

Currents

Road trip map app tells you what's ahead

On your next road trip, take the guesswork out of choosing where to eat, find cheap gas, let your dog run around, or get your coffee fix. RoadAhead, a new app for iPhones, iTouches, and iPads, helps you find the best exits to suit your needs. It automatically locates you on the highway, searches the resources at upcoming exits based on your input, and lists relevant businesses with their user ratings, price range, distance from exit, and so on. The free app is available through iTunes, and can also be used to research your trip before you leave. 781-309-7623, www.facebook.com/roadahead

Geocache challenge in Florida

Bring your hand-held global positioning system to northeast Florida for the Amelia Island Geocaching Challenge. (Geocaching involves using a GPS to search for hidden containers, or geocaches.) Join the geocache challenge when you stay at any of the island's 14 participating inns, hotels, or resorts. The official entry form lists coordinates and clues to help you find the geocaches, which are located at several of the island's most popular sites. Most include coupons that you can use during your visit. Find all seven geocaches and you can register to win a four-night stay at a local bed-and-breakfast. 904-277-4369, www.geocacheamelia.com

Paddle the Pacific Northwest

Explore the San Juan Islands on a kayaking adventure that highlights the area's beauty and cuisine. Savor Seattle Food Tours and San Juan Outfitters have partnered to offer a three-day, two-night Gourmet Kayaking Tour, during which guides will prepare meals using recipes from Seattle's top restaurants. Dinners will be paired with a selection of Boomtown wines from Washington's award-winning Dusty Valley winery. Look for orcas and other wildlife by day, and camp on private beaches at night. Tours: June 17-19, July 1-3, and Aug. 19-21; 12 people maximum per trip. Rate: \$799 per person, includes seven meals, kayak and camping gear, and guides; no kayaking experience required. 888-987-2867, www.savorseattletours.com

KARI BODNARCHUK

Destinations

EVENTS

Freebies, photos, films, and pints

JUNE 14
NEW YORK

The 33d annual Museum Mile Festival: Families who can bail on school a little early and sightseers who want a summer night in the Big Apple can enjoy some freebies on the second Tuesday in June. From 6 to 9 p.m., museums including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Guggenheim, and the Jewish Museum are free. There's also live entertainment in the streets (23 blocks will be cleared for pedestrians), food, and art activities for children. The Museum for African Art, whose new construction is set to open in the fall, will also be a part of the celebration. There's a kickoff celebration at the Neue Galerie New York at 5:45 p.m. 5th Avenue between 82d and 105th streets. www.museummilefestival.org

JULY 28-31
PORTLAND, Ore.

Oregon Brewers Festival: There are more than 80 beers at this festival and they should satisfy all tastes. The list includes IPAs, Cherry Wheats, Belgian Blondes, and fruity beer made with boysenberries. There's also live music (a schedule will be posted soon), and a kickoff brunch on July 28 that includes food, two pints, and then a parade down Portland Street to the festival's opening ceremony at Tom McCall Waterfront Park. There's also a buzz tent, which features rare (and probably expensive) beers. 503-778-5917. www.oregonbrewfest.com

JULY
LONDON

London Street Photography Festival: Throughout the month, London venues — including the German Gymnasium, the British Library, and the National Portrait Gallery — will host events celebrating the art of street photography, which is, as its name suggests, portraits of



EUGENE W. WONG

More than 80 types of beer draw big crowds at the Oregon Brewers Festival in Portland.

evolving urban areas. Exhibitions include "On Street Photography: A Woman's Perspective," an exhibition of street photography by five women, and "No Man's Land," an exhibit featuring work by Mishka Henner. A schedule of exhibitions is online. www.londonstreetphotographyfestival.org

JULY 5-10
GALWAY, Ireland

Galway Film Fleadh: Pronounced "flah," the proper Gaelic word for festival, this has in the past drawn such guests as Kathy Bates, Arthur Penn, Matt Dillon, and Woody Harrelson. This year's schedule has not been posted yet — in fact, the festival recently extended its deadline for entries — but last year's program included the Banksy documentary, "Exit Through the Gift Shop," and "The Pipe," a documentary about a small Irish town that takes on big oil that got a standing ovation from the audience. 011-353-91-562-200, www.galwayfilmfleadh.com

PLAN AHEAD

NOV. 19-20
BENTONVILLE, Ark.

