

MEET BOSTON THIS SPRING

Boston is a city for the ages, a dreamy destination in the hearts of intrepid travelers who seek out our storied history, robust culture, fine cuisine and breathtaking land and seascapes.

Visitors are lured here each spring by the perennial promise of beauty budding everywhere, from the Boston Public Garden and Rose F. Kennedy Greenway to Copley Square and the Emerald Necklace parks.

Spring brings to Boston a number of iconic events that people come for, year after year, decade after decade, like birds returning home after a long winter. Here are three of our favorites.



EVACUATION DAY & ST PATRICK'S DAY

March 17 • South Boston

In the minds and hearts of countless Boston residents and visitors, Evacuation Day and St. Patrick's Day are rolled into one, and rightly so.

On Sunday morning, March 17, 1776, the 11-month Siege of Boston officially ended when British ships abandoned Boston Harbor, forced to leave by American leaders of Irish descent such as General John Sullivan and Colonel Henry Knox. It was a turning point in the Revolutionary War.

March 17 is also the longstanding feast day of Saint Patrick, patron saint of Ireland, celebrated each year by the large Irish-American community in greater Boston and indeed, New England. This year, visitors to South Boston can participate in historical ceremonies at Dorchester Heights as well as the St. Patrick's Day parade, attended by hundreds of thousands of revelers. It's a great day to be Irish in Boston. And of course, the week of March 17 marks the first day of spring!

RETURN OF THE SWAN BOATS

April 13 • Back Bay, Boston

The majestic swan boats gracing the lagoon at Boston Public Garden are a treasure cherished by millions of visitors who have taken a ride or watched from the banks since the boats were first launched in 1877. The now-famous boats were first created by two Irish immigrants, Robert Paget and his wife Julia (Coffey). A boat builder by trade, Robert developed a catamaran propelled by foot pedals to sail around the quarter mile lake. He designed a swan to cover the captain pedaling the boat, an idea inspired by the popular Wagner opera, Lohengrin.



Four generations later, the swan boats are still operated by the great-grandchildren of Julia and Robert Paget and are more popular than ever. This year, the swan boats are in the lagoon daily from April 13 to September 2, 2024. Reservations are not taken, and tickets can be purchased at the Swan Boat dock prior to boarding the boat.

MEMORIAL DAY

May 27 • Boston & Cambridge

Memorial Day is an important holiday in greater Boston, a time to honor our military and to welcome the start of summer.

From May 22-27, 2024, the Massachusetts Military Heroes Fund plants 37,000 American flags on Boston Common in front of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument on Flagstaff Hill, representing every Massachusetts service member who gave his or her life since the Revolutionary War. Unveiled in 1877, the Soldiers and Sailors Monument was built by Irish immigrant sculptors Martin and Joseph Milmore.

Nearby is the Shaw Memorial dedicated to the Shaw 54th Regiment, built by immigrant Augustus Saint-Gaudens and dedicated in 1897 to the city's Black infantry during the Civil War.

At Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, visit the iconic Sphinx Memorial, also built by the Milmore brothers, honoring the Civil War dead. The Bigelow Chapel holds an open house on Memorial Day and gives out complimentary American flags for veteran gravesites.

Learn more about visiting Boston at meetboston.com

