

The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD

NIGHT OUT

REVOLUTIONARY SITE IN LINCOLN

Looking for a little something different to do on a Friday night? Surprise your date with a trip to bucolic Lincoln to visit Gropius House, a 1938 modernist home that brought the essence of the Bauhaus architectural movement to fruition. Every aspect of the house

and its surrounding landscape was planned for maximum efficiency and simplicity. Walter Gropius, founder of the German design school known as the Bauhaus, carefully sited the house to complement its New England habitat on a rise within an orchard of 90 apple trees. From May through September, this gem hosts a monthly “Evening at Gropius” that includes a slide show, house tour, and light re-

freshments. The house at night also shows off Gropius’s innovative lighting scheme.

The next event is Aug. 15, from 7-9 p.m. \$25 Historic New England members, \$35 nonmembers, registration required. Call 781-259-8098 for more information.

GROPIUS HOUSE 68 Baker Bridge Road, Lincoln. www.historicnewengland.org
CAITLIN HURLEY



DAVID CARMACK/HISTORIC NEW ENGLAND

CHECK IN

COLONNADE’S COOLER POOL

City dwellers who head to the shore to escape the heat may be surprised to learn that there’s a place to cool off right in their backyard — 12 stories above Boston’s busy Back Bay and Copley Square.

After an extensive redesign, the boutique Colonnade Hotel’s Roof Top Pool is open with a fresh look and several new offerings.

In addition to new bamboo flooring, billowing white cabanas, lush plantings, and an improved view (thanks to the removal of a



large wall on the back side of the rooftop space), there is a new bar — making this a perfect spot to relax with friends after a long day at the office.

Even better: There is no pool cover charge after 5 p.m. on weekdays. Various specialty cocktails are available, and the Colonnade’s executive chef, Nick Calias, has created a new “RTP menu.” Also new for early birds seeking to get their downward dog on, poolside yoga classes are held Wednesdays at 7 a.m.

The pool is free for hotel guests and open only to them on Saturdays and Sundays. There is a \$40 pool cover charge for the public weekdays from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

THE COLONNADE HOTEL 120 Huntington Ave., Boston. 617-424-7000, www.colonnadehotel.com.

JULIET PENNINGTON

HERE

DINNER TRAIN OFFERS CAPE SCENERY AND TOP CUISINE Hop aboard the Cape Cod Dinner Train Aug. 8 and ride the rails around Buzzards Bay as part of the Sea Crest Beach Hotel’s Railroad Rendezvous Package. The hotel, located on private Old Silver Beach, has partnered with the Cape Cod Central Railroad, enabling its guests to experience luxury travel on the only train that will run from North Falmouth over the Cape Cod Canal this summer. Guests will enjoy a Cape-inspired candlelight dinner on this two-hour journey. The package starts at \$499 per night, based on double occupancy, including tax and gratuity. Caveat: Minimum two-night stay, one of which must be Aug. 8. What you get: a newly renovated guestroom, daily breakfast for two

in the hotel’s Ocean View Room, shuttle service to and from the dinner train on Aug. 8, and an artfully prepared five-course dinner. 508-356-2111, www.seacrestbeachhotel.com

ATTEND GLOUCESTER’S ANNUAL SCHOONER FEST

Take a tour on a majestic schooner, visit a local maritime museum, and indulge in a mouthwatering lobster bake at this year’s Gloucester Schooner Festival, which celebrates its 30th anniversary Aug. 29-31. See the US Coast Guard barque Eagle arrive Friday afternoon, Aug. 29, and then attend an “Under the Spars” gala that night, enjoying music, food, and cocktails on the Harriet Webster Pier as a fundraiser for the Maritime Heritage Center. Don’t miss the lighted boat parade, concert, and fireworks on Saturday, and stick around to see the

Mayor’s Race on Sunday, when more than two dozen schooners (pictured below) race for trophies and bragging rights. Catch a free shuttle bus to Eastern Point Light to watch the start of the race, and then tour the Coast Guard ship and Coast Guard station during open houses. 978-281-0470, www.gloucesterschoonerfestival.net

THERE

COLLECT TRAVEL MEMENTOS FROM AN ONLINE GLOBAL MARKET

You can’t always bring a local craft home from your adventures, but you can still pick up local handiwork from around the globe and support artisans worldwide. Enrou, a new online socially-conscious marketplace, carries eco-friendly products such as hand-carved bracelets from Namibia created from discarded up-cycled plastic pipes; hand-crafted hats from Ecuador made from fibers from a palm tree of the country’s coast; and grocery totes from Uganda made from recycled sugar bags and chicken feed bags (a percentage of the proceeds helps support homeless children). 909-354-2428, www.enrou.co

GET EASY ACCESS TO DOCTORS WORLDWIDE, DAY OR NIGHT

Getting sick or being injured while traveling can cause extra stress, but a new app can help you deal quickly with the situation. Boston-based American Well, a national “telehealth” company, has created an app that gives Americans immediate access to a board-certified doctor or nutritionist any time of day, year-round. Download American Well from iTunes or

Google Play and then connect with a doctor within three minutes for a secure video visit. Each listing tells about the doctor’s education, years of experience, and specialty, the cost of your visit, and you can even hang out in a virtual waiting room. Receive a diagnosis during your video appointment, and even get a prescription called in to a local pharmacy, if needed. The app can help you avoid unnecessary ER visits. 855-818-3627, www.americanwell.com

EVERYWHERE

A TRICKED-OUT BATTERY CHARGER

Braven’s new hi-tech portable charger has so many fancy features that it comes with an owner’s guide. This super rugged BRV-BANK can charge two devices at once, such as your smartphone and tablet, with its 1A and 2.4A USB ports, and it’s made to withstand falls and submersion in water should things go awry on your travels. Even the short yet burly charging cable can handle adventure. The charger’s most unique feature: It has Bluetooth Smart capability, so you can download the Braven app onto your phone or tablet and use it to monitor the power bank’s battery level, to start or stop charging a device, and to control a handy little 1.5-inch flashlight that plugs into the charger’s USB output. You can even locate your BRV-BANK from a smart-



phone or tablet using the Find Me feature. \$129.99 (6000 mAh). 877-927-2836, www.braven.com

WIRELESS HEADPHONES OFFER GREAT SOUND, COOL FEATURES

Sol Republic’s new Tracks Air wireless headphones offer superior sound, quick and easy adjustability, and padded comfort for long trips. The multi-function button on the right headphone lets you stop, start, skip, or go back to a song by simply pressing it one, two, or three times. The on-the-ear headphones come with a built-in microphone for answering calls, and can pair with two devices at once so you can stay connected to your phone and tablet, for instance. My favorite feature: As soon as the headphones pair with a device, they tell you how many hours of battery power you have left. The headphones offer up to 15 hours of battery life, have a 150-foot range, and come with a cord for wired use. \$199. 877-400-0310, www.solrepublic.com

KARI BODNARCHUK

