

Anna's Little Boston Guide '08



Dear International Friends,

When I arrived in Boston 14 months ago, I felt overwhelmed by this beautiful city and everything it has to offer. As time passed by I got to know Boston and some of its neighborhoods (especially Cambridge, where I live) better and even found some places I like to go back again and again.

With this guide I would like to share my favorite places to eat, shop and get away and hope that you will enjoy them as much as I do.

Please note that everything I list in this guide is my personal selection. If you have any questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me: bugaanna@gmail.com

Enjoy discovering Boston!

Anna

Cambridge, October 2008

My Favorite Cafés & Restaurants

- **"Peet's Coffee & Tea", 100 Mount Auburn Street, Cambridge**
 - => www.peets.com
 - => great coffee & tea selection, coffee & tea supplies, pastry
 - => small but cozy; buy ground coffee and get a free cup of coffee (or a coupon for it)
- **"L.A. Burdick", 52-D Brattle Street, Cambridge**
 - => www.burdickchocolate.com/stores-and-cafes-cambridge.asp
 - => handmade chocolate, pastry, hot chocolate, coffee
 - => very European and cozy; perfect spot for meeting a friend or reading
- **"Oggi", Holyoke Center Arcade, 1350 Mass. Ave., Cambridge**
 - => www.oggigourmet.com
 - => coffee, breakfast, pizza
 - => busy location but still cozy
- **"Dado Tea", 2 locations in Cambridge**
 - => www.dadotea.com
 - => tea, coffee, wraps, sandwiches, pastries
 - => the wraps are really made with love!
- **"Finale", 30 Dunster St., Cambridge**
 - => www.finaledesserts.com
 - => amazing desserts, lunch, coffee
 - => have a small soup for lunch and a big piece of cake for dessert
- **"Berryline", 3 Arrow St., Cambridge**
 - => www.theberryline.com
 - => frozen yoghurt, coffee
 - => several yoghurt flavors to choose from every day
- **"Simon's Coffee Shop", 1736 Mass. Av., Cambridge**
 - => www.simonscoffeeshop.com
 - => coffee, lunch, pastry
 - => interesting artwork on the walls
- **"Petsi Pies", 2 locations in Cambridge**
 - => www.petsipies.com
 - => fresh pies, pastry, coffee
 - => perfect location for a sweet breakfast

- **“Darwin’s Ltd”, 2 locations in Cambridge**
=> www.darwinsltd.com
=> outstanding sandwich selection, pastry, coffee
=> good place for reading or working but often busy
- **“Good Food Café”, 2378 Mass. Ave., Cambridge**
=> www.jimsgoodfood.com
=> coffee, sandwiches, pastries;
=> plenty of space; perfect for strollers
- **“Singa Bella Café”, 2401 Mass. Ave., Cambridge**
=> www.yelp.com/biz/singa-bella-cafe-cambridge
=> Mediterranean food, coffee, ice cream
=> plenty of space, lovely music in the background, perfect cup of cappuccino
- **“1369 Coffee House”, 2 locations in Cambridge**
=> www.1369coffeehouse.com
=> coffee, pastries, soups, snacks
=> different board games available
- **“Panera Bread”, several locations in Boston/ Cambridge area**
=> www.panerabread.com
=> coffee, soups, salads, sandwiches, fresh bread, pastries
=> plenty of space but still cozy
- **“Oxford Spa”, 102 Oxford St., Cambridge**
=> <http://www.yelp.com/biz/oxford-spa-cambridge>
=> sandwiches, coffee, pastries
=> great homemade coffee cake
- **“Toscanini’s”, 899 Main Street, Cambridge**
=> www.tosci.com
=> ice cream, coffee, breakfast at the weekend
=> flavors you have never heard of; try some samples before you decide what to take
- **“Daedalus”, 45 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge**
=> www.daedalusharvardsquare.com
=> lunch, dinner, bar
=> nice sitting area outside
- **“Chez Henri”, 1 Shepard St., Cambridge**
=> www.chezhenri.com
=> modern French bistro
=> quite expensive but great for special occasions

