

Buses: for MBTA route and schedule information contact the MBTA Traveler's Information Center: 617-222-3200, 800-392-6100, or go to www.mbta.com.

NORTH END/WATERFRONT

Boundaries: **North End:** **North:** Commercial Street; **East:** Commercial Street and Atlantic Avenue; **South:** Cross Street; **West:** Cross Street and North Washington Street; **Waterfront North and East:** Boston Harbor; **South:** Fozers Wharf; **West:** Commercial Street and Atlantic Avenue

NORTH END WATERFRONT DOWNTOWN WATERFRONT

Boston's answer to Little Italy, the **North End** is a little bit New York City, a little bit Florence, and a little bit *The Godfather* all rolled into one. It is both home to some of Boston's most noteworthy landmarks and is the epicenter of Boston's ethnic Italian community. Once the city's least desirable neighborhood, during the 19th century the North End saw its population change repeatedly with each new wave of immigrants. It welcomed in succession, African-Americans, Irish, Jews, and Portuguese before the Italians finally arrived in the 1890s. A desirable area, the North End is experiencing another wave of immigration of sorts, with young professionals seeking to make their homes in this tight-knit, urban community. Despite this recent trend, the North End is mostly made up of families of Italian descent, some long-timers and others more recently arrived.

Today, the Freedom Trail, a 2.5 mile-long red paint/brick path linking many of Boston's historical sights, cuts straight through the North End, bringing with it swarms of tourists in search of vestiges of America's past. Paul Revere's house, the Old North Church, and the Copp's Hill Burying Ground are all to be found within the North End. Old and young, residents and tourists fill the neighborhood's latticework of narrow and winding streets all day and well into the night. Many spend time at one of the neighborhood's forty plus restaurants and cafes, nearly all of which specialize in Italian cuisine. Locals can often be heard speaking Italian to one another, and during several weekends in July and August the community sponsors ornate parades down North End streets in honor of the feast days of various saints.

With Boston's recent population boom and concurrent housing crisis, rents in the North End are high, but slightly more reasonable than those in the Back Bay or Beacon Hill neighborhoods. Apartments can run the gamut

from old, dark labyrinths to nicely refurbished units. Those who can afford to live in the city are drawn to the North End by its lively character, central location, and reputation as one of Boston's safest neighborhoods. Those wanting to buy a home will find prices in the North End to be much more affordable than they are in the Back Bay or Beacon Hill.

North enders are within walking distance of the Fleet Center, Faneuil Hall's shops, restaurants and bars; the Aquarium, Downtown Crossing, Government Center, Haymarket (a year-round Friday/Saturday open air produce and fish market), Charlestown, and three of the four MBTA lines, as well as the commuter rail.

The North End's main strip is the densely-populated Hanover Street, with its three- and four-story brick walk-ups, many of which have ground level storefronts and restaurants. During the warmer months, wonderful smells from hundreds of Italian kitchens combine with the friendly and animated conversations in the street, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere. There are no large stores here—there's no room for them—so grocery shopping is done as it is in Europe, in little butcher shops, produce shops, and bakeries that primarily run along Salem Street. (Those with cars can drive to the Stop & Shop in the Government Center or Foodmaster in Charlestown.) Street parking in the North End is unpleasant to say the least, but done with resident sticker. The situation grows even more desperate in the winter, when residents will defend parking spaces they've struggled to shovel out. There are parking provisions for visitors, but those spots are extremely hard to come by; regular visitors often head straight for one of several parking lots and garages in the area.

A word of caution: if it is peace and quiet you are looking for, the North End may not be for you. Many may find the constant hustle and bustle comforting, but with people constantly talking, singing or even yelling in the streets, trucks rumbling through even into the wee hours of the morning, and the occasional sirens of ambulances and fire engines, the North End is a little noisy. The side streets not directly surrounding Hanover Street are less clamorous.

Like many parts of the city, Boston's **Waterfront** neighborhood is being transformed by current city developments. While various city neighborhoods, including Charlestown, Southie, Eastie, and Dorchester, greet the Atlantic, when one hears reference to "the waterfront," it usually means this region along the harbor running from the North End to downtown. Commercial Street and Atlantic Avenue are the boundaries between the North End and the Waterfront. Starting at the Charlestown Bridge, the Waterfront is a mixed-use area with businesses, restaurants, and upscale condos and converted warehouses situated along wharves. Specifically, Constitution, Battery, Lincoln, Union, Sargent's, Lewis, and the North Commercial and South Commercial wharves, make up the **North End**

Waterfront. In addition to the stunning views across the harbor of the USS Constitution, Charlestown, and the incoming and outgoing planes at Logan Airport, the Waterfront is additionally blessed by two parks. The North End Playground, at the northern end next to the Coast Guard Pier, includes tennis and bocce courts, baseball fields, and an outdoor swimming pool and skating rink. At the southern end, at the intersection between the North End and Downtown waterfronts lies Christopher Columbus Park, a patch of green along the water with a fountain and a wisteria and vine arbor.

