

The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD

TRACING THE HISTORY OF SOUVENIRS

BY DIANE DANIEL | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Well before snow globes, T-shirts, and key rings became plentiful, early Greek and Roman travelers returned from their travels toting silver miniatures of area temples, small glass bottles resembling the goddess of luck, or souvenir portraits of themselves painted in front of sights like the Parthenon. In the fourth century, as Holy Land pilgrimages became commonplace, the most iconic souvenir was the Palm of Jericho (two crossed palm fronds), which became so emblematic of the journey, the travelers came to be called “palmers.”

These and a treasure trove of other fascinating deep dives into the history of travel keepsakes can be found in the recently published book “Souvenir” (Bloomsbury, \$14.95), by travel writer Rolf Potts.



Rolf Potts

One misguided period close to Bay Staters’ hearts was 19th-century America, when travelers tended to pilfer historic sights, including Plymouth Rock. At the time, breaking off pieces of the rock “was such a common practice that a nearby grocery kept a hammer and chisel on hand for tourists who’d forgotten to bring their own,” Potts writes. The practice was finally outlawed and what was left of the rock was cordoned off. (Nowadays it’s fenced in under a granite canopy.)

By the end of the 20th century, manufactured trinkets, many made in German factories before China took over, had become the norm worldwide, and mass-produced souvenirs had grown into a multibillion-dollar global industry. Potts walks us through the origins of some of the most popular vacation memorabilia, including postcards and the still confoundingly ubiquitous souvenir spoons. He also examines the history of the more somber side of mementos, those depicting crimes and tragedies.

Overall, the book, as do souvenirs themselves, speaks to the broader issues of time, memory, adventure, and nostalgia. Whether one collects shells and rocks or refrigerator magnets and drink coasters, we’re creating, as Potts writes, “object-narratives, which resonate with private meanings no written autobiography could ever achieve.”

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HERE

HISTORIC DEERFIELD

DEBUTS ACTIVE REGIONAL TOURS

Get moving this summer with “Historic Deerfield Outdoors,” a series of five-day active travel and learning programs recently introduced by Historic Deerfield, a museum of early New England life in the Pioneer Valley of Western Massachusetts. Exploring by bike, boat, bus, and foot, the programs focus on the cultural and natural history of many great attractions in the Connecticut River Valley. Includes “Deerfield Bicycle Tour: The River Rolls Through It” (June 24-29 and Aug. 12-17, \$1,595); and “The River, Drifting Continents, Dinosaurs, and a Glacial Lake: Understanding the Stories Preserved in our Rocks and Landscape” (July 16-20, \$995). All programs include overnight accommodations, with breakfast and dinner at the Deerfield Inn, in the heart of Historic Deerfield. 413-774-5581, www.historic-deerfield.org/calendar

POP-UP FEASTING AT JACOB’S PILLOW

Feast on five-star cuisine in a forested setting as Jacob’s Pillow dance festival and The Old Inn on the Green join forces in a tasty pop-up pas de deux. Celebrated for its farm-to-table American cuisine, the inn will operate a restaurant under a summer tent at the acclaimed dance venue in Becket. Dubbed The Old Inn on the Green at The Pillow, this first-ever pop-up will provide an elegant dinner and full bar service for up to 100 diners during a 10-week season that runs from June 20 through Aug. 26. Available Wednesday through Saturday, 5 to 9 p.m.; Sunday brunch, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Reservations recommended. Two casual dining options—operated by The Southfield Store, sister property of the inn — will feature lighter fare, adult beverages, and caffeinated drinks that can be enjoyed on its patio, or eaten picnic-style anywhere on The Pillow’s 200 acres. www.jacobspillow.org/pillow-dining. Staying the night? In nearby New Marlborough,



JIM SCHERER

the 11-room Old Inn offers comfy accommodations. 413-229-7924, www.oldinn.com

THERE

HIKE AND BIKE IN BHUTAN

Challenge yourself to thrilling mountain climbs and breathtaking descents in the Kingdom of Bhutan, a remote country perched on the southern Himalayas between Tibet and North India. The new Bhutan Bike & Hike Adventure, a 10-day cycling and trekking tour, is offered by Grasshopper Adventures, an active-travel specialist headquartered in Bangkok. Highlights include crossing the country’s longest and highest suspension footbridge that stretches over 200 meters above the Pho River; trekking to the Lungchutse and Tiger’s Nest monasteries; exploring ancient dzongs (fortresses); touring a recently opened craft brewery; and more. Accommodations are 3-star hotels/resorts. All meals are included. No surcharge for single travelers; group size limited to 14. Trek 4300 disc-brake mountain bikes are provided. Four trips are scheduled July through October; three

additional trips scheduled in 2019. Prices from \$3,500 per person. 818-921-7101, www.grasshopperadventures.com/en/long-tours/bhutan-bike-and-hike-adventure.html

SPARKLING NIGHT KAYAK TOURS

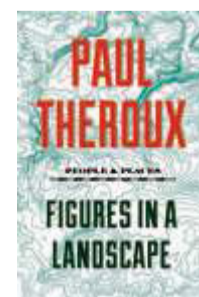
Experience a magical light-filled nature excursion offered by Getaway Adventures, a California wine country adventure tour company offering biking, hiking, and kayak tours. Beginning in July, the new Sunset Bioluminescence Kayak Tour takes visitors for a paddle in the Pacific Ocean off the

Jenner coast in Sonoma County. Kayakers launch at the mouth of the Russian River along the beach where they can watch the sun set. After dark, the tour searches for blooms of bioluminescent dinoflagellates, small organisms in the water that produce a burst of light when excited by motion. Carried to the area by summer tides and warmer waters, the organisms are only visible at night. Includes use of double kayaks, PFDs, KIND Bars, unlimited water, and professional local guides. \$119 per person. 800-499-2453, getawayadventures.com/tour/sunset-bioluminescence-kayak-tour/

EVERYWHERE

THEROUX DEBUTS ESSAY COLLECTION

Summer reading season is here, as is “Figures in a Landscape: People & Places,” the newest offering by celebrated novelist, essayist, and travel writer Paul Theroux. A collection of 30 travel essays, literary criticism, and personal profiles — written between 2001 and 2016 — combines vivid narratives with personal ruminations, leading the reader on freewheeling adventures in far-flung places, from Morocco to Ecuador to Zimbabwe. Personal pro-



files include celebrities — Robin Williams, Michael Jackson, Elizabeth Taylor — as well as lesser-known characters met on his travels, such as “Nurse Wolf,” a Manhattan dominatrix. Thought-provoking musings on writers Henry David Thoreau, William Somerset Maugham, Dame Muriel Spark, and others round out the wide-ranging collection. Available at your favorite hometown bookstore or online retailer. \$28. www.belmont-books.com/book/9780544870307

MULTI-USE SOLAR LANTERN

Evening beach cookouts, camping trips, and other on-the-go night activities just got a whole lot easier with All-In-One, a portable solar camping lantern and flashlight that can also charge your phone. When extended to full size (4.7 inches tall), the waterproof lantern — with hanging handle — provides low or high brightness plus an SOS flashing option. Folded into compact size, the lantern fits in the palm of your hand, and can be used as a flashlight. Charge by the sun or by USB connectivity. Available in orange or green. Check online for limited time, buy two get one free deal. \$29.99. everythingtechgear.com/collections/solar-products/products/all-in-one-portable-solar-camping-lantern-phone-charger-flashlight

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