

BOSTON

A HISTORIC CITY WITH A MODERN TEMPO

Boston in the fall sparks a hundred images: The high maples and elms along stately Commonwealth Avenue burning like torches with their autumnal foliage. Oarsmen in sleek shells knifing through the choppy waters of the Charles River in training for the annual October regatta. College students filling the streets with U-hauls, and then with Frisbees, as they perform their annual rites of migration. The Italians parading down Hanover Street (in the North End) in their Sunday best on Columbus Day, marching past aromatic Old World bakeries and vegetable markets. And the houses on Beacon Hill, their handsome doorways adorned with gourds and cornhusks, their bay windows aglow with jack-o'-lanterns. That's Boston in autumn when the days are clear and brisk.

The city, on a nubby little peninsula, was laid out in the seventeenth century to facilitate the transportation of nothing wider than hand-pulled carts, and it shows it. Because of its tangle of narrow, winding, one-way streets, Boston can best be enjoyed by leaving the car at the nearest garage and proceeding on foot. Trolley cars and subways of the MBTA should suffice for longer distances. (Directions, timetables, and maps can be obtained by calling 722-5200; all Boston telephone numbers are in the 617 area code.)

For A Sense Of The City

The best way to get oriented is to leave the ground altogether and ride up the elevator to the 50th-floor observatory of the **Hancock Tower**, 200 Clarendon St. on Copley Sq. The Hancock is the gleaming 60-story beauty that gained national notoriety a few years back when, just after it was completed, many of its mirror windows tumbled out, terrorizing pedestrians below. That's all fixed now, and the view from the top is superb. From the observation pavilion you can quickly see how the city has grown up since that spring day in 1625 when the Reverend William Blaxton, an eccentric master of arts from Cambridge University, settled alone with his books and several cows in a thatched hut by what is now Boston Common. Recorded narration by the late architecture historian Walter Muir Whitehill explains all, and

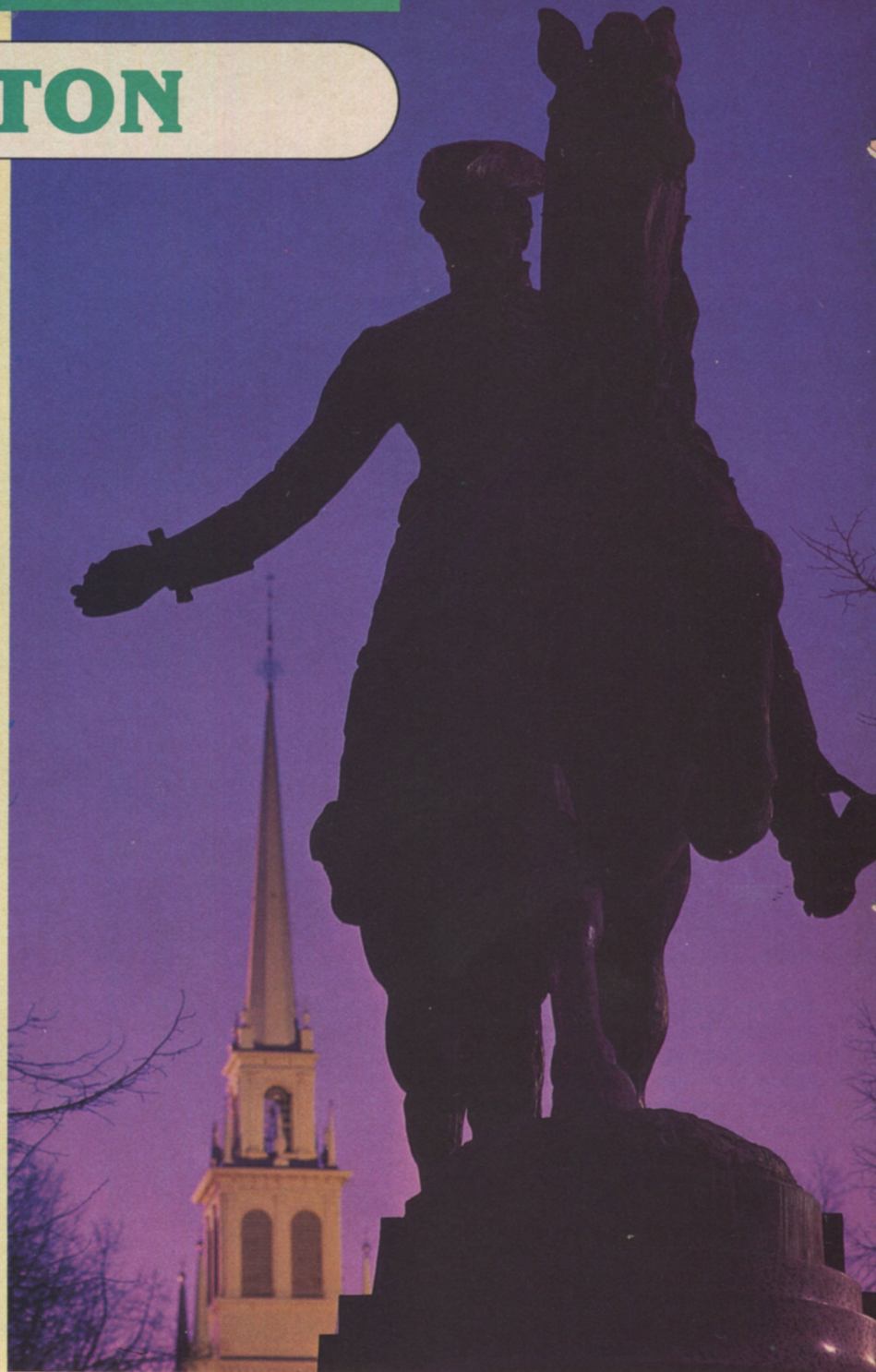
gives, with his mah-velous Boston accent, an even better sense of the town than the view.

