

# GETAWAY \ JO DAVY GETS A HANDLE ON HISTORIC BOSTON

“So, how’re ya likin’ Baw-ston?” our cab driver inquired as we dripped January sludge all over his leather upholstery. “You know it’s the oldest town in the US, right?”

It was our final night in Boston, but the first time we’d come across this nugget of information. “Yeah, yeah, you know, I mean some town in Virginia says that they are but actually we were the first,” he continued in his distinct Boston drawl.

A little research reveals that St Augustine, Florida, is the only city that can lay claim to that title. Historians place Boston around fifth or sixth on the list, although it is home to America’s oldest park, Boston Common; oldest university, Harvard; and oldest pub, The Bell in Hand Tavern. However, I suspect these

details are of little consequence to the cabbie, who, like most Bostonians, is proud of his town.

Historically, the city is known as the backdrop for many of the turning points of the American Revolution. Today, central Boston is a hodgepodge of wonderfully intact colonial buildings dwarfed by skyscrapers and cutting-edge urban planning projects that reflect the city’s progressive spirit. This landscape is home to just 600,000 people, who enjoy proximity to a disproportionately large number of educational institutions, cultural establishments, landmarks and sporting franchises.

It may not be the oldest, but there’s lots to boast about. \ [jdavy@theweeklyreview.com.au](mailto:jdavy@theweeklyreview.com.au)

## VISIT

### HARVARD UNIVERSITY

A short train journey from the centre of Boston, America’s oldest and wealthiest private college is every bit the picture of prestige that Hollywood would have

you believe. The college offers several walking tours documenting Harvard’s history, traditions, famous alumni and old wives’ tales.

The student-led Hahvahd Tour is free, but expect to tip \$10 towards their next keg. Presiding over historic Harvard Yard is the bronze statue honouring college benefactor John Harvard. Have a chuckle at the prospective students clustered at his left foot – it’s tradition to rub it for luck – but probably best not to mention the university’s acceptance rate of around 7 per cent each year, the lowest of all the Ivy Leagues.

» [www.harvard.edu](http://www.harvard.edu)

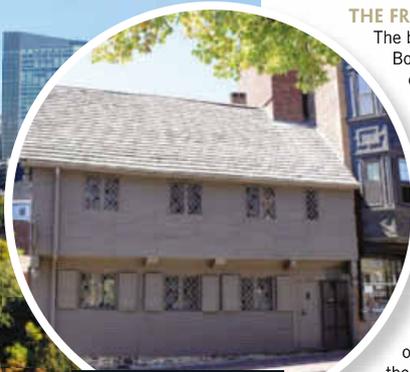
### THE FREEDOM TRAIL

The best way to familiarise yourself with Boston’s history is on foot (although our cabbie might disagree with me on that point also). The Freedom Trail is a four-kilometre urban walking trail that snakes its way around 16 historically significant sites conveniently nestled among the city’s most attractive neighbourhoods.

Tag along on one of the Freedom Trail Foundation’s walking tours (\$11 for adults) or simply follow the red painted or bricked line between the landmarks.

Highlights include downtown Boston’s oldest building, Paul Revere House, and the Old State House, where the Declaration of Independence was first proclaimed to Bostonians in 1776.

» [www.thefreedomtrail.org](http://www.thefreedomtrail.org)



PAUL REVERE HOUSE



BOSTON COMMON

## \$115 MILLION BAYSIDE RAIL PROJECT

# TRANSFORMING THE FRANKSTON LINE

The Victorian Government is investing \$115 million to upgrade the Frankston Line.

- > Vital works to upgrade infrastructure along the line are continuing from 13 – 14 June.
- > The works will prepare the line for the arrival of X’Trapolis trains in late 2014.
- > And we’re on track with progress making stations safer and more comfortable along the line.

Thank you for your patience while we upgrade infrastructure on the Frankston Line.

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For more information visit [ptv.vic.gov.au/baysiderail](http://ptv.vic.gov.au/baysiderail) or call 1800 800 007 (6am – midnight daily)

PTVH0448/14. Authorised by Public Transport Victoria, 750 Collins Street, Docklands.

