

**SHA 2020
ACCESS PACKAGE**



**REVOLUTION
SHA 2020
BOSTON**

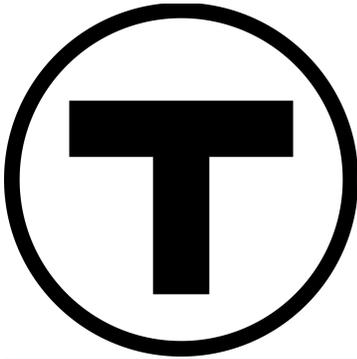
Society for Historical Archaeology
Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology
January 8-11, 2020

Compiled by SHA 2020 Boston Accessibility and
Inclusion Committee Chair

Liz M. Quinlan
October 2019

QUICK LINKS

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Travelling Around Boston SHA Sexual Harassment Policy Conference Venue and Hotel



Accessible Presentations
Resources
Guide

Key Contact Information

Targeted

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SHA 2020 Boston Conference Committee Information

Key Contact Information

1. SHA 2020 Organizing Committee Personnel

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SHA Ethics Principles

Historical archaeologists study, interpret and preserve archaeological sites, artifacts and documents from or related to literate societies over the past 600 years for the benefit of present and future peoples. In conducting archaeology, individuals incur certain obligations to the archaeological record, colleagues, employers and the public. These obligations are integral to professionalism. This document presents ethical principles for the practice of historical archaeology. All members of The Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA), and others who actively participate in society-sponsored activities, shall support and follow the ethical principles of the society. All historical archaeologists and those in allied fields are encouraged to adhere to these principles. The SHA is a sponsoring organization of the Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA). SHA members are encouraged to join the RPA and the SHA will use the RPA grievance process for ethics grievances.

Principle 1

Historical archaeologists have a duty to adhere to professional standards of ethics and practices in their research, teaching, reporting, and interactions with the public.

Principle 2

Historical archaeologists have a duty to encourage and support the long-term preservation and effective management of archaeological sites and collections, from both terrestrial and underwater contexts, for the benefit of humanity.

Principle 3

Historical archaeologists have a duty to disseminate research results to scholars in an accessible, honest and timely manner.

Principle 4

Historical archaeologists have a duty to collect data accurately during investigations so that reliable data sets and site documentation are produced, and to see that these materials are appropriately curated for future generations.

Principle 5

Historical archaeologists have a duty to respect the individual and collective rights of others and to not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, place of birth and/or physical disabilities. Structural and

institutional racism, male privilege and gender bias, white privilege, and inequitable treatment of others are prevalent and persistent issues in modern culture. Historical archaeologists have an obligation to treat everyone with dignity and respect and to adhere to zero tolerance against all forms of discrimination and harassment.

Principle 6

Historical archaeologists shall not sell, buy, trade, or barter items from archaeological contexts. Historical archaeologists shall avoid assigning commercial value to historic artifacts except in circumstances where valuation is required for the purposes of appraisal and insurance or when valuation is used to discourage site vandalism.

Principle 7

Historical archaeologists have a duty to encourage education about archaeology, strive to engage citizens in the research process and publicly disseminate the major findings of their research, to the extent compatible with resource protection and legal obligations.

Member Safety: Sexual Assault and Harassment

The official SHA Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Policy can be found online at the following webpage <https://sha.org/about-us/sha-sexual-harassment-discrimination-policy/>

In April of 2019 the SHA also issued a statement on Member Safety at the 2020 Annual Meeting. The full statement can be found online at the following webpage <https://sha.org/announcements/member-safety-at-sha-annual-meeting-in-boston-january-2020/>, and the SHA 2020 Boston Organizing Committee would like to reassert our commitment to creating a safe environment for all who attend.

The Society for Historical Archaeology is committed to providing a safe, respectful environment at its conferences. To that end, the SHA will promote a harassment-free experience for everyone, regardless of gender, gender identity and expression, age, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, ethnicity, religion (or lack thereof), or technology choices. The SHA will not tolerate harassment in any form at any SHA-sponsored events.

Harassment includes offensive comments or behavior related to gender, gender identity and expression, age, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, ethnicity, religion, technology choices, sexual images in public space, deliberate

intimidation, stalking, following, harassing photography or recording, sustained disruption of talks or other events, inappropriate physical contact, and unwelcome sexual attention. Outside of research presentations that include specific considerations of sexuality or sexual representations in the past, sexual language and imagery is not appropriate for any conference venue, including talks, workshops, parties, social media and other online media.

Persons asked to stop any harassing behavior are expected to comply immediately. If a participant engages in harassing behavior, the Society for Historical Archaeology may take any action it deems appropriate up to and including loss of SHA membership and expulsion from the conference with no refund.

Any person, who feels they are being harassed, should contact SHA Executive Director Karen Hutchison (240-753-4397) to report the incident. Incidents will be investigated, and a decision on appropriate action will be reached in a timely manner by a committee comprised of SHA members.

To our members: if you are dealing with an ongoing issue of sexual or gendered violence, domestic abuse, or harassment please see the section on Resources for People in Crisis.

1. Travel & Necessities

Travel to Boston

_____ Boston, and its surrounding “Greater Boston Area”, is a city located on the East Coast of the United States, and is the capital city of Massachusetts. Boston is accessible by car, bus, train, and plane. We urge our members to consider the [environmental impact](#) of your chosen method of transportation when planning your travel to Boston.

AIR TRAVEL

- Reminder that your ID does not have to be REAL ID compliant until October 1, 2020, no matter what individual TSA agents may say. Valid ID requirements can be found at the following TSA webpage: <https://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification>
- If you require an official confirmation of conference attendance for visa purposes, please contact our Conference Organizers at sha2020boston@gmail.com

Boston has several airports within easy travel distance, and their respective advantages and disadvantages are detailed below.

1. [Boston Logan International Airport](#) - Boston, MA

Helpful Massport Links:

[General Passenger Access Information](#) - Contact: 1-800-23-LOGAN

[ADA Compliance and Accessibility](#) - ADA Coordinator Contact: 1-617-568-3905

[Wings for Autism](#) - Contact: wingsforautism@massport.com

[Travel To and From Logan](#)

[Security Information](#)

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
Centrally located - access by MBTA, taxi, and shuttle services to downtown locations	Busiest airport in the area, can be difficult to navigate for with those with sensory concerns, anxiety, and some disabilities.
International airport with large number of incoming and outgoing flights daily	There is a heavily armed State Police, TSA, DEA, CBP, and ATF presence at Logan at all times.
TSA is used to a wide variety of international	MBTA Silver Line Airport Bus can be

and US travellers, so those with Tribal Identification Cards, foreign passports, and other less common forms of legal identification <u>MAY</u> have an easier time at Logan.	extremely crowded during peak travel times. Seats are not guaranteed, and wait times can be unpredictable.
Shuttles between terminals, as well as dedicated walkways.	Logan is the second smallest major international airport in the US, which means it can feel far more crowded than other airports that serve comparable numbers of passengers.

Logan is a very busy airport, and this can be a disadvantage or advantage, depending on who you are and what your personal travelling situation is. Similarly, the heavy security presence can be equally comforting or upsetting, depending on your individual circumstances. Please be mindful of this environment before booking travel to Logan.

There are also a variety of planned construction projects due to begin at Logan over the next few months, which may impact your ability to travel to and from the airport. Please check [Massport’s Logan Forward](#) webpage for more information on these initiatives.

2. [T.F. Green International Airport](#) - Warwick, RI

Helpful PVD Airport Links & Contact:

[Accessibility](#)

TF Green Skycap Service - 1-401-737-3300

[Safety & Security](#)

Advantages	Disadvantages
Easy access to Boston via MBTA Commuter Rail’s Providence/Stoughton Line - Schedule here	Located outside Boston, trains are somewhat infrequent (only 10 outgoing trains to Boston’s South Station on weekdays).
Far less crowded than Logan, more relaxed atmosphere. With a lower volume of customers per day, more personal customer service accommodation is possible using the PVD Volunteer Program	Less frequent flights, fewer domestic airlines service the airport, and only a small number of international flights arrive and depart daily.
Lower TSA and police presence.	Smaller airport, smaller staff. This <u>MAY</u> mean

	staff could be less well trained in terms of accommodating disability and diversity of all kinds.
PVD Pups is a robust therapy dog program.	

