

TAVERNS

Tavern, pub, bar...ever wonder what the difference was? A tavern is a place of business where people gather to drink alcoholic beverages and be served food, and in some cases, where travelers receive lodging. An inn is a tavern which has a license to put up guests as lodgers.

In English, a tavern was once an establishment which served wine while an inn served beer and ale. Over time, the words "tavern" and "inn" became interchangeable. In England, inns started to be referred to as public houses or pubs and the term became standard for all drinking houses.

The first American tavern, in Boston, was a Puritan establishment, opened in 1634.

By 1900, the 26 million American men over age 18 patronized 215,000 licensed taverns and probably 50,000 unlicensed (illegal) ones. Twice the density could be found in working class neighborhoods. [<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tavern>]