- **“Block 11 Café”, 11 Bow St., Somerville**
=> www.yelp.com/biz/bloc-11-cafe-somerville
=> coffee, sandwiches, pastries
=> plenty of space
- **“True Grounds”, 7171 Broadway, Somerville**
=> www.truegrounds.com
=> coffee, lunch, pastries
=> great for reading and working
- **“The Biscuit”, 406 Washington St., Somerville**
=> www.inmansquare.com/tosca
=> lunch, sweets, coffee, fresh bread, ice cream
=> lovely sitting area outside
- **“Diesel Café”, 257 Elm St., Somerville**
=> www.diesel-cafe.com
=> coffee, sandwiches, pastries
=> perfect for meeting a lot of friends, plenty of space
- **“Café Rustica”, 356 Beacon St., Somerville**
=> www.yelp.com/biz/cafe-rustica-somerville
=> coffee, soups, salads, sandwiches
=> very friendly owners, cappuccino almost like in Italy
- **“Snappy Sushi”, 420 Highland Ave., Somerville and 144 Newbury St., Boston**
=> www.snappysushi.com
=> brown rice sushi; small but very cozy
- **“The Bristol Lounge” at the “Four Seasons Hotel”, Boylston Street, Boston**
=> www.fourseasons.com
=> afternoon tea, lunch, dinner
=> beautiful, cozy sitting area; great for special occasions
- **“Café Polonia”, 611 Dorchester Av., South Boston**
=> www.cafepolonia.com
=> Polish cuisine
=> very small but very cozy; Polish supermarket nearby
- **“L’Aroma Café”, 85 Newbury St., Boston**
=> www.laromacafe.com
=> coffee, soups, sandwiches, pastries
=> perfect location for a break after shopping on Newbury Street

My Favorite Shops

- **"Iggy's Bread", 130 Fawcett St., Cambridge**
 - => www.iggysbread.com
 - => bread, pastries
 - => almost like a European bakery; try cranberry-pecan rolls
- **"Lyndell's", 720 Broadway, Somerville**
 - => bread, cakes, pastries
 - => if you need a birthday cake, this is a good place to get it
- **"When Pigs Fly", 378b Highland Ave, Somerville**
 - => www.sendbread.com
 - => fresh bread from Maine
 - => samples of all types of breads offered in the store!
- **"Whole Foods", several locations in Boston/ Cambridge**
 - => www.wholefoodsmarket.com
 - => natural and organic grocery
- **"Trader Joe's", several locations in Boston/ Cambridge**
 - => www.traderjoes.com
 - => natural and organic grocery; often cheaper than "Whole Foods"
- **"Cambridge Naturals", 23 White St. (Porter Sq. Shopping Centre), Cambridge**
 - => www.cambridgenaturals.com
 - => vitamins, herbs, natural remedies and body care products
- **"MIT student furniture exchange"**
 - => web.mit.edu/womensleague/fx
 - => second hand furniture and household items
 - => Harvard or MIT ID is required
- **Discount stores with many locations:**
 - "T.J. Maxx" (www.tjmaxx.com)
 - "Marshalls" (www.marshallsonline.com)
 - "Filene's Basement" (www.filenesbasement.com)
 - "Family Dollar" (www.familydollar.com)
 - => all stores offer great discounts on clothes, accessories, some household items

- **Malls:**
 - **Cambridgeside Galleria** (www.cambridgesidegalleria.com)
 - **Prudential Centre** (www.prudentialcenter.com)

=> visit one of the malls on a cold winter day. Prudential Centre mall is huge; Cambridgeside Galleria is smaller but perhaps a bit cozier
- **"Porter Square Books", 25 White Street (Porter Sq. Shopping Centre), Cambridge**
 - => www.portersquarebooks.com
 - => great book selection, very cozy, has a great coffee shop inside
- **"Monroe Salt Works"**
 - => www.monrosaltworks.com
 - => beautiful pottery from Maine; available in several shops in Boston area

