

SEASONED BY WAR, PORTUGAL

Battleship Cove to cuisine to concerts

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The USS Massachusetts looms over this city like a great, hulking shadow. The centerpiece of Battleship Cove, the ship anchors a scenic and walkable area that celebrates Fall River's waterfront, its maritime history, and its Portuguese heritage, with lots of opportunities for children to explore.

STAY

The Lizzie Borden Bed & Breakfast/Museum (230 Second St., 508-675-7333, www.lizzie-borden.com, \$150-\$250) operates in the house where the infamous murders of Andrew and Abby Borden took place on Aug. 4, 1892. Andrew Borden's daughter, Lizzie, 32, was charged with the double homicide and eventually acquitted. The house has been meticulously restored to its Victorian style. Photos and news clippings relating to the murders hang prominently on the walls, and guests may take an extended tour of the house, which is also available to the general public. Rates include a hot breakfast — “similar to the one the Bordens would have eaten on the morning of the murders, minus the cold mutton soup,” our tour guide noted.

Comfort Inn and Suites (360 Airport Road, 508-672-0011, www.choicehotels.com, \$89-\$139) offers a complimentary hot breakfast, indoor heated pool, and fitness center. Rooms have one king or two queen beds, and there are also two suites.

DINE

Portuguese restaurants dominate the downtown along Columbia and South Main streets. Owner Victor DaSilva claims that **Sagres** (177 Columbia St., 508-675-7018, www.osagres.wordpress.com, dinner \$12-\$21), started by his father 35 years ago, was the first. We enjoyed its award-winning kale soup thickened slightly with pureed potato, along with mariscada, shellfish in a slightly spicy tomato broth, roasted fresh cod, and a traditional house-made flan for dessert. The **Clipper Restaurant** (455 South Main St., 508-679-4700, dinner \$10-\$21) has been serving Portuguese specialties for 30 years, including chorizo, marinated pork, and shrimp or salmon in a spicy mocabique sauce. **Trio Cafe and Lounge** (201 South Main St., 508-679-5781, www.trio-cafe.com, sandwiches \$6-\$8, entrees \$13-\$25), a cozy dining room with a bistro feel, offers a nice selection of Portuguese and American entrees, as well as a \$5 children's menu. Burgers, dogs, and hand-cut fries are the draw at the **Ugly American** (240 New Boston Road, 508-672-4427, www.uglyamericanburger.com, \$1.50-\$5.69), a bare-bones cafe with chil-



PHOTOS BY ELLEN ALBANESE FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

The USS Massachusetts, built in Quincy and launched in September 1941, is the centerpiece of Battleship Cove, on the Taunton River. The Gates of the City celebrate Fall River's connection to its sister city, Ponta Delgada, in the Azores. The Lizzie Borden Bed & Breakfast/Museum is the house where the famous murders were committed.



dren's artwork on the walls and low prices. Burgers and fries were fine, but we loved the tempura asparagus, crisp stalks in a feather-light coating sprinkled with fresh Parmesan and served with ranch dressing.

DURING THE DAY

Begin at **Battleship Cove** (5 Water St., 508-678-1100, www.battleshipcove.org, \$15 adults, \$9 children ages 6-12, under 6 free), which bills itself as “the world's largest naval ship exhibit.” Children can explore the labyrinthine passageways of the USS Massachusetts, test out the hanging bunks, and crank the handwheels on “Big Mamie's” 40mm guns. The battleship is one of eight historic vessels to explore. A working **carousel**, built in 1920 and salvaged from Lincoln Amusement Park, is open seasonally. On Dec. 11 it will host a



breakfast with Santa from 8 a.m. to noon.

Across the street, the **Old Colony and Fall River Railroad Museum** (2 Water St., 508-674-9340, www.ocandfrailroadmuseum.com, \$3 adults, \$2 children 5-12, under 5 free, seasonal) is an open-air attraction that displays its collection in vintage rail cars. Visitors can explore a caboose, watch a video in a boxcar, and check out a large model train layout.

Follow Water Street to where it becomes Ponta Delgada Boulevard, and you'll come to the **Gates of the City**, a stone triple archway celebrating Fall River's sister city, Ponta Delgada, in the Portuguese archipelago the Azores. Next door is the **Marine Museum** (70 Water St., 508-674-3533, www.marinemuseum.org, \$6 adults, \$5 children 6-12). Its 28-foot model of the Titanic is the centerpiece of an exhibit that features news clippings, a

crew list, and a display by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute about the discovery of the ill-fated vessel that sank in 1912. There's also an extensive exhibit about the “floating palaces” that were the steamships of the Old Fall River Line.

The story of Lizzie Borden just gets curiouseer and curiouseer during a tour (\$12.50 adults, \$5 children 6-15) at the **Lizzie Borden Museum**. There's more Borden memorabilia at the **Fall River Historical Society** (451 Rock St., 508-679-1071, www.lizzieborden.org, \$8 adults, \$5 children 6-14, closed January-March, Nov. 1-19), along with Victorian costumes, mourning items, and photographs.

AFTER DARK

The city's premier performance space is the **Narrows Center for the Arts** (16 Anawan St., 508-324-1926, www.ncfta.org) in a late-1800s mill building. Along with hosting performers every weekend, the center houses an art gallery and several artists' studios.

Entourage (502 Bedford St., 508-235-1106, www.entouragemulticlub.com), which opened in June in the former Anderson-Little factory, has a sports bar, two night clubs, and a billiards room — 11,000 square feet of entertainment space — in a sleek, contemporary decor.

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