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Hotel Commonwealth and The Perfect Boston Weekend



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Hotel Commonwealth HOTEL COMMONWEALTH

The Hotel Commonwealth lies in the heart of Red Sox Nation, smack dab in the middle of Boston's Kenmore Square, just around the corner from Fenway Park. The Red Sox may have just won the 2018 World Series and are now enjoying some well-deserved R&R. But it feels like baseball season every day in this stylish hotel.

Maybe it's because the Hotel Commonwealth is the official hotel of the Boston Red Sox. Or that tickets for the Fenway opener on April 9, 2019 are already selling fast. But it also has to do with the fact that many of the guest rooms have fantastic views of Fenway Park.

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Fenway Guest Room, with a view of the legendary Fenway Park HOTEL COMMONWEALTH

On a return visit to my hometown, my Fenway Guest Room had that amazing view, a light and spacious aerie of 470 square feet. There were two Queen Beds, imported Italian linens, nice down comforters and enough pillows to lie there comfortably and gaze at the nation's oldest ballpark. The bathroom with a sliding barn door and large glass-enclosed shower was great, as were the Malin+Goetz toiletries.

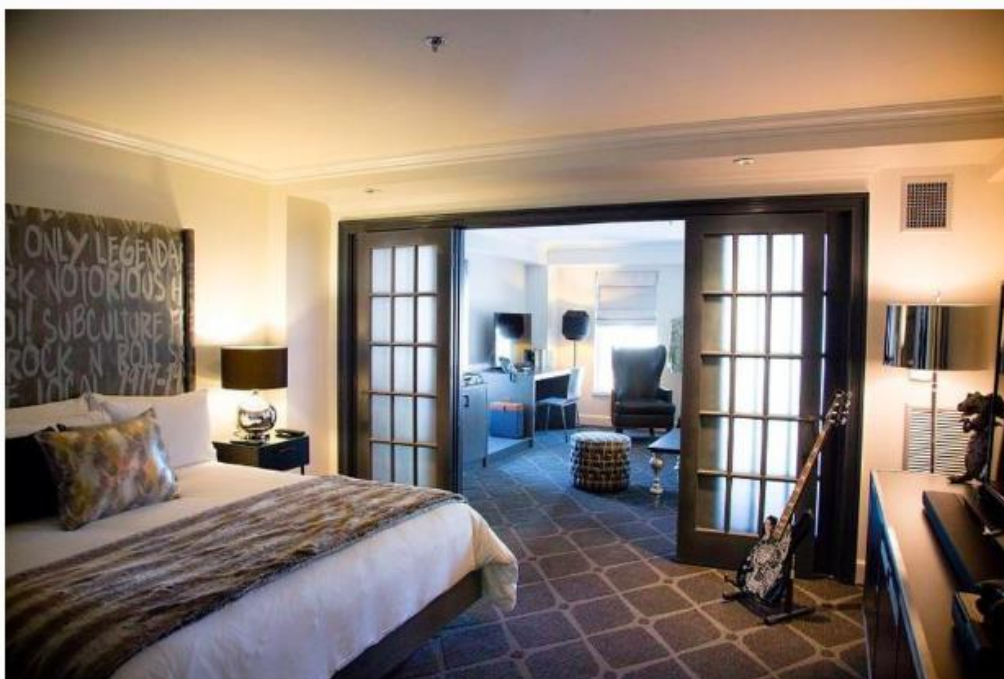


Fenway Park Suite HOTEL COMMONWEALTH

The hotel's baseball theme is tasteful and mostly subtle – baseball stitches on the drapes, for example, was the sole touch in my room. But for those who desire full immersion in the world of the Sox, it's necessary to pony up for one of the themed suites. Like the Baseball Themed Suite, filled with collections of memorabilia from all 30 MLB teams and movie posters of films such as *Field of Dreams* and *The Natural*. Stay in the 700 square foot Fenway Suite and you can enjoy a view of the park while sitting on old seats from Fenway on the balcony. They even leave you a baseball glove for fly balls. The suite proudly displays #6 from the Green Monster scoreboard, originally given to Johnny Pesky, Red Sox player, coach and manager, when he retired.

Yet the pleasures of spending a night or two here goes beyond baseball. Start with a superb Back Bay location, with an MBTA stop minutes from the hotel's front door and the landmarked and legendary Citgo sign looming above. You're strolling distance to Copley Square, the glittery shops of Newbury Street and the Public Gardens. Walk west and you'll come to the banks of the Charles River, where late season crew practice was happening on a recent morning. The Back Bay has some of America's finest 19th century architecture, much of it protected and preserved, and simply walking up and down Commonwealth Avenue is a glimpse into the Gilded Age.

Boston's dining scene is cutting edge and well worth exploring, but you can do well on a blustery winter's day by staying in The Hotel Commonwealth itself, where Island Creek Oyster Bar is routinely ranked as one of Beantown's best seafood restaurants.



Rathskeller Suite HOTEL COMMONWEALTH

The hotel is also home to Eastern Standard, a spacious, brasserie- style restaurant with a wide-ranging menu. The place can be jammed in season with game-goers and post-game revelers. But on a recent Monday lunch, all was calm, measured and delicious.

It was a far cry from this spot's notorious past some 40 years ago, when the basement of the building housed The Rathskeller, a.k.a. "The Rat," Boston's punk and New Wave club that welcomed every touring band of the day as well as such local acts The Cars, The Pixies and 'Til Tuesday. The funk and grit are long gone, but the hotel has paid homage to those days, with a musically themed Rathskeller Suite.

If winter's your thing, getting cozy in the Hotel Commonwealth in the coming months is a good way to spend a weekend. But if you've got your eye on the ball, now is clearly the time to gift someone — yourself, perhaps — with a couple of decent seats for the opener and hotel room with a Fenway view. [Hotel Commonwealth](#), 500 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215