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## TRAVEL

### Boston hotel boasts room worthy of bookmarking

Book lovers often have a special place at home — a sunny nook, a cozy armchair, a comfy couch in front of a fireplace — in which to curl up with a good read. But most traveling bibliophiles are also on the lookout for new places that will enhance and expand their reading enjoyment.

As a book lover and a writer, I especially enjoy exploring the haunts of famous writers of the past, hoping, I suppose, to catch an echo from whatever muse once inspired them.

I've found my own inspiration during encounters with Mark



STEVE STEPHENS

Twain's Hartford, Conn., Ernest Hemingway's Key West, Fla., and Tennessee Williams' New Orleans — to name just a few favorite destinations. And Columbus' own Thurber

House is a wonderful place for readers and writers to visit.

I also appreciate inns and hotels that go out of the way to accommodate their book-loving customers.

The reading suite at Hotel Commonwealth in Boston welcomes guests with an interest in books.

For me, a well-stocked library always trumps a well-stocked minibar. That's probably why a recent promotion by Boston's Hotel Commonwealth caught my eye.

Boston has always been a great book town, and it was the center of American literature when writers such as Nathaniel Hawthorne and Henry David

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GREG PREMJI PHOTOGRAPHY

#### If you go

Hotel Commonwealth, recently named one of the 50 best hotels in the United States by *Travel + Leisure* magazine, is located in the Back Bay section of Boston.

For information, call 617-933-5000 or visit [www.hotelcommonwealth.com](http://www.hotelcommonwealth.com).

#### STEPHENS

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Thoreau roamed the streets.

To celebrate that heritage, Hotel Commonwealth, located on historic Kenmore Square, has just unveiled a new "reading suite," a two-room, 600-square-foot guest accommodation that features an oversize library table, hand-hewn desk, leather wingback chairs, polished brass reading lamps and a window seat designed as a reading nook.

The rooms are decorated with signed letters from authors such as Raymond Chandler and Arthur Conan Doyle and a wall-sized reproduction of an antique map of the city (one of my favorite touches — I'm a map lover, as well as a book lover).

Best of all, the room contains a library of more than 50 volumes written and signed by authors who have stayed in the hotel. It also has a Nook Color e-reader loaded with books by Boston authors, books of local

interest, and magazines and newspapers with a New England focus.

And if you find that you're having trouble penning your latest novel (or just that overdue letter to Aunt Jenny), consider the hotel's "Writer's Block No More" package.

The package includes accommodations in the reading suite, of course, but it adds literary necessities such as cocktails at the hotel's Hawthorne lounge; afternoon tea for two at the Courtyard Restaurant at the

nation's oldest public library; a \$20 gift card to the Barnes & Noble bookstore adjacent to the hotel; and a "book box" filled with nuts, dried fruit and chocolate treats.

Prices for the package start at \$489 a night, so be sure to bring the check from your latest book advance — or maybe even a credit card.

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