Complete service dept., software, training.
727 Memorial Drive, Cambridge 1-800-562-0058
Staples
57 JFK Street, Harvard Square, Cambridge 617-491-1166
Office Max
400 Western Ave., Brighton 617-783-5718

VIDEO/DVD RENTAL
Blockbuster Video (2 locations)
1 Porter Sq., Cambridge 617-547-6006
Central Sq.
521 Mass. Ave., Cambridge 617-491-1300
Hollywood Express (2 locations)
765 Mass. Ave., Cambridge 617-864-8400
Twin City Plaza
14 McGrath Hwy
617-628-6000
Free Rentals from Tang
web.mit.edu/tang/www/videolist.htm

SHOPPING MALLS
Shops at the Prudential Center
Saks Fifth Ave., Lord & Taylor, and many other chic boutiques
800 Boylston St., Boston
Take Green Line to Prudential Center on Huntington
800-746-7778
Copley Place
Neiman Marcus, Tiffany, Disney Store, etc.
100 Huntington Ave.
Close to Back Bay T
617-369-5000
Cambridgeside Galleria
Filene’s, Gap, J.Crew, Ann Taylor, etc.
100 Cambridgeside Place
617-621-8666

473 Cambridge St., Cambridge 617-661-8361
**Quincy Market- Faneuil Hall Marketplace**
Large variety of shops and restaurants including small shops, craft stands, great food court
Close to T at Government Center

**Watertown/Arsenal Mall**
Target, Marshalls, Old Navy, Filene’s Basement,
Gap Outlet, Best Buy, etc.,
550 Arsenal St., Watertown
617-926-4123

**Wrentham Premium Outlets** (45 min. drive)
Name brand discount stores like Nike, North Face, Saks Fifth Ave., Barneys New York,
Williams Sonoma, Polo Ralph Lauren, etc., etc.
1 Premium Outlets Blvd., Wrentham MA
BEST BITES IN BOSTON

A Few Restaurant Recommendations

Where to Go for More Recommendations
www.zagat.com
ae.boston.com/dining
boston.citysearch.com

Cheap Food (under $12/person)
Anna’s Taqueria
236 Elm St., Somerville, Davis Sq.
(617) 666-3900
Good and authentic Latin American food. Very casual, no waiters. Fills you up for under $5.
Antonio’s
286 Cambridge St., Boston
MGH T stop on Cambridge St. Boston
(617) 367-3310
Boca Grande
1728 Mass Ave., Porter Sq.
(Less than $7/person) Amazing Mexican food in a fun, casual environment. Best burritos we’ve ever had and many more delicious entrees. Everything is freshly made while you wait. Great for groups and takeout. CASH ONLY.
Tip: There is a Boca Grande on First St., across the street from Cambridgeside Galleria, but the menu is much more limited than at Porter Sq., and it’s not as fun an environment. Mostly for business lunches.
Border Cafe
32 Church St., Harvard Sq.
(617) 864-6100
This restaurant is great for a “south-of-the-border meal. Very upbeat atmosphere. Get there early to avoid a wait.
Chili’s
Harvard Sq., Copley Square Mall
China Pearl
9 Tyler St., Chinatown
617-426-4338
A local favorite, great priced dim sum.
Indian Pavilion
Corner of River St. & Mass Ave., Central Sq.
No Name Restaurant
Boston Fish Pier, Northern Ave., Boston
Get off on the South Station T, then get a taxi for $5 or less to this great place.
Great seafood, famous for its good service and low prices, much recommended. A Boston visit must. CASH ONLY.
Penang
57 JFK Street, Harvard Sq.
617-234-3988
Delicious Malaysian restaurant perched above Harvard Sq. Mango chicken and the curry appetizer are favorites.
Pho Pasteur
35 Dunster St., Harvard Sq.
617-864-4100
Amazingly fresh Vietnamese food that won’t break your wallet. Very fast service, and kid-friendly too.
Quincy Market Foodcourt
Faneuil Hall, Govmment Center T Stop
Large variety from Clam Chowder and seafood entrees for large meal to yummy Gelato for a treat while walking the Freedom Trail.
Red Bones
55 Chester St., Davis Sq.
617-628-2200
www.redbonesbbq.com
Great southern barbeque in a sit-down restaurant environment. Very casual and fun. Delicious pulled pork sandwiches, cornbread and much more. Large portions. CASH ONLY.
S&S Deli
1334 Cambridge St., Inman Sq.
617-354-0777
Great place for Saturday brunch. Classic deli. Have high chairs, good for families. They are also pretty reasonably priced. Don’t recommend the hamburgers, but everything else is good.
Shalimar of India
546 Mass. Ave., Central Sq.
617-547-9280
Great Indian food.
Shawarma King
1383 Beacon St., near Coolidge Corner, Boston
617-731-6035
Great Lebanon food.
Stefani’s Pizza
783 Main St., near Central Sq.
617-491-7823
Good pizza, different than the national chains. Prices for one pizza are good. Delivery is fast and free.
Thailand Cafe
302 Mass Ave., Central Sq.
617-492-2494
Great food, great price, as authentic as many.