Plunging down into the hurly-burly on the street again, take note of the glorious **Trinity Church**, done by H. H. Richardson, arguably America's greatest architect; the Romanesque **Old South Church** diagonally across the square; and the heavy marble **Boston Public Library** across Boylston Street.

Then head in town (since Boston is built on a circular plan, in and out are the operative directions) to the 48-acre **Boston Common**, the oldest park in the na-

tion. In autumn, an array of free-form pastimes from kite flying to music making and touch football make this pastoral green a splendid spot for relaxation. Beside the *Park Street Visitor Information Center* on the Common, one can start a walking tour along the three-mile **Freedom Trail**, which leads past 19 historic sites watched over by the National Park Service. Those who don't want to walk the whole way can take the tour operated by the *Gray Line Bus Co.* (426-8805) along the same route.

Leaving the Common, the trail passes the golden-domed *State House* on Bea-



Paul Revere and the Old North Church

con Street and ducks into the *Granary Burying Ground*, where John Hancock and other notables repose. Farther along the trail is the recently renovated and very splashy **Faneuil Hall/Quincy Market**—an area of shops and restaurants in the historic place that Revolutionary patriot James Otis dubbed the Cradle of Liberty. Bear in mind that the four-and-a-half-acre marketplace is said to draw more visitors a year than Disneyland. It's crowded.

Beyond the market area, the trail passes the 1696 **Paul Revere House**, 19 North Sq., which is the oldest surviving wooden house in the city, and the **Old North Church**, 193 Salem St., where the famous lanterns were hung to warn that the British were coming by sea. Across the bridge to Charleston, an imposing granite obelisk stands atop the **Bunker Hill Pavilion**—it's actually on Breed's Hill—commemorating the first battle of the American Revolution. The pavilion is adjacent to the Boston Naval Shipyard, where the oldest commissioned ship in the U.S. Navy, the *USS Constitution*, also known as "Old Ironsides," is on view.

Brahmin Boston

As good as the trail is in guiding you to historic sites, Boston is best for just wandering. Try the cobblestone sidewalks, tucked-away gardens, and brick bow-fronts of **Beacon Hill**. Wide Mount Vernon Street with its imperious mansions is probably the hill's most impressive street; little West Cedar, one of its most charming. Louisburg Square, off Mount Vernon, is certainly worth a visit: Louisa May Alcott lived for a time at No. 4; William Dean Howells, at No. 10. Also on the hill, William Lloyd Garrison preached against slavery at the *African Meeting House*, on *Smith Court off Joy St.* (723-8863), which is open to the public, and nearby at 66 Phillips Street is a house that served as a stop on the pre-Civil War Underground Railroad.

