Welcome to Boston’s Freedom Trail

Each number on the map is associated with a stop along the Freedom Trail. Read the summary with each number for a brief history of the landmark.
1. BOSTON COMMON - bound by Tremont, Beacon, Charles and Boylston Streets
The Freedom Trail starts on Boston Common, which is one of the oldest public spaces in the country. Initially used for grazing cattle, today the Common is a public park used for recreation, relaxing and public events.

2. STATE HOUSE - Corner of Beacon and Park Streets
Adjacent to Boston Common, the Massachusetts State House is the seat of state government. Built between 1795 and 1798, the dome was originally constructed of wood shingles, and later replaced with a copper coating. Today, the dome gleams in the sun, thanks to a covering of 23-karat gold leaf.

3. PARK STREET CHURCH - One Park Street, Boston MA 02108
Founded in 1809, the Park Street Church sits on Tremont Street at one corner of the Boston Common. The church has been active in many social issues of the day, including anti-slavery and, more recently, gay marriage.

4. GRANARY BURIAL GROUND - Park Street, next to Park Street Church
The old Granary Burial Ground is located next to the Park Street Church, and is the final resting place for Paul Revere, John Hancock, Samuel Adams, and the victims of the Boston Massacre.

5. KINGS CHAPEL - 58 Tremont St., Boston MA, corner of Tremont and School Streets
Founded in 1688, Kings Chapel is today a Unitarian church located on Tremont Street. The adjacent burial ground is the oldest in Boston, and includes the tomb of John Winthrop, the first governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

6. BEN FRANKLIN AND OLD CITY HALL - 45 School St., Boston MA
In the courtyard of Old City Hall (the city government moved in 1969) is a statue of Benjamin Franklin, who was born and attended school in Boston before moving to Philadelphia. Franklin attended Boston Latin School, which opened in 1645, and was located on this site.

7. OLD CORNER BOOKSTORE - School Street
Built originally as a private home in the early 1700s, the Old Corner Bookstore was a hub of literary activity by the 1800s, attracting Longfellow, Hawthorne, Emerson and others. Recently, the store was the site of The Boston Globe store, but it closed in the summer of 2004.

8. OLD SOUTH MEETING HOUSE - 310 Washington St., Boston
The Old South Meeting House was the site of a protest against a tax on tea on December 16, 1773 – a protest that culminated with the Boston Tea Party later that night. Home to a museum since 1877, the meeting house is a window into Colonial life in Boston.

9. OLD STATE HOUSE - corner of State and Washington Streets
The oldest public building in Boston (built in 1713), the Old State House was a center of political life and commerce for much of the 18th and 19th centuries. On July 18, 1776, the Old State House was the site of the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence in Boston.
10. BOSTON MASSACRE SITE - traffic island at the Devonshire and State St. intersection
A circle of cobblestones marks the site where British soldiers killed five men who were part of a crowd protesting the British occupation of Boston. The shooting took place on March 5, 1770, and the patriots soon named the event the “Boston Massacre.”

11. FANEUIL HALL - downtown Boston, off of State St.
The home to modern-day Quincy Market and known to many historians as “the Cradle of Liberty,” Faneuil Hall continues to be one of the most important spots in Boston. Built in 1742 by merchant Peter Faneuil as a market and a public meeting space, Faneuil Hall continues in this role today.

12. PAUL REVERE HOUSE - 19 North Square, in Boston’s North End
Paul Revere, famous both as a patriot and as a silversmith, lived in this house, which he purchased in 1770, nearly a century after it was originally built. This is Boston’s oldest surviving clapboard frame house, and today is the site of a museum.

13. OLD NORTH CHURCH - 193 Salem Street, in Boston’s North End
On April 18, 1775, two famous lanterns were hung from the steeple of the Old North. The lanterns (“one if by land, two if by sea”) signaled that British troops were on the move toward Lexington and Concord; Paul Revere was one of the riders who spread the news that night.

14. COPP’S HILL BURYING GROUND - Hull Street
Dating from the 1660s, the Copp’s Hill Burial Ground is the second-oldest in Boston. Thousands of artisans, merchants and crafts people are buried here, and people come to see the tombstones and for the views of Charlestown and Boston Harbor.

15. BUNKER HILL MONUMENT - Monument Square in Charlestown
This obelisk marks the site of one of the first battles of the American Revolution, fought on June 17, 1775. Most of the fighting actually took place on Breed’s Hill, not Bunker Hill, and today it’s possible to climb to the top of the monument to survey the surrounding area.

Nicknamed “Old Ironsides,” the U.S.S. Constitution is the oldest commissioned war ship in the world. Built in 1797, the ship earned fame during the War of 1812, the Constitution was extensively renovated in the 1920s. The ship is docked in Charlestown, but sails once a year in Boston Harbor as part of Boston’s Independence Day celebrations.