



THE FENWAY



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### 1 Pancake power.

There's loads of fun to be had in America's Mother city where historical architecture houses modern indulgences. Power up on pancakes at The Paramount, a Beacon Hill neighborhood staple. Known for thick, fluffy pancakes, there's also an ample selection of eggs and burgers for those craving a little protein. Food is made to order cafeteria-style, so kids can watch their breakfast being prepared right in front of their eyes. There are no chocolate chip pancakes on the menu, but bring some chips and the chef will throw them in for you. Children are sure to support the effort.

*The Paramount, 44 Charles Street.*

### 2 Shops and crafts.

Shop off your breakfast on Charles Street. This narrow street has been described as "the closest you'll get to jumping headfirst into a Charles Dickens novel," and it is home to Boston's most charming and sophisticated boutiques featuring everything from funky one-of-a-kind jewelry to cool vintage toys. Spark your child's creativity at the Rugg Road Paper Company. This tiny stationery shop stocks over 500 kinds of paper, as well as stylish wrapping paper and cards. In the back of the store sits a seven-foot guillotine paper cutter. Bug-themed rubber stamps, colorful ribbons, and paper punches are simple ways to inspire your child's imagination. Come back for the monthly Craft and Activity Night where kids learn crafty tasks, like how to make accordion books or emboss letterhead.

*Rugg Road Paper Company, 105 Charles Street.*

### 3 Frog fun.

Charles Street conveniently borders the oldest public park in the country, the famed Boston Common, home to the Tadpole Playground. Several animated bronze frog statues inhabit the playground, including one fellow on the entrance gate dangling a webbed foot. Children can double their fun on the twin slides, play a game of leapfrog, and practice frog impressions with around of "ribbits" while parents enjoy the beauty of the common. After hopping around the playground, kids can cool off at the neighboring Frog Pond.

*Boston Common, 1 Tremont at Beacon Street.*

### 4 Special sandwiches.

Take a lunch break at Parish Café. One of Boston's quirkiest and tastiest sandwich shops, their eclectic sandwiches are all created by local chefs. The best-named sandwich is Elephant Walking on Eggs, a creation of Gerard Lopez, owner of The Elephant Walk restaurant. A kid's favorite is a gourmet fried egg sandwich called the Egg Sandwich Lyonnaise. Make lunch extra special and venture around the corner for an impromptu picnic in the scenic Public Gardens. While waiting for the sandwiches, parents can sample something from the extensive beer list. Try a pint of Magic Hat Humble Patience. Who doesn't need a little patience on a daytrip?

*The Parish Café, 361 Boylston Street.*

### 5 A cultural finish.

End the day with some culture at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Designed to resemble a 15th-century Venetian palace, the museum houses an art collection comprised of over 2,500 objects ranging over several periods from ancient Rome to 19th-century America. The colorful center courtyard features a Medusa mosaic visible from every room upstairs. Kids can go room to room trying to spot Medusa while parents admire the artwork. The museum has excellent guidebooks that point out other unique features for kids to discover – like the fact that no two columns are alike. It also supplies activity pages encouraging kids to draw what they see. The guidebooks are free, as is admission for kids and anyone named Isabella. It's not too late for a name change.

*The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 280 The Fenway.*

