

TravelBITS



BREWERY'S BEST

 New Belgium Brewing Company in Fort Collins, CO and Asheville, NC was voted the best brewery tour in America by *USA Today* readers. Visitors to the New Belgium facilities are treated to a free 90-minute tour, including beer sampling and an overview of the brewery's history. SOURCE: 10BEST.COM

PILATES WITH PIGS

 Pennywell Farm in Buckfastleigh, England is now offering Pilates classes with some special, curly-tailed workout buddies. The 50-minute class costs £35 (just over \$45), but also includes a cuddle session, refreshments, and access to the rest of the farm for the entire day; pennywellfarm.co.uk

SOURCE: TRAVEL + LEISURE



#1 IN BEST SUMMER VACATIONS

 Rome was voted the best summer vacation destination by *U.S. News & World Report*. What makes Rome such a great summer destination is that so many of its iconic landmarks are outside. Visitors can soak up the history and scenery at the Colosseum, the Roman Forum and the Trevi Fountain, as well as the Spanish Steps, Piazza Navona and Gianicolo Hill, all under the Roman sun.

SOURCE: U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

Pet Paradise



According to new research, Long Beach, CA, Mesa, AZ, and Atlanta, GA are the three top cities to travel with your dog companions. Sacramento and Seattle were also high on the list. The research broke down the number of dog salons, training centers, kennels, vets and parks relative to the population of the city. With so many dog-friendly spots, your puppy need not stay home.

SOURCE: TRAVEL PULSE

BETTER BUDGETS

 Two more travel companies are offering customers a budget-friendly way to plan trips by allowing them to spread the cost of their airfare over three-, six- or 12-month installments. CheapOair and OneTravel have a new feature that allows customers to pay for their airfare in installments. Expedia, Virgin Holidays, Airfordable and FOMO Travel have also launched similar payment options for customers.

SOURCE: LONELY PLANET

SAFETY FIRST

 South Korea has introduced a new crosswalk system with flashing lights and laser beams to stop pedestrians, who often never look up from their mobile phones, from walking into traffic. SOURCE: SPRINGWISE NEWSLETTER



TASTE OF CHICAGO

 Head to Chicago for the world's largest food festival. The five-day festival attracts more than 2 million visitors each year. Highlighted foods include Chicago-style pizza, the famed Eli's Cheesecake, plus various regional foods. The 2019 Taste of Chicago festival will run from July 10-14.

SOURCE: TRAVEL CHANNEL

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The Big Bounce



The Big Bounce America announced some good news. The world's largest bounce house will be going on tour and visiting 40 cities across the U.S. between May and November. At each stop, The Big Bounce America will be offering action-packed days that include plenty of bounce time. Ticket prices may vary, but are typically \$16 for toddlers, \$24 for kids 7 and under, \$24 for kids 15 and under, and \$28 for kids and adults over the age of 16. For the latter, there are adult-only sessions; thebigbounceamerica.com.

SOURCE: TRAVEL + LEISURE



FRESH ACCOMMODATIONS

 The Maldives is home to some of the world's most stunning islands and beaches. The Waldorf Astoria Maldives Ithaafushi, a tropical retreat of 121 oversized villas, is spread across three islands in the South Malé Atoll. Each has an infinity pool and stunning ocean views, 10 dining venues including an elevated treetop restaurant. Water sports and spa treatments are set to round off your trip to paradise. Slated to open July 1; waldorfastoria3.hilton.com.

SOURCE: CNN

AWE INSPIRING

 Washington, D.C. has been without a full-fledged children's museum since 2004 when the Capital Children's Museum closed its doors, but that's all set to change. Starting in October, the new 30,000-square-foot National Children's Museum will wow with giant science exhibits, interactive stations and a cloudlike 50-foot Dream Machine play structure. Kids can control the weather in the Weather Worlds exhibit or enjoy an augmented reality experience created by Nickelodeon.

SOURCE: TRAVEL CHANNEL

RIDE THE RAILS

 The Alaska Railroad is expanding its traditional summer schedule with new package tours to Denali National Park & Preserve and Kenai Fjords National Park. The new "North to Denali and South to the Sea" will depart from Anchorage beginning mid-May.

SOURCE: TRAVEL WEEKLY

NEW AND IMPROVED

 Royal Princess, Princess Cruises' largest ship, is now using Ocean Medallion, a wearable device meant to streamline the cruise experience. Among the perks: No more long waits to board, personalized maps to help you find restaurants or other locations on board the ship, and an app that lets you order drinks and snacks on your smartphone.

SOURCE: LA TIMES

OUT OF THE SHADOWS

 Australian Startup Sandbox has created a program that allows visitors at the South Australian Museum in Adelaide to experience a deeper history of exhibits, which otherwise would remain hidden. The South Australian Museum is home to 30,000 ethnographic indigenous objects but because of limited exhibition space, only 5% are on public display. When a visitor points a smart phone at an artifact on display, the program – Cipher – presents information, sound and projections about the history of the artifact and other related artifacts that are in storage.

SOURCE: SPRINGWISE NEWSLETTER



GREAT ESCAPE

 Escape is a colorful, interactive map that helps you search the cheapest flights from your hometown to anywhere in the world on specific dates. The routes pop up on the map and are color-coded depending on the cost – perfect for getting inspiration for the next great escape; greatescape.co.

SOURCE: LONELY PLANET

CANADA'S BEST

 Fogo Island Inn in Newfoundland was voted 44th best hotel in the world in *Travel & Leisure's* World's Best Awards survey. July and August are the best months to visit and with activities ranging from garden tours to music festivals to fishing, there is sure to be something for everyone; fogoislandinn.ca

SOURCE: TRAVEL + LEISURE