



A Look Back and Ahead

Boston's ability to both evolve and honor its history makes it a hit with visitors

By Andrea Doyle

It is a rare city that treasures its past, present, and future. Boston, historically important yet refreshingly vibrant, lures groups by doing just that. It's only a few steps from the colonial sites of the Freedom Trail to the technological wonders on display at the Computer History Museum. Trinity Church, an 1877 masterpiece, is proudly reflected in the sheer glass walls of the 62-story John Hancock Tower, a landmark of the 1970s.

While proud to be the cradle of American independence, steeped in more than 350 years of momentous events, Boston also scores as a young,

upbeat metropolis strongly influenced by the enormous number of undergraduate and graduate students, artists, and academics who have graduated and stayed on.

During their free time, a good way for attendees to start exploring Boston is by walking along the three-mile Freedom Trail, which encompasses 16 of the most treasured sites in American history.

For those less inclined to hoof it, one of the newest ways to traverse the city is by grabbing one of 600 bicycles that are part of Alta Bicycle Share. The system, which includes 61 solar-powered

Over 90,000 pounds of tea landed in Boston Harbor in 1773; an original tea crate will be among the items displayed at the expanded Tea Party museum

ESSENTIAL Tool Box

CONVENTION CENTERS & FACILITIES
 Boston Convention & Exhibition Center (516,000 square feet); John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center (175,000 square feet); Seaport World Trade Center (119,000 square feet)

ROOM TAX
 14.45 percent

READERS Recommend

PINNACLE AWARDS GO TO:

- Greater Boston CVB
- The Boston Park Plaza Hotel & Towers
- Hyatt Harborside
- Hyatt Regency Boston
- Seaport Hotel & Seaport World Trade Center
- The Westin Boston Waterfront

