

BOSTON

FOUNDED BY ENGLISH PURITANS FLEEING religious persecution then the catalyst for the American Revolution (hello, Boston Tea Party), Boston has a strong streak of freedom at its core. Take a walking tour along the Freedom Trail to reacquaint yourself with the city's history then dive into red sauce Italian comfort food in the North End. The ambitious Boston Seaport entertainment district ushers in a new era here, with soaring skyscrapers and experimental pop-up shopping collectives. -AMBER GIBSON



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Stay
THE LIBERTY HOTEL

Thick granite walls, original wrought-iron windows and a dramatic central atrium hint at the Liberty Hotel's previous life as the Charles Street Jail, a historic landmark built in 1851 at the foot of Beacon Hill. Some of Boston's most infamous gangsters, like James "Whitey" Bulger, were once locked up here, but today the hotel blends past and present for a unique brand of luxury. The nightlife hot spot is home to three bars, including Catwalk, a refined experience encircling the rotunda reserved exclusively for hotel guests.

The 298 rooms and suites offer views of either the city skyline or the Charles River with cheeky decor embracing the building's jailhouse past (think scales of justice and framed antique keys). At in-house eatery Clink (get it?), diners sit amongst preserved jail cells while feasting on seared scallops, roasted halibut loin and hand-cut pasta Bolognese. To be honest, we wouldn't mind a life sentence here.



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Shop
LEKKER HOME

In Boston's South End, Lekker Home embodies a Dutch appreciation for art, textiles and utilitarian design. Husband-and-wife team Curt Carpenter and Natalie van Dijk's showroom is an interior design wonderland, featuring furniture, lighting and accessories for indoor and outdoor living spaces. Lekker means "enticing" in Dutch, and the shop's midcentury classics and contemporary European wares are enticing indeed, curated with sustainability in mind.

Many of the products on offer are designed and manufactured in the United States, from porcelain dinnerware by Myrth Ceramics to handwoven wool baskets by Thayer Design Studio. What really sets Lekker apart, though, is the excellent design team available for complimentary consultations to help select pieces that fit your space, style and budget. Many of Boston's top designers and architects rely on Lekker for projects like local Longwood Cricket Club and Mauna Lani resort in Hawaii.



Dine
SALTIE GIRL

Saltie Girl is restaurateur Kathy Sidell's newest Boston eatery, a narrow 28-seat seafood bar focused on sustainable seafood both local and global. The name is a nod to her childhood experiences sailing with her father. The restaurant boasts one of New England's largest tinned seafood collections, with 60+ varieties served with housemade piquillo pepper jam, house-churned butter and grilled sourdough from Iggy's Bread. You can sample baby eel with garlic and anchovies from Spain.

In addition to a list of daily specials, there's New York-style smoked fish served with cream cheese, luscious torched salmon belly draped over sushi rice, and snow crab stracciatella toast. If you can't find a seat — lines can be long and the eatery doesn't take reservations — you can always swing by Saltie Girl's stall at Time Out Market Boston near Fenway Park for uni arancini and lobster rolls.