The location of T.F. Green airport can be a disadvantage for some travelers, as can the lower volume of daily flights and airlines/destination serviced. However, T.F. Green has far fewer crowding issues than Logan, with shorter TSA wait times on average, and more relaxed atmosphere in general.

3. Alternate air options

[Manchester-Boston Airport in Manchester, NH](#)

- No direct transport to Boston other than car rental or booked shuttle service

New York Airports: [JFK](#) and [Laguardia](#)

- Because of the size and scope of both JFK and Laguardia, it is often easier to get more convenient and cheaper flights in and out of these airports.
- Does require making additional travel arrangements (bus, car, train) from NYC to Boston (approximately a 5 hour trip depending on traffic).
- Both airports have heightened levels of crowds, security, and congestion.

BUS AND TRAIN TRAVEL

Boston also has two major train depots (South Station and North Station) which have bus and train arrivals and departures 24 hours a day, although they are not always accessible via the MBTA because MBTA service generally stops around 1:30AM.

[South Station](#)

- Busiest transit hub in Boston
- Train Terminal open daily 5:00AM-12:00AM
- Bus Terminal open 24 hours a day
- Serves Amtrak train lines
- Serves Megabus, Bolt Bus, Greyhound, Peter Pan and other bus lines.
- Connects to 9 of the MBTA's 13 commuter rail lines, the Red Line subway, the Silver Line Bus, and 11, 4, 448, 449, 459, and 7 bus routes.
- Fully accessible station

[North Station](#)

- Often less crowded than South Station (during off-peak hours)
- Train Terminal open 5AM-1AM
- Bus Terminal open 24 hours
- Serves only the Amtrak Downeaster from points north

- Serves Megabus, Bolt Bus, Greyhound, Peter Pan and other bus lines
- Connects to 4 of the MBTA's 13 commuter rail lines, the Orange Line subway, the C and E lines of the Green Line light rail, and the 4 bus route.
- Fully accessible station

CAR TRAVEL

Car travel can often be the only viable means of travelling to cities like Boston, especially for individuals who are not well served by existing train, bus, and air options. The security and ability to use your own car is a necessity for many, and the SHA 2020 Boston Organizing Committee absolutely recognizes this.

However, if you are a member who does have the option to travel by other means we strongly urge you to do so. Boston, like many large urban areas, is dealing with unsustainable levels of traffic congestion, underserved infrastructure, and limited parking. Street parking in many areas of the city is limited, or nonexistent, and the city may be confusing, and even dangerous, for outside drivers to navigate. Many roads that appear to be one-way are actually two-way streets (and vice-versa), street signs are not necessarily clearly visible, and local drivers do not always follow expected traffic patterns. GPS is not always reliable for driving in Boston, especially in downtown areas where highways run underground, and streets with different access points run parallel to each other.

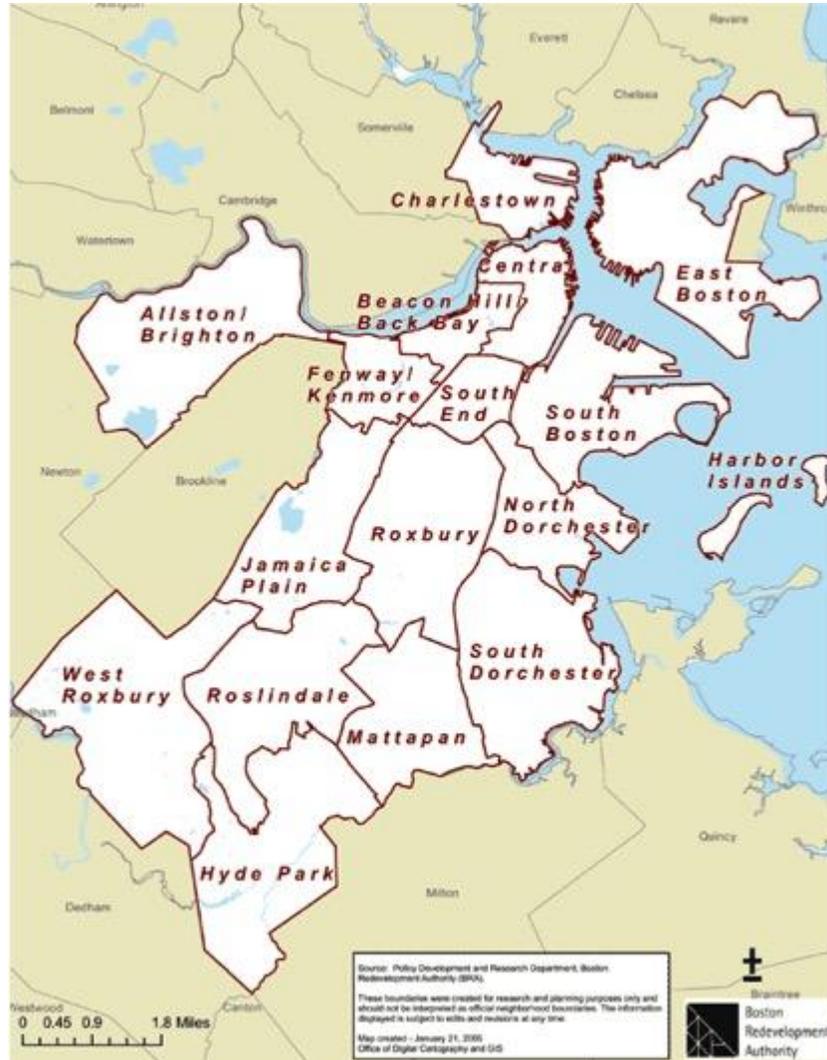
If you are staying at the conference hotel, parking rates are 42 USD a day for hotel guests. Other parking garages within walking distance may have lower rates, and [Parkopedia's](#) listed rates and availability is generally quite reliable for Boston.

Travel Around Greater Boston

While "Greater Boston" can refer to the entire metropolitan and economic region from southern New Hampshire down to northern Rhode Island, it is more commonly used to describe the neighborhoods and towns that make up the official City of Boston and its associated neighboring cities of Cambridge and Somerville.

Some of the important neighborhoods and towns in Boston are:

- Back Bay
- Fenway/Kenmore
- Beacon Hill
- Chinatown
- South End
- South Boston (Southie)
- Dorchester
- Allston/Brighton
- Central (North End, Financial District, Government Center)



Boston Redevelopment Agency Authority map showing Boston neighborhoods and adjacent cities and towns.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority, abbreviated MBTA and often shortened simply to “the T”, is the public transit service that serves all Boston neighborhoods and extends into the Greater Boston Area. The MBTA has subway and light rail transit, commuter rail trains, and bus lines.

**T MASSACHUSETTS BAY
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
RAPID TRANSIT/
KEY BUS ROUTES MAP**



Image of the MBTA's subway and commuter rail system, showing the Red, Orange, Green, Blue and Silver Lines as well as the 11 commuter lines (in purple) The closest subway stations to the conference hotel are Copley, Hynes Convention Center, and Prudential Center stations, all on the Green Line.

MBTA Fares

- Charlie Card vs. Charlie Ticket
 - [Who's Charlie?](#)
 - Charlie Cards are plastic, reloadable cards that are generally used by everyday commuters. Using these cards gets you a discount on the regular fare, but are not always available at every station. You can ask an MBTA employee in a T station whether they have any available.
 - Charlie Tickets are durable paper tickets which can be purchased from ticket machines at most stations along the MBTA subway lines.
- You can purchase Charlie Tickets or reload a Charlie Card using cash, debit, or credit cards, and you can use cash on most buses (exact fare is sometimes necessary for older buses). You cannot use cash directly at turnstiles to enter subway platforms, you have to use a Charlie Card or Ticket.
- Fares
 - Subway one-way - \$2.40 with Charlie Card, \$2.90 with Charlie Ticket
 - Subway 1-Day unlimited pass - \$12.75
 - Local bus one-way - \$1.70 with Charlie Card, \$2.00 with Charlie Ticket
- Transfer
 - Using a Charlie Card or Ticket to transfer from Subway to Bus is free within 2 hours of the original use
 - Transferring from Bus to Subway will require you to pay the \$.90 difference in fare price if you're using a Charlie Card.
 - Transferring from the Bus to the Subway with a Charlie Ticket requires you to pay a new, full price fare.
- [Transit App](#)
 - The Transit App, available for iOS and Android, is linked with the MBTA's bus, subway, and commuter rail lines and is generally pretty accurate. It allows you to plan trips and check bus and train schedules, and we highly recommend downloading it for your visit if you plan on using public transit.