Special Date Nights ($12-20/person)
Asian Garden
28 Harrison St., Chinatown
(617) 695-1646
Fish tanks in the basement entryway promise superb Hong Kong seafood. Friendly place, and a cut cheaper than the rest.
Black Sheep Restaurant
Kendall Hotel
350 Main Street, Cambridge
617-577-1300
Very classy place.

Chau Chow City
83 Essex St., Chinatown
617-338-8158
Boston Globe: “Three floors, noisy, crowded, and gaudy, this place has stolen the mantle from China Pearl as the dim sum palace.”

Cheesecake Factory
Cambridgeside Galleria
617-252-3810
Great appetizers (try the Thai Lettuce Wraps), entrees, and of course, cheesecake.

Dali Restaurant and Tapas Bar
415 Washington St., Somerville
Fabulous restaurant for appetizers or a meal’s worth of appetizers. Funky atmosphere. Come early on weekends to avoid lines.

Durgin Park
340 North Market St., Faneuil Hall
617-227-2038
Great New England feel, wait staff hired to act and dress as they did in the 1800s. Fun for the whole family, and the food has a “homemade feel.” Medium priced.

Elephant Walk
2067 Mass Ave., near Porter Sq.

Legal Seafoods
5 Cambridge Center, right next to MIT Coop
(617) 864-3400
Great restaurant to take your guests to who really have to have the New England seafood and delicious clam “chowda.” Their clam chowder has been served at the last 5 Presidential Inaugurations.

Mary Chung’s Chinese Restaurant
464 Mass. Ave., Central Sq.
(617) 864-1991
Excellent food, pot stickers are personal favorite. Take out available, no delivery, great ambiance CASH ONLY.

Midwest Grill
1124 Cambridge St., Inman Square
617-354-7536
Brazilian Rodizian BBQ, lots of meat, very good, pricey ($19 for full all you can eat)

North End of Boston
Parking’s not great, best is to walk from the Haymarket T stop along the Freedom Trail

Any restaurant in the neighborhood is worth a try! Some recommendations: Mama Maria ($$$), Limoncello ($$$), Mother Anna’s ($ - and very family friendly). Some are cash only.

Papa Razzi
Cambridgeside Galleria
617-577-0009
Good Italian food, authentic rich desserts

Worth The Splurge ($21+/person)
Call ahead for reservations

Aujourd’hui
200 Boylston St., Four Seasons, Boston
(617) 351-2037
Some say it’s the best restaurant in town - $60-100/person, so make it a special occasion.

Bay Tower
33rd floor of 60 State St., Boston
617-723-1666
Overlooks the Harbor, has a band with dancing, very expensive.

Grill 23
161 Berkeley St., Copley Sq
617-542-2255
Expensive but the best steak in the world. Never had anything like it. Truly phenomenal. Perfect place for special occasion.

Top of the Hub
800 Boylston St., Prudential Building, Boston
617-536-1775
Can’t beat the view and the food is high quality.

Family Friendly (prices vary)

Boca Grande (see above)

Border Cafe (see above)

Bugaboo Creek Steakhouse
617 Arsenal St, Watertown
617-924-9000
Fun place with a big talking moose head (kids love it) and the food is exceptional and not expensive.

Chili’s (see above)

Chuck E. Cheese
29 Mystic View Rd, Everett

Durgin Park (see above)

Friendly’s
560 Arsenal St, Watertown
617-924-3068
Denny’s-like atmosphere, family focused, great ice cream, everything else is fair. Low to medium priced.

Full Moon
344 Huron Ave., Huron Village
617-354-6699
Little known secret: has a great kids menu and a full playground inside...tons of time to waste away a day.

