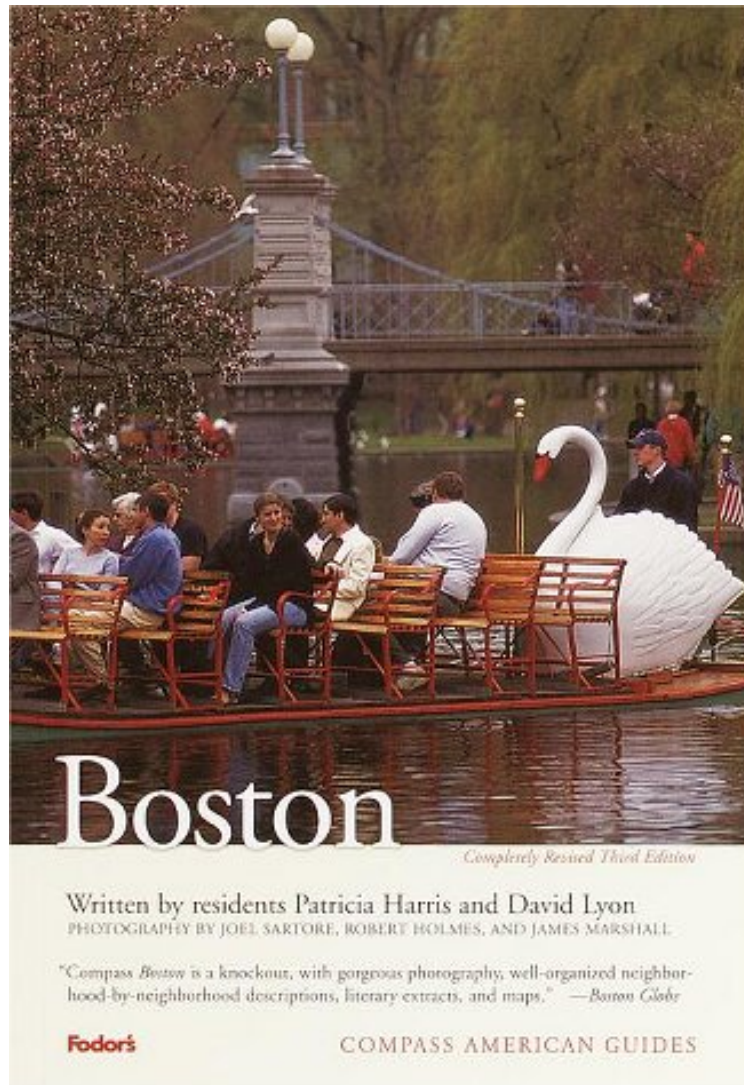


(Library ebook) Compass American Guides: Boston, 3rd Edition (Full-color Travel Guide)

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Patricia Harris, David Lyon

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Patricia Harris, David Lyon : Compass American Guides: Boston, 3rd Edition (Full-color Travel Guide) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Compass American Guides: Boston, 3rd Edition (Full-color Travel Guide):

Created by local writers and photographers, Compass American Guides are the ultimate insider's guides, providing in-

depth coverage of the history, culture and character of America's most spectacular destinations. This photo-packed guide to Boston contains everything there is to see and do from the Freedom Trail and Beacon Hill walking tours to day trips to Lexington, Concord, and Plymouth; loads of historical and cultural background; topical essays and literary excerpts; archival images; detailed color maps, and unique regional dining and lodging options. These gorgeous full-color guides are perfect for new and longtime residents as well as vacationers who want a deep understanding of Boston and its surrounding areas.

From the Inside Flap
Created by local writers and photographers, Compass American Guides are the ultimate insider's guides, providing in-depth coverage of the history, culture and character of America's most spectacular destinations. This photo-packed guide to Boston contains everything there is to see and do from the Freedom Trail and Beacon Hill walking tours to day trips to Lexington, Concord, and Plymouth; loads of historical and cultural background; topical essays and literary excerpts; archival images; detailed color maps, and unique regional dining and lodging options. These gorgeous full-color guides are perfect for new and longtime residents as well as vacationers who want a deep understanding of Boston and its surrounding areas.

Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. "Somehow the thought of another book about Boston is like the thought of another book about Shakespeare. What more is there to say? Nothing and everything." David McCord, *About Boston*, 1948

We understand poet and essayist McCord's quandary as he undertook his book in 1948, for we had to ask the same question. There are shelves of books about Boston. What could we add to the eloquent insights of historians Samuel Eliot Morison and Walter Muir Whitehill? Or, for that matter, to the charming personal appreciation of David McCord? In other words, why Boston? Why now? We're under no illusion of standing in the company of those distinguished writers. But, like all great cities, Boston is not fixed in time. Despite a long and usually proud history, it remains a work in progress. We count ourselves fortunate to live in the city (OK, across the river in Cambridge) during a particularly exhilarating point in its evolution. Boston is generous to the visitor, too, revealing its quirks and charms without apology, and we hope this book will serve you as a letter of introduction to the city it enters a new millennium. We have taken as our goal to furnish a fresh look at Boston that acknowledges and celebrates the past, discloses and elucidates the present, and sketches some of the city's dreams for its future. Visitors often comment that Boston physically resembles European cities. Geography posed some of the same constraints on us that fortifications imposed on those Old World centers. And, like them, we grew dramatically during that expansive century of 1790-1890, applying the same concepts of architecture and urban design. But as European as the cityscape might appear, our people come from all over the globe. Our internationalism is incarnate in the origins and traditions of our residents; it pervades our art and culture; it finds expression in our colleges and universities, where knowledge holds little respect for boundaries on a map. So meet as many of us as you can. Taste our food and come to our festivals. Join us in our neighborhoods; unlike so many failed metropolises, Boston does not empty out at the end of the work day. See the Freedom Trail and the museums and the historic houses, but see the living city too. Whenever you come, keep in mind that Boston is alive and alert in all seasons. And we do have seasons. We take complaining about the weather as a right as inalienable as life, liberty -- and complaining about our sports teams, public transportation, and traffic. The truth is, the extremity of each season is moderated by our proximity to the ocean. In winter, snow drapes the shoulders of Edward Everett Hale's statue in the Public Garden; skaters grace the Frog Pond; and more than a few storm drains clog up and flood the streets. We shrug: That's what boots are for. In the summer we moan when the humidity rises and the temperature flirts with 90 degrees; then we head to the banks of the river or to our beautiful reclaimed waterfront, or we don Ray-Bans and settle in with a cold one at a Newbury Street cafe. We don't quibble much with spring and fall. The city bursts suddenly into bloom at the end of April and it seems there could be no better place on earth--until autumn brings brilliant foliage, a crisp slant of light, and a high blue bowl of sky. On those spectacular days, when the last beams of sunset illuminate the city on a hill that its founders planned, we are reminded of Charles Dickens's opinion, "Boston is what I would like the whole United States to be." And we are satisfied that more than a century later, Boston remains unique.