MBTA - [Subway](#)

The MBTA subway system has four color-coded subway and light rail lines - the Red Line, the Orange Line, the Green Line, and the Blue Line-- and one trolley line, the Mattapan Trolley.

True accessibility on the MBTA is an ongoing battle for disabled users in Boston. While the stations located by major tourist destinations are generally well equipped and staffed, many other areas are underserved in many ways. For more about accessibility across the MBTA, please see both the [Subway Access Guide](#) and the [MBTA Accessibility](#) wiki page.

The Red Line

- The Red Line is primarily a North-South subway line, with a northern end at Alewife Station in Cambridge and two southern end points, Ashmont (in Dorchester) and Braintree (in Braintree) Stations. The southbound trains split at JFK/UMass Station, but if you're going to a station before that split it doesn't matter whether you are on an "Ashmont" or "Braintree" train.
- The Mattapan Trolley is a trolley line running from the Red Line's Ashmont Station to central Mattapan. While it is served by historic 1940s trolley cars, this is a functioning part of the Boston transit system.
- Red Line trains are often delayed during peak hours, due to high commuter volumes and ongoing signal repairs/upgrades that are not scheduled to be completed until 2023. If you will be travelling on the Red Line from 6am-9am make sure you build at least 20 minutes into your expected travel time to account for possible delays.
- An estimated 250,000 people use the Red Line each day
- Red Line destinations:
 - Harvard University - Harvard Station
 - Massachusetts Institute of Technology - Kendall/MIT Station
 - Boston Common - Park Street Station
 - Downtown Crossing shopping district - Downtown Crossing Station
 - Massachusetts General Hospital - Charles/MGH
- Accessibility on the Red Line
 - All Red Line cars and stations are accessible according to the MBTA, however there are often repairs and updates being made to elevators at older stations. Accessible shuttles are available between stations with ongoing repairs and announcements are made on the trains regarding shuttle service.
 - Currently operating Red Line cars were put into service in 1969, 1988, and 1994, meaning there are occasionally hardware issues with doors, seating, air conditioning/heat, and other aspects of the train cars.

The Orange Line

- The Orange Line runs North to Southwest, with its northern end at Oak Grove Station (in Malden) and southwestern end at Forest Hills Station (in Jamaica Plain).
- The Orange Line's fleet has been reduced in recent years but ridership has increased -- meaning trains are often crowded during peak service, with longer wait times between trains.
- An estimated 200,000 people use the Orange Line each day
- Orange Line destinations
 - Sheraton Boston - Massachusetts Avenue and Back Bay Stations
 - Assembly Row Shopping center - Assembly Station
 - North End - Haymarket Station
 - Downtown Crossing shopping district - Downtown Crossing Station
 - Chinatown - Chinatown Station
- Accessibility on the Orange Line

- All Orange Line stations are accessible according to the MBTA, however there are often repairs and updates being made to elevators at older stations.
- Currently operating Orange Line cars were put into service in 1980, meaning there are occasionally hardware issues with doors, seating, air conditioning/heat, and other aspects of the older train cars.
- Six new Orange Line cars (one train) with larger interiors, wider doors, more handrails, LED lighting, LCD displays, and audio/visual warnings were deployed in August of 2019, with more on the way.

The Blue Line

- The Blue Line is primarily a commuter-focused subway line, running from the downtown Bowdoin Station to Wonderland Station in Revere.

The Green Line

- Unlike the other MBTA subway lines the Green Line has four separate lettered lines, the B, C, D, and E lines. These lines run along the same route from Park Street Station to Copley Station, and if you're travelling between these stations the letter can be ignored. The B, C and D trains run underground until Kenmore Station, and the remainder of the stops are aboveground, street level stops. The E line runs above ground after Copley Station.
- The B Line originates at Park Street Station and ends at Boston College aboveground stop in Chestnut Hill. The B line follows Commonwealth Avenue through Fenway/Kenmore and Allston/Brighton.
 - B Line destinations
 - Boston University - BU East, Central and West stops
 - Paradise Rock Club - Pleasant Street stop
 - Chestnut Hill Reservation and Reservoir - Chestnut Hill Ave stop
- The C Line originates at North Station and ends at Cleveland Circle in Brookline. It follows Beacon Street through Fenway/Kenmore to Brookline.
 - C Line destinations
 - Coolidge Corner Theatre - Coolidge Corner stop
 - Chestnut Hill Reservation and Reservoir - Chestnut Hill Ave stop
- The D Line originates at Government Center and ends at Riverside Station in Newton. It covers the furthest geographic distance of all the Green Line trains, going from downtown Boston to the suburbs of Newton and Wellesley.
 - D Line destinations
 - Fenway Park - Fenway or Kenmore stations
 - Chestnut Hill Reservation and Reservoir - Reservoir stop
 - Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum - Longwood
 - Brigham and Women's Hospital, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston Children's Hospital - Longwood
- The E Line originates at Lechmere Station in Somerville and ends at the Heath Street aboveground stop
 - E Line destinations:

- North End - Haymarket Station
- Museum of Science - Science Park
- Museum of Fine Arts - MFA aboveground stop
- Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum - MFA stop
- Prudential Center - Prudential underground stop
- Sheraton Boston - Prudential underground stop
- Brigham and Women's Hospital, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston Children's Hospital - Longwood Medical Area stop

[The Silver Line](#)

Despite being listed in many places as a “subway”, and using the same terminology as other subway lines in Boston line, the Silver Line is actual a set of bus rapid transit lines (BRT) throughout the downtown. The SL1 Bus is the direct link between Logan Airport's terminals and South Station, which then allows you to connect to other lines and bus routes in the city.

- SL1, SL2, SL3, SL4 and SL5 are all buses, however the SL1 to the airport (as well as SL2 and SL3) are dual-mode buses, which can run on both dedicated bus lanes as well as surface roads. These are higher capacity buses, and do have some dedicated luggage areas.
- The dual-mode buses are fully accessible, with dedicated seating areas, kneeling bus technology, and a flip out ramp.
- There is no fare for the SL1 from Logan to South Station, but you do have to pay a standard subway fare (\$2.40 with Charlie Card, \$2.90 without) at all other access points.
- Silver Line Destinations
 - SL1 - Logan Airport
 - SL2 - Seaport District in South Boston

MBTA - Commuter Rail



Map of the MBTA Commuter Rail, showing its 11 daily train lines and the stations along those lines. Map is not to scale. The closest MBTA rail station to the conference hotel is Back Bay Station.

The MBTA Commuter Rail operates 11 daily train lines, as well as one for special events in Foxboro (generally concerts and sports games at Gillette Stadium). The daily train lines originate from the following towns and cities:

- Worcester, MA (Framingham/Worcester Line)
- Scituate, MA (Greenbush Line)
- Plymouth, MA (Kingston/Plymouth Line)
- Lakeville, MA (Middleborough/Lakeville Line)
- Newburyport, MA (Newburyport/Rockport Line)
- Rockport, MA (Newburyport/Rockport Line)
- Fitchburg, MA (Fitchburg Line)
- Franklin, MA (Franklin Line)
- Haverhill, MA (Haverhill Line)
- Lowell, MA (Lowell Line)
- Needham, MA (Needham Line)
- Providence, RI (Providence/Stoughton Line)
- Stoughton, MA (Providence/Stoughton Line)

One-way Commuter Rail tickets range from \$2.40 to \$13.25 each, depending on what Zone your stop is located in. Zones go from Zone 1A to Zone 10. The MBTA Commuter Rail page on [fares](#) has more information about what fare you can expect to pay and how to purchase tickets.

