

Main: After exploring the city sights, head out of Boston to Nantucket and wind down at the beach. **Below:** OK! enjoyed an amazing whale-watching trip



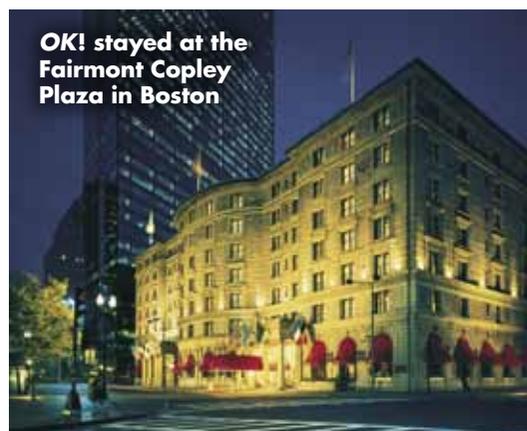
AMERICA'S SWEETHEART

OK! HITS BOSTON, BEFORE FALLING IN LOVE WITH NANTUCKET

Looking for sunshine, shopping, sandy beaches and star-spotting? Well OK!'s Lorna Roach has found the perfect destination – head to Boston, on America's east coast, and combine it with a side trip to the star-studded Nantucket island. You'll be able to tick off the city's historic sights, enjoy a spot of shopping and finish with some downtime on Nantucket, located on the coast next to Martha's Vineyard and Cape Cod...

BEAUTIFUL BOSTON

After a smooth flight, where we arrive ahead of schedule into Boston, I pick up my transfer to the Fairmont Copley Plaza (www.fairmont.com). The 383-room hotel is a city landmark, with grand interiors and lavish furnishings, so I'm not surprised to learn that the Kennedys chose to host a family wedding here – which Taylor Swift reportedly gatecrashed! From my elegant suite, I soak in the views of the city before donning my Ray-Bans and heading out to explore.



OK! stayed at the Fairmont Copley Plaza in Boston

BEST FOOT FORWARD

Boston is often referred to as the walking city and it certainly lives up to its reputation. To get my bearings, I walk the 2.5 mile Freedom Trail, a red brick path marked on the pavement that links 15 of the city's historic sights, such as the balcony of Old State House, where the Declaration Of Independence was first read. Afterwards, I stroll back to the hotel through leafy Boston Common, listening to the soothing tunes of a jazz band.

Early evening, I walk back across the park to the affluent residential area of Beacon Hill. The atmospheric gas lamp-lit streets lined with red-brick mansions are the perfect place to soak up old Boston. I stop off for a beer at The Sevens on Charles Street and chat to some friendly locals.

SUNSET COCKTAILS

After seeing the city by foot, I decide to get a different perspective by heading skywards to the rooftop bar at hip boutique hotel The Revere, where I watch the sun set while sipping on their signature Hibiscus Punch cocktail. Afterwards, I tuck into a black Angus beef burger with homemade chips and guacamole dip. Yum!

WHALE WATCHING

I've always dreamed of seeing whales, so when I hear about the whale-watching tours run by the Boston River Boat Cruises from Long Wharf, I sign up immediately. Our catamaran takes us out to the Stellwagen Bank National Marine



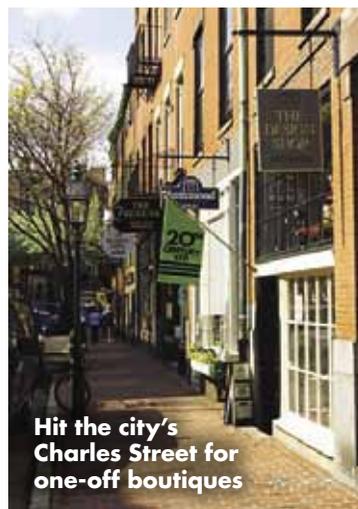
Sanctuary, where our on-board naturalist Laura tells us about the different whale species. We're lucky enough to see a humpback whale, who splashes in and out of the water next to us, as well as several minke whales. Being that close to nature is an amazing once-in-a-lifetime experience that I'll never forget.

