HOTEL REVIEWS

Listed alphabetically within neighborhoods. For expanded hotel reviews, visit Fodors.com.

BOSTON

BEACON HILL AND BOSTON COMMON

If you want calm, serenity, and class, then stay on Beacon Hill. This is one of the poshest neighborhoods in Boston. Its streets are lined with elegant brick buildings holding unique shops and boutique hotels. Meanwhile, the hip Boston Common shares a vibe of busyness with Boylston and Newbury streets.

$ Beacon Hill Hotel & Bistro. This home away from home—or, rather, full-service version of home where you hardly have to lift a finger—is within walking distance of the Public Garden, Back Bay, Government Center, and the river Esplanade. Pros: free Wi-Fi; many nearby shops and restaurants; executive-chef Lucas Sousa’s decadent Sunday brunch at the ground-floor bistro. Cons: neighborhood parking is nonexistent; the rooms are somewhat small; no room service. Rooms from: $199 25 Charles St., Beacon Hill 617/723–7575 @www.beaconhillhotel.com 13 rooms No meals Arlington, Charles/ MGH 1:1D6.

$$$ Liberty Hotel Boston. Since it opened in late 2007, the buzz surrounding the chic Liberty—formerly Boston’s Charles Street Jail—was at first deafening, with bankers, tech geeks, foreign playboys, and fashionistas all scrambling to call it their own; a few years later, the Liberty has evolved into what is part retreat, part nightclub. Pros: Lydia Shire’s popular restaurant Scampo is on the first floor; bustling nightlife; proximity to the Esplanade and Beacon Hill. Cons: loud in-house nightlife; long waits at bars and restaurants; parking is expensive. Rooms from: $369 215 Charles St., Beacon Hill 617/224–4000 @www.libertyhotel.com 298 rooms No meals Charles/MGH 1:1D5.

$$$$ XV Beacon. The 1903 beaux arts exterior of the city’s first small luxury boutique hotel is a study in sophistication and elegance. Pros: hotel’s modern steak house Mooo... provides 24-hour room service; courtesy Lexus car service; dogs of any size welcome for no fee; complimentary Wi-Fi. Cons: some rooms are small; can be expensive on weekends during peak months (May, June, September, October); no view from classic rooms. Rooms from: $575 15 Beacon St., Beacon Hill 617/670–1500, 877/982–3226 @www.xvbeacon.com 63 rooms No meals Government Center, Park St. 1:E6.

DOWNTOWN BOSTON

This is the place to be whether you’re here on business (the closer you are to the Financial District the more business-oriented the hotels become) or pleasure; think High Tea at the Langham Hotel or a stroll through its adjacent park, Post Office Square.
Where to Stay

$SSS Ames Boston Hotel. Located in the iconic Ames Building, this 15-story hotel is now part of the Curio Collection by Hilton. Pros: Molton Brown bath products; complimentary bicycles; great proximity to the Freedom Trail and Beacon Hill. Cons: far from South End and Back Bay shopping; no swimming pool or spa; parking is expensive. Rooms: $375/1 Court St., Downtown 617/979-8100, 888/697-1791 @ www.ameshotel.com 114 rooms ☑ No meals ☑ State, Government Center 1:16.

$SSS Battery Wharf Hotel. One of the growing number of lodgings clustered along Boston's ever-expanding Harborwalk—a pretty pedestrian path that runs from Charlestown to Dorchester—the Battery Wharf Hotel looks more like a gated community than a chain hotel. Pros: walking distance to more than 80 world-class restaurants; on-site Exhale Spa has discounted spa services and fitness classes for hotel guests; great North End location; water taxi stand on-site. Cons: far from Newbury Street and South End shopping; 15- to 20-minute walk to nearest T stations; hotel is in two separate buildings. Rooms: $499/3 Battery Wharf, North End 877/794-6218 @ www.batterywharfhotelboston.com 150 rooms ☑ No meals ☑ Haymarket, North Station 1:1H4.

$SSS Boston Harbor Hotel at Rowes Wharf. Boston has plenty of iconic landmarks, but none are as synonymous with urban-hospitality as the Boston Harbor Hotel, with its 80-foot-tall outdoor archway and rotunda and classic city and harbor views. Pros: high-quality Heritage Restaurant + Wine Bar and Rowes Wharf Sea Grille restaurants; easy walk to Faneuil Hall, financial district, and the Greenway; water shuttle to Logan Airport. Cons: pricey; the spa gets booked up early; less convenient to the Back Bay and South End. Rooms: $495/70 Rowes Wharf, Downtown 617/439-7000, 800/752-7077 @ www.bhh.com 230 rooms ☑ No meals ☑ Aquarium, South Station 1:1H6.

