Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism, Sample 4-Day Itinerary Boston + Cape Cod

Day 1

Arrival to Boston, MA – Boston Logan International Airport

From Logan International Airport, if you are staying in Boston’s Bay Back at Copley Square, you can take the Massport Express Shuttle


If you are staying on the Harborfront, you can take a Water Taxi directly to the harbor hotels.

Link: [http://bostonwatertransportation.com/watertaxis.html](http://bostonwatertransportation.com/watertaxis.html)

Welcome to Boston, Massachusetts! The greater Boston area is a wonderful blend of stylish sophistication and historic New England charm. Attend one of our renowned events, uncover Boston’s history by walking our famous Freedom Trail, dine in one of our new restaurants (or dine in an old favorite), shop anywhere from upscale boutiques on Newbury Street to premium outlet malls a short distance from downtown Boston, take a tour... the possibilities are endless!

Transfer & Early Check-In Hotel – Downtown Boston

Some Sample Hotels:

(Public Garden/Beacon Hill/Theatre)  
The Taj Boston, Four Seasons Boston Hotel, Ritz Carlton Boston Common, XV Beacon Hotel, W Boston

(Back Bay near Copley Square/Prudential)  
Mandarin Oriental, Lenox Hotel, The Eliot, Fairmont Copley Plaza, Sheraton Boston, Marriott Copley, Westin Copley

(Harbor) Boston Harbor Hotel, InterContinental Boston

Morning Visit, Boston Public Garden – America’s First Public Botanical Garden

Take the Freedom Trail Tour from Boston Common Visitor Center ending at Faneuil Hall Marketplace

Explore one of the most important marketplaces in Boston’s history, Faneuil Hall Marketplace, also known as “The Cradle of Liberty”.

Faneuil Hall Marketplace is four great places in one location - Faneuil Hall, Quincy Market, North Market and South Market all set around a cobblestone promenade filled with music and jaw-dropping routines of world-renowned street performers and musicians. It was built in 1742, and is a center for history and shopping, with over 70 retailers. Located steps away from the waterfront, Faneuil Hall Marketplace is alive today as it was in 1742 when our nation’s fathers proclaimed it “The Cradle of Liberty.”
Enjoy Lunch on Waterfront

Take an Early Afternoon Sail to Boston Harbor Islands

Option - Visit, Tea Party Ships & Museums (Closes at 5:00 PM)
306 Congress Street Bridge, Boston, MA 02210
Telephone: 617-338-1773
http://www.bostonteapartyship.com

The Boston Tea Party, the “single most important event leading up to the American Revolution” occurred the night of December 16th, 1773. The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum, owned and operated by Historic Tours of America, is dedicated to accurately reliving that famous event. With a new state-of-the-art museum and authentic replica ships; the Beaver and the Eleanor; the attraction allows visitors to travel back in time to learn and experience the courageous acts of those who forever shaped the course of history!

Option - Visit, John F. Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum (Closes at 5:00 PM)
220 William T Morrissey Blvd., Boston, MA 02125
Telephone: 617-514-1600
http://www.jfklibrary.org

You may take the Red Line T OUTBOUND to the JFK / UMASS stop. From there, there is a shuttle bus to the JFK Presidential Library & Museum that runs every 20 mintues.

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum is dedicated to the memory of our nation’s thirty-fifth president and to all those who through the art of politics seek a new and better world. One of Boston’s most popular destinations for visitors from all nations, the architectural masterpiece designed by I.M. Pei sits on a 10-acre waterfront site on Columbia Point offering panoramic views of Boston’s skyline and Harbor Islands.

Option: Visit, Institute of Contemporary Art
Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday: 10 AM – 5 PM
Open Thursday, Friday: 10 AM – 9 PM
100 Northern Avenue, Boston, MA
Telephone: 617-478-3100
http://www.icaboston.org

Built in 2006 by award-winning architects Diller Scofidio + Renfro, the ICA’s design is as if you could conceive the building both “from the sky down,” as a contemplative space for experiencing contemporary art, and “from the ground up,” providing dynamic areas for public enjoyment. The design weaves together interior and exterior space, producing shifting perspectives of the waterfront throughout the museum’s galleries and public spaces.
Return to Hotel and Change for Evening

Enjoy a Sunset View from Above & Visit to Skywalk Observatory (Closes at 10 PM)

The Prudential Center Skywalk Observatory is the only observatory in New England offering a breathtaking 360-degree panoramic view of the Greater Boston area and beyond.

