

Restaurants / Places of Interest Around Suffolk University

There's dozens of places to eat around Suffolk's campus. Since we're in a touristy area, you'll find ubiquitous "Boston" offerings such as clam chowder and Boston Cream Pie on many menus, but probably not the ones listed below. What follows is a subjective overview of places to eat and a few areas of interest close by.

Close By: Lunch Places

*The following are a few minutes from the 73 Tremont building, good places for lunch. Folks with a little more time can wander to **Chinatown**, about 10 minutes away by casual stroll: follow Tremont Street past the Common to Boylston Street and turn left.*

Zen (21A Beacon Street, across from the Atheneum). Very good sushi. \$

Scolley Square (Beacon Street, next door to Zen). Sandwiches, etc. Seafood emphasis; also good for dinner, but a bit pricey and noisy at that hour. \$\$

Ma Soba (156 Cambridge Street). Pan-Asian; sushi emphasis, but they have a bit of everything. \$

Kinsale (Cambridge Street, actually 2 Center Plaza). Irish; not entirely authentic, but decent; good place to go if you're with a crowd. \$\$

Grotto (37 Bowdoin Street). Northern Italian; also very good for dinner. \$\$

No. 9 Park (Park Street). For those of you with a virtually unlimited budget... \$\$\$\$

Moouo. (15 Beacon Street). Almost as pricey as No. 9 Park, but nowhere near as good. \$\$\$

Sam La Grassa's. (44 Province Street). Big, meaty sandwiches. Short walk from Suffolk; walk down School Street (past Omni Parker House) and turn right. \$\$

Chacarero. (101 Arch Street). Unique Chilean sandwiches (and nothing else); very popular. The small size is plenty big. Walk down School Street, turn right onto Arch. \$

Pierrot Bistro (272 Cambridge Street, near the Holiday Inn). Charming, authentic French cuisine. \$\$\$

Antonio's (Cambridge Street, also near the Holiday Inn). Good (if uncreative) Italian. \$

Coffee drinkers will find Starbucks or Dunkin Donuts without any effort. There is a local chain called Finagle a Bagel that has decent bagels, breakfast sandwiches, and salads.

Further afield: Dinner

Quincy Market / Faneuil Hall / Aquarium area

The legendary “cradle of the American Revolution” is now a shopping district. To get there from Suffolk, walk down Cambridge Street toward the Holiday Inn, cross the street (on a crosswalk, or at your peril), and walk across a brick wasteland in front of what some architects have deemed *the ugliest building in America*: that’s Boston City Hall. Continue past it down a set of stairs, and keep your eyes averted.

The central building of Quincy Market is a great place for lunch if you don’t mind crowds: one walks past frenzied chefs who call out their fare. You can pick up anything from raw oysters to teriyaki, then fight to find a table in the central rotunda (or bring your food outside if the weather’s nice).

There’s no shortage of places to eat here and trinkets to buy if you’ve promised a Boston-themed gift for someone at home. If the weather’s nice, it’s pleasant to stroll around at night. Many Irish bars nearby.

Beyond the marketplace, you can cross the new “greenway” to the aquarium. (Visitors who haven’t been here since the infamous “Big Dig” might remember a hideous elevated highway here: that’s all gone, or buried). There are a couple of good restaurants near the aquarium: one of many Legal Seafoods (a national, Boston-based restaurant chain with reputable ocean food) and Sel de la Terre.

Walk past the aquarium to the right along the Harborwalk and you’ll eventually get to the Institute of Contemporary Art (100 Northern Avenue). (You’ll pass the upscale Harbor Hotel; its restaurant Meritage boasts the most extensive wine list in the city. \$\$\$\$) The ICA is currently featuring an exhibit by painter Charline Von Heyl.

The North End

Walk left once you get past Quincy Market (see above) and you’re in the North End, once home to Paul Revere, and more recently the city’s largest Italian neighborhood. Hanover Street is the main drag; there are hundreds of Italian restaurants here and a general convivial atmosphere at night. Many of these restaurants are similar, and predictable, and some are better than others, though I’m not the best judge of which is which. Mike’s Pastry and Modern Pastry, both on Hanover, compete for the best cannoli and other Italian desserts. There are also quite a few places to get cappuccino and watch an Italian soccer match.

The South End

Home to the largest concentration of Boston’s gay population, not easily accessible by T, but a short (10-minute) walk from Suffolk. To get to the South End, walk on Tremont

Street past the Common (the opposite direction of the areas I describe above). You'll walk past the theater district / Chinatown and cross the highway (Mass Pike); you'll still be on Tremont. There are dozens of excellent restaurants here, including the venerable Hammersley's Bistro (553 Tremont St., \$\$\$), one of my favorites. A number of good places to get a glass of wine and eat at the bar, such as Aquitaine (569 Tremont).