$S Boston Marriott Long Wharf. Families favor this spot that looks like a big brick ship docked in Boston Harbor. Pros: next door Tia's bar is a must for outdoor happy hour; good weekend rates (check the Web for deals); great location for first-time visitors. Cons: area is packed with tourists; traffic in the area can be horrible; parking is difficult to find. Rooms: $229/296 State St., Downtown 617/227-0800 @ www.marriott.com/boston 412 rooms ☑ No meals ☑ Aquarium 1:1H5.

$S Boxer Boston Hotel. Steps from the TD Garden and an easy walk from Government Center, Faneuil Hall, and the North End, the nine-floor, 80-room boutique hotel has a crisp, contemporary look and a great value—if you don't mind tiny accommodations. Pros: great group rates; free Internet; close to North Station and the T. Cons: small rooms and lobby; staff can be indifferent; area can be rowdy at night by the TD Garden. Rooms: $220/107 Merrimac St., Downtown 617/624-0202, 877/267-1776 @ www.theboxerboston.com 80 rooms ☑ No meals ☑ North Station 1:1E4.

$SSS Envoy Hotel. Visitors and locals like to hang out at the Envoy, whose design-forward aesthetic provides a comfortable yet stylish vibe. Pros: fitness center includes Peloton bikes; full restaurant menu is available for in-room dining; beautiful views overlooking the Fort Point Channel. Cons: bar crowds can be loud and rowdy; not within walking distance to Back Bay shopping and sights; alarm clocks only available by request; Wi-Fi
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$5 Godfrey Hotel. A welcome addition to downtown Boston's hotel scene, the bustling boutique hotel is popular with business folk, who like the ease of walking to the nearby Financial District. Pros: Frette linens; short walking distance from Boston Common and Beacon Hill; ideal for business travelers. Cons: Downtown Crossing can get a little sketchy at night; expensive valet parking; no airport shuttle. Rooms from: $499 70 Sleeper St., Downtown 617/338-3030  www.thegodfreyhotel.com 136 rooms  No meals  2:HI.

$5 Harborside Inn. With rates that are considerably lower than most waterfront hotels—as low as $119 in the off season—this hotel with an understated charm is an exceptional value. Pros: free Wi-Fi; close to Quincy Market and the New England Aquarium; nearby water taxi. Cons: the area might be too touristy for some leisure travelers; no turndown service; no valet. Rooms from: $250 185 State St., Downtown 617/723-7500, 888/723-7565  www.harborsideinnboston.com 116 rooms  No meals  Aquarium  1:G6.

$5 Hilton Boston Downtown/Faneuil Hall. If you’re looking for comfortable downtown lodging, you’ll find it at this classic business hotel with 24-hour fitness and business centers. Pros: well maintained; clean and quiet; ideal for business travelers and those with pets. Cons: $15 daily Wi-Fi fee, or free on first floor; corporate vibe; doesn’t have a Hilton Honors lounge. Rooms from: $259 89 Broad St., Downtown 617/556-0006  www.hilton.com 428 rooms  No meals  State  1:G6.

$5 Hyatt Regency Boston. The Hyatt Regency Boston sits amid the colorful Downtown Crossing neighborhood, a convergence of discount stores and crowds of 9-to-5 office dwellers that work in the area. Pros: steps from Boston Common and Faneuil Hall; indoor, saline swimming pool; good for business travelers. Cons: views of office buildings from guest rooms; thin walls; noise of neighborhood’s construction may bug some guests. Rooms from: $379 1 Ave. de Lafayette, Downtown 617/912-1234, 800/233-1234  www.regencyboston.hyatt.com 502 rooms  No meals  Chinatown, Downtown Crossing  2:HI.

$5 InterContinental Boston. The 424-room InterContinental, facing both the waterfront and the Rose Kennedy Greenway, consists of two opulent, 22-story towers wrapped in blue glass. Pros: upper-floor rooms have great views; cool bathrooms; close to Financial District and South Station. Cons: limited breakout rooms for large conventions; far from Newbury Street and Copley Square shopping; guests say the soundproofing could be better. Rooms from: $429 510 Atlantic Ave., Downtown 617/747-1000, 866/493-6495  www.intercontinentalboston.com 424 rooms  No meals  South Station  2:HI.

