

General notes: Massachusetts has a 6.25% meals tax, and also allows an additional 0.75% local option tax. Boston, Cambridge, and Somerville have all adopted the additional tax, so the total tax is 7%. Although the Commonwealth has enacted a tax-free weekend during SLCC, the exemption does not apply to the meals tax. Plan to add a gratuity of 15-20%; most restaurants will automatically include an 18% gratuity for large parties. Price ranges listed do not include tax and gratuity, and are intended as a guideline.

This list is not exhaustive; the Park Plaza is in a dense urban neighborhood with a lot of restaurants!

Inside the hotel

Pairings (50 Park Plaza; go to north entrance, turn right, walk past shops)

www.pairingsboston.com

Open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner; limited Classic menu 2-5pm and after 10pm

Breakfast \$8-20, lunch \$10-20, dinner \$20-30; upscale hotel restaurant with some fancy dishes

Melting Pot (76 Arlington St; go to south [motor] entrance, door on right)

www.meltingpot.com/location.aspx?q=140

Mon-Fri 11:30-10, Fri-Sat 11:30-11

Fondue and entrees; see the menu online for more details

High booths and cozy nooks make a romantic spot, quiet, a few large tables available

McCormick & Schmick's (34 Columbus Ave; go to south entrance, door on left)

www.mccormickandschmicks.com/Locations/boston-massachusetts/boston-massachusetts/columbus-ave.aspx

Seven days 11:30am-1am

Lunch \$10-15, dinner \$20 and up

Fancy seafood restaurant with some non-seafood entrees including steaks; menu available on web site but changes daily

Whiskey Park (64 Arlington St; door from hotel lobby)

<http://www.gerberbars.com/#/boston/whiskey-park/>

Seven days 4pm-2am

Some "small bites" (\$10-15) served until 11, but go for the drinks not the food. "Upscale attire a must" according to the web site.

Statler Lounge (inside hotel lobby)

Limited bar menu and drinks sometimes served; hours seem to be at discretion of hotel. Area is open for lounge use 24/7.

In the building (but not reachable indoors)

Au Bon Pain (26 Park Plaza)

www.aubonpain.com/locations/default.aspx?l=46

Mon-Fri 6-9, Sat 6:30-9, Sun 6:30-8

Sandwiches and salads (\$5-7), pastries

Ben & Jerry's (20 Park Plaza)

www.benjerry.com/parkplaza/

Ice cream (\$4 and up). Boston is known for ice cream and the local shops are better, but this will do if you need a quick fix.

Finale (One Columbus Ave)

www.finaledesserts.com

Sun-Mon 11-11, Tue-Thu 11-11:30, Fri-Sat 11-midnight

Lunch: sandwiches and salads \$7-10. Dinner also offered. Fancy desserts are the highlight

MJ O'Connors (27 Columbus Ave; entrances on Park Plaza and Columbus Ave)

www.mjoconnors.com/mjoconnors/directions/index.htm

Irish pub; sandwiches and bar entrees. Lunch \$10-15; dinner \$10-20. Good beer and drink selection

Near the hotel

Maggiano's Little Italy (4 Columbus Ave; across the street from the south entrance)

www.maggianos.com/locations/detail.asp?unit_id=001.025.0139

Mon-Thu 11:30-3 and 5-10, Fri 11:30-3 and 5-11, Sat 11:30-3 and 4-11, Sun 11:30-10

Italian. Lunch \$10-20, dinner \$15-45, "family style" menu \$20-40

Legal Seafood (26 Park Plaza; a block from the south entrance)

www.legalseafoods.com/Restaurants/Boston-Park-Square

Mon-Thu 11:30-11; Fri-Sat 11:30-midnight; Sun noon-11

A Boston tradition; seafood with a few non-seafood items. Lunch \$15-20, dinner \$20-30 (more for lobster)

Smith & Wollensky (101 Arlington St; in the Castle, across the street from the west entrance)

www.smithandwollensky.com/locations/boston_steakhouse.htm

Seven days 4-10

Dinner \$30 and up (way up). A serious steakhouse; as usual for such places, the steaks and the side dishes are priced separately. Expensive but it delivers serious beef.

Fleming's (217 Stuart St, across the street from the south entrance)

www.flemingssteakhouse.com/locations/ma/boston

Mon-Wed 5-10, Thu-Sat 5-11, Sun 4-9

Dinner \$30 and up. The other serious steakhouse in the neighborhood, with similar prices.

Rock Bottom (115 Stuart St, two blocks from the south entrance)

www.rockbottom.com/boston

Seven days 11:30-?

Brewpub with typical bar food, \$10-20. Part of a chain.