## STAY HERE



### NEWBURY GUEST HOUSE

261 Newbury Street, Boston  
» [www.newburyguesthouse.com](http://www.newburyguesthouse.com)

Newbury Street’s eight blocks of Victorian brownstones have been one of the city’s most desirable addresses since the 1880s. Today, retail and dining reigns at ground level but there’s still the opportunity to call this prestigious landscape home, if only for a few days. This three-star guesthouse was renovated in 2009, its period features restored and amenities updated. Accommodation is comfortable and stylish but location is the real drawcard here, with Boston Common at one end of the street, baseball’s hallowed Fenway Park at the other, and the city’s best shopping in between. \



### XV BEACON

15 Beacon Street, Boston  
» [www.xvbeacon.com](http://www.xvbeacon.com)

Blessed with a beautifully restored circa 1903 Beaux Arts exterior, the 63-room XV (said as Fifteen) more than holds its own among the historic architecture that lines the cobbled streets of Beacon Hill. In contrast, the hotel’s interiors are luxuriously modern, with large rooms kitted out in mahogany wall panelling and contemporary art. There’s a complimentary car service to ferry guests around the downtown area but when the call of the canopied bed is too strong, a well-stocked minibar and 24-hour room service from the hotel’s modern steakhouse, Moo, ensures a great night in. \

## EAT HERE



### B&G OYSTERS

550 Tremont Street, Boston  
» [bandgoysters.com](http://bandgoysters.com)

Oysters might be the name of the game at this South End seafood bar, but it was their clam chowder that earned *Boston Magazine*’s praise in the 2013 Best of Boston Awards. A mainstay of the New England menu, chowder – or chowdah, in the local vernacular – is a rich, creamy seafood stew made with clams and diced potatoes. It isn’t the prettiest dish, but it tastes divine. Naturally, oysters account for a significant chunk of the B&G menu (12 varieties in total), but chef Barbara Lynch has ensured there is a seasonal seafood dish to hit every spot, and reasonably priced wines to match.



### RIBELLE

1665 Beacon Street, Brookline  
» [www.ribellebkl.com](http://www.ribellebkl.com)

Eight months after opening, it’s still not easy to get a table at chef Tim Maslow’s modern Italian eatery, but this is one meal worth planning ahead (and driving a few kilometres) for. Ribelle’s progressive take on traditional Italian cuisine is evident across the menu, from pappardelle with pork crackling for main to olive oil ice-cream for dessert. Maslow made a name for himself in Boston with the reinvention of his father’s Watertown diner Strip-T’s so the city was expecting big things from his first solo venture. With a great drinks list, creative menu and solid service, Ribelle does not disappoint. \

# MAJOR ART AUCTION

## PREMIER GALLERY INSURANCE CLAIM CLEAR OUT

A rare opportunity has arisen due to the forced clearance of a leading Australian art gallery by their insurance company. The insurer has declared all stock be removed for the claim to be processed. Charleston’s Fine Art Auctions are the sole benefactors of this genuine art clearance which also includes a quality collection of Australian and indigenous artworks, sculpture, handmade carpets and fine art wares with many pieces being sold unreserved.

**Holiday Monday June 9th**

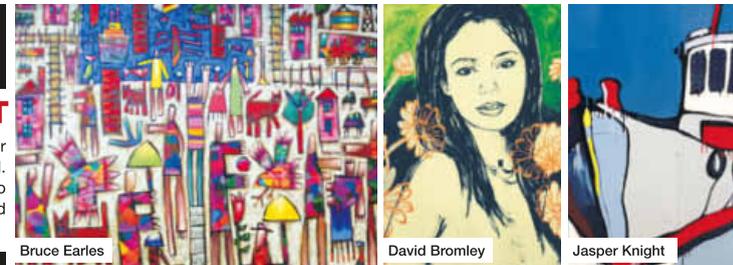
**Nth Melbourne Storage Depot - 64 Sutton St, Nth Melbourne**  
Auction starts 11:30am - Preview from 10:00am

**Includes the biggest names in Australian & Aboriginal Art**  
European Art • Rugs • Indoor/Outdoor Bronze Sculptures

**MANY LOTS UNRESERVED!**

**Some of the artists include:** Jasper Knight, David Boyd, Bruce Earles, Matthew Johnson, Geoffrey Dyer, Dean Bowen, Zhong Chen, David Bromley, Mark Hanham, Pro Hart, John Olsen, Ray Crooke, Charles Blackman, Robert Dickerson, Justin Feuerring, Yosi Messiah, Matthew Gillett, Dean Vella, Kristie Stenning, Peter Browne, Max Mannix, Skye O’Shea, Tanya Loviz, Norman Lindsay, Carlos Barrios, Margaret Preston, Kym Hart, Ethel Spowers, Brett Whiteley, Herman Pekel, Constantine Popov, Jeffrey Smart, Maynard Waters, Colin Parker. **Aboriginal:** Judy Watson, Kathleen Petayarre, Josie Petrick, Betty Club, Gloria Petayarre, Long Jack Phillipus, Jeannie Pitjara, Esther Bruno, Margaret Scobie, Walala Tjapaltjarri, Nellie Marks, Abi Loy, Gabriella Possum, Polly Ngala, Mary Pitjara, Barbara Weir. **European:** Dali, Renoir, Picasso, Miro, Renoir, Matisse and more....

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Bruce Earles

David Bromley

Jasper Knight



Yosi Messiah

Geoffrey Dyer

Esther Bruno



David Boyd

Robert Dickerson



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