Arkansas Anime Festival: Anime fans dress up and hit festivals around Boston every year. But the hard-core fans travel for the cause, even to Arkansas. This festival hasn't posted its guest and events lists yet, but it has posted its rules. The event is family-friendly, so there won't be any costumes or movies that are not PG-13 or cleaner. Also, it does not allow "live steel," meaning, no weapons (even fake ones). [Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, sites.google.com/site/a2fcon/home](http://ClarionHotelandConferenceCenter.sites.google.com/site/a2fcon/home)

MEREDITH GOLDSTEIN

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

Seeing Hopi culture through the lens of a Hopi guide

By Hilary Nangle
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

TUBA CITY, Ariz. — The first time I visited northeastern Arizona's Hopi lands, I saw little and learned even less. Until recently, the 2,439-square-mile reservation, an island within the 27,000-square-mile Navajo Nation, did not invite tourism. That changed with the opening of the Moenkopi Legacy Inn & Suites, a tribal-owned and operated hotel in the Upper Village of Moenkopi.

In 2009, the hotel was under construction, but I was able to book a small group tour with Micah Loma'omvaya's Hopi Tours, an experience so engaging and enlightening that I booked another when I returned last year. Staying at the Moenkopi and touring with Loma'omvaya provides an immersion into Hopi culture. By drawing from knowledge both book-learned and passed down orally through countless generations, Loma'omvaya, a Hopi anthropologist, is able to move between the Western secular and traditional Hopi worlds. He is passionate about sharing his history and culture, delivering it with a healthy dose of pride. "Hopi is a way of life," he says. "It's the ideal of human patience and diligence."

Fewer than 7,000 Hopi live on the Black Mesa reservation; most reside in the 12 villages on First, Second, or Third Mesa. "The Hopi mesas are fingers off the palm of Black Mesa," Loma'omvaya says. "When we look at ourselves as Hopi people, we're not important as individuals, but for our role in a long line of Hopi culture and tradition."

Few places demonstrate that better than Dava Park, a remote red-rock ridge adorned with about 15,000 petroglyphs, dating from about 500 BC to 1500. "This is our history, our identification, our culture," Loma'omvaya says, as he interprets the images.

"Our land and our religion are like one," he says. "The Hopi way of life is rooted in sustainability, in life cycles, the seasons, peace, and harmony." One of the Hopi people's great accomplishments is turning the arid high desert plains into productive agricultural fields. Annual rainfall here is less than 12 inches, but over the



PHOTOS BY HILARY NANGLE FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

The San Francisco Peaks seen from Hopi lands in northern Arizona are considered sacred by Native Americans. Hopi potter Dean Setalla shows one of his hand-coiled pots, and basketmaker Iva Honyestewa demonstrates weaving with yucca leaves.

Hopi Tours

800-774-0830,
928-206-7433
www.hopitours.com

Half day from \$120/single, including transportation and fees. Add a traditional Hopi meal for \$30 per person, minimum five guests. Special rates and packages available for guests of the Moenkopi Legacy Inn and Suites (928-283-4599, www.experiencehopi.com) from \$139, with breakfast.

centuries, the Hopi devised a unique dry farming system that allows them to raise corn, beans, squash, melons, and other crops. It is a lesson in perseverance and faith, patience and diligence.

