

# Traveler

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Black Book

# BOSTON



*To know a city is to live there, love it, and leave it. When you return, that's when you finally see it clearly. This may be doubly true of Boston, a college town so steeped in historical and literary iconography that it's hard to get past the Make Way for Ducklings Tour and the Red Sox in your mind's eye. We asked senior editor Lindsay Talbot, a Boston native, to give us the back-door tour of one of America's most beloved yet least understood cities. We think Boston's unwitting cool is all about its resistance to change—a peek into the Andover Shop or Bobby from Boston, with their blue blazers and dog-eared copies of "Catcher in the Rye," and you'll see why J. Crew has been riffing on them for years. But of course no one does it better than the original.*

## THE INSTITUTIONS

### Boston Brahmin

*Where to find the perfect two-button blazer, Ivy League vintage, and the table where JFK popped the question.*

#### Bobby from Boston ▲

College letter sweaters, 1950s Levi's denim, and trunks of military garb are displayed along antique shoe-shining stalls and curiosity cabinets at this South End warehouse. The legendary stockpile has been mined by Ralph Lauren, Marc Jacobs, and countless costume designers—Bobby's supplied wardrobes for both *Titanic* and *American Hustle* (19 Thayer St.; 617-423-9299).

#### Leavitt & Peirce

Across from Harvard Yard, this 128-year-old tobacco and specialty store is lined with university memorabilia—just the place to pick up traditional

shaving supplies, chess sets, and hard-to-find colognes like Royall Bay Rhum (1316 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge; 617-547-0576).

#### Andover Shop

This time-honored college outfitter is known for its English country attire with an East Coast twist. At the Cambridge outpost—still run by its octogenarian owner, Charlie Davidson, who once dressed Miles Davis and Chet Baker—you can browse the collection of herringbone blazers and argyle socks and the dizzying selection of rare English fabrics. They do made-to-measure, but trust the house cut, a two-button jacket with an undarted front (22 Holyoke St.; 617-876-4900).

#### Parker's Restaurant

Boston cream pie and Parker House rolls originated in this kitchen, and the grand mahogany-paneled dining room dates back to 1885. It's hosted Dickens, Emerson, Thoreau—and even JFK, who proposed to Jackie at table 40 (60 School St.; 800-843-6664; \$).



## MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW

It's no secret that a high-concept food craze is sweeping Cambridge.

Two restaurants that nail it are chef Tony Maws's French-inspired **Craigie on Main**, with its crispy pig's tails (853 Main St.; 617-497-5511; \$\$), and **Bondir**, for its lamb belly with Asian pear (279A Broadway St.; 617-661-0009; \$).

## Chow(dah) Hound

### Polcari's Coffee

This North End institution has been on Salem Street since Anthony Polcari opened it in 1932. Its punny motto, "**No grounds for complaint**," speaks to the caliber of the coffee, but the shop also stocks fine spices, dry goods, and Italian specialties (105 Salem St.; 617-227-0786; \$).

### Rosebud ▲

Davis Square's newly rechristened Rosebud American Kitchen & Bar serves "down and dirty" but delicious diner fare out of a **diner car that's been around since 1941**. The St. Louis-style ribs, fried chicken, and Texas brisket can't be beat (381 Summer St.; 617-629-9500; \$).

### Neptune Oyster

It's tiny and packed, but this North End raw bar delivers with its **freshly shucked bivalves**. Start there, then get a buttermilk johnnycake and a lobster roll (63 Salem St.; 617-742-3474; \$).

### Yume Wo Katare

This funky Japanese ramen spot in Porter Square has gotten a lot of well-deserved hype. Besides the **mind-blowing giant bowls of noodles**, it's famous for having only one other offering on the menu: pork belly, in a serving size of two or five pieces. Your choice (1923 Massachusetts Ave.; 617-714-4008; \$).