

# Please Come to Boston



By James Glasbergen

There's nothing like a warm summer day in Boston. Whether you are taking in a ballgame at historic Fenway Park, soaking up some sun in the Public Garden, having a drink at the "Cheers" pub, reliving history on the Freedom Trail, or heading down to Cape Cod, there is no shortage of accessible things to see and do in Beantown!

A great way to experience the history of Boston is to take a stroll along the Freedom Trail. Starting at the Boston Common, a red line on the sidewalk leads you past 16 historic sites, ending at the Bunker Hill Monument in Charlestown. While not all of the landmarks are wheelchair accessible, most are. The Old State House has a lift that allows wheelchair users to enter through the back door. The Old South Meeting House has an accessible entrance, as well as an elevator that goes down one floor. Even the Paul Revere House has a portable ramp that allows wheelchairs to enter through the front door, although only the main floor is accessible.



One of Boston's biggest attractions is Cheers Beacon Hill, the inspiration for the T.V. show *Cheers*. While the outside of the pub was used for the show, the inside is quite different from the bar on T.V. A lot of the characteristics are the same though, such as the front door, the diamond glass windows, and the lampshades. The pub is accessible. There is a lift that rides along the railing going into the Hampshire House, known on the show as Melville's. Once inside, you can visit the souvenir shop or take the elevator down to *Cheers*.

For baseball fans, there is no better place to watch a game than historic Fenway Park. Built in 1912, Fenway



has been home to some of the game's greatest players, including Babe Ruth and Ted Williams. Fenway Park has a decent selection of wheelchair seating compared to a lot of other Major League stadiums. Wheelchair users can choose from sections located in the first row behind the visitor's bullpen, 13 rows from the field just past first base, or high up in the grandstand, behind home plate. Fenway Park also offers guided tours daily, a must-do for ball fans. The highlight is a trip onto the field where you can walk along the warning track and come face to face with the legendary *Green Monster*, the 37-foot-high wall in left field.

While there is much more to see in the city, there is plenty to see just outside of Boston as well. Across the Charles River in Cambridge is Harvard University, where students conduct free tours of Harvard Yard. In nearby Lexington and Concord, you can see 17th century homes and visit places that gained historical significance during the Revolutionary War. South of Boston, you can visit Plymouth and learn about the Pilgrims. A full-scale replica of the Mayflower is docked next to Plymouth Rock. Further south, enjoy Cape Cod, Provincetown, and other seaside villages. There is also an accessible sightseeing cruise in

Hyannisport that offers a good view of the Kennedy Compound.

Boston offers plenty of accessible transportation options. Accessible rental vans are available, and most taxi companies have accessible taxis. One important tip: when calling for an accessible taxi, keep calling every twenty minutes to make sure someone is still coming. I have had several experiences where my call has mysteriously gotten lost after being told someone was on the way. The trolley tours through Boston are accessible, and you can also board an accessible motorcoach for one of the many day tours through Cambridge, Lexington, Concord, Plymouth, Salem, or Cape Cod.

With so many accessible things to see and do, Boston's a destination that shouldn't be missed!

*James Glasbergen is the Director of Accessible Travel at Frederick Travel in Ontario, Canada. In addition to arranging trips for disabled travelers, James operates a website devoted to wheelchair accessible travel. Visit [www.worldonwheelz.com](http://www.worldonwheelz.com) to learn more about Boston and other accessible travel destinations and to plan your trip.*