The Boston Blobe

Travel

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Here, there, and everywhere



HERE

SAVOR THE LOBSTER ON WINNIPESAUKEE CRUISES

Hop aboard the M/S Mount Washington on Lake Winnipesaukee and enjoy a sunset cruise with Maine lobster on the menu. The summer Lobsterfest cruises run July 24 and August 7, featuring lobster and an alternative entree, live music by New England Dueling Pianos and Leo & Company, and dancing. Board at 7 p.m. at Weirs Beach or 7:30 p.m. in Meredith and enjoy a three-hour trip around the lake at sunset. Cruises continue into the fall with earlier departures on Sept. 5 (6-9 p.m.) and Oct. 3 (5-8 p.m.) from Weirs Beach (no Meredith stop). 603-366-5531, www.cruisenh.com

EXPLORE NOTABLE NEW HAMPSHIRE FARMS



Seven working farms and historic barns open their doors to visitors during the annual Temple Barns and Farms Tour July 25. Go for a tractor-drawn hay ride, watch horses compete in the high jump, and learn how to groom sheep. Then pet miniature horses and Nubian goats at Burnham Barn, an 1850 New England bank-style barn, and see shingle-mill demonstrations and antique farming tools at 18th-century Oak Hill Farm, which has been home to eight generations of dairy farmers. The tour runs 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets \$20 in advance, \$25 at the gate, teenagers half price, under 13 free. 603-878-3443, www.templebarns.org

THERE

FUN AND RETRO SURPRISESAT VICTORIA, B.C., HOTEL

Retro meets modern with a techy twist at Hotel Zed in Victoria, British Columbia. This funky hotel has 63 clean and colorful motel-style guestrooms with comic books, rotary telephones, (converted for tone dialing), free Wi-Fi, and flat-screen TVs. Artwork in each room depicts photos of local graffiti — a fun touch. Traveling solo? Book one of the smaller "bachelor pad" rooms. Families

can stay in a three-bed suite with a kitchenette, or next door in a two-bedroom cottage with a full kitchen. The affordable hotel is located just over a mile from downtown Victoria, and two blocks from the popular Galloping Goose bike trail. Hop a free ride into town in one of the hotel's refurbished VW vans, or borrow a cruiser bike or longboard to go explore. Other quirky amenities: A vinyl listening station and old working typewriters in the lobby, an indoor-outdoor pool and waterslide, and a game room with Wii and table tennis. Rates: \$75 (winter) to \$150 (high season). 800-997-6797, www.hotelzed.com

GOOD TRAVEL PLANNING FOR WHEN THINGS GO BAD

As the adage goes, "Expect the best, prepare for the worst." Boston-based Global Rescue helps individuals and families when the worst happens on their travels, providing essential medical attention and emergency evacuation worldwide due to serious injury or natural disaster, for instance. Global Rescue, in partnership with Johns Hopkins, performs more than 1,000 rescue missions annually, and has more than 2,000 personnel worldwide. Memberships start at \$119 for individuals and families, and include medical advisory services, interpretation services in 195 languages, security extractions and field rescue, medical evacuation to the home hospital of your choice, legal referrals, passport and visa services, and more. The new Global Rescue app, which works with Apple, Android, and Blackberry devices, gives you quick access to emergency medical personnel, transmits your location to the organization's operations centers, and lets you text with staff at those centers. 800-381-9754, www.globalrescue.com

EVERYWHERE

A HIP TRAVEL ACCESSORY THAT'S SMART AND STYLISH



Classy and cool meet totally practical in the trabeca sash (pictured below), a stylish waist band that sits comfortably on your hips while concealing two hidden pockets for all your essentials. These clever sashes, designed by two Winchester entrepreneurs and manufactured in Fall River, come in four styles and are made of silk or a ponte knit and attach around your waist by tying or using a metal clasp. On the back underside of each sash, you'll find a zippered pocket

that's perfect for stashing credit cards, a passport (depending on the style), your hotel and car keys, or other small items. Another hidden Velcro pocket over one hip can hold a lipstick, ID, and some cash. That leaves your hands free and your belongings better secured against pickpockets. \$46-\$68. 617-710-6655, www.trabeca.com

CONTROL YOUR MOBILE DEVICES IN THE CAR

Go hands-free in your car too. Kinivo's new BTC455 Bluetooth Car Kit with Multipoint lets you connect and synch up to two devices to your car's stereo system so you can answer calls and stream music while driving. The tiny device (pictured above) measures about the diameter of a silver dollar, weighs just 1.25 ounces, and attaches to your car's dashboard using 3M tape. Connect it to your car's stereo system using the 3.5mm audio input port and the 12V socket for power, and then synch up to two Bluetooth devices such as your smartphone and tablet. Use the BTC455's built-in microphone to control your device's voice-command functions, letting you make and receive calls, dictate texts, or listen to messages. Control your music using voice commands. \$44.95. www.kinivo.com