

The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD

THE TIP



HISTORIC ST. GEORGE

Take advantage of free, guided walking tours through the historic town of St. George (founded in 1612) in Bermuda, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and learn about local history, architecture, and culture. Offered by the Bermuda Department of Tourism as part of the island’s Sizzling Summer series, tours run four days a week, May to October, and include visits to 17th-century St. Peter’s Church, St. George’s Historical Society and Museum, and the Bermuda Perfumery. Other free activities include a fine arts tour in the National Gallery, historical reenactments in the Royal Naval Dockyard, calypso music and Gombey dancers in Hamilton, and more. *800-BERMUDA (237-6832), <http://www.gotobermuda.com/get-here/maps-and-brochures/>*

NECEE REGIS



ASK AWAY

Q Here’s a travel-style question: **Wherever I travel, from Cambridge to Costa Rica, I’m all about walking. But my feet take a beating! All the so-called walking shoes are so ugly, and I don’t want to wear athletic shoes that scream “tourist!” Any shoes you might recommend for sightseeing?**

Cindy Sisco, Marblehead

A Ahh, the Holy Grail of travel: the walking shoe that looks fabulous! Have you heard of a brand made in Brazil called Bruno Menegatti? They make a chic peep-toe flat that’s super foot-friendly, in soft leather with a cushiony rubber base (available at www.shoeline.com). The oxford is having a fashion moment, so you may want to check out ECCO’s Chase Tie, a walking shoe (pictured here) that looks like a retro bowling shoe. (Love it!) Others to consider: Cole Haan’s “Air” series, New Balance Well2Go 115, and the Nike Free 5.0 (you can customize the colors). And Reef, makers of the awesomely comfortable flip-flop, just launched a line of boots — these sound promising, too. No matter what you choose, know this: You may still need to pop an extra pair into your backpack to swap out at midday.

DIANE BAIR AND
PAMELA WRIGHT

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



LINDA MATCHAN/GLOBE STAFF

CHECK IN

A HARBOR VIEW, WITH HISTORY

From the street, the Harborview Inn appears to be just another quaint and charming New England inn. And it is, in fact, quaint and charming, beautifully situated at Gloucester Harbor in a row of houses across from the Fisherman’s Memorial, and just a few minutes from downtown shops, restaurants, beaches, and Stage Fort Park. There are six guest rooms, with fitting names like Essex Room, Gloucester Suite, Manchester Room, and . . . “the Golub Suite”? Hello? This is when you suspect the inn has a story behind it, which host John Orlando is happy to share.

It turns out that he and his wife, Marie, are only the third owners of the house in 202 years. It was built by the Gorton family (of frozen seafood fame) in 1810, and later sold to a couple named Golub who owned it for 50 years. Orlando grew up eight houses away, and was almost like a son to the Golubs, who had no children. “They took me in as the young person who helped them stay in touch with the world,” he said. When the Golubs died, their will specified Orlando had the first right of refusal on the house and could buy it at a discounted price.

There was one condition: He had to make sure

that the money he paid for the house would go to their two favorite charities.

“I love the fact that every dime I paid for the house went to charity,” said Orlando, son of a fisherman whose fishing boat was the last one built at the Essex Shipyard.

Orlando was in the retail jewelry business when he bought the house. In 1994 he turned it into a bed-and-breakfast. It’s a good fit for him: All these years later, he’s still passionate about what he does, and seems to truly enjoy his guests. They seem to like him back. The day we were there, one guest was happily tending to the garden while another was serving coffee.

The ambience is warm and welcoming — so much so that Orlando’s friends and relatives often come to sit on the porch and enjoy the view. A pleasing continental breakfast is available (but some fruit other than apples would have made it more pleasing).

HARBORVIEW INN 71 Western Ave., on Stacey Boulevard, 978-283-2277, www.harborviewinn.com. Rooms \$139-\$239, free parking.

