

Destinations

EVENTS

From young readers to poetic cowboys

MARCH 18-20
WARRENSBURG, Mo.
Children’s Literature Festival: Cheryl Harness says she writes books for young time travelers. Elizabeth Bunce has a collection of unlikely heroines. Judy Young is a poet who wrote “R is for Rhyme: A Poetry Alphabet.” Those three talents and a long list of others will be at the University of Central Missouri to share their work, sign books, and talk about their craft. Some parts of the festival are better for children than others, but you leave with a good library. \$15, \$8 for children. 2444 James C. Kirkpatrick Library, University of Central Missouri. 660-543-4306, guides.library.ucmo.edu/clf

APRIL 12
PORTLAND, Maine
Sea Dogs Opening Night: Minor league baseball has the best promotions. Magnet nights. Singles nights. Bobblehead doll nights. The Sea Dogs will celebrate their first home game of the season by giving the first 1,000 fans a fleece blanket. It’s a freebie that will keep you warm in the stands. This year marks the 10th year of the Sea Dogs’ affiliation with the Red Sox. 207-874-9300, www.milb.com

APRIL 16
CINCINNATI
Party for the Planet: The Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden celebrates Earth Day by giving



RYAN RESELLA

Lasso expert Dave Thornbury entertains at the Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival in California.

tours of its Go Green Garden exhibit and by allowing vendors to come on the premises to spread the message of conservation. April is “Zoo Blooms” month, which means that spectators will be dazzled by about 100,000 tulips. There’s also live music at night if you feel like sticking around. 4 to 8:30 p.m.

Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, 3400 Vine St. 513-281-4700, www.cincinnati-zoo.org

APRIL 19-22
SANTA CLARITA, Calif.
Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival: This family-

friendly festival includes plenty of activities for adults, including an event with Joel Cox, the Academy Award-winning film editor of “Unforgiven,” and Marie Wise Hawkins’s tribute to Patsy Cline. Children can pan for gold and hear the winners of the Cowboy Festival Youth Poetry Roundup read their poems about cowboy and cowgirl life. One- and two-day passes run \$10 to \$30. 661-250-3735, www.cowboyfestival.org

PLAN AHEAD
JUNE 9-10
ASHEVILLE, N.C.
River Arts District Stroll: There should be art of all kinds along the French Broad River, and organizers promise that there will be hands-on activities. The River Arts District is friendly and scenic with good food close by. It’s a great spot for families, but if your children aren’t interested in crafts, just explain to them that “The Hunger Games” was filmed around Asheville. They will perk up. 10 to 6 p.m. both days. Clingman Avenue at Lyman Street. www.exploreasheville.com

MEREDITH GOLDSTEIN

Events are sometimes canceled, rescheduled, or sold out; check online. Meredith Goldstein can be reached at mgoldstein@globe.com.

Catch a bus app, see Canada by rail, explore Dickens’s London

Let’s say you want to catch a bus from Chicago to Nashville with Megabus.com, an express bus company that has fares as low as \$1. Now you can download the Megabus USA app on your Apple or Android device, input your travel cities and the time you will be traveling, and find out your bus’s estimated time of arrival and directions to local bus stops. The buses have power outlets and free wireless Internet. The app covers all of Megabus.com’s Midwest and Southeast routes, and soon its Northeast routes. 877-462-6342, www.megabus.com

CURRENTS

Canadian rail journeys

The views are all first-class between Vancouver, British Columbia, and Banff, Alberta, aboard the Rocky Mountaineer, which offers luxury train trips in Canada’s wild and scenic west. Beginning in April, you can upgrade from the standard RedLeaf Service to the new SilverLeaf Service on select trips and enjoy more expansive views from the single-level dome coach, plus entertaining onboard commentary and meals that

feature local ingredients. Pricing starts at \$1,472 per person, based on double occupancy, for a three-day trip. That includes two overnight hotel stays, four meals, and all luggage transfers. 800-665-7245, www.rockymountaineer.com

Walk Dickens’s haunts

Learn more about the great 19th-century writer and celebrate his 200th birthday year on a new walking tour called “Charles Dickens: Storyteller of Victorian London.” Literary specialists and historians take groups of up to six people to sections of the city that were closely connected to the author, his life, and his works. Explore places such as Covent Garden, one of Dickens’s favorite spots. Philadelphia-based Context, which runs the London tour, has English-speaking art historians, writers, architects, and gastronomes who lead walking tours in 18 cities worldwide. Dickens tours: Mon-Sat 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.; \$95 per person; private tours available. 215-392-0303, www.contexttravel.com

KARI BODNARCHUK



ROCKY MOUNTAINEER

The views are part of the journey aboard the Rocky Mountaineer.

Gros Morne National Park, UNESCO World Heritage Site

THE WORLD CAN’T WEIGH YOU DOWN
WHEN YOU’RE STANDING ON TOP OF IT.

When you consider that it took 485 million years to create, there’s simply no limit to what you might find here. Not the least of which is perspective. It tends to happen when you’re standing two thousand feet up, on the edge of an ancient glacier-carved fjord. A vantage point that could only exist for

two reasons: for the view itself, and the inescapable feeling that washes over you. The feeling you get when once again, anything’s possible. Not bad for a three-hour flight. To find your way to the edge of Canada, call Kelly at 1-800-563-6353 or visit NewfoundlandLabrador.com

