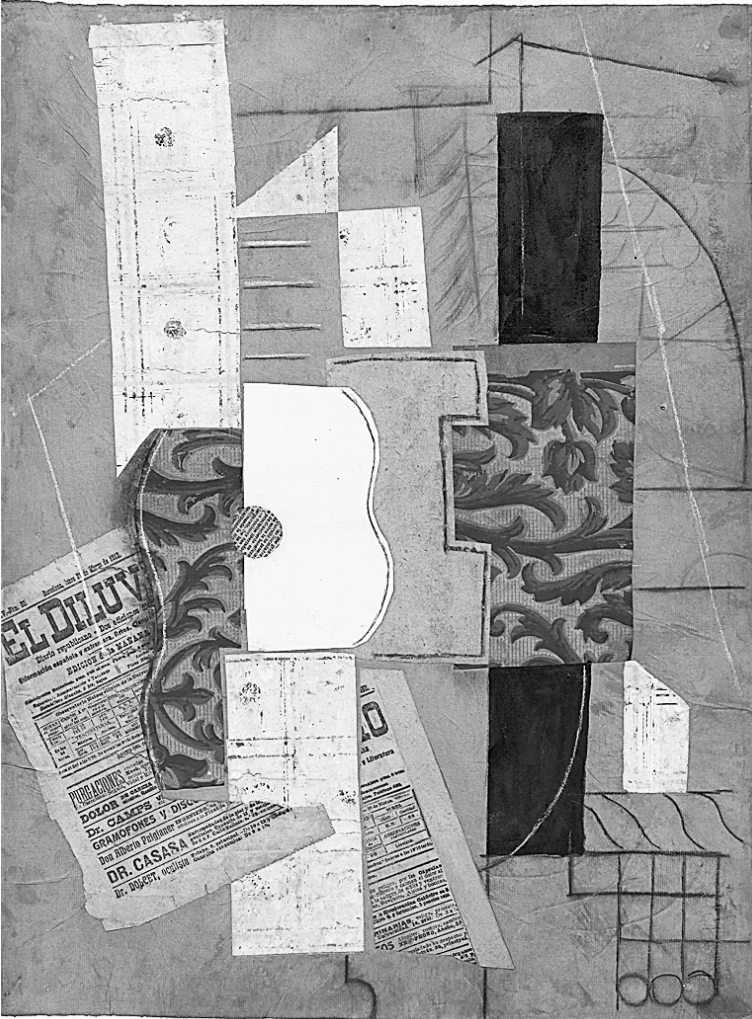


Destinations

ARTS



Pablo Picasso's "Guitar" (1913): cut-and-pasted paper, printed paper, and charcoal, ink, and chalk on colored paper and board.

JONATHAN MUZIKAR

Currents
Pats Peak starts Saturday Boston bus runs

Pats Peak launched a round-trip bus service from Boston to the southern New Hampshire ski resort this month, with coaches departing mornings and afternoons on Saturdays. Buses pick up passengers at Entertainment Tours in Braintree (35 Rocsam Park Drive) at 6:30 and 11:30 a.m.; Commonwealth Ave./Warren Towers at 7 a.m. and noon; and the Ruggles MBTA Station roundabout at 7:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Boston-bound buses leave Pats Peak at 4:30 and 10:30 p.m. The morning bus trip and lift ticket combo runs \$59 per person. The Saturday afternoon trip includes a night lift ticket (3-10 p.m.), tubing ticket (5-10 p.m.), skiing lessons in the beginner areas (4-6 p.m.), and rental equipment for \$59. 781-849-0200, www.enttours.com

AMC opens new lodge on Long Pond in Maine

The Appalachian Mountain Club opens its new lodge on the shores of Long Pond in Maine's Moosehead Lake region Thursday. Stay in a private cabin at Gorman Chairback Lodge and Cabins, relax in the wood-fired sauna, and hang out in the renovated, historic main lodge, where you can feast on hearty soups, homemade bread, and freshly made entrees. New trails have been added around the site for cross-country skiers and snowshoers. Come summer, you can paddle on remote ponds and fly fish for brook trout. 603-466-2727, www.outdoors.org/gormanchairback

Kimpton hotel deals come robbed for romance

You're allowed to take the robes home when you stay at any of the country's 51 Kimpton hotels in February as part of the chain's Robe-mance special. This Valentine's-themed deal includes overnight accommodations, a \$25 credit to use for in-room dining or at the Kimpton restaurant or bar, and two new signature Kimpton leopard-print bathrobes. Book your getaway beginning Jan. 24; enter ROBES in the rate code box if booking online, or mention the Robe-mance package when making phone reservations. Rates for Boston's Kimpton hotels start at \$259 for Hotel Marlowe, \$279 for Onyx Hotel, and \$299 for Nine Zero Hotel, all per person, per night, based on double occupancy. 800-546-7866, www.kimptonhotels.com
KARI BODNARCHUK

