

## TogetherTime

# Boston Is A Vehicle For Family Fun!

by: Brette McWhorter Sember

**B**oston is well known for its historical significance, cultural activities and "Hahvahd Yahd" accent, but there is another Boston, one that is in constant motion, that families will delight in. Boston is home to many unique forms of transportation sure to entertain and keep your family moving. For more information about Boston itself and the many non-vehicular attractions the city offers, visit [www.mass-vacations.com](http://www.mass-vacations.com).

### The T

The most prominent and accessible transportation in the city is the subway, which is known as the T (short for MBTA). The Boston subway system can take you anywhere you want to go in the city (and beyond - the T has commuter trains running far north and south of the city) and is clean, safe and well run. Fares are \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children (free for the under 3 crowd). The better idea is to purchase a visitor's pass (visit [www.mbta.com](http://www.mbta.com) to order) which gives you unlimited, token free use.

### Thar She Blows

The most unique form of transportation in Boston is the Moby Duck Tours ([www.ducktours.com](http://www.ducktours.com)). World War II amphibious vehicles have been updated to provide a unique tour experience. The ducks drive through the city like an open air bus, with colorful historical and anecdotal commentary by the guides, then splash into the Charles River where visitors get a spectacular view of the city and a chance to steer the duck. Tickets are only available at the Duck office in the Prudential Center and can be purchased two days in advance. Adults are \$22 and children are \$12, 25 cents for the under 3 crowd. Tours run from April through November. The tours are also known as the "soggy bottom" tours because the vinyl seats cause intense sweating in the warm months.

### Make Way for Swans

In the heart of Boston's Public Garden are the swan boats, made famous in part by Robert McCloskey's *Make Way for Ducklings* picture book. The swan boats are long, flat boats with benches for riders and have been run by the same family since their debut in 1870. The boats are pedal powered through the lagoon by energetic young drivers. The leisurely ride will take you



Amphibious vehicles provide a unique tour experience, riding along Boston's streets and then splashing into the Charles River.

all around the lagoon where you are likely to see ducks, swans and other waterfowl. Swan boats run April through September at a cost of \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. Peanuts are available outside the gates of the Public Garden for those who wish to follow tradition. Visit [www.swanboats.com](http://www.swanboats.com) for more information.

### Trolley Tours

Get to know Boston on board an old fashioned trolley. The trolleys offer narrated tours seven days a week. Visitors can also use the trolleys as a form of transportation, getting on and off them at prime tourist spots throughout the city. Depending on the company you choose, tickets are about \$22 for adults and \$10 for children. Visit [www.trolleytours.com](http://www.trolleytours.com) or <http://www.brushhilltours.com/tours/beantown.html> for details.

### The Tea in Boston

A replica of the Boston Tea Party ship floats in Boston harbor, inviting visitors to come aboard and toss a bale of tea into the water (which is then retrieved by museum employees). The museum also houses exhibits, films and of course, samples of hot and cold tea. The museum recently experienced a fire but plans to rebuild for the 2002 season. Check their web site at [www.bostonteapartyship.com](http://www.bostonteapartyship.com) for information on the reopening, hours and admission costs.

### Old Ironsides

The USS Constitution, the oldest US commissioned warship afloat and famous for her role in the War of 1812, waits for your family to board her in Boston harbor.

The museum activities are sure to amaze, from actually hoisting sails, firing cannons, taking the ship into battle on a video game to viewing the many artifacts and items that are part of the ship's history.

The ship and museum are open year round, but hours change seasonally.

Admission is completely free, making this one a family favorite. Get more information at their web site: [www.constitutionmuseum.org](http://www.constitutionmuseum.org).

### Handsome Hansoms

A hansom cab tour of Boston feels like one of the most authentic ways to see the city. These horse drawn carriages carry visitors on two different routes that cover the Freedom Trail.

