

SUMMER 2011

Cheap Living...

OPIA's Guide to Affordable Housing, Transportation,
Food, and Fun in Major Cities for HLS Students
Spending a Summer Working in the Public Interest

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Boston

Boston Table of Contents

Housing	2
Transportation	3
Groceries	6
Eating Out	7
Entertainment	13
Weekend Getaways	18

Congratulations! You've gotten a great public interest internship. You're ready for the challenges and rewards of your job, but are you ready to move to, navigate, and enjoy a new city on a modest salary?

It can be difficult to live cheaply in some of the world's most expensive (and exciting) cities, so OPIA and the 1L Public Interest Section Representatives have put together a guide to give you a few tips on how to get by (and have fun) on a public interest salary. We'll tell you how to find safe, inexpensive housing, get around in the city, eat out or in, hang out, and explore the city's cultural offerings.

In compiling these guides, we relied on numerous sources: our own experiences, law school career service offices, newspapers, the Internet, and especially Harvard Law School students. The information in *Cheap Living* is meant to be helpful, not authoritative. No doubt, we have missed some stellar bargains. By listing a feature in the guide, we do not mean to endorse it, other than to say that a student like you has mentioned it as a great deal. *Cheap Living* remains a work in progress. Restaurants and attractions continuously open and close. If you have suggestions or additions for next year, please let us know!

A very special thanks to all of the 1L Section Reps who researched and wrote this year's *Cheap Living Guides*. Even in the midst of exams, the Auction, Ames, and everything else that consumes 1L year, they made time to make sure that their classmates get the most out of their public interest summer internship experience. Have a wonderful summer!

- Kirsten Bermingham, OPIA Assistant Director for Administration

**The Boston Guide was updated by 1L section representatives Katie Booth, Joe Busa, Andrew Chan, Lauren Herman, and Benjamin Solomon-Schwartz.*

WELCOME! As you may have already begun to discover, Boston is a wonderful, beautiful, and potentially inexpensive place to live. This summer, you will finally have the opportunity to hit all of the hot spots that you were too busy to get to during the school year. The Boston area has a lot going on in the summer, so throw down your backpack and get going!

For any information that you might need beyond this guide, be sure to consult the **Unofficial Guide to Life at Harvard** (available for purchase at the Coop, online at <http://unofficial.hsa.net>). Its listings span the price spectrum and it offers a more complete survey of food and entertainment in the area.

HOUSING

One of the best resources for summer housing in the Boston and Cambridge area is other students. At Harvard, the bulletin boards in the Harkness Commons at Harvard Law School, Harvard Yard, the Kennedy School, etc., are already filled with students advertising summer sublets. Ask around—chances are your friends, classmates, and acquaintances will know people hoping to sublet their rooms or apartments. Since so many students in so many different parts of Boston leave the area for the summer, you will have your choice of where you want be. Facebook Marketplace is also a good resource to see what friends and acquaintances are subletting for the summer.

The Harvard Housing Office (which does not give out listings over the phone) begins listing summer sublets in March. The listings are available in their online database, which you can find through their website at <http://www.huhousing.harvard.edu/HarvardUniversityHousing/index.aspx>, or in their office at 7 Holyoke Street in Harvard Square. Call 617-495-3377 for more information. These sublets go quickly, so be sure to check this office on a regular basis (and be sure to bring your Harvard ID when visiting the office in person). This office lists sublets and rooms for rent in both Harvard Affiliated and private apartments. HLS students may also opt to stay in one of the HLS dormitories from May 31st to August 2nd. Visit <http://www.law.harvard.edu/current/student-services/housing/on-campus/index.html> for more information and <https://www.law.harvard.edu/apps/housing/forms/secure/summerhousing/> for the Summer 2011 form (login required). The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) also offers dormitory living. Check http://www.gsas.harvard.edu/current_students/housing.php or call 617-495-5060 for more information.

A general tip when searching for summer sublets is that the closer you are to a campus (whether it is Harvard or Boston University or Boston College), the more expensive the housing will be. This summer may be the perfect opportunity for you to try a new neighborhood that you might not choose to live in during the school year because of the distance from campus. Public transportation provides easy access to less expensive neighborhoods that offer something new to explore.

Cambridge offers a variety of squares beyond Harvard Square, each with a unique atmosphere. Central Square, home to many MIT students, is a bit more urban than some of the other squares and offers some funky bars and great ethnic restaurants. Porter Square is much more residential. The streets are quiet, and it is extremely close to the Porter Square Shopping Center, with a 24-hour CVS and supermarket. Inman and Kendall Squares are also home to many MIT students and are worth checking out. Inman has bus lines (the

83 goes to Central and Porter, the 69 goes to Harvard Sq), but is a bit farther from the T (a 10 – 15 minute walk to Central Square).

Somerville's many squares already house many Harvard and Tufts students, so sublets should be plentiful. Davis Square is the most well-known area in Somerville because it offers restaurants, shopping, a movie theater, and a T-stop on the Red Line. Both Teele Square and Ball Square are within ten-minute walks from Davis Square and are quite close to Tufts University. It may be worth heading to Tufts to check out the Tufts Daily for a listing of summer sublets. Students should also check out Union Square, one of the most diverse neighborhoods in the Cambridge/Somerville area, which is accessible by bus.

Many students also choose to live in Boston (Allston, Back Bay, Brighton, Dorchester, East Boston, Jamaica Plain, Kenmore Square, North End, South End, South Boston), Brookline, Watertown, East Arlington, and other neighborhoods close to the city during the summer. Be aware that the housing options will likely be more expensive, both as you get closer to Boston proper, and as you get closer to T lines/stops. As a general matter it is cheaper to live along bus routes.

If you're not going to live in Harvard-affiliated housing (apartments or dorms) and don't find something through student networks, the Internet is a great place to look for sublets. Craigslist (<http://boston.craigslist.org/>) is probably the best starting point. There are lots of sublets listed and it is easy to search. (It is also a good place to find free or inexpensive used furniture and other household necessities.) HLCentral (www.hlcentral.com) also has postings through which to find sublets and roommates. Other websites to check out include <http://www.roommateclick.com>, www.thesublet.com, and www.short-term.com (for short-term apartments, although these will be more expensive).

Another way to access these neighborhoods is to read The Boston Globe (available at <http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe>) and other local papers (available in each neighborhood) that offer listings for summer sublets. If you're willing to take a room in a pre-occupied apartment, the Phoenix is key, available online at <http://thephoenix.com/Boston/classifieds>. Make sure you get it when it comes out on Thursday and call right away. The listings can go quickly. The community papers are called the Tabs (e.g. the Allston/Brighton Tab), and they are usually available at coffee shops, ice-cream shops and the like. The Boston Metro, a free daily newspaper, which is generally available at public transportation stops, also publishes listings for apartments.

Another general tip for cutting down on housing costs is to live with roommates, if possible. Studios and one-bedroom apartments can be significantly more expensive than even two-bedroom apartments.

TRANSPORTATION

Walking, biking, and public transportation are the best ways to get around Boston and Cambridge in the summer. While a car can be wonderful for weekend getaways, parking is challenging. If you bring a car to Boston for the summer or move to a new neighborhood with your car, be sure to learn the local parking rules and read the signs carefully. Find out if you need to get a parking permit and what the rules are for guests with cars. A permit is required for most street parking, and parking garages are prohibitively expensive. Many newcomers to Boston find themselves racking up tickets or having their cars towed away because of

parking violations. Many of the rules for parking in Cambridge can be found here <http://www.cambridgema.gov/traffic>.

If you do decide to drive in Boston, allow plenty of time to get where you're going, particularly during rush hour. Distances tend to be small, but traffic can get heavy. Often it will take twice as long as the estimated time on a GPS to get where you're going. Always have a backup route ready in case of an accident or heavy traffic. There are many cyclists in Boston, so be careful to share the road--especially when turning right on red. AM 1030 gives a traffic report on the 3's (so at 6:33, 6:43, etc.), which is always useful to check out before leaving and during your trip. You can also check <http://www.traffic.com/Boston-Traffic/Boston-Traffic-Reports.html>. Remember that Boston bars close early--by 2 a.m. or earlier--so driving around that time in areas like Allston can be dangerous.

The MBTA (the T)—including the subway/trolley, buses, and the commuter rail—provides access to Boston and outlying areas. Because many people drive to work in Boston, mass transit is not as crowded as it is in some other cities, and it is fairly cheap. Even if you only plan to use public transportation occasionally, you should buy a \$5 plastic CharlieCard, which is a reloadable stored-value card found in most subway stations (or at Customer Service desks such as the one located in Downtown Crossing). With the plastic CharlieCard, fares are generally \$1.70 for the subway and \$1.25 for the bus. You can also buy or add value to a paper ticket, but the fares are more expensive (\$2.00). The plastic card can also be tapped at turnstiles, which saves a little time and effort.

