

Get Outta Here!

by *Robert Dominguez*



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NO COMMENTS

The Red Sox may stink, but Boston is still worth an October road trip »

BY TODAY'S GUEST BLOGGER:

RICHARD HUFF



Boston's Prudential Center offers spectacular views of the city's skyline. Huff/News

Steve Ameduri eases the green Upper Deck Trolley to the curb and lets his passengers soak in the view.

"Put your hat over your heart," he says, joking. "This is God's favorite baseball stadium."

To the right of the trolley is [Fenway Park](#), home of the [Red Sox](#), and loads of good and bad memories for [Yankees fans](#). Outside are bronze statues of famed players and signs of the good times the team has had.

Tour groups clog the tight sidewalks looking to get a glimpse at the hallowed [Green Monster](#) and everything else in the storied stadium.

For Yankees fans, this is the equivalent of going behind enemy lines.

Indeed, walk past a souvenir stand in [Boston](#), and more often than not there will be at least one item, sometimes more, emblazoned with the phrase "Yankees S---," or "Choke" - the official drink of the Yankees.

Yankee haters notwithstanding, Boston is a fantastic city for families to visit, and one well worth exploring for New York fans following the Bombers there for a season-ending, three-game series at Fenway from Oct. 1-3.

Visit anytime this fall, for that matter. Boston is small enough to maneuver easily, has a good subway system that reaches most parts, and prides itself on being a walking city.

Or, skip the walk, and take a Super Trolley Tour (\$36 for an adult two-day combo ticket, \$18 for kids) and get Ameduri as the driver and tour guide. The trolley stops at multiple key places and passengers can get on and off throughout the day.

Ameduri speaks in a sing-song pattern and inserts side notes and jokes into his narration that make passengers feel like they're getting a little something extra as the trolley winds through Boston.

"Young people are moving back into the city," he says at one point as the trolley navigates the North End. "It's great, it means new blood."

He stops to point at a narrow passageway that is considered a street, a vestige from the days when Boston natives got around on horseback.

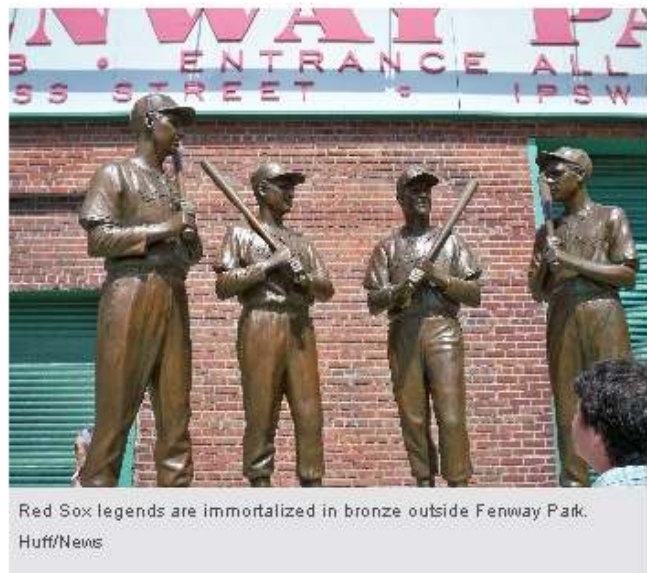
"They have to teach their dogs to wag their tails up and down instead of side to side," he says, punctuating the sentence with a hearty laugh.

The city has a lot to offer for families with children ranging in ages. More important, there are plenty of low-cost and no-cost things for families to do while staying in Boston.

For history buffs - or better yet, students just learning about the [American Revolution](#) - there's the [Freedom Trail](#), which takes visitors by foot to each of the key spots of history in the city, starting at [Boston Common](#) and going all the way to [Bunker Hill](#).

A majority of the stops along the Freedom Trail are free, such as the [USS Constitution](#), while others have low-cost entry fees.

One of the most popular stops is [Faneuil Hall](#), also free, which sits outside [Quincy Market](#), a jam-packed collection of unique shops, national chains and restaurants. It's not unusual to find a crowd circling street performers ranging from a kilt-wearing juggler to a man literally playing sinks.



