

T

he poet, humourist and physician Oliver Wendell Holmes once dubbed the Massachusetts State House “the hub of the solar system”, a reference Bostonians quickly transformed into

one of the city’s enduring nicknames: the Hub of the Universe or simply, the Hub.

However exaggerated the soubriquet, Boston’s influence on the history and culture of the United States is undisputed. It was here that the American Revolution began nearly two and a half centuries ago, a legacy the city will celebrate over the next few years, beginning with commemorative events marking the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party later in 2023.

On the night of 16 December 1773, a large group of colonists, many of them disguised as Mohawk warriors, swarmed aboard three British ships moored at **Boston Harbor** and dumped 340 chests’ worth of tea overboard to protest what they viewed as unfair taxation without representation. With costumed interpreters and replicas of the original vessels, the **Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum** tell the story of this dramatic event, the first major action against British rule.

The rest of Boston’s key Revolutionary War attractions are located along the **Freedom Trail**, a 4km walking route marked in the pavement with red bricks or paint. Guided tours are available through the Freedom Trail Foundation, which also has a downloadable Freedom Trail tour app available to buy.

At the trail’s western end lies **Boston Common**, the oldest city park in the country, founded in 1634. Here early residents grazed their cattle, colonial militia mustered and British Redcoats encamped. Today it is a popular recreation spot with ever-evolving attractions that

LOCATION SCOUT

REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT IN BOSTON

On the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party, **Annika S Hipple** celebrates the places that helped birth a nation



Above: Beacon Hill’s Acorn Street is one of the city’s most photographed thoroughfares



Commemorative events marking the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party begin later this year

important city gathering space that saw many protest meetings, including those that launched the Boston Tea Party. The latter was the seat of the British colonial government and, briefly, of the Massachusetts state government. Outside the Old State House, a stone circle in the pavement marks the approximate location of the March 1770 Boston Massacre, when British troops fired on angry colonists, killing five and wounding six others.

A resolute statue of firebrand Founding Father Samuel Adams stands on a pedestal outside **Faneuil Hall**, a building known as the Cradle of Liberty for the many significant debates and discussions that took

include a brand-new, much-discussed memorial, **The Embrace**, honouring Dr Martin Luther King and Coretta Scott King, who met while studying in Boston. Nearby, the **Granary Burying Ground** is the final resting place of numerous Revolutionary era notables including Paul Revere, Samuel Adams and John Hancock.

A single admission ticket gives access to the **Old South Meeting House** and the **Old State House (1)**, both housing exhibits on key events and people in Boston's history of revolution and protest. The former was a Puritan place of worship and an

place here. Down a nearby lane, the **Green Dragon Tavern** carries on the name and tradition of a historic pub – sadly demolished in 1832 – whose regular patrons included Paul Revere and John Hancock. According to legend, it was in the original Green Dragon that an eavesdropper overheard the British plans to march to Lexington and Concord to seize a rumoured cache of colonial arms, a vital piece of intelligence that prompted Revere and William Dawes to make their famous midnight rides to warn local militiamen. ➤



SCAN HERE
FOR MORE
INFO ON
OUR FLYING
CLUB.
JOIN THE CLUB
TO EARN
POINTS ON
EVERY VIRGIN
ATLANTIC
FLIGHT

Statesman
Daniel Webster
ate at least
three dozen
oysters daily
at the Union
Oyster House.



Below: Paul Revere House on North Square was built around 1680 and opened to the public in 1908

to patriots on the opposite side of the Charles River that British troops were approaching by boat. Early the next morning, the British troops encountered organised resistance from colonial militia, known as Minutemen, culminating in the first armed engagements of the Revolutionary War.

Two months later, the Battle of Bunker Hill – the Revolution's first large-scale clash of arms – took place in Charlestown, opposite the North End. The name of the battle is a misnomer, since it was actually fought on neighbouring Breed's Hill, where

an obelisk known as the **Bunker Hill Monument (5)** was erected 50 years later. Reaching the top requires a 294-stair climb up a winding narrow staircase, but the views are



unmatched. Across the street, the free **Bunker Hill Museum** has dioramas and other exhibits related to the battle.

While in Charlestown, stop in at the **Warren Tavern**, just a few blocks from the monument. Founded in 1780 and named for Dr Joseph Warren, who was killed at Bunker Hill, it was another favourite haunt of Paul Revere, and George Washington also enjoyed dropping by for a good meal and camaraderie. Raise a frothy Samuel Adams ale to the revolutionary spirit that still courses through the city.

✂ Fly to Boston

Also on the same block are the **Bell in Hand Tavern (2)**, which dates from 1795 and claims to be the nation's oldest continuously operating pub, and the **Union Oyster House (3)**, which opened in 1826 and has counted many famous figures among its regulars, including John F Kennedy.

JFK's mother, Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, was born in the nearby North End, Boston's oldest residential neighbourhood, where Revere also lived for many years with his large family in a four-room home that provides a fascinating example of 18th-century living conditions. **Paul Revere House (4)** is not far from the **Old North Church**, where Revere famously instructed sexton Robert Newman to hang two lanterns in the steeple on the night of 18 April 1775 – a prearranged signal



3 MORE ICONIC SPOTS IN BOSTON



BOSTON PUBLIC GARDEN

The nation's first public botanical garden is famous for its pedal-powered Swan Boats, which have been plying the lake since 1877. Nearby *Make Way for Ducklings* sculpture immortalises a classic children's book.



ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM

Housed in a three-storey mansion, this gorgeous museum displays the impressive collection of artwork and artefacts accumulated by its wealthy namesake.



BEACON HILL

The Massachusetts State House tops one of the city's most historic areas. In the 19th century, the north slope was the centre of Boston's African-American community, marked by the Black Heritage Trail.



Boston, in your pocket

Urbaniser is a new app for organising and sharing the places you love in any city in the world. All the venues featured in this story have been collected for you to download, just scan the QR code.