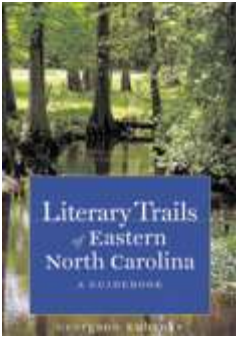


# The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD

## THE TIPS

### N.C. LITERARY GUIDE



“Silent Spring” author Rachel Carson spent significant time studying nature on the North Carolina coast; a lovesick Robert Frost licked his wounds in the Great Dismal Swamp; and a floating theater docked at Bath, N.C., inspired Edna Ferber’s novel “Show Boat,” which became a hit musical. Those are a few of the discoveries author Georgann Eubanks unearths in “Literary Trails of Eastern North Carolina: A Guidebook” (UNC Press, \$22), the final installment in the statewide trilogy. More than 250 other novelists, journalists, poets, and playwrights, living and deceased, are examined by Eubanks, who shares their stories and passages of their work while leading readers on 18 driving tours, starting from Raleigh and including farming communities, river country, and coastal towns.

DIANE DANIEL

### INHERITING MILES

Do the rules and regulations associated with frequent flier miles leave you confused? Airfare-watchdog, an airline deal and money-saving tip website, has released an updated chart on US airlines’ policies regarding inheriting and transferring miles before they expire (<http://www.airfarewatchdog.com/blog/15500136/inheriting-frequent-flyer-miles/>). The chart makes it easy to compare what each website says, what a call to the service center revealed, the cost to transfer miles among the living, and the documentation needed to process a deceased’s account. Though many airlines issue blanket statements in their rules that miles are not transferable, many do allow miles to be inherited. Airlines on this list include Alaska, American, Delta, JetBlue, Southwest, United, and US Airways.

NECEE REGIS



## THE SIGHT

### ITALY, MIRRORED

The residents of Burano, Italy, an island in the Venetian lagoon, often paint their houses and boats the same colors, making for a rainbow of reflections in the canals.

DAVID LYON FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE



## HERE

### CYCLE VERMONT’S DIRT ROADS AND ROLLING HILLS

Grab your road, cyclocross, or mountain bike and tackle 60 miles of Vermont’s rolling and remote Northeast Kingdom during the Dirty 40 Race, Aug. 31. This unofficial grass-roots race, run by a couple of passionate local cyclists, cuts through rural, undeveloped landscape; passes historic homes, small working farms, and impressive estates; and covers 40 miles of dirt roads en route. Climb a total of 2,490 feet as you make your way through Derby, Holland, Morgan, Charleston, Brownington, and Newport with 499 other participants, max. The event promotes cycling and all things Vermont, and your entire \$25 entry fee supports the Mary Wright Halo Foundation, a nonprofit organization that assists local cancer patients. [www.dirty40race.com](http://www.dirty40race.com)



### HANG OUT WITH BASKETBALL HALL OF FAMERS IN SPRINGFIELD

Join Earvin “Magic” Johnson, Julius Erving, Bob Cousy, and John Havlicek,

and more than 50 Hall of Famers in Springfield, where they are scheduled to appear for the 2013 Basketball Hall of Fame Enshrinement Ceremonies, Sept. 7 and 8. On Saturday, attend an auction of rare basketball collectibles, an autograph session, and a press conference featuring the Class of 2013. Sunday starts with a VIP champagne reception, followed by the enshrinement ceremony and a business-formal gala with live entertainment and many current and past Hall of Famer attendees. Tickets range from \$99 per person for the enshrinement ceremony to \$1,500 per person for the weekend’s full events. 413-231-5540, [www.hoophall.com](http://www.hoophall.com)

## THERE

### GOOGLE MAPS SHOWCASES HAWAII’S HIKING TRAILS

Next time you go hiking in Hawaii, first check out Google Maps to see 360-degree images of the Big Island’s trails and surrounding scenery. Google Maps has teamed with the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau for a first-of-its-kind partnership that lets local volunteers help capture and convey the area’s beauty by recording images with Google’s state-of-the-art Street View Trekker. The 40-pound contraption will grab 360-degree snapshots (tagged with GPS coordinates) of the island’s popular trails, from rain forests and beaches to paths of hardened lava rock. The new Trekker loan pilot program recently started on the Big Island, but will eventually move to Kauai, Oahu, Maui, Lanai, and Molokai. Images are expected to go live this fall. 800-464-2924, [www.gohawaii.com](http://www.gohawaii.com)