**Ground Round**  
355 Concord Ave., Cambridge  
617-492-4656

**Pho Pasteur** (see above)

**Pizzeria Uno’s**  
820 Somerville Ave., Cambridge  
(617) 864-1916  
Many other locations  
Good pizza, low to medium priced.

**Red Bones** (see above)

**Summer Shack**  
149 Alewife Brook Parkway  
near Alewife T station, Cambridge  
617-520-9500  
Great seafood in a casual atmosphere

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**Ice Cream/Desserts**

**Bread & Circus (see “shopping”)**  
365 (generic brand) ice cream is to die for!

**Cheesecake Factory** (see above)

**Herrell’s Ice Cream**  
15 Dunster St., Harvard Sq.  
(617) 497-2179  
neat building and great ice cream, fun family activity

**Kimball Farms Ice Cream**  
343 Bedford Rd, Carlisle, MA  
a little ways past the Old North Bridge  
(978) 369-1910 (call for directions if needed)  
Homemade, huge, and delicious ice cream cones.  
There is also a store there, golfing, and a farm with animals for your kids to pet and see. A fun Saturday or summer evening jaunt.

**Mike’s Pastries**  
300 Hanover St., North End  
617-742-3050  
More cannolis, neopolitans and cheesecake than you’ve ever seen. Try the lobster claw for a new flavor. Famous for being delicious and not very expensive. A must eat in Boston.

**Toscanini’s**  
899 Main St. Central Sq.  
(617) 491-5877  
This ice cream shop has been named Best in Boston for many years. The flavors are wild and delicious.
GETTING AROUND IN BOSTON

A few tips and tricks for finding your way around Boston, Cambridge, and beyond

MAPS -- Pick up a good map at any bookstore or gas station. ‘Streetwise Boston’ is a favorite of downtown Boston and handy to have if you are wandering the streets of downtown. A good road map will help you maneuver the poorly marked roads of Boston and Cambridge.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION - Boston’s public transportation system is operated by the MBTA (Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority). The MBTA runs subways, buses, harbor ferries and the commuter rail. Operation time is 5AM to 12:30AM. Many places can be reached easily with buses and subways. Subway stations and bus stops are marked with a T sign. You can buy tokens (subway tickets) at every subway stop. T-passes are generally only sold four workdays before and four weekdays after the first of each month. Check with the MIT parking office about a discounted T-pass.

CABS - It is relatively easy to get a cab in Boston or Cambridge. Look for cab stations at Kendall Square, in front of the Marriott Hotel, and in front of the Hyatt Hotel. A cab ride from Westgate to the airport will run you approximately $15-20. From Westgate to downtown, approximately $8-12.

MIT SHUTTLE - A free MIT shuttle runs from Kendall Square about every 20 minutes and makes frequent stops throughout campus all the way to Westgate apartments, on the opposite end of campus. Check out the webpage for more information: web.mit.edu

ZIP CAR -- A ‘zip car’ is available for rent on an hourly or daily basis. Cars are located throughout Boston and Cambridge for pick up. One car is even located at Kendall Square! Cars can be rented by signing up for membership at www.zipcar.com. Ask about MIT student discounts. A great way to run a few errands or get out of town if you don’t want to own a car.

ONLINE RESOURCES --

www.mapquest.com -- A good website for getting driving directions. However, beware, Boston streets are so confusing, sometimes even Mapquest gets it wrong! Also, they don’t account for construction, which is prevalent around town. Consult a real map along with mapquest for best results.

www.boston.citysearch.com -- An excellent web site that gives you up to date information on events happening around town, restaurants, hotels, sightseeing and much more.
SUBWAY TIPS: GETTING AROUND BOSTON WITHOUT A CAR

Highlighted T Stops and Points of Interest

We’ve listed whether or not each subway stop has escalators, elevators, or stairs only, to the best of our knowledge. Good to know when dealing with strollers, kids, or just tired feet.

Some tips:
- Be brave: Public transportation is scary at first, but a great way to get around the town.
- T is $1 each way for the most part.
- Bus Fare is $0.75 each way.
- Plan ahead, sometimes even if you have a car it makes more sense to take the T.
- See mbta.com for schedules and other info.
- An inexpensive, lightweight umbrella stroller is easy to carry into the subway and a good investment in this town.

