

Encounter

Big Sky Country

Amid strong currents

The Snake River, below the Tetons and west of Swan Valley, Idaho, twists through epic, intimate terrain that separates mountains from potato flatlands to the west.

A sunlit summer night offered a perfect chance for an overdue return to this oasis. The route from Jackson Hole, Wyo., crested 8,400-foot Teton Pass and parted the rugged roads of Victor, Idaho. It rose up and over a smaller range, and the rich forest and crashing canyons en route were, unexpectedly, enough.

Only a few miles short of the undulating Snake River, it suddenly seemed better to turn back, and remember.

TOM HAINES

Globe-trotting

Notes from our blog

Orbitz hotel deal

Orbitz is offering up to 30 percent off hotel rooms in a number of cities around the nation. You can score 30 percent off stays of three nights. This translates into rates starting at \$129 per night. The only catch is that you have to book by Aug. 31, and your carriage turns back into a pumpkin on Nov. 24.

PAUL MAKISHIMA

Celebration of trees

They provide oxygen, reduce carbon dioxide, and help prevent erosion. They give us wood, paper, shade, shelter, and something pretty to look at. And we cut them down. Tyler Arboretum in Media, Pa., is exhibiting one-of-a-kind tree houses designed and built by local artisans in a show called “Totally Terrific Treehouses.” Architects, builders, students, and artists created 16 imaginative structures. The exhibit runs through Sept. 28.

CHRIS MURPHY

Game for Beijing?

“The Last Days of Old Beijing: Life in the Vanishing Backstreets of a City Transformed” by Michael Meyer (Walker, 355 pp., illustrated, hardcover, \$25.99) is a first book by the writer (on travel, among other things) and former Peace Corps volunteer. Those two virtues must underlie Meyer’s affection for a city that seems hard to love.

Meyer volunteered to teach English at a local grade school and started gathering string from the community at the same time the city was displacing tens of thousands of people to make way for malls, for high-rises, for Wal-Marts, for the Summer Olympics. The book weaves contemporary and historical tales throughout.

Meyer provides a rich bibliography, but the energy of the book is his, his love for Beijing in all its beauty and ugliness, grand and heartbreaking history, its human determination to modernize and the irretrievable costs of that goal.

JULIE DALTON



NEWS, DEALS, DISPATCHES

Boston.com/travel/blog is where to go no matter where you want to go.

Gearing up

A real lightweight

Airline luggage restrictions have forced us to lighten our loads, but with Eagle Creek’s spacious Hovercraft 28, one of the lightest suitcases on the market for its size, you can still bring everything you need. This super-durable, wheeled suitcase offers 6,750 cubic inches of space yet weighs only 10 pounds. Eagle Creek’s Pack-It Cubes, available separately in all sorts of shapes and sizes, allow you to compartmentalize clothes and toiletries so they’re easy to find, while the airtight Compression Sacs help you condense bulky items like sweaters and gain up to 80 percent more packing space. The Hovercraft 28 (\$250), Pack-It Cubes (\$8-\$20), and Compression Sacs (\$8-\$12) are available at eaglecreek.com and REI (800-426-4840, rei.com).

KARI J. BODNARCHUK



Aren’t they so sweet? Yes, for this contest at the Maui Onion Festival in Lahaina, both the eaters and the edibles must be sweet.

How do they like them onions? Sweet

AUG. 23
LAHAINA, MAUI, HAWAII
Maui Onion Festival: You might associate Hawaii with the fragrance of flowers, but onions can smell just as sweet to a cook or an eater. Local chefs will demonstrate ways to use sweet onions and compete in a recipe contest. The Maui Onion Growers’ Association will sell crisp fried onion rings, and representatives will explain how the onions are cultivated and what makes them so sweet. Hula and Tahitian dances, raw onion eating contests, drum performances, and jazz round out the day. Admission is free to the event at Whalers Village, a shopping and restaurant mall. 808-661-4567, whalersvillage.com.

AUG. 28-SEPT. 1
MORGAN CITY, LA.
Shrimp & Petroleum Festival: It might seem an unlikely combination, but then again, this festival has been going on for 73 years. The two prime products of this southern Louisiana region are a reason to party. There will be plenty of music, games, and activities for children. Best of all, Cajun cooking in all its spicy glory is dished up for festivalgoers. Admission is free; food prices vary. 985-385-0703, shrimp-petrofest.org.

SEPT. 19-21
SAN PEDRO, CALIF.
Port of Los Angeles Lobster Festival: The left coast celebrates the Maine lobster with a three-day extravaganza. Thirteen tons of the Other Ocean crustaceans are expected to be consumed with discount prices on all kinds of lobster dishes. For those not partial to lobster, there will be plenty of other fare such as Brazilian barbecue, sausages, and shrimp fajitas. Live bands and entertainment for children will round out the activities. Entrance \$8, children under age 12 free. Food costs vary. 310-798-7478, lobsterfest.com.

