

Bob and Deb's Quintessential Guide to "The Hub" Boston and Environs

Before moving to New York City recently, the Jarnis duo spent more than 50 years in the Boston area and have noted some of their favorite things to do and see or eat while you're here. The first week in May is a great time to visit. The weather is warming up and the flowering trees are coming into bloom. And as Bob and Deb remember while growing up, the Red Sox are climbing their way into first place and both the Bruins and Celtics are in the playoffs - No wonder Boston is referred to as the Hub - Hub of the universe of course!



DUCK TOUR - The best overview of Boston and absolute fun from start to end. (...brings new meaning to "1 if by land and 2 if by sea") Tours leave from either the Museum of Science or the Prudential Center (The "Pru"). If you take this tour, you will never again say "Quack-Quack" without a generating a smile. www.Bostonducktours.com

FREEDOM TRAIL - The **Freedom Trail Foundation** (www.thefreedomtrail.org/) offers a guided tour *Walk Into History*, a public walking tour which is a great way to experience the Freedom Trail. Led by an 18th Century Costumed Guide, the 90-minute tour mixes humor, history and fun. Be transported back in time to the days of the American Revolution and have a hands-on revolutionary experience.

Best way to capture the Revolutionary Period feels of the Hub:
Try the Foundation Tour below, or walk it on your own
(see Trail Map).

Walk Into History Tour

Boston Common to Faneuil Hall

Departs: Visitor Information Center, Boston Common

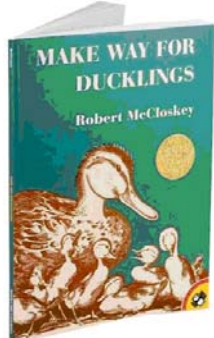
11 am, 12 Noon, 1 pm and 3:30 pm Daily



Note- The Granary Burying Ground contains the graves of three signers of the Declaration of Independence. It also where Mother Goose is buried! Find her tombstone.

One More Note- We have tried the walking tour on our own - but it has one major drawback. It passes several pubs that were "active" during the revolutionary period - the *Bell in Hand* and the *Green Dragon*. Somehow, my tours always got bogged down here. For those interested how historic places are in contemporary use, the *Bell in Hand* is favored by sports fans on their way to the "Garden" to watch the Bruins or Celtics, while there always were more pretty girls at the *Green Dragon* - or so I'm told. Also if you are in the area, a Draft Beer and some Oysters on the half shell at the Mahogany bar of the nearby Union Oyster House is truly decadent!

MAKE WAY FOR DUCKLINGS- A Self-Guided Tour



This is a tour Bob developed specifically for all the young visitors to Boston. If you are bringing young kids to the conference, returning to young kids, or have young kids (read: grandchildren) visit you on occasion, this tour is an absolute must. First - purchase a copy of Robert McCloskey's (Caldecott Medal winning) book, "*Make Way for Ducklings*".

Bring your book, your camera and start walking over the "Salt and Pepper" bridge. At any time you recognize a scene from the book's drawings, take a picture - preferably with you in it. Do this all the way from the bridge, through **Louisburg Square** (the flowering trees should be in full bloom making this stop all the more beautiful), and off to the **Boston Public Gardens** and the **Swan Boats**. Find the bronzed ducklings in the Public Gardens- a tribute to this "up-close-and personal" Boston book. When you return home, see the little ones, sit down with them, read the book and show them the pictures of you "on the scene".



SWAN BOAT RIDE Deb's favorite. Even if you don't take the "Make Way for Ducklings Tour", visit the Public Gardens and take the Swan Boat Ride. Working the Swan Boats was the plumb job for the children of Boston politicians. Most of the swan boat jobs went to the cool kids from West Roxbury.

NORTH END The North End is famous for Paul Revere, Old North Church, endless Italian Festivals, site of the 1919 Molasses Flood and outstanding Italian food. You'll have an enjoyable meal at any of the restaurants there. Some we have enjoyed:

Daily Catch 323 Hanover Street, www.dailycatch.com

This small restaurant specializes in seafood and is a real treat. Probably Bob's favorite. They do not, unfortunately, take reservations and the line is typically very long. Part of the charm is that there are no rest rooms - you need to go across the street.

L'Osteria Ristorante 104 Salem Street, www.losteria.com We have returned here several times.