You add value to the cards at the fare vending machines in the stations. If you do plan on taking advantage of the T often, it probably makes sense to get an unlimited travel monthly pass. The monthly link pass for unlimited travel on the subway and bus costs \$59/month. The monthly pass for local bus only costs \$40/month. These can be purchased at all fare vending machines in the stations, as well as online (http://mbta.com/fares_and_passes/passes/) and at MBTA Pass sales offices in select stations. You should register your CharlieCard at <https://charliecard.mbta.com/CharlieCardWebProgram/pages/charlieCardCenter.jsf> to make sure you don't lose the balance on your card if it is lost or stolen.

Be forewarned, the T shuts down early (around 12:30 a.m.). Be sure to check when the last train comes to your stop. The last bus usually waits for the last train. On another note, the T provides directions to and from any address. Simply use the TRIP PLANNER at www.mbta.com/rider_tools/trip_planner/, give them your starting and ending destination, and they will tell you exactly how to get there using the subways, trains, and buses. They will also provide you with the approximate time it will take to complete your transit. Note that this system is not 100% foolproof. You might want to check with someone more familiar with the area. Google Maps can also provide a route using public transit, but the system may also have some errors.

It is also worth remembering that not all T lines are created equal. As you're planning where you want to live for the summer, you may want to think about the ease of commuting on a particular T line. The red line from Alewife into the Downtown Crossing station is relatively fast and uncrowded, although it is more crowded coming on the red line from Ashmont/Braintree into the city. The green line has much smaller cars and fewer seats, is much more crowded, is generally a slower ride due to frequent stops, and can run irregularly later at night. Be careful if you chose to live near the end of the B, C, D or E green line routes, since the ride into the city can take thirty to forty-five minutes. The orange line is a relatively speedy and uncrowded line, but trains run far less frequently than the red or green lines. The blue line can be very crowded at rush hour.

Always make sure to check if there is a bus route that is faster than the T. The T is set up in a spoke system, with T lines bringing people into the city from different areas outside the city. While the T is often the fastest way to get in or out of the city, it can take quite some time to go from one area outside the city to another, since there is no outer ring of T service to connect outlying neighborhoods. Buses (or bicycles!) may be faster.

The commuter rail is more expensive, but it is an effective way to get away from the city on weekends to places like Salem, Concord, Providence, and the beach. North and South Station are major terminals for the commuter rail. There are surcharges if you purchase tickets on board the train from those stations, so try to get your tickets at the station. (When leaving from other stations—Porter Square station, for example—where you can't buy tickets, the surcharge does not apply.) If you're late, be warned—the trains generally leave right on schedule. Something you should know about the commuter rail is that there is a “one-day” rule for round-trip tickets: if you purchase a round-trip ticket, you must return the same day. So if you are planning on staying somewhere overnight/for the weekend, purchase a one-way ticket instead. Check out this website for more information http://www.mbta.com/fares_and_passes/rail/.

Cabs are available in Boston, but they are expensive. They can also be difficult to come by at the end of the night when the bars are closing down and the T is already shut down. The hardest place to find a taxi is the Quincy Market/Faneuil Hall/North End area. It can also be extremely challenging to find a taxi near Fenway Park after games. If you want to get a taxi from Fenway, you should walk down Beacon Street about ¼ mile from Kenmore Square. You'll get one in 5 minutes. Getting a cab to Cambridge from Boston when the bars close may also prove difficult, so plan accordingly. Finally, you should know that Boston and Cambridge have separate cab systems (Cambridge cabs cannot pick up people in Boston and vice-versa). We have listed a few numbers for Cambridge and Boston cab companies below:

Cambridge: Ambassador Cab, 617-492-1100
Checker Cab, (617) 908 0333, (617) 259 6668

Boston: Boston Cab, (617) 262-2227
City Cab, 617-536-5100
ITOA, 617-426-8700
Metro Cab, 617-782-5500
Town Taxi, 617-536-5000

For those occasions when you need a car, Zipcar (www.zipcar.com) is a convenient option at about \$8/hr. Harvard students have their application fee waived and annual fee reduced. It takes Zipcar several days to process your application and get your ID to you, so if you need a Zipcar, make sure you sign up early. Also, reserve your time as soon as you know when you'll need the car—cars are not unlimited, and on the weekends, it can be hard to reserve one nearby.

Boston is small and compact and makes for a great walking city, especially in the summer. In fact, the best way to learn about Boston is to walk around with a map. (Streetwise Boston is a great map.) Even when you have a map, Boston can be really confusing. Luckily, though, Boston natives are nice, so just ask for help

when you need it. Another helpful resource for getting around the greater Boston area without a car is "Car Free in Boston," available at newsstands and bookstores for about \$10.

A good resource for transportation in general around Cambridge and walking in particular is the Cambridge Community Development Department. Their website (<http://www2.cambridgema.gov/cdd/>) is an excellent resource for maps and tips. They also publish the "Getting Around in Cambridge" guide, available at newsstands and bookstores.

Logan International Airport is the hub of Boston's air traffic. There are many ways to get to Logan. A cab from Harvard costs \$35-\$40 and takes about 15 minutes, but the cheapest option is to take the T's Red Line (subway) to South Station and transfer to the Silver Line Airport Shuttle. The trip will take about 35 minutes, and costs only \$1.70 with a CharlieCard!

Saving the most important information for last, we turn to Fenway Park. If you are living in Boston itself, take the Green Line to Kenmore station. (The B, C, and D go to Kenmore. Do *not* take the E train). If you live near Harvard, the easiest way to get to Fenway is by cab (\$10), or by taking the 1 Bus down Massachusetts Avenue. Get off at the first stop after the river and walk to the right up Beacon Street. You'll see the CITGO sign, and you are there. You can also walk to Fenway quite easily from Cambridge. It is about a half hour walk, and it is absolutely beautiful along the Charles on a warm summer evening.

GROCERIES

Cooking for yourself is almost always much cheaper than eating out in Boston. For inspiration, consider www.tastepotting.com.

Shaw's/Star Market is the major supermarket chain in the area, and you can find one near you using their website (<http://www.shaws.com/stores/searchstores>). Prices and selection vary between the stores, so you might want to check a few to see which best fits your tastes. The large Shaw's at Porter Square is open 24 hours a day, and boasts a reasonably priced salad bar and a Wild Harvest organic/natural foods section. Another particularly good Shaw's is at 370 Western Ave. (just over the river from Central Square), accessible by car or the 86 bus, which has a stop across from Johnston Gate on Garden Street. The Star Market at 275 Beacon Street near Inman Square in Cambridge is a quiet, although not as sparkling, alternative to the bustling Porter Square store. **Stop & Shop** is the second major mainstream grocery chain around Boston, and you can find the most convenient store on their website (www.stopandshop.com/our_stores/locator/store_search.htm?opco=SNS).

There are several options for discount supermarkets. In Union Square, you can find amazingly cheap prices and all the necessities at **Market Basket** at 400 Somerville Ave. **Johnnie's Foodmaster** is a rarely crowded, fairly inexpensive Massachusetts grocery store chain (www.foodmasterinc.com/locations.htm). The closest Johnnie's is at 45 Beacon St. near Inman Square.

A great market in Cambridge, especially for bulk food staples, is the **Harvest Co-op**, at 581 Mass. Ave. in Central Square (www.harvestcoop.com). If you are willing to work two hours a week, you will save on the big discounts they offer to their employees. If not, it's pricey but offers high quality. One source of discount gourmet food is **Trader Joe's**, a chain that specializes in low-effort, prepackaged, organic food items. Their store brand staples—cereal, pasta, cheese, juice, yogurt, etc.—are tasty and much cheaper than comparable

name brands. The closest stores are located at 1427 Mass. Ave. in Arlington (off the Minuteman Bikeway) and 748 Memorial Drive in Cambridge with others scattered throughout the Boston area (www.traderjoes.com). For a more expensive, but beautiful, selection, try **Whole Foods**, with three Cambridge locations: 100 Alewife Brook Pkwy (near Alewife/Fresh Pond), 340 River St. (near Central Square), and 115 Prospect St. (near Central Square) (www.wholefoods.com/stores/). Christina's Spices and Specialty Foods, at 1255 Cambridge Street in Inman Square, has an excellent and eclectic selection of spices, teas, grains, and dried beans and is adjacent to their equally excellent ice cream store.

