

The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD



PHOTOS BY ELLEN ALBANESE FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

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Under a spell at VOODOO DOUGHNUT

PORTLAND, Ore. “Good Things Come in Pink Boxes,” says the sign at Voodoo Doughnut. And if your idea of a good thing is a maple-frosted doughnut with a strip of bacon or fried dough topped with banana chunks and chocolate chips, Voodoo Doughnut is your happy place. You’ll know you’re in the right spot by the candy pink gates, neon purple picnic tables — and the line outside the door.

Inside is sensory bedlam — bright colors, loud music, a massive ceiling light in the shape of a confetti-topped doughnut, floor-to-ceiling stacks of pink boxes, and an assortment of confections that will change the way you think about doughnuts.

Friends and Portlanders Kenneth “Cat Daddy” Pogson and Tres Shannon opened Voodoo Doughnut in 2003 with the signature Bacon Maple Bar. Today there are three stores in Portland, as well as shops in Eugene, Ore.; Denver, Colo.; Austin, Texas; and Universal Studios in Hollywood, Calif. The Portland, Denver, and Austin stores are open 24/7.

The most popular varieties include Voodoo Doll, Bacon Maple Bar, Old Dirty Bastard, and Portland

Cream, said Sara Heise, director of marketing. Cake doughnuts start at 75 cents; the most expensive doughnut, at \$6.50, is Cock-N-Balls, a chocolate-frosted, cream-filled doughnut shaped exactly as you would imagine.

Memphis Mafia was an explosion of flavors and textures. We bit into the yeasty pull of a fritter, dusted with sugary cinnamon, drizzled in chocolate and peanut butter, and topped with chocolate chips, chewy banana, and crunchy peanuts. It tasted a little of every dessert or pastry we’ve ever had. Old Dirty Bastard was not nearly as extravagant, but more than sufficiently sweet, a chocolate-frosted doughnut topped with chopped Oreos and peanut butter; it positively cried out for a glass of milk. Voodoo also makes vegan doughnuts and creates memorial “tribute” doughnuts honoring celebrities who have recently left this world.

Voodoo Doughnuts, 22 SW 3rd Ave., 503-241-4704, voodoodoughnut.com

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HERE

REGION’S ARTISTS AT DECORDOVA
View works by 23 New England artists at Lincoln’s deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum during an exhibit opening next week. The “deCordova New England Biennial 2019,” on show April 5 to Sept. 15, features a rich trove of works that represent contemporary art across many genres, including painting, sculpture, videography, ceramics, and fiber arts. See photographs of migrant workers on a New Hampshire farm, sculptures that resemble humorous lifelike creatures, and works that explore the nuances of light and space. The artists confront stereotypes about Native Americans, explore the notion of UFOs and aliens, broach politics in one form or another, and explore gender fluidity in the human and natural realms. *Admission: free if you arrive by bicycle, show proof that you’re a museum member, Lincoln resident, or an active-duty military personnel, or are 12 or under; \$14 for adults. 781-259-8355, www.decordova.org.*

BEHOLD TOULOUSE-LAUTREC AT THE MFA
Explore the bohemian center of Parisian nightlife through the works of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec during an exhibition at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, April 7 through Aug. 4. The show, “Toulouse-Lautrec and the Stars of Paris,” showcases more than 200 of the artist’s posters, prints, and paintings, including more than 100 works from the Boston Public Library, an exhibition partner. It explores how the artist portrayed the celebrity culture of



MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON

his time while pushing his art in new directions, and includes works by Edgar Degas, Pierre Bonnard, and other celebrated artists. The exhibit highlights the shifting social and artistic landscapes of Paris in the 1800s, and the importance of posters and prints. *Admission: Free for two adults and up to six kids during June with a Boston Public Library card; otherwise, free for under 18, \$23 seniors and 18 or older, \$25 adults. 617-267-9300, www.mfa.org.*

THERE

DON’T MISS D.C.’S CHERRY BLOSSOMS
Peak bloom for Washington D.C.’s National Cherry Blossom Festival is expected to be April 3 to 6, according to the National

Park Service. That means 70 percent of the Yoshino cherry trees in the Tidal Basin will be in full bloom — an amazing sight. The festival, which runs now through April 14, features more than 40 events, including a Japanese jazz series, open studios, fireworks, a freedom walk, a road race, storytelling, and floral design workshops for all ages. It also features a parade, yoga and meditation, a Japanese street festival, and a grand ball. While in Washington, stay at Pod DC, one of the area’s “micro hotels,” grab a bite to eat at Union Market, where you’ll find more than 40 culinary vendors, and check out Republic Restoratives, Washington’s only women-owned and operated distillery. *877-44-BLOOM, www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org.*

EXPLORE REMOTE ALASKA BY LUXURY CRUISE
Sail the Inside Passage aboard a new,



RON BLUNT PHOTOGRAPHY

12-guest expedition vessel and see areas rarely visited by other travelers. Alaskan Dream Cruises has launched a new 10-day cruise on a former Bering Sea crab vessel — now a modern and elegant small-scale cruise ship — that takes adventurous passengers to some of the most remote areas of the Pacific Northwest. The 128-foot Kruzof Explorer has a larger outer deck for wildlife viewing, a theater in the old crab hold, and spacious en-suite rooms. Its five-ton crane, which once hauled crab pots, loads and unloads the Zodiacs that take passengers exploring. The new Alaska’s Remote Wilderness Expedition will explore the length of southeast Alaska from Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve to the native village of Metlakatla, also visiting two designated wilderness areas and two national monuments along the way. Cruise around the remote West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness, visit the tiny fishing village of Pelican, and kayak off Admiralty Island. Inaugural season rate: \$9,895 includes ship’s accommodations, all meals and beverages, shore excursions, airport transfers, and more. *www.alaskandreamcruises.com.*

EVERYWHERE

THIS GLOBAL HOTSPOT KEEPS YOU CONNECTED
Take Somewear on your next off-the-grid adventure to keep in touch with family, track your route, and have access to weather data

and emergency services, if needed. The global hotspot device uses satellites to keep tabs on your location. Download the Somewear app and use that to initiate location tracking (the device “drops a pin” every 30 seconds to mark your location), gather up-to-date weather data (based on your coordinates), and send text messages or e-mails to rescuers or anyone in your phone’s contact list (those at home can even track your live whereabouts by



computer). If your phone’s battery dies on your adventure, Somewear can still send SOS alerts with the push of a button, and a light indicates that the message has been successfully delivered. Battery life for the palm-sized 4-ounce device varies, depending on how you use Somewear (location tracking draws more battery power), but should last for hundreds of messages sent and received. The app defaults to using cell and wifi service, if available, which helps conserve Somewear’s battery. *Subscription plans range from \$50 per month for unlimited messages and pin drops to \$100 annually for 10 messages per month and SOS access. \$350. www.somewearlabs.com.*

KARI BODNARCHUK