

The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD

THE SIGHT

On an eco-tour of Laguna de Oviedo in Jaragua National Park, on the rugged southwest coast of the Dominican Republic, we made a stop at “iguana island.” The pale green waters of the lake are caused by high salinity, but the iguanas don’t seem to mind.

PHOTO BY NECÉE REGIS FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE



ASK AWAY

Q I have friends visiting the city who would like to bring Lucy, their adorable King Charles spaniel. Can you recommend a conveniently-located Boston hotel that is exceptionally pet-friendly?

KELLY GLASS, DORCHESTER

A There are a slew of Boston hotels that allow furry four-legged friends, but many charge additional fees and may impose size limits. Not so at Boston’s Kimpton brand hotels, the Nine Zero (90 Tremont, 866-906-9090, www.ninezero.com) and Onyx Hotel (155 Portland, 866-660-6699, www.onyxhotel.com). When Lucy arrives, she’ll be greeted with treats at the door, and her name will be written on a chalkboard at the front entrance. A pet bowl and comfy dog bed will already be in the room. Information on pet-friendly areas in the city and pet

services is available at the front desk. Both boutique hotels are highly rated and centrally located. Lucy will also get a warm welcome at Fifteen Beacon (15 Beacon, 617-670-1500, www.xvbeacon.com, pictured below), a luxury boutique hotel near Beacon Hill, where she’ll be greeted by canine concierge Heidi, the general manager Amy Finsilver’s Bernese mountain dog. She’ll get a personalized plate of peanut butter doggie biscuits, a bed, bowl, and fresh water at turn-down service. Dog-sitting and walking can be arranged, and 100 percent of an optional \$25 pet donation goes to Angell Animal Medical Center.

DIANE BAIR AND
PAMELA WRIGHT

Send your questions on New England travel to askglobetravel@gmail.com.



FIFTEEN BEACON



YOON S. BYUN/GLOBE STAFF

THE LIST

FOUR TOWNS FOR BEER LOVERS

- 1**
BEND, ORE.
Dubbed Beer City USA, this fun-loving, outdoorsy town along the eastern ridge of the Cascades has a micro-brewery for every 9,000 or so people; follow the Bend Ale Trail to 14 world-class craft breweries.
- 2**
PORTLAND, ORE.
There are about 30 breweries within the city limits, more than any other city in the world; pub crawls, tours, and beer festivals and fairs are held year-round.
- 3**
SAN FRANCISCO
The city, home to the oldest US craft brewery still in operation, led the renaissance in US craft brewing; more than 500 events are held citywide during its annual San Francisco Beer Week.
- 4**
DENVER
The Mile-High City has a thriving beer industry and culture, brewing more beer than any other city in the country; it’s hometown to the Great American Beer Festival, the largest brewfest in the nation.

DIANE BAIR AND PAMELA WRIGHT

HERE

IMPROVEMENTS ON NEW HAMPSHIRE’S NORDIC TRAILS

The Jackson Ski Touring Foundation in Jackson has added new grooming equipment and improved trails, and is offering new lodging packages for this season. The community-based, non-profit organization, which has the largest Nordic trail system in the East, has added a state-of-the-art Kassborher PB 100 grooming vehicle to its fleet. Trail improvements include an expanded parking lot at East Pasture Loop, a new aluminum bridge at the Wildcat Valley Fields, new beginner trail sections, and a kid-friendly terrain garden. Purchase a discounted season pass through Nov. 30 for \$115 adults, or \$20-\$40 for juniors, depending on age; 10 and under always free. 800-927-6697, www.jacksonasc.org

OCEAN STATE RESORT ADDS TO ITS ART COLLECTION

Ocean House, one of New England’s grand seaside hotels in Watch Hill, has added five murals by Ludwig Bemelmans, creator of the Madeline children’s books, to its collection, which includes more than 350 works from the 19th to late 20th centuries. The murals were cut from the walls of Bemelmans’s bistro in Paris and transported to New York for a six-month restoration process. Ocean House has also acquired two Bemelman panels commissioned by Aristotle Onassis in 1953 for his yacht, the Christina O. Guests can take a free guided art tour and learn more about the paintings,

drawings, and other pieces found throughout the Relais & Châteaux property. 401-584-7000, www.oceanhouseri.com

