

Certainly there's more than enough at the conference to keep you busy for your entire visit, but should you get a jones to wander, there are distractions aplenty throughout the area.

Newbury Street is home to several dozen private galleries, many of which host openings and receptions on weekend evenings; some of the best are MPG Contemporary (450 Harrison) and the Mercury Gallery (8 Newbury, 2nd floor; current show runs through August 11). Several people have recommended the cartography exhibit at the Central Library (see below). The library itself is definitely worth a visit simply for the interesting building itself (visit the reading room!) and its many permanent exhibits.

Gardner Museum – 280 The Fenway (Green Line to Museum station) One of the most underrated museums in the country, this Italianate/Moorish revival castle is chock-full of great European and American paintings, books, ceramics, textiles, suits of armor, sculpture and much more. The courtyard is especially attractive.

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Museum of Fine Arts – 465 Huntington Ave Ending on August 13, **Light My Fire: Rock Posters of the Summer of Love** will pack in aging hippies, and their excellent **Sargent, Chase & Cassatt** exhibit runs through September, as does **Americans in Paris: 1860-1900**. A Japanese prints show rounds out the schedule. Their permanent collection includes an enormous number of great paintings, prints, drawings and sculpture, including a number of excellent contemporary pieces.

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Mass Art – 621 Huntington (take Green Line to Longwood / Hospital station) Mass Art is a venue for several Typecon workshops, and has a half-dozen galleries of its own, some devoted to undergraduate and thesis work and others open to special exhibits of area and international artists.

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Central Library – corner of Boylston and Exeter, 1 block from Copley Square (Green Line to Copley Station)

> **film series** (6 pm, Rabb Lecture Hall) Aug 7: Lolita (1961) Aug 10: Lolita (1997) Aug 14: The Manchurian Candidate (1962) Aug 17: The Manchurian Candidate (2004)

> **Journeys of the Imagination** (through Aug 18): An exhibit of maps from the BPL's Leventhal Map Center. This exhibit features a selection of cartographic materials exploring humankind's changing perception of the world.

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Mills Gallery at the Boston Center for the Arts – 539 Tremont Street Works by Brian Willmon, Caleb Neelon and Andrew Schoutlz are currently on display.

...

Griffin Museum of Photography – 67 Shore Rd., Winchester (10 miles from the hotel) The results of their annual juried competition are on display through August 13, and items from their permanent and emerging artists collections are shown.

...

Harvard has three galleries of note, as well as a number of features attractive to aficionados of typography and lettering, including a piece by Eric Gill in the Memorial Chapel and several striking plaques made by John Hegenuer and others at the John Stevens Shop, on several of the Harvard Gates.

> **The Arthur M. Sackler Museum** houses superb collections of Islamic, Asian, and later Indian art. Among its treasures are the world's finest collections of archaic Chinese jades and Japanese surimono, as well as outstanding Chinese bronzes, ceremonial

Public transportation in Boston is inexpensive and goes almost everywhere, but different lines, the fact that express and other trains might skip certain spots, and various spurs can be confusing.

There are T stations throughout downtown, at **Park Street** (red & green lines), **Boylston** (silver – actually a bus – and green; this is the closest station to the hotel), and **Downtown Crossing** (red / orange). The **Government Center** (blue / green) and **State** (orange / blue) stations are also nearby.

South Station, the nearest Amtrak terminal to the hotel, is also an access point to the red and silver lines; also, an orange line stop in **Chinatown** and a green line stop at **Arlington** are nearby.

The **green line** runs mostly east-west, and north of downtown to Haymarket, North Station and Lechmere. Its western terminus is Riverside station. The green line is the best way to get to **Copley Square**, **Fenway Park**, and the back bay area. A spur runs to **Boston College**. The green line is the oldest working subway line in the United States, and it shows. It is not a modern system like the red, orange and blue lines, but uses streetcars – 130 foot long cars that operate both below and above ground (where they frequently get stuck in traffic).