SHOP TILL YOU DROP

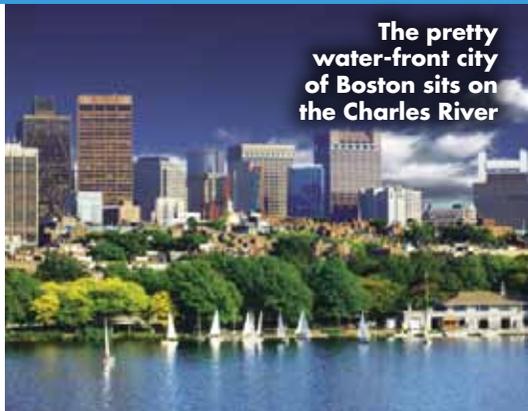
After a leisurely lunch overlooking the Charles River at Battery Wharf, The Fairmont's sister hotel, shopping beckons. On Charles Street I check out the quirky

one-off boutiques such as Artifaktori Vintage, selling pretty trinkets and dresses, and Rick Walkers, stocking Texan cowboy boots and hats. Next I walk over to Newbury Street, where I find familiar High Street labels as well as American brands Banana Republic and Levi's. Then I seek out Bodega, the coolest sneaker shop I've ever seen – it's easy to miss as the facade resembles a run-down convenience store. Inside you'll find a huge warehouse devoted to all kinds of trainers.

Exhausted after pounding the street, tonight I eat at



Hit the city's Charles Street for one-off boutiques



The pretty water-front city of Boston sits on the Charles River

the OAK Long Bar + Kitchen, Fairmont's fine dining restaurant. I marvel at the palatial decor while enjoying ahi tuna rolls and roasted marine scallops chowder.

TO THE SEASIDE

The next morning, I catch the CapeFLYER train from Boston's South Station to Hyannis on Cape Cod. Riding on the double decker train is a wonderful way to take in the scenery, as we pass through 100 miles of beautiful countryside. On arrival at Hyannis Port, I hop on the fast ferry to Nantucket island. Arriving at the picturesque yacht-filled harbour, it takes seconds to soak up the island's charming character. With cobbled streets and grey shingle mansions, it's a real historical gem. I'm booked into the plush harbour-front White Elephant Village, with 66 chic rooms, suites and cottages, where Leonardo DiCaprio and Uma Thurman have stayed.

It's hard to tear myself away from my room, which has a deck overlooking the harbour, but I want to check out the upscale restaurants and shops around the harbour before having dinner at the hotel's Brant Point Grill. Seafood is king on this island so I order the bloody Mary king prawns and some succulent crab legs. For pudding I'm persuaded to try the cinnamon pull-apart – a warm sticky bun studded with pecan nuts served with melting ice cream over the top. My type of dessert!

ISLAND VIEWS

One of the best ways to see the island, its sandy beaches and windswept dunes is from the water, so I hop aboard one of the hotel's boat trips to the



Wauwinet Hotel. Over a chilled glass wine at the bar, we're told we've just missed Robert De Niro. The White Elephant has prepared me a gourmet lunchbox including New England lobster rolls, which I happily munch on the stunning beach.

Later, I take the shuttle bus back to town, where I hire a bicycle at Young's. The 3.5-mile wide by 14-mile long island is criss-crossed with cycle trails and the terrain is fairly flat, so it's definitely my kind of cycling. I ride along the Cliff Road route to Dionis Beach, where I enjoy a dip in the sea.

GOING LOCAL

Tonight I choose The Brotherhood Of Thieves restaurant for dinner. The eatery is set in an atmospheric basement, where the walls are filled with artefacts dating back to the island's whaling days. For dinner I order a plate of succulent fresh oysters and lobster cob salad, washed down with a locally brewed Grey Lady beer.



