

ACHS BOSTON WALKS

Downtown Boston is advertised as a walking town where interesting historical sites are within easy walking distance of each other. Though we cannot guarantee nice weather in February, we want to point out several walking tours that are within easy walking distance from the Hyatt Regency Boston; we are a short walk from Boston Common. Among the tours are The Freedom Trail, The Black Heritage Trail, and the Boston Women's Heritage Trail. Below is a short description of each of these so that you may select a Trail that interests you.

FREEDOM TRAIL For additional information, the website is <http://www.thefreedomtrail.org/>. A map can be found on the website. A map of the Black Heritage Trail is on the same map. For the Freedom Trail tour an audio player is available, and guided tours are listed departing from Boston Common at noon, 1:00, 3:30, and 4:30 daily; these tours end at Faneuil Hall. The charge for these guided tours is \$12.00 (\$15.00 for the audio tour - handheld device available at the Boston Common Visitor Center and an MP2 download available for your own player). The route continues beyond Faneuil Hall and ends at the Bunker Hill Monument. Unfortunately, many of the stops along the way are not open on Saturday or during the winter months; open locations are listed along with price, if any (caveat: prices are as listed in October 2009). There are red markings in the pavement along the way.

This two-hour tour begins at Boston Common and proceeds to the Massachusetts State House, Park Street Church, the Granary Burying Ground, King's Chapel Burying Ground (open 10-4; groups \$3 per person, minimum 25), the First Public School, the Old Corner Bookstore, the Old South Meeting House (open 10-4, daily lectures, \$5), the Old State House, the site of the Boston Massacre, and Faneuil Hall (open 9-5, with historical talks every 30 minutes). The Freedom Trail continues beyond that, but the guided tour will end at Faneuil Hall. You might want to cross the street to the Quincy Market.

There is also a tour that begins at Faneuil Hall and goes to the Bunker Hill Monument; it leaves at 1:30, so it will not be possible to finish the first part and immediately go on a guided tour of the last part. However, among stops on the last part are the Paul Revere House (open 9:30-5:15, \$3 but \$2.50 for seniors), the Old North Church (open 10-4), Copp's Hill Burying Ground, the USS Constitution (the world's oldest commissioned warship, open 10-3:50), and the Bunker Hill Monument (open 9-4:30 with the exhibit lodge open 9-5).

BLACK HERITAGE TRAIL For additional information, the website is <http://www.afroammuseum.org/trail.htm>. During the winter, this is mostly a self-guided tour, and it is 1.6 miles long. If there is interest, we can inquire about a guided tour that will leave at 2:00; however, the tour must be scheduled and may not be available. The tour explores the nineteenth century Black community of Boston. Most of the sites along the tour are private homes, and only the Abiel Smith School and the African Meeting House are open to the public.

Sites along the tour include Robert Gould Shaw and the 54th Regiment Memorial (the first all-black regiment recruited in the North but under the direction of Shaw, a white; Sergeant William Carney was the first black to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor), the George

Middleton House (the oldest existing home built by African Americans on Beacon Hill), the Phillips School (one of Boston's first interracial schools), the John J. Smith House (the home of Smith, whose barbershop was the center for abolitionist activities), the Charles Street Meeting House (in which the common segregated seating pattern was tested), the Lewis and Harriet Hayden House (the Haydens were prominent in the abolitionist movement and their home a part of the underground railroad), the John Coburn House (Coburn was tried for, but acquitted of, rescuing a slave), the Smith Court Residences (typical of the homes of Boston's African Americans in the nineteenth century), the Abiel Smith School (the first school in the country to be built for African American children - open 10-4 with museum store and exhibit galleries), and the African Meeting House (the oldest extant black church building in the United States - William Lloyd Garrison, Maria Stewart, and Frederick Douglass spoke here, and Colonel Robert Gould Shaw recruited for the first all-black regiment here).

BOSTON WOMEN'S HERITAGE TRAIL - For additional information the website is <http://bwht.org/>. At the website you can get maps of other tours near the hotel as well as descriptions of the stops along the tours. Below is a list of the first several stops along the DOWNTOWN tour. A book is available that describes the tours and can be ordered from the website. Please note that these tours are self-guided.

The attached map (again, from the website) shows seven walks that are near or around Boston Common. For example, the DOWNTOWN tour begins at the State House (a stop along the Freedom Trail), is listed at about two hours, and ends a block from Boston Common. According to the website

The walk features women across the centuries, with a focus on the eighteenth century through the mid-nineteenth century. It includes women who wrote poetry, essays, and plays and spoke out publicly before members of the Massachusetts State Legislature and in Boston's halls and churches for the abolition of slavery, woman suffrage, and African American and Native American rights. Boston's downtown area is home to its business and financial institutions, as well as to a major shopping area and the Quincy Market at Faneuil Hall.

The first five stops are at the State House (unfortunately not open on Saturdays). Then it is on to the Boston Athenaeum (perhaps the oldest library in America), a short street that had women's shops in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the statue of Abiah Franklin (Ben Franklin's mother), the studio of Edmonia Lewis (an African American/Chippewa sculptor), Tremont Temple (where Mary Rice Livermore lectured and Mary Baker Eddy defended herself before Boston clergy), the Boston School Committee meeting place (the law forbidding married women to teach was repealed in 1953), the Municipal Court House (where Jennie Loitman Barron, Massachusetts' first full-time women's judge, worked), the Howard Atheneum (where Sarah Parker Redmond, who had purchased tickets, was refused seating because of her race), Brattle Square (near which Abigail Adams lived), the Holocaust Memorial Park, Faneuil Hall and Quincy Market (where women protested slavery, taxation without (women's) representation, and Suzette "Bright Eyes" LaFleshe protested the treatment of Indians, and The tour continues to several more sites.