Instruments of their genius

FEB. 13-JUNE 6 NEW YORK
"Picasso Guitars 1912-1914": Guitars — with their play of line and curve, solid and void — are as lovely to look at as they are to listen to. No one has appreciated their appearance more than Pablo Picasso, who made the instrument one of his favorite visual motifs. In 1912, he created a guitar sculpture of cardboard, paper, string, and wire. Two years later, he constructed a guitar of sheet metal. This Museum of Modern Art exhibition looks at one of the artist's most creative periods by examining his exploration of the guitar as subject. The show includes 70 examples of his work in various media from this two-year period: collages, constructions, drawings, and paintings, as well as photographs of works that no longer exist. 11 West 53d St., 212-708-9400, www.moma.org

THROUGH MARCH 16 AMSTERDAM
"W. Eugene Smith — More Real Than Reality": One of the most admired of photo-journalists, Smith pioneered the photo essay. This comprehensive overview of his career at the Amsterdam Photography Museum includes six celebrated examples of Smith's work in the genre: "Country Doctor," "Nurse Midwife," "A Man of Mercy," "Spanish Village," and "Minamata." Keizersgracht 609, 011-31-20-551-6500, www.foam.nl

THROUGH APRIL 25 LONDON
"Gabriel Orozco": Tate Modern highlights the work of one of Mexico's greatest contemporary artists. This career survey features his sculpture and his photography, both demonstrating Orozco's ongoing interest in everyday objects, transitory moments, and game playing. Bankside, 011-44-20-7887-8888, www.tate.org.uk/modern

FEB. 12-MAY 5 WASHINGTON
"David Smith Invents": More than just the leading American sculptor during the middle decades of the last century, Smith also painted, drew, and photographed. This Phillips Collection show, which has seven Smith sculptures as its centerpiece, also includes examples of his painting, drawing, and photographs. 1600 21st St., NW, 202-387-2151, www.phillipscollection.org

FEB. 19-MAY 8 SAN FRANCISCO
"Olmec: Colossal Masterworks of Ancient Mexico": The Olmec civilization dominated south-central Mexico from 1500-400 BC, before the Aztecs. Its best-known cultural artifacts are giant human heads sculpted from boulders. This de Young Museum survey of Olmec culture includes examples of these heads, carved thrones and columns, and such smaller items as vessels

and masks. 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive, 415-750-3600, deyoung.famsf.org

FEB. 27-MAY 30 CHICAGO
"Kings, Queens, and Courtiers: Art in Early Renaissance France": This Art Institute of Chicago exhibition brings together a wide and sumptuous array of precious objects — altarpieces, tapestries, manuscripts, sculpture, goldwork, stained glass, medallions — to convey the visual and artistic richness of France in the early 16th century. 111 South Michigan Ave., 312-443-3600, www.artic.edu/aic

PLAN AHEAD
APRIL 18-JULY 18
"Rembrandt and the Face of Jesus": The great Baroque master of spirituality painted Jesus several times. This Louvre exhibition, which will travel to Philadelphia and Detroit later this year, features eight paintings of Christ, along with 50 other related paintings, prints, and drawings by Rembrandt and his contemporaries. 36 Rue du Louvre, 011-33-01-40-20-53-17, www.louvre.fr
MARK FEENEY

Events can be canceled, rescheduled, or sold out; check online. Mark Feeney can be reached at mfeeney@globe.com.

A flier buoyed by irrepressible curiosity

By Peter Mandel
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT
DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — It is not an ordinary day here. An important sheik has died, so a city that should be mourning is a serious thing. Only classical chords waft from the car radio. The newspapers are purple-edged with ads of condolence on every page. No hard liquor is being poured in hotel bars. And while I am sorry about the sheik, a part of me is walled off from what is going on. I am just a tourist after all. And I am flying tonight, which is lifting my mood.

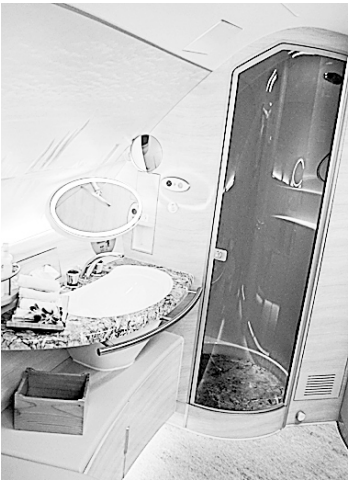
The plane I'm about to board, the super-jumbo Airbus A380, has brought a certain excitement back to air travel since its debut in 2007. A bit of nervousness, too, since November, when a Qantas A380 lost a chunk of one of its engine covers during flight. An investigation is ongoing. In part because it's so demoralizing to fly when you're squeezed into a tube, the world's only twin-deck, four-aisle airliner has been a lure for the airlines that have added it to their fleets: including Singapore, Lufthansa, Qantas, and Emirates, which brought the A380 back to New York's JFK this fall. According to Nigel Page, an Emirates Airlines senior vice president for operations, "Part of the buzz is due to the novelty of being able to grab a shower in first class, or order a cocktail in the lounge bar at the back of business class."

Page was a dispatcher at Heathrow in London back when the 747 first came in. "I remember everyone's reaction," he says, "to the sheer size of the thing. The A380 is only slightly longer, but it's broader and with a longer wingspan."



