

# Wakefield MA (nr. Boston) Class Info for Deepening in D (2025)

Apr 29, 2024

## **Apr 23-May 1, 2025 Deepening in Divinity**

**Venue:** Four Points by Sheraton Wakefield Boston Hotel & Conference Center

1 Audubon Rd., Wakefield, MA 01880

Phone: 1-781-245-9300

[www.fourpointswakefieldboston.com](http://www.fourpointswakefieldboston.com)

The hotel is well located in that it is a short walk from Whole Foods, which is in the middle of an very nice outdoor mall with all kinds of shops, restaurants and even a bowling alley. It is about 25 minutes from the airport, when there is little traffic. (And late afternoon, returning to the airport, most of the traffic should be going the other way.)

## **Making Hotel Reservations:**

You can call and let the front desk know you are with the VortexHealing group, OR you can make your reservation online with the links below. Going online is the preferred option, because when we use the online system, as soon as the block runs out of rooms, an email is sent to their sales dept, which alerts them to put more in. If you get an error message, meaning that at least one day in the block is unavailable, try again in a few days. If you still get an error, email Ric.

**Cancellation:** Note that since they merged with Marriott, their penalty-free cancel policy is 48 hours.

**Book online with this link:**

<https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1714499571679&key=GRP>

## **Hotel Rates, Rooms & Facilities:**

The price for a room at the venue, with our discount, King or double-queen, will be **\$149+** tax.

All rooms include a **free breakfast** for up to 2 people.

**Rooms:** Rooms have either a King bed or two double beds. All rooms have refrigerators and microwaves. An extra rollaway bed can be provided (no cost) but can only be put in a King-bed room, as fire codes don't allow it in the room with two double beds. All rooms have a free WiFi, phone, TV, on-demand movies, coffee/tea maker, and a hairdryer

**Central Reservations will not see our special rates for rollaway beds.** So, don't worry about the rate for one of these quoted to you by central reservations. It will be sorted when you check in, as our special rates for these will be in the on-site computer system.

The hotel also has a free **shuttle** that will operate within 5 miles of the hotel, based on availability.

**Note that the hotel can book up**, so do make your reservations in advance. Also be aware that other hotels nearby can also get booked up, another reason to make your reservations early. You don't need to have registered for the class first to make a hotel reservation.

## **Travel:**

**By Air:** Fly into Boston Logan Airport. Then either take a **taxi** to the hotel (about \$60 +tip) to the hotel), or follow the *public transportation* option described in detail below, which is not too difficult. For Logan Airport information: <http://www.massport.com/Logan/default.aspx>

If you are going to rent a car, you also have the option of flying into Pease Int'l Airport in Portsmouth New Hampshire (50 miles away), or MHT in Manchester, New Hampshire (45 miles away). Southwest Airlines flies into MHT and Boston Logan Airport.

**Taxi:** Taxis are the easiest way from airport to hotel. For trips to Wakefield, they will charge by meter rather than a fixed rate. The cost should be somewhere about \$55-\$65, depending on

traffic, not including tolls & fees (~\$2.25 airport fee & \$5.25 tolls). Calling a taxi service for a pickup there will not be any cheaper and there may be an extra \$3 charge that the airport charges them for doing a pickup there. The more luggage you have, or the longer your flight getting to Boston, the more attractive the taxi option will be. (*Note:* although very few cab drivers will ‘take you for a ride’, such drivers do exist. If you feel that you have been overcharged, it is recommended that you ask the taxi driver for a receipt showing the driver's name, the taxi company, the amount paid, and the medallion number. And then call his taxi company and/or the Massport Ground Transportation Unit Manager at 1-617-561-1659.)

For the *return trip*, you would need to call a local car service, which will charge about \$55 - \$60. You can try one of these: Wakefield Taxi 781-245-1111 // C & A Taxi 978-774-1772 // Danvers Taxi 978-774-8901 // Bostonia Taxi 617-816-9314 // Tri-City Taxi 978-922-6999 // Community Taxi 978-535-1800 // Boston Taxi (a few dollars more) 617-633-8294.

**Logan Express – Peabody (Shuttle):** This leaves you less than 5 miles from the hotel, so you can call the hotel to have its shuttle pick you up from here. It leaves Logan from 4:15 am to 1:15 am, every hour. That time is for Terminal A. Other terminals will be a few minutes later. Travel time is ~30-45 min, depending upon traffic. You won't find the cost on the Logan Express website (<http://www.massport.com/logan-airport/to-from-logan/transportation-options/logan-express/>), but calling them indicates it is just \$12 one way, \$22 round-trip, and \$1 savings each way for seniors. It is first come first serve, though, with no reservations. So it is possible that if you arrive at a busy time that you'd need to wait an extra hour for the next bus. In addition, there will be a wait for the hotel shuttle to get to you. So although this is the cheapest transportation option, it may be very slow.