The wharves: Long, Central, India, Rowes, and Foster, pick up where the North End Waterfront leaves off to continue imperceptibly into the **Downtown Waterfront.** Very much in transition with the Big Dig and the resultant rerouting of traffic through its streets, once the dust settles the Downtown Waterfront will be a great place to call home, particularly if you are working in the nearby Financial District. Even with the continual construction and concurrent noise and air pollution, the Waterfront has managed to consistently attract a social crowd of tourists, diners, and drinkers. With its gorgeous views, proximity to the Financial District, and happening restaurants, this area is popular with Boston's after-work crowd, especially in the summer. On the first warm night of the season and until the last one, the Waterfront bubbles with a happy crowd.

Less residential and more tourist oriented than other Boston enclaves, the Downtown Waterfront is home to a few of the city's more impressive hotels and restaurants. Here, amidst all the water traffic—tour boats, whale watches, water taxis, etc.—you will find the New England Aquarium, the Boston Harbor Hotel, and the Marriott Long Wharf. And lest we forget the Custom House, it stands 16-stories tall, dominating the cityscape with its unforgettable clock tower and housing, of all things, a Marriott.

Web Sites: www.cityofboston.gov, www.northendboston.com, www.northendweb.com

Area Code: 617

Zip Codes: 02113, 02109, 02110

Post Offices: Hanover Street Station, 217 Hanover Street, 617-723-6397; McCormack Station, Post Office Square, 90 Devonshire Street, 617-720-3050; JFK Station, 25 New Chardon Street, 617-523-6566; Lafayette Station, 7 Avenue de Lafayette, 617-423-7822

Police: District A-1, 40 New Sudbury Street, 617-343-4240, www.cityofboston.gov/police

Emergency Hospital: Mass General Hospital, 55 Fruit Street, 617-726-2000, www.mgh.harvard.edu

Library: North End Branch, 25 Parmenter Street, 617-227-8135, www.bpl.org

Parks & Open Space: North End Playground (at Commercial and Foster streets); Christopher Columbus Park (at Atlantic Avenue and Richmond Street); Paul Revere Mall (between Hanover and Unity streets at Tinton Street)

Public Schools: Boston Public Schools, 26 Court Street, 617-635-9000, www.bostonpublicschools.org

Community Resources: Saint Leonard's Community Center, 44 Prince Street, 617-523-0150; Faneuil Hall, 15 State Street; New England Holocaust Memorial; Carmen Park at Congress and Union streets; Haymarket (open on Fridays and Saturdays); Paul Revere and Pierce/Mitchborn House, 19 North Square, 617-523-2338, www.paulreverehouse.org; Old North Church, 193 Salem Street, 617-523-6676; Copp's Hill Burial Ground, Charter Street at Snowhill Street; New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, 617-973-5200, www.neaq.org; Fleet Center, 1 Fleet Center Place, 617-624-1050, www.fleetcenter.com; North End Business Alliance, www.northendboston.com/neba

Public Transportation: **North End Trains:** Orange and Green lines at Haymarket; Green and Blue Lines at Government Center; Green Line and commuter rail at North Station; **Waterfront Trains:** Blue Line at Aquarium

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Boats: note: you must differentiate the public transportation listed here from the tour boats (cruises, whale watches, harbor tour) and privately owned water taxis that stop on many points along the harbor: Rowes Wharf-Hewitt's Cove, Hingham (MBTA); Rowes Wharf-Logan Airport (Massport); Long Wharf-Charlestown (MBTA); Long Wharf-Pemberton Point, Hull (MBTA); Long Wharf-Quincy Ship Yard-Logan Airport (Harbor Express); www.mbsa.com

ROSLINDALE

Boundaries: **North:** VFW Parkway and Arnold Arboretum; **East:** Forest Hills Cemetery and Mt. Hope Cemetery; **South:** Stony Brook Reservation; **West:** West Roxbury Parkway and Centre Street

CENTRE STREET

ROSLINDALE SQUARE/ROSLINDALE VILLAGE

Although Roslindale is not serviced by the subway (buses and commuter trains run here) and parts have a very suburban feel, it is a part of Boston. Like