- The Commuter Rail trains are often incredibly crowded during rush hour commute times, and routinely can be delayed up to 15 minutes.
- Most Commuter Rail stations have parking garages or lots attached, where you can park at a variable daily rate.
- All Commuter Rail trains are fully accessible, however the assistance of a conductor is required

MBTA - Bus

- The MBTA operates 161 bus lines across eastern Massachusetts, with many concentrated in and around the Greater Boston Area.
- The bus lines which drop off near the Prudential Center, Hynes Convention Center, and Sheraton Boston Hotel are:
 - [1 - Harvard to Dudley Square](#)
 - [9 - City Point to Copley Plaza](#) (via Broadway Station)
 - [10 - City Point to Copley Plaza](#) (via Boston Medical Center)
 - [39 - Forest Hills to Back Bay Station](#)
 - [55 - Jersey St. & Queensbury St. to Downtown Boston](#)
- Bus Fares:
 - Local Bus, one-way - \$1.70 with Charlie Card, \$2.00 without
 - Inner Express Bus, one-way - \$4.25
 - Outer Express Bus, one-way - \$5.25

- Bus fare can be purchased at CharlieTicket vending machines or on board (cash only, exact fare required as the machines can't give change)
- MBTA buses are generally newer than subway cars, with the oldest being put into service in 2004
- [Accessibility on MBTA Buses](#)
 - All MBTA buses have “kneeling bus” technology, and can be lowered or raised as needed
 - They all have on board ramps, and at least two dedicated spaces in the front of the bus where seats can be folded up
 - Additionally, they all have both verbal and digital display announcements of stops
- A note about reliability and frequency:
 - The reliability of different bus lines is highly dependent on the area and level of ridership and traffic congestion. Construction
 - Many lines decrease dramatically in frequency during the middle of the workday, with gaps between buses stretching to as long as an hour on some less-frequently-traveled lines.

BLUE BIKES

[Blue Bikes](#) is a bikeshare system serving Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Everett and Somerville, with hundreds of conveniently located bike stations around the city.

A single trip is \$2.50, while a day pass is \$10. You can purchase trips at Blue Bikes stations with a credit card, or on the Blue Bikes mobile app.

We understand that the suggestion of riding a bike in January in Boston might seem a bit... ridiculous, but you never know what the weather will be like! Most Blue Bike stations remain open during the winter, but some are relocated or removed due to snow removal needs. The [2018-2019 Winter Operations page](#) can give you more accurate information about which stations are available during January.

TAXI

Taxi cabs are readily available in many of the downtown areas of Boston, and can be a good alternative to public transit if you need to get somewhere quickly, or if you are opposed to, or unable, to use rideshare apps like Uber and Lyft. Taxis in Boston are generally hailed on the street and not pre-booked or called via a phone service. Unoccupied taxis will generally have a light illuminated on top of the car, while those with passengers will have the light off. You can signal to the driver that you would like to hire the taxi by waving and making eye contact to get their attention. All taxis in Boston must be licensed, and they will display this license, or medallion, on the rear or side of their car. The medallion is a metal plate saying: “Licensed Hackney Carriage // Police Dept // City of Boston // [Cab Number] / Expiry Date”. Most taxis take credit and debit cards, but it's always best to check with the taxi driver at the beginning of the trip whether they are able to process a card.

Many sources rank Boston's cab fares as some of the most expensive in the country, with a base fare of \$2.60 and \$.40 for each additional 1/7th of a mile. For example, a three mile/5km trip from The Avenue (a great bar and grill on Commonwealth Avenue in Allston) to the conference hotel might cost as much as \$18.

RIDESHARING

Uber and Lyft are the two major rideshare companies operating in Boston and they are available 24/7 and provide a variety of ways to travel across the city at rates that vary based on distance, time of day, and service popularity. Lyft and Uber pool are both available in Boston, which allow you to save money by carpooling with another rider going in a similar direction.

While Uber and Lyft are convenient means of transportation, there are several concerns when it comes to using their services. Many have asked the important questions about whether engaging with ridesharing apps is an ethical position as the "gig economy" grows ever more exploitative ([CNN](#), [Center for Digital Ethics and Policy](#), and the [Guardian](#)). There have also been recent reports of sexual harassment, assault, racism, ableism, and other negative experiences when using ride sharing apps ([VICE](#), [CNN](#), [Wired](#), [Rooted in Rights](#)).

Massachusetts does require a two-part background check for all Transportation Network Company (TNC) drivers, which includes Uber and Lyft.

We urge our members to make educated choices about transportation in Boston, but, as always, to prioritize their own safety and access.

3. Accommodations

Conference Hotel

[BOOK NOW](#)

The Sheraton Boston Hotel is located at 39 Dalton St. in Boston's Back Bay neighborhood. This venue will host all attendees, conference sessions, and meetings. Attendees will be staying in the hotel's two towers in the heart of Boston with direct access to conference venue on the building's lower floors. Rates are \$170/night for singles and doubles, \$210/night for triples, and \$250 for quads. Rooms in the SHA block are available January 6-12, 2020, and rates will be available 3 days prior and 3 days after the conference dates, subject to availability of guest rooms at the time of reservation. The cut-off date for reservations in the SHA block at the Sheraton Boston is December 16, 2019.

The hotel foyer has an extensive seating area, Starbucks, Sidebar bar and lounge, and Apropos restaurant. Also available to guests is a full service spa, fitness center, and pool. The Sheraton Boston is smoke-free and pet-friendly with one dog allowed per room.

The Sheraton Boston is part of a 23-acre Prudential Center retail and commercial space of interconnected avenues and office towers. The 75+ shops and restaurants of the Prudential Center are accessible via climate controlled, covered walkways allowing for coat-free access no matter the weather. The Prudential Center even includes a grocery store. Its location within the heart of the city means there are a multitude of additional restaurants, bars, and shopping options nearby.

Within immediate walking distance of the venue is historic Copley Square, which includes the iconic 1872 Richardson Romanesque Trinity Church and Boston Public Library. Other nearby highlights include the upscale Newbury Street shopping district, the Historic Landmark-designated brick rowhouses of Back Bay, and the 10-acre Christian Science Center with its I. M. Pei and Associates designed colonnade, tower, and reflection pool.

The archaeological, architectural, and historical highlights of Boston Common, Fenway Park, Faneuil Hall, Paul Revere House, Old North Church, and historic Freedom Trail are all within 2 miles of the venue and directly accessible via public transportation.

Sheraton Boston Accessibility Notes

- [Full Sheraton Boston fact sheet](#)
- For specific accessibility concerns: +1-617-236-2000
- The hotel has an accessible fitness center, swimming pool, business center and restaurant.
- Accessible guest rooms have roll-in showers or bathtubs with grab bars. Portable tub seats are available.

- Hearing-accessible features include a visual fire alarm, doorbell and telephone notification device, portable communications kits containing visual alarms and notification devices, TTY and TVs with closed captioning.
- The hotel has an entrance on Dalton Street and one inside the Prudential Center. The Prudential Center has entrances on Huntington Avenue and Boylston Street, which are both flat, wide streets with large sidewalk access. Dalton Street, however, is a partially tilted, steeply sloped and relatively narrow street. It is difficult to navigate in nice weather, and can be very treacherous in icy weather.

Airbnb

If you are thinking of using Airbnb or similar short-term rental services to book your stay in Boston, we wanted to offer some context about the Boston housing market and the impact Airbnb and other short-term rental companies have had on Boston residents.

Research has found that [Airbnb contributes](#) to [rising home prices and rental costs](#) in many cities, Boston included. Rental prices in Boston surpassed both New York and Washington D.C. in 2018, making Massachusetts the state with the 3rd highest rental prices. [Affordable housing](#) budgets have been cut and the communities requiring the most help are not able to access it. In Boston communities like Dorchester, Brighton, and Roxbury-- which have historically served low-income individuals and families, many containing majority Black and Latino neighborhoods-- independent Airbnb hosts have taken over what used to be affordable housing units.

While some Airbnb rentals do help Boston homeowners make mortgage payments, many of them are permanently rent to tourists, squeezing a tight housing market almost to the point of total displacement.

This interactive map, compiled by Inside Airbnb, shows the room type, activity, and availability of rooms in different neighborhoods in Boston, providing a visual of how prevalent the problems actually are. Inside Airbnb's metrics show that 64.6% of Airbnb hosts in Boston have multiple listings, which indicates they may be running a business as opposed to renting out a spare room in their home. As of November, 2018 only 5 individuals are responsible for 20% of these multiple listings.

Even if you avoid renting from a landlord with multiple listings, a sizable portion of your payment goes to Airbnb corporate, which pays lobbyists to advocate against [housing regulation in Boston](#).

