



JAN BAUER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Encounter

Berlin Museum

Depth of darkness

It was already after midnight, a dead-of-dark cool was descending on the summer streets of Berlin, when the taxi driver asked, “Have you been to the Holocaust Memorial?”

The memorial, designed by Peter Eisenman, an American architect, and set in the center of the city, is in simple terms a 5-acre grid of concrete slabs. Aisles between them rise and fall so that, at certain points, slabs loom nearly 16 feet high.

Dwarfed by those slabs in the darkness, perspective is disturbed. What is around the corner? Stars are lost overhead. That sound? Only concrete, and chaos.

TOM HAINES

Globe-trotting

Notes from our blog

Good to the last drop

My pal Sam loves to talk about how much money he’s saved by buying a Honda Civic hybrid. So I plan to turn my boy onto Cost2Drive, a new Web application that estimates the fuel cost of any given trip. Say you’re planning a drive to Provincetown and you live in Jamaica Plain. Go to costtodrive.com, enter your starting point and destination, and the year of your car, along with make and model. Cost2Drive uses your car’s miles per gallon, gleaned from the Environmental Protection Agency. It then grabs the average price of gas in your area from Oil Price Information Service, and bangs it up against the distance, which comes by way of Google map technology, to “galculate” your cost.

After plugging my data into Cost2Drive, I learn that getting to P-town in my 1999 Subaru Forester will set me back \$15.04. Sam, on the other hand, will only have to pony up \$8.60.

PAUL MAKISHIMA

 **NEWS, DEALS, DISPATCHES**
Boston.com/travel is where to go no matter where you want to go.

Gearing up



Sense of security

PacSafe’s new messenger bags combine the sleekness and function of traditional over-the-shoulder travel bags with James Bond-like security features. The antitheft MeshSafe M100 has strong but flexible stainless steel wire built into its front and bottom panels and shoulder strap, making them slash-proof. The adjustable shoulder strap also has a built-in combination lock with an attached wire that allows you to secure the zippers to fend off pickpockets or lock the bag to a fixed object to prevent it from being snatched. The M100 has a padded, removable laptop sleeve that fits 13-inch laptops (the MeshSafe M200 holds 15.4-inch ones) and handy pockets and pouches in the main and back compartments. It retails for \$99.95 at REI.com or by calling REI at 800-426-4840.

KARI J. BODNARCHUK

Tea, treats, tricks, and hiking trails

Windham Hill Inn in the southern Vermont community of West Townshend, a new sister property to Maine’s award-winning White Barn Inn, has caught the seasonal spirit. Its Halloween package, valid Oct. 30-Nov. 1, features two nights’ lodging; a Halloween night hayride; a Halloween dinner

Real Deals

for two at the Windham Hill Restaurant, followed by a reading by the fireplace; a gift from Burdick’s Chocolates; a three-course gourmet breakfast each morning; afternoon tea and trick or treats plus evening savories; and use of the inn’s 6.2 miles (10K) of groomed trails for hiking and walking. Rates start at \$529.50.

Visit windhamhill.com or call 800-944-4080 or 802-874-4080.

One day left

Preseason rates on all season passes at Okemo Mountain Resort in Ludlow,

Vt., are valid through tomorrow. After that, all passes are full price. For example, with the Ultra Pass, skiers and snowboarders can take the slopes every day at Okemo, Mount Sunapee, Stratton, and even Crested Butte in Colorado, with no restrictions. The price is \$1,369 for adults but jumps \$100 after tomorrow.

For details on all passes and prices, visit okemo.com or call 802-228-1600.

Shopping specials

From now through Christmas, lodging places throughout New Hampshire’s

Mount Washington Valley have a Harvest to Holidays promotion, with savings on shopping sprees. Those who book stays at participating inns will receive purses called Shopping Survival Kits that come with coupons, small gifts, energy bars, and samples. Package prices vary. For the various offers plus information on area events, visit mtwashingtonvalley.org or call 800-367-3364.

