

News, Apps, Deals, and Gear from New England and Beyond

HERE



BLISSED OUT IN CONNECTICUT

Pamper yourself and a loved one with the Winter Bliss Special at Rock Hall, a 23-acre estate in northwest Connecticut. Add this deal to your accommodations and enjoy an essential oil couple's massage in front of your in-room fireplace. Includes afternoon "Snowball" cocktails, and a cocktail shaker to take home (through April, \$175). At this year-round country-style hotel listed on the National Register of Historic Places, luxury accommodations include down duvets and pillows, European linens, and en-suite bathrooms. Savor a Mediterranean breakfast before venturing out for nearby downhill and cross-country skiing, horse-drawn sleigh rides, snowshoeing, ice fishing, antiquing, fine dining, shopping, and more. From \$325. 860-379-2230, www.19rockhallroad.com

SPEED DATING IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

If online dating leaves you cold, head to the ski slopes in Jackson for Black Mountain's annual Chairlift Speed Dating event, where you can ride the "lift of love" with another single (Feb. 16, 2-4 p.m.). If you hit it off on the ride up, you can ski or ride down together. If not, get in line for another chance to meet your soulmate. Registration starts at 12:30 p.m. in the main base lodge. Participation is free but a lift ticket or season pass is required. Saturday full- and half-day rates: Adults \$49/\$35, ages 6-17 \$32/\$25. Or meet your love match at the après event in the Lostbo Pub featuring live music and drinks such as The Love Bug and The Bun Warmer. Prizes awarded to new couples and the winner of the Best Pickup Line contest (3:30-5:30 p.m.). 800-475-4669, www.blackmt.com

THERE

NEW YEAR, NEW YOU IN THE CARIBBEAN

Decompress at The Westin Grand Cayman Seven Mile Beach Resort & Spa, a popular spot for scuba diving, snorkeling, sailing, kayaking, spa pampering, fine dining, and overall relaxing. To celebrate a recent multimillion-dollar renewal, a New Year, New You in 2013 package (based on double occupancy) features a 20.13 percent discount on accommodations, two complimentary standup paddleboard yoga passes, and two complimentary smoothies. Rates from \$302 in high season. Book by March 31. Available through Dec. 20. 345-945-3800, www.westingrandcayman.com

UNITED KINGDOM WALKING TOURS

Lace up your hiking shoes and join one of three new walking tours of England, Scotland, and Wales offered by English Lakeland Ramblers: London and the Cotswolds, The Lake District and Hadrian's Wall, and Cornwall: Coastal England. These guided tours introduce walkers to 2,000 years of British history while enjoying scenic cliff-top paths, secret beaches, fishing villages, historic churches, and more. These and other six-night tours are offered April through September, and include lodgings, transfers from airports or rail stations, meals, and guides. Rates from \$2,850. 800-724-8801, www.ramblers.com

FOLLOW THE FORECASTERS

Tempest Tours, a Texas-based adventure travel company, offers storm-chasing expeditions. Pairing the science and romance of storm chasing with an emphasis on safety and education, the five- to 11-day chases include orientation, lodging, and weather briefings. Featured tours include Golden Light with nature photographer Camille Seaman, Big Sky Tornado on the high plains, Summer Desert Monsoon lighting storms, and the Jim Reed Photo Tour hosted by the award-winning extreme weather photographer that focuses on landscape photography. Rates from \$1,795. 817-274-9313, www.tempesttours.com



EVERYWHERE



WRINKLE-FREE PANTS FOR WOMEN

Be comfortable and stylish when you travel wearing the new Lounge Pant by Chilly Jilly. Made in this country of a high-quality, brushed, wrinkle-resistant micro fiber, they feature a fold-over waistband and long inseam. The material cuts without fraying so length is easily altered without hemming. The pants come in a drawstring pouch that easily slips into a purse or travel bag. Available in three sizes (S-M-L) and two colors, black and brown. (\$45) Chilly Jilly's full line of travel friendly products includes wraps, jackets, and gloves made of the same wrinkle-resistant material. 888-789-1037, www.chillyjilly.com