PF Chang's (8 Park Plaza, outside of City Place, two blocks from north entrance)

www.pfchangs.com

Mon-Thu 11-11, Fri-Sat 11-midnight, Sun 11-11

Midscale Chinese, entrees \$10-20. (For cheap Chinese see Chinatown.)

Fire+Ice (205 Berkeley St, a long block from the west entrance)

fire-ice.com/index.php?src=gendocs&ref=Boston,%20MA&category=boston

Mon-Fri 11:30-10, Fri-Sat 11:30-11, Sun 10-10 (brunch 10-3)

“Improvisational grill”; you select ingredients and they cook them. Lunch \$10, dinner \$18

California Pizza Kitchen (137 Stuart St or inside City Place, two blocks from south entrance)

www.cpk.com

Sun 11:30-10, Mon 11:30-9, Tue-Thu 11:30-10, Fri-Sat 11:30-11

Pizza with eclectic toppings, \$5-15

Dunkin Donuts (Stuart St or inside City Place)

www.dunkinonuts.com

Mon-Wed 6-9, Thu-Fri 6-10, Sat 7-10, Sun 7-9

Coffee, doughnuts, sandwiches

Starbucks (143 Stuart St or inside City Place, two blocs from south entrance)

www.starbucks.com

Mon-Wed 6:15-9, Thu-Fri 6:15-11, Sat 7:30-11, Sun 7:30-9

Coffee, tea, biscuits... the usual Starbucks stuff

Starbucks (443 Boylston St, two blocks from north entrance)

www.starbucks.com

Mon-Sat 6:15-10, Sun 7-9

Just like the other one but in the opposite direction

Emack & Bolio's (8 Park Plaza, outside of west entrance of City Place, two blocks from north entrance)

<http://www.emackandbolios.com/locations.htm#MA>

Small local chain of ice cream stores, decent but not top-tier for Boston. It's closer than J.P. Licks or Toscanini's, and more authentically Boston than Ben & Jerry's.

Vapiano (191 Stuart St, outside City Place, two blocks from south entrance)

www.vapianointernational.com/vapiano/locations/us-locations/us-locations.html

Mon-Wed 11-11, Thu 11-12, Fri-Sat 11-1am, Sun 11-10

Pasta, pizza, salads, \$10-12

Boloco (2 Park Plaza, two blocks from north entrance)

www.boloco.com/stores/locations/

Seven days 7-11

Burritos and bowls, \$5-7

Flash's Cocktails (310 Stuart St, half a block from west entrance)

www.flashscocktails.com

Food Mon-Thu 11:30-midnight; Fri-Sat 11:30-1am, Sun 5-1am; drinks seven days until 2am

Sandwiches, salads, bar appetizers, \$8-15.

Rattlesnake Bar (384 Boylston St, two blocks from west entrance)

www.rattlesnakebar.com

Food seven days 11:30-1am; drinks until 2am

Lunch and dinner \$10-20 (same menu). Has sidewalk tables and roof deck.

The City Place food court

A shopping mall style food court in the middle of the city. Open Mon-Fri 11-8, Sat-Sun 12-7:30. A few places here also have their own outside entrances and are open longer hours.

Osaka Express (inside City Place)

Mall food court Japanese (teriyaki and sushi), \$5-10

Crazy Dough's Pizza (inside City Place)

Pizza, calzones, salads, sandwiches, \$5-7 (for personal pizza, not full pie)

Local company (a few locations in Boston and Cambridge) with above-average pizza and unusual toppings

D'Angelo (inside City Place)

Submarine sandwiches, \$4-8

Herrera's (inside City Place)

Burritos, tacos, quesadillas, \$5-7

Local company, got started with pushcarts in Downtown Crossing

Sandella's Flatbread Cafe (inside City Place)

Wraps, panini, quesadillas, salads, rice bowls, \$5-8

Farther afield

Although these are a bit farther, most are walkable. The exceptions list the nearest MBTA stop. Subway rides cost \$2 each, or \$1.70 if you have a permanent Charlie Card (not the paper Charlie Ticket).

Cheers Beacon Hill (84 Beacon St)

www.cheersboston.com/pub/main_locations_beaconhill.html

Seven days 11-?; children allowed until 10pm

Formerly known as the Bull and Finch, this is the place that the television series Cheers was loosely based on. It really was a neighborhood bar where “everybody knows your name” until the tourists took it over. Sandwiches and bar food \$10-15.

Jacob Wirth (31-37 Stuart St)

www.jacobwirth.com

Sun-Mon 11:30-9, Tue-Thu 11:30-10, Fri 11:30-1, Sun 11:30-midnight

Lunch \$8-15, dinner \$10-25. A true Boston classic restaurant with typical bar food plus a few German dishes, and an excellent selection of beer including cask-conditioned ales.

