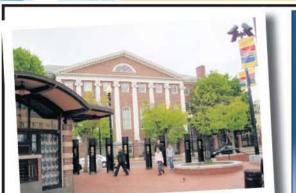
# IRISH DAILY

## with PADDY DIGNAM, Travel Editor







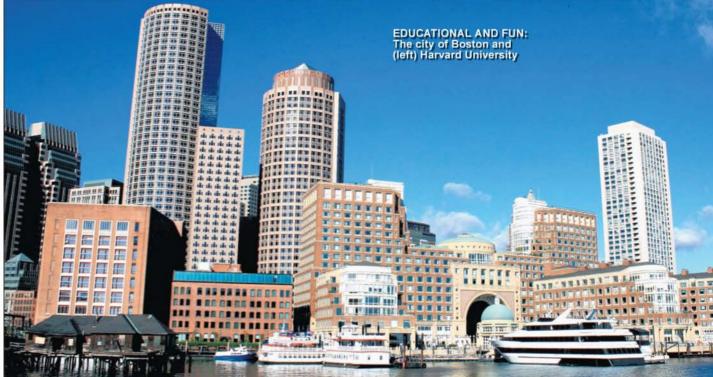




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### **Boston and Berkshires soaked in historic**

#### **■ By CATHERINE HALLORAN**

SHOPPING, art, fine food, great accommodation and a people who are as welcoming as they are charming — the US state of Massachusetts really is the cream that has risen to the top.

While the city of Boston has long been held as a favourite for Irish fashionistas in search

of a good bargain, there is so much more to the Bay State than shopping alone.

The Berkshires — to give it its proper title — is about a three-hour drive inland from Boston city and with a direct highway, it is an easy drive.

#### Divine

At the turn of the last century, the Berkshires was where the rich and famous of

Boston and the wider US came to holiday.

They built what they call "cottages" but to us, they are simply the most divine colonial-type mansions.

Most of the luxury "cottages" built during the "Gilded Age" have now been turned into either inns or lavish spa destinations.

And for those looking for a complete break away from the rigours of everyday life, the Garden Gables Inn in Lenox is just perfect.

Each bedroom in the 11-bedroomed inn is uniquely furnished and is like stepping into a dolls house.

Among the notables to have stayed in the

18th century Inn over the years include the late Bobby Kennedy.

Rates start at €199 per night in the low season and rise to an average of €223 in the

high season but is definitely worth it.

Just a short drive away is the Cranwell



### UNWIND IN STYLE: The Garden Gables Inn

Resort and Spa, which has built in 1853.

Today, Cranwell is a premier four-season resort offering the best in spa treatments, golf and cross-country skiing in the winter.

Just a short drive from Lenox is the picturesque town of Stockbridge, made famous by iconic US artist Normal Rockwell.

Stockbridge is the pure Americana — from the historic Red Lion Inn in the centre of the town to the new Norman Rockwell museum on the artisking.

on the outskirts.

If you have had your fill of art and culture, then it is time to hit the highway back to the city of Boston where all sorts of culinary

and retail treats await.

For hundreds of thousands of Irish emigrants, Boston was their first port of call when they arrived in the US and the strong Irish tradition — while not so welcome

initially - is very much in evidence now.

Boston is easy to get around thanks to the T transport system and there is certainly no shortage of taxis.

For the shoppers among you, the Mecca in Boston is the double header of the Prudential Centre and Copley Place — both of which are connected via an indoor walkway.

If shopping is not your thing, simply jump in a lift in the Prudential Centre and go straight to the top for stunning views of the city and a history of the immigrants who arrived there over the years.

#### Feast

Eating out in Boston is a treat for everyone

— specifically the foodies among you.

One of the hip and happening restaurants in the city at the moment is L'Espalier at 774 Boylston Street. There you can enjoy a culinary feast fit for a king that will not necessarily break the bank.

Just a short taxi ride from the centre of Boston is the college town of Harvard.

The best way to appreciate the history of this famous university is to do the "Unofficial Tour" (visit www.unofficialtours.com) which are led by actual students at the college.

are led by actual students at the college.

And this is no ordinary tour — expect plenty of laughter, pranks and a good bit of history for your \$10 trip.

Aer Lingus operates daily direct flights between Dublin and Boston, and five weeks direct flights between Shannon and Boston on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The airline also offers direct flights between Cork and Boston via Dublin in conjunction with Aer Arann.

Flights from Dublin to Boston start from

Flights from Dublin to Boston start from €209 each way including taxes and