AMERICA’S SWEETHEART

ONCE UPON A TRAVEL...OK!

HITS BOSTON, BEFORE FALLING IN LOVE WITH NANTUCKET

Looking for sunshine, shopping, sandy beaches and star-spotting? Well OK!’s Lorna Roach has found the perfect destination – head to Boston, on America’s east coast, and combine it with a side trip to the star-studded Nantucket island. You’ll be able to tick off the city’s historic sights, enjoy a spot of shopping and finish with some downtime on Nantucket, located on the coast next to Martha’s Vineyard and Cape Cod...

BEAUTIFUL BOSTON

After a smooth flight, where we arrive ahead of schedule into Boston, I pick up my transfer to the Fairmont Copley Plaza (www.fairmont.com). The 383-room hotel is a city landmark, with grand interiors and lavish furnishings, so I’m not surprised to learn that the Kennedys chose to host a family wedding here – which Taylor Swift reportedly gatecrashed! From my elegant suite, I soak in the views of the city before donning my Ray-Bans and heading out to explore.

BEST FOOT FORWARD

Boston is often referred to as the walking city and it certainly lives up to its reputation. To get my bearings, I walk the 2.5 mile Freedom Trail, a red brick path marked on the pavement that links 15 of the city’s historic sights, such as the balcony of Old State House, where the Declaration Of Independence was first read. Afterwards, I stroll back to the hotel through leafy Boston Common, listening to the soothing tunes of a jazz band.

Early evening, I walk back across the park to the affluent residential area of Beacon Hill. The atmospheric gas lamp-lit streets lined with red-brick mansions are the perfect place to soak up old Boston. I stop off for a beer at The Sevens on Charles Street and chat to some friendly locals.

SUNSET COCKTAILS

After seeing the city by foot, I decide to get a different perspective by heading skywards to the rooftop bar at hip boutique hotel The Revere, where I watch the sun set while sipping on their signature Hibiscus Punch cocktail. Afterwards, I tuck into a black angus beef burger with homemade chips and guacamole dip. Yum!

WHALE WATCHING

I’ve always dreamed of seeing whales, so when I hear about the whale-watching tours run by the Boston River Boat Cruises from Long Wharf, I sign up immediately. Our catamaran takes us out to the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, where our on-board naturalist Laura tells us about the different whale species. We’re lucky enough to see a humpback whale, who splashes in and out of the water next to us, as well as several minke whales. Being that close to nature is an amazing once-in-a-lifetime experience that I’ll never forget.

SHOP TILL YOU DROP

After a leisurely lunch overlooking the Charles River at Battery Wharf, The Fairmont’s sister hotel, shopping beckons. On Charles Street I check out the quirky one-off boutiques such as Artifaktori Vintage, selling pretty trinkets and dresses, and Rick Walkers, stocking Texan cowboy boots and hats. Next I walk over to Newbury Street, where I find familiar High Street labels as well as American brands Banana Republic and Levi’s. Then I seek out Bodega, the coolest sneaker shop I’ve ever seen – it’s easy to miss as the facade resembles a run-down convenience store. Inside you’ll find a huge warehouse devoted to all kinds of trainers.

Exhausted after pounding the street, tonight I eat at...
the OAK Long Bar + Kitchen, Fairmont’s fine dining restaurant. I marvel at the palatial décor while enjoying ahi tuna rolls and roasted marinated scallops chowder.

**TO THE SEASIDE**

The next morning, I catch the CapeFLYER train from Boston’s South Station to Hyannis on Cape Cod. Riding on the double-decker train is a wonderful way to take in the scenery, as we pass through 100 miles of beautiful countryside. On arrival at Hyannis Port, I hop on the fast ferry to Nantucket island. Arriving at the picturesque yacht-filled harbour, it takes seconds to soak up the island’s charming character. With cobbled streets and grey shingle mansions, it’s a real historical gem. I'm booked into the plush harbour-front White Elephant Village, with 66 chic rooms, suites and cottages, where Leonardo DiCaprio and Uma Thurman have stayed.

It’s hard to tear myself away from my room, which has a deck overlooking the harbour, but I want to check out the upscale restaurants and shops around the harbour before having dinner at the hotel’s Brant Point Grill. Seafood is king on this island so I order the bloody Mary king prawns and some succulent crab legs. For pudding I’m persuaded to try the oysters and lobster cob salad, washed down with a locally brewed Grey Lady beer.

**END ON A HIGH**

I decide to end the trip on a high and book a seat on one of Cape Air’s eight-seater planes, which fly from Nantucket to both Boston and New York. My 45-minute flight back to Boston was breathtaking, with spectacular views over Nantucket, the Cape Cod coastline and into Boston. A huge trip highlight.

**HOW DO I GET THERE?**

British Airways (www.ba.com/boston; 0844 493 0758) offer a three-night package, including return flights from Heathrow, staying at the Fairmont Copley Plaza from £849pp. Price based on selected flights from Heathrow, staying at the Fairmont (0758) offer a three-night package, including return flights from Heathrow, staying at the OAK Long Bar + Kitchen, Fairmont’s fine dining restaurant. I marvel at the palatial décor while enjoying ahi tuna rolls and roasted marinated scallops chowder.

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