Pushcart Café and Pizzeria 117 Salem Street. We and our friends often frequented this restaurant because of good food and reasonable prices. We couldn't always throw money around on a meal like we are forced to do here in the Big Apple.

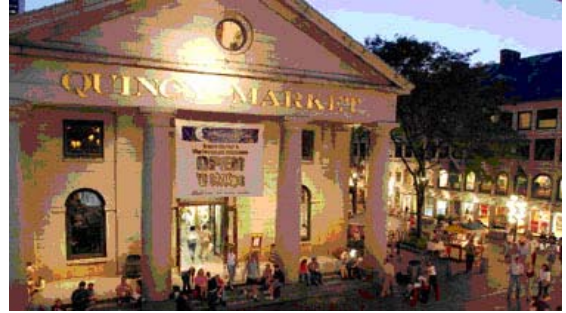
Regina Pizzeria 11-1/2 Thatcher Street, www.reginapizza.com. A North End landmark. Great Pizza with typical North End Service. One evening Deb and I walked in, the Manager, a tall young man behind the bar asked how we were doing. After answering fine, he stated "Good, now sit down and behave yourselves".

Mike's Pastry 300 Hanover Street, www.Mikespastry.com. A standard for cannolis and lots more deserts. An interesting story about Mike's. Over the years, we have hosted several runners each April who have participated in the Boston Marathon (known within running circles as *Running Boston*). One runner was from Chicago who as a teenager, arrived in Boston to run his first marathon without a place to stay. He found himself at Mike's Pastry - for a cannoli I believe, but not sure. Talking with Mike about his situation, Mike let this young runner stay with his family during his visit to Boston. When running the Marathon later, this Chicago runner wore a T-shirt where on the back it stated "Follow Me to Mike's Pastry - North End". A true story, and on its own, warrants a trip to Mike's.

HARVARD SQUARE No guide to the environs of Boston - no matter how informal - can claim any relevance without mentioning Harvard Square. Located in the center of what is referred to as "The People's Republic of Cambridge", Harvard Square offers a glimpse of the life "out East". A short walk to the commons of "Hahvahd University" (remember the 1960's movie "Love Story"?) and my favorite - "Out-of-Town News" a small kiosk right in the square where newspapers can be found from all over the world (it was a favorite before the internet). Try this out: Thursday, April 30th - Sunday May 3rd, the 17th Annual Harvard Arts First Festival. Join hundreds of Harvard Undergraduates, Graduate Students, and Faculty in Harvard's Annual Celebration of the Arts. <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~arts/about.htm>

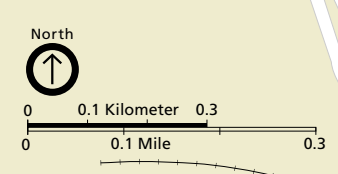
FANEUIL HALL MARKET PLACE- Quincy Market Place

Faneuil Market Place (a.k.a Quincy Market) is now the focal gathering point of Boston and a must see. It is a place with attractions for all ages, young and old alike. For a start, there is the historic Faneuil Hall. Our favorite area, however, is the three long, granite cold storage buildings once used to store ice blocks from Lake Sebago in Maine to keep vegetables and meats fresh all summer. Now there is something for everyone at Quincy Market - small stalls offering chocolate chip cookies, souvenirs, draft beer, ice cream, whatever you crave. On weekends, there are street performers throughout the area, not to mention a bronze statue of Red Auerbach - the Celtics famed coach.



If there's time, try to walk a few blocks towards "Boston Hahbah". Look to the right and you'll see a 30 + story concrete apartment building called Harbor Towers. This building was constructed in the late 1960's and was portrayed as the new look of Boston's redevelopment. In an effort to revitalize decaying inner cities throughout the US, the plan for Boston was to tear down the three Quincy Market cold-storage buildings and construct more buildings like Harbor Towers. It won't take more than a quick look to see that stark Harbor Towers were no match for the beauty of the old granite buildings. Fortunately, plans to level Quincy Market were dropped and new plans were made to revitalize the area around the granite buildings. A big mistake was avoided and today one can enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of the place. <http://www.faneuilhallmarketplace.com/>

We hope this brief Guide inspires you to get out a visit the Hub during your stay- Bob and Deb



Bunker Hill Monument

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Visitor Information
Prudential Center
To Museum of Fine Arts

To Museum of Fine Arts

To Dorchester Heights