

Boston: America's Walking City

Explore Boston on foot! Walking is an easy, pleasant and stress-free way to enjoy your visit. It is one of the best forms of exercise to keep you fit. Known for historic and picturesque neighborhoods, Boston has outstanding pedestrian features including:

- A compact and relatively flat layout with European style streets that are safe, lively and diverse.
- Centrally located points of interest: history, entertainment, nightlife, architecture, culture, science and arts abound.
- A great feeling of openness against a backdrop of skyscrapers, thanks to inviting green spaces like the Boston Common, Commonwealth Avenue Mall and the Charles River Esplanade.
- A convenient and affordable subway and bus system that takes you within steps of your destination.

Everything is within walking distance. And everyone in Boston walks. So walk—you'll feel better for it!

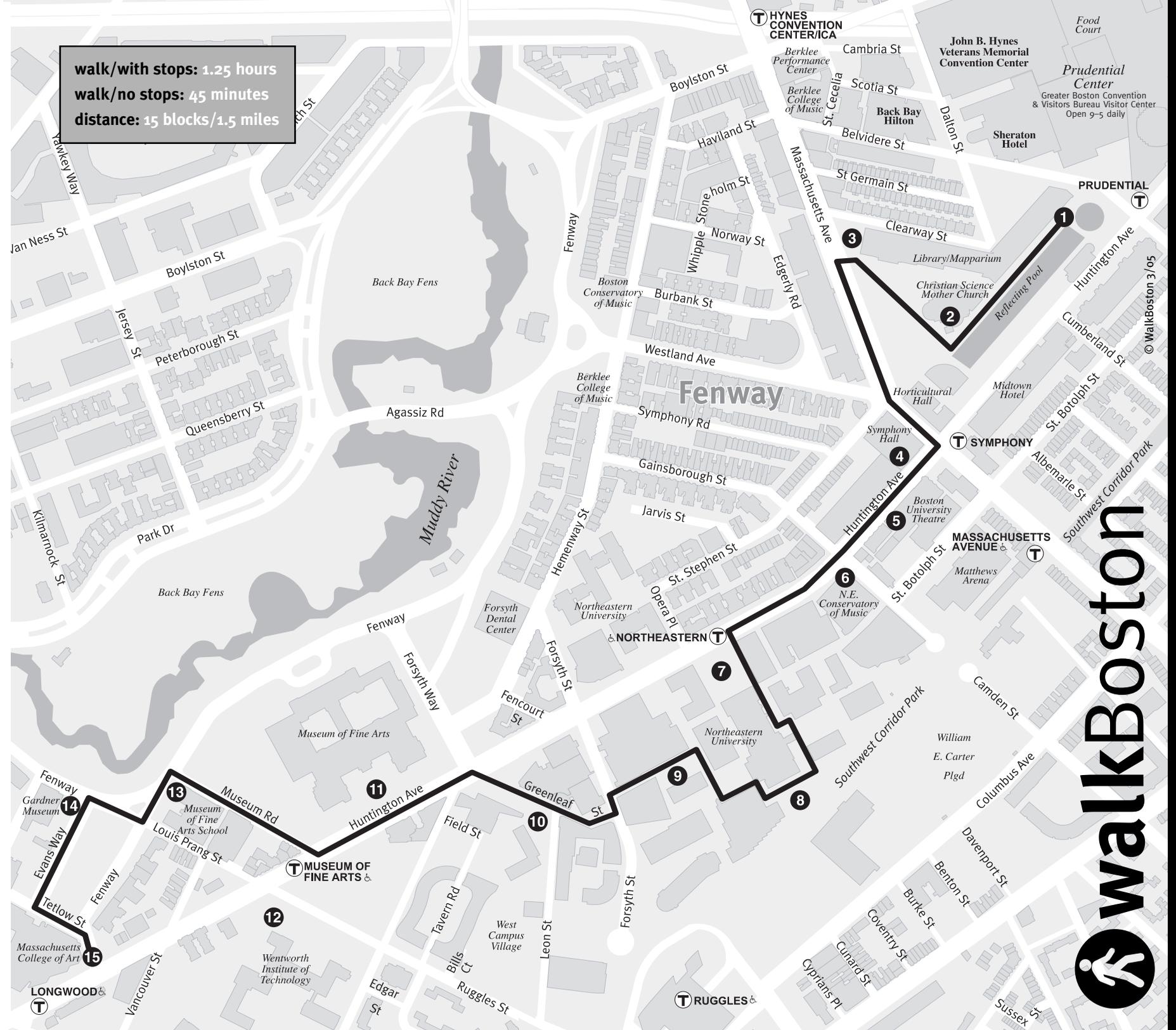
Walks for visitors

This self-guided walk includes points of interest, major conference hotels and the convention site. You might combine the walk with dining. Nearby Boylston and Newbury Streets are lined with restaurants and shops. A stroll in the other direction brings you to the charming South End. This neighborhood contains a stunning array of Boston's top restaurants. To reach the heart of this district, walk along Dartmouth or Clarendon Street to Tremont Street. Along the way, admire the brick bowfronts and bay windows of the 1850^s residences that line the streets.

The Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau lists many walks and tours, including the Freedom Trail and the Black Heritage Trail. For a complete listing, see www.BostonUSA.com or call 888-SEE-BOSTON.

If you have a bit more time, the book **WalkBoston: Walking Tours of Boston's Unique Neighborhoods** contains 30 self-guided walks tracing history, exploring neighborhoods, and visiting parks and the oceanfront. Available for \$14.95 in bookstores, at GBCVB booths, or through the WalkBoston office at 617.367.9255.

Sponsored by the Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau



walkBoston

Avenue of the Arts

Avenue of the Arts — Huntington Ave.

Huntington Avenue was designated the Avenue of the Arts by Mayor Thomas Menino in 1998. The Avenue is the focus of an extraordinary cluster of cultural and academic institutions. Some are world-renowned, including the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Museum of Fine Arts, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the New England Conservatory of Music, Jordan Hall, the Mary Baker Eddy Library, and the Huntington Theatre Company. All are located in the district known as the Fenway, named for the Back Bay Fens, a tidal marsh filled in accordance with a park and roadway plan by Frederick Law Olmsted. As Olmsted's Emerald Necklace took shape 100 years ago, major institutions began to cluster on newly available sites along the park and adjacent streets.