SEPT. 26-28
LEDYARD, CONN.
Foxwoods Food & Wine Festival: Big names in the culinary world will gather at Foxwoods Resort Casino for this fete. Participants include Tom Colicchio of Craft in New York and Craftsteak in Las Vegas; David Burke of David Burke in Las Vegas and Prime at Foxwoods; Michael Schlow of Radius, who recently opened Alta Strada at Foxwoods, and Jacques Pépin, cookbook author and television chef. Events include a grand tasting, a women chefs and women winemakers dinner, and chef demonstrations. Costs are \$40-\$250. 800-200-2882, foxwoodsfoodandwine.com.

PLAN AHEAD
OCT. 2-5
KANSAS CITY, MO.
American Royal Barbecue Contest: Dubbed the 29th World Series of barbecue, this event pits the nation’s top practitioners against each other in the season finale for the national barbecue circuit. Entry is \$10 to watch the contest and taste the delicacies. 816-931-3330, americanroyal.com.

ALISON ARNETT

Events are sometimes canceled, rescheduled, or sold out; call or check online to confirm. Alison Arnett can be reached at alacarte59@aol.com.

Where they went

NEW YORK

WHO: Connie, 47, and Len Corey, 49, with their children Ian, 14, and Owen, 12, all of Reading, and Corry Kieper, 16, of Essen, Germany.

WHERE: New York

WHEN: Two days in March

WHY: “We had a high school exchange student from Germany for three weeks and wanted to show her as much as possible,” Connie Corey said. That included visits to Salem, Boston, Plimoth Plantation, New Bedford, and Newport. “For me the best part of the New York trip was the idea of being able to show someone from a foreign country how much that city is truly a melting pot.”

IMMIGRANT ISLAND: The family stayed at a hotel in Newark to save money. “It’s cheaper to stay there, and my husband went to school in New York and isn’t afraid to drive in the city,” Corey said. They arrived on a Thursday night and started sightseeing Friday morning with a trip to Ellis Island, which Corey said was easier to reach from the New Jersey side. “All three of the kids had studied it in school and were interested in history, so they really enjoyed it.” They drove into Manhattan, where they found parking right outside their lunch spot, Christine’s Polish American, an East Village diner serving Eastern European dishes. “We had the best parking luck all weekend.”

TOWN AND TUNNEL: After visiting a popular section of Central Park, “where all the movies are filmed,” they fought their way through the crowds at the Museum of Modern Art’s “Target Free Fri-



Near Park Street and West Broadway in New York’s financial district are Connie Corey of Reading, left, her husband, Len, top, their son Ian, right, and Corry Kieper, center, of Essen, Germany.

or shower. It’s really about trying to understand people’s lives and the dreams, the risk, and the work that these people were willing to do to get here. It really puts into perspective how the American Dream has changed.”

CIAO FOR NOW: After enjoying the sounds from Italian-speaking diners at Rocky’s Restaurant in Little Italy, the kids had a field day in Economy Candy. “It’s about 12 feet wide and 50 feet long with floor-to-ceiling candy, with every candy imaginable,” Corey said. After a stop at the Gothic masterpiece Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, they headed home, mission accomplished.

SEE WHERE THEY ALL WENT
For more photos and to share yours, visit boston.com/wheretheywent. Send your suggestions within two weeks of your return to diane@bydianedaniel.com.

Rave



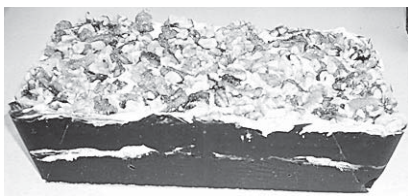
New mother lode: fudge

LEADVILLE, Colo. — At 10,430 feet, Leadville is the highest incorporated city in North America. The silver mining boomtown of the 1880s has a heady history peopled by the likes of Sam Houston, Doc Holliday, and Molly Brown (known after her death as “Unsinkable”). It’s also a great place to catch a sugar buzz.

But the first thing you notice when you walk into Hundley’s Old Time Gifts and Fudge is not the fudge. The 4,000-square-foot store, owned and operated since 1985 by Keith Hundley and his wife, Charlotte, is crammed with items that combine to recall a Victorian-era general store. There are reproductions of famous guns, replicas of var-

ious tins, trays, and signs. There are stuffed animals, quilts, notions, potions, and plenty of books about Leadville’s colorful past.

But it’s the sweet stuff that keeps customers coming back.



Charlotte Hundley makes more than 40 varieties of fudge in a veritable rainbow of flavors: raspberries and cream, banana walnut, amaretto chocolate swirl, chocolate coconut almond. Anyone for penuche pecan? All the fudge is melt-in-your-mouth quality, and best of all, if an ascent to Leadville is not on your itinerary, you can order it online.

Hundley’s Old Tyme Gifts and Fudge, 623 Harrison Ave., Leadville, Colo., 719-486-1512, hundleysfudge.com.

DOUG WARREN