

# ECHO TRAVEL

In association with



**BOSS TOWN:** Sailboats on the Charles River dwarfed by the Boston skyline



LOVE A DUCK: Matthew and Super Size

## World of Weather

Weather forecast for parts of Europe, USA and Australia over the next five days (maximum daytime temperature from BBC weather centre)

<b>Barcelona</b>	Today 30C
	Wednesday 28C
	Thursday 28C
	Friday 29C
<b>Paris</b>	Today 24C
	Wednesday 26C
	Thursday 28C
	Friday 28C
<b>Melbourne</b>	Today 12C
	Wednesday 12C
	Thursday 13C
	Friday 13C
<b>Athens</b>	Today 37C
	Wednesday 33C
	Thursday 31C
	Friday 33C
<b>Miami</b>	Today 34C
	Wednesday 33C
	Thursday 32C
	Friday 32C
<b>Nice</b>	Today 26C
	Wednesday 26C
	Thursday 26C
	Friday 26C
<b>Venice</b>	Today 26C
	Wednesday 28C
	Thursday 29C
	Friday 31C

◆ Courtesy of Thomas Cook, Church Street

# Family favourite

**Dawn Collinson crosses the pond for a child's eye view of Boston – and it's boss**

**“BOSTON,”** said the first leaflet we picked up in arrivals at the city's Logan Airport, “may be one of America's oldest cities, but it is still a kid at heart.”

Which is just as well, since we had a seven-year-old who was visiting for the first time and raring to see and do everything.

The danger with city breaks, in this country or abroad, is that what's fun for the adults may be deadly tedious for the children, and vice versa.

Of course, with children in tow, there has to be a compromise. We only had five days to cram in as much as possible so that's where our hotel, the Hyatt Regency Boston, played its part.

But somehow in Boston they've got the balance just right. Because, while it has the vibrancy, the fashion and the great night life of its edgy East Coast near neighbour New York, it has a far more chilled out, genteel feel.

Just a five minute walk from the city's two fantastic parks – Boston Common and the Public Garden with its pedal-powered swan boats – it was perfectly placed. It had an indoor pool and gym too, which kept the boys happy while I and my AMEX took a wander along Newbury.

**Imagine if the Big Apple went to a Parisian finishing school, then here would surely be the result.**

But enough about shopping, as the leaflet said, Boston is a city for kids. And it's made sure there's plenty to keep them busy.

Husband and I had been to Boston before, minus the little co-traveller, and had spent most of our previous trip enjoying the multitude of restaurants and bars. Past experience told us that for excellent shopping or al fresco dining, it is hard to go wrong with Newbury Street in the Back Bay district.

Even if you haven't got one as a reasonable excuse, no visit to Boston is really complete without a ride on the Duck Tours. The ducks were here long before they made it to Liverpool, and their drivers are major characters. Ours, Super Size (a fast-food loving former superhero) was brilliant. Not only did he keep his duck-full of passengers, of all ages, entertained throughout the land and river tour, he had an unbelievably entertaining fund of facts.

American favourites like Victoria's Secret sit alongside designer names, quirky boutiques and pavement cafes.

What you can't find here can easily be located at the city's two other main retail centres, around Fenwick Hall Marketplace (check out Abercrombie & Fitch), and the Copley Place Galleries. Although prepare for your credit card to take a battering in the latter at the hands of Mr Choo and Mr Dior.

Having quacked our way round the city (seriously, this isn't for wall flowers), we had a good basis to set about exploring on our own.

Another beauty of Boston is that it's a walking city. Nowhere is too far, although if little legs get tired there's always the “r” underground rail system – like the Tube, but far simpler to navigate.

**The only problem we did have was managing to fit everything Matthew wanted to do into such a short time.**

The New England Aquarium was top of his list, along with Codzilla, an exhilarating super-fast speedboat ride around the harbour.

Franklin Park Zoo, the Children's Museum, the breathtaking 50-floor high Skywalk Observatory and Museum of Science also ticked all the right boxes, and he loved going below deck for a free tour of the USS Constitution.

We even found time to call in to one of Boston's best known and most lavish hotels, the Fairmont Copley Plaza, to see their famous resident - Cattie, the black Labrador, who greets and even goes for walks with guests!

There, as everywhere in Boston, we were given a warm, unpretentious reception.

Even in the restaurants, late into the evening, children are made to feel welcome and most offer a specially designed menu. Those that don't are more than happy to oblige with reduced size and price portions. On our last night, have been

spoiled for choice on Newbury, we finally agreed to venture beyond. And there's absolutely nowhere better than The Union Oyster House. This isn't just a seafood lovers heaven, it can also proudly claim to be the oldest restaurant in the US and a designated National Historic Landmark.

This restaurant, above anything else, epitomised for us what Boston is all about. It's full of history (JFK and Jackie had their own favourite booth), incredibly friendly, relaxed and the food is outstanding.

**YOU can travel to New England, Boston and Cape Cod for seven nights from £999 in September and October. The price includes return flights from Manchester via London; three nights hotel accommodation in Marlborough, Massachusetts and three nights accommodation in Hyannis, Cape Cod. For further details and brochure contact ECHO Travel Service 0151 227 5987.**

**Inside**

**Best of British**

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