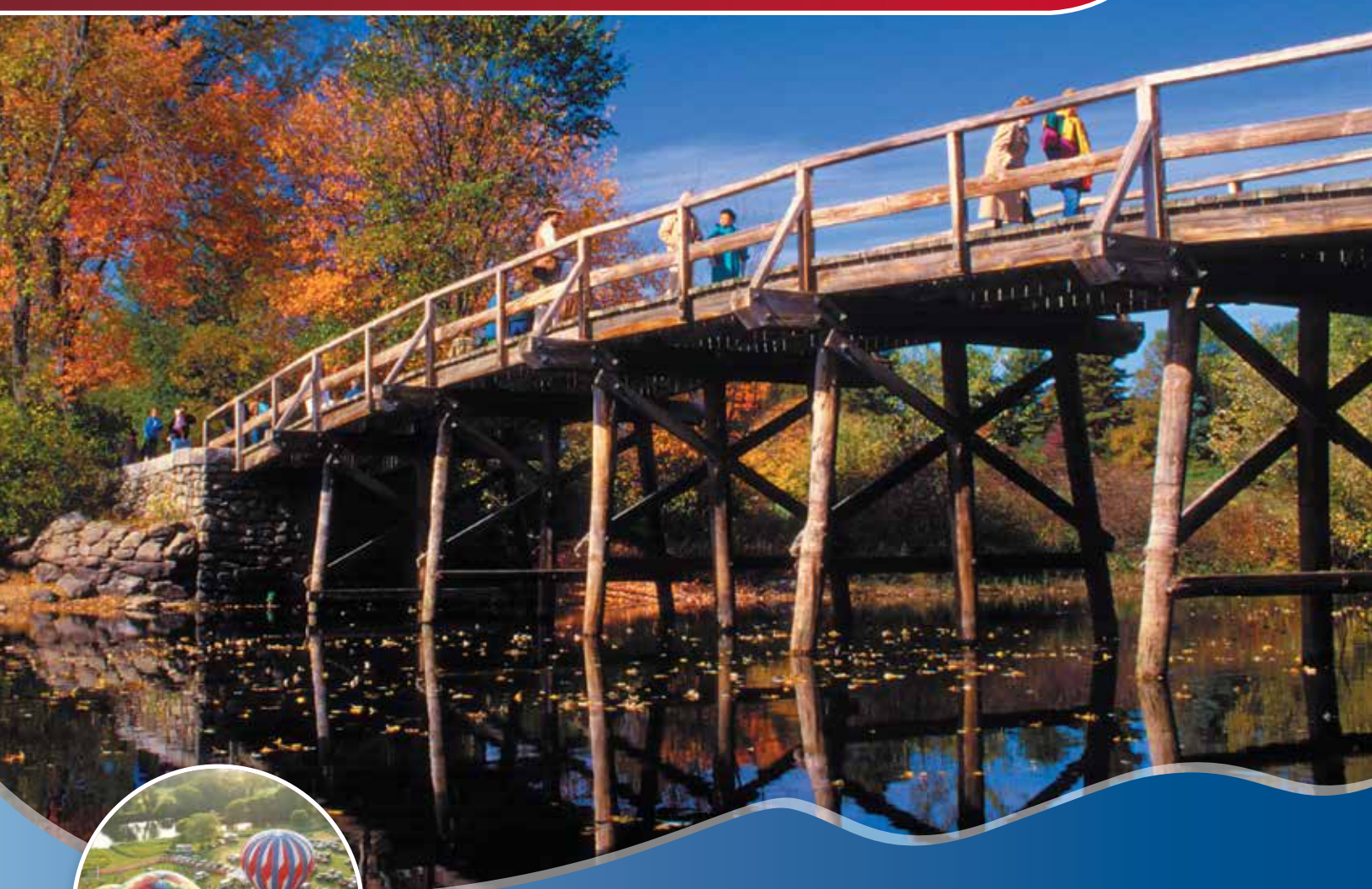


Host Committee's Guide to Boston and New England



ICMA
99TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
BOSTON
NEW ENGLAND 

September 22-25, 2013

The 2013 Conference Host Committee welcomes you to ICMA's 99th Annual Conference in Boston/New England.

