


TravelBITS

TAKING OFF AGAIN




 Business passengers expect growth in corporate travel in 2011, predicting increases in both flights and budgets, according to an annual global survey by Ascend Worldwide Ltd. The poll of business travelers found:

- 49% expect to fly more for business in 2011 — compared to 35% last year and only 10% in 2009.
- A 5.5% increase in the number of business flights for 2011, and 48% expecting an increase in travel budgets — compared to 28% last year and just 9% in 2009.
- Only 8% of travelers expect a decrease in 2011 budgets, compared to 20% last year and 54% in 2009.


SOURCE: TRAVEL INDUSTRY WIRE

DRIVING ON THE EDGE

 Denali Highway in Alaska, a largely gravel road, offers bracing views of untamed wilderness with few signs of human occupation. The 135-mile road was completed in 1957 to give access to Denali National Park but has become the road less traveled since a newer road opened in 1971; www.bellsalaska.com.

SOURCE: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TRAVELER

THE SPY WHO LOVED TRAVEL

 Eugene Fodor, founder of Fodor's Travel, added spy to his resumé in 1942 specializing in psychological warfare for the Americans and later providing cover for CIA operatives masquerading as travel writers for his guides. As such Fodor's Travel is feting the founder this month reissuing his first 1936 guide as an e-book on Fodors.com.

SOURCE: PHILADELPHIA TRIBUNE


Aptly Made

Apps can help you find your way around, speak with locals and stay in touch. Here are a few for travels in Europe:

- **iHound Tracker** — Monitoring and tracking app helps you meet people and ensure you don't lose your device abroad.
- **iLingual French, iLingualGerman** (from Emirates) — makes language translation fun if you can laugh at your linguistic limitations.
- **Rick Steves Audio Europe 2011** — organizes audio files (including podcasts) into geographic playlists throughout Europe.
- **Tango** — provides free video calls between Tango members (membership is free).
- **Navigon MobileNavigator Europe** — includes 2D and 3D map displays for all of Europe, turn-by-turn voice directions and displays nearby parking options.


SOURCE: L.A. TIMES



 Lake Placid Lodge, Lake Placid, NY burned down a few years ago but has been very beautifully put back together. Open again for business, it's an American classic in a sensationally beautiful place.




A CLASS ACT

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SOURCE: PETER GREENBERG

MYSTERIOUS GUIDES

 Whai Whai, a new set of Italian travel guides, transforms the tour into a fun adventure where fascinating stories lead to the discovery of the most remarkable places in the city. In each place, a mysterious detail is hidden, and it's the users job to decipher it so that they can continue the adventure; www.whaiwhai.com.

SOURCE: TRENDSETTER

A BEACHY DEAL

 On an island where \$1,000-a-night rates barely raise an eyebrow, the recently reopened and budget-priced Anacaona Boutique Hotel in Meads Bay, Anquilla manages to feel like a splurge. There's rum punch at check-in, Frette linens and free Wi-Fi in the 27 tropical-chic rooms, two pools — and even waiter service on the beach. Cost: \$250.

SOURCE: TRAVEL + LEISURE

Sneeze-Free Sleep


The Olde Mill Inn, less than an hour west of (cough, cough) New York, one-ups non-smoking rooms with allergen-free spaces purged of irritants and pollutants that can block the sinuses, constrict the chest and otherwise disrupt your open- and shut-eye; www.oldemillinn.com.



SOURCE: WASHINGTON POST


LEAVE IT IN VEGAS




 The Vegas Box is a new service costing just \$99 per year that allows travelers to leave commonly traveled personal items (toiletries, towels, alcohol, convention supplies) in a securely locked storage box that is conveniently picked up and dropped off at preferred times of arrival and departure to their hotel; thevegasbox.com.

SOURCE: BUSINESSTRAVELEXECUTIVE.COM

FLYING HIGH


 The highest hotel in the world — The Ritz-Carlton Hong Kong — is officially open. It occupies floors 102-118 of the International Commerce Centre in Kowloon. SOURCE: USA TODAY

HOSTEL PLACES

 Whether looking for an affordable guesthouse in London or a budget bunk in Bangkok, the travel site HostelWorld.com can assist with online booking for 24,000 hostels and other low-cost lodgings in 180 countries, along with ratings and reviews.

SOURCE: MAIL.COM

HOW TO SAVE A LIFE

 Learning to save people in crisis is what 11- and 12-year-olds do when they attend the Exploration Emergency Medicine Focus Summer Program outside of Boston, Massachusetts. With an emphasis placed on real-world applications, these young students are treated as budding professionals; www.explo.org.

SOURCE: PRNEWswire


NEWBIES



- HolidayCrowd.com is a new service in the UK that enables travelers to outline their perfect trip and invite competing offers from travel agents.
- Taiwan's Taoyuan International Airport has put a high-tech twist on airport reading with the world's first airport library for ebooks.


SOURCE: SPRINGWISE.COM

GOURMET STAY-OVER

 The Hyatt Regency DFW, inside the Dallas International Terminal, has an in-house epicurean studio and offers weekend packages combining hotel stays with cooking classes.

SOURCE: USA TODAY

MAKING THE ROUNDS

 Taking their cue from the food-truck trend, a number of upscale hotels have initiated food trolleys. The Four Seasons Resort Palm Beach's caipirinha dispenses Brazilian cocktails, guests at the Ritz-Carlton Chicago can call up a visit from the Candy Man, and New York's Duane Street Hotel runs a marshmallow trolley.

SOURCE: NEW YORK TIMES


THREE FOR THE CODDLE CAMPER



- Rockwater Secret Cove Resort, Halfmoon Bay, B.C., Canada is a tent resort located on a craggy seaside cliff on British Columbia's Sunshine Coast. The luxurious stilt houses have private balconies, heated slate floors, spa tubs, propane fireplaces and full private baths; rockwatersecretcove.com.
- Patagonia Camp, Patagonia, Chile is a five-star yurt resort situated in Torres del Paine National Park, overlooking pristine Lake Toro. The 18 yurts feature king- or twin-size beds, skylights, handmade furniture, private terraces and Wi-Fi access; patagoniacamp.com.
- Ardèche is an upscale camp in Rhône-Alpes, France perched in the mountains close to the Ardèche River. Made of oak, ash and canvas, rooms are decorated in French shabby-chic style. Receive a 10% zero-emission discount if you show up by bike or on foot; canvaschic.com.

SOURCE: WALL STREET JOURNAL

DALI WORLD

 The new \$36 million Dali Museum in St. Petersburg, FL displays the Salvador Dali work collected by the artist's friends, Cleveland industrialist A. Reynolds Morse and his wife, Eleanor. The museum's 2,140 pieces — including 96 oils, eight monumental canvases and, of course, the lobster telephone — make it the largest collection of Dali's works outside his native Spain.

SOURCE: MSNBC.COM