Charles Street

At the bottom of Beacon Hill, this street is charming with its traditional gas lights and bricks. Plenty of antique shops; a nice place to window shop. Cambridge Street intersects with Charles at the base of the hill; Beacon Street intersects at the other end, near the Common and Public Garden. One unusual, excellent dinner choice is Lala Rokh (Persian cuisine \$\$\$), just off Charles at 97 Mt. Vernon St. The bar "The 7s" on Charles is a great local watering hole, really much more like the bar on the t.v. show *Cheers* than the touristy place on Beacon St. that claims to be the inspiration. There are a dozen or so good restaurants on Charles. The Hungry I (\$\$\$) has an enclosed outdoor patio. Scampo in the Liberty Hotel right by the Charles St. subway station is a personal favorite, but not cheap (\$\$\$\$).

Back Bay / Newbury Street

To get to Newbury Street and the Back Bay from Suffolk, walk through the Boston Common, cross Charles Street, continue through the Public Gardens. Cross Arlington Street and you're there. (The streets follow an alphabetical pattern at this point: Arlington, Berkeley, Clarendon, etc.) Newbury Street is home to many art galleries and expensive shops, few of which are unique at this moment in history. Good people-watching opportunities. Restaurants of varying quality, few of which are cheap. Sonsie (toward the Mass. Ave. end of Newbury \$\$\$) is a see-and-be-seen scene, but the food's pretty good. Other streets in the Back Bay parallel to Newbury are largely residential (Beacon St., Marlborough, Commonwealth Ave.), but are lovely places to walk. On the other side of Newbury is Boylston Street, which is commercial. More restaurants and shops, plus the entrance to the Prudential Building, the second-tallest building in Boston (next to the Hancock Tower a few blocks north). If you're looking for a table with a view, the Top of the Hub restaurant is on the 52nd floor of the Pru. Spectacular views, adequate food (\$\$\$).

Harvard Square (and Davis Square)

It's easier and much cheaper to take the T (subway) to Harvard Square than it is to take a cab. From Suffolk, take the red line from Park Street; guests at the Holiday Inn are closer to the red line stop at Charles Street. In either case, you'll go in the direction of Alewife ("outbound") until you reach the Harvard station. Adventurous types can continue two more stops to Davis Square in Somerville, home to a few good coffeeshops and the best Irish bar in the area, the Burren, as well as the best barbeque (Redbones \$\$) and very good Indian (Diva \$\$). There are some great bars in Davis, including an underground speakeasy called "Saloon" (no sign outside) between the Burren and the Diesel Café.

Harvard Square. There are a dwindling number of used and independent bookstores; the Harvard Book Store on JFK is a good hybrid of those two types. Great people watching opportunities by “the pit” near the subway station. The retro cinema (“the Brattle”) is still around, and the restaurant above it (Casablanca \$\$) is quite good. My favorite restaurant in this area is Harvest (44 Brattle Street, creative contemporary American, \$\$\$\$) but there are many others. If you have a car or can get a cab, Oleana (One Belmont Street) near Inman Square is, for my money (\$\$\$\$) the best in the Boston area: Mediterranean fusion. Reservations a must.

Museum of Fine Arts / Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

The MFA is on Huntington Avenue; to get there via T, you should take the E branch of the Green Line from Park Street. The Gardner Museum is behind the MFA, a short walk.

Freedom Trail / Granary Burying Ground / Black Heritage Trail

The Granary Burying Ground and King’s Chapel cemetery are right next to the 73 Tremont building where the conference will take place. Graves of famous founding fathers. The painted red stripe on the sidewalk is the “freedom trail,” a 2-3 mile walk from one famous historical site to another. (Follow the red stripe on the sidewalk from the State House through the North End to Charlestown, around the Bunker Hill Monument). The African Meeting House and Museum of Afro-American history are very close to Suffolk as well, just off Hancock Street on Smith Court (admission free). A national parks guide can take you on a walk of the “Black Heritage Trail” in and around the Meeting House / museum.

Children’s Museum

If you’re here with tots (ages 3-8, I’d say), the Children’s Museum (308 Congress Street) is probably on your list: take the Red Line to South Station and follow the signs, or the herd.

Science Museum / Duck Tours

If you’re here with slightly older kids or curious folks of any age, the Science Museum is a 10-minute walk from Suffolk, less from the Holiday Inn. Cross Storrow Drive on one of the pedestrian overpasses and turn right at the river, then left when you get to a street; the MOS is right there. If you were hoping to take a “duck tour” (amphibious tourist vehicle), they leave from the Museum.

Enjoy Boston! Don’t make fun of our accents or driving habits!

- *Quentin*