

Harvard, Porter, and Davis Squares



Take this walking tour to familiarize yourself with a few neighborhoods in which many MIT students live. This tour will walk you through residential areas, past restaurants and nightlife, and give you a good idea of where bank services are located in the area. For convenience sake, the tour begins in Harvard Square. Enjoy!

Davis Square: Davis Square was once listed as one of the fifteen "hippest places to live" in the US. Davis is a college-oriented neighborhood that still features a local vibe and cheaper rents. Davis is a mix of the old and the new. Restaurants and coffee shops that cater to students and young professionals coexist with working class diners and tailors that have been in the square long before students discovered it.

Porter Square: Offering a multitude of one-of-a-kind antique shops, boutiques, and sidewalk cafes, Porter Square also boasts the region's largest concentration of Japanese eateries and shops including a popular bookstore. The late Tip O'Neill, former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, called this neighborhood home and his many good deeds proved that "all politics is local."

Harvard Square: Adjacent to the walls of Harvard University, "The Square" is famous for its collection of small boutiques, chain stores and good food. The Square is often lively well after midnight with music, food and entertainment everywhere. Harvard Square boasts world's largest concentration of bookstores and street performers often greet you at every corner. Harvard Square is also home to Cambridge's Mayfair, Oktoberfest and SPARKLEFEST.

The Walking Tour (Map is at the end)

1. Oxford Spa - (102 Oxford St.)

Good selection of sandwiches (not your typical deli fare), quick service and nice area to sit. Only a few blocks from the law school.

2. Porter Square Dry Cleaners and Tailors - (89 Elm Street)

Little slower than the one day dry cleaners, but they have been know to get out stains and tailor items other dry cleaners have refused to do.

3. Porter Square Shopping Center

- **Anna's Taqueria** - Cheap, standard burritos and Mexican fare.
- **Cambridge Naturals** - Offers natural products like Vitamins, Bodycare, Herbs, and Bodyworks and has a staff that is always willing to help.
- **CVS Pharmacy**
- **Healthworks Gym** - Women's only gym that offers a variety of classes and student discounts.
- **Pier 1 Imports**
- **Porter Square Books** - Independently owned book store offering an extensive selection featuring various new artists. They also feature books and lectures by local authors and host events from more nationally known authors.
- **Shaw's Supermarket**
- **Tags Ace Hardware** - Hardware and home and kitchen items. Perfect place to stop when setting up a new apartment.

4. Boloco Burritos - (187 Elm St.)

Fast and fresh burritos, smoothies and wraps provide for a filling meal at an affordable price.

5. Rosebud Diner - (381 Summer St.)

Old school diner atmosphere with a focus on cheap, juicy burgers and beer, but also a favorite for breakfast on the weekends. The building is on the National Registry of Historic Places and it's worth seeing.

6. Sessa's Italian Grocery Store - (414 Highland)

Italian grocery featuring specialty products, meats, cheeses and pastries.

7. Magpie - (416 Highland Ave.)

Magpie is a gift store that carries hip handmade crafts, goods by indie designers and works by local artists.

8. Blue Shirt Café - (424 Highland Ave)

Small café with a focus on healthy foods and vegetarian options. Excellent breakfasts and smoothies, but also featuring sandwiches for lunch.

9. Johnny D's Restaurant and Music Club - (17 Holland)

Versatile music club caters to aficionados with an eclectic schedule and satisfying pub grub. Music featured includes jazz, blues, folk, rock, and international music.

10. Somerville Theatre - (55 Davis Square)

A great discount theatre for students where it is easy to take in an independent film or a first-rate movie that has been out a while. Additionally, the theatre is the only one in the area to consistently host Bollywood movies. Folk, jazz, blues and performing arts acts also cycle through at an affordable price.

11. Socco's Bowl Heaven - (45 Day St.)

Great candle pin bowling and pool tables. Offers hand scoring, cheap fees, great people watching and room for groups.

12. Joshua Tree - (256 Elm St.)

Good spot if you are just looking to enjoy a beer. In warm weather the front windows open making it a nice spot to sit if you can get a window seat.

13. Diesel Café - (257 Elm St.)

A coffeehouse with comfortable booths, strong coffee, and plenty of places to study. Always open late for either a snack or a caffeine jolt. If you want to take a break from reading cases there are two pool tables in the back.

14. Redbones - (55 Chester St.)

A favorite for many due to its authentic, down home-style Southern food, its unique ambience, and the genuine friendliness of its staff. Redbones also offers 24 microbrews on tap and often hosts local Brew Fests.

15. McKinnon Meat Market - (239 Elm St.)

The best prices on meat around, with excellent friendly service, a full deli, and even a small produce section so you don't need to make another trip to complete the meal.

16. Farmer's Bounty - (234 Elm St.)

Grocery with huge selection of American, Indian & British foods along with fresh produce at great prices.

17. The Burren - (247 Elm St.)

Irish music and dancing are the centerpiece at this large Davis Square pub, which is usually packed with a boisterous crowd. Great beer selection and true Irish brunch on the weekends.

18. Poor Little Rich Girl - (255 Elm St.)

A designer & vintage second-hand clothing store where you can find many popular labels.

19. China Fair - (2100 Massachusetts Ave)

Very cheap house wares and party supplies.

20. Elephant Walk - (2067 Massachusetts Ave)

The only restaurant in Boston/Cambridge serving Cambodian and French cuisine. Pricey, but tasty.

21. Hess Gas Station - (2055 Massachusetts Ave)

22. Baptist Power Yoga - (2000 Massachusetts Ave)

23. Sugar & Spice - (1933 Massachusetts Ave)

Excellent, dependable Thai with large portions.

24. Christopher's - (1920 Massachusetts Ave)

Inexpensive comfort food and an impressive drink menu along with health-conscious and vegetarian fare.

25. Toad - (1920 Massachusetts Ave)

Live music club hosts performances seven nights a week. Choose from Guinness or 12 microbrews on tap as you listen to the local rock, folk or blues acts.

26. Porter Exchange - (1815 Massachusetts Ave)

- A favorite for Asian products and food.
- Inside: Kotobukiya Sushi Bar, Sapporo Ramen, Blue Fin (sushi), Japonaise Bakery, Kotobukiya Inc (grocery), Tokai Japanese Gifts, Ittyo Resaurant (noodles)

27. City Sports - (1815 Massachusetts Ave)

Sports equipment and clothing store

28. Bally's at Porter - (1815 Massachusetts Ave)

29. Rosie's Bakery - (1796 Massachusetts Ave)

Baked goods include layered and sheet cakes, brownies and cookies; also gifts such as cookie dough, cookbooks and cookie jars.

30. ATA Bicycles - (1773 Massachusetts Ave)

31. Brook's Pharmacy - (1740 Massachusetts Ave)

32. Simon's Coffee Shop - (1736 Massachusetts Ave)

Gourmet coffee drinks and light lunch fare.

33. Boca Grande - (1728 Massachusetts Ave)

Tasty, cheap burritos and authentic Mexican fare.

34. Mass Ave Gulf - (1725 Massachusetts Ave)

35. West Side Lounge - (1680 Massachusetts Ave)

Great atmosphere, drinks, prices and the food is fantastic.

36. Cambridge Common - (1667 Massachusetts Ave)

The bar offers more than two dozen draft beers, all at reasonable prices, plus a standard wine list. Many patrons come for a pre- or post-show drink, as the building also houses the Lizard Lounge music club.

37. Starbucks - (1662 Massachusetts Ave)

38. Three Aces Pizza - (1613 Massachusetts Ave)

