

Smart Traveller

Boston for business, and **Lisa Hughes** sizes up Nice's nicest hotels for working trips.

LITTLE BLACK BOOK BOSTON

Cork native and co-founder of CoderDojo, a global movement of free youth coding clubs in more than 30 countries, **James Whelton** travels to the US every six weeks. Boston is his favourite city for business.



"Boston is great for business travel because ..."

Of its proximity to Ireland, and being in a time zone that makes working with Europe and the West Coast easy. I was in Boston for three weeks last time, and could easily catch a four-to-five-hour bus trip to New York to have meetings. Boston also has a booming tech scene and plenty of co-working spaces to work from.

Best place for business meetings ... The **Bocoup Loft** (239 Causeway Street; bocoup.com) is a new two-storey co-working space that houses great people in web technology and is a fantastic environment to work in. You can get a direct T-line train from the airport and all of Boston is easily accessed.

Business lunch ... Boston is well known for its seafood, and **Row 34** (383 Congress Street, +1 617 553 5900; row34.com) is well priced. The clam chowder and oysters with horseradish are my favourites.

Business drinks ... **Legal Harborside** (270 Northern Avenue, +1 617 477 2900; legalseafoods.com) is a great spot as it overlooks Boston Harbour and has no shortage of drink choices.

Getting around ... Boston's subway system the **T** is a godsend. Mobile taxi-hailing apps Uber, Lyft and Hailo, make ordering a taxi, black car or an UberX-style driver (very inexpensive compared to taxis) easy, even if you don't know where you are. And buses (boltbus.com) are

cheap - Boston to NYC can cost as little as \$15 each way - and have Wi-Fi and a bathroom.

Best business hotel ...

I couch surf on most trips to the States, so can advise on the most comfortable sofas in Boston! But for a quality hotel near Boston Common, the **Nine Zero Hotel** (90 Tremont Street, +1 617 772 5800; ninezero.com) has great rooms and facilities, as well as being very central.

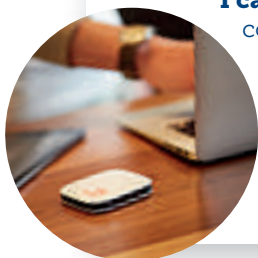
Business travel tips ...

When on a lean budget, booking ahead is key, and I rarely check in luggage. I also save maps before travelling in case I don't have internet access. I use Graph Search on Facebook to find out if I know someone in a town I'm visiting.

Visiting Boston on business for the first time ...

There are always meet-ups/events going on so I encourage people to search ahead of a visit so they can network and meet the local community."

"I can't travel without ... An internet connection. I bought a portable Wi-Fi hotspot online called **Karma** (yourkarma.com), which provides 4G speeds, is pay as you go (you can buy Gigabytes up front) and creates a secure public network that gives free Wi-Fi to others. Mine has been paying for itself whenever I go in the US."



3 BEST BUSINESS STAYS IN NICE



1 HYATT REGENCY NICE PALAIS DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE This luxurious Hyatt Regency has a business centre and Wi-Fi - and seven meeting rooms with sweeping views of the Med. There's also a third-floor restaurant with terrace for sunny business lunches (13 Promenade des Anglais, +33 493 271 234; nice.regency.hyatt.com)



2 AC HOTEL Business travellers might find it hard to get anything done at this four-star beachfront Marriott hotel - especially with the rooftop pool. There's on-site parking, a traditional French restaurant, Wi-Fi and three meeting rooms. With many local art pieces on display, the Zen garden is a great spot for an informal meeting. (59 Promenade des Anglais, +33 493 979 090; marriott.com)



3 STAR HOTEL In an expensive destination like Nice, it can be hard to stay somewhere budget-friendly. This cosy, two-star option is a ten-minute walk from the historic quarter and the SNCF train station. Rooms are soundproofed, Wi-Fi is free and you can take your pick of restaurants in the area. (14 Rue Biscarra, +33 493 851 903; hotel-star.com)