



Thomas M. Menino, Mayor



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Boston Tops National List of Places to Visit

The City of Boston has topped the list of 15 national must-see places. CNN and Bing.com recently reported on Budget Travel's list of "15 places kids should see by the age 15." The Freedom Trail® and Fenway Park both made the list, which also featured national treasures from the Grand Canyon to the National Mall.

The Budget Travel article stated it "took hours of heated debate, weeks of research, and years of experience to whittle down America's monuments" to the top 15. The criteria for the list were the places had to be fun and educational, and magical through the eyes of a child. The new and improved list replaces the 2009 list of exceptional landmarks with sites that also keep the attention of a youngster.

However, visiting the Freedom Trail and its many historic sites, and taking in a game or tour at Fenway Park are for children young and old.

"The City of Boston is a place of firsts making it great to visit whether you are a resident or come from farther away," said Mayor Thomas M. Menino. "The Freedom Trail and Fenway Park are two of our City's many educational and fun places to experience over and over."

The Freedom Trail is made up of Boston's 16 distinct, original historic sites related to the establishment of our country. It is a repository of some of America's most valuable historic and cultural artifacts. The Freedom Trail Foundation is charged to help preserve and promote these sites of exceptional significance. Established in 1958, the Freedom Trail is a national icon and draws domestic and international visitors to the historic sites and the City of Boston, resulting in nearly \$1 billion in spending annually. The Freedom Trail was designated a Millennium Trail in 2000 by First Lady Hilary Clinton. It attracts more than three million tourists, residents of Massachusetts, and school children each year.

"In this sophisticated city, Boston's Freedom Trail connects the history dots from yesterday to today." says Mimi La Camera, president of the Freedom Trail Foundation. "It invites people young and old to Boston to listen to the dramatic stories of brave men and women who risked everything to establish this country. It's fun and full of rich experiences. It's American history, but not the same old story."

Tours of the Freedom Trail are led by the Freedom Trail Foundation's 18th century costumed guides. In addition, the National Park Service's educational interpreters and many knowledgeable educators at sites such as Old North Church, Old South Meeting House, Old State House, and Paul Revere House make visiting the Trail genuinely fun.

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Though generations have come and gone, Fenway Park remains, much like it did the day it opened on 1912. Named by Red Sox founder and owner, John I. Taylor, for its location in the Fenway section of Boston, Fenway Park seats over 37,000 people day and night, and has seen recent improvements on every facet of the park designed to ensure it will remain structurally sound, and the home of the Boston Red Sox, for the next 30-40 years. Experiencing the thrill of Red Sox Nation while taking in a game or a 50-minute guided tour of Major League Baseball's oldest stadium links any history or baseball enthusiast to the legends of baseball's past and current day stars.

"For many in the New England area, Fenway Park is far more than just a 'ballpark' – it is an icon that provides a sense of identity and a place for family traditions to be passed from one generation to the next," said Red Sox President/CEO Larry Lucchino. "We are honored that Fenway Park has been recognized as one of the top national treasures for children to visit, and we hope to find new and innovative ways to share its heritage and excitement with many more children and future generations."

Fenway Park tour guides relay the historic magnitude of its geometrically peculiar shape (including the only ladder in play in the majors) and manually operated scoreboard, and encourage hands-on exploration of the Green Monster (the park's 37-foot-tall left-field wall), the dugout, and press box, and pristine baseball diamond.

For more information regarding the Freedom Trail, visit thefreedomtrail.org or call (617) 357-8300. For more information on Fenway Park and the Red Sox, visit www.redsox.com, or to book a tour e-mail tours@redsox.com or call (617) 226.6666.

The "15 places kids should see by age 15" reported by Budget Travel, in order, are Grand Canyon – Arizona, Redwood National Park – California, Monticello – Virginia, The Freedom Trail – Massachusetts, Niagara Falls – New York, The National Mall – Washington, D.C., Williamsburg – Virginia, Walt Disney World Resort – Florida, Independence Hall – Pennsylvania, Alcatraz Island – California, Ellis Island – New York, Yellowstone National Park – Wyoming, Montana and Idaho, Fenway Park – Massachusetts, Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve – Idaho, and the San Diego Zoo – California.

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