

Boston's red hot!

A trip to America's oldest city will knock your Sox off...



Right: We enjoyed sirloin steak at the new brasserie, Towne. **Below:** Cameron Diaz has been spied at Solas at The Lenox



Boston is one of America's oldest cities and one of the few with a truly European feel. There's plenty to see and do, with each neighbourhood having its own attractions and personality. First stop for many visitors is Faneuil Hall Marketplace, a Covent Garden-style pedestrianised marketplace on the waterfront, while Newbury Street in Back Bay is a real shopping mecca. For historic Boston, head to Beacon Hill, renowned for its antique stores and period homes, or watch a Red Sox game at Fenway Park, where you might spot avid fans and local boys Ben Affleck and Matt Damon. Foodies will love the North End (Little Italy), trendsters will enjoy hanging out in the cafés and boutiques of South End, while those who wish for an university ambience should head out to Harvard in the leafy suburb of Cambridge. Then try and squeeze in a few lazy days on the beach staying at one of the laid-back seaside communities on Cape Cod.

Below: Faneuil Hall Marketplace is usually first on the list of must-see sights for most visitors to Boston (main). **Right:** OK! stayed at The Lenox



When should I go?

St Patrick's Day in March is a huge event for Boston's large Irish community, while you can spot whales off Cape Cod between April and October. If you want to bump into members of the American political elite – the Obamas, Kennedys and Clintons – visit Martha's Vineyard, an exclusive island just off the Cape Cod coast, in August.

Where should I stay?

Stay right in the heart of the shopping action at The Lenox (www.lenoxhotel.com), housed in a historic building packed with grandeur – chandeliers, working fireplaces and antiques – in Back Bay. The elegant 214-room hotel is within walking distance of Newbury Street's boutiques and right near the Prudential Center mall. OK! loved our spacious room, the Aveda bath products and the wood-burning fireplace. The hotel is one of Boston's oldest and has played host to many illustrious guests such as Judy Garland, who lived there for three months. The Lenox also has a bistro-style restaurant, City Table, as well as an Irish Pub, Sólás, where Cameron Diaz has been spotted.



What can I eat?

A great address for brunch is the Island Creek Oyster Bar, specialising in fresh New England oysters. OK! loved the oysters deep-fried benedict-style, as well as the modern seaside décor, with one entire wall covered in oyster shells! For the best steak, head to Towne Stove And Spirits, where we devoured the barbecue sirloin with 'mad cow' grits. Across the road, the Boston Back Bay Social Club where Vince Vaughn enjoys the chicken and waffles, is great for lunch. For a swanky meal, try Deuxave on Commonwealth Avenue. We dined at the glam all-black bar, trying the Bolognese with a twist (foie gras). To go low key, try Little Italy, where OK! feasted on delicious ravioli and at Bricco, and Tom Jones and Mariah Carey come for their Italian suppers.

Which stars will I see?

Boston appears as the backdrop in many films, so expect to see an actor or three in town. At the Four Seasons' Bristol Lounge, OK! splashed out on a swanky lunch where the likes of Jennifer Garner and Victoria Beckham have eaten. It also hosts Teddy Bear Teas for local kids, recently having a supermodel storyteller in Gisele Bündchen.



Newbury Street (right) in Back Bay is a shopping mecca



What must I do?

Boston is a walking city, but also has an easy-to-navigate T system – part tramway, part underground. Get a CharlieCard and top up as you go along. A fun way to check out all the major sites is on board a Duck Tour that takes in Beacon Hill, Chinatown, as well as the doorway of the famous Cheers bar.

Getting a CityPass will enable you to visit attractions at a reduced price and skip the queues at the Museum Of Fine Arts. For families there's the New England Aquarium, the Museum Of Science or the Skywalk Observatory for great city skyline views. Or indulge in some pampering. – follow in *OK!*'s footsteps and get a makeover at Mario Russo's salon (www.mariorusso.com). A favourite with celebs, it's the place to go for a new hairstyle. If Anna Wintour goes there, it has to be good!

Where can I shop?

Visit the boutiques on Newbury Street and the famous Tannery shoe shop on the parallel street of Boylston, where *OK!* gawped at the selection of Hunter boots. Nearby is the Prudential Center mall, where you'll find the likes of Saks Fifth Avenue and Gucci, while Copley Place has stores such as Banana Republic and Neiman Marcus. Need a sugar rush? Stop at Sweet on Newbury for divine cupcakes. Katie and Suri Cruise loved them!

For out-of-town shopping, take a 45-minute shuttle bus to Wrentham Outlets. There you'll find bargains galore on Ralph Lauren, Coast, Gap and J Crew, among others. *Harry Potter* star Emma Watson was snapped there stocking up on designer goodies. *OK!* loved the Converse store and picked up a fabulous Ralph Lauren dress.

How do I get there?

British Airways (0844 493 0758; www.ba.com/boston) offers many holidays to Boston and Cape Cod. A three-night package, including BA flights from London Heathrow to Boston, staying at the four-and-a-half-star The Lenox costs from £479p. Price subject to availability, based on two sharing, includes all UK taxes and is valid for travel during March 2011. Book by 28 March. The price rises to £749pp for departures in April and May.

Nightly rates at the Isaiah Jones Homestead start at £100 and include a three-course breakfast. Visit www.isaiahjones.com for more details.

To explore Cape Cod, rent a small car with Avis (08445 810 147; www.avis.co.uk) from £153 for seven days.



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Where's the nearest beach?

Why not combine a city break with a few relaxing days on the beach? Right on Boston's doorstep is the 20-mile Cape Cod peninsula, with its 15 sleepy seaside towns stretching from Sandwich at the western end to Chatham at its Atlantic Ocean tip. We stayed at the Isaiah Jones Homestead, a quaint New England white clapperboard-style home in Sandwich, just an hour and a half's drive

from Boston. This charming B&B features cosy rooms stuffed with antiques and chintz – we'd go back just for Kathy and Donnie's outstanding breakfasts! In Sandwich, don't miss the Heritage Museum, where one of the world's finest collection of classic cars is tucked away. For outdoorsy types, head to the National Seashore Salt Pond in Chatham, where you can take glorious walks along the sea-view trails. Browse the quaint boutiques in Falmouth, or try Mashpee Commons for local brands stopping off for lunch at one of the many restaurants serving up local fishy specialities. *OK!* loved the crab cakes at the Wild Goose Tavern in Chatham.

Head to the beach at nearby Cape Cod



Where is Boston?



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