If Beacon Hill is like London (and it is), the Back Bay, built in the middle of the nineteenth century, is like Paris—with broad boulevards lined by measured, regular, stately town houses. The red brick *Ames-Webster* house at 306 *Dartmouth St.*, off Commonwealth Avenue, is a good example of the opulence of these town houses. It has a splendid tower and archway and, inside, a stained-glass skylight by Louis Tiffany.

Late in the day, it's particularly nice to stroll along the grassy Esplanade that lines the Charles River Basin, watching the sailboats glide across the wide water or the rowers practicing for the **Head of the Charles Regatta** (October 18 this year). Racing between the Harvard and Boston University bridges, hundreds of boats—from singles to eights—are scheduled to participate. Watch from the embankment by Boston University or, better still, cross over to the Cambridge

side near the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and watch with the city skyline as a backdrop.

Sports And The Arts

Boston is a city of sports fanatics. Even though the summer was cheerless for Red Sox fans, *Fenway Park*, 4 *Jersey St.*, one of the last of the great urban ball parks, is worth a look. The Bruins' ice hockey season opens early in October, and the Boston Celtics take the court at the end of the same month. Both teams play at the *Boston Garden*, 150 *Causeway St.* (227-2300 for Bruins information; 523-3030 for Celtics information), but football fans have to drive down to Foxborough to watch the New England Patriots at *Schaefer Stadium*, on *Rt. 1* (262-1776), and tickets are usually sold out well before the games.

As the self-proclaimed Hub of the Universe, Boston has more than its share of cultural institutions. The most impressive **Fun at Quincy Market**

is the vast *Museum of Fine Arts*, 465 *Huntington Ave.* (267-9300), which opened a new I. M. Pei-designed wing this past summer. *Symphony Hall*, 301 *Massachusetts Ave.* (266-1492) is where maestro Seiji Ozawa of the Boston Symphony Orchestra will wave his baton to begin a new season September 24, the same night that the Boston Ballet opens its season at *Metropolitan Center*, 270 *Trent St.* (542-3945).

Boston is still a major try-out city for Broadway-bound plays and musicals. Trial runs often take place at the *Shubert Theatre*, 265 *Tremont St.* (426-4520); the *Colonial Theatre*, 106 *Boylston St.* (426-9366); and the *Wilbur Theatre*, 252 *Tremont St.* (426-5827). On the day of performance, try the BOSTIX booth at Faneuil Hall (723-5181) for half-price tickets.

The *Museum of Science at Science Park on the Charles River Dam* (723-2500) is Boston's second most popular continued on page 121 →



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retreat nestled in the woods beside the Delaware Canal about six and a half miles above New Hope. The complex artfully blends the new, modern redwood guest houses with the old, a 1740 barn that houses the restaurant and also has a few guest rooms. All the rooms have terraces or balconies overlooking the canal.

Beside a small waterfall at the north end of Lumberville is the *Cuttalossa Inn*; *Cuttalossa Rd.*; Lumberville, PA 18933; 297-5082, a restaurant in a former mill where apples, wheat, and corn were ground. The firelit dining areas inside—there's outdoor dining when weather permits—have lots of brass bugles and copper pots on the brick walls.

Farther north on the River Road, the *Golden Pheasant Inn*; *River Rd.*; Erwinna, PA 18920; 294-9595, is the shining star of the Bucks County restaurant circuit. One of the inn's three dining rooms is a solarium-greenhouse with potted trees and hanging plants. Venison, quail, pheasant, and rabbit dominate the menu in fall, though the owners favor international cuisine and think nothing of slipping in an Indonesian appetizer. The six guest rooms above the restaurants are decorated with country Victorian antiques, and several have authentic feather beds.

Near Doylestown on Route 202 is *Barley Sheaf Farm*; *Box 66*; *Holicong*, PA 18928; 794-5104, the former weekend retreat of playwright George S. Kaufman and now a bed-and-breakfast hotel. Set on a 30-acre farm on which hogs, sheep, and chickens are raised, the big stone house has six comfortable bedrooms.

For those who panic at the sound of crickets, the *Holiday Inn*; *Box 84*; *New Hope*, PA 18938; 862-5221, is located between New Hope and the shops and flea markets of *Peddler's Village* in nearby Lahaska.