Taking this information to heart, you as visitors can do the following:

1. Look at the accommodation alternatives below
2. Avoid Airbnb hosts with multiple listings

3. If you do book and Airbnb, please consider donating to [City Life/Vida Urbana](#), [JPNDC](#), [Boston Neighborhoods Community Land Trust](#) and other nonprofits dedicated to housing justice in Boston.

Hostels

Unlike other areas of the world, hostels are not common in North America. Boston does have a few hostels of varying quality and price ranges. More information can be found at the [Hostel World website](#).

Hotels

As with any major city, there are dozens of hotels located in downtown Boston, ranging from large chains to small boutique bed and breakfasts. We recommend checking the public transit, walking, and driving distances from any hotel you consider to the Sheraton Boston. Please also keep in mind that staying in any of the hotels located in the downtown neighborhoods of Back Bay, Beacon Hill, and the South End will require commuting through Boston rush hour traffic in order to arrive on time for your 9AM session.

4. Conference Venue and Events

Conference Venue Guide

The conference venue is, as mentioned above, the Boston Sheraton Hotel, with forums, poster sessions, symposia, and other conference events taking place in meeting spaces on the 2nd, 3rd, and 5th floors of the hotel. [Floor plans for these areas can be found here.](#)

Sessions and symposia are assigned to rooms based on a variety of intersecting factors including projected attendance, time of day, and subject matter in an attempt to avoid too much overlap between events going on at the same time. There are two banks of elevators in the Sheraton-- the North Tower Elevators and the South Tower elevators, as well as several stairwells, escalators, and emergency exits on each floor. This makes it easy to travel between the 2nd, 3rd and 5th floors to attend various conference events, but if you find yourself lost please feel free to ask one of our SHA 2020 Boston Volunteers for help in finding a room location.

External Events Guide

There are four optional planned tours scheduled as part of the 2020 Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology, as well as the Thursday night museum reception at Harvard's Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology.

MBTA TUNNEL TOUR

Exclusive tour of the country's first subway tunnel, located beneath Boston's Theater district. This tour takes place in an 1890s subway tunnel which has been abandoned since the 1960s. While efforts have been made to clear walkways, the tour does cover uneven ground, and is located in an underground, damp and sometimes cramped tunnel area.

Transportation is not provided for SHA attendees for this tour. Attendees can walk the mostly flat 2 mile distance from the Sheraton to City Hall Plaza, take the Green Line "E" train from the Prudential Center stop inbound towards Park Street to the Boylston stop, or use another form of transportation. The tour will start at the Boylston T Station entrance, above ground, located at the corner of Boylston and Tremont Streets, at the southernmost corner of the Boston Common.

TOUR OF PAUL REVERE HOUSE

Take a behind-the-scenes tour of the Paul Revere Memorial Association's new Education and Visitor Center, "The Midnight Ride in Revere's Own Words" exhibit, and learn how archaeological excavations contributed to this revolutionary expansion project.

Transportation is not provided for SHA attendees for this tour. Attendees can take the Green Line "E" train from the Prudential Center stop to the Haymarket Station stop. From there you

must walk approximately 0.4 miles/0.6km from Haymarket to the Paul Revere House, crossing the busy JFK Expressway and Rose Kennedy Greenway, and travelling down the North End's narrow streets. Sidewalks are present on most major North End Streets, however some smaller alleys are still made primarily of cobblestones so please be aware of the route you are taking.

TOUR OF PLIMOTH PLANTATION

To mark the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower's arrival, join David Landon, Associate Director, Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research at the University of Massachusetts Boston, for a tour of Plymouth, Massachusetts, including: dig sites of Project400, a collaborative archaeological project; and a newly opened exhibition at Plimoth Plantation, home of the legendary historical archaeologist James Deetz, titled "Biography of the Landscape", that highlights the findings of Project400.

This excursion involves two parts -- the trip to archaeological sites at Burial Hill in Plymouth, MA's Cultural District, and a trip to the living history organization Plimoth Plantation, located about 2.5 miles outside Downtown Plymouth. This trip will involve a chartered bus that leaves from the Sheraton Boston Hotel and travels to both Plymouth center and Plimoth Plantation. The bus has the capacity for 2 ADA defined wheelchairs, and will bring attendees from Boston to Plymouth, and back again.

Downtown Plymouth's cultural district is a fairly accessible area for those with mobility impairments, and Plimoth Plantation has a dedicated webpage discussing [Accessibility](#) at the plantation.

TOUR OF STRAWBERY BANKE MUSEUM

A guided tour of this 10-acre outdoor history museum in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, its nearly 40 extant buildings, and 29 archaeological sites will be followed by lunch at the museum cafe and optional time on the museum's ice skating rink (skate rentals available) or visits to the nearby Portsmouth African Burying Ground or Warner House.

Strawbery Banke is located approximately an hour north of Boston, and SHA attendees will board a chartered bus that leaves from the Sheraton Boston Hotel and travels to Portsmouth, NH. Strawbery Banke is a house museum and living history site, with 10 acres of buildings and archaeological sites, and has a dedicated [visitor accessibility page](#) with more information on visiting the museum. This trip also allows for free exploration of historic Portsmouth, and [Access Navigators](#) (a third party, crowdsourced company) provides a comprehensive guide to visiting the city, including a user-tested, barrier free loop through the downtown area that covers 9 historical sites and locations.

THURSDAY NIGHT MUSEUM RECEPTION

The Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology at Harvard University will host our Thursday Night Reception. Founded in 1866 by philanthropist George Peabody, the Peabody Museum is among the oldest anthropology museums in the world, and still occupies its original 19th-century building. The museum's mission and operations, however, have changed considerably over the past one hundred and fifty years.

The Peabody is well-known for its significant collections of archaeological and ethnographic materials from around the world, many of which were acquired during the era of European and American expansion, exploration, and colonization. The collections number some 1.2 million objects from cultures around the world. You will enjoy local food and drink, guided tours, and unique behind-the-scenes experiences.

The museum is located at 11 Divinity Avenue on the Harvard University campus in Cambridge, MA -- across the Charles River from Boston.

For attendees who have registered for SHA provided shuttle service to the reception, please refer to communications regarding the time and place of departure.

If you are not registered for the SHA Shuttle, the most direct route to the Peabody Museum via bus is to take the #1 bus from Massachusetts Avenue at Clearway Street (a 0.2 mile/0.3km walk from the Sheraton) to the Massachusetts Avenue at Holyoke Street, then walk from that stop to the Museum (a 0.5 mile/ 0.8km distance).

The most direct way to reach the Peabody from the Sheraton Boston Hotel by train is to take the Green Line "E" train from the Prudential Center stop to Park Street Station, switch to the inbound Red Line (announced and marked as "to Alewife") train to Harvard Station, and walk the 0.5 mile/0.8km distance from Harvard Station to 11 Divinity Avenue. This walk takes you through the historic Harvard Yard and past the Harvard Science Center.

The Peabody Museum entrance is located on Divinity Avenue, but the building is the same as the Harvard Museum of Natural History. If you find yourself on Oxford Street facing the HMNH, you can take the footpath to the right of the building, past the Malinckrodt-Hoffman Building and Bauer Life Sciences Laboratory, to Divinity Ave, where the Peabody entrance is located.

Accessible Presentations and Posters Guide

There are a number of extremely comprehensive guides out there on the internet that cover the creation of accessible conference presentations and posters, and at the end of this section you can find our recommendations for those.

You might worry that making a presentation or poster “accessible” may be difficult or take too much time, but we would ask you to consider that making your research as accessible as possible is an integral part of archaeology, and makes us all better scholars, educators, and communicators. Including our fellow archaeologists in the work we do should be considered equally as important as including stakeholders, community members, government entities, and the general public. If we are making our work inaccessible to our fellow archaeologists, we do our entire discipline a disservice.

