

# Bustling BOSTON

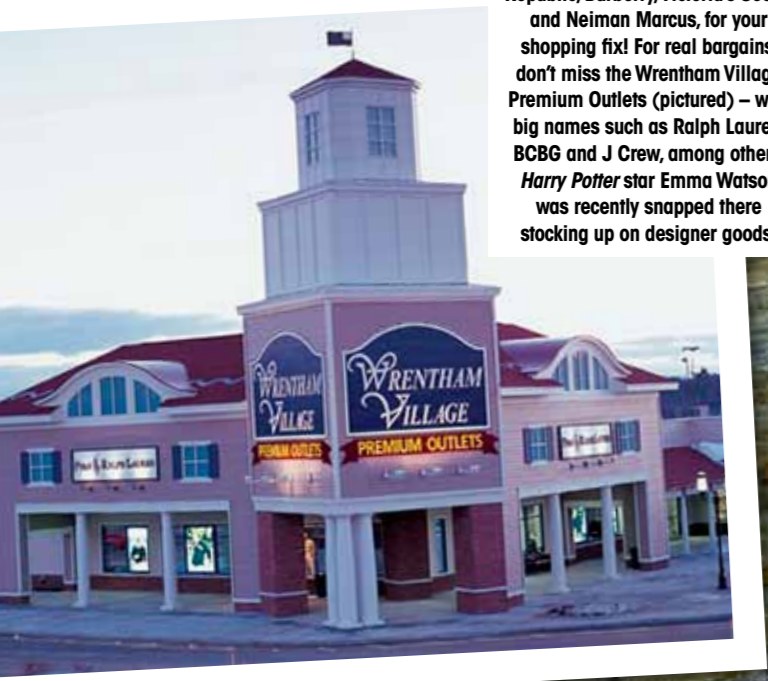
It may be famous for being Ben Affleck's hometown, but there's more to this city than star-spotting

TEXT BY ROVENA CARRALLINSON PHOTOGRAPHS BY AUSTRAL GETTY IAF PHOTO SNAPPER

One of oldest cities in the US, Boston has a truly European feel to it and is a filming hot spot for many a big blockbuster – including the Oscar-nominated *The Social Network*, which filmed scenes at Cambridge's legendary Harvard University.

Besides the plethora of celebs who live and work in the city, there's also plenty to see and do – with each neighbourhood having its own attractions and personality. Whether it's a spot of shopping in Back Bay, a look-see at the historic homes in Beacon Hill or a visit to Faneuil Hall to grab a bowl of seafood chowder, you won't be disappointed. Not to mention the museums, the Freedom Trail walk and The Liberty Hotel, which is the old Charles Street Jail – converted into a luxe hotel! **OK!**

**SHOP UP A STORM**  
Head to Back Bay's Newbury Street, which is home to Banana Republic, Burberry, Victoria's Secret and Neiman Marcus, for your shopping fix! For real bargains, don't miss the Wrentham Village Premium Outlets (pictured) – with big names such as Ralph Lauren, BCBG and J Crew, among others. *Harry Potter* star Emma Watson was recently snapped there stocking up on designer goods!



Justin Bieber has stayed at boutique hotel Nine Zero



**HOT HOTELS**  
Try the sleek boutique hotel Nine Zero (90 Tremont Street, ninezero.com), where Lady Gaga (left) and Justin Bieber have stayed. Or go for something historic like The Lenox Hotel (61 Exeter Street, Back Bay, lenoxhotel.com), which is a classic Bostonian hotel built in 1900 and perfectly located for shopaholics. Then there's The Liberty Hotel (pictured below, 215 Charles Street, libertyhotel.com), which has hosted Mick Jagger.



**MOVIE MAGIC**  
Boston has become a huge filming spot in the last few years, with movies such as *Good Will Hunting*, *Mystic River* and *The Departed* all shot there. Recently, Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz (right) made *Knight and Day* there, while actor/director Ben Affleck (left) used his old neighbourhood as the setting for *Gone Baby Gone* and *The Town*. Mark Wahlberg's *The Fighter* was also filmed in Boston, along with Leonardo DiCaprio's *Shutter Island* and Adam Sandler's *Grown Ups*.



Boston's Sweet counts Suri Cruise (below) as a celebrity fan

**A-LIST FOOD**

For a break in the Newbury Street area, stop for cupcakes at Sweet (225 Newbury Street, sweetcupcakes.com), where Katie Holmes and Suri Cruise were regulars – or for brunch, try the Boston Back Bay Social Club (867 Boylston Street, backbaysocialclub.com), where Vince Vaughn loves the chicken and waffles, and where they also make a mean burger with crispy fries served in a craft-paper box. For dinner, pop across the road to Towne Stove and Spirits (900 Boylston Street, towneboston.com) – a new brasserie-style restaurant, where it's all about barbecue sirloin with 'mad cow' grits and hollandaise sauce.



**GET A CITYPASS**

To see all the sights without stress, get a CityPass, which allows access to the local attractions at a reduced price and – most importantly – lets you skip the long queues. Sights include the New England Aquarium, Museum of Science, Skywalk Observatory and the Museum of Fine Arts



**Did you know?**

The Bristol Lounge at the Four Seasons Hotel, Boston, is the best place in town to spot a celebrity – like Jennifer Garner and her brood, Victoria Beckham or even Brazilian supermodel Gisele Bündchen, who was a recent storyteller at their Teddy Bear Tea party! Plus, New England is all about the seafood. Sample a hot bowl of chowder, or for oysters with a twist, try them deep fried at the Island Creek Oyster Bar. For more info, visit bostonusa.com.