We loved our room at the White Elephant Village in Nantucket

END ON A HIGH

I decide to end the trip on a high and book a seat on one of Cape Air's eight-seater planes, which fly from Nantucket to both Boston and New York. My 45-minute flight back to Boston was breathtaking, with spectacular views over Nantucket, the Cape Cod coastline and into Boston. A huge trip highlight.

HOW DO I GET THERE?

British Airways (www.ba.com/boston; 0844 493 0758) offer a three-night package, including return flights from Heathrow, staying at the Fairmont Copley Plaza from £849pp. Price based on selected travel during September and October 2013. A return flight with Cape Air (www.capeair.com) starts from £210. Rooms at the White Elephant (www.nantucketislandresorts.com) start from £125.

For details of CapeFLYER rail tickets, visit www.capeflyer.com. For ferry tickets from Hyannis Port to Nantucket, see www.hylinecruises.com. **OK!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.MASSVACATION.COM.

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TRAVELLER'S TALES

LYDIA AND ANDY SCOTT-LEE

THE NEWLYWEDS ON BURNT FEET AND LIMBO CONTESTS!

What's your favourite holiday destination?

Lydia: We went to Sorrento last October and ate some very nice meals – I love the food in Italy. We'd definitely go back. I'd love to see more of the Amalfi Coast.

What's been your most special holiday?

Lydia: Las Vegas holds a special place in our hearts after we got married there. We stayed at Planet Hollywood and it has all the pleasure pools, where they have limbo contests and bikini competitions, so it's really fun. I wanted Andy to do the limbo, but he declined!

Who's your favourite holiday companion?

Lydia: My new husband, because he lets me do what I want, which is always important from a holiday companion.

Andy: She likes me because I carry the beach bag. I look so camp as well, it's a Victoria's Secret beach bag!

What's your next holiday destination?

Lydia: We're going to Gibraltar for my birthday present – Andy's dad has got a place out there. Then we want to go to New York for our anniversary. I've never been and I really want to go. I want to do the Statue Of Liberty, have the crown on my head, hold the torch and pose, then go to the toy shop and play on the piano from *Big*.

What are your packing essentials?

Lydia: I'm quite big on suntan lotion – factor 50 for the face and factor 15 on the rest of the body.

Andy: And don't forget to always put it on your feet. Don't do what I did on our first day in Vegas and forget and spend the rest of the holiday with stupid-looking feet!

FOLLOW LYDIA AND ANDY ON TWITTER @LYDIASCOTTLEE AND @ANDYSCOTTLEE.



5 OF THE BEST PLACE NAME PRESSIES



- 1 LE SOFT PERFUME IN COPACABANA, £19**, www.cultbeauty.co.uk. This chic solid perfume – with notes of pink peppercorn, jasmine and orange blossom, set in a skin-friendly moisturising base – is our holiday handbag essential.
- 2 RADLEY SMALL CROSS BODY BAG IN TANGIERS, £139**, www.radley.co.uk. From the streets of Morocco to a High Street near you, this colour-popping leather bag is stylish, hand-stitched and the perfect sightseeing accessory.
- 3 SHAVATA UK STRIP LASHES IN LONDON, £8**, www.shavata.co.uk. Stay close to home with these capital city lashes, part of a new range inspired by the UK.
- 4 SEAFOLLY RIO BANDEAU BIKINI, £96**, www.simplybeach.com. This tropical print two-piece wouldn't look out of place alongside the fashionistas in the bikini capital of Brazil.
- 5 SMYTHSON TRAVELS AND EXPERIENCES PANAMA NOTEBOOK, £45**, www.smythson.com. There's no better place to document your travels than in this luxury leather notebook.

CELEB INTERVIEW AND 5 OF THE BEST BY NANCY BROWN, TWITTER.COM/MISSN_BROWN