Paris from \$630

TourCrafters has a four-night Paris Package that starts at \$630 from Boston,

including round-trip airfare, accommodations at the modern Hotel Quartier République Le Marais, daily breakfast, service charges, and taxes. The package is valid Nov. 1-March 31, except the last half of December. Visit tourcrafters.com and look under Hot Deals or call 800-482-5995.

RICHARD P. CARPENTER

Most prices quoted are for double occupancy. Offers are subject to availability. Richard P. Carpenter can be reached at carpenter@globe.com.

Destinations

FOOD



Bryan Dame of Camden, Maine, will demonstrate and discuss cuisine at The Balsams in Dixville Notch, N.H.

From rustic to Pacific Rim

THROUGH DECEMBER

DIXVILLE NOTCH, N.H.

The Balsams Fall Chefs Series: This resort hotel showcases culinary talents from across New England and elsewhere in a series of five weekend events. Tom Gutow, owner and chef of the Castine Inn in Maine, will start off with dinners and talks Oct. 24-26. Rob Evans, chef and owner of Hugo’s Restaurant in Portland, Maine, will be featured Oct. 31-Nov. 2. On Nov. 7-9, Jack Chiaro from Johnson & Wales University will present a weekend of rustic food centered around olive oil. Bryan Dame, chef at the Inn at Ocean’s Edge in Camden, Maine, will demonstrate his traditional New England dishes Nov. 14-16 in time for Thanksgiving inspirations. To finish off the series, on Dec. 5-7, Ben Smith will prepare Pacific Rim cuisine from his restaurant Tsunami in Memphis. Prices are \$169 a night, which includes receptions, dinners, and lodging. 877-225-7267, thebalsams.com.

NOV. 13-23

PUERTO VALLARTA, RIVIERA NAYARIT, MEXICO

14th Festival Gourmet International: Resorts on the Mexican Pacific Coast will be celebrating international cuisine in this 14th annual event. A gala opening dinner, coffee art demonstration, pairing of wine and chocolate, and master cooking demonstrations crowd the days. A benefit called “La Spaghetтата,” gourmet raffles, tapas and tequila, cheese tastings, and winemakers’ dinners round out the festivities. Prices are \$5 to \$315, depending on the event. 011-52-322-290-2247, festivalgourmet.com.

NOV. 20-21

FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK

13th Annual Spirits Festival: More than 20 exhibitors of premium Scotch whiskey, rum, and vodka will show their wares at this festival. Among the

workshops is an “Introduction to the Art of Nosing and Tasting,” which teaches how to distinguish single malt whiskey. Events include displays of cheese and chocolates, a lesson on how to set up a home bar, another on the five essential cocktails, and a whiskey nosing competition. A free taxi ride home within the city of Fredericton is offered as part of the ticket cost. Tickets are \$50 each in advance; \$60 at the door. whiskymb.ca.

NOV. 13-16

LONGBOAT KEY, FLA.

Stone Crab Seafood & Wine Festival: The Colony Beach Resort kicks off stone crab season with its 19th annual festival. The highlight of the weekend is a beach party with tastings from nationally-known chefs, wine stations, and demonstrations. Live music and dancing will fill out the evening. Throughout the festival, chefs will explain their favorite dishes, and collaborate with other chefs. A seven-course gala dinner caps the weekend. Prices range from \$200 for the beach party to \$245 for the gala. colonybeachresort.com/events.html.

PLAN AHEAD

JAN. 17-18

UNCASVILLE, CONN.

Sun WineFest, Mohegan Sun: If gambling is your thing, you might combine wagering with wine and food at this gala weekend. A grand tasting showcase will feature more than 600 varieties of wine and boutique ale. Celebrity chefs and wine specialists will appear at the 5th Annual Chef Showdown, including Todd English of Olives, Jasper White of Jasper White’s Summer Shacks, and Robert Irvine of TV’s “Dinner Impossible.” Events including seminars, tastings, and the Celebrity Chef Dine Around will raise money for the American Liver Foundation and Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Prices are \$70 for a one-day pass, and \$110 for the weekend. 860-953-0444 ext. 144, sunwinefest.com.

