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# Strike out on a springtime trip to Boston

**From Fenway to Fort Point.** There's plenty to see and do in one of the most historic cities in the United States



**ON THE MOVE**  
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Iconic Fenway Park. LOREN CHRISTIE

In the late '90s, I spent three summers in and out of Boston working as a tour guide. This past weekend, I went back to see what's changed in one of America's most historic cities.

After almost 20 years, the Big Dig is over and the snarling traffic is gone. This massive construction project of underground roadways beneath the city included the

dismantling of an elevated highway that cut through the downtown. In its place urban parks have sprung up as part of the extensive Rose Kennedy Greenway, which has blazed a two-kilometre swath of green through the city core.

The project has united pedestrians and drawn them

to the newly developed waterfront area with food trucks, a carousel and more attractions.

Iconic Fenway Park, home to the city's beloved Red Sox baseball team, used to be on the edge of the tourist trail. The charming Commonwealth Hotel changed that by coming into the area 10 years ago and

attracting tourists into neighbouring Kenmore Square. The revitalization of the square with hip restaurants and bars like Eastern Standard have made a pre- or post-game meal an experience, and according to my taxi driver Paul, "turned Kenmore into a paah-ty place."

Fort Point is an historic warehouse district that has been transformed into a collection of artists' workshops, businesses and restaurants. My former employer's headquarters on Congress Street, in the heart of the Fort Point area, is still there. However, instead of a lonely Dunkin' Donuts as the only potential lunch spot, today's Congress Street includes a two-block stretch of modern restaurants that were hopping when I strolled by. My meal of white sausage with hazelnut pesto and sorrels, a perfectly seasoned flank steak with

chimichurri sauce and a side of golden beets and cauliflower at buzzy Tavern Road was perfect.

Bostonians have always burst with civic pride, but following last year's Boston Marathon bombings, you get the feeling that it goes beyond the love of hometown sports teams and historic buildings. It seems that every citizen has your back and each other's. After brunch at Towne Stove & Spirits on Boylston Street, blocks from the marathon finish line, I wandered up to Engine 33/Ladder 15 fire hall, which has been in operation since 1888. Taking a suggestion from a local we met the day before, I bought a Boston Fire Department T-shirt as a souvenir. The \$20 cost goes to a fund to support the families of two firefighters who recently died in the line of duty.