$5 Kimpton Nine Zero. If it’s all about location, the Kimpton Nine Zero can’t be beat. Pros: pet- and kid-friendly; lobby wine tasting every evening (from 5 to 6); Atelier Bloem bath products. Cons: smallish rooms; high parking fees; small gyms. Rooms from: $249 90 Tremont St., Downtown 617/772-5800, 866/906-9090  www.ninezero.com 190 rooms  No meals  Park St., Government Center  1:E6.
Where to Stay

$5 Kimpton Onyx Hotel. A sexy, supper-club atmosphere oozes from this recently renovated, contemporary Kimpton Group hotel, located a block from North Station. Pros: good location for catching a sporting event or concert at the Garden; near North Station commuter rail and T stop; near several inexpensive restaurants and bars. Cons: smallish rooms and bathrooms; small gym; neighborhood can get noisy at night. $ Rooms from: $229 ₳ 135 Portland St., Downtown ⏰ 617/557-9955, 866/660-6699 ⓜ www.onyxhotel.com Ⓢ 112 rooms ☒ No meals ☒ North Station ⏫ 1:14.

$5 The Langham, Boston. This 1922 Renaissance Revival landmark (the former Federal Reserve Building) strikes an admirable balance between historic, old-world charm and sleek, modern appointments. Pros: ideal Downtown location for business travelers; fabulous Sunday brunch and Saturday Chocolate Bar at Café Fleur; guests enjoy special deals at the Chuan Body + Soul spa. Cons: Downtown location feels remote on weekends; pricey during the week; expensive valet parking. $ Rooms from: $395 ₳ 250 Franklin St., Downtown ⏰ 617/451-1900, 800/543-4300 ⓜ www.boston.langhamhotels.com Ⓢ 335 rooms ☒ No meals ☒ South Station ⏫ 1:16.

$5 Millennium Bostonian Hotel. Near historic Faneuil Hall, the Bostonian has guest rooms featuring Frette linens, pillowtop mattresses, and 40-inch TVs—many also have French doors with step-out balconies showcasing city views and the popular North End. Warmed up with red wall coverings, the lobby provides sofas and arm chairs, perfect for relaxing with a book chosen from one of the floor-to-ceiling bookshelves. Pros: updated fitness center; great location for sightseeing; free Wi-Fi. Cons: some rooms still get street noise; Faneuil Hall can get clogged with tourists; parking is expensive. $ Rooms from: $309 ₳ Faneuil Hall Marketplace, 26 North St., Downtown ⏰ 617/523-3600, 866/866-8086 ⓜ www.millenniumhotels.com Ⓢ 201 rooms ☒ No meals ☒ Haymarket, Aquarium ⏫ 1:16.

$5 Omni Parker House. If any hotel says “Boston,” it’s this one, where JFK proposed to Jackie, and Charles Dickens gave his first reading of “A Christmas Carol”; there’s more than a century and a half of rich and varied history within these walls. Pros: overflowing with history; great location on the Freedom Trail; newly renovated public areas. Cons: small rooms, some of which are a bit dark; thin-walled rooms can be noisy; area parking is very expensive. $ Rooms from: $339 ₳ 60 School St., Downtown ⏰ 617/227-8600, 800/843-6664 ⓜ www.omniparkerhouse.com Ⓢ 572 rooms ☒ No meals ☒ Government Center, Park St. ⏫ 1:16.

$ Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel. Set along the working wharves of Boston Harbor, near the must-visit Institute of Contemporary Art, the Renaissance plays to a watery theme. Pros: sleek new lobby Capiz Bar and Lounge; close to the Silver Line (airport transportation) and convention center; Sapore Ristorante + Bar fuses Italian cuisine with seasonal New England ingredients. Cons: some guest-room harbor views are more industrial than scenic; hordes of conventioners; far from Back Bay and Boston Common. $ Rooms from: $159 ₳ 606 Congress St., Downtown ⏰ 617/338-4111, 888/796-4664 ⓜ renaissance-hotels.
marriott.com/renaissance-boston-waterfront-hotel 471 rooms [No meals World Trade Center $2:12].

$ The Revere Hotel. The Revere Hotel experienced a $28 million renovation in 2017, and the stylish spot now embraces New England history, but with a twist. Pros: rooftop pool and bar has amazing city views; balconies in every room; ideal location where Back Bay meets Downtown Boston. Cons: expensive parking; elevators can get congested; no three-meal restaurant on-site. $ Rooms from: $249 @ 200 Stuart St., Downtown 617/482-1800 @ www.reverehotel.com 356 rooms [No meals Arlington $2:12].

$ The Ritz-Carlton, Boston. With a great downtown location and a multimillion-dollar redesign for all guest rooms and suites, the Ritz is looking great. Pros: excellent service; central location just off Boston Common; spacious rooms and suites. Cons: fee to access Equinox Sports Club, unless you're staying on Club Level; food service is brutally expensive; valet parking costs a pretty penny. $ Rooms from: $550 @ 10 Avery St., Downtown 617/574-7100, 800/542-8680 @ www.ritzcarlton.com 193 rooms [No meals Dogs are welcome for $125 deep-cleaning fee Boylston $2:12].