The **red line** runs mostly northwest to southeast, and along with the EZ ride bus, is the easiest way to get to **Cambridge**. The Kendall Square / MIT station gets you right to that campus, and the Central and Harvard stations will take you to that larger university. The red line runs southeast to Quincy, and the SW spur will take you to Shawmut.

The **orange line** runs mostly north / south, and bisects the downtown area along that plane. It goes north to Oak Grove and south to Forest Hills.

The **silver line** is part of the T system but not a train; it's a high-speed bus line, and from the downtown area runs southeast to the Marine Industrial Park, and directly south to Dudley Square. It is the best way to get to the area south of downtown on the other side of I-93.

The **blue line** is the only line which does not come into the immediate vicinity of the hotel; to get on it, you'll have to transfer from the orange at State or the green at Government Center. It runs NE to Wonderland station. You can take the blue line to dog & horse races, excellent fishing spots along the shore, and the aquarium.

To reach the airport, take the silver line from South Station. This is easy and very affordable. You may also take the blue line and transfer, which will be difficult if elevators are out (they frequently are), or the water shuttle. Check to make sure the Ted Williams tunnel is open and that the bus is on time, though; recent structural problems have closed it intermittently.

Frequent **water shuttle** transportation is also available. Water shuttles run from Hingham to Rowes Wharf; Quincy to Long Wharf and Logan Airport (a free shuttle takes you from the landing to airport terminals); Long Wharf to Charlestown (a good way to visit the USS Constitution and Bunker Hill), and Pemberton Point to Long Wharf. Water shuttle service is more expensive than the T, with a one-way from Boston costing up to \$12.

The MBTA also runs a **bus lines** along surface streets. Dozens of routes will take you anywhere you need to go in the Boston metro area. see **mbta.com** for complete maps, schedules, trip planners and other information relating to the T, buses, commuter rail and water shuttle service.

The MBTA is currently phasing out tokens in favor of **CharlieTickets**, a stored-value pass system. Some stations have machines that will allow you to convert tokens to tickets, but it's a good idea to buy a pass if you plan on doing much traveling.

This city has more **sites of importance** to our political history than any other. From revolutionary meetingplaces to early churches and cemeteries, those interested in American history will find many sites to visit. There are a number of 17th and 18th century cemeteries in the downtown area, and all feature interesting examples of engraved lettering.

The **Freedom Trail** is an excellent way to walk through some of this history. Follow 2.5 miles of red brick or painted line through Beacon Hill, downtown, the North End and Charlestown. It's an easy walk for people of any age, and should you get tired (or should the heat be too much), you can jump on public transit. Call 888.733.2678 for information on the trail, guided tours and other nearby historical sites.

Other sites of particular interest include:

Harrison Gray Otis House – 141 Cambridge St. This national historic landmark “exemplifies the elegant life led by Boston’s governing class after the Revolution. Harrison Otis made a fortune developing nearby Beacon Hill, served in Congress, and later was Mayor of Boston. He and his wife Sally were noted for their lavish entertaining.”

Museum of Afro-American History – 46 Joy St. “A showcase of community organization & enduring testimony to black craftsmanship.” Also the start of the **Black Heritage Trail**, a 1.6 mile walk “encompassing the largest collection of historic sites in the country relating to the life of a free African American community prior to the Civil War”

Old South Meetinghouse – 310 Washington St. “Built in 1729, the Old South Meeting House was the largest building in colonial Boston, and provided a stage for the drama of the American Revolution.” In addition to its exhibits, this is the start point for Abigail Adams & Ben Franklin-themed walking tours.

Old State House – 206 Washington St. The oldest surviving public building in Boston (1713), it is now one of Boston’s most important and accessible history museums.

Paul Revere House – 19 North Square “On April 18, 1775, Paul Revere left his home for a journey that would make him into a legend. That home is still standing and has become a historic landmark. It is downtown Boston’s oldest building and one of the few left from the colonial era.”

Old North Church – 193 Salem St. It was from the steeple of this 1723 Georgian-style (and still-active) Episcopalian church that the two lanterns associated with Paul Revere were hung on April 18, 1775, igniting the War for Independence.

