

## Welcome to the City: Boston

*A Crowdsourced Guide by Davidson Alumni and Parents*

### Top “Must Do” Activities in the City

- A Red Sox game! The MFA, the ICA, hiking Blue Hills ...
- There's a lot of nature nearby, so I would say taking advantage of the parks and trails is a must-do. Check out the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway for running and cycling. Head to Middlesex Fells and the Blue Hills for low key day hikes. And definitely get out of the city to western Mass and NH for some mountain time.
- Go to Harpoon Brewery.
- Lobsters rolls & fresh oysters! I also love going towards the ocean. The JFK library is amazing.
- Duck Tour.
- Go to Boston sporting events, from Fenway Park to the Garden and down to Foxboro.
- Go for a run or a sunset walk around Castle Island.
- Bike along HarborWalk from Castle Island to UMASS-Boston.
- Sullivan's Restaurant serves the cheapest lobster roll or hot dog that you'll find in the city. But go for the view, not the food. You can also bring your own picnic.
- Take the day off for 'Patriot's Day' and soak in all that is the Boston Marathon in the Back Bay
- Walk along the Esplanade.
- See July 4th fireworks over the Charles River.
- Take the ferry to the Boston Harbor Islands.
- Hang out in Boston Common and Public Garden.
- Take a ride in the Boston Swan Boats and check out the Make Way For Ducklings Sculpture.
- Visit the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway, a linear urban park located in Boston's downtown neighborhoods.
- Visit the Christopher Columbus Waterfront Park.
- Check out the MIT Campus, including the MIT Tunnels—with free museum-like exhibits, and the MIT Museum. Most people only visit Harvard!
- Explore the Emerald Necklace, the Olmstead-designed Boston Park System.
- Visit the Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge. Great arboretum, interesting constituents.
- See the USS Constitution.
- Check out the Boston Public Library. Not a must do, per se, but fun to poke around.
- Attend a concert in Symphony Hall. Some of the best acoustics in the country.
- Kayak on the Charles River.

### **Top “Must Do” Activities Outside of the City**

- Nantucket or Martha’s Vineyard in the summer. Taking the fast ferry for a day trip from Boston to Provincetown is a quicker excursion.
- The winter is all about the north country. Get to Vermont or Maine. Stowe is the cream of the crop for east coast ski villages but also the most expensive. The best snow in New England can usually be found at Jay Peak but it comes at a price... the coldest mountain around!
- Northern New England is especially beautiful in the summer and fall.
- Woodstock, Vermont will blow you away.
- Visit Crane Beach in Ipswich, MA.
- Visit Maine, especially the beaches.
- See WaterFire, the award-winning sculpture in Providence (MBTA Train).
- Go to any Mass Audubon Sanctuary.
- Take the commuter rail to Salem.
- Take a weekend trip to NYC by either train or bus.
- Visit Middlesex Fells. Four square miles of hills, rocks, and trails—accessible by public transport, with a bit of walking.
- The Cape, especially the outer cape.
- Hiking in the Whites. Mt. Washington is a nice challenge depending upon the route you select.
- More of a long weekend; it's about a six-hour drive up to Acadia.

### **What We Wish We’d Known / Advice for Alumni New to the Area**

- Play some kind of organized sport (through Social Boston Sports club or Boston Ski & Sports club), sign up for a class through the adult education program in your town/neighborhood, attend alumni events, and never turn down an invitation.
- Don't get stuck in your neighborhood. There's a lot going on in the Boston area, and it's worth it branch out and go exploring.
- Enjoy the city--take time to walk around and appreciate the history.
- Try to find a connection with someone. It can be very tough moving here, especially from the South (or any other friendlier places). It can feel fairly lonely when you first arrive, so it's important to reach out to coworkers or friends of friends or family to try to feel some sense of belonging. Also, there are some neat things to do in Boston, so try to explore, as it'll make you feel more at home.
- Enjoy the fall!
- If you're not from the area, it can be difficult to break in. Be ready to put the effort in and you will get plenty in return.
- Avoid the Green Line.
- Find the A.R.T. theatre in Cambridge—first-run Broadway quality in our backyard.
- Plan extra time when using public transportation.
- People seem unfriendly, but it's just a matter of customs: they are not willing to make eye contact on the street with strangers.

- Walking can sometimes be faster than taking the T, especially during peak times (morning/evening) and especially on the green line. Biking, within a 3-4 mile radius, is by far the fastest way to get around, but also by far the most dangerous

#### **What to Read**

- Improper Bostonian for book readings, Harvard Film Archive and other Harvard listservs.
- The Boston Calendar is a decent cheat sheet, but I would mostly recommend connecting with businesses you enjoy or find interesting on social media and looking for what they post.
- I just google Boston events, which gives you things happening near Boston and throughout New England. Boston the city is actually not that large, and there are lots of fun places nearby.

**Note from Alumni Relations:** While we don't keep these guides updated year round, we do ask alumni and parents in our chapters for updates to them each fall when we send out our Welcome to the City invitation. If you'd like to add something, we'd love if you could hold your recommendation until next fall!