That being said, some of the best advice for creating an accessible poster or presentation is rooted in simplicity. Some of the top recommendations we have are as follows:

- **Limit words** on presentation slides and posters; instead of writing out paragraphs of complex information, think critically about the most important components of slide/section and use short, descriptive sentences that can be expanded upon in your verbal discussion and written resources you may make available.
- **Use a microphone** if one is available-- no matter how loud your voice may be. Make sure your speech is slow and measured, and that your audience can see your face whenever you are speaking. Facial expressions are key to understanding meaning in many cases, and turning away from the audience limits their ability to fully understand your research.
- Make an effort to include **content warnings** at the beginning of your presentations, especially when dealing with potentially traumatic subjects. Many historical archaeologists work on sites of violence and oppression, as well as with human remains, and we strongly urge you to question whether an image is strictly necessary before you include it in your presentation.
- If at all possible try to **finish your paper/presentation notes** well ahead of time so they can be shared digitally or in hard copy format to those who may request them. Consider including a shortened link to a digital document containing your slide notes or paper on your first slide, and read out the link if possible.
- Have your conference presentation or poster, and any associated notes, **available on a USB/memory stick** for people who use screen readers, cannot hear your verbal descriptions, or may take longer to process your presentation for any number of reasons.

- Use **sans serif fonts**, which do not include the decorative lines called “serifs” seen on the end of letters like T or F. The most common (and free) sans serif fonts are Arial (which this document is typed in), Verdana, Calibri, and Tahoma.
- When creating figures and designing your presentation slides, ensure that the colors you use are part of a **color blind friendly palette**.
- **Describe all figures** used in presentations -- charts, graphs, photos, etc. Do not assume everyone can see the details of the images you are using to communicate your research. Try to use captions for images as much as possible.
- Selectively use **bold** and *italics* when writing out long portions of text.
- Make sure that your poster does not have any projecting parts that may impede people’s ability to easily pass through the poster room. Dioramas and displays can be useful tools, but please **be aware of how much space you are taking up**.
- Take a moment at the beginning of your presentation to let the audience know if they can **livetweet** or otherwise post online about your research.
- Make sure any videos included in presentations or associated with posters have **subtitles**.
- Ensure that text is **adequately sized**-- generally speaking, anything under size 24 font is going to be unreadable from the back of a conference room.
- On posters, consider filming or typing up a short (under 5 minute) version of your in-person poster presentation and making that available for people who visit your poster via a **clearly marked QR code**.
- Be aware of your time limits, and **do not go over time**. Not only do you inconvenience your fellow presenters, but by taking up more than your allotted time you may impede someone’s ability to leave the room. This can disrupt medication, breastfeeding, and other self-determined schedules, perhaps even cause lasting harm to people with a variety of health issues that require them to follow a tight and precise schedule.

Further Resources for Accessible Presentations and Posters

- [Guidelines for Accessible and Inclusive Presentation - RecSys 2019](#)
- [Accessible Resources: Documents, Presentations and Spreadsheets University of Kent](#)

- [Color Blindness Guidelines - Leeds University](#)
- [The Science of Color Contrast - Justin Baker](#)
- [Attaching a PDF Document to a QR Code](#)
- [Microsoft Accessibility Checker for PowerPoint](#)
- [Microsoft PowerPoint Accessibility Article](#)
- [W3 - Web Accessibility Initiative Website](#)

LEGAL RIGHTS IN MASSACHUSETTS

The 2020 Boston Organizing Committee, and the Society for Historical Archaeology at large, cannot offer legal advice regarding personal situations. However, we would like to provide some information on protected classes and their associated rights in Massachusetts, which may be very different from other states and countries.

The most powerful state anti-discrimination laws and regulations, including MGL c. 151B, c.151C and G.L. c. 272, §§ 92, 98 and 98A, are enforced by the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, or [MCAD](#).

The MCAD website lays out how all people in Massachusetts, residents and non-residents alike, are protected from discrimination in public places, and defines a public place as “any place, whether licensed or unlicensed, which is open to and accepts or solicits the patronage of the general public. This includes retail stores, restaurants, malls, and public spaces including agencies, parks, beaches, and roads. Places of public accommodation also include restrooms and other sex-segregated facilities.”

This means that, in Massachusetts, you cannot be discriminated against based on your membership in one or more of the following protected classes: race, national origin, religion, disability, age, sexual orientation, or gender identity. In Massachusetts, “...an individual’s gender identity may be demonstrated by any evidence that the gender identity is sincerely held as a part of the person’s core identity. This includes a person’s gender-related identity, appearance, or behavior, whether or not that gender-related identity, appearance, or behavior is different from their assigned sex at birth. Gender identity encompasses individuals who are transgender.”

5. Targeted Resources

The following sections attempt to cover particular forms of access and resources that SHA members have brought up when asked about what they require for an accessibility guide to the Boston 2020 Conference. These resources are by no means comprehensive, and we advise individual members to use these as a starting point for their decisions. If there are any questions about individual resources, or something has been missed, please contact Liz Quinlan at access.sha@gmail.com.

Medical Resources

Boston has long been known for its world-class hospitals, and there are nationally ranked medical services within easy access of most areas of the city. This section will primarily focus on emergency medical access, but will also provide information about walk-in clinics and other non-emergency services.

A general note about health care in the United States:

Universal health care is not a guaranteed right in the United States, unlike many other countries in the world. This means that there are hospitals which can turn you away for lack of insurance or ability to pay, and that if you are uninsured you may wait longer for treatment at a crowded emergency department. If you are one of our international members and are insured in your home country, please check with your insurance system regarding coverage in the US.

Prescription medications can only be prescribed by doctors or registered nurses, and are not automatically covered by insurance. Prescription medication prices can vary depending on the pharmacy you visit as well, with CVS generally having the most expensive prices in the general Massachusetts area, and Walgreens and Stop & Shop/Shaws' Supermarket pharmacies having the cheapest baseline prices. Coupons for prescription medications can be found using online third party services like [GoodRX](#).

The phone number for fire, emergency medical services, and police in Boston, as for all of the United States, is 911.

Emergency Services in the Sheraton Boston Hotel Immediate Area

Boston Medical Center Emergency Department

- Open 24 hours a day
- Located at 725 Albany Street, Boston - 1.1 miles from the Sheraton
- Level 1 Trauma center, full surgical and subspecialty consult services
- BMC is a “**safety net**” hospital, which provides healthcare for everyone, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay for services
- Boston MedFlight Hospital with helipad

Tufts Medical Center Emergency Room

- Open 24 hours a day
- Located at 800 Washington Street, Boston - 1.4 miles from the Sheraton
- Level 1 Trauma Center
- Boston MedFlight Hospital with helipad
- **NOT** a “safety net” hospital

Tufts Floating Hospital For Children Pediatric Emergency Center

- Open 24 hours a day
- Oldest Pediatric trauma center in the country
- Located at 800 Washington Street, Boston - 1.4 miles from the Sheraton
- Level 1 Pediatric Trauma center
- Boston MedFlight Hospital with helipad
- **NOT** a “safety net” hospital

Massachusetts General Hospital

- Open 24 hours a day
- Located at 55 Fruit Street, Boston - 1.9 miles from the Sheraton
- Level 1 Trauma and Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Centers
- **NOT** a “safety net” hospital

Boston Children’s Hospital Emergency Department

- Open 24 hours a day
- Located at 300 Longwood Avenue, Boston - 1.5 miles from the Sheraton
 - ◆ Located in Longwood Medical and Academic Area
- Level 1 Regional Pediatric Trauma Center
- Is a **safety net** hospital, and does treat adults as well as children, though they specialize in pediatric emergencies and care

Brigham and Women’s Hospital Emergency Department

- Open 24 hours a day
- Located at 75 Francis Street, Boston - 1.7 miles from the Sheraton
 - ◆ Located in the Longwood Medical and Academic Area
- Level 1 Trauma Center
- Boston MedFlight Hospital with helipad
- **NOT** a “safety net” hospital
- Anecdotal evidence from queer and trans Boston residents describes the Brigham as an Emergency Department that is generally respectful of pronouns and aware of specific needs that queer and trans individuals may have for medical care.