Our city, and indeed the entire region, is steeped in history, culture, arts, and education. Many professionals bring their spouses, significant others, and families to share in the experience that the conference host city and region have to offer. As a "bucket list" city, we know that many of our colleagues are looking forward to the opportunity afforded by this year's professional development experience to extend their visit for a well-deserved rest and a rejuvenating vacation. Members of the state associations across New England will be happy to share some hidden gems that can enhance your conference experience. Don't hesitate to contact your state and affiliate association liaison for ideas and suggestions during your visit.



There is no better time of year to visit New England than early autumn. The weather could offer a last taste of summer warmth or a preview of crisp fall temperatures to come. While foliage typically peaks from north to south across New England from early to late October, the color can vary in intensity by a week or so depending on the rainfall and temperatures during the year. There will likely be early signs of color after the conference, brightening as you travel north or to higher elevations. For more information on fall foliage across New England, visit [Yankee Foliage](#).

Boston Highlights

Home to famous chefs such as Todd English, Ming Tsai, Barbara Lynch, and Ken Oringer, Boston boasts some of the finest dining in the world, as well as unique eateries and historic taverns. The clam chowder from Boston-based **Legal Seafood** has been served at presidential inaugurations since 1961. Check out the Host Committee’s restaurant guide for inside information on Boston’s best eateries and some best-kept secrets left out of Zagat’s. [The Boston Globe](#) and [Boston Magazine](#) are excellent sources for more information about chowder, lobster shacks, ice cream, and anything else about our city. Also visit [Boston.com](#).

If you enjoy microbrewed beers, be sure to visit the [Sam Adams](#) or [Harpoon](#) breweries during your stay.

Sports enthusiasts may want to arrive early to see a game at America’s most beloved ballpark, **Fenway Park**. Built in 1912, it is the oldest baseball venue in the major league. While the conference’s Tuesday evening social event will be held at Fenway, baseball lovers

may wish to catch a game during the week prior to the conference when the **Red Sox** will host the Baltimore Orioles and the Toronto Blue Jays in a three-game series.

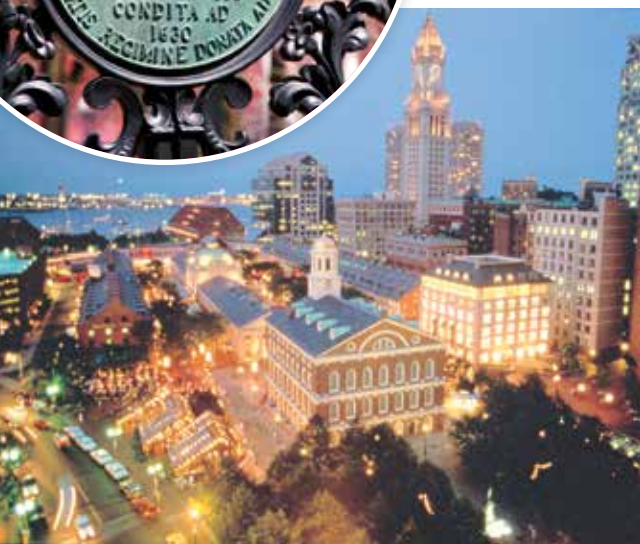
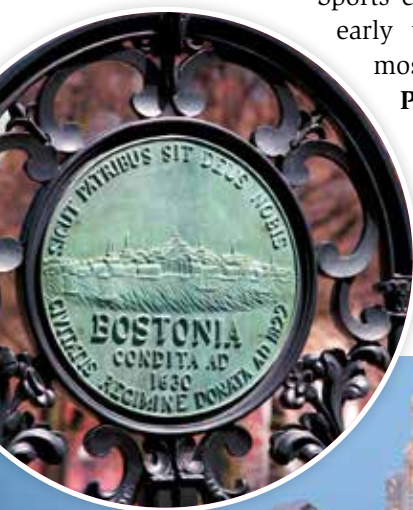
History buffs from grade school to retirement enjoy Boston’s “**Freedom Trail**,” a walking tour that includes many of the historic sites from the forging of America. Boston Common, the Massachusetts State House, Paul Revere’s house, the Old North Church, Bunker Hill Monument, and the U.S.S. *Constitution* are among sixteen significant sites featured on the 2.5-mile tour.

