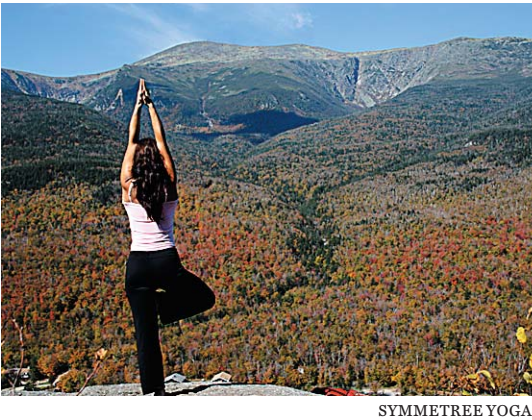




SYMMETREE YOGA

Currents

Mind-body retreat on a mountaintop

Shed your stress and soak up the views on a retreat atop New England’s highest peak. Symmetree Yoga starts its Mount Washington Yoga Adventure retreats this spring, led by yoga instructors and experienced mountain guides. Go on a guided hike or drive to the top of the 6,288-foot peak, practice yoga and meditation amid the mountain vistas, and then hike back to the car or down through White Mountain National Forest to Pinkham Notch. Two-night packages include daily breakfast and dinner, a boxed lunch, yoga instruction, a massage, and lodging at Peace With-Inn Bed and Breakfast (www.peacewithinn.com) in nearby Fryeburg, Maine. Retreats start at \$390 per person (with massage) or \$325 (without), based on double occupancy. 603-662-8664, www.symmetreeyoga.com

King Tut on Tour

“Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs” opens April 23 at the Discovery Times Square Exposition in New York. This blockbuster exhibit, up until Jan. 2 on this, its last US stop, features more than 130 ancient artifacts, including 50 pieces from the tomb of King Tut, the boy king who ruled Egypt for nearly a decade around 1333 BC. Special family days May 9 and June 13 offer kid-friendly tours, Egyptian-themed face painting, and a mummy-wrapping activity. *Adults \$27.50, seniors \$25.50, children ages 4-12 \$17.50, 3 and under free, 888-9-TUT-NYC, www.kingtutnyc.org*

LEGO Fantasy Camp

Kids can unpack all their creative urges at LEGO Fantasy Camp this summer at the Atlantis resort on Paradise Island in the Bahamas. Five-day camp sessions begin in July, with a LEGO master builder providing hands-on building challenges. The program, which costs \$425 per child, includes a swim with rescued Katrina dolphins, building and racing remote-control cars, daily lunch, and an ice cream social. Campers can explore Atlantis Kids Adventures, an 8,000-square-foot club that has a computer room with 13 iMac stations, a wizardology room, and more. 800-285-2684, www.atlantis.com

KARI BODNARCHUK

APRIL 24
RALEIGH, N.C.
Reopening of North Carolina Museum of Art: Three years in the making, this \$85 million expansion and renovation will transform the museum’s 164-acre campus. A new structure, the West Building, and a renovated East Building will more than double the museum’s exhibition space for its permanent collection and nearly double its space for temporary exhibitions. The building program also includes a new restaurant, museum store, and four acres of sculpture gardens, reflecting pools, and pond renovations. To celebrate the reopening, the museum has acquired more than 200 new works of art. They include 28 sculptures by Auguste Rodin, as well as paintings by Ellsworth Kelly, David Park, and Sean Scully. 2110 Blue Ridge Road, 919-839-6262, www.ncartmuseum.org

THROUGH JUNE 19
PARIS
“Lucian Freud: The Studio”: Some 50 paintings, along with prints, drawings, and photographs, make up this exhibition of work by the celebrated British artist. The focus is on studio works — even the few landscapes in the show are of locations visible from the various London studios Freud has used over the past 40 years. Other sections of the show include portraits, self-portraits, and works inspired by other paintings. 19 rue du Renard, 011-33-1-44-78-12-33, www.centrepompidou.fr

THROUGH OCT. 24
MINNEAPOLIS
“1964”: Drawing on its own holdings, the Walker Art Center presents upward of 100 works documenting the art world’s enormous ferment in the title year. Pop and Minimalism were on the rise. Graphic design and performance art were reflecting the growing political and social upheaval of the period. Artists with work on display include Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Louise Nevelson, George Segal, Ellsworth Kelly, Dan Flavin, and Lucas Samaras. 1750 Hennepin Ave., 612-375-7600, www.walkerart.org

Destinations

ARTS

From Rodin to Lichtenstein



SCOTT FRANCES

An \$85 million renovation more than doubles exhibition space at the North Carolina Museum of Art.