MARTIN ROSE/GETTY IMAGES/FILE/2008 (ABOVE); PHOTOS BY PETER MANDEL FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

A view of business class accommodations aboard an Airbus A-380 bound from Hamburg for the United Arab Emirates. The author glimpsed the first-class bathroom (below) with its shower; Jennifer Sembler had champagne at the business class bar en route home to New York.



When night comes, and I'm rolling my suitcase down the jetway, I get an up-close look at the A380's nose. It's an aircraft with a gentle profile — like a giant porpoise with wings. I have a flash of memory from the 1960s when I first went aboard a Boeing 707, got my pair of plastic wings, and felt the thrust of a jet



plane. Some things seem immediately strange. Lighting inside imitates dawn, not noon. It's rose-colored instead of white. Because of the plane's size, walls of the fuselage curve more gradu-

ally. Windows are like eyes, deeply set. I've bought a ticket in business class, on the second deck, and now that we are roaring toward takeoff, it feels like I am up on the bridge of a ship looking out over a blue-lighted, blurry sea. Flying in the A380 gives you a shock of depth and movement. Passenger screens show views from a new tail-mounted camera that displays not only what's in front but the airplane itself tilting and heeling. As the hours go by, I quickly and quietly check out first class. Lucky passengers here have personal cabins, like on a train. I duck into the special bathroom with the shower. I twist a knob, and out comes water. Eureka. I snap some pictures to show friends. Back in business class, I visit the bar. It's ringed with lights, like sick bay stations on "Star Trek." Beers taste good here, and there's so much room I think of asking the bartender to dance. A little turbulence, the first I've felt, puts an end to that. There's plenty I can do and eat back at my lie-flat seat. I am tempted by the massage, and push a button to make vibrations zig-zag down my legs and up my back and neck. But I do not want to sleep. This isn't an ordinary day — in Dubai or in the air. Movies? News or sports on a screen? Not now, I think. Not here. I'm back to watching the tail-mounted camera. All I want to know is what lies ahead.

ally. Windows are like eyes, deeply set.

Back in business class, I visit the bar. It's ringed with lights, like sick bay stations on "Star Trek." Beers taste good here, and there's so much room I think of asking the bartender to dance. A little turbulence, the first I've felt, puts an end to that. There's plenty I can do and eat back at my lie-flat seat. I am tempted by the massage, and push a button to make vibrations zig-zag down my legs and up my back and neck. But I do not want to sleep. This isn't an ordinary day — in Dubai or in the air. Movies? News or sports on a screen? Not now, I think. Not here. I'm back to watching the tail-mounted camera. All I want to know is what lies ahead.

Peter Mandel, author of the children's book "Planes at the Airport" (Scholastic), can be reached at pbmandel@cox.net.

Where they went

SPAIN

WHO: Ken Lombardo, 53, of Jamestown, R.I.
WHERE: Spain.
WHEN: Two weeks in July.
WHY: To run with the bulls in Pamplona.

HOOKED: "I've been a flight attendant for 26 years, and I love to travel, so that was my initial interest in going. A friend went in 1985 and said, 'This is the most amazing thing,' so the next year I went with him. I was hooked. I've only missed one year since, and I don't plan to miss any more."
FINEST FIESTA: "The fiesta is unbelievable. I've been to fiestas all over the world, from Carnival to Mardi Gras, and this is the best. I rent an apartment with my older brother and a couple friends every year in the old part of town. It's constantly noisy. The party starts at noon on the 6th of July and goes around the clock until midnight on the 14th. The pulse of the city is amazing. People drink, but I've never seen any fights. I go for the camaraderie and connecting with my friends from all over the world."
HORNED VARIABLES: "The only expert runners are the Spaniards. I think it's bred into them. I really respect the Spaniards and their traditions. The bulls are such a variable you can't ever be an expert. I've seen one of the best runners get gored six times."

ANIMAL INSTINCTS: "You want to be in front of or next to the bull and just run with it. It's frowned upon to touch it. There's an energy field around those bulls and around that area. The ground is rocking, you can hear it, you can smell the bulls, and then you have this split second to get out there with them. If you miss that split second you're done. Most of strategy is the way the course is mapped out, and the bulls' tendencies. Once you get out there, you keep your pace but they're going to pass you eventually because they're four-legged animals."
FEAR FACTOR: "When I run, I'm never so scared in my life. The run is at 8 in the morning and at 5 before 8 I don't know if I'm going to be around at 5 after 8. It makes you face your fears. I'm on one side of the street and my brother is on the other side and the first thing after the bulls run is we look for each other. Once you pull it off, there's no better feeling. It's not unusual to have tears in your eyes when you're done."
NO TOUCHING TRADITIONS: "I'm totally against someone trying to stop someone else's tradition. I am a foreigner, but I have a respect for it. I'm not doing it just to check it off my bucket list."
DIANE DANIEL

Send suggestions to diane@bydianedaniel.com within a month of your return.



Ken Lombardo (in white, last year) has run with the bulls in Pamplona, Spain, since 1985, missing only one year.