RED LINE

Alewife (elevator and escalator)
Bread and Circus
Movie Theater
Fresh Pond Mall Loew’s Cineplex
Toys R Us
  With a Babies R Us Section

Davis Square (elevator and escalator)
McKinnon’s Market (great meat, great prices)
Movie Theater (low cost)
Red Bones Restaurant
Tufts University

Porter Square (elevator and escalator)
Star Market (see “Shopping” - closest to any T)
Near the Cambridge School of Culinary Arts
Catch the Commuter Rail
Shopping along Mass. Ave
Check out the “gloves” in the T stop

Harvard Square (elevator and escalator)
Bartley’s Burgers
  great greasy burger joint
Bookstores galore
  checkout Wordworth Children’s Bookstore
Cambridge Common
  ball fields, picnic areas, playground
Cambridge River Festival
  Octoberfest along the Charles
Cambridge Public Libraries
  Kids singing time, Weds. 10:30-11:30
Harvard Yard
Harvard Museums (see “Activities”)
Herrell’s Ice Cream (see “Best Bites”)
Head of the Charles (see “Activities”)
Movie Theatre (Harvard Loew’s on Church St.)

Central Square (elevator and escalator)
Burger King
Cambridge Library on Pearl Street
Gap
Mary Chung’s (see “Best Bites”)
McDonald’s
Lots of restaurants (esp. Indian)
Pearl Arts and Crafts (see “Shopping”)
Ten Thousand Villages -- great artwork
Wendy’s
  one of the only places for Frosties

Kendall/MIT (elevator and escalator)
Legal Seafoods (see “Best Bites”)
MIT Coop (see “Shopping”)
MIT Coop Food Court (slightly pricey)
Movie Theatres (Kendall Sq. Cinema)

Charles/MGH (stairs only)
Hatch Shell
Restaurants
Sailing Lessons
Take a walk along the Esplanade

South Station (elevator and escalator)
Boston Tea Party Ship
  (be warned: its museum is closed)
Children’s Museum (see “Activities”)
Short walk to Aquarium (see “Activities”)
South Station itself is fun to explore

ORANGE LINE

Forest Hills (elevator and escalator)
Arnold Arboretum (see “Activities”)

Downtown Crossing (stairs to Red Line)
Shopping District, including but not limited to:
Buck-a-Book (great deals, limited selection)
DSW (shoe outlet store)
Eddie Bauer Outlet
Filene’s
Filene’s Basement
HoneyDew Donuts (yummy treat while shopping)
HMV
Macy’s
Marshall’s
TJ Maxx

**GREEN LINE**
A few stairs into every subway car, this subway line can be difficult to maneuver with strollers or rolling carts.

**Lechmere (ground level)**
Cambridgeside Galleria Mall
Science Park (stairs)
Museum of Science (see “Activities”)
IMAX Theatre -- inside Museum of Science
North Station (both Green and Orange Lines)
Fleet Center
USS Constitution & Bunker Hill

**Government Center**
*(elevator, but stairs surrounding)*
close to Haymarket stop on Green, Orange line
Faneuil Hall/Quincy Market (see “Activities”)
Government Center
Haymarket
Holocaust Memorial
North End
Old North Church
Paul Revere House

**Park Street (temperamental elevator)**
Beacon Hill (Gas Lamp District)
Boston Common (see “Day Trips”)
Bull and Finch Pub
   location where the outside of the building was used to film the TV series “Cheers”
Capital - gold dome and hall of flags
Park Street Church
Public Garden
Tourist information

**Bostlton (stairs only)**
Chinatown’s closeby
   *(see “Shopping” and “Best Bites”)*
Boston Common Loew’s Theatre ($$)
   Greatest movie theatre around
Theatre District

**Arlington (stairs only)**
Newbury Street
FAO Schwartz (see “Shopping”)
Kenmore (stairs only)
Boston University
starts here and continues down Commonwealth Avenue
Fenway Park - quickest way to get to games

**Babcock Street (B line)**
Nickerson Field
check out a WUSA Boston Breakers game (soccer)

**Coolidge Corner (C Line) (ground level)**
Beautiful part of town -- Brookline
Fun shopping - toy & clothes stores
JFK Birthplace (see “Activities”)
Trader Joe’s (see “Shopping”)

**Prudential (E Line)**
Christian Science Center
Duck Tours begin
Prudential Center

**Museum of Fine Arts (E Line)**
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
MFA (see “Activities”)

**BLUE LINE**
**Aquarium (elevator and escalator)**
New England Aquarium (see “Activities”)
Ferries to the Harbor Islands
Fun part of Downtown
Legal Seafoods and other restaurants
Tourist Information
Whale Watch Tours (see “Activities”)

