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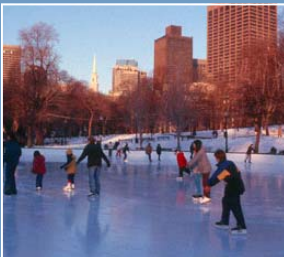
# W inter in Boston

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## Tree Lighting on Boston Common | *end of November*

The City of Boston's Official Tree Lighting comes to Boston Common toward the end of November. It marks more than 35 years that Nova Scotia has given a 45 foot tree to the people of Boston as thanks for relief efforts following the December 6, 1917, explosion of a munitions ship in Halifax Harbor. Within 24 hours of the disaster a train loaded with supplies and emergency personnel was making its way from Boston to Nova Scotia.



## Skating on Boston Common | *end of November*

Capture the scent of wood smoke in the air. Hear the sound of metal blades skimming over smooth ice. Close your eyes and your senses return you to 1634, as you skate on the Frog Pond in America's oldest public park.

[www.bostoncommonfrogpond.org](http://www.bostoncommonfrogpond.org)

### Public Skating Hours

Monday 10am - 5pm  
Tuesday 10am - 9pm  
Wednesday 10am - 9pm  
Thursday 10am - 9pm  
Friday 10am - 10pm  
Saturday 10am - 10pm  
Sunday 10am - 9pm

### Rates

Admission \$5 per person  
Children 13 and under free  
Skate Rental \$9  
Children 13 and under \$5  
Lockers \$2



## Boston Ballet's The Nutcracker | *end of November to Christmas*

"Timeless score plus world-class ballet troupe plus Boston's most sublime theater equals holiday perfection..." *Boston Herald* This holiday tradition is part of Boston's glorious holiday luster. Now showing at the newly renovated Opera House in downtown, this is a treat for the whole family. [www.bostonballet.org](http://www.bostonballet.org)



## Christmas with the Pops | *middle of December*

Join Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops in mid December, as they celebrate the holidays with music and fun at the historic Symphony Hall.

[www.bostonpops.org](http://www.bostonpops.org)

## First Night | *December 31*

Come one, come all to Boston's most celebrated party of the year! First Night offers many new and exciting performances and activities for the entire family from 1pm to midnight on December 31st. Visit over 40 indoor and outdoor venues throughout downtown Boston, with the purchase of a First Night button, for theatre, dance, music, visual arts, film, ice sculptures and more.

[www.firstnight.org](http://www.firstnight.org)

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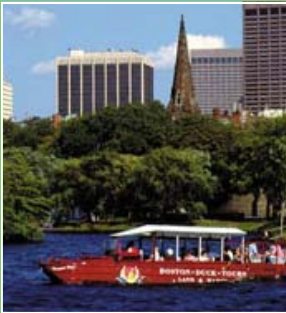
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# Spring in Boston



## New England Spring Flower Show | *middle of March*

The New England Spring Flower Show has become the true symbol of spring's arrival for almost 100,000 winter-weary New Englanders and Boston visitors and has grown to be the third largest flower show in the world. The region's most talented gardeners, designers and horticulturalists gather for nine days of breathtakingly beautiful exhibits, competitions, entertainment and information-sharing. As many as 40 fully landscaped gardens at the center of the five-acre event engage the hearts, minds and senses of visitors.



## St. Patrick's Day Parade | *Sunday in March*

This annual parade, held in Boston's most Irish neighborhood (South Boston), includes a parade and many family activities throughout the day of the parade as well as the month of March.

## Boston Duck Tours | *end of March to November*

You've never toured Boston in anything that comes close to Boston Duck Tours. The fun begins as soon as you board your "DUCK", an authentic, renovated World War II amphibious landing vehicle. You'll cruise by all the places that make Boston the birthplace of freedom and city of firsts, splash right into the Charles River for a breathtaking view of the Boston and Cambridge skylines.



## Major League Baseball | *April to October*

Nothing signals advent of spring more than baseball with a capital B, tightly meshed into American culture with historic firsts, icon performances, record-setting events, and traditions from hot dogs slathered in mustard to unexpected curveballs, and seventh-inning stretches. Books and movies about baseball are fine and dandy, but nothing beats Major League Baseball action, playing out each season from April through the World Series.

