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How to dazzle your out-of-town guests

Expecting guests this summer? Don't sweat it. These themed weekend itineraries can help you play the perfect host. Stick to one – or mix and match to create your own.

By Kara Baskin
July 18, 2010

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Page 3 of 4 -- *South End Open Market, 460 Harrison Avenue, Boston, <http://www.southendopenmarket.com>; Aunt Sadie's, 18 Union Park Street, Boston, 617-357-7117, <http://www.auntsadiesinc.com>*

Dine Have breakfast or lunch on the cheap at Mike & Patty's in Bay Village. The restaurant is teensy; portions are not. A monstrous breakfast torta stuffed with poblanos, refritos, avocado, eggs, salsa, and cheese costs less than \$10.

Mike & Patty's, 12 Church Street, Boston, 617-423-3447, <http://www.mikeandpattys.com>

FAMILIES WITH KIDS

Friday Dine On select Friday evenings, Aura at the Seaport Hotel offers a \$30 prix fixe menu for parents and an accompanying menu for kids, featuring health-conscious treats like organic chocolate chip cookies and turkey burgers. There's also a kids' room with toys, books, and movies, so parents can dine peacefully. Or pop into one of the North End's many family restaurants (Antico Forno, L'Osteria, and Pizzeria Regina are kid- and wallet-friendly).

Aura Restaurant, 1 Seaport Lane, Boston, 617-385-4300, <http://www.aurarestaurant.com>

Do Watch the sunlight melt over the water and enjoy a movie with the Boston Harbor Hotel's free "Movies by Moonlight" series. The hotel screens classics for the whole family, including Tootsie and Raiders of the Lost Ark. It's a relaxing, frugal way to launch the weekend. Showtime starts at dusk.

Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston, 617-439-7000, <http://www.bhh.com>

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These themed weekend itineraries can help you play the perfect host.

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Saturday Do Cool off on a whale watch run by the New England Aquarium. The three- to four-hour guided excursions leave from the aquarium dock in Boston and venture to the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, 25 miles off the coast. Kids can gawk at whales, seabirds, and dolphins; parents can unwind and savor the view (and there's a snack bar on board). Book the 10 a.m. cruise to return to dry land in time to catch a 6 p.m. ImprovBoston Family Show comedy performance in Cambridge's Central Square. The madcap troupe always summons pint-size performers on stage for sketches. The show lasts an hour – ideal for shorter attention spans.

New England Aquarium, 1 Central Wharf, Boston, 617-973-5200, <http://www.neaq.org>; ImprovBoston Family Show, 40 Prospect Street, Cambridge, 617-576-1253, <http://www.improvboston.com>

Dine After the show, dine nearby at Picante, a friendly counter-service

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