**Revere Beach**
Quick walk to beach (see “Activities”)

**Airport (some stairs to tackle)**
Airport
ACTIVITIES

More than you could possibly do in a year (or five)

FREE & LOW-PRICED FUN

**Boston Common** -- the perfect place for picnics, walking, people watching, etc.

- **Shakespeare on the Common** -- look for it during the summer.
- **Frog Pond** - good for wading in the summer and ice skating in the winter (fee for skate rental, but rink usage is free)
- **Freedom Trail** -- You don’t have to go very far to learn about American history. Stop by the information booth on the Boston Common (near Park St. T stop) and make your way along the red brick tail to visit such sites as Charlestown Navy Yard, U.S.S. Constitution, Faneuil Hall/Quincy Market, the Old North Church, Bunker Hill, etc. As locals, you have the luxury of breaking up the 3 mile self guided tour if you like. The National Park Service also leads a very informative guided tour for free.

**Feed the ducks** -- anywhere along the Charles or at the Pond in the Public Gardens

**Hatch Shell** - that big half-dome on the Boston Esplanade by the Charles River

**Concerts** - classical to rock, mostly free

**Free Friday Flicks** - every Friday night in the summer, a family friendly movie begins at dusk. Lots of fun, sometimes free snacks given away www.state.ma.us/mdcHatchShellEvents.htm

**Museums:**
Free passes to various museums are available at Cambridge Public Library branches. Call up to 1 month ahead to reserve them.

[www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~CPL/](http://www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~CPL/)

**Museum of Science**
Free with MIT ID all the time (spouse ID as well)

[www.mos.org](http://www.mos.org)

**The Museum of Fine Arts, Weds. evenings after 4 pm** -- [www.mfa.org](http://www.mfa.org)

**Harvard museums** (Fogg, Sackler, Peabody, etc.), Saturday mornings until noon, or show your Cambridge Public Library card for free admission anytime

[www.artmuseums.harvard.edu](http://www.artmuseums.harvard.edu)

**Boston Center For the Arts**, free exhibits in the galleries -- 617-426-5000, [www.bcaonline.org](http://www.bcaonline.org)

**Institute of Contemporary Art**, Thursdays from 5-9pm. 955 Boylston St., Boston 617-266-5152

**Museum of Our National Heritage**, always free, 33 Marrett Rd., Lexington (781-861-6559)

**Worcester Art Museum**, between 10AM and noon on Saturdays, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester 508-799-4406

**Movies at the Boston Public Library** and its branches

**Lectures and programs** at Cambridge and Boston library branches

**Boston Conservatory**, 8 Fenway, Boston. Free student concerts (617-912-9122)

[www.bostonconservatory.edu](http://www.bostonconservatory.edu)

**The New England Conservatory of Music, 290 Huntington Ave., Boston. Call the Concert Line at 617-585-1122 for info on free concerts** (mostly student performances)

[www.newenglandconservatory.edu](http://www.newenglandconservatory.edu)

**Window Shop** on trendy Newbury Street

**Collect leaves** during the fall foliage season

**Emerald Necklace** -- Walk all or part of the scenic seven mile ribbon of green connecting nine Boston parks, beginning at the Boston Common.

**Hammond Pond** (Chestnut Hill Tstop) great nature hike

**Arnold Arboretum**, 265 acres containing 6,000 varieties of trees and plants from around the world in Jamaica Plain. Mother’s Day is usually also known as “Lilac Sunday” -- don’t miss it!

**Mount Auburn Cemetery** -- is the beautiful home of the graves of Charles Bullfinch, Winslow Homer, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and many others.

Explore **Beacon Hill’s architecture**, window boxes, gas lamps, and cobblestones on foot.

**Blue Man Group** -- volunteer to be an usher and see the show for free. See blueman.com for details. Other theaters may have similar deals.

**MIT Sailing Lessons** -- look on the MIT website for further information on sailing lessons on the Charles River -- only steps away from your front door!
WORTH THE SPLURGE
Duck Tours -- if you haven’t seen these amphibious vehicles around downtown Boston or on the Charles, then check out: www.bostonducktours.com
IMAX at the New England Aquarium
Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO) Ask about student discounts
New England Aquarium
Theater District (Arlington T Stop, Green line) plays and musicals
Trolley rides -- many different companies -- can get picked up right at Kendall Sq.