MAY 1
RICHMOND
Opening of Virginia Museum of Fine Arts: The museum’s \$150 million expansion, which adds 165,000 square feet, is a five-level glass-and-limestone design by English architect Rick Mather. He’s best known for his recent expansion and renovation of Oxford University’s Ashmolean Museum. The expansion is part of a larger master plan for VMFA’s 13½-acre campus that’s been some eight years in the making. 200 North Boulevard, 804-340-1400, www.vmfa.state.va.us

MAY 2-SEPT. 19
NEWPORT BEACH, CALIF.
“15 Minutes of Fame: Portraits from Ansel Adams to Andy Warhol”: This Orange County Museum of Art show presents more than 150 examples of photographic portraiture. Subjects include people as famous as Alfred Hitchcock and as anonymous as a group of cheerlead-

ers doing splits. Besides Adams and Warhol (two names not commonly found in the same sentence), artists include Garry Winogrand, Larry Clark, and Lawrence Schiller. 850 San Clemente Drive, 949-759-1122, www.ocma.net

MAY 28-SEPT. 19
LONDON
“Exposed: Voyeurism, Surveillance and the Camera Since 1870”: God must be a voyeur. First he created light, then a bit later he let the camera be invented. This Tate Modern exhibition gathers more than 200 photographs — some of them taken by artists of the caliber of Walker Evans and Henri Cartier-Bresson, others by automated surveillance cameras — to examine the fascinating, and sometimes creepy, relationship between the lens and surreptitious watching. *Bankside, 011-44-20-7887-8888, www.tate.org.uk/modern*

PLAN AHEAD

MONTREAL
Montreal International Jazz Festival: From June 25 through July 6 Montreal becomes the world capital of jazz and various of its musical kin. Among performers scheduled to appear at this year’s festival are Boz Scaggs, Cassandra Wilson, David Sanborn, Manhattan Transfer, Sonny Rollins, George Benson Terence Blanchard, Allen Toussaint, the Gipsy Kings, and a very downtown triple bill of Laurie Anderson, Lou Reed, and John Zorn. 305 rue Sainte-Catherine Ouest, 888-515-0515, www.montrealjazzfest.com

MARK FEENEY

Events are sometimes canceled, rescheduled, or sold out; call or check online. Mark Feeny can be reached at mfeeny@globe.com.

Grand gardens, theater, food, a river away from the city

► RICHMOND
Continued from Page M1

Two young women smile over-hearing us. One pipes up, “Richmond’s simply a good place.” Her companion chimes in, “Good food, too,” as she catches a whiff of the fish and chips cooking in the kitchen behind the bar. “Everyone has his or her own Richmond,” Bruce concludes, as he orders roast chicken and returns to his ale.

A long weekend here makes a perfect getaway. Only 15 minutes by train from central London and in spring and summer a delightful 22-mile ferry ride on the Thames from Westminster Pier, Richmond has enticed Londoners and other visitors for centuries. Quieter than a big city, it has gracious hotels and inns and pubs and restaurants that serve everything from classic British to Indian, Thai, and Spanish cuisine. It more than lives up to its original name, Shene, which means “refuge” in Anglo-Saxon.

You won’t lack for things to see and do. The 2,500-acre Richmond Park and the London Wetland Centre would take years to explore fully. Many sights are near the Thames, among them majestic Hampton Court Palace. Built by Cardinal Wolsey in the early 16th century and later owned by King Henry VIII (1491-1547), this magnificent Tudor palace occupies 60 well-manicured acres. It was the center of royal and political life in England into the 18th century: Henry spent his honeymoon with Anne Boleyn here in 1533 and married his sixth wife, Catherine Parr, here 10 years later. King Charles I was held prisoner in its rooms in 1647 by Oliver Cromwell. A famous maze was planted in the North Gardens in 1702 that is still difficult to navigate.

The 400-year-old Ham House has an exceptionally fine collection of 17th-century furniture and textiles. The formal gardens are particularly appealing, with trees, flowers, shrubs and vegetables common back then. At the 300-acre Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew you can explore glass houses, climb a tree canopy, delve into a rain forest, visit a gi-



WWW.VISITRICHMOND.COM

Richmond’s town center is full of shops, cafes, and pubs.

ant pagoda, and discover more on a guided tour. Since their creation in 1759, the gardens have made a great contribution to the study of plant diversity and economic botany.

The 110-year-old Richmond Theater on Richmond Green, designed by acclaimed architect Frank Matcham, draws more than 300,000 people a year. Other places might look familiar, as they served as locations in films including “Shakespeare in Love,” “Billy Elliott,” “The Hours,” “Finding Neverland,” and “Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire.”