Another must-see destination is the **John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum**. A spectacular building designed by I.M. Pei, the facility is a research library and collection of artifacts from the life of the nation’s 35th president.

The **Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum** was established in 1903 by Isabella Stewart Gardner (1840–1924), an American art collector, philanthropist, and patron of the arts. The museum houses an art collection of world importance, including significant examples of European, Asian, and American art, from paintings and sculpture to tapestries and decorative arts. The building, which was designed to emulate a 15th-century Venetian palace, is near the more famous **Museum of Fine Arts** and is a manageable walk from the convention center.

We encourage children of all ages and interests to visit one of the finest aquariums and one of the best known science museums in the country: the **New England Aquarium** and the **Museum of Science**. In addition, our members recommend two unique attractions for young children: the recently renovated **Boston Children’s Museum** located on the waterfront, and the only **Curious George** store in the world, which is in Harvard Square, across the Charles River in Cambridge.

All these attractions are easily accessible from the convention center and hotels on the “**T**,” Boston’s famous light rail and bus system.





For families visiting Boston and the surrounding areas as part of the conference experience, we recommend **Boston Central**, a website with information on a variety of activities, events, and sites.

There are two widely known shopping districts in the Back Bay adjacent to the conference facilities and hotels. **Copley Place** and the **Prudential Center** are enclosed retail, office, and hotel complexes connected to one another via a sky bridge over Huntington Avenue. The Prudential Center connects to the Hynes Convention Center and Sheraton Boston Hotel, the host venues for the conference.

Beyond Boston

We hope you will venture beyond the Back Bay and the city of Boston to explore all that New England has to offer. Each state in New England is accessible by car, and most major points can be reached within a 5-hour drive. We have unique beaches—sandy expanses from **Madison, Connecticut**, and **Misquamicut, Rhode Island**, to **Nauset Beach, Massachusetts** (Cape Cod National Seashore), **Hampton Beach, New Hampshire**, and **Wells, Maine**. See the dramatic rocky outcroppings that touch the sea in **Acadia National Park** in Bar Harbor, Maine—New England’s national park. We are home to a number of significant fishing ports that played a role in America’s transformation from separate colonies to a growing nation that attracted settlers from around the globe. From **Mystic, Connecticut**, to **Newport, Rhode Island**; from **Gloucester, Massachusetts**, to **Portsmouth, New Hampshire** and **Portland, Maine**—each city has a story to tell in the life of America’s fishing industry.

We’ve asked our colleagues to share information about some noteworthy and unusual museums and attractions that you might want to visit during your stay in New England.

Peabody-Essex Museum in Salem, Mass., about 45 minutes north of Boston, boasts one of the major collections of Asian art in the United States. The museum has total holdings of about 1.3 million pieces, as well as twenty-four historic buildings.

The Salem Witch Museum in Salem, Mass. provides a dramatic history lesson using stage sets with lighting, narration, and life-sized figures to chronicle the events that spanned the spring and summer of 1692 when 180 people were accused and imprisoned, defenseless against accusations of witchcraft in a society driven by superstition and fear, and 20 of those accused were ultimately executed.