The **open-air farmers markets** are a fantastic shopping option during the summer, complete with fresh and local produce, bread, cheese, and a variety of other food options. They are held throughout the summer at various locations on different days of the week, including Harvard Square, Davis Square, Union Square, Central Square, Boston City Hall Plaza, Copley Square, and South Station. The selection varies by location and by week. You can practically go to a different farmers market each day of the week! See <http://www.massfarmersmarkets.org/> for an up-to-date listing of days, times, and locations.

The **Haymarket** (near Quincy Market at the Haymarket T stop) is in a category of its own. It takes place every Friday and Saturday year-round. The offerings here are generally not fresh from the farm, but rather standard produce, meat, fish, and other items offered at bargain-basement prices. The quality is hit-or-miss (and vendors won't let you pick out your own produce), but the gamble is usually worth it, and the entertainment value alone is worth the trip.

A great weekend culinary adventure can be found at **Wilson Farms** in Lexington, a twenty-minute drive from Harvard Square (10 Pleasant St., Exit 56 on Route 2) (<http://www.wilsonfarm.com/>). Here you'll find fairly inexpensive produce and enthusiastic experts who can tell you if a melon is really ripe or exactly which herbs to include in your homemade salsa. Wilson Farms is open year round, 7 days a week.

There are a variety of excellent ethnic markets in the Boston area as well. **Shalimar** (571 Mass. Ave.) in Central Square is an Indian grocery with a great spice section. The **Syrian Grocery Importing Company** (270 Shawmut Ave.) in the South End has a good Middle Eastern selection. **Arax** (585 Mt. Auburn St.) in Watertown has a great supply of Mediterranean and North African groceries (don't miss the fresh breads!) and is the perfect place to stock up on bulk spices, lentils, and other beans. If you're looking for Spanish or Latin American foodstuffs, try **La Internacional Foods** (318 Somerville Ave.) in Somerville or one of the many small stores around Union Square. For Italian specialties, venture to **Capone Foods** (14 Bow St., Somerville or 2285 Mass Ave., Cambridge).

Super 88 is probably the biggest Asian food chain. The branch in Allston (1 Brighton Ave.) is the nicest and most well-stocked, while the one at 73 Essex Street in Chinatown can be disappointing. (If you're in Chinatown, it might be better to head to the **Sun Sun Market** down the street at 18 Oxford Street.) Boston's **C Mart** (692 Washington St. and 109 Lincoln St.) is worthwhile for its produce.

Finally, if you want to buy sweets at cheaper prices than, say, Cardullo's or the mouth-watering Burdick's in Harvard Square, try **Hidden Sweets** (25 Brattle St.) in Harvard Square for typical candy sold in bulk bins.

EATING OUT

HARVARD SQUARE

The best pizza in the Square is at **Pinocchio's** (at the corner of JFK St. & Winthrop St., across from Staples, open until 2 a.m. on the weekends), where you can get regular slices or Sicilian squares, their specialty. Depending on what you like in a pizza, there lots of other options. **Cambridge 1** (27 Church St., 617-576-1111) is great for slightly more expensive grilled thin-crust pizza and salads. **Veggie Planet** (47 Palmer St., 617-661-1513) has delicious vegetarian/vegan pizzas with unexpected combinations. Their lunch prices are particularly reasonable.

Another late-night (or early morning) option is the **Hong Kong** (at 1238 Mass. Ave., 617-864-5311), which closes at 2 a.m.. Famous (or infamous) for its cheap Chinese food, the Kong also does takeout for those who just can't get enough of their pork dumplings. For reasonably priced Thai food, there are at least three options: **Spice** (possibly the best pad Thai, 24 Holyoke St., 617-868-9560), **9 Tastes** (50 JFK St., 617-547-6666), and **Aiyara** (16 Eliot St., 617-497-8288). Better still for its value is the Vietnamese restaurant **Le's** (in The Garage, entering on Dunster St., 617-864-4100). **Wagamama is** another tasty option (57 JFK St., right next to Staples, 617-499-0930). Towards Central, **Café Sushi** (1105 Mass. Ave, 617-492-0434.) has \$1/piece sushi nights, and **Super Fusion Sushi** (1759 Mass Ave., 617-864-6299).

Indian food tends to be expensive, but your best bets are **Tanjore** (18 Eliot St., 617-868-1900), **Café of India** (52 Brattle St., 617-661-0683). Their lunch buffets are an affordable way to take advantage of their great food—and fill up for the day. In The Garage, **Chutney's** (36 JFK St.) serves Indian style rolls. For affordable Ethiopian, try **Addis Red Sea Ethiopian Restaurant**, between Harvard Square and Porter Square at 1755 Mass. Ave., (617) 441-8727.

Incredibly satisfying, very cheap Mexican food is always in supply at **Felipe's Taqueria** (in The Garage with an entrance on 83 Mount Auburn St., 617-354-9944, open until 2 a.m. most nights). For burritos, there is also a **Chipotle** at One Brattle Square (617-491-0677). For Tex-Mex, you can go to the inexpensive **Border Café** (32 Church St., 617-864-6100).

Grendel's Den (89 Winthrop St., 617-491-1050) has happy hour specials daily 5-7:30 p.m. and Sun-Thurs 9-11:30 p.m. (half price food with \$3 drink purchase). Don't overlook **John Harvard's Brew House** (next to The Garage at 33 Dunster St., 617-868-3585) for some of its cheaper but filling entrees, not to mention its half-priced appetizer special on Monday nights. **Charlie's Kitchen** (10 Eliot St., 617-492-9646) also offers inexpensive bar food (particularly the cheeseburger special).

Next to the Kong is **Bartley's Burgers** (1246 Mass. Ave., 617-354-6559), another Square legend. If you don't mind the grease, Bartley's offers some of the tastiest junk food around. If you're looking for a healthier (and cheaper) burger, go to **b.good** (24 Dunster St., 617-354-6500), which is delicious and surprisingly nutritious. For an extra special lunchtime treat, consider walking up Mt. Auburn St. several blocks past the post office to **Darwin's** (148 Mt. Auburn St., 617-354-5233), a hidden treasure of a sandwich shop with a café and its own mini-grocery store. You can usually order a half-sandwich for half the price. If you're headed toward Central Square, check **Zoe's Diner** (1105 Mass Ave., 617-495-0055), which does a booming weekend breakfast and brunch business.

Lastly, for all those ice cream fixes you'll need during the summer, you might opt for the **Baskin Robbins** (1 Bow St., sharing a store with Dunkin Donuts, on the opposite side of the bar Grafton Street from the Hong Kong, 617-354-4929) over the more expensive (but delicious) **J.P. Licks** (1312 Mass. Ave.) or **Lizzy's Ice Cream** (31A Church St.).

CENTRAL SQUARE

Here you'll find a much broader array of well-priced food than in Harvard Square. The Indian food choices are especially plentiful (and cheap). From east to west, we have: **India Castle** (928 Mass. Ave, 617-864-8100); **India Pavilion** (17 Central Square, at the intersection of Western Ave. and Green St., 617-547-7463); and **Shalimar** (546 Mass. Ave, 617-547-9280). India Castle is slightly closer to Central than Harvard and has the best food and atmosphere, but is \$1-\$2 per dish more expensive than the others. For the best value, hit the all-you-can-eat buffets offered for lunch at the India Pavilion or Shalimar.

You can eat for less than \$5 at **The Middle East** (472 Mass. Ave, 617-492-9181), which doubles as a nightclub so a great place to see local musicians. Their bakery has free music on the weekends. **Hi-Fi Pizza** (on the same side of Mass. Ave, but across Brookline St. from the Middle East) offers pizza, subs, and fried food, and it's open late enough to stop by after a night on the town. For Chinese food, the Middle East's next door neighbor, **Mary Chung Restaurant** (460 Mass. Ave., 617-864-1991), is a good bet. Some prefer **Pu Pu Hot Pot** (907 Main St., near the intersection of Mass. Ave. and Columbia St., 617-491-6636), which has a dazzling selection of inexpensive and authentic Chinese dishes, though not much in the way of atmosphere. Next door, **Asmara** (739 Mass. Ave, 617-864-7447) offers delicious Ethiopian/Eritrean food at reasonable prices, but its service can be slow. A slightly more pricey but delicious option (with a super cozy atmosphere) is **Rangzen Tibetan Place** off Mass Ave. at 24 Pearl St (617-354-8881). For down-to-earth and reasonably priced diner food, **Mass Ave Restaurant** (906 Mass Ave., 617-864-5301) is a popular option.