THINGS TO DO WITH KIDS
Make Way for Ducklings -- trace the route of the Robert McCloskey children’s book and visit the duckling statues in the Public Gardens
New England Aquarium (Blue Line T Stop)
Museum of Science (free w/MIT ID)
Children’s Museum ($1 Friday nights) www.bostonkids.org
Frog Pond/Boston Common (see above)
Swan Boats -- Public Gardens, Boston
Bring some bread for the ducks, too.
Fire Stations -- Unless there’s an emergency, most firemen are very friendly and will show you around the trucks and station and maybe even let the kids try on hats and boots or sit in the driver’s seat.
Apple Picking - in the fall. Some places also have farm animals, too. See www.state.ma.us/dfa/ for farm listings.

TOTALLY BOSTON ACTIVITIES
Dim sum in Chinatown
Filene’s Basement downtown
First Night - this city wide, day long New Year’s Eve celebration orginially started in Boston
Fourth of July on the Esplanade or the Charles River.
JFK Birthplace (Brookline) - a great area of town an a great walk from Coolidge Corner on the Green Line
Red Sox games: www.adstickets.com/red_sox.htm

BEST PARKS
Massachusetts Forests & Parks http://www.state.ma.us/dem/forparks.htm
Arnold Arboretum (Jamaica Plain)
Boston Common
Crocker Park in Marblehead is a good picnic spot & a grand view of the yacht-filled harbor
Esplanade
Public Garden
Soldier’s Field Road Park - has a great wading pool with sprinklers
Walden Pond (Concord) go early in the summer, they have maximum capacity rules

BEST BEACHES
Castle Island
Crane’s Beach (Ipswich)
Duxbury Beach
Marblehead Beach (Salem)
Plum Island
Revere Beach -- can get there on the Blue Line
Rockport
Walden Pond (Concord)
Wingaeshock Beach (Gloucester) - Directions on internet www.gloucesterma.com/beaches.htm. Has white fine sandy beach and is very shallow for a ways out and has tide pools. Great for kids. Water is warm because it is so shallow. Parking is $15/day this year and they will only let residents park if it is a busy weekend day.

OUTDOOR/ SPORTS
Esplanade -- perfect for walking, jogging, running, rollerblading, or biking
Head of the Charles -- this nationally famous crew regatta marks the arrival of fall. Walk the banks and cheer on the colorful crew teams as they race down the Charles.
Boston Marathon -- Free to watch. Very inspiring. Go cheer for the runners anywhere between Hopkinton and Boston and you might end up on TV!
Somerville “Last Night” 5K -- held December 31st at 11:30PM in Davis Square. A great and healthy way to bring in the New Year!
Canoeing/kayaking -- several places to rent canoes or kayaks on the Charles
Cross-Country Skiing
Apple Picking
Whale Watching
Harbor Cruise
Celtics (basketball at the Fleet Center)
Bruins (hockey)
New England Patriots (football)
MISCELLANEOUS FUN

Discount movies: MIT shows movies in one of the lecture halls every weekend for $3. Listings can be found at lsc.mit.edu

Swing Dancing:
Weds. Nights: MIT Student Center 8:30-11:30 PM, free.

Holiday Pops are great to go to in December. The Boston Pops put on a Holiday/Christmas program with festive songs, a sing-a-long, and Santa. www.socialweb.net/Events/12900.lasso
DAY TRIPS IN AND AROUND BOSTON

Easy and Exciting DayTrips – Closer than You Think

**Arlington-Bedford Bike Path** - Paved Bike Path from Arlington to Bedford. This path is 11 miles one way. There are many different places to pick up the trail. If you want to go where it’s the prettiest, pick it up in Lexington. This is great for running, walking, and of course, rollerblading.

**The Berkshires** -- Two hours west of Boston, the rolling hills, beautiful mansions and lakes will take your breath away. Don’t miss the exceptional Norman Rockwell Museum. Visit the quaint towns of Lenox, Stockbridge and Lee. Tanglewood Music Center, the summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, offers great outdoor concerts for the whole family during July and August. In the fall, don’t miss the changing foliage. For shoppers, there is great outlet shopping in Lee and in Manchester, VT just north of Lee. The historic Red Lion Inn in Stockbridge is a great place to stay if you want to make a weekend out of it.

www.berkshires.org

**Boston Common/Quincy Market** -- Venture downtown and ride the swan boats and feed the ducks in the Public Gardens at the Common or venture down to Quincy Market for some shopping and clam chowder at one of the many restaurants. It’s best to take the T to Park Street on the Red Line.