## Boston Marathon | *Patriot's Day, April*

The Boston Marathon is the world's oldest annual marathon. Considered by many to be the Holy Grail of marathons, the Boston Marathon kicks off in Hopkinton, MA and finishes on Boylston St. by Copley Square. Taking place on Patriot's Day each year, many non-running Bostonians and visitors have made it a tradition to line up along the route and offer support to participants.



## Art in Bloom | *end of April*

Hundreds of area florists and garden clubs display their wares at this annual event at the Museum of Fine Arts, including arrangements paired and displayed with artwork. Special events include Family Day, pre-arranged guided tours, afternoon tea, and more.

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# Summer in Boston



## **Boston International Film Festival | *beginning of June***

This festival celebrates the talents of local, national, and international filmmakers. Awards presented the final evening during a party at the Roxy.

## **Boston Harborfest | *first week of July***

A six-day long Fourth of July festival that showcases the colonial and maritime heritage of the cradle of the American Revolution: the historic City of Boston. Over 200 daily events during the weeklong festival are concentrated in Boston's historic downtown and waterfront districts, with sponsored main events on Boston's City Hall Plaza.

[www.bostonharborfest.com](http://www.bostonharborfest.com)



## **Boston's Fourth of July | *July 4th***

This free, very popular annual event includes two nights of Boston Pops music and finishes with a spectacular fireworks display on July 4th. Bring a low folding chair or a blanket and prepare to arrive early for optimum seats.

## **Chowderfest | *beginning of July***

This event attracts restaurants from all around metro-Boston to compete for the title of "Boston's Best Chowder." More than 2,000 gallons of New England's signature dish will be ladled out to a crowd of over 11,000 enthusiastic chowder-samplers in this fun-filled Boston tradition.

[www.bostonharborfest.com/chowderfest.html](http://www.bostonharborfest.com/chowderfest.html)



## **Festivals & Pride Days | *July and August***

There are many festivals and pride days throughout the summer which include:

- |                                    |                       |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Betances Festival                  | Dominican Festival    |
| Puerto Rico Festival               | Chinatown Festival    |
| Roxbury Film Festival              | East Boston Pride Day |
| North End Pride Week               | August Moon Festival  |
| South Boston & Italian Pride Night |                       |



## **Farmer's Market | *May 20th to November***

Come out and enjoy the local produce. Located at two locations in Boston. The City Hall Plaza market and the market at Copley Square, Boylston and Dartmouth St.

**617-635-4500**

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# Fall in Boston



### National Football League | *September to January*

If it's fall and you're ready for some football, count on the National Football League to deliver non-stop grid action, leading to playoffs, and the incomparable Super Bowl.

### SOWA Open Market

140 indie designers, crafters, artists, musicians, farmers and food trucks. Stroll around and view the various booths and tables on exhibit. Open 10-4pm.  
[www.sowaopenmarket.com](http://www.sowaopenmarket.com)



### Harpoon Oktoberfest | *last weekend in September*

The last weekend in September is time for the German style Oktoberfest, one of the biggest in New England. Come enjoy live German music, dancing, German food, and of course, plenty of Harpoon Oktoberfest beer.  
[www.harpoonbrewery.com](http://www.harpoonbrewery.com)



### National Hockey League | *October to April*

The National Hockey League's rough and tumble world packs a motherlode of milestones. From October on, it's non-stop action in the world of hat tricks -- three goals in a game by a player -- and sudden death overtime.

### Pumpkin Festival | *end of October*

A day of pumpkins, entertainment, and family fun on Boston City Hall Plaza! With live music, magic shows, face painting, children's activities, great food, and of course — pumpkin carving! Make this annual event a tradition for your family and friends. And don't forget, all proceeds from the event will benefit Camp Sunshine, a national retreat for children with life-threatening illnesses and their families.

[www.campsunshine.org/pumpkinfestival/boston.html](http://www.campsunshine.org/pumpkinfestival/boston.html)