KENDALL SQUARE

This area tends to be somewhat upscale. If you're planning on catching a movie at Kendall Square Cinema (617-499-1996), there are a couple of restaurants in the same complex. **Emma's Pizza** (40 Hampshire Street, 617-864-8534) makes excellent thin-crust pizzas. For a tasty splurge, try the **Blue Room** (1 Kendall Square, 617-494-9034). While the Blue Room is not cheap, every Sunday this "world grill" offers an elaborate, huge all-you-can-eat buffet (11:00-2:30, \$23 per person). Another hidden gem is the **Black Sheep Restaurant** (350 Main St., 617-577-1300) located inside of the Kendall Hotel, serving a famous Cracked Pepper Roast Beef Sandwich. One Kendall Square is also home to the **Cambridge Brewing Co.** (617-494-1994). This brew pub offers tasty beer and standard fare with an outdoor patio that is great for checking out the Kendall Square crowd.

Don't miss the food trucks around MIT's campus. Trucks include **Goosebeary's** (tofu, stir fry), **Jerusalem Café**, **José's Mexican Food** and **Yona's Pizza**. Enjoy your inexpensive lunch on a nearby lawn or bench.

PORTER SQUARE

Inside the **Porter Exchange** (1815 Mass Ave.) are a variety of good, cheap and quick ramen, curry, and sushi restaurants. **Ittyo** serves consistent and tasty udon soups. **Bluefin Sushi** is a great, reasonably priced sushi restaurant, perfect for an inexpensive date. Be prepared for slow service at peak times, however. Also worthy of note is an Asian bakery stand that sells fairly cheap and very good cakes and buns. If you're in the mood for Thai, there is **Sugar & Spice** nearby at 1933 Mass. Ave (617-868-4200) or closer to campus, **Tamarind House** at 1790 Mass. Ave. (617-491-9940). For Indian food try, **Passage to India** at 1900 Mass Ave. (617-497-6133). **Montrose Spa** (1646 Mass. Ave., 617-547-5053) is a great spot for cheap and tasty sandwiches that you can have cold or grilled.

Anna's Taqueria (822 Somerville Ave., 617-661-8500) offers dirt-cheap freshly cooked Mexican food and is a staple for many students. Across the street, **Christopher's** is a great spot for groups, featuring affordable burgers and a wide beer selection (1920 Mass. Ave., 617-876-9180). There's a **Bruegger's Bagels** (1876 Mass. Ave., 617-576-6163) in the same vicinity. Down Mass. Ave. toward Harvard Square, **Boca Grande Taqueria** (1728 Mass. Ave., 617-354-7400) has good, cheap Mexican food, and **Changsho** (1712 Mass. Ave., 617-547-6565) offers an all-you-can-eat Chinese food lunch buffet. **Tavern in the Square** (730 Mass. Ave., 617-868-8800) offers 25 cent wings on Tuesday nights from 8-11PM as well as half price burgers on Tuesdays from 11:30AM-3PM.

DAVIS SQUARE

Davis Square has an interesting mix of older restaurants and shops and new, trendy start-ups. A word to the wise: parking is difficult in Davis Square in the evenings, so you may want to opt for the T.

One not to be missed stop in Davis Square is **Redbones** (55 Chester Street, 617-628-2200). Redbones is generally acknowledged as Boston's premier BBQ restaurant. Vegetarians beware, for this is a ribs and beans kind of place, although quite a few vegetarians swear by the cornbread. The huge helpings of meat and more meat (as well as the fantastic bar selection) might help you feel better about the prices. At the bar, ask the bartender to dial-a-beer for you on their enormous wall spinner listing their draft selections.

Johnny D's Uptown (17 Holland St., 617-776-2004) offers brunch that is large and reasonably priced, as do the **Joshua Tree** (256 Elm St., 617-623-9910) and **The Burren** (247 Elm St., 617-776-6896). (All three also offer entertainment). **Taipei Toyko** (7 Holland Street, 617-625-6068), across the street from the Somerville Theater, has inexpensive Japanese and Chinese fast food. Be sure to head over to the **J.P. Licks** ice cream parlor (across the plaza from the Theater) for dessert (although it is expensive for ice cream). If wraps are your thing, **Blue Shirt Café** (424 Highland Ave., 617-629-7641) offers healthy wraps as well as fresh juices and protein shakes.

The Rosebud (381 Summer St., 617-666-6015) offers average priced diner food, but the service is often slow, and like most urban breakfast places, is packed during the weekend brunch hours. If you like cheap, greasy Italian food with beer, **Mike's Restaurant** (9 Davis Square, 617-628-2379) is a quick and inexpensive way to start a night in Davis. They offer a two-for-one deal on large pizzas on Mondays. **Diesel Café** at 257 Elm Street has great coffee drinks and sandwiches (as well as soups and surprisingly good pizza bagels, and a very cool atmosphere, plus Wi-Fi, 617-629-8717). **Martsa on Elm** (233 Elm St, 617-666-0660) offers Himalayan/Nepalese and a good weekend buffet.

One of the very best Asian restaurants in the entire Boston area is a tiny one, **East Asia**, that is a quick walk from Davis Square at 868 Broadway (617-666-8282). Its specialty is incredible homemade tofu. Walk about ten minutes down College Ave. from Davis Square, toward Tufts. When you reach the Powderhouse Rotary (across from the Powderhouse Park) make a left on Broadway. It is about three storefronts down on your left. Also at the Powderhouse Rotary, the **Broken Yolk** (136 College Ave, 617-628-6621) offers inexpensive breakfasts.

OTHER SOMERVILLE SQUARES

In Union Square, check out **The Neighborhood Restaurant and Bakery** (25 Bow Street in Union Square, 617-628-2151). On weekends, expect a wait at The Neighborhood, but the amount of food that you get for the price (fresh squeezed juice, muffins, and choice of fruit or hot cereal with every meal) is well worth the wait and slow service. For good Indian food at reasonable prices, try **India Palace** (23 Union Square, 617-666-9770). They don't sell alcohol, but you're welcome to bring your own wine.

Another fantastic place for brunch is **Sound Bites** (704 Broadway, 617-623-8338) in Somerville's Ball Square. The lines can be long, but after a recent expansion, they move quickly, and the food is cheap, plentiful, and high quality. Next door, **Ball Square Café** offers its own inexpensive breakfast fare. **True Grounds** (717 Broadway, 617-591-9559) coffee shop has a great atmosphere, friendly staff, and amazing soups and sandwiches. Up the street, **Kelly's Diner** (674 Broadway St., 617-623-8102) offers standard diner options at low prices.

Heading out of Ball Square on Broadway toward East Somerville, you'll eventually come to **Fasika** (145 Broadway, 617-628-9300), where you can get relatively inexpensive and delicious Ethiopian food. The vegetarian combo for two is a pretty good deal. (The other half of the restaurant is a dive bar, so this isn't a restaurant to go to for a quiet and romantic evening.)

In Teele Square, **Rudy's Café** (248 Holland Street, 617-623-9201) is a favorite for cheap but tasty Tex-Mex. Tufts students flock to Rudy's during the school year, but this is a great bet in the summer if you are attempting to avoid Border Café crowds.

INMAN SQUARE

Try the brunch at **S&S Deli** (1334 Cambridge St., 617-354-0777); you might have to wait, but you won't go away hungry. If you get tired of waiting, cross Hampshire Street and check out the **City Girl Cafe** (204 Hampshire St., behind S&S., 617-864-2809)—the gourmet Italian sandwiches, soups, and brunch specials are all in the \$6-\$8 range. There are only a few tables, but if you are lucky enough to get one you will find an assortment of newspapers and cooking magazines to read while you wait for your meal. For the biggest latte you've ever seen, head across the street to the **1369 Café** (1369 Cambridge St., 617-576-1369); it has a twin in Central Square at 757 Mass. Ave. (617-576-4600). Both Cafes offer Wi-Fi. **Casal Bakery** (1075 Cambridge St., 617-576-2171) will give you bakery items dirt cheap, and on a lazy afternoon you can enjoy the free newspapers and magazines that are strewn about. One of the highlights of Inman is **Christina's Homemade Ice Cream** (1255 Cambridge St., 617-492-7021). Two huge scoops for just over two bucks and dozens of delicious and innovative flavors to choose from. **Rosie's Bakery** (243 Hampshire St., also at 1796 Mass Ave. near Porter Sq., 617-491-9488) features the ever-popular Chocolate Orgasm among its many delicacies. Next door, **Punjabi Dhaba** (225 Hampshire St., 617-547-8272) offers roadside-style Indian food at very reasonable prices; it's a great find.

BOSTON

The restaurant scene across the river in the city is extremely varied. The Unofficial Guide offers an excellent restaurant review section, as does the Zagat Survey of Boston Restaurants. The best way to learn about cheap (and good) restaurants in Boston is to explore a little and ask around. The people you will be working with this summer will be your best resource. Also, *Stuff @ Night* (a free entertainment magazine) has useful restaurant, bar, and club reviews.