Trinity Church – 206 Clarendon St. One of the most architecturally significant churches in the country, this is Boston’s grandest religious structure and the capstone of Copley Square.

USS Constitution – Charlestown Navy Yard The history of America “Old Ironsides” is brought alive with tours, exhibits & reenactments offered daily. Take the water shuttle from Long Wharf.

Often overshadowed by Boston’s many historical sites are its excellent parks, zoo, aquarium and science museum.

Museum of Science – at Science Park, North End A great planetarium, IMAX theater, and a jillion exhibits for kids and adults.

Franklin Park Zoo – 72 acres of habitat space in the jewel of Frederick Law Olmsted’s Emerald Necklace park system. Many large African animals, an outdoor butterfly garden & a great petting zoo.

Aquarium – at Central Wharf, E of downtown Check out the penguins. They also offer whale-watching trips, an IMAX theater and lots more.

↻	South End (take silver line bus)
↻	South
	Newbury Street
	Copley Square
	Central Library (take green line to Copley Station)
	Back Bay
↻	Fenway Park
	The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
	Boston University
	Mass Art (take green line to Longwood / Hospital)
↻	Southwest
	Cambridge (Harvard & MIT; take red line)
↻	Northwest
	Museum of Printing in North Andover (30 miles)
	Haymarket Square
	Paul Revere House
↻	Copps Hill Cemetery
↻	Old North Church
	North End
↻	North & Northeast
	Logan Airport (take silver line bus or blue line T)
	Children’s Museum
↻	Fire Museum
	Boston Tea Party site & ship (<i>The Beaver</i>)
↻	East
	The Channel
	Government Center
	Quincy Market, Faneuil Hall & various tourist crap
	Court St
	Government Center Station
	State St. Station
	Washington St
	Downtown Crossing station
	Summer St
	Chungy St
	Wheat
	Essex St
	Chinatown
	Boylston St
	Avery St
	Tremont St
	Beacon St
	Boylston station

TypeCon *Boston Party*

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TypeCon *eat*

Boston 2006

DRINK

DRINK

DRINK

DRINK

DRINK

DRINK

DRINK

DRINK

DRINK

+ museums, transportation & more

No matter what you may have heard to the contrary, Boston has a huge range of interesting, fresh and delicious food, from the cheapest hole-in-the-wall to the most rarified French cuisine ... and since Boston is home to such an enormous number of students, you can be sure that there is lots of good *cheap* food in almost any neighborhood. So – welcome to the culinary crossroads, where old school Boston dining traditions meet innovative and exotic cuisines from all over the globe.

The city has enjoyed a culinary renaissance over the past decade and chefs like Todd English, Gordon Hammersly, Barbara Lynch, Marc Orfaly, Ken Oringer, Michael Schlow, Lydia Shire and Jasper white have made it a foodie destination and raised the bar for every restaurant in Boston. There are options for every taste and budget, and there is no excuse for having a single forget-table meal while you are here.

Chinatown	Downtown & Beacon Hill
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A few blocks from the hotel; a short walk will give you many options. Here are a few:

Suishaya – 2 Tyler St. at Beach \$\$ Situated on a busy corner; have the excellent stone pot bi bim bap and a cold Kirin and watch the world go by. Menu includes fresh sushi & Korean standards. Open late.

Peach Farm – 4 Tyler St. \$\$ Hong Kong style seafood. A foodie favorite, the abundant & varied seafood more than makes up for the lackluster décor. Try the salt & pepper soft-shell crab, ginger scallion lobster & more. Open until 2 am.

Taiwan Café – 34 Oxford St. \$ Not fancy, but a great bargain for authentic Taiwanese - try the whole fish, or mustard greens with pork. Quick service.

Penang – 685 Washington St. \$\$ If you can overlook the kitschy décor you will love the rich Malay flavors – try the seafood yam pot and green beans with dried shrimp, Hainanese chicken, roti canai and shaved ice desserts. The wait can be long but worth it for the low prices & great food.

