

Walk America's Walking City

No doubt you'll want to see and do a lot while in Boston, so here's important advice: the easiest, most pleasant and least stressful way to enjoy the city is on foot.

WalkBoston, as a member of the Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Conventions (CERC), created this guide to encourage DNC delegates and visitors to travel on foot and by public transportation. Shown on the map are most major hotels and a recommended walking route to the FleetCenter. Also noted are some must-see tourist attractions, along with just a few of Boston's unique and charming neighborhoods including the Back Bay, Beacon Hill, the North End, and the South End.

People around Boston care so much about walking that in 1990 they formed WalkBoston, the first advocacy organization dedicated solely to pedestrians. You'll find it easier to walk in Boston thanks to WalkBoston's determined efforts to improve the design and use of streets, sidewalks and pathways.

Boston is pedestrian-friendly

- It is a compact and relatively flat city with a European style of streets that are safe, lively and diverse.
- Places of interest are centrally located. History, entertainment, nightlife, architecture, culture, science and art abound – most sites within walking distance of each other.
- Against a backdrop of skyscrapers, there's a great feeling of openness, thanks to inviting green spaces like the Boston Common, Commonwealth Avenue Mall and the walkways along the Charles River.
- A convenient and affordable subway and bus system will take you within steps of your destination.

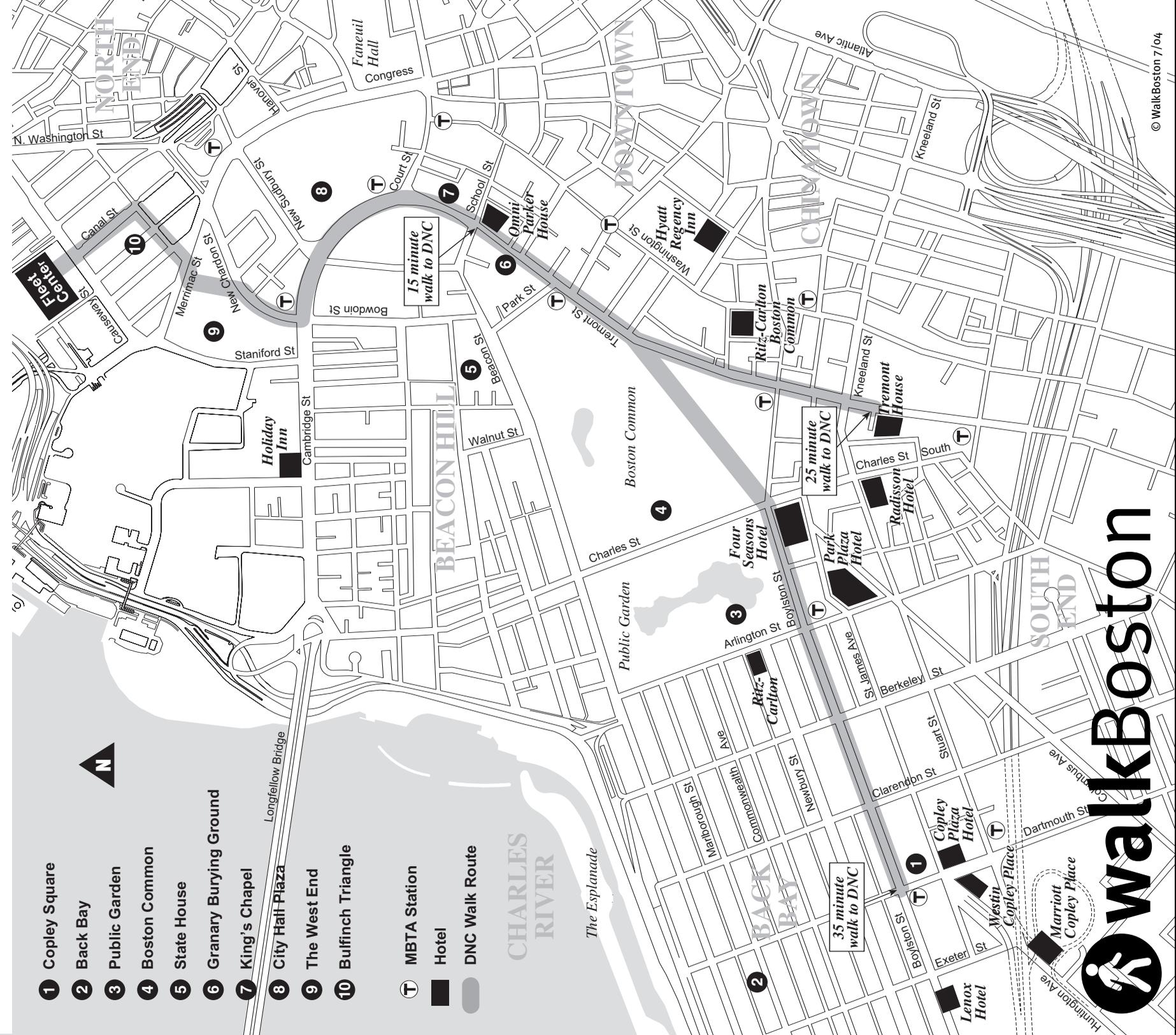
Everything's within walking distance! So when in Boston, do as the Bostonians do – walk! You'll feel better for it, too.



MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES MORE WALKABLE

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Thanks to Boston 2004, the City of Boston, Mayor Menino, CERC Coalition For Environmentally Responsible Conventions



walkBoston

FleetCenter walks — 5 p.m.

Prominent politicians will lead walks to the FleetCenter on Monday and Tuesday evenings, starting at 5 p.m. from Copley Square and the Park Plaza hotel. WalkBoston and CERC encourage delegates to walk to the DNC at the FleetCenter. It is a safe, easy, healthful and fun way to get there. Volunteers in orange T-shirts will be available in hotel lobbies and along the DNC Walk Route to guide you from 5 p.m.-7 p.m. Follow the path of creative images drawn by Sidewalk Sam.

Points of interest

Many of the most popular sites in Boston are located between the Back Bay and the FleetCenter, where convention attendees will be spending much time this week. Here are some of the landmarks you won't want to miss. And remember, there is no better way to see them than on foot!

① Copley Square - Home of Trinity Church and the 60-story John Hancock Tower, two of America's more prominent pieces of architecture. The Romanesque-style Episcopal church was designed by H.H. Richardson in 1874 and rests on 4,500 timber piles that keep it from sinking. In 1973, hundreds of the new Hancock Tower's windows started to crack and pop out, raining glass on Copley Square. Until the glass was replaced, window openings were temporarily covered with plywood, giving the Hancock the temporary honor of the tallest plywood-clad building in the world.

② The Back Bay - Formerly part of the Charles River, this area was created by hauling in gravel from Needham, 9 miles away. For over 30 years starting in 1857, more than 500 acres of new buildable land was created from a former tidal mud flat. The grandest of the new streets, Commonwealth Avenue, has a distinct Parisian boulevard feel with its wide green linear park and fine architecture. Because Bostonians at the time were wary of too much of a French influence, they decided to give the cross streets English names. Notice that they proceed west in alphabetical order (Arlington, Berkeley, Clarendon, Dartmouth, etc.) and make Boston's only orderly street pattern.

③ The Public Garden - This park was created in the 1860^s as a botanical garden. Many rare trees are labeled. The central pond is home to a fleet of human-powered swan boats that have been operated by the same family since the 1800^s. The bridge crossing the pond is considered to be the smallest suspension bridge in America. Explore the garden and discover many statues and fountains — even the nine bronze ducklings made famous in the children's book "Make Way for Ducklings."

④ Boston Common - The oldest public park in America, it has been used as a training ground for Redcoats during the American Revolution and a grazing area for cows. The Great Elm, commonly known as the "Hanging Tree," was here. In Puritan times, Quakers, adulterers and witches were hanged on a regular basis. The Frog Pond is a local favorite; its fountain cools children in the summer, and in winter the pond turns into an ice rink.