LINDA MATCHAN

HERE

FARM-TO-TABLE DINNER
IN BUZZARDS BAY

Chef Robert Grant of The Blue Room in Kendall Square will prepare a four-course, family-style meal at Bay End Farm in Buzzards Bay during a “pop-up” dinner series Aug. 18 and Sept. 1. Grant uses the farm’s hand-picked seasonal produce, such as heirloom tomatoes, summer squash, mizuna, and chard, and fresh local seafood for the One Long Table events. Each course is paired with organic, biodynamic wines. BYOP (bring your own plate) to help conserve water use. Farm tours start at 2 p.m. with dinner at 3. Events take place rain or shine. Cost: \$95 per person; \$75 per Bay End Farm CSA member. 617-494-9034, www.theblue.room.net

PLAY LATE AND STAY IN BOSTON

Late-night revelers at The Hawthorne, a downtown Boston bar that’s known for its craft cocktails, can book a room right upstairs at the Hotel Commonwealth, thanks to the hotel’s new Late-Night, Last-Minute package. This special package includes accommodations for two in a spacious guest room with free Wi-Fi, overnight valet parking, a Dopp kit with all the pertinent products (from face cleanser to dental and shaving kits), room service breakfast, monogrammed slippers from The Hawthorne, and late checkout at 1

p.m. the next day. Book anytime after 10 on the night you stay. Rate: \$199. 617-933-5000, www.hotelcommonwealth.com



THERE

RUN, RELAX, AND RESTORE
AT VANCOUVER HOTEL

Stay at Vancouver’s Loden Hotel and go on a guided run around Stanley Park with views of British Columbia’s snowcapped Coast Mountains, Lions Gate Bridge, and the Pacific Ocean. Then relieve sore muscles with a 60-minute deep-tissue massage and help boost your immune system with a 30-minute infrared sauna session, all part of the hotel’s West Coast Running Package, good through October. The package includes a Vega protein shake and a recovery drink with a reusable

glass water bottle, complementary laundry service for your running shorts, top, and socks, and a custom running map of the area’s trails. Rates start at \$442, including accommodations in a Signature King Guest room and all your pampering; pay an extra \$100 for a guided run. 604-669-5060, www.theloden.com

A STAR-STUDED AFRICAN
ADVENTURE TRIP

See a solar eclipse while camping in a remote Kenyan park during Extraordinary Journey’s 11-day Solar Eclipse Safari, Oct. 26-Nov. 5. At Sibiloi National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, enjoy unobstructed views of the night sky with little light pollution to hinder your views. The trip includes one-on-one encounters with giraffes in Nairobi, a hot air balloon ride over the Maasai Mara game reserve, a biplane flight over the Lewa Wildlife Conser-



JULIA BRINKS

vancy followed by a horseback tour, a private helicopter flight over northern Kenya, a camelback safari, and a chance to visit the Samburu, Turkana, and El Molo people of northern Kenya. Prices from \$15,600 per person, based on double occupancy, not including international flight. Book by Sept. 1. 800-403-6012, www.extraordinaryjourneys.net

EVERYWHERE

CAPTURE YOUR TRAVELS
IN ANY WEATHER

Pentax’s new K-30 DSLR (digital single-lens reflex) camera not only takes sharp, accurate photos, but it does so on wind-blasted sandy beaches, in rain forests, and on the ski slopes in sub-zero temperatures. The dust-, weather-, and cold-proof camera can withstand harsh travel environments and still capture top-quality images. The 16-megapixel camera comes with image stabilization, a dust-removal system, ISO speeds up to 25600, and a 3-inch LCD screen, and it shoots 1080 high-definition video up to 30 frames per second. Use the rechargeable lithium-ion battery, or AA batteries with an optional holder. It also comes in about 15 eye-catching colors, from crystal Bordeaux to silky orange: \$579



with the 18-55mm lens, or \$820 with the 18-135mm lens at Amazon.com. 800-877-0155, www.pentaximaging.com

TRAVEL WITH A SLENDER
BUT MIGHTY MOUSE

Pencil’s Bluetooth Mouse makes working on an airline tray table and in other tight spots much easier and more comfortable. This pen-shaped mouse lets you relax your arm and wrist on the table while you work, creating a more ergonomic position and helping alleviate strain. It connects wirelessly, has five buttons and a scroll wheel that let you navigate your device with precision, and works on any surface so you don’t need to bring or create a mouse pad. The compact, lightweight mouse also takes up little space, and it plays nicely with Macs and PCs. The only caveat: It’s for righties. \$80.90 at Amazon.com. 800-773-7449, www.pencil.se

KARI BODNARCHUK