



## Annual Celebrations, Unique Festivals, and Arts/Cultural Events

**First Night/First Day:** Celebrate First Night (December 31) Boston style! Beautiful Copley Square will be First Night's new home – witnessing three Family Processions, ice sculptures, live entertainment, a dance party and a countdown to the Square's pyrotechnics at midnight. Earlier fireworks take place at 7pm on Boston Common. Return to Copley Square on New Year's Day for more music, ice sculptures, warming stations, and Hot Chocolate for all the welcome in the New Year! [firstnightboston.org](http://firstnightboston.org)

**Boston Wine Festival:** The longest wine festival in the country, running from January 13 through March 31, 2017 the Boston Wine Festival at the Boston Harbor Hotel features an all-star lineup of intimate winemaker hosted dinners, seminars and receptions. [bostonwinefestival.net](http://bostonwinefestival.net)

**Black History Month:** Every February Boston hosts an array of events in celebration of Black History Month, including walking tours of Beacon Hill's Black Heritage Trail, concerts, commemorative events, theater productions, and lectures and exhibits at locations such as the Museum of African-American History and the Boston Public Library. The Freedom Trail Foundation operates its African-American Patriots Tour every February. [afroammuseum.org](http://afroammuseum.org)

**Boston Wine Expo:** The Boston Wine Expo at the Seaport World Trade Center is a weekend wine festival in mid-February celebrating wine, food and culture from the greatest wine-growing regions of the world. Seminars, tastings, vintner dinners and more! 2017 Dates: February 18-19. [wine-expos.com](http://wine-expos.com)



**Chinese New Year:** Chinese New Year in February is the largest festival and celebration in Boston's Chinatown, with lion dances, music, and great food. This occasion marks the beginning of the lunar calendar year. 2017 is the Year of the Rooster. [bostonusa.com](http://bostonusa.com)



**Dine Out Boston:** The GBCVB's biannual dining special in March and August affords patrons a wonderful chance to dine at over 170 Boston area restaurants at price-points well below the norm. Previously known as Restaurant Week, the promotion began in 2001 and was re-born as Dine-Out Boston in 2014. 2017 Dates: March 5-10 & 12-17. [dineoutboston.com](http://dineoutboston.com)

**St. Patrick's Day:** Also known as Evacuation Day in Boston, March 17 is always a festive occasion in one of America's most Irish cities. Many cultural and culinary events happen alongside St. Patrick's Day, highlighted by the St. Patrick's Day Parade in South Boston. [bostonusa.com](http://bostonusa.com)

**Red Sox Opening Day:** The local nine take the field in early April at America's oldest ballpark, Fenway Park, as the city shakes off winter and welcomes the promise of another beautiful spring and summer. The Boston Red Sox, 8-time World Series Champs, have enjoyed a great run of success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. 2017 Home Opener: April 3 vs Pittsburgh. [redsox.com](http://redsox.com)

**LGBT Film Festival:** The Boston LGBT Film Festival occurs in early April and celebrates, displays and distributes work by and for LGBT media makers – work that entertains, enriches and enlightens all audiences in the lesbian, gay,

bisexual, transgender, and allied communities. The annual Festival screenings showcase international, US, and local film, video, and other media, fostering a greater sense of awareness and community among LGBT and LGBT-friendly audiences. 2017 Dates: March 30-April 9. [bostonlgbtfilmfest.net](http://bostonlgbtfilmfest.net)

**Cambridge Science Festival:** The Cambridge Science Festival, the first of its kind in the United States, happens over April School Vacation and is a celebration showcasing the leading edge in science, technology, engineering and math. A multifaceted, multicultural event every spring, the Cambridge Science Festival makes science accessible, interactive and fun! 2017 Dates: April 14-23. [cambridgesciencefestival.org](http://cambridgesciencefestival.org)

**Patriots' Day:** Commemorating the Battles of Lexington and Concord, Patriots' Day is a state holiday in Massachusetts and involves a number of events and reenactments, including those at the Lexington Green and the Old North Bridge in Concord. Patriots' Day occurs on the Third Monday in April. [nps.gov](http://nps.gov)

**Boston Marathon:** The Boston Marathon, the world's oldest and most famous annual marathon, dates back to 1897 and is a Patriots' Day tradition in Boston. Weaving through Hopkinton, Natick, Wellesley, and Brookline – before culminating in Boston's Back Bay – the Boston Marathon route includes many great areas for spectator viewing and is among the city's proudest traditions. 2017 Date: April 17. [baa.org](http://baa.org)