Dinner in South End and Show in Theatre District

South End

The South End of Boston is a multicultural, vibrant urban neighborhood. Start your journey in front of the Boston Center for the Arts (BCA) at 539 Tremont Street. Here you will find a lively mix of restaurants, shops and theaters.

Option in Theatre District: Blue Man Group

Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston, MA 02116
Telephone: 617-426-6912
http://www.blueman.com

Blue Man Group is a euphoric exploration of art, technology and music and creates a form of entertainment that defies categorization and appeals to people of all ages. Blue Man Group’s shows have been described by critics as “innovative,” “energetic” and “wildly entertaining.”

Option: Enjoy a Show at Wang Theatre: City Performing Arts Center

http://www.citicenter.org/

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Wang Theatre has housed the performing arts since opening in 1925, developing from a movie “cathedral” and home to vaudeville musicals and big bands, to today’s role as an impressive venue for world-class theatre, music, Broadway, and dance. Through the generosity of Dr. An and Lorraine Wang, the Theatre was restored to its former glory in 1983. Today the Wang Theatre holds 3,500 audience members and boasts one of the five largest stages in the country.

Return to Hotel, Overnight Boston
Day 2

Breakfast, Hotel

Take the T to Harvard Square on the Red Line

Morning Tour: Harvard University and/or MIT

Option: Trademark Tours
http://www.trademarktours.com/

Stroll the country’s campus with a guide to learn the tales of nearly 400 years of Harvard history. Trademark Tours provides premier tour, event and program services at the finest universities and historic destinations. Harvard Alumni founded the company in 2006 to offer entertaining and educational tours of Harvard. Today, Trademark Tours is the leading tour operator at Harvard and MIT. Tours are led by current undergraduate students and professional tour guides. Products have been praised in dozens of major news outlets including: The NY Times, NPR, NBC, Forbes, AAA Magazine, the History Channel, and the Boston Globe

Option: Cambridge Historical Tours
http://cambridgehistoricaltours.org/

Cambridge Historical Tours was founded in 2011 by Daniel Berger-Jones and Christopher Schultz, both Players on Boston’s Freedom Trail at the time. Recognizing the untapped potential of Cambridge’s rich history, they decided to cross the river and bring with them the enthusiasm and immediacy of costumed tours. Where Boston’s history is dominated by the American Revolution, Cambridge has a wealth of stories from over 375 years of being America’s first college town. Home to abolitionists, literary luminaries, and of course, the nation’s oldest institution of higher learning, Cambridge helped to shape our national identity in its formative years. Where there are politicians, philosophers, and collegiate rebels in close proximity, there are countless tales to tell.

At Leisure Explore Harvard Square Local Shops and Harvard Coop Bookstore

In the European tradition, the “Squares” of Cambridge are charming neighborhoods rich in fine dining, eclectic shopping, theaters, museums and historical sites, each with a personality all its own, offering a unique selection of everything from restaurants, shopping and music to technology and innovation. http://www.cambridgeusa.org/

Take T to The Outlets at Assembly Row for Lunch, Shopping and Visit to LEGOLAND
100 Foley Street, Somerville, MA 02145
www.assemblyrow.com / www.federalrealty.com

Opened on May 30, 2014, The Outlets at Assembly Row is Boston’s newest premiere-brand outlet, dining and entertainment village located just 8 minutes from downtown Boston with plenty of options for groups and FIT clients. The site also includes the new $2.8M LEGOLAND Discovery Center, a beautiful six-acre park along the Mystic River and a 12 screen movie complex. Voucher programs for discounts, commissionable shopping packages and group dining programs are available. Come and see why this is one of the most exciting developments in the Northeast.