### PADDLEBOARD OR PERFECT YOUR GOLF SWING IN NEW YORK

Guests at New York’s 70 Park Avenue Hotel can try stand-up paddleboarding or practice their golf swing with the hotel’s Surf or Turf Package, available through Sept. 30. This deal includes paddleboard lessons for two at the Manhattan Kayak Co. on Pier 66 or a golf session for two at The Golf Club at Chelsea Piers, Manhattan’s only year-round outdoor driving range. You will also get car service to and from your Hudson River adventure, two summer cocktails at the Silverleaf Tavern, and accommodations at the four-star hotel. Rates from \$369 per night, based on double occupancy; mention “surfer” when booking. 877-707-2752, [www.70parkave.com](http://www.70parkave.com)

### TEL AVIV’S NEW LUXURY BOUTIQUE HOTEL

The new AL Boutique Hotel just opened in Tel Aviv’s art and cultural epicenter on Montefiore Street near the city’s SoHo-like Neve Tzedek neighborhood. The luxury hotel, located in a 1930s European-style building,

has just 11 rooms and suites, a wine bar and cafe featuring imported and Israeli boutique wines and gourmet cheeses, and a garden patio. Find out about the city’s art, cultural, culinary, and night life scenes through the hotel’s 24-hour concierge service. Rates start at \$230/\$250 (single/double occupancy), which includes breakfast, Wi-Fi, and a neighborhood walking tour. 011-972-3-729-8729, [www.altlv.com](http://www.altlv.com)

## EVERYWHERE

### SLEEP APP HELPS KEEP YOU RESTED ON THE ROAD

Download the new Aairsleep app onto your Apple device and let its soothing sounds help lull you to sleep. Aairsleep’s In-Flight Sleep System blends natural sounds like ocean waves, rain, or a crackling campfire with audio tracks that supposedly trigger your brain’s “deep-sleep” response, thereby promoting relaxation and sleep. Once you download the easy-to-use app to your device, hit the depart now tab and choose from three free preloaded tracks or download additional audio tracks for 99 cents each. Hit start and enjoy the calming sounds. The app lets you set the play time, from one minute to 10 hours, and select wake-up chimes. [www.air-sleep.com](http://www.air-sleep.com)

### GET LIVE SHOTS OF YOUR HOME WHILE AWAY

Keep an eye on your home while you travel with the SwannSmart Video Security Wi-Fi Network Camera, which can be mounted on a

## THE LIST

### MEMORABLE FILM FESTIVALS

1

#### SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

Park City, Utah  
The birthplace of the US indie film movement, the 10-day festival has introduced global audiences to such groundbreaking films as “Sex, Lies, and Videotape,” “Maria Full of Grace,” “Hedwig and the Angry Inch,” and “An Inconvenient Truth.” [www.sundance.org/festival](http://www.sundance.org/festival)

2

#### TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Toronto  
Launching pad for first-rate, international, US, and Canadian cinema, the 2012 festival featured 372 films from 72 countries and was attended by more than 400,000 people. [www.tiff.net](http://www.tiff.net)



3

#### TELLURIDE FILM FESTIVAL

Telluride, Colo.  
Founded 40 years ago, the world-famous and highly-regarded festival premieres critically acclaimed works in a picturesque, mountain town setting. [www.telluridefilmfestival.org](http://www.telluridefilmfestival.org)

4

#### ANN ARBOR FILM FESTIVAL

Ann Arbor, Mich.  
Founded in 1963, it’s the longest-running independent and experimental film festival in North America, known for its artsy, avant-garde lineup. [www.aafilmfest.org](http://www.aafilmfest.org)

5

#### PALM SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Palms Springs, Calif.  
One of the largest film festivals in North America, showcasing new and celebrated international features and documentaries, also known for its Black Tie Awards Gala honoring top actors and actresses. [www.psfilmfest.org](http://www.psfilmfest.org)

DIANE BAIR AND PAMELA WRIGHT

KARI BODNARCHUK