**Burlington, VT** - In northern Vermont, on the banks of Lake Champlain, Burlington is a bustling city with lots to do and see. Approximately a 3 hour drive from Boston, Burlington is home to Ben & Jerry’s ice cream company, Vermont Teddy Bear Factory, and borders Stowe Mountain Resort. Ben & Jerry’s offers a fun tour of their factory and of course offers samples of their delicious ice cream! The Teddy Bear Factory is fun for kids and also offers factory tours.

www.central-vt.com/web/benjerry/

Stowe is a beautiful mountain town and resort. Great skiing in the winter and beautiful scenic drives in the summer. It’s a great place to stay overnight if you want to make a weekend out of it. The Von Trapp Family, featured in the movie the Sound of Music, owned a home there that has been turned into a beautiful lodge with great accommodations year round.

www.trappfamilylodge.com

If you want to extend the trip over a weekend, take the ferry from Burlington across Lake Champlain to Lake Placid region.

**Cape Cod** -- 2 hours south of Boston is Cape Cod -- land of beautiful beaches, lighthouses, quaint towns, and scenic drives. The Cape is always fun and can be really inexpensive if you go in the off season. Our favorite towns are Chatham (great shopping) and Hyannis. A great day trip but if you want to make a weekend out of it, catch the ferry to Martha’s Vineyard or Nantucket from Hyannis. www.capecod.com

**Concord, MA** -- A must see! Only a fifteen-mile drive from Cambridge. A quaint town with historic sites such as Walden Pond, the Alcott Home (Little Women author), the Old North Bridge, Emerson’s home, Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, etc.

www.frommers.com/destinations/concordma

**Gloucester, MA** -- America’s oldest seaport, Gloucester is located 30 miles northeast of Boston. The stunning, rugged beauty of Gloucester’s coastline, the long, sandy beaches and the clear blue Atlantic Ocean have attracted visitors ever since. An attractive downtown, museums and tours on land and sea all make it a great destination.

For a free brochure packet, call 1-800-649-6839 or check out their website, www.glouceterma.com

**Lexington, MA** -- A fifteen mile drive from Cambridge, on the way to Concord. The location of the beginning of the Revolutionary War. Don’t miss the great multi-media presentation about the beginning of the war at the ranger station at Minuteman National Historic Park.

(You can also stop at Wilson Farms just off Rte. 4 -- see “Shopping - Farmer’s Markets.”)

www.frommers.com/destinations/lexingtonma
Maine - (Ogunquit, Kennebunkport and Kittery)
One hour north of Boston. Kittery is a shopper’s paradise with tons of outlets and shops to choose from. For info, see www.thekitteryoutlets.com

To experience Maine at its best, though, drive north along scenic Route 1 to Ogunquit, best known for its beach and cliff walk, and then to Kennebunkport, summer home to the Bush family and a quaint waterfront town full of restaurants, shops, and beaches. Don’t forget to stop off at a local restaurant for some Maine lobster. The ‘Lobster Pound’ in Ogunquit is a popular choice for a casual lobster dinner.

Marblehead, MA -- 20 miles north of Boston --
A beautiful yacht and mansion town with a great park on the beach, too. A Christmas walk through the streets of old Marblehead is a must for an authentic New England Christmas. Call the Marblehead Chamber of Commerce at 781-621-2868 for more information.
www.marbleheadchamber.org

Newport, Rhode Island - An hour and a half outside of Boston, this city is full of shopping, beautiful beaches, the mansions on Bellevue Avenue and Ocean Drive, the Cliff Walk -- a 3 mile coastal path that travels behind several estates and much more. For information, see http://www.newportri.com/

Old Sturbridge Village, MA -- About one hour west of Boston. People are dressed in the costume of the 1830s and go about their business in character. www.osv.org

Plymouth, MA - 45 miles south of Boston, Plymouth Plantation and the Mayflower are located here. Plymouth Rock, the landing place of the Mayflower is smaller than you would imagine, but a must see. While you’re there, make a quick trip to the Cranberry World Visitors Center, 225 Water St., Plymouth (508-747-2350).

