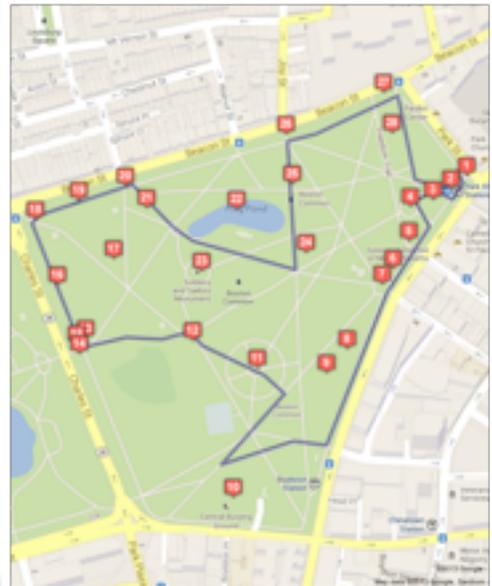


Boston Common



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WELCOME TO BOSTON

The Boston Common is the oldest city park in the United States dating back to 1634 when a group Puritan settlers of the Massachusetts Bay Colony purchased the area for use as a common grazing area for cattle. The Common was used for many public needs and events (in addition to grazing) over the years including public hangings (until 1817), encampment for British soldiers after the Battle of Lexington and Concord, and a food shortage riot in 1713. The Boston Common became more of a park-like setting in the 1830's when cattle grazing was banned.



Today the 50 acre Boston

Common is used for formal and informal gatherings. Bostonians and visitors alike enjoy picnicking, ice skating on the Frog Pond in the winter, softball games, and other recreational activities. Famous speeches have been made on the Boston Common by the likes of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Pope John Paul II. Large concerts, festivals, public protests and other such events are a common site in the park.

Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1987, the site is the first stop on the Freedom Trail. Visitors can reach the Common from the Boylston and Park Street Stations, which were the first two subway stations in the country. Features and points of interest include the Frog Pond that serves as an outdoor ice rink, Brewer Fountain and the Parkman Bandstand as well as monuments to the Boston Massacre, soldiers and sailors who died during the Civil War and Col. Robert Shaw, whose story and that of his unit, the African American 54th Massachusetts Infantry, was chronicled in the movie "Glory."

- CityWalkingGuide

1. Blackstone Memorial Tablet

The Blackstone Memorial Tablet is like the cornerstone of any important building. The tablet memorializes the founding of the Boston Common in 1684 with an inscription of a deposition of the last survivors of the original inhabitants. The inscription declares that the lawful owners of the Common are the people of Boston. It reads that in 1634 John Winthrop and his Puritan settlers purchased this "Common" area from Reverend William Blackstone for cattle feeding and training.

2. Park Street Subway Station

The Park Street Subway Station is the oldest of two original stations on the United States' oldest subway system. The Park Street Subway Station was built in 1897 along with the Boylston Street Station. The Park Street Subway Station (MBTA or "T" station) is serviced by the Red and Green lines. When the



Park Street Station first opened it was serviced by a horse-drawn underground rail line to the Boylston Street Station called the Tremont Street Subway. Today, the Tremont Street Subway is registered on the National Historic

Landmark as the oldest subway line in the US.

3. Lafayette Monument

The Lafayette Monument was placed in Parkman Plaza in 1924. The sculptor, John Francis Paramino, designed the monument, which was forged by the Gorham Manufacturing



Company. It was created to memorialize Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier, known simply as Marquis

de Lafayette, who served as a Major-General under George Washington in the Revolutionary War at the age of 19. He is credited with negotiating an alliance with the Oneida tribe against the British, gaining the commitment of French troops, and playing a significant role in the defeat of General Cornwallis at the Siege of Yorktown. Lafayette was an avid opponent of slavery and friend to the cause of liberty, and he continued these struggles as a decorated officer in the French Revolution. He returned to the US several times and was granted honorary citizenship. George Washington Lafayette, his son, buried him in Paris on May 20, 1834.

4. Brewer Fountain

Standing at the corner of Park and Tremont Streets, the Boston

Common is home to the historic Brewer Fountain. This majestic work of art is the only surviving copy of the fountain designed by French artist Lienard for the 1855 World Exposition in Paris.

Featuring images of Neptune, Galatea, Amphitrite and Acis reclining as quiet sentinels, this bronze work of art stands 22 feet tall and weighs over 15,000



pounds. Placed at its current location in 1868, Brewer Fountain was fully operational for 135 years until it fell into disrepair and

stopped working in 2003. The fountain sat quiet until 2009 when major repairs were undertaken by sculpture conservator Joshua Craine of Daedalus, Inc. One year and \$640,000 later, the once again operational and always beautiful Brewer Fountain was returned to its place of honor, and rededicated on May 26, 2010.

5. Commodore John Barry Monument

Displayed at Boston Common at the corner of Tremont Street and Temple Place, is the Commodore John Barry Monument. Designed by artist John Francis Paramino, this monument displays a likeness of Commodore John Barry, an officer in the Continental Navy during the American Revolutionary War who commanded 3 ships, including the Alliance, which won the final

naval battle of the war. After the war, Commodore Barry was appointed by President George Washington to organize and command the first U.S. Navy in 1794, and is commonly recognized as the "Father of American Navy." Sculpted in granite, the Commodore John Barry Monument as displayed today in Boston Common, is a copy of the bronze original. The original monument, stolen in 1977 and later recovered, now stands on display in the U.S.S. Constitutional Museum located in nearby Charlestown.

6. Freedom Trail Information Center

Located at 148 Tremont Street in the Boston Common, the Freedom Trail Information Center offers



information about exploring the Freedom Trail, which leads visitors to

seventeen historic sites covering American history from past to present. Boston's Freedom Trail Foundation is the official non-profit organization charged with preserving America's first historic walking tour. The Freedom Trail Information Center directs participants to follow the red painted line that connects the sites along the 2.5 mile walking trail. The tour typically can last two to three hours, although many visitors make a day of it, breaking

for refreshment at one of Boston's fine restaurants.

7. Parkman Plaza

Parkman Plaza was named after Dr. George Parker Jr. who, upon his death in 1908, donated \$5 million for the preservation of Boston Common and other city parks. Located on Tremont street, Parkman Plaza marks the beginning of the Boston Freedom Trail. The plaza's Visitor Center provides free maps for following the historic walking tour of Boston and a red line painted on the ground marks the trail. In 1961, three statues were dedicated to Parkman Plaza, meant to depict three traits of Bostonian life. The statues create a semi circle around the plaza. On the south side of the plaza, a statue of a young boy on his knees, hands lifted to heaven depict Boston's religious roots. The west side has a statue of a man drilling for industry. The north side is labeled learning shows a young boy sitting on top of a globe, reading a book.

8. Declaration of Independence Plaque

Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are considered to be central tenets of American society, but the Declaration of Independence initially created the remarkable phrase. The opening sentence is frequently overlooked, but life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness have often caught the

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