Late Afternoon/Early Evening: Return to Downtown Boston

Dinner: Beacon Hill

Return To Hotel - Overnight, Boston
Day 3

Early Morning Drive from Boston to Plymouth, MA (1 Hour Drive)

**Visit & Lunch, Plimoth Plantation**
137 Warren Avenue, Plymouth, MA 02360
Telephone: (508) 746-1622

Telling the iconic story of Plymouth Colony was the fulfillment of a young archaeologist’s boyhood dream. With help and support from friends, family and business associates, Henry Hornblower II started the Museum in 1947 as two English cottages and a fort on Plymouth’s historic waterfront. Since then the Museum has grown to include Mayflower II (1957), the English Village (1959), the Wampanoag Homesite (1973), the Hornblower Visitor Center (1987), the Craft Center (1992), the Maxwell and Nye Barns (1994) and the Plimoth Grist Mill (2013).

Drive to Sandwich, MA (45 Minutes)

**Option: Visit, Heritage Museums & Gardens + Antique Cars Exhibition**
67 Grove Street, Sandwich, MA 02563

Heritage Museums & Gardens is comprised of three galleries and expansive gardens located in historic Sandwich, Massachusetts. It includes galleries for American Folk Art, a vintage carousel, automobiles and traveling exhibitions. The gardens feature a collection of thousands of rhododendrons, including a collection of the world-renowned Dexter variety. The grounds also include the Old East Mill, a windmill built in Orleans, Massachusetts in 1800, and extensively restored in 1999-2000. In 2002, a labyrinth was also added to the grounds, designed by Marty Cain, one of the best-known labyrinth designers in North America. Also located on the grounds is the Hart Family Maze Garden and the Cape Cod Hydrangea Garden.

**Option: Sandwich Glass Museum**

Enjoy an exhibit of glass making and the famous collectible glassware that was made here. They offer daily glass blowing demonstrations and a beautiful gift shop. Area art studios also offer glass art and glass blowing demonstrations.

**Activity Option: Rent Bicycles – National Seashore**

**Visit, National Seashore, Eastham, MA**
[http://www.nps.gov/caco/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/caco/index.htm)

Eastham is a quintessential paradise, where the Outer Cape begins. Originally called Nauset until 350 years ago, on June 7, 1651, by the court in Plymouth, its name was forever changed to Eastham. It is a narrow strip of rural country with marshes, ponds, bogs, and forests that are unharmed by time. It is bordered on the east with miles of the majestic Atlantic Ocean, and on its west by Cape Cod Bay.

**Explore Shops on Main Street in Chatham**

Chatham is a delightful small town that is located on Cape Cod’s “elbow” and is surrounded by the ocean from the north to the South West of the town.

**Mid-Cape Option for Hotel Accommodations could include: Chatham Bars Inn**

Dinner and Evening Sail
Day 4

Breakfast

Morning Option: Depart for Provincetown from Mid-Cape

Places and Things to See & Do in Provincetown

Art's Dune Tours
www.artsdunetours.com

A dune tour is one of the most iconic and unique experiences in all Provincetown. Passengers are transported in a Suburban out into the Province Lands' dunescape for an unforgettable experience. See the flora and fauna of this singular place, unsullied and deserted by all but you and your fellow passengers. This is a truly unforgettable experience, not to be missed, during which one can also see some of the 19 "dune shacks" which have recently become a national historic landmarks. There are narrated one-hour excursions all day long from April to October. On a dune tour, passengers will see some of the famous dune shacks; see below. Tours are all narrated and run at 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2:30pm, 4pm and 6:45pm (sunset tour).

About DUNE SHACKS

At the very tip of Cape Cod, is home to 19 rustic "dune shacks" within the Province Lands 'dunescape.' These dune shacks were originally erected by the Life Saving Service—precursor to the Coast Guard—as shelters for seamen. This group of dune shacks was built during the late 19th century along a three-mile stretch of mountainous dunes and alternating valleys of scrub pine from Race Point to High Head in Truro. It is a rare and beautiful terrain, incredible dunes anchored by a thin layer of beach grass which remains effectively undeveloped.

