CYNTHIA McEVOY

BOSTON — The display case in the lobby is the first sign that there’s nothing common about the Hotel Commonwealth. Peek inside and see the third base from Game 1 of the 1986 World Series — and we’re Cardinal A Ball from Game 2 of the 2018 ALCS! Then turn around to spot a baseball-painted ceiling. Inside, read autographs from dozens of Major League Baseball personalities past and present — Mookie Betts, Roger Clemens, Keith Hernandez, Bob Costas. But the cream of this Boston hotel’s pie is inside my guest room. Not the welcome gift of Crackers Jacks, baseball cards, Coke bottles and Baby Ruths — though that’s all cool. No, it’s on the other side of the baseball-stitching curtians. There, all in green glory, looms one of the true gems of the sporting world — Fenway Park.

Hotel Commonwealth is, after all, the official hotel of the Boston Red Sox. Located in the heart of Kenmore Square, practically in the shadow of the famous Citgo sign and conveniently next to a T station, the independently operated hotel (hotelcommonwealth.com) provides an excellent getaway for all things Fenway-related. You don’t have to be a Boston fan to enjoy them, though it doesn’t hurt.

"We’re the only place outside of Fenway Park where [the Red Sox] display any of their rare items," hotel general manager Adam Specter says. "If you’re in our lobby, you’re likely to see Red Sox legends that may have on a regular basis."

The collaboration with the team also means the recently renovated and expanded hotel is the only one that offers packages with tickets, he adds. One of them, the Champions Package, is now this year coming of the team’s World Series win. It features, among other perks, a private pregame tour of Fenway, two game tickets and a personalized scoreboard message.

The hotel also has two restaurants — Eastern Standard Kitchen and Drinks and Island Creek Oyster Bar — and a craft cocktail bar, The Hawthorne.

The oldest operating park in the majors is a mere 10-minute walk away and it’s every bit as magical as you imagine. Opened on April 19, 1912, the venue looks and feels old-school, simply-privileged. When you’re there, don’t expect luxury. Simply savor the baseball experience in its purest form.

Taking one of the daily round Fenway Park tours before securing a game ticket, let us say you don’t feel in all its wackily angles to choose your desired seat.

"The tour is full of fun facts; it’s all about the lone red seat in the bleachers, the initials on the scoreboard in Morse code, and why the foul poles are named Fisk and Pesky."

Our guide tells us about the Great Minnehaha (authentic pronunciation) and how it was first erected in 1913 to protect againstohn the broken glass from the 1912 World Series.

TIP FOR YOUR TRIP

After a delicious crab cake at Summer Grille or D’Artagnan SL, I walked along the grand Commonwealth Avenue Mall, lined with stately trees and adorned with statues, through the beautiful Boston Public Garden to Boston Common. I then explored the neighboring Granary Burying Ground, final resting place for such patriots as Paul Revere, Samuel Adams and John Hancock.

This city embraces history.

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