

On to Boston: At 4am the alarm woke us up and our trip to Boston began. Steve came by and picked us up at 5am and we were off to the Knoxville Airport. At the airport we said our goodbyes to Steve.

We then collected our luggage and processed ourselves through the US Airways check-in and the security ritual. The plane trip to Boston was a model of efficiency. Everything went as advertised with a transfer at the Philadelphia Airport and arrival at Boston Logan Airport about 12:00 noon. The taxi ride from the airport to the Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel took only 15 minutes.

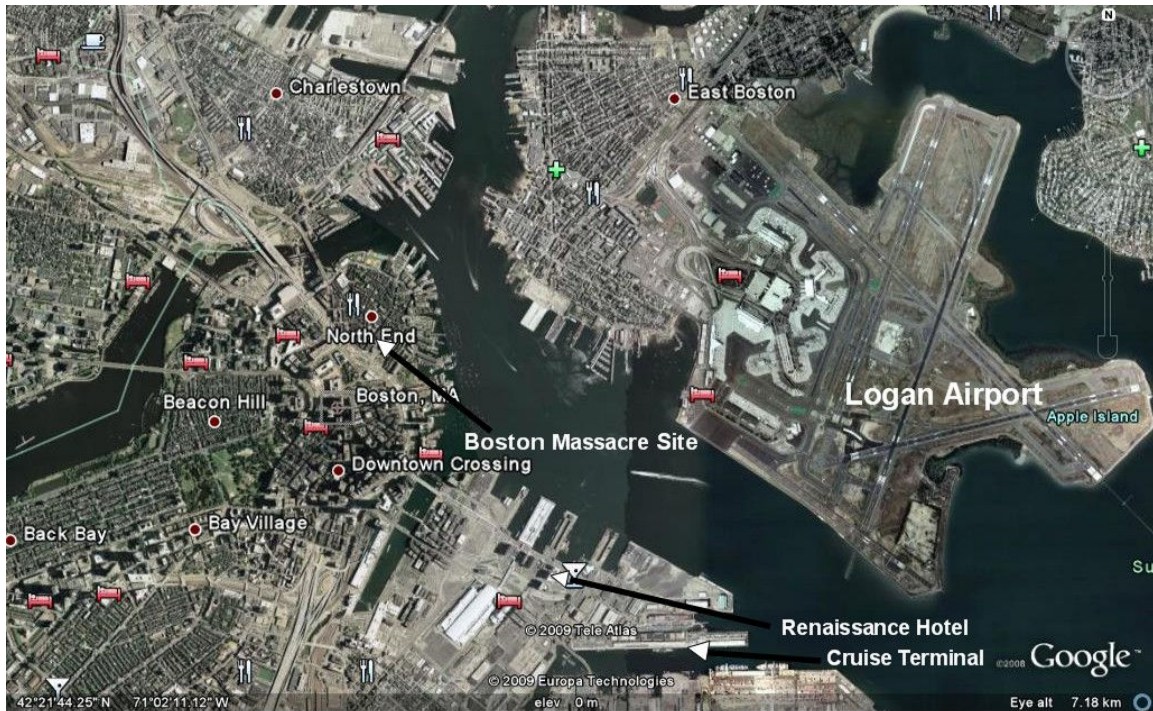


Barbara had reserved a room at the Renaissance through the Priceline website where you bid a rate that is about half the advertised rate but still high enough that the hotel accepts it. The price of the room (\$135) was immediately charged to our credit card with no refunds so we were relieved that nothing had happened to cause us to change our Boston hotel plans. We even got a complimentary upgrade to the concierge floor at the top of the building. Unfortunately the concierge club lounge was closed for the weekend but the view of Boston from the 21st floor was terrific. Shown below on the left is the World Trade Center Building with the associated white pier jutting out into Boston Harbor. On the right is a photo of the Boston North End with the new convention center on the left side of the picture. The hotel was also less than a mile from the cruise terminal pier where we would board the Maasdam tomorrow.



After getting settled into our hotel room it was time to take a hike around the neighborhood and into the historical district in Boston North End.

Shown below is a Google photo of the Boston area with arrows pointing to some of the places we visited on this trip.



We had visited Boston for a couple days in 2002 and on this return trip we were pleasantly reminded of how compact the region is. Logan Airport is very close to downtown Boston and the historical sites located on “The Freedom Trail” can be walked with just a moderate amount of effort.

The sky was overcast with occasional light showers but the temperature was comfortable.

The 45 minute walk from the hotel along Congress Street to the historical district took us through the new construction around the hotel with a transition to old Boston with some buildings that were hundreds of years old. Boston has made it easy for tourists by establishing what they call “The Freedom Trail”. Many historical sites that we learned about in grade school are located along The Freedom Trail and the well marked route is easily followed.



We intersected The Freedom Trail at Faneuil Hall which was an important public meeting place in the Revolutionary War times. There is a nice statue of Samuel Adams in front of Faneuil Hall so we initiated the exposure of Barbara's library card with a photo of this site.



Near Faneuil Hall are the Old State House and the site of the Boston Massacre. The place where the Boston Massacre took place is identified by a circular arrangement of paving



stones in an island at the intersection of State and Devonshire Streets. The monument is shown on the left.

We had skipped lunch so by this time we were getting hungry. When touring Boston in 2002 we had enjoyed eating at a restaurant called Legal Sea Foods and wanted to revisit those memories. We

located a nearby Legal Sea Foods Restaurant on a tourist map we had and quickly made our way there. Shown below are the fine restaurant and the lobster salad that Barbara had been looking forward to for the last month.



After dinner we walked along the docks on our way back to our hotel. The clouds had parted and we had occasional sunshine as we walked along the brick walkways that followed the water's edge. Our route took us through relatively new construction that included the Boston Harbor Hotel which is a beautiful large building nestled harmoniously into the dock area. Next to the Boston Harbor Hotel a beautiful yacht, named Lady Christine, caught our eye. This was one of the finest yachts we had ever seen and the helicopter on the top deck said it all. Barbara thought a cruise on this fine vessel, shown on the right, might meet her standards.



We wanted to purchase some wine to take on board the Maasdam. We have usually bought wine that is packaged in a rectangular box. Most box wine meets our taste standards and is a convenient form with much less weight than bottled wine. In addition, the box fits easily into the small refrigerators in the cruise ship staterooms. We inquired about box wine in 4 or 5 liquor and food stores and were surprised that it was not available. Some clerks had not heard of the box wine we wanted and thought we were asking about buying a case of wine. It is interesting that this product is not well known here. Perhaps there are local regulations or customs that restrict sales and it is a fact that box wine is not advertized widely.

We gave up the search for box wine and returned to our hotel for the night. Tomorrow we take in a little more touring of Boston and then board the Maasdam for the Voyage of the Vikings.