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Emergency Department

- Open 24 hours a day

- Located at Deaconess Road (off Brookline Ave), Boston - 1.9 miles from the Sheraton
 - ◆ Located in the Longwood Medical and Academic Area
- Level 1 Trauma Center
- Boston MedFlight Hospital with helipad
- **NOT** a safety net hospital

Recommended Walk-in and Urgent Care Services

[Partners Urgent Care](#) - Boston Common

- Open 9:00AM-9:00PM, Monday through Sunday
- 137 Stuart Street, Suite A-7
- Phone: 617-393-5059
- Non-emergency walk-in clinic, treating mild to moderate medical conditions such as allergic reactions, ear and eye infections, fever, flu and cough, UTIs, sore throat, sprains, minor burns, minor breaks and sprains
- Has X-ray, EKG, and in-house laboratory testing services available
- For information on insurance accepted, see the following webpage: <https://partnersurgentcare.org/insurance>
- For those who are uninsured, they offer out-of-pocket payment plans

[Partners Urgent Care](#) - Brookline

- Open 9:00AM-9:00PM, Monday through Sunday
- 1285 Beacon Street, Brookline, MA
- Phone: 617-751-6205

[Partners Urgent Care](#) - Cambridge | Central Square location

- Open 9:00AM-9:00PM, Monday through Sunday
- 75 Prospect Street, Cambridge, MA
- Phone: 617-393-5058

[Partners Urgent Care](#) - Cambridge | Porter Square location

- Open 9:00AM-9:00PM, Monday through Sunday
- 1815 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA
- Phone: 8570856-5770

[CVS Minute Clinic](#) - Cambridge

- Non-emergency walk in clinic located in the Harvard Square CVS Pharmacy in Cambridge, MA
- Staffed by Nurse Practitioners and Physicians Assistants who specialize in family health care. They can diagnose, treat and write prescriptions for minor acute illnesses such as strep throat, ear, eye, sinus, skin, and lung infections. Routine lab tests and vaccinations are available as well.
- 6 John F. Kennedy Street, Cambridge, MA

- Hours:
 - Monday-Friday
 - 9:00AM-1:00PM, then 2:00PM-7:00PM
 - Saturday
 - 9:00AM-1:00PM, then 1:30PM-5:30PM
 - Sunday
 - 9:00AM-1:00PM, then 1:30PM-4:30PM

[Greater Boston Health Center](#) - Planned Parenthood

- Offers both sexual health services and limited general health care.
 - Birth control, emergency contraception, and abortion services
 - HIV and STI testing and treatment
 - Vaccines
 - UTI treatment, mammograms, cancer screening etc.
- Hours:
 - Monday-Friday: 7:30AM-7:00PM
 - Saturday: 7:30AM-3:00PM
 - Sunday: Closed
- They welcome walk-in patients up to one hour before closing, and based on availability, but it is suggested you call prior to going.

OneMedical - Copley Square and Government Center

- This company only offers same day appointments for those who are already members, but they have locations in many large US cities and allow members to book walk-in appointments when you are visiting a different location.
- Two locations:
 - Government Center
 - 28 State Street Suite 2860
Boston, MA
 - Copley Square
 - 185 Dartmouth Street Suite 603
Boston, MA

Spiritual Resources

The Greater Boston Area, like many municipal centers in the US, has a wide variety of religious and spiritual communities integrated into the landscape of the city. As religion is a deeply personal subject, we at the SHA will not declare certain locations or communities “better” than others, and we encourage our members looking for spiritual or religious connections while in Boston to do their own vetting before attending services. A congregation or community that may be a good fit for you, may not be ideal for someone else.

The Harvard Divinity School has an ever-changing list of faith communities located in the Cambridge/Boston area, which can be found at this webpage: <https://hds.harvard.edu/life-at-hds/religious-and-spiritual-life/faith-communities-near-hds>

Additionally, WGBH, the Public Broadcasting affiliate of Boston, has collected an excellent guide to visiting sacred spaces in Boston, a .pdf of which can be found at the following link: https://www-tc.pbs.org/godinamerica/art/bos_cityguide2.pdf.

That being said, we’d like to offer a list of some religious and spiritual organizations in Boston which offer unique support for a wide variety of people, as well as some that have had a particular impact on the fabric and historic identity of Boston.

[The Vilna Shul](#)

- 18 Philips Street
Boston, MA
- Last remaining immigrant-built synagogue in Boston, and oldest Jewish building within the city limits. Operates as both a synagogue, holding regular services, and a Jewish Cultural Centre.

[Dignity Boston](#)

- St. Stephen’s Church
419 Shawmut Avenue
Boston, MA
- A progressive and inclusive Catholic community for people of all sexual orientations, genders, and gender identities.
- Weekly liturgy and social hour, Sundays at 5:00PM

[Sunday Assembly](#)

- Secular congregation and nonprofit organizations that meets on Saturdays and Sundays at a variety of locations to hold discussions, provide lectures, attend outings, and gather in community.
- See website for more information.

[Congregation Am Tivka](#)

- This congregation has been serving Boston's LGBTQ+ Jewish community since its founding in 1976. Loosely associated with Boston University, the congregation has events on high holy days, and offers information for LGBTQ+ Jews looking for support and community in the Boston area.
- For more information email: info@amtikva.org

[African Meeting House](#) & the [People's Baptist Church](#)

- 46 Joy Street
Beacon Hill, Boston, MA
- The African Meeting House was founded in 1806 and is now part of the Museum of African American History (MAAH) in Boston, and is the oldest still-standing Black church building in the US.
- The site of the African Meeting House has been restored and is managed by the National Park Service and the MAAH, but no longer offers services. However, the congregation which originally inhabited the Joy Street meeting house moved to Boston's South End neighborhood in 1898, and continues operating today as the People's Baptist Church.

[Old North Church](#)

- 193 Salem Street
North End, Boston, MA
- Built in 1723, this is the oldest standing church building in Boston, and is now a mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Boston.
- In addition to historical tours and events, the Old North Church has open services at 9am and 11am on Sundays.

[Queer Muslims of Boston](#)

- A Muslim community founded to not only include, but actively support queer and trans Muslims in the Boston Area.
- They hold monthly dinners, occasional Friday jummah services at various locations around Boston, and offer support and resources for queer and trans Muslims in the area.
- For a variety of safety reasons, you must email the group at queermuslimsofboston@gmail.com or message them on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/QMOBoston> to find out the locations of many events, and you made need a current member to vouch for you-- please feel free to email Liz Quinlan at lizq14@gmail.com to facilitate this.

[Beacon Hill Friends House and Meeting Hall](#)

- 6-8 Chestnut Street
Beacon Hill, Boston, MA
- Center for Quaker education and witness, offering open Meeting for Worship every Sunday from 10:30-11:30AM

- This building is not only a meeting space, but also an intentional Quaker living community, with residents from a variety of faiths and spiritualities living according to the practices of the Society of Friends.

Trinity Church

- 206 Clarendon Street
Back Bay, Boston, MA
- Another historic church belonging to the mission of the Episcopalian Diocese of Boston, Trinity Church is located in the center of Copley Square in Back Bay, and is one of the premiere examples of Romanesque Revival architecture in Boston.
- The church holds services on Sundays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and welcomes both local congregants and tourists of any faith.

The Mother Church - First Church of Christ, Scientist

- 250 Massachusetts Avenue
Back Bay, Boston, MA
- The 1894 “mother church” or the First Church of Christ, Scientist
- The Church of Christ, Scientist was founded in Massachusetts in the 19th century by Mary Baker Eddy, and this location serves not only as a regular Christian Science center, but is also the administrative head of the entire organization.
- Services are held on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Northeastern University Spiritual Life Center

- Ell Hall, Room 200
346 Huntington Ave
Fenway/Kenmore, Boston, MA
- Though this is a University operated location, associated with the Center for Spirituality, Dialogue and Service, their sacred space, ablution area, prayer and meditation rooms are open to the public during walk-in hours, and visitors can use the rooms as long as a previous event has not been booked.