Pho Hoa – 17 Beach St. \$ Vietnamese pho in various guises - straight up or with exotic ingredients; quick & tasty. Part of the Pho Hoa empire, this particular location exceeds usual chain quality.

Pho Pasteur – 682 Washington St. \$ The best pho joint in town. Cheap, delicious, and huge servings. Many vegetarian options. The pho tai has great broth & lots of meat. Noodle dishes are very good, too.

New Saigon – 696 Washington St. \$ This has to be the best bargain in Boston – \$2.60 Vietnamese banh mi sandwiches. Lunch boxes to go, too. Mainly takeout, so plan to eat yours outdoors.

Happy Buddha – 5 Beach St. \$ Strictly vegetarian Chinese food, with tofu & vegetable "meat" entrees of pleasantly surprising flavor and complexity.

Hei La Moon – 88 Beach St. \$ Good fresh dim sum. Cart ordering, so good for the inexperienced. Better than China Pearl or Chau Chau City – even San Franciscans agree: you will not be disappointed. \$10 per person and you will be full. Worth the long line. Show up early on the weekends; variety decreases past noon.

El Do Cake House – 36 Harrison St. \$ When you crave some sweet cake or a cream-filled bun ... freshly made and delicious!

Ginza – 16 Hudson St. \$\$ Excellent sushi, by Chinatown standards at least, and very fresh fish. Menu of American-safe Japanese dishes as well for those who are scared of sashimi.

Newbury Street	North End
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Downtown Crossing red Line to green line, exit at Copley Square. You can start at Copley and work your way up one side and back down Newbury – the Back Bay scene for shopping, galleries, people watching, posing, car strutting and dining.

Top of the Hub – 800 Boylston, 52nd floor \$\$\$ Great views from the top of Prudential Center; no reservations, but quick seating; worth a few overpriced cocktails for the north side view.

Tapeo – 266 Newbury \$\$\$ Tapas bar in an old house, lower level with patio. Delicious garlicky tapas and several sangrias to quench your thirst. Sit outside or at the bar.

Steve's Greek Restaurant – 316 Newbury \$ Best bargain on Newbury – an old-style Greek gyro shop, sit-down dining & resin'y wines by the glass. Good gyros & salads piled with feta.

The Other Side – 407 Newbury \$ One of the few places to find a decent meal for under \$10 on this side of town. Also, they serve Pabst Blue Ribbon – with breakfast! What else do you need? The food is simple and delicious, the service fast, with some of the best huevos ranche-ros on this side of the country. Healthy food & lots of vegeterian-friendly choices, plus you can sit out on the patio when the weather allows.

Eastern Standard – 500 Commonwealth \$\$\$ All parts of the animal are cooked here, to great effect. If you've got a taste for real meat – braised beef cheek, liver & onions, roast marrow, an offal amuse bouche or any sort of French bistro fare – mussels & frites, a plate of foie gras and a bit of baguette, etc. – this is the place for you.

Addis Red Sea – 544 Tremont \$ South of Newbury on the way back toward downtown, Addis Red Sea is recommended as Boston's best Ethiopian restaurant. The menu will more than satisfy vegetarians, vegans, and even die-hard meat eaters. Eat your food with handfuls of fresh spongy injera, no forks or knives needed. A great introduction to one of the world's tastiest cuisines, and worth checking out.

Numerous restaurants and bars dot Newbury and Huntington Ave., one block over. There is a **Legal Seafood** at the Prudential Center, but the Long Wharf location is superior.

This area borders the Back Bay Fens, Northeastern Univ., Harvard Medical, Berklee College, Mass Art, the Museum of Fine Art, Wheelock College, and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Since Mass Art is one of the conference venues, I'll list a few dinner spots closer to it than Newbury proper:

Clio Restaurant – 370 Commonwealth \$\$\$ Two blocks from Berklee, this nouveau-Japanese spot has an excellent and not-inexpensive tasting menu, very creative omakase meals and is often compared favorably with Manhattan's Nobu.