**ArtWeek Boston:** ArtWeek Boston is an initiative of the Citi Performing Arts Center, whose mission is to be a champion for nonprofit innovation in Boston and provide arts and entertainment to the greater community. ArtWeek Boston is a twice-annual 10-day collection of events throughout the city in May and September that features unexpected and creative experiences that are interactive or offer behind-the-scenes access to artists or the creative process. 2017 Dates: April 28-May 7. [artweekboston.org](http://artweekboston.org)



**Boston Calling:** Boston Calling has moved!! The eclectic festival debuted in 2013 and has welcomed performances by more than 100 artists including Beck, Vampire Weekend, Jack Johnson, The Pixies, The Avett Brothers, Alabama Shakes and more! Starting in 2017 the event will occur in Allston at the Harvard Athletic Complex and feature an expanded lineup of comedy, dance and film. 2017 Dates: May 26-28. [bostoncalling.com](http://bostoncalling.com)

**Boston Pride:** Boston Pride happens in early June and creates change and progress in society by embracing our community's diverse history, culture, and identities, promoting community engagement and inclusivity, and striving for visibility and respect in unity. Boston Pride produces events and activities to achieve inclusivity, equality, respect, and awareness in Greater Boston and beyond. Annual events of Pride week include the flag raising ceremony, Pride Parade, and Pride Festival. 2017 Dates: June 3-12. [bostonpride.org](http://bostonpride.org)

**Cambridge Arts River Festival:** Six dynamic festival stages showcase local music, theater and dance. Community tables, poetry and storytelling tents, interactive areas (including a chalk art tribute to beloved icon Sidewalk Sam), roving performances, and the revival of Peoples Sculpture Racing combine to make the Cambridge Arts River Festival a vibrant celebration of the arts in Cambridge. 2017 Date: June 3. [cambridgema.gov](http://cambridgema.gov)

**Jimmy Fund Scooper Bowl:** The Scooper Bowl is a three-day event in early June that dishes out 20 tons of the summer's finest ice cream to more than 50,000 ice cream lovers from across the nation. Made possible by the generous contributions of the industry's largest ice cream companies, the Scooper Bowl has raised more than \$4.5 million in the past 32 years for cancer research and patient care at the world-renowned Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. 2017 Dates: TBD. [www.scooperbowl.org](http://www.scooperbowl.org)

**Dragon Boat Festival:** 30-40 teams from the US and Canada compete over a 500-meter course in an energetic race to the finish line. The teams paddle in sleek, colorful 39-foot-Hong Kong-style dragon boats. Along with dragon boat races, the festival also presents performances from various Asian cultures, Asian food, and arts and crafts representing traditions of this ancient Chinese celebration. 2017 Dates: June 10-11. [bostondragonboat.org](http://bostondragonboat.org)



**North End Feasts and Festivals:** Boston's oldest neighborhood, the North End, plays host to feasts and processions almost every weekend, starting in early June, throughout the summer months. Highlights include the Madonna Della Cava Feast, St. Anthony's Feast, and the Fisherman's Feast. [northendfeasts.com](http://northendfeasts.com)

**Summer in the City Entertainment Series at BHH:** Spend summer nights with live, waterfront entertainment and al fresco dining at the Boston Harbor Hotel's Summer in the City Entertainment Series. Offering over 50 nights of concerts and movies on the harbor, Bostonians and visitors alike can enjoy this quintessential summer experience on Rowes Wharf Sea Grille's harborside terrace. 2017 Dates: Early June – Early September. [www.bhh.com](http://www.bhh.com)

**Free Fun Fridays:** Free Fun Fridays is sponsored by the Highland Street Foundation and offers visitors no cost admission to many of the most treasured cultural venues in Massachusetts from late June through late August. 70 museums and cultural venues participate over 10 weeks of fun every summer! 2017 Dates: June 23-August 25. [freefunfridays.com](http://freefunfridays.com)



**Harborfest:** Boston Harborfest is a Fourth of July Festival that showcases the colonial and maritime heritage of the cradle of the American Revolution: *The Historic City of Boston*. The festival strives to honor and remember the past, celebrate the present, and educate the future with reenactments, concerts, historical tours and much, much more. Over 200 Daily Events during the Festival are concentrated in Boston's historic downtown and waterfront districts. 2017 Harborfest dates TBD. [bostonharborfest.com](http://bostonharborfest.com)

**Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular:** The Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular is a premier Independence Day celebration. Each year, since its inception, hundreds of thousands of people come from all over the country to the banks of the Charles River to celebrate America's birthday with the Boston Pops and a scintillating fireworks show! [july4th.org](http://july4th.org)

**Boston Landmarks Orchestra Esplanade Concert Series:** Made up of some of Boston's most accomplished professional musicians, the Orchestra presents free concerts every summer during July and August at the DCR's Hatch Shell along the Esplanade adjacent to the Charles River. It also offers family concerts and educational programs at no cost in the neighborhoods of Greater Boston. [landmarksorchestra.org](http://landmarksorchestra.org)

**Taste of Cambridge:** Each year foodies descend upon the Taste of Cambridge to sample the delicious, creative, healthy and award-winning cuisine that comprises our city – one of the most widely recognized restaurant destinations in the area. The Taste of Cambridge transforms University Park Common and Sidney Street into a lush haven for gastronomical and gustatory indulgences of the highest order. 2017 Date: TBD. [tasteofcambridge.com](http://tasteofcambridge.com)





**Outside the Box Festival:** Outside the Box returned to Boston Common in 2015 as an extraordinary artistic celebration presenting local, national and international performances of all genres in a free event designed to cultivate lifelong arts enthusiasts. The Festival brings more than 70 music, theater and dance performances to the Boston Common, all for free. The six-day arts and culture event is the vision of Boston-based philanthropist and arts enthusiast Ted Cutler. 2017 Dates: July TBD. [otbboston.com](http://otbboston.com)

**Shakespeare on the Common:** In 2015 the Commonwealth Shakespeare Company put on its 20<sup>th</sup> year of free Shakespeare plays on historic Boston Common with a production of *King Lear*. Nightly performances (excluding Mondays) occur over 2 weeks in late July and early August. Past performances have included great works such as *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Othello*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. 2017 Dates TBD: Romeo & Juliet. [commshakes.org](http://commshakes.org)

**Revere Beach National Sand-Sculpting Festival:** The Revere Beach National Sand Sculpting Festival draws over 800,000 spectators. The event is hosted by the Revere Beach Partnership, a non-profit organization. The event is free and open to the public and draws crowds from all over New England. 2017 Dates: TBD. [reverebeach.com](http://reverebeach.com)



**Boston Seafood Festival:** Entering its 5<sup>th</sup> year, the Boston Seafood Festival happens in early August on Fish Pier and aims to educate the media and public about sustainable fisheries and the fishing industry, including its history and the importance of wild harvests. 2017 Date: TBD. [bostonseafoodfestival.org](http://bostonseafoodfestival.org)

**Boston Greenfest:** Greenfest is the region's largest multicultural environmental music festival and is a celebration of life and possibility, providing you with ideas and experiences that can shape your life and the life of your community. The goal is to inform EVERYONE as to the many ways green living can make a positive impact on the world, city, neighborhoods and each of us. The three days have something of value for everyone - the festival is convenient, and free. 2017 Dates: Late-August, Exact Dates TBD. [bostongreenfest.org](http://bostongreenfest.org)

**EMC Championship (formerly Deutsche Bank) at TPC Boston:** The EMC Championship is New England's premier PGA TOUR FedExCup Playoff event, held over Labor Day weekend at TPC Boston in Norton, Massachusetts. Since its inception, the tournament pays homage to our armed forces and local heroes and has generated more than \$26 million for charitable foundations. 2017 Dates: September 1-4. [pgatour.com](http://pgatour.com)

**Boston Arts Festival:** More than 75 local artists and a dozen bands gather at Christopher Columbus Park to perform outside on 2 stages. Family activities and performing arts come together on the waterfront for a fun and interactive late summer experience. 2017 Date: TBD. [thebostonartsfestival.com](http://thebostonartsfestival.com)

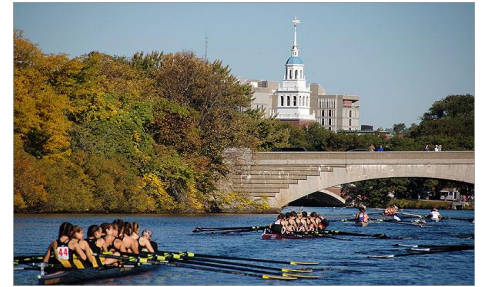
**Boston Local Food Festival:** For one spectacular day each year, SBN transforms the Rose Kennedy Greenway and the City of Boston into the nation's largest local & sustainable food hub! Boston Local Food Festival is a free outdoor festival that showcases farmers, local restaurants, food trucks, specialty food producers, fisher folks, and organizations focusing on healthy food and fitness from New England. The festival also features lively chef & DIY demos, a seafood throwdown competition, diverse music and performances, family fun zone and more. 2017 Date: TBD. [bostonlocalfoodfestival.com](http://bostonlocalfoodfestival.com)

