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Insider Picks for Hotels under \$500 in Boston

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Travel Advisor

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Image courtesy of Fairmont Copley Plaza

Boston wears its history proudly, but it's also a city that feels very much alive in the present. Red-brick streets wind past revolutionary landmarks, while glass towers rise over busy

squares. You can spend the morning tracing the Freedom Trail, the afternoon browsing boutiques on Newbury Street, and the evening catching a show in the Theater District or sipping cocktails by the harbor. It's a city that feels both storied and current, intimate yet cosmopolitan.

Here are my top Boston hotels under \$500 a night. From landmark icons in Back Bay to boutique boltholes in Beacon Hill, these stays mix location, comfort, and character—with one or two splurge-worthy exceptions that are worth stretching for.

Note: Boston is very much a college town, so during move-in, parents' weekend, or graduation, rates can soar. Fall leaf-peeping season brings another spike.

Hotel AKA Back Bay and Hotel AKA Boston Common

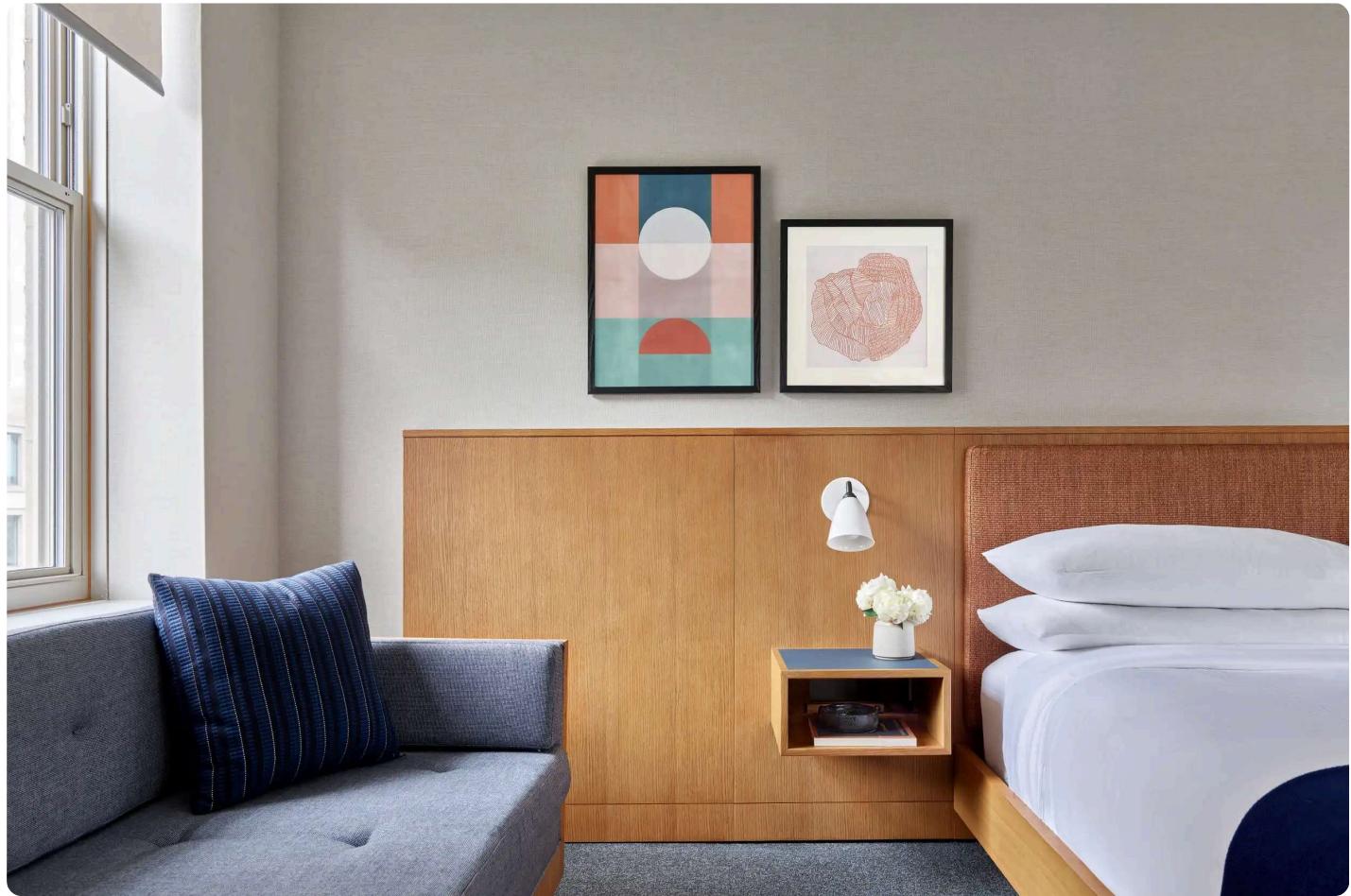


Image courtesy of Hotel AKA Back Bay

Hotel AKA has carved out a sleek niche in Boston with two stays that feel polished yet personal. Hotel AKA Back Bay makes its home in a limestone landmark, where sharp-lined rooms come with plush bedding, oversized showers, and the feel of a city pied-à-terre. Berkeley Bistro brings French flair to the table, while the library lounge and terrace are made for a glass of wine after shopping on Newbury or strolling Copley Square.