Brown Sugar Cafe – 129 Jersey St. \$\$ A mix of authentic Northern & Southern Thai; consistently one of Boston's best Thai restaurants.

Students there recommend the cafeteria at Mass Art itself, the the Museum of Fine Art, also very close, has an excellent café.

<p>LAST-MINUTE NORTH END RECOMMENDATIONS:</p> <p>apertifs at Caffe Pompei – 280 Hanover St. \$, or Caffe Vittorio – 196 Hanover St. \$; dinner at Brizzo – 241 Hanover St. \$\$\$, Florentine Café – 333 Hanover St. \$\$, or Mama Maria's – 3 North Square \$\$; followed by dessert at Mike's Pastry – 300 Hanover St. \$</p>

Boston's Italian neighborhood. Lots to see, but first stroll around; this is second only to Faneuil Hall as a tourist mecca, but if you get off Hanover things quiet down. Wander down Salem and find an number of markets – greengrocers, a candy shop, a butcher and **Polcari Coffee** (105 Salem St.) which sells only beans, not hot steaming cups. Stop in for the ambience and pleasant banter from the guys behind the counter.

Beware the tendency to overcharge tourists for popular items like pastries and ice cream, and bottled water in the restaurants. When in doubt, ask about the price. Menus are posted for most places and you can usually tell what is good by the presence of a line. Some favorites:

Trattoria il Panino – 11 Parmenter \$\$\$ Regularly voted best pasta in Boston and a local favorite, with an emphasis on fresh local seafood.

Caffe Paradiso – 255 Hanover St. \$\$ This espresso bar has all the essentials; good coffee, aperitivos and small menu. Go here to soak up the ambience – Italian soccer décor, native speakers and the well-groomed man who sits in the corner and is greeted respectfully by everyone who enters ... a good place to sip a late-afternoon Campari, or a post-dinner coffee.

Artu – 6 Prince St. (off Hanover) \$\$ This trattoria & panini bar specializes in takeout sandwiches, but also has a pleasant room and an interesting and quite affordable menu. A great place for a group to share a few bottles. Try the lamb sandwich – thin slices with a wonderful eggplant relish – served on traditional long rolls.

Ernesto's Pizzeria – 69 Salem St. \$ A great little place for takeout, or you may luck out and get a table. The attraction is 20 varieties of pizza, sold by the slice. Cheap and good.

Giacomo's – 355 Hanover St. \$\$\$ Worth the wait, but Bostonians tend to be a bit more gregarious in restaurant lines – that and watching parallel parking attempts makes time pass quickly. Delicious pasta dishes. Cash only.

Prezza – 24 Fleet St. \$\$\$ Excellent, sophisticated food in a swanky setting. Plan for a late dinner, when the room will be crowded, and enjoy the quintessence of Italian food. A simple white bean puree appetizer was especially good recently.

Carmen – 33 North Square \$\$ Cichetti-like small plates & an excellent crespelle (Italian crepes) bolognese. Pleasant tiny bar.

Lucca – 226 Hanover St \$\$\$ Uniformly loved by locals, visiting foodies and the press, Lucca's menu is typical of Boston's new Italian: a focus on fresh seafood, and an emphasis on high-quality local produce.

Sage – 69 Prince St. \$\$\$ The menu changes weekly. Recent standouts were a butter-poached lobster, tempura soft-shell crab, crispy rabbit with artichoke risotto, and a number of fresh local fish entrees.

Antico Forno – 93 Salem St. \$\$ Good brick oven pizza and tasty caprese. Friendly staff. The fusilli al tegamino is recommended.

Olives – 10 City Square, Charlestown \$\$\$ Over the bridge north of the city is Todd English's first restaurant, still serving great food. Everything here is robust, just a bit more wonderful than you would expect. Allow time to savor each course. Great views of the city through the big picture windows, too. Take a cab across Charlestown Bridge and enjoy the twilight view.