Chau Chow City (83 Essex St)

www.yelp.com/biz/chau-chow-city-boston

Seven days 8am-3am (dim sum served until 3pm)

Features traditional dim sum where the food is brought around on carts, and you point to what you want. Open really late in case you get hungry after the Avatar Ball, but don't walk to Chinatown alone late at night.

Pho Pasteur (682 Washington St)

www.phopasteurboston.net

Mon-Sat 9-10:45; Sun 8-10:45

Inexpensive Vietnamese; nothing over \$10. This address is the near corner of Chinatown; many other Asian restaurants are located within a couple of blocks.

J.P. Licks (352 Newbury St; Green Line (except E) to Hynes Convention Center or walk)

www.jplicks.com

Seven days 11-midnight

J.P. Licks has been on the Boston ice cream scene for almost 30 years. It's one of the good Boston-based ice cream places, and the closest one to the Park Plaza. They have other locations as well. Sorbets are especially nice.

Cambridge Brewing Company (One Kendall Square Bldg 100, Cambridge; Red Line to Kendall)

www.cambrew.com

Kitchen hours: Mon-Thu 11:30-10, Fri-Sat 11:30-11, Sun 10-3 (brunch) and 4-10

Beer hours: until 11 Sun-Mon, midnight Tue-Thu, 12:45am Fri-Sat

Local brewpub; in the writer's opinion has the most interesting beers of the Boston-area brewpubs. One Kendall Square is nowhere near Kendall Square (it's a Boston thing, don't ask) so ask a local for directions or get them from their web site.

Toscanini's (899 Main St, Cambridge; Red Line to Central Square)

www.tosci.com

Seven days 8-11

This is the place that the New York Times said has "the best ice cream in the world". Whether it's actually true is a religious war among Bostonians but it's certainly a contender. Notable for interesting flavors, every one of which is "cranked up to 11".

Other essential shopping

Sometimes you don't need a restaurant; you need a drugstore or a supermarket. The nearest ones:

Shaw's supermarket (53 Huntington Ave; Green Line E train to Prudential or walk)

www.shaws.com

Open 24/7

Tedeschi (717 Boylston St, five blocks from west entrance)

www.tedeschifoodshops.com

The closest convenience store to the Park Plaza; a slightly shorter walk than Shaw's.

Trader Joe's (899 Boylston St, seven blocks from west entrance)

www.traderjoes.com

Seven days 8-10. This location has no beer and wine, but you can't bring it back to the hotel anyway!

Whole Foods Market (15 Westland Ave, Green Line E train to Symphony or walk)

www.wholefoodsmarket.com

Seven days 8-10

Whole Foods Market (181 Cambridge St)

Seven days 8-10

This one is slightly closer for walking and has a larger prepared food selection, but the T is more useful for the other store.

CVS/Pharmacy (587 Boylston St, about 4 blocks)

www.cvs.com

Open 24/7; pharmacy 24/7. Also many other locations but this one is 24/7.

Walgreens (841 Boylston St, about 6 blocks)

www.walgreens.com

Open 24/7; Pharmacy Mon-Fri 9-9, Sat-Sun 9-5

A bit farther than the CVS; listed for the benefit of those who might need an emergency prescription and are on their network.

Staples (25 Court St; Green Line to Government Center or walk)

www.staples.com

Mon-Fri 8-7, Sat 10-5, Sun 11-5

Staples (57 JFK St, Cambridge; Red Line to Harvard Square)

Mon-Fri 8-9, Sat 9-9, Sun 10-6

Farther away than the Government Center store, but larger and has longer hours. There are many other Staples stores in the Boston area (they started here, the Brighton store is Staples #1) but mostly in less transit-friendly locations.

Radio Shack (414 Boylston St; 2 blocks from west entrance)

www.radioshack.com

Mon-Fri 8:30-9, Sat 9:30-9, Sun 10-7

Radio Shack (13 School St)

Mon-Sat 8-9:30, Sun 10-7

The best stocked Radio Shack in Boston; worth checking if the other one can't help you. For the historians among you, this is the store closest to the location of the original Radio Shack; the Brattle St address no longer exists.

Daddy's Junky Music (159-165 Massachusetts Ave; Green Line to Hynes Convention Center or walk)

www.daddys.com/local/stores/stores-list.php?storeState=MA

Mon-Fri 11-9, Sat 10-6, Sun 12-6

The nearest place to get audio gear, strings for your guitar, etc.

Guitar Center (1255 Boylston St; Green Line to Kenmore plus a bit of walking)

<http://gc.guitarcenter.com/locations/store.cfm?store=550>

Mon-Sat 10-9; Sun 12-6

The other place in Boston to get audio gear and musical instruments.