

Boston



For a recent college graduate, Boston is an amazing place to live. With over 30 colleges in the Boston area, the city has a noticeable young air to it. Boston offers a wide variety of things to do, from the theatre and ballet to baseball and bars. If you enjoy the occasional evening on the Downtown Mall in Charlottesville, you'll be sure to fall in love with Boston's Faneuil Hall and Newbury Street. All in all, Boston is a great place to start your life as a young professional.

HOT SPOTS IN BOSTON

Faneuil Hall• Resembles Charlottesville's Downtown Mall. Offers numerous stores ranging from Ann Taylor and Abercrombie to a toy store. A variety of restaurants and bars, many with an Irish theme, can be found here. Home to Quincy Market, where you can get anything from chowder and calzones to frozen yogurt and falafel.

North End• Located between the Central Artery and the harbor. Offers a wide variety of authentic Italian restaurants. Be sure to hit Mike's Pastry to try a canoli, but get there early since the line can wrap around the block!

Newbury Street• Lots of designer stores, boutiques, and art galleries. Numerous restaurants with outdoor seating in the summer.

Charles Street• More low key than Newbury Street, but with many local boutiques and cozy restaurants. A great place to check out the historic architecture of Beacon Hill and then grab a bite to eat.

Copley Square• Even more restaurants and bars. The Copley Mall and Prudential Center are here, as well as Boston Public Library and a park that occasionally hosts free concerts in the summer (the Pat McGee Band has been known to play here). One block over from Newbury Street.

Hatch Shell/Esplanade• Esplanade is a paved path along the Charles River. Any given day in the summer you can find numerous people roller-blading, biking, running, or walking. The hatch shell is on the Esplanade near the Boston Commons and hosts a variety of outdoor concerts during the summer.

Boston Common• Public park near downtown Boston. Free Shakespeare plays in the summer. Frog Pond serves as a kids' swimming hole in the summer and converts to an ice-skating rink in winter. Public gardens are nearby where you can take a leisurely swan boat ride during the summer or walk the Freedom Trail, a path marking revolutionary historic highlights.

TRANSPORTATION

Boston has a reputation for convenient and affordable public transportation. Most professionals can be found commuting to work via the T (the subway system), a train, or bus. There is a very limited amount of parking both in and around the city. Visit mbta.com for more information on any public transportation.

T• The T is made up of five main lines—Red, Blue, Green, Orange, and Silver—that arrive approximately every 15 minutes. The T's one-way fare is \$2.00, but this drops to \$1.70 if you use a convenient, debit-style "Charlie Card". The T runs from approximately 5:00 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. daily. Monthly unlimited T passes, which work for the T and buses are \$69. Check with your employer, because they often offer transportation plans with tax benefits.

Trains• Commuter rail trains run on a set schedule from areas farther outside Boston. Trains are scheduled to run from approximately 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. but vary depending on the day and route. Monthly train passes range from \$59 to \$250. Amtrak also operates, offering convenient transportation around New England and the East Coast.

Bus• Buses run throughout Boston and can sometimes be a more direct route than the T. Bus fares are \$1.50 (\$1.25 with a Charlie Card), and monthly passes are \$40. Buses run from approximately 5:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m., although there are night owl routes that run until about 3:00 a.m. Bus schedules vary depending on the route.

Rental Cars• There are a variety of rental car agencies in and around Boston. Enterprise Rent a Car in Massachusetts rent to drivers over 18 for a nominal fee. Visit www.enterpriserentacar.com for more information.

Zip Cars• Cars parked around the city that can be accessed with a zip card for daily city driving. Fees are based on hours driven and mileage over a certain amount. ZipCar has a \$50.00 annual fee, and a one-time \$25.00 application fee, but also offer a number of value plans if you're willing to make a monthly commitment. Visit www.zipcar.com for more information.

Taxi• Of course, there are many taxis throughout the city.

RENTING

General• Set up appointments with a few brokers each day you are planning on looking as they all have different listings in different parts of the city. Most of them are on <http://www.bostonapartments.com/agencies.htm> and they also have their own websites (a Google search brings up many of them). You may find that many of the listings on their websites are out of date or already leased, but it should give you an idea of the types of listings generally available. Once you're in Boston, you'll find many real estate offices and apartment listings, but you usually need to set up an appointment if you want to see any of them.