OK, it's a tourist trap. But it is also a colorful, bustling place with lots to see and you have to buy lobster bibs for granny somewhere ... no need to starve here. There is a huge food court within the Central Market building. Bagels, coffee, pastries, Greek, Thai, Chinese, sushi, seafood, even cream puffs ... It might not be high cuisine, but you can pick & choose so everyone gets what they want.

If you want to eat at a bar, go across the street and eat at the granddaddy of them all – **Union Oyster House** (41 Union St. – \$\$\$). This is an institution, so put up with the sometimes iffy service, spilled beer and lines of tourists, and have a bowl of chowder in one of the oldest restaurants in the country. While the food has gone downhill lately, the oysters are still great and always fresh, so order a plate and a drink.

Kingfish Hall – Faneuil Hall Market \$\$\$ Impeccably fresh fish. Lively setting, lots of tourists but worth the aggravation – plus the restaurant is a visual treat. Very popular, expect to wait unless off-peak.

Sultan's Kitchen – 115 State St. \$ The best Middle Eastern food downtown, but priced for the suit & tie crowd. Try the sublime eggplant and lamb sandwich, or the excellent if pricey \$7 falafel. They deliver until 8 pm.

Sel de la Terre – 255 State St. (Long Wharf) \$\$\$ Just past Faneuil Hall at Long Wharf, Sel de la Terre serves Provençal cooking at its unfussy best, in a beautiful unstuffy room, with a funky bar and smart service. Prix fixe lunch is a bargain (but a hike from the Hyatt); another option is the late menu – served 10 pm - 1 am. Or get a takeout sandwich or pastry from the foyer counter. Dine, then take a stroll along the pier and watch the boats in the harbor – pop back in for a nightclub.

Cambridge

A short trip up the red line, or take the EZ Ride bus, Cambridge is home to MIT, Harvard and dozens of excellent, inexpensive ethnic restaurants. A short walk through the Harvard campus is full of treats for any lettering aficionado; from the Gill stone-carving in the Memorial Chapel to the Harvard Gates inscriptions by the great John Hegenauer and others from the John Stevens shop.

Cafe Baraka – 80 1/2 Pearl St. \$ Traditional Algerian / Tunisian and North African cuisine. Just outside the Central Square area. Salads, open-faced sandwiches, mezze, and excellent bedenjal mechoui.

Rialto – 1 Bennett St. \$\$\$ A melange of French, Italian and Spanish made with local fowl, fish and produce.

Casa Portugal – 1200 Cambridge St. \$\$ An inexpensive favorite of students and locals. Exceedingly large portions of simple, home-cooked Portuguese food.

Temple Bar – 1688 Massachusetts Ave \$\$ Trendy menu with modern takes on traditional New England ingredients. Good fish and shellfish, and a decent weekend brunch that is not nearly as adventurous as their usual dinner menu.

Sandrine's – 8 Holyoke St. \$\$\$ Lovely little French / Alsace restaurant, cozy and romantic interior. Carefully-prepared seasonal foods. Try the flammekuchen appetizer.

Andy's Diner – 2030 Massachusetts Ave. \$ Open early morning to 1 pm. Good basic diner fare: eggs, bacon and pancakes. Few dishes top \$10, making this a great cheap student hangout.

Cambridge, continued

Oleana – 134 Hampshire St. \$\$\$ Winner of the James Beard Foundation's 2006 "Best Chef Northeast" award, Ana Sortun cooks up a mix of North African and Greek dishes, with praise for such entrees as flattened lemon chicken with zaatar and Moroccan-style soft-shell crab.

Blue Fin – 1815 Massachusetts Ave. at Prentiss \$\$ Inside the Porter Exchange mall, in a strip of Asian markets and Japanese cafes. Inexpensive but fresh fish and great udon keep crowds of students packed into this spot every day and night.

The Blue Room – 1 Kendall Sq. \$\$\$ Good "New American," known for its weekend brunch. For \$19, you can eat your fill of fantastic ceviche, grilled meats & perfect pancakes.

Rangzen – 24 Pearl St. \$ This Tibetan spot has a good lunch buffet, with a number of tasty, fresh and veggie-laden choices.

