

Rediscover Chinatown-Ideas

Chinatown Boston

The first Chinese immigrants arrived to Boston in the 1880s. They pitched tents in what is today known as “Ping on Alley”. Today, Chinatown in Boston has grown to be the central hub to Chinese families in Massachusetts and all of New England. Located between Downtown Crossing and the South End, Chinatown offers a variety of historical attractions, events, and traditional Chinese cuisine.

Events

- **Chinese New Year Lion Dance Festival**
February 21, 2010
Time: 10am - 5pm
Open to the public
 - Lion Dance parade kicks off at 10AM Main Stage in Phillips Sq (Harrison Ave and Essex St)
- **August Moon Festival**
August 15, 2010
Time: 10:00AM-5:00PM
Vendor booths, Chinese Dough Art, Chinese Opera, children’s Chinese folk dance, Martial Arts Performance, Lion Dances.

Tours

- **A-Voyce Chinatown Community Walking Tours**, 617-482-2380 ext. 206, avoyce@asiancdc.org
- **Historic Chinatown Walking Tours**, 2 Boylston St., 3-G, 617-338-4339; info@chsne.org
- **Boston Chinatown Tour**, <http://www.cidermillgroton.com>, info@cidermillgroton.com
 - This tour takes visitors on a guided walk through Chinatown. Led by Show Yang, the tour will educate visitors about oriental food and culture.
- **The Chinatown/South Cove Walk**
 - This walk starts at the Visitor Center on Boston Common, winds through Chinatown, and ends at Park Square. The walk reveals a variety of women’s activities and organizations working for social change and economic justice. The focus is on immigrant groups, most recently Chinese. The walk also includes a women’s settlement house serving an earlier immigrant population, and the international programs of a Catholic sisterhood.

Parks

- **Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway**
 - This paved and well-lit open space hosts rock gardens, bamboo plants, and a fountain. Formerly a part of the infamous Big Dig, this greenway is now home to films and performances in the warm weather. Visitors can observe old men concentrating on Chinese board games or simply enjoy the pleasant stroll through the serpentine walkway edged by bamboo within bright red sculptural elements and a unique fountain that suggests a waterfall and shallow riverbed.
- **Chinatown Park at Surface Road and Beach Street.**
 - Designed by California artist May Sun is patterned after a Chinese chessboard. The square within a circle pattern symbolizes heaven and earth in the Chinese culture. Running through the center of the chessboard is a "river" of stainless steel and colored concrete, depicting a map of Boston focused on Chinatown, South Station and the Fort Point Channel

Architecture and historical sites

- **The new Art Deco State Street Building**
 - This building adds a new point of interest to Boston's evening skyline. The garden is anchored on that end by a sculpture which recalls a **Sampan** (Chinese junk ship) crossing the harbor. Red for luck.
- **The Paifang**
 - A traditional Chinese architectural form, at the Beach Street entrance of Boston's Chinatown.
- **Boylston Building/China Trade Center - 2 Boylston St.**
 - Carl Fehmer's 1887 Boylston Building is a transitional masonry and iron frame structure that preceded the advent of steel frame skyscrapers in Boston. It replaced Charles Bulfinch's Boylston Market on this site. The building has been rehabilitated and renamed the China Trade Building. A number of companies in the clothing industry relocated to this area following the Great Fire of 1872.
- **Ping On Alley - at Edinboro St.**
 - Ping On Alley, "Alley of Peace and Security," was named in honor of Boston's First Chinese immigrants. They pitched their tents here beginning in 1875, and since that time this site has been central to the lives of a growing Chinese community. Until the 1950s, a communal roasting oven, used by residents and restaurants, was located here.

Shops and Boutiques

- High-end design shops like **Vessel** and **Studio Verticale** lie just behind the park on Kingston Street. Inexpensive tchotchkes in traditional shops make great souvenirs.
- **Cathay Corner Inc**; 56 Beach Street;Phone:617-426-5711
- **Golden Import Co**; 46 Beach Street;Phone:617-350-7001
- **Man Ken Co**; 50 Kneeland Street;Phone:617-451-3575
- **Mr.C.K. Man**; 72 Harrison Ave.;Phone:617-695-3731
- **Wahar Gallery**; 30 Kneeland Street,3F;Phone:617-350-7566
- **China Arts Gallery Inc.**; 5 Tyler Street;Phone:617-426-0123
- **Oriental Fortune Gift Land**;95 Chauncy Street;Phone:617-350-6132

Fabric/Textiles

- **My Tan**;693 Washington Street;Phone:617-423-2943
- **Phuoc Van Fabric & Discount Sale**;14-16 Beach Street;Phone:617-423-6592
- **Toan Gift ShopT**;679 Washington Street;Phone:617-422-0174

Restaurants: In Chinatown, you will find more than 200 restaurants. Many of these establishments are open late at night: perfect for a quick and inexpensive bite after a night at the theater or a local club.

- **Hei La Moon** is located at 88 Beach Street, across the Surface Artery from the Chinatown Gate. Some outdated guides don't know what residents have discovered: this is THE best dim sum in the city. After just a year in business, this bustling white-tablecloth 400-seat restaurant *doubled* its capacity.
- Try light as air sponge cakes (“zi ba don go”) at **Eldo Cake House** (36 Harrison Avenue) and be sure to visit the snack store connected to it. This is a “must-see.”
- Stop at **Gourmet Dumplings** for one of Chinatown's great new additions. Soup dumplings or “Xiu Long Bao” or “XLB” are a delicacy in Hong Kong and Shanghai. Rather than dumplings in soup, XLB have soup inside a dumpling.
- **Hong Kong Eatery** is a typical Chinese diner-style restaurant. These places specialize in lunch plates and freshly made noodle and dumpling meals, BBQ pork or roast duck, nearly any time of day or night. Peking dumplings (“wor tee”), and scallion pancakes are popular, too.
- **New Golden Gate** is a best bet for beginners, white-tablecloth but not too fancy or too expensive. A house specialty in this newly renovated restaurant is the “Steak Kew” – a tender, boneless rib-eye steak sliced and served over bok choy (Chinese cabbage), delicately sauced.

Markets

- **Cheng-Kwong Seafood Market**; 73-79 Essex Street; Phone: 617-423-3749

- **Sun Sun Co.** ; 18 Oxford Street; Phone: 617-426-6494
- **Eastern Live Poultry Co.** ; 48 Beach Street; Phone: 617-426-5960
- **Ming Kee Poultry**; 54 Kneeland Street; Phone: 617-482-3618
- **City Fruit Co.**; 231A Harrison Ave; Phone: 617-426-8881
- **Kirin Produce Co. Inc.**; 20 Oxford Street; Phone: 617-350-8880
- **Ling Num Bean Sprout Co.** ; 106 Tyler Street; Phone: 617-482-7071
- **Lun Fat Produce Inc.** ; 227 Harrison Ave; Phone: 617-426-4045
- **Yah Kee Inc.**; 104 Tyler Street; Phone: 617-426-7588
- **Chung Wah Hong Co**; 51-55 Beach Street; Phone: 617-426-3619
- **J.M Food Market**; 102 Tyler Street; Phone: 617-357-7399
- **Sun Market Inc.**; 19 Harrison Ave; Phone: 617-436-9054
- **C-mart Supermarket**; 15 Beach Street; Phone: 617-426-2771