The Higgins Museum of Medieval Armor is in Worcester, Mass., a 45-minute drive west of Boston. What began as one man’s passion for metalcraft and tales of chivalry has become the only dedicated museum of armor in the Western Hemisphere, housing one of the few significant collections of knightly armor outside of Europe. The collection—some 4,000 pieces in all—includes arms and armor from medieval and Renaissance Europe, ancient Greece, Rome, Africa, the Middle East, India, and Japan. The founder, John Woodman Higgins, a prominent Worcester industrialist during the early 1900s, spent a lifetime building his collection. The Art Deco building was built in 1929–1931; one of the first all-steel-and-glass curtain-wall structures built in America, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

The Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Mass., a 3-hour drive west of Boston. presents the world’s largest collection of original Norman Rockwell art and illustrations, as well as exhibits chronicling the life and legacy of American’s best-known 20th-century illustrator and his hometown of Stockbridge.





Battleship Cove in Fall River, Mass., about a 75-minute drive south of Boston, is the world's largest naval ship museum. On display are the battleship U.S.S. *Massachusetts*, which served during World War II; the Korean and Vietnam-era destroyer U.S.S. *Joseph P. Kennedy II*; the U.S.S. *Lionfish*, a World War II-vintage American submarine; and a Soviet-era submarine.

For those traveling with children to western Massachusetts as part of your trip, we suggest a visit to the museum housing the works and memorabilia of the famous children's author **Eric Carle** or to the **Springfield Museums** for a glimpse into the world of Theodore Geisel, better known as **Dr. Seuss**.

Strawbery Banke Museum in Portsmouth, New Hampshire (about a 70-minute drive north of Boston) is an outdoor history museum located in the South End historic district—the oldest neighborhood in New Hampshire to be settled by Europeans, and the earliest neighborhood remaining in the present-day city of Portsmouth. The museum features more than 40 restored buildings built between the 17th and 19th centuries in the colonial-, Georgian-, and federal-style architectures.

Take the time to visit some of New England's award-winning, most-livable small cities.

Portland, Maine, the largest city in New England north of Boston, is home to an acclaimed arts district, wonderful restaurants, and a vibrant port on Casco Bay. Visit the Old Port district and the **Portland Museum of Art**, which holds an extensive collection of fine and decorative arts dating from the 18th century, including the works of Winslow Homer and Andrew Wyeth. Resources to help you enjoy your visit include **Greater Portland Convention and Visitors Bureau**; **City of Portland**, (Mark Rees, city manager); and **Portland's Downtown district**.

Providence, Rhode Island, is the Ocean State's capital city and just a 70-minute drive south of Boston.

Home to Rhode Island School of Design, Brown University, and Johnson & Wales culinary college, the city has undergone a renaissance over the past two decades. Punctuating that resurgence is **Waterfire Providence**, a celebration of the city's arts, cultural, and navigation heritage with a series of Saturday evening bonfires that set the Providence River aglow. Check out the **Trinity Repertory Theatre** and the **Providence Performing Arts Center** for live theatrical and musical performances. **Federal Hill** is Providence's "Little Italy," a wonderful neighborhood of shops and restaurants. For all things Providence, visit the **Providence-Warwick Convention and Visitors Bureau**.

Home to spectacular coastal scenery and inspiring architecture, a thriving waterfront downtown with an eclectic mix of shops and restaurants, and welcoming hospitality, **Newport, Rhode Island**, offers the perfect weekend getaway. Located less than an hour's drive south of Providence, you can spend your time touring the famed **Gilded Age mansions** that once were the summer playground of the Astors and the Vanderbilts, or enjoying an afternoon of wine tasting through Newport's three scenic vineyards. Newport is home to the **International Tennis Hall of Fame**, **Salve Regina University**, and the **U.S. Naval War College**. For more information, visit **Discover Newport** and the **City of Newport, R.I.**, (Jane Howington, city manager).

As you can see, Boston and New England offer a wide range of museums, restaurants, attractions, shopping, and natural amenities. We offer something for everyone, regardless of age or interest. Come and enjoy our hospitality, our breathtaking scenery, and all the diversity we have to offer!