Boca Grande – 1728 Massachusetts Ave. \$ Delicious, hearty Mexican, freshly prepared and cheap. Tacos al pastor, grilled chicken, etc.

Southie & Fort Point

Just across Summer from downtown, a bit of gentrification is turning neglected factories, wharfs and warehouses into condos, art galleries & restaurants. The area's art colony has held on through this slow but sure change, and many galleries and studios have resisted the rising rents and still dot Summer St. and its tributaries. That may soon change, as the city recently passed a resolution to redevelop at least ten of the giant hulks along the water here, and developers may not allow many area artists to renew their leases.

Channel Café – 300 Summer St. \$\$ Owned by a Fort Point artist, this is a friendly neighborhood café and gallery serving interesting and large-portioned salads, sandwiches and seafood.

Lucky's – 355 Congress St. \$\$ While it may have jumped the shark last year, this hidden nightspot is still fun. Go for the Lounge Sinatra Sundays, unless you hate rat pack theme bars, in which case don't. Soft lighting, plush booths, and a good genre cover band. OK, it's just another yuppie theme bar. And its attempt at old-school charm may veer toward kitsch. But it's fun and less pretentious than it sounds.

Barking Crab – 88 Sleeper St. \$\$ If you absolutely must have the beach shanty experience without leaving downtown, this is a close approximation. Hot, noisy and crowded, picnic tables & paper plates will not deter you from fried clam nirvana. Good for groups. A few blocks from Fort Point Arts District at the Northern Ave. bridge.

The area south of central Boston and Fort Point has no "destination" restaurants. A few spots, though, are worth mentioning.

Cafe Polonia – 611 Dorchester Ave. \$\$ Boston's best Polish restaurant, it may not be especially healthy but it sure is delicious. Smoked salmon potato pancakes, melt-in-your-mouth pierogis, kiszka, a dozen kielbasa dishes, goulash – your heart may hate it, but your mouth will love it.

The Baltic Deli – 632 Dorchester \$ A wonderful, Chicago-style Polish deli. The paczki are excellent, and they make the sausage and pierogi served at Polonia, so you know the cooks know what they're doing.

L Street Diner – 108 1 Street \$ This diner serves yummy comfort food – roast turkey dinner, meatloaf etc. Good breakfasts, huge portions & a few authentically Irish items – blood sausage, boiled dinner, etc. A true hangover helper.

bars

Our hotel is smack-dab in the middle of the Financial District, which as many of you have found out by now closes up shop around 7. The Faneuil Hall bars are not all great, but if you do find yourself in that area, you could do worse than the beautiful bar at Kingfish Hall, Ned Devine's or the Black Rose, all of which are perfectly decent.

Beacon Hill Pub – 149 Charles St. \$ Beacon Hill is not known for its diviness, but the BHP is pleasant enough, with "ridiculously cheap" drinks. Due to the recent smoking ban, it's not nearly as filthy as it used to be – that's the major selling point, I guess. "BHP: Not nearly as filthy as we used to be!" Cash only.

The Tam – 222 Tremont \$ According to Citysearch, this is "a jambalaya of cheap booze and every type of barfly you can imagine: meatergoers meet Emerson students meet drag queens." Sounds like fun. Again, cash only.

Charlie Flynn's – 228 Tremont St \$ Those who are too drunk for **The Tam** make their way here. Tremendously grungy, and drunk patrons provide free entertainment.

JJ Foley's – 21 Kingston \$ This no-frills, decor-free bar is a good enough place to drink & seduce financial district types.

Pour House – 909 Boylston \$ Open until 2 am and a favorite of the just-turned-21 set. Their food is not as horrible as you'd think, especially after a few drinks.

Delux Café – 100 Chandler St \$ "A monarch among dive bars" is apt. Good food, generous and cheap drinks, good music and a good place "to take out of towners... and rescue random tourists who would otherwise head for the nearby Hard Rock." Nominally in the South End, a short cab ride from the hotel.

