As one of the oldest towns in the original 13 colonies, Boston has played staging grounds to some of America's most notable chapters. A stroll through these streets finds you face to face with spots that paved the way for America today, and while you could walk all 2.5 miles of The Freedom Trail to see the 16 most prominent places of historical interest, you're also free to carve your own path through the city and see what speaks the most to you. No matter which route you take, there are three sites you simply can't miss.

The Boston Massacre proved to be one of the critical events to fuel the American Revolution. On March 5, 1770, a small group of Bostonians confronted a British officer and sentry for not paying a bill. As more locals joined the angry group, more soldiers were called to the scene. The squad of squirrel-nerved British soldiers eventually opened fire on the taunting crowd. Known as "The Shot Heard Around the World," the event proved to be a catalyst for American independence. See the fateful street corner for yourself, with a cobblestone marker placed in the median at the intersection of State and Congress Streets.

If there's one event more quintessential to Boston's involvement in the Revolution than the Boston Massacre, it would be the Boston Tea Party. Taking place on December 16, 1773, a party of Bostonians disguised as Native Americans snuck aboard anchored British ships and dumped a substantial shipment of tea into the harbor in protest of taxation without representation. Today, you can have your very own tea party at the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum. Get an in-depth look at history through the historical reenactments and exhibits of the museum before boarding an authentic 18th-century merchant ship to throw tea into the harbor yourself.

The final must-see site commemorates the Battle of Bunker Hill. Taking place on June 17, 1775, the first formal battle of the Revolutionary War sprawled out over the hilly landscape adjacent to Boston. While the British eventually claimed the field (and thus the town), they suffered substantial losses to the local militias, and it proved a moral victory for America. The monument on the hill today commemorates not only the first solid step toward independence from England, but the lives lost in pursuit of the land of the free.
The Eliot Hotel is located in the midst of one of Boston's most sought-after historic neighborhoods: Back Bay. Within walking distance of our Four Diamond hotel is the Commonwealth Avenue Mall, Boston Public Garden, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the Boston Public Library, Fenway Park and more — all paying homage to the city's rich history or a part of that history themselves.

MAUREEN TOOMEY
THE ELIOT HOTEL