**Beantown Jazz Festival:** The Beantown Jazz Festival is Boston's biggest block party—a free, annual outdoor concert open to the public that has delighted hundreds of thousands of music lovers over the years with its host of jazz, Latin, blues, funk, and groove performances, along with an array of food vendors and free activities for kids. Each

year, the festival is *the* place to be in Boston on the last Saturday in September as the community comes together in a bond forged in the joy of great live music. 2017 Date: TBD. [berklee.edu](http://berklee.edu)

**HUBWEEK:** A collaborative, multi-day innovation festival sponsored by MGH, Boston Globe, Harvard and MIT, HUBWeek will return to for a third installment this fall from October 8-14. More details on programming and events to come! October 8-14, 2017 [hubweek.org](http://hubweek.org)

**Head of the Charles Regatta:** Since 1965, the Head of the Charles Regatta has brought thousands of rowers each year to the Charles River to compete in the largest 2-day regatta in the world. More than 11,000 rowers from around the world will compete in the 52nd Head of the Charles Regatta on October 21 & 22, 2017. The race attracts up to 400,000 spectators who will line the banks of the Charles River to cheer the rowers on! [hocr.org](http://hocr.org)



**Boston Book Festival:** The Boston Book Festival celebrates the power of words to stimulate, agitate, unite, delight, and inspire by holding year-round events culminating in an annual, free Festival that promotes a culture of reading and ideas and enhances the vibrancy of our city. 2017 Date: TBD. [bostonbookfest.org](http://bostonbookfest.org)

**Thanksgiving:** From Plimoth Plantation to Old Sturbridge Village, Massachusetts pays homage to our Pilgrim forbears and celebrates the Thanksgiving holiday in style. 2017 Date: Thursday, November 23. Make sure to look for dining deals at [bostonusa.com](http://bostonusa.com).

**Mayor's Holiday:** ArtsBoston, in partnership with Mayor Martin J. Walsh, the City of Boston, and the Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau, put on this eight-week celebration of the area's performing arts featuring thousands of half-priced tickets to over 130 holiday shows throughout Boston and beyond. 2017 Dates: TBD. [MayorsHoliday.com](http://MayorsHoliday.com)

**Holiday Pops:** A holiday season celebration with Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops transforms historic Symphony Hall into a magical place for all ages, featuring traditional Pops sing-a-longs and a visit from Saint Nick himself! Your conductor is Keith Lockhart and the Pops orchestra is joined by The Tangelwood Festival Chorus. 2017 Dates: TBD. [bso.org](http://bso.org)



**Boston Tea Party Reenactment:** Presented by Old South Meeting House and the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum, the Annual Boston Tea Party Reenactment is a chance for the public to join in on one of Boston's most iconic protests. Re-enactors from across New England come together on December 16 to tell the story of the Boston Tea Party and dramatize the evening of December 16, 1773. [bostontepartyship.com](http://bostontepartyship.com)

## Special Events

**Frozen Fenway Hockey East Games:** Historic Fenway Park will once again host hockey games during January of 2017 with a doubleheader on January 7 and another on January 14. Eight Hockey East teams will participate including Boston College, Boston University, Northeastern and UMass.

**JFK 100:** The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum has announced plans for a yearlong celebration, through programming and exhibitions, to celebrate the centennial of JFK's birth in 1917. **"JFK at 100: Milestones and Mementos"** will open May 8, 2017 through the end of 2017: A new special exhibit commemorating President Kennedy's centenary. Featuring a compelling selection of items from the Kennedy Library's collections, the exhibit will chronicle historic milestones in the President's career and administration as well as events of his personal and family life. The stories revealed in this special exhibit complement the stories in our permanent galleries.

**Sail Boston 2017:** Boston is an official port of the Rendez-Vous 2017 Tall Ships Regatta. The trans-Atlantic regatta will start in Royal Greenwich, UK. From there the fleet will race to Sines, Portugal, followed by Bermuda. The fleet will then race to Boston, for Sail Boston 2017®. From Boston the fleet will cruise in company north to Quebec City, Canada. June 17-22, 2017. [sailboston.com](http://sailboston.com)