⑤ The State House - Designed and built in the late 1700^s by Charles Bulfinch, the architect of the Capitol in Washington, D.C. The gilded copper dome was painted gray during World War II to be less visible to German bombers, should they ever appear. The pine cone atop the dome is a symbol of Maine's timber industry; Maine was part of Massachusetts until 1820. Inside are beautiful Senate and House chambers. The latter features the hanging sacred cod. The State House is perched on the slope of Beacon Hill. At one time a real beacon atop the hill warned Bostonians of enemy attack.

⑥ Granary Burying Ground - This colonial graveyard dates to the 1660^s. Over 12,000 souls are buried here, although there are only 2,345 grave markers. In 1879, the City Health Department banned any further burials due to overcrowding. Famous inhabitants include John Hancock, Sam Adams, all 5 Boston Massacre victims, 9 Massachusetts governors and storyteller Mother Goose.

⑦ King's Chapel - Built in 1750 as an Anglican church, it was intentionally built next to a Puritan graveyard out of spite. The granite walls are 4 feet thick at the base and the columns in front are actually made out of wood and painted to look like stone. A steeple was never built due to a lack of funding. This became the first Unitarian Church in the U.S., 40 years before the movement officially started.

⑧ Boston's City Hall - This building was built in the 1960^s and won the city's most prestigious architectural award. Since then, many Bostonians love to hate the building and its brick plaza. Before it was built, this area was known as Scollay Square and was an exciting mix of burlesque halls, tattoo parlors and seedy bars. The elegant granite-clad Custom House tower with its colorful clock is visible to the right. This was the tallest building in Boston until 1965.

⑨ The West End - An entire neighborhood of 7,000 people was demolished here in the late 1950^s as part of an ill-fated urban renewal project. In the name of progress, and with federal money in hand, the city had declared the West End "blighted" and decided to level it — so it could be replaced by luxury high rises and so Massachusetts General Hospital could expand.

⑩ Bulfinch Triangle - This entire area, including the FleetCenter, is on landfill that was placed in the 1800^s. Much of the dirt came from two former hills of Beacon Hill. Causeway Street follows what was originally a sand bar that was used as a shortcut during low tide. Streets in this area were laid out by Boston selectman, Charles Bulfinch. They are named after geographic locations to the north that were served by the former Middlesex Canal, which ended where Canal Street is today.

● Next to the FleetCenter is Boston's newest landmark, the Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Bridge. In 2002, WalkBoston co-sponsored two public walks over the bridge that drew nearly 1 million walkers.

Tips

- Wear comfortable shoes and use sun protection.
- Public restrooms can be found in Quincy Market, the Prudential Center, major department stores and hotels, the National Park Visitors Center at 15 State St. and the Boston Common Visitors Center. Five pay toilets also are located on various sidewalks around the city, including Congress and Boylston streets.
- Note that at most intersections with traffic signals in Boston, pedestrians are required to push the WALK button to get a WALK light.
- State law requires drivers to yield to pedestrians in a marked crosswalk.

Sidewalk Sam

Robert Guillemin is "Sidewalk Sam," the popular artist dedicated to creating art at the feet of pedestrians to inspire, promote spirit, enrich daily life, and address social issues. Visit www.sidewalksam.com

More walks in Boston

You'll love the book "WalkBoston: Walking Tours of Boston's Unique Neighborhoods." Published last fall by WalkBoston and the Appalachian Mountain Club, the book contains 30 informative self-guided urban walks tracing history, exploring neighborhoods, and visiting parks and the oceanfront. WalkBoston costs \$14.95 and is available in most bookstores or through the WalkBoston office, 617.367.9255.

America Walks

WalkBoston is a founding member of America Walks, a national coalition of 60 organizations dedicated to pedestrians. If you would like to get in touch with an organization in your area or get one started, visit www.americawalks.org for more information.



City of Boston
Thomas M. Menino, Mayor



Boston ★ 2004

CERC Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Conventions

Map: Ken Dumas
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