If you're in the Brookline/Coolidge Corner area, try **Rubin's Kosher Restaurant** at 500 Harvard Street (617-731-8787) or **Anna's Taqueria** at 446 Harvard Street for inexpensive Mexican. You can get fantastic bagels and spreads at **Kupel's** (421 Harvard St., 617-566-9528), but note that it's not open on Saturday.

In Jamaica Plain, just walk down Centre Street and you will pass many of the area's eclectic restaurants. Good bets include **Centre Street Café** (669A Centre St., 617-524-9217) or **Purple Cactus Burrito and Wrap Bar** (674 Centre St., 617-522-7422) for low-price wraps, salads and smoothies. **Wonder Spice Café** (697 Centre St., 617-522-0200) is a great bet for Thai.

Chinatown is always a good area to explore for exciting culinary adventures. There are many restaurants to choose from in all price ranges. The **Imperial Tea House** (70 Beach St., 617-426-8439) is known to have the best dim sum. Other dim sum options include the always crowded **China Pearl** (9 Tyler, 617-426-4338) and **Chau Chow City** (83 Essex St. 617-338-8158). For gourmet hand-made dumplings served by the dozen, many venture to **Dumpling House** (52 Beach St., 617-338-6223). Chinatown also offers extremely inexpensive late-night-eats at restaurants like **Vinh Sun** (18 Oxford St., 617-338-1368) or **Hong Kong Eatery** (79 Harrison Ave., 617-423-0838). Chinatown also has its share of local authentic spots and bakeries to explore. **Eldo Cake House** (36 Harrison Ave., 617-350-7977) is famous among the locals as the best bakery and cake shop.

If you wish to experience the richness of Boston's ethnic communities, try the North End, accessible by taking the Haymarket stop on the Green and Orange T Lines or the Government Center stop on the Green

Line. Try out the numerous authentic local Italian spots like **La Famiglia Giorgio's** (112 Salem St., 617-367-6711) with its large, delicious portions, and don't miss out on the desserts at **Mike's Pastry**, (300 Hanover St., 617-742-3050)—their cannolis (and long lines!) are famous throughout New England. Most of the restaurants are expensive (and cash only) but there are a few spots to have coffee and a pastry, a slice of pizza or panini, or a glass of wine, and just enjoy the cobblestone streets, bustling neighborhood, and old world feel, without spending a lot of money. For some yummy (but pricey) seafood not far, try the **Barking Crab** right on the waterfront across from South Station at 88 Sleeper Street (617-426-2722).

East Boston (home of Logan Airport) is also worth the trip. Take the Blue Line to Maverick Square and take advantage of the excellent Salvadoran, Mexican, and Italian food (which is usually cheaper than what you can find in the North End). **Angela's Café** (131 Lexington Street, 617-567-4972) offers fantastic and authentic Mexican food. Be sure to ask for any unlisted specials that day. **Santarpio's** (111 Chelsea St., 617-567-9871) has tasty pizza and Italian barbeque (sausage and lamb). You'll find delicious and cheap Salvadoran pupusas and Colombian empanadas in the many other storefront restaurants around Maverick Square.

ALLSTON/BRIGHTON

In Allston and Brighton, good spots include **El Cafetal** (479 Cambridge St., Brighton, 617-789-4009) for Colombian food, and **Grasshopper** (1 North Beacon St, Allston, 617-254-8883) for tasty vegetarian Chinese food. For pool, pizza, and 80 draft beers, go to **Big City** (138 Brighton Ave, Allston, 617-782-2020). On Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday nights you can get the 3P's Special: 1 hour of pool, 1 pizza, and 1 pitcher of beer for \$19.99. The **Sunset Grill & Tap** (130 Brighton Ave, Allston, 617-254-1331) has good food and is open late. **White Horse Tavern**, (116 Brighton Ave., 617-254-6633), has bargain food specials like \$6 steak tips (Wednesday-Thursday). Also has a Sunday all-you-can-eat brunch, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. For a wide array of great Asian food, try the **Super 88 Market Food Court** where you can choose from among Thai, Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Indian foods all in one convenient and casual place (1095 Commonwealth Ave, Boston, 617-787-2288). For outstanding Italian food at mid-range prices in Allston, try **Carlo's Cucina Italiana** (131 Brighton Ave, Allston, 617-254-9759). Allston and Brighton also offers some of the most authentic and reasonably priced Korean food in the Boston area at restaurants like **Buk Kyung II** (151 Brighton Ave., 617-254-2775) or **Color** (66 Harvard Ave., 617-787-5656).

ENTERTAINMENT

A great way to find out about upcoming events is to buy the Boston Globe every Thursday and read the Calendar Section, or check out the "A&E" or "Things To Do" sections of the Globe online (www.boston.com). You will find categorized listings of all kinds of events, many of which are free during the summer. Stuff @ Night and the Improper Bostonian are both available for free on various street corners and in many stores and carry detailed lists of everything going on. The Boston Metro, also free, and available at many public transportation stops, gives a daily rundown of entertainment goings-on, and is broken down by categories, including arts, live music, and "going out." You should also scan the Harvard and Tufts publications and signboards, as well as Boston Magazine. Harvard College has a centralized calendar for events at <http://events.college.harvard.edu/> that lists many lectures, concerts, sporting events and other activities. Be sure to check out the weekly Boston Phoenix for listings of free concerts and other events of interest, or try www.boston.citysearch.com for info on Boston events. You can also register for free on the

websites <http://boston.going.com> and www.goldstar.com, both of which provide weekly email updates about goings-on in Boston, and may provide discounts on tickets for various events. And finally, the front section of the Yellow Pages has a lot of useful information about attractions, museums, entertainment venues, etc.

For high culture, try **The Museum of Fine Arts** (617-267-9300 or www.mfa.org), on the Green Line-E at the Museum of Fine Arts stop, which is free (with suggested donation) from 4-9:45 every Wednesday evening. In fact, the MFA is free for Harvard students with ID. Any other student ID gets you \$2 off the adult \$20 day entry price. MFA's new Art of the Americas wing, which documents the continent's art from precolonial days through the third quarter of the Twentieth Century, recently opened. The MFA also has a cocktail party that is free with the price of admission the first Friday night of every month, so you can listen to music or grab a drink with the crowd or wander through the galleries. You should also look out for chamber concerts at the **Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum** (617-566-1401 or www.gardnermuseum.org), also at the Museum of Fine Arts T stop but a couple blocks North on Louis Prang Street. Tickets go on sale the Tuesday before each concert, and concerts are held at 1:30 on Sundays September through May as well as other times. You can check out the museum for an unbeatable \$5 student entry fee w/ student ID (and \$0 if your name is "Isabella"), featuring Mrs. Gardner's personal collection arranged in her home just as she left it. Recently relocated and renovated, **The Institute of Contemporary Art** (www.icaboston.org/ or 617-478-3100), located near South Station, offers a student rate of \$10 and has free admission between 5 and 9 p.m. on Thursday nights. Note that the ICA is closed on Mondays. You can also try **Harvard's Sackler Museum** (<http://www.artmuseums.harvard.edu>) on Broadway Street at the Harvard T Stop on the Red Line, always free for Harvard Students. The recently renovated Glass Flowers exhibit in the **Harvard Museum of Natural History** (<http://www.hmnh.harvard.edu/>) on Oxford Street is well worth at least one visit, being the only such collection of glass-blown botanical specimens in the world. Don't miss **The Museum of African-American History** (www.afroammuseum.org or 617-725-0022), 46 Joy Street, on the corner of Smith Court, on Beacon Hill, Boston, Mass. For the even more offbeat, try the **Museum of Bad Art** (www.museumofbadart.org/ or 781-444-6757) in the basement of the Somerville Theater in Davis Square. The museum claims to be "the world's only museum dedicated to the collection, preservation, exhibition and celebration of bad art in all its forms." It is free and claims to be "worth every penny."

For a list of some high culture spots that offer discounts to Harvard students, check out www.fas.harvard.edu/~thebeat/discount.html. One of special interest is the **Boston Symphony Orchestra** which offers discounted tickets to those under 40 and—even better—a "College Card" that for a one-time \$25 fee allows student ID holders to pick up free tickets the day of the performance for most of the BSO's performances throughout the year. (For details see <http://www.bso.org/>)

Local libraries lend out membership cards that offer free or reduced admission to many museums such as the Museum of Fine Arts and the New England Aquarium. You can reserve them for the day you want to visit. Many now have online reservations as well.

