



The Wayfarer

By Dawn M. Wayand

Celebrating Independence in Boston



When we think of the 4th of July, we think of independence and freedom. I recently went to Boston and walked the Freedom Trail - a trail which marked our road to freedom long ago. The Freedom Trail has 19 stops along a 4-mile trek. I was lucky enough to have beautiful weather to accompany the ample amount of exercise during the journey I was about to embark on. The Trail starts at the Boston Common.

In 1634, after settlement was only four years old, the town fathers paid the Rev. William Blackstone £30 for this property. In 1640, it was set aside as common land. This country's oldest public park has served as a cow pasture, a military camp and a site for hangings. Across the street is the Massachusetts State House, of which cornerstone was laid in 1795 by Gov. Samuel Adams. This is where the state legislature and the House of Representatives meet. Just around the corner is the Park Street Church, which has an impressive number of firsts: (1) the first missionaries to Hawaii left from here in 1819; (2) the prominent abolitionist William Lloyd

Garrison gave his first antislavery speech here on July 4, 1829; and (3) "America" (commonly known as "My Country 'Tis of Thee") was first sung here on July 4, 1831. Alongside the church is the Old Granary Burying Grounds which was established in 1660 and was once part of Boston Common.



In this cemetery, the graves of patriots Samuel Adams, Paul Revere, John Hancock, James Otis, merchant Peter Faneuil and Benjamin Franklin's parents can be found. Down the street is King's Chapel & Burying Grounds which was completed in 1754. It was the first Anglican church in Boston and the oldest in the city, dating to 1630. The next stop is the First Public School & Ben Franklin Statue.

Founded in 1634, two years before Harvard College, this spot marks the site of the first public school in the country. A few steps from it is the Old Corner Bookstore. Built in 1718, this building is on the land of

which the religious reformer Anne Hutchinson resided. Today the building houses the Boston Globe Store.

Next is the Old South Meeting House, where on December 16, 1773, a crowd of several thousand - too big to fit into Faneuil Hall - gathered here. They were waiting for word from the governor whether ships full of tea would be sent back to England from Boston.

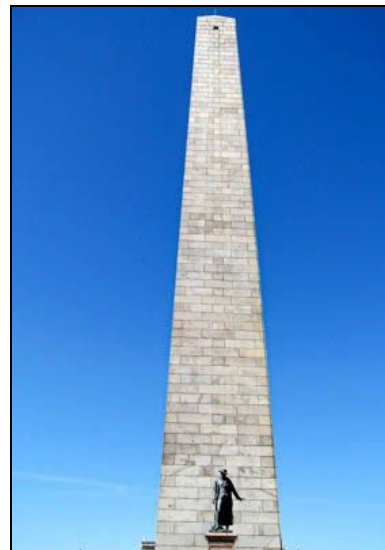
The meeting house commemorates the uprising known as the Boston Tea Party. From there is the Old State House, built in 1713, which served as the seat of the government before the Revolution, and as the state capitol until 1797. On July 18, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was first read to Bostonians from the balcony of this building. The Boston Massacre Site, now noted by a ring of cobblestones on a traffic island, marks the site where on March 5, 1770, colonists angered at the presence of royal troops in Boston, threw rocks, debris, etc. at a group of redcoats.



One of the most notorious stops on the trail is Faneuil Hall, which was built in 1742. This building was a gift to the town from prosperous merchant Peter Faneuil. Speeches by orators such as Samuel Adams were given here. A 15-20 minute walk from there is the Paul Revere House - the oldest

house in downtown Boston. It was built around 1680, bought by Revere in 1770, and put to a number of uses before being turned into a museum in the early 20th century. Around the corner is the oldest church building in Boston, built around 1723 - the Old North Church. Up the hill from there is Copp's Hill Burying Ground, the highest point in the North End. Copp's Hill was the site

of a windmill and of the British batteries that destroyed the village of Charlestown during the Battle of Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775. A 20-minute walk from there is the U.S.S. Constitution & Charlestown Navy Yard. "Old Ironsides", one of the U.S. Navy's six original frigates, never lost a battle. The ship was constructed in the North End from 1794 to 1797 at a cost of \$302,718. The frigate earned its nickname during an engagement on August 19, 1812, when shots bounced off its thick oak hull as if it were iron.



The last stop on the trail is the Bunker Hill Monument. This 221-foot granite obelisk honors the memory of the colonists who died in the Battle of Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775.

The Freedom Trail was a long journey (8 miles roundtrip), but it was an even longer journey for our

ancestors who brought us to where we are today. It's definitely worth a trek while visiting Boston. Happy 4th!

Staying in Boston

Hotels in Boston are not cheap by any means. Even the hostels are a bit pricey. So if you are going to spend the money, go ahead and spend it on a nice place rather than a questionable place. I've had impressive stays in the past at:

Hyatt Harborside
 101 Harborside Drive, Boston, MA 02128
 (617) 568-1234

Wyndham Boston
 89 Broad Street, Boston, MA 02110
 Phone: (617) 556-0006

Traditional North End Italian



Ever go to a restaurant where afterwards, you go home and try to reproduce the recipe of the dish you tried? If you don't see or hear from me for a while, that is precisely what I am doing. This hidden away gem not only served me the best Italian dish ever, but at the same time, the best seafood dish ever.

For an idea of what I ordered (and what my boyfriend decided he liked better than his own dinner!), I had what was a seasonal dish called Raviolini Aperto. At \$21, this dish consisted of a giant open-faced ravioli draped over sea scallops, shrimp and fresh zucchini in a lobster mascarpone cream.

Terramia is a small, very quiet and romantic restaurant located in the North End of Boston, relished with tabletop candles, beautiful wooden furniture and a very polite waitstaff. The menu is a little pricey, but worth every penny.

Terramia Ristorante

98 Salem Street, North End, Boston, MA
617-523-3112