

The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD



THE LIST

FIVE HOTELS THAT WILL HAUNT YOU

- 1

1886 CRESCENT HOTEL AND SPA
EUREKA SPRINGS, ARK. This hotel-turned-hospital-turned-hotel (pictured) harbors so many restless spirits — including an Irish stonemason and a cat — it offers nightly ghost tours. Ghost hunters say they captured a (rare) full-bodied apparition on camera here; guests post pictures of ghostly images in the “ghost book.” www.crescent-hotel.com
- 2

QUEEN MARY
LONG BEACH, CALIF. This storied oceanliner (now a floating hotel) has been named one of the most haunted places in the country, and they play it up with frequent paranormal tours. Those who refuse to disembark include a sailor who was crushed to death in an engine room, a mysterious woman in white, and children who drowned in the ship’s swimming pool (still frolicking in a pool no longer filled). www.queenmary.com
- 3

GETTYSBURG HOTEL
GETTYSBURG, PA. Guests at this 1797 hotel report encounters with Rachel, a Civil War nurse who lived here during the Battle of Gettysburg. She’s reported to rifle through drawers and leaves a cold breeze in her wake. www.hotelgettysburg.com
- 4

HOTEL DEL CORONADO
SAN DIEGO This resort’s resident spirit is Kate Morgan, a lovesick ghost clad in black lace who checked into the hotel in 1892 and never left. She’s known to be a prankster. www.hoteldel.com
- 5

STANLEY HOTEL
ESTES PARK, COLO. The inn that inspired Stephen King’s novel “The Shining” is haunted by a phantom piano player (cue the eerie music), said to be the ghost of Flora Stanley, the former innkeeper’s wife. www.stanleyhotel.com
DIANE BAIR AND PAMELA WRIGHT

CHECK IN

PLACE KNOWN FOR ITS SPIRIT



There’s a lot to like about the Green Mountain Inn in picturesque Stowe, Vt. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the warm and inviting inn has more than 100 comfortable rooms filled with antiques, and two popular on-site restaurants. So it’s no surprise that Boots Berry doesn’t want to leave. Boots was born in 1840 in Room 302 in the third-floor servants’ quarters, and grew up to be the inn’s horseman. He was a local hero, lauded for stopping a runaway stagecoach, before he started drinking, got fired, and left town. He returned in 1902, when he saved a girl who was stranded on the inn’s roof during a snowstorm, before slipping to his own death. Some guests swear they hear Boots tap dancing on the roof, just above Room 302. *18 Main St., Stowe, Vt. 802-253-7301, www.greenmountaininn.com, standard rooms \$159-\$279.*
DIANE BAIR AND PAMELA WRIGHT

THE TIP

NO FEAR OF SALEM BY SEA



Less than 20 miles northeast of Boston and four years older is the historic city of Salem. Best known as the place where, in 1692, twenty innocent victims were hanged and stoned to death as witches, Salem flourished during the 17th and 18th centuries as its merchant vessels circled the globe, bringing home great wealth. Arriving by boat is still the best way to visit Salem, especially during October, when parking lots overflow with Haunted House traffic. The Salem ferry from Long Wharf runs through Halloween. Grab a seat, smell the salty air, see the seaside estates of Marblehead, and 45 minutes later you arrive in Salem, stress-free. Your only worry is what costume to wear. Round trip is \$27 for adults, \$22 for children. Last ferry from Salem is at 8 p.m. on Saturdays. www.bostonharborcruises.com/salem-ferry/schedule-rates/
STEPHEN JERMANOK

HERE

GUIDED TOURS OF MAINE’S FOLIAGE Explore Maine’s state parks and public reserved lands during foliage season with local park rangers. Free guided tours run through late October, when foliage is expected to peak. Rangers will answer your questions on anything from why leaves change colors to what triggers leaf drop, for instance. The moderate summer weather, recent temperature drops, and waning daylight are expected to create one of the most vibrant foliage seasons in recent years, according to the Maine Forest Service. Tours available for hikers of all skill levels. Go to www.maineleafage.com to sign up for weekly foliage updates by e-mail, and www.parksandlands.com for information on hiking tours.