**Train:** This option is the most complex. For this option, you will take an MBTA subway train from the airport (also called the T), then a regular commuter train, and then call the hotel for its free shuttle to come and get you. Specifically, you take the Blue Line subway train at the airport going into Boston (coming back to the airport you'd take the Blue Line toward Wonderland). You get off either at State and transfer to the Orange Line heading towards Oak Grove, or you can get off at the next stop on the Blue Line, at Government Center, and transfer to the Green Line heading to Lechmere. In either case, you get off at North Station and buy a ticket for the Haverhill Line (Haverhill is its last stop), but you will be getting off at Wakefield. (Note that tickets for the commuter rail can be purchased at the ticket booth or on the train, as the ticket booths may be closed on weekends.) From there, you'd call the hotel for its free shuttle to come pick you up, or you can call a taxi, which will be ~\$12 +tip.

Be aware that commuter trains are not well designed to accommodate luggage, but most train-cars do have a small area for that. In addition, they are more expensive than the T, and they run frequently on weekdays in the morning and later afternoon, when they are also most crowded, but not so often on weekends and at other times of the day. Returning to the airport is easier because you can time your departure according to the commuter train's schedule.

If you have to arrive at South Station, you would take the Red Line towards Alewife, transfer to a Green Line train at Park St, heading towards Lechmere, and get off at North Station. Another option from South Station, especially on weekends when commuter trains don't run much, is to take the Red Line from the airport all the way to the end, which is Alewife Station, in Cambridge, and then take a taxi from there to the hotel, which should be a much less expensive taxi ride than from South Station.

**Bus:** Buses from most major northeastern cities will go into South Station.

**Car:** The hotel is the exit just west of Interstate 95 & Route 1. Coming from the East, get off at exit 42, Salem Rd/Wakefield. As you come off the exit, halfway to the end of the exit, you will see the hotel on the right. At the end of the exit, you go right, and then right again into the hotel.

From the West, get off at exit 42, Salem Rd/Wakefield, and make a left at the light at the end of the exit. Make a left at the next light, Pleasure Island Rd / to Audubon Rd. You take that back under the highway, go through another light, and you'll see the hotel on your right.

**Renting a Car (see warnings below):** The best way to rent a car is through Autoslash.com. Once you make your reservation, go back to autoslash.com and click on Track a Rental. Enter the info and they will keep looking for prices to go down and when it does, they will send you the info. They used to cancel the original reservation automatically, but they don't any longer; you need to do that yourself.

If you don't use Autoslash.com, it is usually cheaper to rent through places such as Orbitz.com than directly with the car company. Alternatively, here are some codes that should work to get discounts if booking directly: Budget BCD#: X736134; Avis: AWD#: B381920; Hertz: DCP#: 240 or 000252

Sometimes, when first doing a search here, they don't show you anything at first and say they will get back to you – and they do very quickly. Sometimes, it will only show 1 or 2 car companies to choose from. If that happens, near the top of the page will be a box with this statement:

“Didn't find anything that meets your needs? [Click here](#) to submit a request and we'll get back to you via email with other options.”

Choose that, and within 24 hours, usually much sooner, you will be sent a link that will offer you other options.

The sooner in advance you make the reservation the more time Autoslash has to find better rates when sales come up.

**Insurance:** If your credit card doesn't cover collision damage insurance, and/or if liability insurance is required, you may be interested in buying that ahead of time from a 3<sup>rd</sup> party, such as <https://www.insurance4carhire.com/products/usa-canada-car-hire-excess-insurance>. I haven't used them, so I cannot vouch for this one personally, and they can only be used by UK and some EU residents. But do look around and compare policies and customer reviews.

**Car Rental Scams:** Some car companies will give you a story about why you need to rent a device for them for tolls. Dollar Rent-a-Car is apparently notorious for this. They will scare you with fines if you go through a toll without it, which is crap, unless Dollar itself charges you for that; the state of Massachusetts doesn't; they just send Dollar a bill for the toll. And if, coming out of the airport, you take Route 1 north, you don't pass any tolls. Tolls are if you come through the Tunnel or go on I-90, and no need to do either.

Budget Rent-a-Car (and maybe others) have a scam where the contract says that they will ask for your gas receipt for proof that you've filled the tank close by, and if you can't provide it they will charge you a fee. But they don't ask and charge the fee anyway. You have to remember to show it them on your own accord.