



Travel Guide and Activities



Useful Information

Climate

Boston has a humid continental/subtropical climate. Winters can be cold, with snowstorms common from December to March. The best times to visit are during Spring (April–June) and Autumn (September–November) when the weather is moderate and ideal for sightseeing. Summers are warm, sometimes hot, with July being the warmest month, offering plenty of outdoor activities and festivals.

Money

The currency used in Boston, like the rest of the United States, is the US Dollar (USD). Most businesses accept major credit cards, and ATMs are widely available. Do carry some cash for smaller purchases or in case you are in areas where card payments may not be accepted.

If you are staying in the United States for a long period of time you might want to open a bank account. You should request a letter from the administration office on the fourth floor. The letter will be available 24 hours after you have requested it. Please submit your full name and local address to the office.

You will need at least two of the following items to open a bank account:

- Passport and I-20
- Student I.D., major credit card, a U.S. driver's license or a Massachusetts I.D.
- Social security number if you have one.

Telephone Country Code

The telephone country code for Boston, and the rest of the United States, is +1, followed by the area code 617 or 781.

Electricity

110 V; 60Hz – 2 flat-pin plug or third round pin are used. If you are traveling from a country with different plug types or voltage standards, you may need an adapter and possibly a voltage converter.

Boston

Must-See Sights and Travel Essentials

Boston thrives on its blend of old and new, with modern skyscrapers standing alongside colonial-era buildings. Its compact layout makes it easy to navigate on foot, allowing visitors to experience its rich tapestry of neighborhoods, each offering a unique cultural experience, from the Italian-influenced North End to the academic hub of Cambridge.

[Check out the Monthly Activities Calendar](#)

5 Things to Do

- Walk the Freedom Trail.
- Visit the Museum of Fine Arts
- Stroll through Boston Common
- Catch a baseball game at Fenway Park
- Explore shops and restaurants in Newbury Street



Tap water

Boston's tap water comes from protected reservoirs. It is safe to drink and meets all health and safety standards.

Transport

Getting around Boston is relatively easy due to its compact size. The city is pedestrian-friendly, and cycling is also a popular way to navigate the streets. For longer distances, Boston offers a comprehensive public transport system.

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) operates the oldest subway system in the United States, known locally as the 'T'. You can travel by bus, subway, commuter rail or ferry.

Log on to www.mbta.com for an itinerary that includes the closest bus stop and the schedule, and chose 'Plan a Trip' to get a personalized schedule. If you wish to travel to other major cities in the United States you can do so by air, bus or train.

You can also travel to other major US cities by train. Although this is more convenient, it is not much faster and travel by train is more expensive than travelling by bus. Trains depart from both South Station and Back Bay Station. www.amtrak.com Purchase the ticket online. We recommend that you book in advance as it is often cheaper and if you are caught on the trains without a valid ticket you will be fined.

The nearest taxi stand is in front of EC Boston (on the opposite side of the street). Taxis can be booked in advance. Always make sure you take a taxi with a license plate number, which is located on the back of the taxi and if you are not sure, do not use them. Taxis to/from Logan airport will include extra 'toll' fees and airport charges.

Public Transport Info

Public transport primarily consists of a combination of buses, subways (the 'T'), commuter rail services, trolleys, and ferries that connect various parts of the city and surrounding areas.

- [T Subway Map](#)
- [Bus Services & Routes](#)
- [Amtrak service](#)

Useful Links

[What's On](#)

[Events](#)

[Weather in Boston](#)

[Boston Public Library](#)

[Eater Boston](#)

Legal Driving Age

The minimum driving age is 16 years, but most rental companies require that you be at least 26 years old, have an international driving license, a second form of identity and a major credit card.

Alcohol Age

The legal drinking age is 21. You will be required to present a valid ID when purchasing alcohol or entering bars that serve alcohol.

Public Holidays

Public holidays falling on a weekday

2025: 01 Jan, 20 Jan, 17 Feb, 21 April, 26 May, 19 Jun, 04 Jul, 1 Sept, 13 Oct, 11 Nov, 27 Nov, 28 Nov, 25 Dec.

Visa Requirements

A visa may be required depending on your nationality and length of stay. For Visa information, please visit our [Visa Requirements page](#)

[Visa Requirements](#)

Cost of Living

Bottle of water / soda (0.33 litre)
\$2.00-\$3.00
Coffee/Cappuccino (Starbucks)
\$3.50-\$5.50
Fast-Food combo meal
\$8.00-\$11.00
Meal, inexpensive restaurant
\$15.00-\$25.00
Fitness club (monthly, 1 adult)
\$29.00-\$90.00
Public transport (local transport)
\$2.40 (one-way)
Public transport (monthly pass)
\$90.00
Weekly unlimited pass
\$22.50

Smoking Laws

Smoking is prohibited in all indoor public spaces, including restaurants, bars, and workplaces. Some outdoor spaces, such as parks, playgrounds and certain public areas, as well as near schools, may also have restrictions.

Insurance

All EC Boston students must be covered by health insurance for the entire length of their stay in the U.S. If you do not have health insurance, you must purchase insurance from EC Boston.

Medical

If you are not at school and have an emergency you can either call 911 for the ambulance, fire department or police department from any telephone, or call the school's emergency number 1-617-990-4880 or free within the United States 1-800-964-7009.