Bukowski Tavern – 50 Dalton St. \$ Hundreds of beers on tap. Spin the Wheel of Beer if you can't pick one. This, the original branch, beats the Cambridge location hands-down for sticky-table ambience and pleasant bartenders. Just off Boylston, between Prudential Center and the Berklee College of Music, not far from Copley Square.

TC's Lounge – 1 Haviland St. \$ A dive with doormen. Dark and cramped, with centerfolds and cheesecake calender shots on the walls. They do have Duck Hunt, pinball, and a cocktail called "The Oxycontin." In Back Bay, just one block from the Bukowski, above.

Waltham Tavern – 298 Shawmut \$ The sign suggests that "ladies are invited," although when I was here the bartender was the only lady present, and just barely. There are three rickety barstools and a plastic chair inside. The perfect place to tie one on so well that you'll never get it off. A pleasant crowd of transvestites, transsexuals and other people of creative sexuality and dress. No rowdy students or yuppies, just friendly neighborhood folks. South End, a short cab ride from the hotel.

more bars

Pete's Pub – 108 Blackstone St. \$ Friendly blue-collar bar with decent food. Cheap beer, nice staff. Two blocks from Faneuil Hall.

Julien Bar – 250 Franklin, in the Langham \$\$ One of the nicer fancy hotel bars in town. Apparently, between all the bartenders here, they can mix 101 different martinis.

The Alley Bar – 14 Pi Alley \$ After 26 years, this is Boston's oldest gay cruise bar. Get your hairy masculine love on. pinball, cheap drinks & many friendly men.

Aria – 246 Tremont St. \$\$ **Saint** – 90 Exeter St. \$\$ Generically fancy, these two very slick night-clubs are a good place to dance. Don't forget a twenty for the doorman, or you'll be in line for awhile. Aria bills itself as "another haute cauture (sic) hangout for city sophisticates." Again, cash only.

Avalon – 15 Lansdowne St. \$\$ **Axis** – 13 Lansdown St. \$\$ These two neighboring discos – both loud and very popular – merge on Sunday nights for their enormous "gay night," so named because it's especially happy. Avalon tends to have decent live bands during the week.

The Red Hat – 9 Bowdoin at Scollay Sq. \$ Neighborhood bar. Quiet enough for conversation, loud enough to be interesting. Chicken wings are 10¢ each – plus: pinball!

Boston Beer Works – 61 Brookline Ave. \$\$ Across from Fenway Park, this local brewpub has a good beer-basted burger and great sweet potato fries. Catering to ballgame attendees, mostly. Good beer & decent food.

6B – 6 Beacon St. at Tremont \$ Should the loud lounge vibe at 6B be a little too much, push your way to the back of the bar and take the rear hallway into **Emmett's**, a quiet, relaxed bar where you can actually hold a conversation and see your drink.

Hard Rock Café – 131 Clarendon \$\$ Please don't.

BarLola – 160 Commonwealth \$\$ Hidden in the lower level of an apartment building, this cozy tapas bar serves good food & fancy-shmancy cocktails. Good sangria, too.

The Butcher Shop – 552 Tremont St. \$\$ As a bistro and, yes, a butcher shop, this place is adequate, but as a wine bar is does even better. An enormous list of wines available by the bottle or glass at decent prices, an unstuffy sommelier who is actually helpful, and the ambience is pleasant. Meat hanging from the ceiling? That's just awesome.

B-Side Lounge – 92 Hampshire, Cambridge \$ Both a hipster / indie hangout and high-end restaurant. Supposedly. The food is not bad, but it's a pleasant place as a bar, although we all know that the real urban hipsters are more likely at the **Beacon Hill Pub** or **Delux Café**.

Wow, did you notice we got through that whole list with nary a reference to a faux Irish tourist bar? For those who require such, though, I give you:

Hennessey's – 25 Union St. \$\$ They pour a proper Guinness and the bouncers will probably not beat you up. The food is slightly above average. Like many other Irish pubs in Boston, but maybe slightly more generic than most.