These shacks have no electricity, no running water, no toilets, no modern conveniences whatsoever. They are located within the dunes and are desolate and lonely. It is believed that such a Spartan environment provides inspiration for artists and writers. The shacks were later summer hideaways and artistic retreats for painters, poets, writers, socialites and vagabonds who wanted or needed a place to get away from it all. In the 1930s and 1940s, artists from Provincetown, enamored with the promise of quiet summers by the beach, reclaimed these shacks for their own use. Most notably, Eugene O'Neill, who launched his career in Provincetown in 1916, bought the old Peaked Hill Life Saving Station and lived there for a number of years with his wife, Agnes Boulton. O'Neill's home was thus the anchor of the sudden arts community, which sprung up in the dunes in the early decades of the 20th century. O'Neill's shack (which was a veritable palace compared to its neighbors) was host to some of the greatest minds of its day: novelist John Dos Passos, critic Edmund Wilson, and fellow playwright Susan Glaspell were among its regular visitors. O'Neill authored several of his best works here including Anna Christie (1920) and The Hairy Ape (1921). His presence among the dunes along with fellow artists, such as Harry Kemp, self-titled 'poet of the dunes,' who wrote exhaustively of this habitat's ethereal beauty, and Hazel Hawthorne-Werner, who authored The Salt House (1929), an account of her adventures in the dunes, earned the shacks a place in the National Register of Historic Places. Some other notable tenants include Jack Kerouac, e.e. Cummings, Eugene O'Neill, Norman Mailer and Jackson Pollack. This appellation will preserve their existence and use for future generations. In the 21st century, as part of the Cape Cod National Seashore, Province Lands continue as a place of unequalled beauty and remoteness.

The dune district was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1989. Seventeen of the shacks here have been the property of the National Park Service since 1961; one is privately owned. In the years since it acquired the shacks, the park service has developed long-term leasing agreements with a variety of tenants. It also leases shacks to two local arts organizations: the Provincetown Community Compact, a nonprofit group, and the Peaked Hill Trust, a preservation organization devoted to the dunes. Since 1996 these groups have operated the Artist-in-Residence program here, which provides shacks to artists for brief residencies during the summer.
Lunch & Explore Commercial Street in Provincetown – Art Galleries & Boutiques

Commercial Street: A three–mile long mercantile cultural street along which visitors will find galleries, restaurants, unusual boutiques, museums, banks, coffee shops, pizzerias, and a huge assortment of local color. Here one sees fishermen, other visitors, grad queens, families, and people and pets from all over the world and from all walks of life interacting like family and being and allowing one another to enjoy life and march to whatever individual drummer he or she hears!

Option: Whale Watch - The Dolphin Fleet of Provincetown, at the tip of Cape Cod
http://www.whalewatch.com/

Alternative Morning Option: Whale Watch, Hyannis Whale Watcher Cruises
(3-4 Hours)
269 Millway, Barnstable, MA 02630
Telephone: (508) 362-6088
http://www.whales.net/

The jet-powered, state of the art vessel, “Whale Watcher”, will carry you to Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary for an unforgettable encounter with the whales. The seasonal home to Humpback, Finback, Minke whales and several dolphin species, the waters around Cape Cod consistently rank as one of the world’s top 10 whale watching destinations. With 30 years of experience, and a sighting rate of 99%, Hyannis Whale Watcher Cruises looks forward to serving you on a whale watching adventure of a lifetime.

Visit, Truro Vineyards
http://trurovineyardsofcapecod.com

Truro Vineyards has been in existence since 1992 but the house and the estate date back nearly two centuries. Built in 1813, the square dignified Federal house was part of a farm from its earliest beginnings. First owned by John and Hannah Hughes, the property was later purchased by Captain Atkins Hughes. It was in turn given to his daughter, Amelia and her husband Michael Rich. Rich became a prosperous farmer selling grain, coal and milk from the estate. His hard work and ambition earned Michael the reputation of being “the busiest man in the village”. In 1930 famed artist Edward Hopper was inspired by the property and painted “Rich’s House”. He returned a year later to paint “Rich’s Barn”. During the 1940’s Elton and Margaret Rich were in stewardship of the property. During that time the Richs produced magnificent cantaloupes grown in the estate’s warm, well drained sandy soil. Later, this same soil and site would prove to be a perfect spot for growing grapes. In 1964 the property was sold to Burton and Maxine Rice. The Chinese Mulberry tree that graces the property to the right of the front door was brought over by a ship’s captain around 1850. It has been carefully preserved and maintained. Our most frequently asked question is not about our wines, but rather: “What kind of tree is that?”

Alternative Day Visit: Nantucket or Martha’s Vineyard

Dinner

Overnight Option: Stay in Provincetown or Back in Mid-Cape Area