

Only in Boston: All reviews

Hilary Bradt (Founder of Bradt Guides):

Your Boston guide has arrived safely and looks great! Thanks so much. I'm looking forward to dipping into it and checking how much has changed since I lived there in the 1960s and 70s.

Max Grinnell (www.theurbanologist.com):

Another triumph. The granular detail, along with your gift for storytelling, is remarkable.

Stuart Forster (www.goeatdo.com):

What I particularly enjoy about "Only in Boston" is that it's informative and engaging. Smith goes beyond the obvious in his book, providing some great nuggets of information about the city's heritage and attractions.

Timeless Travels magazine (Summer 2018):

This is the twelfth volume in the Only In Guides series and the first to an American destination. Author Duncan J. D. Smith tackles the country's oldest major city head-on, revealing its revolutionary history, visionary urban planning and world-class cultural institutions in a hundred or so illustrated thematic chapters. Boston certainly has a lot to attract the cultural traveller, including Colonial-era relics and heritage trails, industrial remains and ethnic enclaves, hallowed universities and contemporary art spaces. Along the way Smith gleefully provides answers to some intriguing questions about the place. Where, for example, did the Boston Molasses Flood occur? When was America's first subway excavated? What makes the magnificent Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum unique? And what medical first occurred beneath the Ether Dome? With street and metro maps inside the covers, a gazetteer of opening times and an extensive bibliography, this guide is a must for any visitor wanting to get under the skin of the Massachusetts' capital.

Rebecca Ostriker (Arts Editor, The Boston Globe):

It looks quite wonderful.

Nigel Norman (a reader):

Essential for discovering the best Of Boston. The latest edition to the Only In Guides features Boston - one of my favourite USA cites. The series is a very clever format with a map on the inside cover listing over 100 unique & unusual locations to discover such as Wally's Cafe Jazz Club, the South Street Diner & the Salada Tea Doors. It's a great guide to explore hidden corners of cities that you may know quite well. I use my London & Edinburgh Only In Guides all the time. Looking forward to using the "Only In Boston" guide in April! Highly recommended.

A reader (www.amazon.com):

Very informative and interesting. I went to college in Boston (eons ago) and returned a few times over the years but this book makes me want to return for an in-depth visit. I really like the author's writing style and the photos are nice, plus the various places are not touristic and I never would have heard about them without this book.

James Dickinson (a reader):

Each chapter is a revelation. So much fascinating detail, all told in wonderfully readable prose.

www.boomer-esque.com:

“Only in Boston” is the most recent publication in the Only In Guides’ series written by Duncan J.D. Smith. It’s the third of the books that I’ve bought, after the London and Edinburgh guides, because I enjoy Smith’s in-depth look at urban hubs. Rather than just looking at a city’s chief attractions, he explores quirky and little-known aspects of a destination. They are fun to read and informative.

Boston, the capital of Massachusetts, is known as ‘the cradle of liberty’. I’m currently considering a return to the city and have been drawing up a ‘to do’ list based upon places listed in the chapters of Only in Boston. The book is eminently readable because each of the 106 chapters is well-researched and runs to just a couple of pages. I’ve enjoyed picking it up while travelling on public transport and reading about unusual aspects of the city’s heritage. Myths are debunked. I feel like I’ve learned a lot about the city and now can’t wait visit again!

Rich Kaszeta (www.offbeateats.org):

Focuses on the sorts of gems that, even if you lived in Boston, you’ve likely not experienced...the guide is well researched, and most attractions are accompanied by good photographs as well. Furthermore, the attractions are arranged in a reasonable order for a walking tour.

Mike Gerard (www.thetravelpages.net):

We love the Only In Guides by Duncan J.D. Smith. By exploring well-known cities for his travel guide series he manages to unearth quirky and fascinating attractions, including many that conventional travel guides miss. Another excellent book in an excellent series.

Steve Pfarrer (Daily Hampshire Gazette):

‘Urban Explorer’ Duncan JD Smith, a native of Sheffield, England, is a veteran travel writer, historian and photographer (and a Fellow of Britain’s Royal Geographical Society), who has developed a series of guide books detailing off-the-beaten-path places to visit in several European cities. But in his latest work, Smith comes to this side of the pond for the first time to offer a detailed tour book of Boston, with history, details and photographs of over 100 places to see in America’s oldest major city.

You’ll find well-known staples here like Faneuil Hall, Paul Revere’s house, the Old North Church and Fenway Park (“Baseball is a religion for many Bostonians and the Red Sox are their saints. It seems right therefore that their place of worship is Fenway Park ...”). But there are also chapters on places less well travelled, like a walk along Pleasure Bay and Castle Island in South Boston; a highlight of the walk is Fort Independence, originally built in the late 17th century and reportedly the inspiration for the plot of Edgar Allan Poe’s “The Cask of Amontillado.”

Smith also ventures across the Charles River to highlight several spots in Cambridge, including Harvard University and a number of other places with a rich history, including the Society of St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Monastery and The Longfellow House. The latter was built by a Tory owner in 1759, requisitioned by George Washington as a headquarters during the Revolutionary War, and became the long-time home of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in the 1840s.

Margaret Bald (www.amazon.com):

Duncan J. D. Smith, the Urban Explorer, is known for his excellent Only In Guides to European cities, aimed at travelers who want to get off the beaten tourist path. This is his first American guide. The book offers informative mini-essays on 106 attractions, organized by neighborhood. As you would expect, they cover in detail Boston's top colonial and Revolutionary War sites, heritage trails, and museums. But what distinguishes this guide is its focus on less famous places: old and new architectural treasures; the remains of the city's industrial and maritime past; cultural, scientific, sports, and culinary landmarks; and discoveries on walks in Boston's diverse neighborhoods.