Notes

My Favorite Places To Go/ Short Trips

- **Trip to Concord**
 - => take commuter rail from North Station or Porter Square (Fitchburg Line)
 - => get a free walking map at the "Concord Visitor Center" (58 Main St.), have a stroll through the town center, visit some antique shops, go to "North Bridge" (site, where the American Revolution began)
- **Trip to Salem**
 - => more info: www.salem.org
 - => take commuter rail from North Station (Newburyport/ Rockport Line) or ferry from Aquarium (in the summer)
 - => have lunch at "Finz Seafood and Grill" (www.hipfinz.com), coffee at "Jaho Coffee & Tea" (www.jahocoffee.com) and buy some chocolate at America's oldest candy store, "Ye Olde Pepper Candy" (www.yeoldepeppercandy.com) on 122 Derby Street; all places are near the harbor
- **Trip to Marblehead**
 - => more info: www.marblehead.org
 - => take bus 441 or 442 from Haymarket (during the week) or Wonderland (at the weekend)
 - => see "Fort Sewall" (at the end of Franklin Street), have lunch at "The Landing" (at the wharf) and relax at "Crocker Park" (of Front Street)
- **Trip to Gloucester**
 - => more info: www.gloucesterma.com
 - => take commuter rail North Station (Newburyport/ Rockport Line)
 - => have a walk along "Pavilion Beach", have lunch at "Gloucester House Restaurant" on 63 Rogers St. (www.lobster-express.com) and coffee at "Lone Gull Coffee House" on 146 Main St. or at "Pleasant Street Tea Company" on 7 Pleasant St.
- **Trip to "Singing Beach" in Manchester-by-the-Sea**
 - => more info: www.manchester.ma.us
 - => take commuter rail from North Station (Newburyport/ Rockport Line) and then walk to the beach (on Beach St.)
- **Trip to Rockport**
 - => more info: www.rockportusa.com
 - => take commuter rail from North Station (Newburyport/ Rockport Line)
 - => walk from train to "Front Beach" or "Back Beach" and then through "Bearskin Neck", have lunch at "Roy Moore Lobster Co." on 39 Bearskin Neck and coffee at "Bean & Leaf Café" on 19 Bearskin Neck
- **Have a walk around the "Arnold Arboretum"**
 - => more info: www.arboretum.harvard.edu
 - => beautiful park; tours, classes, workshops are offered

- **Beacon Hill, Boston Public Garden, Newbury Street**
=> take the Red Line (towards Alewife) and get off at "Charles MGH"
=> walk down "Charles Street" (enjoy Beacon Hill with its beautiful 19th century buildings), then through the "Boston Public Garden" and finally enjoy window shopping on Newbury Street (have a coffee at "L'Arôme Café" on 85 Newbury St.)

- **Guided Tour at the "Isabella Steward Gardner Museum"**
=> more info: www.gardnermuseum.org
=> three floors of galleries, beautiful garden courtyard, nice café

- **Guided Tour at the "Longfellow House"**
=> www.longfellowfriends.org and www.nps.gov/long
=> beautiful home of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (19th century poet)

- **Have a walk around the "Mount Auburn Cemetery"**
=> more info: www.mountauburn.org
=> 175 acres of hills, ponds and woods; perfect for a walk any time of the year

- **Have a picnic at the "Spy-Pond"**
=> more info: www.getupngoadventures.com/html/spy_pond
=> situated on the "Minuteman Bikeway" in Arlington; kayak and canoe rental available in the summer

Notes

Useful This & That

- **"Harvard Neighbors"**, social organization
=> more info: www.neighbors.harvard.edu
=> a lot of interest groups, special events, playgroup, etc.
- **"Harvard Student Spouses and Partners Association" (HSSPA)**, social organization
=> more info: www.hsspa.harvard.edu
=> weekly meetings, coffee social/ book club, playgroup, etc.
- **"Cambridge Centre For Adult Education"**
=> more info: www.ccae.org
=> reasonably priced courses and workshops
- **Farmers' Markets in Massachusetts:** www.mass.gov/massgrown
=> my favorite ones are at **Davis Sq.** (Wednesday, noon – 6 pm) and at **Harvard University** (near Sanders Theater, Tuesday, 12.30 – 6.30 pm)
- **Free Boston Magazines** (often at libraries, book stores):
 - "The Improper Bostonian" (www.improper.com),
 - "Lola" (www.lolaboston.com)
 - "Harvard U. Gazette" (www.hno.harvard.edu/gazette)
- **Online Bulletin Board** for housing, furniture, household items, etc.: www.boston.craigslist.org
- **great Beauty Salon and Spa:** "Pyara", 104 Mount Auburn Street, Cambridge
=> www.pyaraaveda.com
=> "Aveda" products are used
- **If you need a bike, these are great places to get it:**
 - "Wheelworks": www.wheelworks.com (locations in Belmont and Somerville)
 - "Quad Bikes" (used bikes; location in Cambridge): www.quadbikes.org
- **Website for Boston's Transportation System** (T, commuter rail, bus): www.mbta.com
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** www.volunteermatch.com