

Originally built as a meeting center and market in 1742, Faneuil Hall's early history included rousing gatherings. It featured speeches by John Adams and other patriots calling for independence from England.

When British troops occupied the building in the 1770s, it was used as a theater for officers and their wives. The hall's second floor still serves as a popular site for entertainment, as well as meetings and TV debates when political candidates campaign for local, state and national office.

The original building is now part of a large complex called the Faneuil Hall Marketplace. They house more than 100 retail shops, including restaurants, fresh food stands and other commercial activities. There's frequent entertainment in the balcony area above the shops, the most popular provided by members of the Boston Classical Orchestra. Whether you're a tourist or local, it's a fun way to spend days and evenings.

On the plaza just outside the hall are free daily shows, including events for kids. Entertainers there include magicians, mimes, jugglers, clowns, singers, storytellers, musicians, cartoonists and others.

Favorite places to dine on Boston's famed specialty is at one of Legal Sea Foods restaurants. The Long Wharf branch is within walking distance to Faneuil Hall. For example, start with Legal's creamy New England clam chowder or some fresh oysters, followed by Anna's baked Boston scrod or Legal's crab cakes.

The Millennium Bostonian (26 North St., Boston), is a conveniently located downtown hotel. Just a short walk from many historic Boston landmarks, including nearby Faneuil Hall, it makes a comfortable base for visiting everything the city has to offer. Rooms are available for from \$200.