If you would like to explore Boston's ethnic communities, you can check out the **North End**, Boston's Italian district, near the Haymarket stop or **Chinatown**, near the Chinatown stop on the Orange Line. To relax, try strolling around the lagoon in **Boston Public Garden** or going out in a Swan Boat - the friendly and hungry duck population is nationally renowned. The Garden is on the Park Street stop on the Red or Green Lines. You can start by walking down **Charles Street** (Charles/MGH stop) – for antique stores and quaint brick side streets – it takes you back to old Boston. Another relaxing afternoon stroll is the **South**

End at the Back Bay stop on the Orange Line, where you'll find artsy shops, great cafes, and interesting people watching. **Newbury Street** in the Back Bay at the Copley stop on the Green Line is the heart of Boston shopping and another good option for a stroll. Newbury is the place to see and be seen and boasts quaint boutiques, galleries, upscale cafes, bistros and bars, and most of the best salons in Boston.

If you're looking for more invigorating exercise, walk, jog, bike, or rollerblade on the 11-mile **Minuteman Bikeway** that begins at the Alewife T stop (with a connecting path to Davis Square) and ends in Bedford (see www.minutemanbikeway.org). Or the Charles River Bike and Mystic River Reservation paths (for more information: www.massbike.org). One ideal destination is Harvard's Arnold Arboretum, accessible either by bike or by the Orange Line Forest Hills stop. (Their annual Lilac festival is particularly lovely.) Alternatively, every Sunday from late April to early November, the state Department of Conservation and Recreation closes **Memorial Drive** to cars from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and turns the Charles riverfront into a biker's and rollerblader's paradise.

If you want to escape to the water, you can rent a kayak or canoe and enjoy the beautiful scenery of the Charles River (its previously murky waters are getting cleaner and cleaner every year). The **Charles River Canoe & Kayak** stand, on the other side of the river about a mile from Harvard Square (heading away from Boston), is the place to rent. See www.ski-paddle.com/boston.php. For a phenomenal sailing program, check out the popular **Community Boating**, at the Charles/MGH stop (on the Charles River Esplanade – look for signs from the T directing you to the boathouse, 617-523-1038, www.community-boating.org). This public sailing facility operates an each-one-teach-one model where more experienced sailors volunteer to teach those less experienced, so with minimal investment (\$250 for a year; less for shorter periods) to cover operating costs, you too can learn how to sail and take out one of the sailboats that form the quintessential picture of summer on the Charles River.

For more information on the vast array of outdoor recreation opportunities at Massachusetts state parks, see the website of the **Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation** (www.mass.gov/dcr). You can also order the free Massachusetts State Parks Guide to Recreation via the website. There are tons of parks in the Boston area, and the website provides directions for reaching them by public transportation or car. Also check out the Trustees of Reservations (www.thetrustees.org), a nonprofit group that owns many beautiful properties in the area. They charge an admission fee for some, but it is usually reasonable, and a TOR membership (which gives you free or reduced price admission to all the properties) is only \$35 for students.

You can also explore Boston's history by going on the famous **Freedom Trail**. The trail connects various historical spots in downtown Boston, including the Old South Meeting House (where colonists planned the Boston Tea Party) and Paul Revere's House (one of the oldest structures in Boston). Some of these sights charge a nominal fee, but most are free and all can be seen without charges from the outside. The National Park Service (which is entirely distinct from the Freedom Trail Foundation) offers *free* 90 minute tours departing from 15 State Street (near the State Street stop). In contrast, the Freedom Trail Foundation (617-357-8300) charges students \$10 for a 90 minute tour (not including additional admission to the sites that charge fees) that purports to be humorous. Also free are daily tours of the Massachusetts State House, including explanations of the Legislature's bickering over a wooden fish aptly dubbed the "Sacred Cod."

There are a number of historical sites as well in **Concord** and **Lexington**. To reach Concord, take the Fitchburg Line commuter train from North Station or Porter Square on the Red line. Once in Concord, turn

right on Thoreau Street, then left on Sudbury Road. The 62 and 76 buses from the Alewife stop on the Red line will bring you to Lexington Center. To reach Revolutionary War forts, try **Georges and Castle Islands** in South Boston, the respective sites of Fort Warren and Fort Independence. Ferries leave from Long Wharf by the Aquarium and arrive at Georges Island, from which a free water taxi can be taken to other nearby islands. To reach Castle Island, take the Red Line to Broadway Station, then Bus #9 or #11 to the end of the line. From the bus stop, walk to the right across Marine Park to the beach and the left along the beach to the fort's entrance.

For another kind of tradition, take in a **Red Sox game at Fenway**, although it may be difficult to get tickets. Fenway Park is on the Green Line at the Kenmore stop. Call 617-267-8661 or go to www.redsox.com to purchase tickets. There are also almost always scalpers who are selling tickets outside of the stadium (although for really popular games, there are also reverse scalpers). As an alternative you may choose to watch a game from inside the recently opened **Bleacher Bar**, located close by at 2A Lansdowne Street. Bleacher Bar is physically located within Fenway Park and boasts a window onto the field, through which you can watch the games. If you decide to try this route be sure to get there early! Alternatively, both **Game On** and **Cask 'n Flagon**, also located on Lansdowne Street, are fun places to watch Red Sox games and other sporting events. For the minor league baseball experience, there's always McCoy Stadium in Pawtucket, RI, about an hour's train ride from South Station, where the Pawtucket Red Sox (AAA) play, or the Lowell Spinners (A) in Lowell, about a forty five minute train ride from North Station.

Lansdowne Street is also home to **Jillian's** (<http://www.jilliansboston.com/>), Boston's self-proclaimed playground for adults (although in the daytime, Jillian's is all-ages). The second floor is a pool lover's paradise with over 50 tables - come early because the tables fill up quickly. The third floor has lanes for bowling, a bar, and tons of TVs. Jillian's provides ping-pong tables, air hockey, foosball, darts, and cards as well. For the truly ambitious, there are laser tag and bowling. Next door is **Tequila Rain** – a hot spot for dancing (and drinking and flirting). The **House of Blues** also opened on Lansdowne Street, and serves as a more intimate venue for viewing of some of today's hottest musical acts, and boasts a Gospel brunch on Sundays.

Besides Lansdowne, there are other affordable and fun Boston spots, including **the Alley area** (Boylston T stop). The Alley features the **Liquor Store and the Estate**. Nearby, Boylston Street also boasts a number of more low-key bars. **Rattlesnake and Dillon's** both have good-sized outdoor seating areas, which can be nice for hanging your hat at after a long day at work during the summertime.

For those who prefer to watch, check out the **Wonder Bar** (across the river in Allston) with cool jazz, affordable drinks, and no cover. Another fun spot is **The Cantab Lounge** (www.cantab-lounge.com/) at 738 Mass Ave in Central Square, with folk Mondays, bluegrass Tuesdays, poetry slam Wednesdays and rest-of-the-week soul, funk and blues. They have also been named Best of Boston for their Open Mic nights on Mondays. Downtown there's the very tiny but very cool **Wally's Café** (www.wallyscafe.com) at 427 Mass Ave. (Orange Line, Mass Ave stop) has incredible jazz (live, 365 nights a year) and no cover. If you love to swing dance or want to learn, check out **Ryles** in Inman Square on Saturday nights. Free lessons are available before 10 p.m. with the \$12 cover. They also showcase live jazz downstairs five nights a week about 8:30 p.m. with varying cover. Ryles also offers salsa dancing on Sundays and Friday nights. Also in Inman Square, **The Druid** has live Irish music on some nights of the week and an Irish pub-style menu. If you're looking for live jazz, in addition to Wally's and Ryles, the **Regattabar at the Charles Hotel** brings in some high profile names each weekend. For less expensive but great live jazz, check out Matt Murphy's pub in

Brookline Village on Thursday nights. The pub has great live music other nights of the week, as well. Other great places to hear live music include **The Middle East**, in Central Square, which showcases a variety of different acts, and **Club Passim** in Harvard Square, Boston's premier folk club.

For more mellow entertainment, check out the **Somerville Theater** (617-625-5700), right at the Davis Square stop on the Red Line. The theater shows second-runs films for only \$8 (matinees for \$7) and is frequently used for live music performances as well. Adjacent to the theater is **Mr. Crepe** (617-623-0661), 51 Davis Square, where you can stop in for a delicious savory or sweet crepe. Down the street, is **Diesel Café** (www.diesel-cafe.com or 617-629-8717) 257 Elm St., which offers coffee enthusiasts a chance to play pool, too. **Sacco's Bowl Haven** (<http://www.saccosbowlhaven.com/> or 617-776-0552), just around the corner at 45 Day Street, offers pool tables and a unique New England experience: candlepin bowling. The balls and pins are smaller, and bowlers get three balls instead of two, providing ample entertainment for novices.

