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SUMMER IN THE CITY

WE LOVE SHORT SHORTS | SUMMER SURVIVAL GUIDE | DAY TRIPPING | PAZZO

Charlie's attracts a sophisticated breed of slummer. And it's tough to argue with the cheapest lobster rolls known to man. Who cares what's in 'em? Snag a sticky red leather booth and dig in. Plus, you'll enjoy free rein over their jukebox.

Down the street in Davis Square, you'll discover shorter brunch lines at places like Johnny D's and Renee's Cafe. Go to Johnny D's for swoon-worthy blintzes topped with strawberry sauce, or, if you're looking for something a bit healthier but still hearty, head to Renee's for omelets stuffed with fun seasonal veggies. Both are terrific spots for lingering over coffee with a new amore or nursing a hangover; in summertime, you can actually converse — or recover from last night's festivities — in relative quiet.

Also, Johnny's Monday night trivia attracts brainiacs when school's in session (our favorite team name: Grover Cleveland and the Non-Consecutive Terms). Come summer though, all you need to win is a few beers and a room-temperature IQ. Across town in Allston, everyone's favorite karaoke parlor of ill repute, Do Re Mi, has private rooms aplenty; smuggle in the contraband of your choice, grab a tambourine, and croon passionately to "Sister Christian."

If you're looking to enjoy the great outdoors, strolling along the Charles River on either side of the water is pure pleasure; you're no longer vying for space alongside



feature
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EXPERIENCE A STUDENT-FREE BOSTON

Michael Krupp, owner of the Achilles Project
Favorite student-free zone:
Newbury Street — "Normal people can return to Back Bay!"
Favorite suddenly uncrowded spot: The Thirsty Scholar, The Red, and Charlie's Kitchen
Favorite place to catch a show: The Middle East — "I can go to shows and not feel like a dirty old man."

Hooray! Your pesky underage masses have fled to the suburbs and spawned them. This means you can say adieu to double-parked commuters on Newbury, crowds at your favorite restaurants, and conversations with pubescent Miley Cyrus groupies at any number of bars and nightclubs.

We have to agree with Michael Krupp: Charlie's Kitchen at Harvard Square rocks. It can be claustrophobic during chillier months — when school's in session, the meager prices lure too many older students. But come summer,

people younger, thinner, or hotter than you. If that isn't reason enough to make you want to stick close to home, we don't know what is.

BE A SHAMELESS TOURIST

Matthew Robitaille, owner of The Beatonian

- Favorite hidden gem: Lucky's Lounge or Red Sky — "There's a great, older, sophisticated crowd. I love the Sinatra vibe at Lucky's."
- Favorite soon-to-be mainstay: Lansdowne Pub
- Favorite spot for a debauched, townstily evening: The Place

Restrain yourself: this doesn't mean skipping down the Freedom Trail with a fanny pack or groping a waitress at Durgin Park. But when we're scurrying to and fro during the chilly winter months, it's easy to overlook Boston's hidden gems and quirky charm. Why not explore one of Boston's ethnic neighborhoods with a responsible guide? Take a Chinatown market tour with neighborhood guru Jim Becker of Boston North End Market Tours. He'll lead you down alleys lined with herbalists and seafood markets, and then you'll get stuffed silly with dim sum.

For the limber and eco-minded, there's a bike tour with the crunchy folks at Urban AdventTours, with whom you'll see some of Boston's finest architecture via bicycle. (Word to your visiting friends: they also deliver bikes to hotels with a vegetable-oil-powered truck.) Ride through Back Bay and Beacon Hill, then stop for a pastry in the North End. Or, if those lazy days of summer have made the prospect of sightseeing via pedal power unappealing, grab a ferry from Long Wharf and set sail for Spectacle Island, where Jasper White's team hosts a clambake every Thursday evening. A cool \$75 buys you mussels, steamers, lobster, chowder, beer, wine, and a stellar sunset view of the city.

If you're wondering whether a summer romance is in your stars, make an appointment at the Tremont Tearoom. Yes, every city is brimming with psychics, and some will swindle you faster than Miss Cleo. But this otherworldly den is rightfully famous: this is the oldest astrology parlor in the country, and it employs a bevy of