$ Seaport Boston Hotel. Chances are, if you've ever been to Boston on business, you've already stayed at the Seaport, where guest rooms are among the biggest in the city. Pros: beautiful on-site Wave Health & Fitness Club; close to a newly developed restaurant scene offering 20 dining options; free Wi-Fi. Cons: far from city center; hotel elevators can be swamped during conventions. $ Rooms from: $209 @ World Trade Center, 1 Seaport La., Waterfront 617/385-4000, 800/440-3318 @ www.seaportboston.com 428 rooms [No meals World Trade Center $2:12].

$ W Boston. This 238-room tower is fronted by a metal-and-glass “awning” that is outfitted with soft, color-changing neon lights that cast a cheeky glow on passersby, but inside, the nature-inspired decor is modern through and through, with typical W brand touches like a sleek, scene-y lobby lounge (complete with falling water display and open fireplace) and a host of room categories such as the standard Wonderful and expanded WOW lodgings. Pros: on-site Bliss spa; signature W sheep-top beds; fashion scene; dogs have their own room service menu. Cons: Wi-Fi isn’t free in every room type; area theater and bar crowds can be loud; expensive parking. $ Rooms from: $350 @ 100 Stuart St., Downtown 617/261-8700 @ www.whotels.com/boston 238 rooms [No meals Boylston, Tufts Medical Center $2:12].

$ Westin Boston Waterfront. Located in Boston’s Seaport district, the Westin is connected to the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center and provides comfortable accommodations and exceptional service. Pros: close to the stellar Institute of Contemporary Art; pet-friendly for animals up to 40 lbs. (pet beds and bowls provided); Westin’s signature “heavenly” beds. Cons: clusters of meeting-goers; lobby can get hectic; not within walking distance of Back Bay and South End. $ Rooms from: $305 @ 425 Summer St., Downtown 617/332-4600 @ www.westinbostonwaterfront.com 814 rooms [No meals World Trade Center $2:12].
Where to Stay

**Yotel.** The second YOTEL to open in the United States, YOTEL Boston fits perfectly in the city’s rapidly developing “Innovation District” with tech-forward innovations like airline-style self-service check-in, and Techno-walls in the rooms that allow guests to stream movies and music from their own devices. Pros: free Wi-Fi; allergen-free cabins; digital check-in. Cons: not within walking distance to Back Bay and Newbury Street; those who aren’t fans of technology won’t appreciate the high-tech style; rooms are smallish; valet parking is expensive. Rooms from: $259 65 Seaport Blvd., Waterfront 617/377–4747 @www.yotel.com/en/hotels/yotel-boston 326 rooms No meals Courthouse +2:31.

**THE BACK BAY AND THE SOUTH END**
The Back Bay and the South End are what locals call the “well-heel’d” sections of Boston, meaning money talks here—think of the likes of Mandarin Oriental or Fairmont Copley Plaza. The streets are lined with upscale, stylish hotels (old and new), boutique hotels, and inns.

**The BACK BAY**

**Boston Marriott Copley Place.** It’s busy-busy, with throngs of tourists and business travelers, but you can’t beat the location of this 38-story megahotel. Pros: good service; comfortable beds; prime Copley Square location; on-site Starbucks. Cons: chaotic lobby; not for those who want an intimate, boutique experience; massive in size.

Rooms from: $159 110 Huntington Ave., Back Bay 617/236–5800, 800/228–9290 @www.marriott.com 3,147 rooms No meals Copley, Back Bay +2:3.

**Boston Park Plaza.** Step into a true piece of Boston history at the 2016-renovated Park Plaza, one of the city’s most identifiable landmarks. Pros: 20,000-square-foot health club; helpful concierge; tons of historic value; on-site Starbucks. Cons: bathrooms are small; guest rooms vary in size and can be small; guests expecting the old decor may be surprised by renovation.


**Charlesmark Hotel.** Hipsters and romantics who’d rather spend their cash on a great meal than a hotel bill have put this late-19th-century former residential row house on the map. Pros: fantastic price for the location; free Wi-Fi; all rooms have safes and refrigerators. Cons: some might feel crowded by compact rooms and hallways; no valet; no turndown service.

Rooms from: $239 655 Boylston St., Back Bay 617/247–1212 @www.thecharlesmarkhotel.com 40 rooms Breakfast Copley +2:8.

**The Colonnade Hotel.** The Colonnade showcases clean, modern environs injected with hues of khaki, chocolate, and chrome. Pros: rooftop deck pool; across from Prudential Center shopping; close to Hynes Convention Center. Cons: Huntington Avenue can get clogged with rush-hour traffic; on summer days the pool is packed by 11 am; parking is expensive.

Rooms from: $199 120 Huntington Ave., Back Bay 617/424–7000, 800/962–3030 @www.colonnadehotel.com 385 rooms No meals Back Bay, Prudential Center +2:3.