Other Davis Square hangouts include **Johnny D's Uptown Restaurant and Music Club**, (www.johnnyds.com or 617-776-2004) at 17 Holland Ave. Johnny D's is a longtime venue for a wide assortment of bands and offers salsa dancing on Sunday nights. Salsa lessons start at 9 p.m. and the live salsa band begins at 10. \$10 will get you in for the whole night, or, if you're already an amazing salsa dancer, \$8 gets you in at 10 p.m. for the band and dancing. **The Burren**, (<http://www.burren.com/> or 617-776-6896) 247 Elm Street, bills itself as a traditional Irish pub and does a good job recreating one. Live Irish music is featured in the front room seven days a week at 10 p.m. and Sundays at 2 and 6 p.m. The back room hosts a variety of live music and Irish set dancing lessons on Monday nights. There is frequently standing room only on the weekends. The Burren also offers a great Irish menu. While some of this food may be a bit hot and heavy for summer, it is always fun to settle in at a table with a pint of Guinness and a hearty meal. And don't forget to try some Irish breakfast Saturday or Sunday!

In the summer, outdoor music abounds and is often free. **The July 4th Boston Pops Concert**, at the Hatch Shell on the Esplanade along the Charles River, attracts tens of thousands and is broadcast nation-wide. While the concert on the 4th is a mega-event, the preview on the 3rd is nearly as spectacular. To get an excellent spot on the 4th, take a blanket, a group of friends and a box of wine, and plan to get there before 10 a.m. For details, check out www.july4th.org. **The Hatch Shell** also offers weekly free concerts (spanning a variety of musical tastes), movies from June through October, and a few pre-season events in April. For a schedule of events, check the **MA DCR Division of Urban Parks and Recreation** website at www.mass.gov/dcr/hatch_events.htm. Radio stations also sponsor outdoor concerts throughout the summer in Copley Square (Copley stop on the Green line; Back Bay on the Orange Line), at Government Center (Red Line), and other locations. If you like classical music and have access to a car, it's absolutely worth a trip to **Tanglewood** (www.tanglewood.org) in western Massachusetts - see the "Weekend Getaways" section of this guide. The **Bank of America Pavilion** (www.livenation.com/venue/bank-of-america-pavilion-tickets/) also hosts a number of outdoor concerts during the summer, featuring today's more popular musical acts.

For the few people who still rent movies from a physical store, try Hollywood Express in Porter Square. Or to truly expose yourself to movies beyond the mainstream (and a handful of mainstream critical successes), attend a showing at the historic **Brattle Theatre** on 40 Brattle Street in Harvard Square. Finish the evening with excellent Middle Eastern fare or coffee on the roof deck of **Algiers**, located just next door, or a cup of truly out-of-this-world hot chocolate at **L.A. Burdick** down the block. Last, try the midnight Rocky Horror

Picture Show screening offered each Saturday night at AMC Loews Harvard Square, where moviegoers frequently dress in costume and sing along with the cult classic.

Kendall Square Cinemas (1 Kendall Square, 617-494-9800) or **AMC Lowes Boston Commons** (175 Tremont St, 617-423-5801) are the places to go for new-release foreign and independent films. 1 Kendall Square also houses one of Boston's best pool halls, **Flattop Johnny's** (www.flattopjohnnys.com or 617-494-9565), which has early-bird specials and free pool late Wednesday nights, and which also shares the beer selection of the next-door **Cambridge Brewing Co.**

Perhaps the best place to go book hunting is none other than Harvard Square. The **Coop Bookstore**, under Barnes & Nobles management, has prices comparable to most other book shops in the area and a great selection of contemporary literature and poetry. If you don't want to support a conglomerate (or even if you do), be sure to try the admirable and outstanding **The Harvard Bookstore** on Mass Ave. in the Square. Their staff selections and store top 50 always provide excellent fresh reads at 20% off. They also boast a wonderful selection of philosophy and literary theory and many author talks. The basement contains zillions of used books and remainders at bargain basement prices, and the frequent buyer program is a heaven-send for bookworms.

The square has tons of other smaller bookstores worth a visit. Some of the more original include the **Grolier Poetry Bookshop** (6 Plympton St., 617-547-4648), touted as the only book shop devoted entirely to poetry. The **Globe Corner Bookstore** (90 Mt. Auburn St.) features travel books, maps, and fantastic speakers. Check out their website (www.globecorner.com) or call for more information on their adventure travel lecture series.

Beyond Harvard Square are **McIntyre and Moore Booksellers** (Elm Street in Davis Square, 629-4840) which offers a great used book selection and specializes in academic works.

WEEKEND GETAWAYS

Whether you love the oceans or the mountains, history or shopping, berry picking or amusement parks, Boston and the surrounding communities of Massachusetts and New England are ready to welcome you. Tourism is New England's biggest industry in the summer, so your choices are many.

If the water's your thing, there are several beaches right here in Boston that can satisfy the need for a quick dip. Check out **Constitution Beach** in East Boston (though be aware it's near Logan Airport) or the **L Street Beach** in South Boston. You can also head to the northeast coast of Massachusetts to towns like **Cape Ann, Gloucester, Rockport** (home to Bear Cove, an artist's colony), **Salem**, and **Ipswich**. The **Crane Beach Reservation** in Ipswich is a particularly great one day excursion from the hustle and bustle of Boston life. Crane's, which is crowded but beautiful, is accessible by going to Ipswich on the Newburyport/Rockport line of the commuter rail and then taking a shuttle provided by Ipswich (check www.MBTA.com for schedules). Another option is **Nahant Beach** in Lynn, also accessible via the Newburyport/Rockport line. But the best beach accessible to you this summer is famed **Singing Beach** in Manchester-By-The-Sea, Massachusetts (and yes, that is really the name of the town). The Newburyport/Rockport line takes you to historic downtown Manchester, where a supermarket and cute ice cream shop await you. Step off the train, walk about 1/3 mile up, you guessed it, BEACH Street, and you are there. Singing Beach's name comes from the special sand that "sings" (squeaks) when you walk on it. You

can't hear it during the day when everyone is there, but if you go for a romantic evening, you can hear the sand sing as you walk along the shore.

The Harbor Islands are a great quick getaway, right in Boston Harbor. A short 30 minute (depending on which island) ferry ride from downtown Boston, they are probably one of the only places I've seen where you can take public transportation to go camping. You can also head out there for just a day on the beach. Check out <http://www.bostonislands.com/> for more information. And if you do want to camp, be sure to book early as the camping slots fill up fast.

Finally, the best shopping on the North Shore can be found in **Rockport**, Massachusetts at the tip of Cape Ann. The train takes you to the heart of the old town. You can walk along the ocean for miles or just hang out downtown at the small local shops (selling a variety of goodies, clothes, and trinkets) and make a night of it at one of Rockport's fine restaurants overlooking the Atlantic. We'd recommend **My Place by the Sea**, (www.myplacebythesea.com/), although if the prices there make you cringe, **Brackett's** (www.bracketts.com/) is also a great spot. Call in advance for a reservation at their sought-after ocean-view tables.

If you are feeling particularly adventurous, head further north or south to the coasts of **Rhode Island**, **New Hampshire** or **Maine**. Amtrak's Downeaster line will take you from North Station to various points in Maine and back for a daytrip. Maine's **York Beach**, a throwback to the 1950s is particularly nice (replete with the Fun-O-Rama arcade right on the beach). If you make it to York head to the Short Sands beach for a view of the Cape Neddick Lighthouse, also known as "Nubble Light." Check out the Goldenrod Restaurant (www.thegoldenrod.com) for moderately good food, delicious lime rickeys, and fantabulous 'Goldenrod Kisses' (the best salt-water taffy you'll ever have, made right in front of you – I recommend peanut butter). More information on York can be found at www.visitmaine.net/York.htm.

If you're a biker, there are a number of fantastic bike paths throughout MA and RI. The East Bay Bike Path, from Bristol RI to Providence, is a particularly scenic 14.5 mile path that winds along the shoreline through Narragansett Bay. For more information on this and other paths, check out: www.riparks.com.

Portsmouth, New Hampshire also offers fine dining, theater, shopping, and overall scenic beauty. Check out a show at the **Seacoast Repertory Theater** (www.seacoastrep.org/) and pick up some grub at **The Oar House** or the **Portsmouth Brewery**. A full list of restaurants in Portsmouth is available here: www.discoverourtown.com/NH/Portsmouth/Dining-3318.html.

If amusement is your game, **Canobie Lake Park**, a small, somewhat-hokey, but amusingly fun place is located in Salem, NH and is a quick 35 minute drive from Boston up Interstate 93. (See www.canobie.com/directions.php). **Six Flags New England** is a much better park, but it is about 90 minutes by car and is far more expensive (discount coupons are constantly available in the summer on eBay, so make sure you get the best bargain you can).