Richmond’s bucolic atmosphere has seduced artists as well as royalty. Painter Camille Pissarro, writers William Wordsworth,

Charles Dickens, T.S. Eliot, and Virginia Woolf, and composer Felix Mendelssohn extolled its charms, many taking up residence here, their houses now designated with markers. Today Mick Jagger, Roger Daltry, Jerry Hall, David Attenborough, Kevin Spacey, and many other notables call it home.

Richmond claims excellent dining spots to fuel your explorations. They range from relaxed and casual pubs to elegant restaurants serving haute cuisine. For morning coffee and pastries, I loved the tranquility of the Hollyhock Cafe, a quaint cottage hidden away in the Terrace Gardens, between Richmond Hill and the river. You can relax on the shaded

If you go . . .

What to do
Richmond Park
011-44-20-8948-3209
www.royalparks.org.uk
Over 2,000 acres of woodlands, gardens, and grassland with views to St. Paul’s Cathedral.
Hampton Court Palace
011-44-20-8781-9500
www.hrp.org.uk
Walk through the Tudor kitchens and the queen and king’s lavish apartments. Great Hall, England’s last and greatest medieval hall, is especially impressive.
Ham House
011-44-20-8940-1950
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-hamhouse
Free garden tours.
Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew
011-44-20-8332-5655
www.kew.org/visit-kew-gardens/index.htm
A 30-minute bus ride from the center of Richmond.
Richmond Theatre
011-44-844-871-7651
www.ambassadorsickets.com/richmond-theatre
Museum of Richmond
Old Town Hall
011-44-20-8332-1141
www.museumofrichmond.com
Richmond’s history since medieval times.
Where to eat
Hollyhock Cafe
011-44-20-8948-6555
A quaint cottage hidden away in the tranquil Terrace Gardens. Soups, salads, pastries. Lunch from \$15.
Petersham Nurseries Cafe & Tea Box
011-44-20-8605-3627

Located in a renovated garden shed. Serves savory dishes from midday until stocks last, followed by afternoon teas, coffees, and homemade cakes. Starters from \$14. Reservations essential for the restaurant but not for the cafe.
Restaurant at the Petersham Hotel
Nightingale Lane
www.petershamhotel.co.uk
011-44-20-8939-1084
Afternoon tea for two \$60, lunch for two from \$57, Sunday lunch for two \$97, dinner about \$46 per person.
Bingham
61-63 Petersham Road
www.thebingham.co.uk
011-44-20-8940-0902
The best of British food in a glamorous setting. Thames views. Lunch from \$30. Dinner fixed price a la carte menu from \$60.
The Tea Shop
7 Paradise Road
011-44-20-8940-3521
Afternoon tea \$21 each, lunch from \$9.
Where to stay
The Petersham
Nightingale Lane
011-44-20-8940-7471
www.petershamhotel.co.uk
Overlooking the Thames and surrounding meadows. Doubles from \$207.
The Victoria
10 West Temple Sheen East Sheen
www.thevictoria.net
A public house and dining room with seven hotel rooms, a 5-minute walk from Richmond Park. Doubles from \$177.

all available to go. When I didn’t return to the Victoria Inn for fish and chips, I split my evenings between two sophisticated dining rooms, the Restaurant at the Petersham Hotel and the Bingham, both with views and first-class, international menus.

No better place exists to contemplate Richmond’s beauty than across the road from the inn. It is the only protected view in the United Kingdom, decreed sacrosanct by an Act of Parliament in 1902. Down a gently sloping hill, the Terrace Gardens, with their robust shrubberies, rockery, rose garden, and acres of rolling meadowlands and green woods stretch to the horizon. The Thames winds past crowded docks. Along the river’s edge runners jog and herons perch under ancient Richmond Bridge.

The panorama appears little changed since Sir Walter Scott wrote in 1818, “The equipage stopped on a commanding eminence, where beauty of the English countryside was displayed in the utmost luxuriance. . . . The Thames, here turreted with villas and there garlanded with forests, moved on slowly and placidly, like the mighty monarch of the scene.”

Take a path down the hill to the riverbank, where restaurants and cafes offer a good vantage point from which to watch boats ply the river.

From there, it’s a short walk into town, which is full of shops and restaurants, movie theaters, grocery stores, and pubs as well as cobblestone alleys and 400-year-old cottages. At Town Hall, a tourist office helps with maps, information about the local sights, and bus, ferry, and train schedules. Since the Museum of Richmond is in the building, it’s worthwhile to see the exhibits that give a sense of the town’s 1,000-year history.

Armed with a map, some history, and recommendations from the denizens of the Victoria, you can easily find your own Richmond.

Valerie Gladstone can be reached at vgladstone@saharaltd.com.