INFLATABLE BUBBLE BAG FOR BOTTLES, BREAKABLES

It's tempting to purchase wine, olive oil, and other perishables when traveling. But how to carry them safely? If you've ever wrapped bottles in clothing only to discover a wet or oily mess in your suitcase back home, the inflatable Vinnibag offers a solution. Just slide your items in the bag, inflate it with a few breaths of air, and snap it closed. Pack in checked luggage or your carry-on bag; Vinnibag was engineered to withstand high altitudes, allowing for changes in air pressure and temperatures. Bag stores flat, rolled, or folded. \$28 for one, \$25 each for two or more. Free shipping in continental United States. 800-915-8599, www.vinnibag.com



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Manet to movie stars to Spiegelman

"Manet: Portraying Life"

Royal Academy of Arts London
Through April 14
Édouard Manet (1832-83) was a pivotal figure in 19th-century painting — and one of the most influential. This much-anticipated Royal Academy exhibition looks at the interaction between Manet's portraiture and his renderings of contemporary life. More than half of Manet's output consists of portraits, and this is the first show to emphasize that aspect of his career. The exhibition includes some of Manet's best-known paintings, such as his portrait of his friend and fellow painter Berthe Morisot and "The Railway," along with pastels by him and photographs of the period. *Burlington House, Piccadilly*. 011-44-20-7300-8000, www.royalacademy.org.uk

"Shooting Stars: Publicity Stills From Early Hollywood and Portraits by Andy Warhol"
Corcoran Gallery of Art Washington, D.C.
Feb. 9-April 21
Fame is definitely the name of this game. Glamorous portraits of Studio Era stars are juxtaposed with Polaroids, portraits, and other images by Warhol, that greatest of connoisseurs of 20th-century celebrity. 500 17th St. NW, 202-639-1700, www.corcoran.org

"American Vesuvius: The Aftermath of Mount St. Helens by Frank Gohlke and Emmet Gowin"
Cleveland Museum of Art
Through May 12
Two of the country's foremost contemporary landscape photographers document the consequences of one of the American landscape's most cataclysmic events. 11150 East Blvd., 216-421-7350, www.clevelandart.org

"Irving Penn: Underfoot"
Art Institute of Chicago
Through May 12
Best known for his work in fashion and portraits, Penn was



RMN (MUSEE D'ORSAY)/HERVE LEWANDOWSKI

Edouard Manet's portrait "Berthe Morisot With a Bouquet of Violets."

drawn in later years to photographing street trash with the same cool intensity he brought to supermodels and celebrities. Here are 36 examples. 111 South Michigan Ave., 312-443-3600, www.artic.edu/

"Frida & Diego: Passion, Politics, and Painting"

High Museum of Art Atlanta
Feb. 14-May 12
Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera were two of the most famous figures in 20th-century Mexican art — and one of the most famous couples in art history. This is the sole US stop for this survey of their works and lives. 1280 Peachtree St., NE, 404-733-4400, www.high.org

"Girl with a Pearl Earring": Dutch Paintings from the Mauritshuis"

M.H. de Young Memorial Museum San Francisco
Through June 2
Vermeer's celebrated painting is among 35 works from the Dutch Golden Age on temporary loan from the collection of the art museum in The Hague. Also in the show are four paintings by Rembrandt. 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive, 415-750-3600, deyoung.famsf.org

"Art Spiegelman, Co-Mix: A Retrospective of Comics, Graphics and Scraps"

Vancouver Art Gallery Vancouver, British Columbia
Feb. 16-June 9
This is the first retrospective devoted to the artist best known for his graphic novel "Maus." The exhibition features preparatory drawings and sketches as well as finished work from throughout Spiegelman's career. 750 Hornby St., 604-662-4719, www.vanartgallery.bc.ca

Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam

Last fall, the leading museum for modern art in the Netherlands opened its new building, and the old building finished a complete renovation. The new structure is eye-catching — though at least some critics have likened its gleaming white design to a giant bathtub. *Museumplein 10*, 011-31-20-573-2911, www.stedelijk.nl

Museum of History and Industry Seattle

In December, the museum reopened at its new lakefront facility, the former Naval Reserve Armory. The building boasts some 50,000 square feet of exhibition and program space. 860 Terry Ave. N, 206-324-1126, www.mohai.org/

US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center National World War II Museum New Orleans

Last month the museum opened this newest, and now largest, building on its campus. Displays range from World War II-era aircraft hanging from the ceiling of the pavilion's seven-story atrium to displays on Medal of Honor winners and US presidents who served in the war. 945 Magazine St., 504-528-1944, www.nationalww2museum.org

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