



# Newcomers' SURVIVAL GUIDE

# Welcome to Boston



Top of the Hub

by Clint Hamblin

Boston is unique, historic, cultural, a city that attracts more than 20 million tourists, students and new residents every year, but first-time visitors to this celebrated city can have quite a challenge getting around this maze of one-way streets and detours. How many wrong turns must you make before you realize you can't get there from here? If I'm here, how do I get there?

Try thinking vertically, suggests Stacy Shreffler, media relations and tourism sales manager for the Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau. "The best way to become familiar with Boston is to understand how the city is laid out," she said. Shreffler recommends taking a trip 50-plus floors up to the top of the Prudential Building, where you can see 360-degree views of Greater Boston and beyond from the Skywalk Observatory.

"You can see where Back Bay is, Fenway Park or the South End," Shreffler said, and she is correct. The views are not only breathtaking, but you'll also understand the relationship between streets and

neighborhoods, and on a clear day, you can see Cambridge or the Blue Hills in Milton. For more details, take advantage of the state-of-the-art Antenna Audio Tour detailing the city's many points of historic and cultural interest.

While you're at the Prudential Center, stop by The Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau located at Center Court where you can pick up a BostonUSA Special card featuring a foldout map of the city. The brochures will recommend where to dine, tours and attractions, brochures and maps, including walking maps. There's another center on Tremont Street adjacent to Park Street T station on the Boston Common.

The Old Town Trolley Tours continue to provide sightseeing excursions highlighting the best of Boston. If you see something you'd like to explore, hop off the trolley and go for it. You can get back on when you're ready to move on. It's a good deal and a great way to see the city.

But the best way to become familiar with Boston is to get out those walking shoes and explore. Take a stroll down Newbury

Street, Back Bay's Rodeo Drive. Enjoy the Boston Common on your way to historic Beacon Hill. If you're looking for entertainment, cross over the Hill to the Theatre District and buy a ticket for a Broadway show or keep going to the South End and check out a performance at the Calderwood Pavilion.

"I usually get around on the T, and sometimes I drive," said Nicole Christian, a new resident at Massachusetts General Hospital. "I'm from Philadelphia, but I love Boston," Christian said. "There's always something to do and never a dull moment, but traffic can be a bear."

Every free moment, Christian tries to learn about Boston by exploring the city. "I check out the newspapers to see what's going on. I love to study in the Boston Common and my mom and I especially love the ducks," she said. "Last weekend, we explored the North End and discovered Mike's Pastry and there's a Boston Arts Festival coming up that I'm looking forward to attending."

Christian's residency is for child psychiatry and will take five years to finish.



Alicia Christian and daughter Nicole Christian visiting the Public Garden

"After I've completed my residency, I may just stay in Boston," she said. "It's a lot like Philadelphia, but there's so much more to do here – and there's food everywhere."

If you're looking for world-class museums, the best restaurants, great theater and historic places, Boston has it all. You just have to get out there and find it. But before you go out and about, familiarize yourself with the local lingo using our dictionary on page 26.



View from Prudential Skywalk

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