AMERICA'S 20 GREATEST CITIES

...AND HOW TO DO THEM!

Nowhere does urban thrills like the USA.
And from uptown NYC to beachside LA,
we know the hottest joints in town

Illustration: Telegramme
Boston

**Why go?** Home of Harvard and JFK, clam chowder capital, tinderbox of the Revolution… Boston blends prepyness and coastal delights with historic sites. And you can do it all in two or three days.

**Your first 48 hours:** Kick off at tea party Boston Common, starting point of the Freedom Trail (thefreedomtrail.org), a 4km walk connecting Revolution hotspots, including the grave of John Hancock and Paul Revere’s home. The trail ends in the North End, an Italian neighbourhood dotted with cannoli bakeries and old-school pasta joints, including Bricco Bricco.com, mains about £38. But, for a first lunch, there’s no beating honey-butter-soaked Johnnycake (cornmeal flatbread) with smoked bluefish at Neptune Oyster Bar (neptuneoyster.com, mains about £23).

Later, try a whale-watching cruise from nearby Long Wharf (bostonharbor cruises.com, £44). Or hop in a cab west and wander past vibed John Singleton Copley portraits and Tiffany stained-glass windows at the Museum of Fine Arts (mfa.org, £39). As evening falls, wind up with a hot dog and game at vintage baseball stadium Fenway Park (boston.redsox.com/fenway/tours, £38, tickets from £18).

Next morning, head to Boston from Harvard (harvard.edu, where a free student-led tour whisks you through the grand buildings and tree-shaded grounds. Now hop on the subway to the JFK Presidential Library and Museum (jfklibrary.org, £18). Exhibits explore the late president’s life—worth it even if you’re not a politics geek.

Later, see Seaport, Boston’s refurbished industrial district, and the residential South End. On Sundays, SoWa Market (sowabooston.com) fuses art, street food and lawn games, but every day of the week you can enjoy the edgy Institute of Contemporary Art (ica boston.org, £18), craft beers at Trillium Brewing (trilliumbrewing.com), and the handsome brownstones by Tremont Street. Nearby are some of the city’s finest restaurants: try Sportello for silky pastas (sportelloboston.com, mains about £28) or Row 34 for yummy oysters, clams and buttery lobster rolls (row34.com, mains about £15).

**Stay Longer:** Beyond the city lie some of Massachusetts’s finest assets, such as scenic Cape Cod, quaint Martha’s Vineyard Island and historic Plymouth Rock. Or try Salem, famed for its 17th-century witch trials. Take the train from North Station (about £15 return) for its clapboard houses and Peabody Essex Museum (peermuseum.org, £15).

**Book It:** Virgin Atlantic flies direct from Heathrow and Manchester for £279 return. Omni Parker House Hotel is where JFK proposed to Jackie (rooms from £108, ecn) and the Envoy Hotel (ihg.com, doubles from £125, ecn) has the city’s best rooftop bar. 

Alicia Miller