

Currents

Feel bilingual in a flash

New mobile applications let iPhone and iPod owners learn foreign languages using digital flashcards. Download the MemoryLifter apps, made by LearnLift, and you can start learning French, Spanish, and 10 other languages using a variety of techniques that include image recognition, multiple choice, and listening comprehension. The gist is this: As you're studying French verbs or boosting your Spanish shopping vocabulary using these multimedia flashcards, you're lifting information into your long-term memory. It's a lot more fun than being quizzed by your 10th-grade teacher. Purchase these learning modules for \$.99 to \$19.99 through the iTunes apps store (look under the education category), or go to www.memorylifter.com.

Cozily afloat in the city

After a complete restoration, The Jane, a 1908 hotel in New York's West Village, has been transformed into an edgy, 200-room "micro hotel" for travelers with more moxie than money. Each 50-square-foot room resembles a luxury ship's cabin (in fact, the rooms once housed Titanic survivors) and comes with a bunk bed or a single bed with built-in drawers. Amenities include a luggage rack, free Wi-Fi, a telephone with voicemail, a 23-inch LCD television, a DVD player, and an iPod docking station. These cabins share communal bathrooms. The 250-square-foot captain's cabins have bigger beds and include private bathrooms. Special rates run \$69 to \$179 per night through March. Call 212-924-6700 or go to www.thejanenyc.com.

Get on track in Europe

Book a seat on Eurostar, Rail Europe's high-speed passenger service between England and continental Europe, and get 20 percent off regular fares if you purchase your Comfort Class ticket before April 1. Eurostar can whisk you from London to Paris in 2 hours and 15 minutes or from London to Brussels in just 1 hour and 51 minutes. Fares for this Fast Track Deal start at \$146 one way and \$257 round trip, and include a plush seat, a light meal, and a newspaper. The nonrefundable, nonexchangeable tickets are available only to North Americans. Call 888-382-7245 or go to www.rail-europe.com.

KARI BODNARCHUK

See another world by Mexican artisans

SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE, Mexico — High in the Sierra, this colonial town is a popular destination for US travelers and retired expats. The historic center, a UNESCO heritage site, is filled with shops selling trinkets, art, and crafts, and with restaurants, boutiques, and bars. After a month spent wandering San Miguel de Allende's hilly cobblestone streets, we found our hands-down favorite shop for quality crafts. Just a few blocks down from El Jardin (The Garden), the town's main square, Zócalo offers handcrafted artisan wares at reasonable prices. Step in from the street to a series of rooms, each painted a bright yellow ochre that's a perfect backdrop for the vibrant array of clay figurines, decorative plates and platters, confetti glassware, glossy ceramic pineapples, candles, and the dizzyingly complex "trees of life," storytelling tableaux made of painted clay. If religious iconography is your thing, the shop is a good source for retablos (devotional paintings on tin), brightly painted nativities, and Day of the Dead candelabras and papier-mâché sculptures. Carved wood masks cover one wall, with images of devils, cheetahs, horned rams, and angry half-human, half-animal faces with bright red tongues. And you needn't worry about getting things home; they'll tally the cost and ship anything anywhere. *Zócalo, Hernandez Macias 110, San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, 011-52-415-152-0663, www.zocalotx.com*

NECEE REGIS FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Carved wood masks, clay "trees of life," religious icons and more at the shop Zócalo.

NECEE REGIS

Get great deals at VISITFLORIDA.COM

THE STATE'S OFFICIAL SOURCE FOR TRAVEL & TOURISM
VISITFLORIDA.COM



THIS IS HOW WE ROLL.

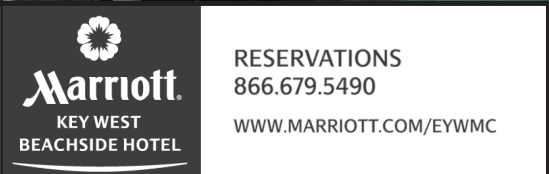


Key West

Close to Perfect-Far From Normal
fla-keys.com/keywest ~ 800-527-8539



Casa Marina Resort and The Reach Resort
1-800-WALDORF
CasaMarinaResort.com
ReachResort.com



Marriott
KEY WEST BEACHSIDE HOTEL
RESERVATIONS 866.679.5490
WWW.MARRIOTT.COM/EYWM



BEST VALUE
1-888-310-1540
KEYWESTDOUBLETREE.COM/SSS



OCEAN KEY
RESORT & SPA
KEY WEST
The island's best. Elegant interiors boast shades of indigo, turquoise and lime. All blend effortlessly into this tropical dream.
800-328-9815 • oceankey.com



Parrot Key
A Singh Hotel & Resort
Unique Waterfront Rooms, Suites & Cottages
1-866-MID-KEYS
www.singhresorts.com

Slide into SAVINGS!

Get a great vacation deal in the home of the Boston Red Sox® Spring Training!



SUNSTREAM
Hotels & Resorts

Fort Myers Beach • Naples • Cape Coral

Stay 4 nights and receive a \$75 VISA® Gift Card!

Stay 7 nights and receive a \$150 VISA® Gift Card!

SunStream.com/BostonGlobe
800-897-5469

Subject to availability. Restrictions may apply.



SunStream is proud to introduce Cape Coral's newest luxury resort, The Resort at MarinaVillage! MarinaVillageResort.com





Florida's Gulf Coast treasure.
An escape you'll treasure for generations.





Reserve your memories today.

Unforgettable service and accommodations • Enrichment activities for the entire family • World-class spa • Luxurious rooms and suites, some with kitchens and dining areas

500 Mandalay Avenue
Clearwater Beach, FL 33767
877-726-3111 • Sandpearl.com

Professionally managed by   