The inns are also the best places to dine in Bucks County, but there are several other noteworthy restaurants in and around New Hope. Try the *Canal House*, 30 W. *Mechanic St.* (862-2069), or the *Hacienda Inn*, 36 W. *Mechanic St.* (862-2078), for a lively atmosphere; *La Bonne Auberge*, at *Village 2 in New Hope* (862-2462), or *Chez Odette*, on the *River Road*. (862-2432), just south of town, for Gallic specialties.

One final note on a Bucks County visit: even conscientious drivers may lose their way on country roads, but of wrong turns are discoveries made. Turn off onto an unmarked road and you may come upon a serene meadow, a secluded country inn, or a little-known antique shop that will make your sojourn in Bucks County all the more memorable. ■

—BRIAN McCALLEN



A cobblestone street on Beacon Hill

box-office attraction after the Red Sox, and the *New England Aquarium on the waterfront's Central Wharf* (742-8870) has the world's largest circular glass tank and 7,000 species of tropical and local fresh- and saltwater fish. A few more steps across the Fort Point Channel are the new *Museum of Transportation* (426-7999) and the *Children's Museum* (426-8855), both on *Museum Wharf*, 300 *Congress St.*

For anyone venturing out of the city, Cambridge and Harvard University are across the Charles River, only a short ride away on the MBTA's Red Line—get off at Harvard Square.

Spend a few minutes walking through *Harvard Yard*, a pleasant enclave of handsome eighteenth-century buildings, then head for the *Fogg Museum*, 23 *Quincy St. at Broadway* (495-2387), a fine neo-Georgian building that houses the university's art collection and has changing exhibits as well.

Lodging And Dining

For accommodations in Boston, the recently expanded *Ritz-Carlton*, 15 *Arlington St.* (536-5700), overlooking the city's lovely Public Garden, is quietly elegant and impeccably correct. Doubles start at \$95. The *Copley Plaza*, *Copley Sq.* (267-5300; or toll-free 800-225-7654) is famous for its spacious, airy interior. Doubles start at \$91. Just around the corner, the *Copley Square Hotel*, 90 *Exeter St.* (536-9000), offers a more relaxed setting, and has doubles starting at \$54. The *Hotel Meridien*, 1 *Post Office Sq.* (451-1900), in a renovated, Renaissance revival-style building that for 60 years housed the Federal Reserve Bank, is the newest hotel in the city. Doubles start at \$95.

Boston has a wide choice of restaurants offering ethnic and traditional Yankee fare. In the Faneuil Hall market area, *Durgin Park*, 30 N. *Market St.* (227-2038), serves Yankee pot roast, Boston baked beans, and Indian pudding at communal tables. Or try any of the three restaurants in the *Landmark Inn*, 300 N. *Market St.* (227-9660). *Locke-Ober Café*, 3 *Winter Pl.* (542-1340), a local landmark practically since its founding in 1875, is proud of its lobster Savannah and baked oysters, but it's the Old Boston ambience that wins over most customers; the Men's Grill downstairs is nicest. *Legal Seafoods*, 35 *Columbus Ave.* (426-4444), handles the Gloucester fishermen's morning catch a bit more delicately and at a lower price, but the scene can get hectic. *Café Budapest* (in the *Copley Square Hotel*), 90 *Exeter St.* (734-3388), serves Continental and Hungarian dishes; top off your meal with the superb strudel and excellent coffee. *St. Botolph's Restaurant*, 99 *St. Botolph's St.* (266-3030), located in a restored nineteenth-century town house behind the Prudential Tower in the South End, is another good choice for Continental fare. For Italian food try *Francesca's*, 147 *Richmond St.* (523-8826), or any of the small Italian restaurants along Hanover Street. In Cambridge, splurge at *The Voyagers*, 45½ *Auburn St.* (354-1718), which features international specialties and fresh game. A pleasant ambience, excellent wine list, and live classical music enhance any meal here.

The *Greater Boston Convention and Tourist Bureau*; *Prudential Tower*; *Suite 1944*; *Box 490*; *Boston, MA 02199* (536-4100), can provide brochures and information on all aspects of the city. ■

—JOHN SEDGWICK