Realtor's Fee• Most apartments are rented through a realtor, meaning that a realtor's fee (usually one month's rent) is required when signing your lease. Sometimes you can talk the landlord into paying the realtor's fee, or negotiate to half-fee. Craigslist also lists a number of reduced and no fee apartments.

Other fees/Deposits• Usually first month's, last month's, and a security deposit are due upon signing the lease, meaning you have to be ready to hand over three months worth of rent.

Advice• Be sure to talk to current tenants to see how helpful/reasonable the landlord is. If they seem unsatisfied, you may want to look elsewhere. Find out if there is a property manager or if the landlord addresses problems. If the landlord manages the property, find out how willing he/she has been to fix problems in the past. Finally, ask whether there will be any major construction projects or improvements to the property going on while you live there. If you are looking to sublet an apartment for the summer, consider checking out the student newspapers of the many colleges and universities in the Boston area. Many students will advertise their apartments for sublease after the new year.

Renter's Insurance• Renter's insurance usually runs between \$100-\$200 a year to insure your apartment and belongings for a year. There are numerous insurance agencies offering rental insurance around Boston. If you need to insure \$10,000 or less of belongings, ask your insurance agency about the Massachusetts Property Insurance Underwriting Association.

AREAS IN AND AROUND BOSTON

Allston/Brighton

Who lives there: BU & BC students, young professionals
Distance to downtown: 20- to 30-minute T ride
Means of transportation: Green line of T, buses
Rent: \$1,300
Realtors: First Choice Realty, East Coast Realty
Pros: Close to city, convenient to take T, young crowd, safe, nice area
Cons: Expensive, lots of college kids, lack of free parking

Back Bay

Who lives there: BU and Northeastern students, wealthy families, young professionals
Distance to downtown: 10- to 15-minute T ride, 15-minute taxi ride
Means of transportation: Green line of T, buses
Rent: \$2,600
Realtors: Boston Realty Source, East Coast Realty
Pros: Close to city, convenient to take T, young crowd, safe, nice area, walking distance to downtown, near Fenway Park
Cons: Expensive, lots of college kids, lack of free parking

Cambridge (Harvard and MIT are located here)

Who lives there: Young professionals, students
Distance to downtown: 10- to 20-minute T ride
Means of transportation: Red line of T, buses
Rent: \$2,300
Realtors: East Coast Realty, First Choice Realty, Cambridge Realty
Pros: Nice area, lots to do, Red line usually is not crowded
Cons: Lots of students, farther you get from Harvard Square the less there is to do

Beacon Hill

Who lives there: Wealthy families, young professionals, and grad students
Distance to downtown: 10 to 15-minute walk
Means of transportation: Within 5-minute walk of all T lines
Rent: \$2,600
Realtors: Phillips Street Realty
Pros: Close to the city, lots of restaurants/shopping nearby, nice neighborhood
Cons: Expensive, lack of parking

South Boston

Who lives there: Young professionals, families
Distance to downtown: 10- to 20-minute bus
Means of transportation: East side (bus), west side (bus, Red line)
Rent: \$1,340
Realtors: Gibson Realty, Rooney Real Estate, South Boston Realty, O'Kieley Real Estate
Pros: East Side—Close to beach, street parking, safe neighborhoods West Side—Up and coming neighborhood, close proximity to Red line of T
Cons: East Side—Not close to T, buses only, rent more expensive West Side—Some unsafe areas, still undergoing improvements, harder to find parking

South End

Who lives there: Young professionals, families
Distance to downtown: 10-30 minute walk
Means of transportation: Bus, T (Silver and Orange lines)
Rent: \$2,375
Pros: Lots of bars, restaurants, and things to do, fun and young population
Cons: Some unsafe areas in the southernmost/Roxbury side, Silver line is slow

USEFUL BOSTON LINKS

- www.uvaclubs.virginia.edu/boston – U.Va. Club of Boston
- www.boston.com – Up to date news and a variety of other local resources. Good place to look for apartments.
- www.craigslist.org/about/sites – Web classified for Boston. Find tickets to a variety of shows and sporting events, job postings, roommate postings, and much more.

*City Sheets were created by members of the McIntire Young Alumni Council (MYAC). MYAC and the Alumni Association are working together to keep them updated with the most current information. The information on these sheets is based on online research, information from tourism offices and local newspapers, and, most significantly, from the authors' personal experiences. All costs, fares, and rental prices are approximate estimates for 2009.