THERE

A TASTY SAMPLING OF SOUTH MIAMI

Take your tastebuds on a tour when you visit Miami and savor a worldly lineup of local cuisine, from Peruvian and Colombian to Italian dishes. Miami Culinary Tours highlight everything from gourmet restaurants to hole-in-the-wall favorites, and offer insight on the history and cultural significance of the authentic meals. This small local business, run by five passionate foodies, offers the South Beach Food Tour, which takes participants for a mile-long stroll near Ocean Drive for tastings at seven or eight eateries. Tickets for the daily three-hour tour:

\$22 under age 8, \$39 8-13, \$59 14 and older, includes tax and all food. Or join the two-hour Little Havana Food Tour on Saturdays. 786-942-8856, www.miamiculinarytours.com

PLANT A KOA TREE IN HAWAII

Make a big impact on Hawaii’s Big Island when you join a tour that promotes reforestation. Hawaiian Legacy Hardwoods’ new Koa Legacy Forest Tree-Planting Tour will take you to the slopes of Mauna Kea, one of the island’s volcanoes, where you will plant a seedling that came from the area’s old-growth koa trees. Then travel along the ancient Umikoa Trail, learn about local tropical plants, and keep an eye out for endangered Hawaiian hawks and owls. Go home with your tree’s serial number and GPS coordinates, and access to a unique tracking system that lets you remotely map the



tree’s growth over time. The daily off-road land adventure runs 1½ hours (Planters’ Tour) to three hours (Grand Tour). Adults \$110/\$180, children \$55/\$90, 5 and under free. 877-707-8733, www.hawaiianlegacytours.com

A TASTY TREAT FOR FIDO

Take your dog to the West Inn & Suites hotel in Carlsbad, Calif., and you can order tail-wagging treats from a new room service menu just for dogs. The Canine Cuisine lineup includes a choice of a deboned rotisserie chicken, a juicy beef and bacon burger, chopped meatloaf shepherd’s pie, and mixed veggie burger with rice and potatoes. Chefs at the hotel’s Bistro West prepare the gourmet dishes using fresh ingredients from the property’s three-acre farm. Dogs receive a special treat at check-in, pet aromatherapy sprays to relax, and size-appropriate doggie bowls and beds. Rate: \$209 per night, includes deluxe accommodations, one Canine Cuisine entree, cleaning fee, and other amenities. 760-448-4500, www.westinnsuites.com

EVERYWHERE

DOUBLE CHARGING POWER ON THE GO

Innergie’s new palm-sized PocketCell Duo lets you charge two devices at

once while on the go. It comes with two 2.1-Amp USB power ports where you can plug in short cables (one is included) that each have tips for micro USB, mini USB, and 30-pin compatible Apple devices. If you have a newer Apple device, buy the separate MagiCable Duo with Lightning cable, which comes with micro USB and Lightning tips. The small but mighty PocketCell Duo can power an iPad for about seven hours or an Android smartphone for more than 30 hours (tried and true). It also holds its own charge for weeks. \$89.99 PocketCell Duo; \$29.99 MagiCable Duo. 877-988-6388, www.myinnergie.com

SLIM, FULL-FEATURED HARD DRIVE

We always travel with a mini backup hard drive, but it often takes a beating along the way. Western Digital’s new My Passport Slim comes with a super-protective metal enclosure, so it can withstand the bumps of travel, and a super-thin profile (it measures just .48 inches “thick”), so it can be tucked away. If something were to happen, we have peace of mind knowing that info has been automatically backed up to the cloud using Dropbox and also protected by 256-bit hardware-based encryption. \$119.99 for 1TB at www.newegg.com. 877-934-6972, www.wdc.com

KARI BODNARCHUK



BRENDA BENOIT