Huntington Avenue was planned as the major thoroughfare through the area. Academic and cultural institutions moved out from the old city center and grouped along the mile between Copley Square and Brigham Circle. Academic institutions are anchored at one end by Northeastern University, and at the other end by the Harvard Medical School and the Longwood Area's many schools and hospitals. Cultural institutions begin with the Christian Science Mother Church and lead to the Fine Arts and Gardner Museums.

In 1977 these institutions began to explore common interests with the City of Boston through the Fenway Alliance, which began the transformation of the district. Since then, street trees have been added, streetcar stations have been enlarged and the street has been rebuilt as a pedestrian-friendly facility.

Points of interest

❶ Christian Science complex across from the Prudential Center was designed by I.M. Pei Associates and Araldo Cossutta Architects in 1977. Its 14 acres include a central plaza, with a 90- by 686-foot long reflecting pool, a 28-story administration building which hosts a pair of peregrine falcons, and a 525-foot long colonnade with solid sunshade columns. The 80-foot diameter fountain's many water jets

spray 40 feet high and cool thousands of happy children all summer.

❷ First Church of Christ Scientist [Mother Church] built in 1894 faces the plaza. The Romanesque-style building is built of New Hampshire granite. A large domed extension was added in 1906 in Classical Revival style. The church seats over 3,000 people and houses an organ with 13,290 pipes.

❸ Mary Baker Eddy Library and Mapparium are housed in an 11-story building completed in 1934. Its formidable 14-foot high surrounding wall was partially removed in 1998 to create a new entrance. Renovations to the library were completed in 2002. The Mapparium is a three-story stained glass globe where visitors are invited to cross its glass bridge into an illuminated spherical space. A Christian Science Monitor interactive newspaper exhibit is on the second floor. Open 10–5 Tue–Sun. Information: 617.450.7000.

❹ Symphony Hall was opened by the Boston Symphony Orchestra in 1900, after nearly 20 years of performances at a downtown Boston theatre. After more than 100 years, the building is still one of the most highly regarded concert halls in the world, due to its excellent acoustics. Tours: 617.638.9391. Box office: 617.266.1492 or www.bso.org/sch.