Across town, Hotel AKA Boston Common puts you right by the Common, the Theater District, and Downtown Crossing. Inside, the look is pared-back and modern, with details that feel considered rather than fussy. Both properties keep the focus on well-designed spaces, good food, and locations that drop you in the thick of the city.

- **Fora Reserve** perks include a welcome amenity, a \$75 hotel credit, daily breakfast, an upgrade and extended check-in/out whenever possible.

Fairmont Copley Plaza



Image courtesy of Fairmont Copley Plaza

Boston doesn't get more classic than the Fairmont Copley Plaza, a Back Bay icon since 1912. The beaux-arts landmark overlooks Copley Square, with the Boston Public Library on one side and Trinity Church on the other—one of the city's most enviable addresses. Step inside and it's all marble columns, glittering chandeliers, and gilded details, with the hotel's resident black lab, Cori Copley, ready to greet you in the lobby. Rooms nod to tradition with mahogany furnishings and marble baths; the Fairmont Gold level ups the ante with lounge access, breakfast, and evening hors d'oeuvres. OAK Long Bar + Kitchen is a local favorite for its vaulted ceilings, roaring fireplace, and excellent cocktails (don't miss the Bee's Knees!).

- Fora's **Accor Preferred** partner perks include a \$100 hotel credit, daily breakfast, an upgrade and extended check-in/out whenever possible.

The Newbury, Boston



Image courtesy of The Newbury

Once a Ritz-Carlton, later the Taj, and now proudly its own, The Newbury Boston is a Back Bay classic with a fresh chapter. Overlooking the Boston Public Garden, the hotel's 286 rooms and suites are spacious (many over 500 square feet) and designed by Alexandra Champalimaud in soft neutrals, herringbone details, and custom Byredo bath products. Some suites come with wood-burning fireplaces, complete with birch logs for chilly nights. Dining is equally standout: Contessa, the glass-enclosed rooftop restaurant from Major Food Group, pairs Northern Italian flavors with sweeping city views, while the Street Bar and the hidden Library keep things lively at ground level. And while rates can climb well above \$500 during peak weeks, it's possible to find rooms under that mark—making a stay at one of Boston's most stylish addresses feel like an attainable splurge.

- **Fora Perks** include a \$100 hotel credit, daily breakfast, an upgrade and extended check-in/out whenever possible.

The Whitney Hotel



Image courtesy of The Whitney Hotel

At the edge of Beacon Hill, The Whitney is a smart Beacon Hill base with plenty of personality. The building dates back to 1909, when it housed part of Massachusetts Eye and Ear hospital, but today it's all about comfort and character, with tufted leather chairs, fresh hydrangeas in the suites, and cozy monogrammed throws draped across the beds. Rooms are spacious (a luxury in Boston), stocked with local touches like Bully Boy spirits and Georg Jensen barware, plus crisp Sferra linens for sinking into after a day out. Peregrine, the onsite restaurant from the team behind Juliet, serves Mediterranean plates with Boston flair, while the Whit Pantry on each floor tempts with cookies and sodas at any hour. A leafy courtyard adds a quiet hideaway, while fun extras include bike loans and a perks program with discounts at neighborhood shops and cafés.

- **Fora Perks** include a welcome amenity, a \$25 food and beverage credit, guaranteed late check-out, and an upgrade whenever possible.

Mandarin Oriental, Boston



Image courtesy of Mandarin Oriental, Boston

The Mandarin Oriental is Boston's ultra-luxe address on Boylston Street—the kind of place you'd expect to be out of reach for an “under \$500” list. And usually, it is. But on select dates, rates hover close enough making it a rare chance to experience MO luxury without blowing the budget. Rooms are among the city's largest, with velvet sofas, chinoiserie wallpaper, and marble-clad bathrooms that feel more like private spas. The actual spa is a destination in itself—16,000 square feet of treatment rooms, steam suites, and wellness programs ranging from “sleep sanctuary” rituals to deep tissue therapies. Downstairs, Ramsay's Kitchen by Gordon Ramsay brings European classics and New England seafood to the table, while a freshly renovated gym keeps the fitness crowd happy. Service is polished but playful (yes, even a robot, MOBI, makes the rounds with treats and surprises). Combine that with a Back Bay address that puts shopping, dining, and the Public Garden steps away, and you've got one of the city's most enviable stays.

- Fora's **Mandarin Oriental Fan Club** partner perks include a welcome amenity, a \$100 hotel credit, daily breakfast, and an upgrade whenever possible.

The Langham, Boston



Image courtesy of The Langham, Boston

Housed in Boston's former Federal Reserve Bank, The Langham is the standout splurge on this list. This landmark property delivers a stay that feels indulgent at every turn: rooms stocked with local art and minibars full of Massachusetts craft drinks, marble bathrooms (some with heated floors), and suites framed by soaring bank windows. Grana, set in the grand banking hall, serves Italian plates beneath chandeliers and a watchful Lady Liberty, while The Fed is a lively cocktail bar with a hidden whiskey vault list. There's also a pool, fitness center, and an art collection curated from Boston's oldest arts association. Families can spread out in loft-style suites, while couples might opt for the Chairman Suite with its piano and fireplace—either way, this is Boston at its most memorable.

- Fora's **COUTURE by Langham** partner perks include a welcome amenity, hotel credit, daily breakfast, extended check-in/out and an upgrade whenever possible.

Boston

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