YOUR TICKET TO FUN ON NEW HAMPSHIRE’S SLOPES Get ready for your ski and snowboard adventures by purchasing one of the Ski NH Anywhere, Anytime Lift Ticket

Packages, which offer up to \$22 off weekend and holiday rates at member ski areas, such as Waterville Valley, Loon Mountain, Bretton Woods, Cannon Mountain, and Pats Peak. Choose your favorite ski area or select two or more mountains. Tickets range from \$17 to \$65 per ticket, and increase \$5 per ticket after Oct. 31; purchase a minimum of six lift tickets per package, while supplies last. Share the fully-transferrable tickets with friends and family members at no cost. New this year, you can print your tickets at home. *800-887-5464, www.skiinh.com*
SAVOR THE FLAVORS OF MAINE AND BEYOND Let your taste buds explore the best of Maine’s culinary offerings during the Harvest on the Harbor food and wine festival Oct. 23-26. This Portland event features sampling sessions with award-winning chefs, a chance to meet local winemakers and brewers, presentations by bakers, cheese makers, and chefs, and awards for the Maine Lobster Chef of the Year and Maine’s Best Farm-to-Table Restaurant.

See leading pit masters and barbecue aficionados face off during the Brews and Blues BBQ, and sample everything from Thai to Italian dishes during the new International Maine—Taste the World event. Tickets \$45-\$115 per event, or \$350 for admission to all events. *207-772-4994, ext. 223, www.harvestontheharbor.com*

THERE

TRACK DOWN A TRIP THAT REALLY SUITS YOU Zaptravel.com, a new semantic-driven travel website, helps you find deals to places you want to travel to, when you want to go, rather than a list of hard-to-reach destinations or trips that require traveling at inconvenient times. Just choose your travel timeframe, activities, budget range, preferred hotel rating, and other important parameters. The site then tracks more than 10 million flight routes, 2,000 destinations, 10,000 trip inspirations, 15,000 events, 400,000 hotels, and 10 million hotel reviews, among other details, to come up with deals that best suit your preferences. For instance, look for a bike vacation departing Boston with a \$1,000 budget and three- to four-star hotels, and you get a selection of eight-day flight and hotel combo deals from San Diego to Istanbul. *415-800-4600, www.zaptravel.com*

AIRPORT RANKINGS AND AIRLINE REFUNDS Next time you book flights to, from, or in Europe, check with refund.me to see which airports rank at the top and bottom of the list for on-time performance, delays, and cancellations.

Should anything go awry on your adventure, due to flight delays, cancellations, and missed connections, the international service provider can help enforce your compensation claims. To date, refund.me has processed claims from 95 countries, involving 189 airlines and 340 airports. Use the company’s website or mobile app to file a claim for up to about \$812. According to refund.me, the top 10 airports for delays include Gatwick and Manchester in Britain, Frankfurt, and Orlando, while Heathrow in Britain, Munich, and Barcelona ranked in the top 10 for flight cancellations. Refund.me also helps bus, ship, and rail passengers file claims for reimbursement. www.refund.me

EVERYWHERE

TOUCH-ACTIVATED HEADPHONES OFFER FEATURES AND COMFORT Parrot Zik wireless noise-canceling headphones offer the best quality, richest sound (think concert hall effect), and most comfortable fit of the many over-the-ear headphones I have tried. The Philippe Starck-designed headphones connect to your devices via Bluetooth and even let you answer cellphone calls on the go. The headphones pause music when you remove them from your ears, and restart once they are back on. Even better, lightly swipe the sensitive touch panel on the right earpiece, and you can quickly

change songs and volume. Despite all the fancy features, you can still plug the headphones into a device with a standard cable jack. Currently \$312 at Amazon.com. *877-972-7768, www.parrot.com*

TAKE TRAVEL PICS WITH A PEN CAMERA Swann’s HD PenCam is a ballpoint pen with a built-in camera that takes photos and videos on the fly. The clever, easy-to-use device has a working pen, and a tiny camera that captures high-definition AVI videos (1280 x 720 pixels) and 2-megapixel JPEG images. Flip between camera and video mode using a hidden switch, and charge the device’s lithium-ion battery using the USB connector. The PenCam works with a MicroSD card up to 16GB, and can capture approximately eight hours of video or 72,000 images. The battery lasts about 45 minutes on a full charge. Currently \$87.70 at Amazon.com. *562-777-2551, www.swann.com*
KARI BODNARCHUK