If you are looking for a fun downtown area with bars, restaurants, and shopping, it's easy to take the 45-minute Amtrak or much cheaper Commuter Rail train from Boston's South Station. For more interesting entertainment, you can visit **Newport, Rhode Island**, where the colonial streets, shoreline, and frequent musical festivals make it one of New England's most entertaining tourist destinations. We recommend the Cliff Walk, a public right of way, for views of sumptuous 19th century mansions to one side and stunning

rocky beach to the other (and it's free!). It's worth paying admission to famous landmarks like The Breakers and Marble House. Don't forget to pay homage to the greats enshrined at the International Tennis Hall of Fame. Some of these spots can be "touristy" in the summer, and certain attractions may be expensive. Be sure to do some research before heading out.

If you have access to a car, recommended destinations in southeastern Massachusetts include: **Plimoth Plantation** in **Plymouth** (a historical site recreating the communities of 17th century Pilgrims and Native Americans), **Horseneck Beach** in **Westport**, and the **New Bedford Whaling National Historic Park**. **Cape Cod** has wonderful beaches, and seaside towns that are bustling in the summer.

Provincetown (at the tip of the Cape), known as Cape Cod's "most lively resort town," is a great place to visit if your goals are whale watching, strolling, partying, and people-watching (P-Town is also famously queer-friendly). The best way to get there is via fast ferry from Boston in only 90 minutes for \$86 roundtrip at www.bostonharborcruises.com or www.boston-ptown.com (at publication, \$79) (versus 3 hours driving in summer traffic).

Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, islands off the southern coast of the Cape, are beautiful and fun, but expensive, travel destinations. The islands are accessible by ferry at www.steamshipauthority.com and hylinecruises.com. Ferries depart for Nantucket from Hyannis, a 90-minute drive away. The best price for roundtrip tickets to Nantucket is \$33 for the Steamship Authority's "Traditional Ferry." (The high-speed line isn't worth the hefty premium.) For travel to Martha's Vineyard, the Steamship Authority offers \$15 fares departing from Woods Hole. Another option is air travel from Boston. Check www.capeair.com for schedules and prices to P-Town or the islands. The islands are an incredible summer getaway and offer great shopping and dining, in addition to being America's most historic whaling center and the playground of the always rich, and often famous! For your first visit, we recommend Martha's Vineyard. It is larger, has many different communities that you can bike to (renting bikes is a great way to get around Martha's Vineyard, but you may need to take a taxi if you're going far), and actually has some affordable lodging if you are willing to search hotels.com and the like. Nantucket is much smaller and a bit stuffier. For those who enjoy observing swank on the cheap, both Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket also have youth hostels.

For those with access to a car, be sure to take advantage of the beautiful, yet less visited, western part of Massachusetts. **Northampton**, arguably the cultural center about two hours out of Boston, is thriving with numerous folk and music festivals throughout the summer. The Norwottuck Rail Trail is a lovely 11 mile bike path passing through rural landscapes of Northampton, Hadley, and Amherst. Also not to be missed: the progressive theaters, hidden bookstores, and lively night spots. Some out-of-the way gems in western Mass are the Montague Bookmill in **Montague** (www.montaguebookmill.com/) and the New England Peace Pagoda, a tranquil Buddhist temple in the middle of rural **Leverett** (<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/usa/new-england/sights/pagoda/leverett-peace-pagoda>). Wear comfortable shoes to visit the Peace Pagoda – it is accessible only by a steep half-mile footpath. For mountain views, go further west and explore the beautiful **Berkshire Valley**. Hike along the many paths and hills and stop by Williamstown, home each summer to an excellent theater festival. For Shakespeare addicts, the **Shakespeare Festival** at the Mount in Lenox cannot be missed - famous actors, excellent productions, and beautiful scenery make the Bard come to life. For art lovers, the **Norman Rockwell** museum, which houses more Rockwell originals than any museum in the world, is located in nearby Stockbridge. Lenox is the site of **Tanglewood**, the summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, beginning in July. You can listen to word-class music on a beautiful lawn under the

stars for under \$20. Even better, with valid student ID you can get lawn tickets for HALF price on Friday evenings. Look for July concerts with fireworks. Get there early to enjoy your own picnic on the lawn. Also, if you really love to watch a symphony in action, open rehearsal tickets are available and affordable. Check out www.bso.org for the summer concert schedule or call Symphony Charge at 888-266-1200. If you enjoy dance, try to catch a performance at **Jacob's Pillow** in the historic town of Lee (www.jacobspillow.org/). This venue hosts dance performances of all kinds in the summer. Performances typically range from \$30 to \$53 for students (although some free shows/events are offered), and the schedule can be heard by calling 413-243-0745.

Another not-to-be-missed mountain excursion is the **White Mountains of New Hampshire**, home to New England's greatest range and most popular outdoor playground. In addition to hiking, camping, picnicking, and water water-rafting, be sure to visit the breath-taking Mount Washington Hotel, ride on the Gondola Skyride, and the Conway Scenic Railroad. The White Mountains are easily accessible by car; just hop on 93 North and take it all the way up! You'll pass by the former site of the famed "Old Man in the Mountain"—a symbol of New Hampshire pride—which unfortunately avalanched in 2003. However, despite the lack of a wacky rock formation, the White Mountains still have plenty to offer.

If you are a **Ben and Jerry's** fan and have always been curious about the history of how such yummy ice cream was created, and continues to be made and distributed across the world, stop by their very own factory in Waterbury, Vermont, where for \$3 you will get a thirty minute guided tour of the factory, as well as a free ice cream sampling in the Flavoroom. Close by, visit the **Cold Hollow Cider Mill** to see how the largest producer of fresh apple cider undertakes such a feat, and slightly further down the road, visit the **Cabot (cheese) Creamery**, where you can witness the entire cheese making process and, of course, indulge yourself in free samples at the end. For more dairy-related adventures in Vermont, check out some of the independent cheesemakers on the **Vermont Cheese Trail**. See a map at www.vtcheese.com/.

For the bargain shopper, other fun day trips are **Kittery** and **Freeport, Maine**, with their extensive outlet malls, including (in Freeport), the L.L. Bean flagship store. Another option is Wrentham Village, which is about 30 minutes from Cambridge. **Wrentham Village** offers a wider range of outlets, from designers to Gap. See www.premiumoutlets.com/wrentham/.

Walden Pond, made famous by the work of Henry David Thoreau, is open from dawn to dusk and has beautiful paths for running and lakes for swimming. It is a 30-minute walk from the Concord commuter rail station. Get on the Fitchburg Line (catch the commuter rail at Porter Square or North Station), get off at the Concord stop (NOT West Concord), turn right on Thoreau Street until its end, then right on Walden Street, cross Route 2, and take any trail on the right to the pond or continue on to a small beach on Walden Street. Walden Pond is also very close to some of the most famous modern architecture in the United States. The Gropius House in Lincoln is an excellent example of the Bauhaus school of design, founded by Walter Gropius (architect of the Harkness Commons), (www.historicnewengland.org/visit/homes/gropius.htm). The House is located approximately a half-mile from Walden and offers guided tours for \$10.

Finally, there are several cities within striking distance of Boston. **Providence, RI**, is only an hour away by bus or train, and **New York City** is 4-5 hours by bus. Greyhound, Lucky Star, Mega Bus and Bolt Bus each offer \$15 one way bus tickets from Boston to NY.

For the more adventurous, **Montreal** is only a 5½-hour drive from Boston. With a fabulous exchange rate and a swinging jazz festival in July, this may just be the best weekend getaway of all. **The Just For Laughs** festival—the best part of which may very well be the parade of dancing marijuana leaves—is in late July this year. See www.hahaha.com for more details.

New England is a popular place for summer travelers, so before packing up the car, be sure to call ahead to your destination and make sure that you will be able to find available lodging. Additionally, many prices are inflated during the summer months, so also be sure to check prices before heading out.

For more information on the Boston area, some good, comprehensive websites include:

- www.boston.com/travel
- www.boston.citysearch.com
- www.mbta.com (subway, bus, commuter rail)

Some additional important resources:

- Connecticut Office of Tourism: 1-800 282-6863 / www.ctvisit.com
- Maine Office of Tourism: 1-888 624-6345 / www.visitmaine.com
- Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism: 1-800 227-MASS / www.massvacation.com
- New Hampshire Office of Travel and Tourism Development: 1-800 386-4664 / www.visitnh.gov
- Rhode Island Tourism Division: 1-800 556-2484 / www.visitrhodeisland.com
- Vermont Dept of Tourism and Marketing: 1-800 837-6668 / www.vermontvacation.com

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