Islamic Society of Boston

- 204 Prospect Street
Cambridge, MA
- Mosque and cultural center for Boston-area Muslims located in Cambridge. This institution acts not only as a masjid open for daily prayers, but also as a community center focused on outreach, education, and both religious and secular programming.
- Daily azaan and iqama times - listed on their website for Fajr, Dhuhr, Asr, Maghrib and Isha.
- Friday Jummah service - Khutba begins at 1:00PM

Arlington Street Church

- 351-355 Boylston Street
Back Bay, Boston, MA
- Unitarian Universalist congregation, which was first founded in 1729 eventually moved into this historic purpose-built church location in 1861.
- This particular church has a modern-era history of deep engagement with contemporary social justice causes and activities. These ranged from the sending delegations to Selma in 1965, to draft card burning events in 1967, setting up the first AIDS benefit groups in Boston in the 1980s, and, in 2004, performing the first state sanctioned same-sex marriage.
- Regular services are held on Sundays at 11:00AM

LGBTQ+ Resources

LGBTQ Resource Map

- The Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth has compiled an interactive resource map showing organizations, community groups, and other resources for youth, families, and adult LGBTQ+ individuals.
- Map link: <https://ma-lgbtq.org/>

BAGLY

- The Boston Alliance of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth
- Youth run and adult supported LGBTQ+ organization in Boston with a wide variety of resources and goals. Works primarily with LGBTQ+ youth, but offers support and services for all LGBTQ+ individuals.
- Website: <https://www.bagly.org/>

Queer Asian Pacific-Islander Alliance

- QAPA is committed to providing a supportive social, political, and educational environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and questioning people of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage in the Boston and New England area.
- Website: <http://www.qapa.org>

LGBT Asylum

- LGBT Asylum Task Force is a ministry of Hadwen Park Church and a community-based organization dedicated to supporting and empowering LGBTQI individuals who are seeking asylum in the US.
- Website: <http://www.lgbtasylum.org/>

Resources for Refugees and Immigrants (Undocumented and Documented)

Massachusetts has pro- “sanctuary city” legislation in place, and the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court has ruled that a person cannot be held solely due to an ICE detainer.

Boston itself has an active 2014 ordinance which bars the Boston Police Department “from detaining anyone based on their immigration status unless they have a criminal warrant.” Neighboring cities Cambridge, Chelsea, and Somerville all have similar legislation.

MIRA coalition

- ❑ Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
- ❑ MIRA provides facts and figures, immigrant right information, contacts for citizenship ESL and adult education, health and human services, and refugee assistance. They also connect people with legal advocacy groups when dealing with CBP and ICE.
- ❑ Website: <http://www.miracoalition.org>

Jane Doe Inc. - Information for People who are Immigrants and Refugees

- ❑ Jane Doe Inc.’s targeted resources about domestic abuse and sexual assault for immigrants, both documented and undocumented, and refugees.
- ❑ Website: https://www.janedoe.org/find_help/for_immigrants

National Latinx Psychological Association Resource Sheet

- ❑ Resource list compiled by the NLPA organization
- ❑ <https://www.nlpa.ws/assets/docs/resource%20sheet%20for%20immigrants%20.pdf>

ACLU Massachusetts

- ❑ Information from the Massachusetts chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union on immigration matters
- ❑ Website: <https://www.aclum.org/en/issues/immigrants-rights>

PAIR Project

- ❑ The Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project provides free legal services to asylum seekers and promotes the rights of detained immigrants.
- ❑ Website: <https://www.pairproject.org/>

Resources for Disabled Individuals

Olmstead Rights - Massachusetts Resource List

- Compiled by the Olmstead Rights organization
- https://www.olmsteadrights.org/self-helptools/advocacy-resources/item.6692-Massachusetts_Disability_Resources_and_Advocacy_Organizations

The Arc of Massachusetts Resource List

- Resources by age, disability type, and topic compiled by the Arc organization of Massachusetts
- <https://thearcofmass.org/resources/>

New England Americans with Disabilities Act Center

- One of ten ADA centers nationwide, dedicated to information, guidance and training on the ADA.
- Office: 180-200 Portland Street
Boston, MA
- Phone: 1-800-949-4232
- TTY: 1-800-949-4232
- Website: <https://www.newenglandada.org/>

MassMATCH

- Massachusetts Initiative to Maximize Assistive Technology in Consumers Hands
- Provides a short-term assistive technology loan program, operated in conjunction with the Easter Seals of Massachusetts
- Website: https://www.massmatch.org/find_at/borrow.php
- Phone contact for short-term loan service: 800-244-2756
- Email for short-term loan service: ATRCBoston@eastersealsma.org

Resources for Parents and Caregivers

Due to insurance concerns the Society for Historical Archaeology is not able to directly provide childcare at its conferences. We welcome children and dependants of all ages, and hope that our members feel as if this space can be shared with their family.

That being said, we are happy to share four options for child and dependant care, all of which provide insured, short or long-term services, require background checks, and have sitting services at a variety of price points.

Boston's Best Babysitters

- In operation since 1996, they provide childcare, eldercare, and petcare through a fully insured and bonded nanny agency, which is registered and inspected by the Massachusetts Division of Labor Standards.
- Email: inquiry@bbbabysitters.com

- Text: 617-455-7171
- Website: <https://www.bostonsbestbabysitters.com/home.html>

Parents In a Pinch - Care.com

- Parents in a Pinch, now part of Care.com's Backup Care services, provides backup or short notice as early as one month out for childcare, adult and elder care.
- Website: <https://www.parentsinapinch.com/>

Kids Nite Out

- Though headquartered in Florida, Kids Nite Out offers nationwide childcare services through their insured agency. They specialize in hotel babysitting, and are partnered with Loews, Sheraton, Marriott, and Hilton hotels.
- Website: <http://kidsniteout.com/>
- Phone: 800-696-8105

Care.com - Vacation Babysitters

- Care.com's listing service for local nannies and babysitters offering child, adult, and elder care for those on vacation or visiting Boston
- Website: <https://www.care.com/vacation-nannies>

Resources for People in Crisis

The list below is by no means exhaustive, and if you are in immediate danger (and feel safe doing so) please call 911. Additionally, please see Open Counseling's list of Free Telephone Counseling Hotlines with national hotlines covering situations related to suicide/crisis, alcohol and drugs, domestic or sexual violence, eating disorders, LGBTQ+ issues, sexual health and pregnancy, and youth and parenting: <https://www.opencounseling.com/hotlines-us>

Boston Area Rape Crisis Center

- Free 24/7 Hotline
- Support, medical and legal advocacy, and immediate crisis resources
- Phone: 800-841-8371
- Web chat (from 9:00AM-11:00PM): <https://barcc.org/help>

National Domestic Violence Hotline

- Free 24/7 Hotline
- Phone: 800-799-7233
- TTW: 800-787-3224
- Video Phone: 855-812-1001

RAINN - Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network

- Free 24/7 Hotline
- Phone: 800-656-HOPE (4673)
- Website: www.rainn.org

Jane Doe Inc. - The Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence

- Free 24/7 SafeLink Hotline
- Phone: 877-785-2020
- TTY: 877-521-2601
- Ayuda está disponible en español.
- Website: www.janedoe.org

Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence

- Free 24/7 Multilingual Helpline
- Phone: 617-338-2355
- Website: <https://www.atask.org/site/>

The Network/La Red

- Free 24/7 Multilingual Hotline
- Survivor-led organization providing confidential emotional support, safety planning, and crisis intervention for LGBTQ+ individuals, folks in SM/kink communities, and polyamorous relationships who are being abused by a partner or partners.
- Phone: 800-832-1901

Fenway Health LGBT Helpline

- Free Helpline and Peer Listening Line
- Age 25+ Phone Line: 888-340-4528 - Monday-Saturday 6:00-11:00PM
- 25 & Under Phone Line: 800-399-PEER (7337) - Mon-Sat 5:00-10:00PM
- Website: <https://www.atask.org/site/>

Saheli Boston

- Confidential helpline offering responses within 24 hours
- Phone: 866-4-SAHELI (724354)
- Saheli, Support and Friendship for South Asian Women and Families offers [free services](#) to women and families in Massachusetts: domestic violence interventions, prevention and recovery; trauma informed programs addressing the physical and mental health and safety needs of women; legal and immigration consultations with attorneys; career and economic empowerment; financial assistance to families in crisis and volunteer opportunities.
- Services available in Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Marathi, Punjabi, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu and Arabic.

The Samaritans

- 24/7 Crisis Hotline
- National Phone: 800-273-TALK (8255)
- Boston Phone: 617-247-0220
- Website: <http://www.samaritansusa.org/index.php>

Samaritans Teenline

- Free 24/7 hotline
- Offers confidential peer support and listening for teenagers between the hours of 3pm-9pm on weekdays, and 9am-9pm on weekends. Adult volunteers answer phones outside those hours.
- Phone: 800-252-TEEN (8336)

Alcohol and Drug Crisis Line

- Free 24/7 Hotline
- Phone: 1-800-234-0420

Crisis Text Line

- 24/7 Free and confidential text message service
- Text HOME to 741741