ALISON ARNETT

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

Where they went

CARIBBEAN CRUISE

WHO: Diana, 39, and William “Gilly” Gilson, 46, and their children Will, 6, and Carli, 5, of Sharon.

WHERE: Caribbean.

WHEN: A week in April.

WHY: “People told me, if you’re really not looking forward to having your kids stand in long lines at Disney World, try a Disney cruise,” Diana Gilson said. “Our accountant had done the Western Caribbean cruise about four times and loves it, so we did that one.”

EASY PREP: “Disney does a great job with sending you a DVD that has pictures of the ship, what to pack, what the scene is like,” Gilson said. “It really takes very little thought. The only challenging part is you must absolutely have a passport for every person traveling, so I got the kids’ passports very early.”

FUN FOR ALL: “This was our first cruise, and everyone said the staterooms were bigger than usual,” she said. “We had a double bed, two bunks that folded up, and two bathrooms.” They also sprung for a balcony, where they would watch the sunset and other boats pass at sea. “Disney characters like Mickey Mouse, Pluto, and Goofy are walking all over the ship, and the kids just love that. For adults there’s a spa, workout room, and track, and they could have alone time when they dropped the children off at clubs organized by ages.

Gilson, a pediatrician who said she’s “crazier than most parents about safety,” gave the ship and activities her “absolute seal of approval” in that department.

PORTS OF CALL: The ship departed from Port Canaveral, Fla., with a first stop in Key West. “They have an aquarium and a really cute butterfly garden,” Gilson said. On Grand Cayman island, all family members were thrilled by an optional submarine ride. “We took a 20-minute catamaran ride out to the middle of nowhere and then this huge white sub comes up. We went 103 feet down and we saw everything from barracuda to angel fish to a shipwreck in the clear, clear Caribbean water.” An opportunity in Cozumel, Mexico, to interact with dolphins at Chankanaab National Park was equally exciting. “You can kiss them, dance with them, and give a dolphin a belly rub.”

PRIVATE ISLAND: The final stop was Castaway Cay, Disney’s own Caribbean island. “They’ve got everything there. Places to eat and buy souvenirs. We got my daughter’s hair braided. There’s this little fort built 20 feet from the coast that children can swim out to and play in. Our kids spent most of the day in the water.” Everyone liked it so much that the Gilsons are considering the Disney Eastern Caribbean Cruise next



William Gilson and Athenea in Cozumel, Mexico.

year, she said. “It’s for people who totally want to spoil their kids.”

DIANE DANIEL



SEE WHERE THEY ALL WENT

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

Rave

Where the road ends, spectacle begins

NEAH BAY, Wash. — To get to Cape Flattery, the most northwestern point in the contiguous United States, we drove along miles of twisting narrow sections of Highway 112, which tiptoes up the eastern edge of the Olympic Peninsula.

The road ends at the Makah Indian Reservation, which owns the land westward. In the past decade, the tribe has invested money and sweat equity to build an attractive boardwalk system to help visitors navigate the muddy 15-minute stretch to the ocean.

Now a cedar boardwalk, tree stumps, and a groomed earthen trail flanked by lush ferns and forest lead the way past several lookout spots to a series of multilevel obser-

vation decks that overlook crashing waves 60 feet below, sea caves, and Tatoosh Island. You can see Vancouver Island, British Columbia, to the north.

This is also a popular bird-watching spot, and if you visit from February to May, you might even see migrating gray whales.

To visit Cape Flattery, you must purchase a \$10 recreation permit from the Makahs, for sale at several spots in the reservation. Information at makah.com. In summer, Makah guides staff the trail to assist visitors.

DIANE DANIEL