

The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD



V&A Dundee, which opened last month, stands at the center of a \$1.3 billion urban transformation of former docks in Dundee, Scotland.

A DESIGN MUSEUM FOR SCOTLAND

By Diane Daniel | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

V&A Dundee, Scotland’s first design museum, stretches over the River Tay, its corner protruding like the bow of a boat. It also serves as the first outpost of London’s famed V&A, or Victoria and Albert Museum, the world’s largest museum of decorative arts and design.

The new museum, which opened last month, was built on reclaimed land and stands at the center of a \$1.3 billion urban transformation of Dundee’s former docks, helping to connect the water with the city center. Internationally renowned Japanese architect Kengo Kuma designed the V&A Dundee to evoke the dramatic cliffs of Scotland’s coastline and to meld nature and architecture. (Kuma also is designing the National Stadium for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.)

Inside, the Scottish Design Galleries display 300 items

that showcase heritage and designs from across the country, taken from the V&A’s collections as well as pieces from private collections. The gallery’s centerpiece is the Oak Room, the rebuilt interior of a tearoom by Charles Rennie Mackintosh, a well-known Scottish architect, designer, and artist. The interior of the room, which had been in storage since 1971 when the building it was housed in was demolished, has been totally restored and reconstructed.

Other highlights include the 15th-century “Playfair Book of Hours,” the oldest object in the Scottish Design Galleries, as well as newer items, such as a gown worn by Natalie Portman as Padmé Amidala in a scene from “Star Wars: Attack of the Clones.” The museum also contains a cafe and shop as well as a huge foyer. A terrace, accessed from the Scottish galleries and from the foyer, gives

views across the river.

Temporary exhibits will be shown along with the permanent collection. The museum’s opening exhibit, through Feb. 24, is “Ocean Liners: Speed and Style,” organized jointly by the V&A London and the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Mass. So if you missed the show last year in Salem, you have another chance to see it here, as well as the striking building it’s housed in.

V&A Dundee, 1 Riverside Esplanade, Dundee, Scotland. www.vam.ac.uk/dundee, 44 1382 411611. Admission is free, though some special exhibits carry a separate charge. Open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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HERE

EXPLORE MARS AT A BOSTON MUSEUM

Celebrate the 60th anniversary of Boston’s Charles Hayden Planetarium with upcoming events, including the world premiere of “Destination Mars: The New Frontier.” This captivating new show at the Museum of Science explores humankind’s undying urge to explore the red planet. It highlights the challenges of getting to Mars and what steps have been taken to achieve this. Actor Keith David narrates the film, which includes an original orchestral score by Grammy Award-winner and Berklee College of Music professor Claudio Ragazzi. The museum’s astronomy program dates back to 1948, when its Traveling Planetarium — a truck with a 60-seat theater and 18-foot dome — traveled around New England offering shows on the go. The museum’s permanent Charles Hayden Planetarium, with its 314 seats and 60-foot dome, opened in 1958, and has chronicled star-studded programs ever since. Mars tickets \$8 (child), \$10 (adult) without exhibit halls pass; \$6 any age as an add-on to pass. 617-723-2500, www.mos.org/planetarium

GET A TASTE OF NEW HAVEN

More than 30 of New Haven’s top eateries will participate in the city’s annual restaurant week, Nov. 4-9. New Haven Restaurant Week celebrates its 10th anniversary by featuring prix-fixe lunch and dinner offerings for \$17.10 and \$34.10, respectively, at participating restaurants across the city, including Barcelona Wine Bar and Restaurant, Goodfellas Restaurant, Lenny and Joe’s Fish Tale, and Union League Café. The event supports the Connecti-



cut Food Bank — make \$1 in donations at any of the restaurants and you will provide two meals for someone in need. The Shops at Yale and Park New Haven will offer special \$5 parking in the Temple Street and Crown Street garages and Granite Square between 5 p.m. and midnight. www.infone-whaven.com

THERE

WOMEN’S-ONLY TOURS TO MEXICO CITY

A new Washington, D.C.-based travel company offers women’s-only trips to

Mexico City. Wild Terrains will run three culturally immersive trips in 2019 that enable travelers to connect with local women and support their businesses while learning about the city’s rich arts and culinary scenes. Travelers will stay in female-owned hotels, visit female-owned food stalls and restaurants on a “food crawl” tour, go on a Frida Kahlo tour led by a female art historian, and enjoy a private shopping experience with the women who own the Colorindio textile company. The new trips include New Year, New You, Jan. 23-27; International Women’s Day, March 6-10; and Mother/Daughter Mother’s Day, May 10-14. Wild Terrain donates 1 percent of the profits from each trip to a local organization that supports entrepreneurial women. Rates start at \$1,850, based on double occupancy, which includes accommodations, most meals, transportation, and all activities; airfare to/from Mexico City not included. 240-719-8528, www.wildterrains.com/our-experiences

THE MARRIOTT’S FIRST IN-HOUSE BREWERY

Stay at the JW Marriott Orlando, Grande Lakes and enjoy a selection of beer made onsite at the property’s nano-brewery. The Brewery produces 28 gallons of beer each week, including dark, wheat, amber, IPA, and seasonal brews. Staff use fresh ingredients that are harvested on the resort’s Whisper Creek Farm to make seasonal brews, which include Maple Bacon Stout, Soup of the Day IPA, and Ghost Pepper Wheat. The brewery supports the resort’s commitment to sustainable cuisine; Grande Lakes Orlando houses 10 apiaries, bakes all its bread in house, has 40 chickens at Whisper Creek Farm, and provides its onsite restau-

rants with fresh produce and herbs. Rates start at \$199. 800-576-5750, www.grandelakes.com

EVERYWHERE

A GREAT GIFT FOR TRAVELERS

Here’s the perfect holiday gift for the person who has everything: a card. Not that kind of card. Purchase a Flight Gift Card and add credit — much like you would a Visa travel card — and the person who receives it can put it toward any flight, any time (no blackout periods) on 300 airlines worldwide, including Delta, American, Virgin Atlantic, British Airways, and many more. If the recipient only uses a portion of the credit, he or she can apply the remainder to another flight. Alternatively, give a Hotel Gift card (with credit) and the recipient can use it to stay at more than 110,000 hotels around the world, including the Four Seasons, Starwood, Hyatt, Ritz Carlton, and the Small Luxury Hotels collections. Bonus: You can

add monetary value to a card in one of 15 currencies. www.flightgiftcard.com, www.hotelgift.com

TASTY SNACKS FOR THE ROAD

Forget unhealthy snack food when you travel and munch on Patagonia Provisions’ new Organic Savory Seeds, which come in truly snack-size, 1-ounce packets yet offer at least 5 grams of plant-based protein. Savory Seeds, made primarily with lentils (from Montana), buckwheat (from Oregon), and hemp (from Colorado), are organic, gluten-free, vegan, and non-GMO project-verified. They’re also made with sustainable, regenerative practices in mind. The best part: They actually taste good. Choose from Classic Barbecue, Chipotle Lime, and Mellow Curry. You can even use them to jazz up a salad, burger, or other travel cuisine. \$30 for 12 packets (four of each flavor). Available at Patagonia on Newbury Street, or online. www.patagoniaprovisions.com

KARI BODNARCHUK