The tours are as expensive as they are authentic, with the shorter route costing \$30 for two (\$5 for each additional passenger, children under 10 free) and the longer route costing \$100 for two (\$20 extra per person, children under 10 free). Get to know the horses before you go: <http://www.stylexics.com/>. Find out more at <http://www.stylexics.com/2tours.html>.

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### A Fin-tastic Time

No trip to Boston is complete without experiencing a whale watch. The New England Aquarium (itself well worth a visit with its four story tank) offers whale watch trips from April through October at a cost of \$28.35 for adults and \$20.48 or \$17.85 for children of different ages. The trips last about four and a half hours and carry passengers northeast to the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary where many species of whales come to feed. Expect to see many whales from astoundingly close up positions. Naturalists on board the ship narrate the trip and share their knowledge and love of these great creatures. The ship contains hands on exhibits inside the cabin for the long ride out to the feeding area and back. See <http://www.neaq.org/visit/whalewatch.html> for more information.

**Brette McWhorter Sember** gave up her practice as a WNY attorney to spend more "TogetherTime" with her children.



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**Fallfest  
& Craftshow**  
St. John Vianney School  
2950 Southwestern Blvd.

**Sat, Nov. 10 & Sun, Nov. 11 • 9am-3pm**

- Artisans/Crafters • Theme Baskets
- Face Painting • Caricature Drawings
- Ceramics/Wreaths/Candles
- Special Kid's Corner

Admission: \$1 Adult, Includes beverage • Kids Free!

**Mon-Sat  
6am-midnight!**



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### University of Rochester Medical Center Egg Donors Needed

Strong's IVF Center needs healthy non-smoking women age 23-33 to donate eggs (oocytes) anonymously to couples unable to conceive a child.

Donors undergo testing, take fertility drugs and undergo egg aspiration.

\$4,000 Compensation

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### Hectic Life *continued*

it, simply and clearly. Keep repeating it until you're finally heard.

■ **Avoid financial overload.** Prioritize expenditures. These days, it's easy to get caught up in all the commercial pressures to overspend. Stop and ask yourself what you can really afford. Concerns about money can put serious strains on a family's relationship.

■ **Foster friendships.** Social contact outside of the family is especially important because it can give you added support when things get stressful.

■ **Have a good laugh now and then.** According to a study conducted by researchers at Stanford University, medical evidence shows that a hearty laugh can be good for you. A smile, too, goes a long way to help soften a stressful moment.

■ **Enjoy life's simple pleasures.** Set aside a few minutes each day to take a short walk, read a few chapters in a book or just close your eyes and relax.

■ **Hold angry emotions at bay.** When something upsets you, wait until your anger subsides before you talk. Getting angry usually only makes matters worse and may set off a whole chain of unpleasant interactions.

The most important thing, however, is for family members to keep communicating with each other. This will help you know whether the choices you are making are meeting everyone's present needs and desires.

### Turkeys *continued*

piece of large poster board. Make an assortment of large, different colored leaves, using the construction paper. Have the children go around to everyone at the celebration and record what everyone is most thankful for, giving each person their own leaf. Attach each leaf to a branch and put the tree near the dinner table where everyone can see it.

Make up a batch of rice cereal and marshmallow treats. Provide yellow plastic wrap and show the children how to put a spoonful of the treat into the middle of a section of the plastic wrap. Wrap the plastic wrap over the treat and roll it into a cylinder shape. Twist the plastic wrap ends together and using a small section of the beige paper twist ribbon (about 6 inches) that has been unwrapped, lay the treat in the middle. Twist the paper ribbon ends in with the plastic wrap and then tie a piece of raffia on the ends to hold it together. Now you have what resembles a small ear of corn. If it has not been eaten yet!

When all else fails, have a selection of board games or activity books available, along with plenty of crayons and markers, to give everyone a choice. Purchase a large plastic tub and before the celebration, fill the tub with all the paper, art supplies, games and books you will need. Then when the children are done, they can put everything back in the tub and Mom will indeed "be thankful for a clean house and children, who pick up after themselves!"