❺ Boston University Theatre is America's first civic playhouse, built in 1925 to house the Repertory Theatre of Boston. After 1930 it was a movie theater. In 1953 Boston University purchased the structure for the School of Theatre Arts as its primary facility for performance, design and technical production. The Huntington Theatre Company is its principal resident. Box office: 617.266.0800.

❻ New England Conservatory of Music (NEC) is the oldest independent school of music in the country. Founded in 1867, it moved to this location in 1902. NEC presents more than 600 free concerts each year, primarily in Jordan Hall, the beautifully restored concert hall inside its main building. Nearly half of the Boston Symphony Orchestra musicians and faculty are NEC-trained. Box office: 617.585.1260.

❼ Northeastern University was founded in 1898. It is a world leader in practice-oriented education, combining workplace experience, professional education and the

liberal arts and sciences. Its 60-acre campus contains 37 academic and administrative buildings and 19 dormitory and residential buildings.

❽ Sculpture Park contains several of Northeastern University's original works of sculpture: Blake Edwards's "Reclining Figure," Victor Halvani's "David Playing Harp," Leonard Nierman's "Bird in Flight," Guy Haziza's "Les Sages," and "Orb" by Kathleen Van Deuson and Robert Shure. A stream and tide mill symbolize the Stony Brook tributary, which once ran free through this property but is now underground.

❾ First Baseball World Series game took place here on the former Huntington Avenue Grounds baseball field. [A marker for the original home plate remains.] The 1903 game resulted in a victory for the American League Boston Pilgrims over the National League Pittsburgh Pirates. The pitching of baseball superstar Cy Young helped. Winner of more games than any other pitcher in history, Young is memorialized by a full-size bronze statue by sculptor Robert Shure and Skylight Studios in 1992. The statue was a gift to Northeastern from the Boston Red Sox.

❿ West Village Campus houses new architecture that marks significant milestones in the career of architect William Rawn. The residences are distinguished by curved brick facades and vaulted archways. Rawn's Classroom Building is the high-rise facing Huntington Avenue.

⓫ Museum of Fine Arts was founded in 1876 and moved here in 1909 from Copley Square. It houses approximately 350,000 objects, including 19th c. French painting, American painting, English and French silver, prints and drawings, Egyptian art, American decorative arts, Asian Art, and photographs. The MFA sponsors lectures, films, musical performances and family activities. Facing Huntington Avenue is the sculpture "Appeal to the Great Spirit" by Cyrus Dallin. At the west wing door is the 1984 "Standing Figure," by Willem de Kooning. Admission charge. Open 10–4:45 daily. Information: 617.267.9300.

⓬ Wentworth Institute of Technology was founded in 1904 and today offers career-focused education in architecture, computer science, design, engineering and management of technology. A co-op program allows graduates to obtain professional work experience

needed to succeed in their field.

⓭ The Museum School of the MFA greets visitors with a rhinoceros sculpted by Katherine Weems in 1987. One of only three schools nationwide affiliated with a major museum, the school offers undergraduate and graduate degrees and 20 annual exhibitions in its Grossman Gallery. No admission charge. Open 10–5 Mon–Sat [til 8 Thu]. Information: 617.267.6100.

⓮ Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum opened in 1903 with a concert. The building, called Fenway Court, has a spectacular garden courtyard, one of the nation's finest collections of art and to this day continues its traditional concerts. It remains essentially unchanged by direction of the will of its founder, Mrs. Gardner, who died in 1924. In 1990, paintings by Rembrandt, Vermeer, Degas and Manet were stolen and have not yet been found. Admission charge. Open 11–5 Tue–Sun. Information: 617.566.1401.

⓯ Massachusetts College of Art offers special art exhibits and installations in its Paine, Bakalar and President's galleries. Be sure to see "The Kiss," a 1992 sculpture created by David Bakalar. Free. Open 10–5 Mon–Fri. Information: 617.879.7000.

You can wander back through Frederick Law Olmsted's Emerald Necklace via the Back Bay Fens.

GREATER BOSTON CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU <i>America's Walking City</i>	Two Copley Place Suite 105 Boston, MA 02116 888-SEE-BOSTON BostonUSA.com
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