Quincy, MA -- 14 miles south of Boston, Quincy is great for John Adams fans or anyone who is interested in the American Revolution. For info, see www.quincyonline.com

Salem, MA - 25 miles north of Boston. Learn about the history of the Salem witch trials. Visit the House of Seven Gables of Nathaniel Hawthorne fame. Things are especially fun around Halloween (but the day of Halloween is not ideal for children -- can get a bit scary with festivities centered around adults). For info, see www.frommers.com/destinations/salemma/

Sharon, VT - 135 miles NW of Boston, this can be a fun trip for LDS families or those curious about LDS history, for it is where Joseph Smith, the first prophet of the LDS Church, was born. Excellent facilities there, Information Center, and fun places for families. For info, see www.sharonvt.org
GETTING AWAY FROM IT ALL

Weekend escape secrets, tried and tested! Proven to relieve you of stress

Nantucket and Martha’s Vineyard
These two islands off the coast of Cape Cod are wonderful weekend getaway year round. It’s possible to do both in the same weekend but experts recommend doing them one at a time. They are both accessible by ferry from Hyannis, MA and Woods Hole -- see schedules online and island information at www.islandferry.com

What to do: Once on the islands, rent a bike or a car and explore the many beaches, town centers and sights. Both islands are unique and offer different diversions and attractions.

Where to stay: Stay at one of the many bed and breakfasts or rent a cottage with a group of friends through one of the many rental agencies. Check out fodors.com for recommendations. Don’t forget to stop at the Chamber of Commerce located near the ferry dock and get maps and brochures (free).

Acadia National Park
Located in Bar Harbor in northern Maine, Acadia is approximately 6 hours north of Boston. It encompasses 47,633 acres of granite-domed mountains, woodlands, lakes and ponds, and ocean shoreline ideal for walking, hiking and biking. www.nps.gov/acad

What to do: By automobile you can drive the 27-mile Park Loop Road which includes views of some of the most dramatic scenery along the eastern seaboard. Other summer activities include fishing, boating, carriage rides, and wildlife viewing. During the winter, the carriage roads and the closed portions of the Park Loop Road are ideal for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

Where to stay: If you are the adventurous type, check out one of the many campgrounds available nearby listed on the website. For those of you seeking a quaint B&B or inn, check out accommodations in nearby Bar Harbor center at fodors.com.

New York City
This city is a wonderful weekend getaway no matter what season. With wonderful restaurants, shopping and hotels, you can’t go wrong! You can sometimes find great round trip airfare, but it’s also recommended taking the Amtrak train from Boston’s South Station. You really don’t need a car in NYC and parking can be very expensive (and difficult to find). For more info, see http://www.nycvisit.com/home/index.cfm

About once a year, MIT Spouses and Partners offers a great deal for a NYC bus trip -- starting early in the morning and getting home again that very night. Check out the website: mit.edu/medical/spousesandpartners for any further information.

What to do: Take in a Broadway show, stroll through Central Park, shop on 5th Ave., and visit one of the many museums. Take a circle line boat tour around Manhattan island or enjoy a day of shopping along the streets of Soho.

Where to Stay: A few favorite and convenient hotels are the Doubletree Times Square, The Marriott Times Square, The Westin Essex House on Central Park, and the St. Regis on Fifth Avenue.

Theatre Tip from the Pros: You can get half price tickets to Broadway shows at the TKTS booth in Times Square on the day of the show. Tickets are $37.50 and you must pay in cash. Shows available vary, but are posted at 2 pm on a large screen outside the booth. The booth opens at 3 pm so get in line early. Otherwise, for advance ticket purchases, see ticketmaster.com. Playbill.com lists all Broadway and Off-Broadway shows currently running with a brief description.

Lake Placid:
Located in the northeastern portion of the Adirondack wilderness of New York State, approximately 5 hours from Boston, the Lake Placid region is a popular year-round resort. The Olympic facilities used for the 1932 and 1980 Olympic Winter Games. For info, see http://www.lakeplacid.com/

What to do: Don’t miss the bobsled run, a Gondola ride on Whiteface mountain, aerial displays year round, Santa’s workshop, Highfalls Gorge and a biathlon course.
Where to stay: A wide range of accommodations are available. A few favorites are the Mirror Lake Inn, The Hilton Resort, and the Hyatt on Mirror Lake.

Where to eat: For a great casual BBQ lunch, try Tail-O’-The-Pub, a five-minute drive from the lake, but well worth it. For dinner, try Great Adirondack Steak and Seafood - a great atmosphere.

CAMPING IDEAS:
http://www.acane-camps.org/
Coast of Maine
Baxter State Park (Maine)
www.baxterstateparkauthority.com
White Mountains (New Hampshire)
www.whitemtn.org
Bar Harbor, Maine
barharborinfo.com