Red Sox legends are immortalized in bronze outside Fenway Park. Huff/News

The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston is free to visitors after 4 p.m. on Wednesdays. And the Boston Public Library hosts a variety of free events, such as movies.

Visitors planning on hitting multiple stops, such as the [New England Aquarium](#), or checking out the amazing panoramic views 50 floors up in the observatory at the [Prudential Center](#), should consider a Boston City Pass (\$46 for adults, \$29 for kids), which offers a considerable savings for entry into those venues, as well as the [Harvard Museum of Natural History](#), the Museum of Science and others.

Hotels are abundant in Boston, and in the surrounding region. A couple even cater to baseball fans with extra cash to spend. Lots of extra cash. The [Hotel Commonwealth](#), for example, has a Fenway suite stacked with real baseball memorabilia. The boutique-style hotel is near [Boston University](#) and right around the corner from the park. The suite goes for \$755 a night - the number of lifetime home runs [Hank Aaron](#) hit.

And the Liberty Hotel offers the Ebersol Suite, which is trimmed out in Red Sox memorabilia, including a ball signed by the entire 2004 World Series-winning team. The room is dedicated to [Teddy Ebersol](#), the son of [NBC Sports](#) chairman [Dick Ebersol](#), who was killed in a plane crash. Depending on the time of the year, the Ebersol suite can run \$3,500 to \$6,000 per night, which, really, is a suite fit more for [Derek Jeter](#) than the average Joe.

Those looking for things to do away from Fenway can check out the five-star Boston Harbor Hotel, located on Rowes Wharf in the harbor area. Conveniently located near the aquarium, Fanuel Hall, the Freedom Trail, and more importantly, stops on the subway system, the Boston Harbor Hotel is a good spot for families to make home base while visiting the city.

Boston Common is a short walk from the hotel, as is the North End, which is loaded with small, but good Italian restaurants. The New England Aquarium is nearby, as are drop-off points for ferries, harbor cruises, whale watches and multiple tour trolleys.

The Boston Harbor Hotel offers stunning views of the harbor, nicely appointed rooms, a spa/pool, and a couple of restaurants. Those looking to cut costs by eating out of the hotel will find a bevy of local and chain options nearby.

During October, the hotel offers a Family Fun package that starts at \$420 a night and includes the room, apple cider and cookies delivered to the room, four tickets to the New England Aquarium, and free valet parking.

One slight downside? Red Sox owner [John Henry](#) docks his massive yacht right behind the Boston Harbor Hotel, so Yankees fans with water views will be reminded of the team every time they look out of the window.



Tour bus guide Steve Ameduri keeps his passengers enthralled and entertained. Huff/News

Just outside Boston there are plenty of lower-cost hotel options to consider for families looking to spend less on lodging and more on fun. Consider staying in [Woburn](#), or [Framingham](#), to lower room costs. One thing to consider, though, is that parking is a challenge in Boston - and costly. Expect to spend \$40 to park for the day, and traffic can be horrendous.

New Yorkers looking for a little bit of home away from home can find it - and get gastronomically fortified in a stunning setting - at the Boston branch of [Smith & Wollensky](#).

The setting, a castle from 1891, is grand, and the food spectacular. The owners put \$11.5 million into restoring and detailing the three floors of dining rooms in a facility built to house the [First Corps of Cadets](#), one of the country's oldest militias.

Assistant general manager Richard Cheshul, leading a tour of the castle, points to a set of massive metal doors that, when closed, are designed to withstand an uprising. Every corner of the place, he notes, was built to thwart off a surging enemy.

Like, say, an angry Red Sox fan?

Outside the castle, though, baseball fever is in high gear these days even as the Red Sox struggle to make the playoffs and the Yankees look like a lock to make the postseason.

The Red Sox, frankly, are in dire need of a miracle.

"Please God, if everything goes right," Ameduri says, pulling his trolley up to Fenway, "with your help, we'll make it to the wild card slot."

And if they don't make it? Tours of Fenway are given year-round.