"A big part of living in the Hopi lands is not having many conveniences," Loma'omvaya says. That's evident as we walk through two of the oldest continually inhabited villages in North America, Old Oraibi on Third Mesa, and Walpi on First Mesa,

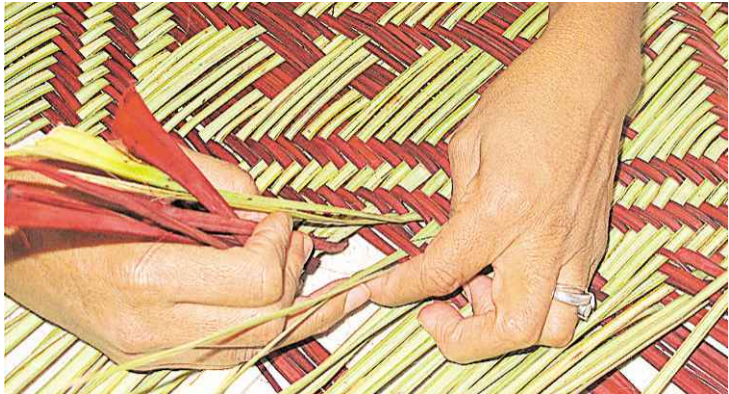
where residents live without water or electricity.

Old Oraibi, with its dirt streets and stone or cement houses, appears desolate and impoverished, but Loma'omvaya brings it to life by recounting its history. People have lived here since at least 1150, although populations have split off at times. As we walk, some of the roughly 100 residents emerge and invite us to view their pottery or katsina carvings, dolls that represent the Hopi deities.

Walpi, which traces its history back more than 1,100 years, is more dramatically sited. It punctuates a cliff, clinging to the end of a narrow peninsula that's further protected by two outer villages. Steep stairways, rugged paths, and a stomach-churning one-lane road connect it to the valley 600 feet below. I try to imagine how the first settlers transported the massive timbers for their homes. Only a handful of Hopi still reside here year round, although others maintain clan homes and return for important ceremonies, when several hundred people squeeze into a kiva. One woman with a clan

home here said, "It's sort of a magical thing; it's so spiritual that everyone gets in."

A college professor who brought a few students on the tour returns with a katsina purchased from a Walpi artisan. "I collect these," he says. "This is the corn maiden, and it's an especially fine piece." It's carved from a single cottonwood root, he says, as I admire the workmanship. Loma'omvaya nods approvingly at the purchase. The best way to



honor the Hopi culture, he says, is to buy katsinas made by Hopis, not by non-tribal members.

We visit two Hopi artists, a basketmaker and a potter, who draw on their culture for inspiration and use traditional materials and methods. Iva Casuse Honyestewa patiently and skillfully weaves yucca leaves into a patterned basket for an upcoming ceremonial dance. Potter Dean Setalla demonstrates how he makes, burnishes, and paints

hand-coiled pots and explains the process for building a traditional sheep-dung firing oven.

We finish by feasting on Hopi specialties, including green chili, hominy with lamb stew, and piiki bread, all prepared by Loma'omvaya's wife. We savor the experience, and then laugh when our host and guide sends us off with: "Don't worry, be Hopi!"

Hilary Nangle can be reached at hilary@mainetravelmaven.com.

Lightweight tripod sets up in a flash

Tamrac's new ZipShot tripod has foldable legs that spring open like a backpacker's tent poles (it is made with individual aluminum tubes held together by a single bungee cord). It sets up quickly so you won't miss important shots. While it cannot handle hefty camera bodies or big lens-



TAMRAC

es, it does a great job of supporting video, point-and-shoot, and DSLR cameras weighing up to 3 pounds. The 11-ounce tripod

extends to 44 inches and collapses to 15 inches. It can hook onto your camera or travel bag using the attached shock cords. The ZipShot sells for \$49.95 at Hunt's Photo and Video (617-778-2222, www.huntsphotoandvideo.com), or contact Tamrac (800-662-0717, www.zipshottripod.com).

KARI BODNARCHUK

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