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

HERE

PEDDOCKS REOPENS

After \$13 million in improvements made over the past two years, Boston Harbor Islands' Peddocks Island reopened to the public on June 22. Close to the mainland, Peddocks is one of the largest and most diverse of the 34 protected islands in the harbor, featuring historic structures, hiking trails, and solar energy installations. New programming this summer features art exploration, a Native American festival, introduction to Disc Golf, and Berklee roots and jazz night. Visit Peddocks and 11 other islands by ferry service from Long Wharf. 617-223-



BOSTON HARBOR ISLAND ALLIANCE



GRANITE STATE CONCERTS

The sweet sound of music comes to New Hampshire July 6-Aug. 11 as the Monadnock Music Festival ushers in its 47th season with a new artistic director, Gil Rose. A three-time Grammy Award nominee, Rose opens the season at the Peterborough Town House, leading the Monadnock Sinfonietta in a program commissioned by Martha Graham for her dance company, including Aaron

Copland's masterpiece "Appalachian Spring." A diverse array of concerts, from solo recitals to opera, includes the free Village Concert series of chamber music performed in the historic meetinghouses of the Monadnock region. 603-924-7610, www.monadnockmusic.org



America's birthday in America's birthplace. Wawa Welcome America! is a 10-day extravaganza of free family-friendly events. From June 25 through July 4 enjoy the "Largest Free Concert in America," the Independence Day Parade with over 5,000 participants, and more. 215-683-2200, www.welcome america.com

STAY IN DRESDEN

Along the pastoral Elbe River, the city of Dresden has been renewed and reconstructed to its pre-World War II beauty. With the April opening of Swissôtel Dresden Am Schloss, it's now possible to stay in style in the heart of the historic district, a stone's throw from the Residence Palace. The property includes a snazzy interior with 235 rooms and suites, contemporary dining, and roof garden. Not to be missed is the in-house spa in the original 15th-century vaulted cellar. Rates from \$124, www.swissotel.com/Dresden

MOUNTAIN BIKE WHISTLER

Ready to tackle some trails in the spectacular Coast Mountains of British Columbia? The Mountain Bike Trails Database is a new feature showcasing the extensive cross-country and on-mountain trail network in and around Whistler. The interactive map provides an overview of more than 280 miles of intertwined single-track trails, describing their locations and degree of difficulty. It also allows users to click on individual trails to get more detailed GPS information. Tourism Whistler, 800-944-7853, www.whistler.com



EVERYWHERE

BAGGAGE FEE COUNTER

If you find airline baggage fees confusing, Farelogix recently launched iflybags, an iPhone app that calculates fees and allowances across hundreds of carriers. The app takes into account airline-specific rules, and traveler frequent-flyer status, to present the best combination of checked bags for individual or multiple travelers. Simply

enter your itinerary and bag details to quickly and easily calculate bag fees and allowances. Iflybags uses industry-standard airline data that is updated several times a day to ensure calculations are based on the latest airline information. Users can also input up to nine flight segments in one calculation, enter more than one loyalty program for multiple-leg, multiple-airline flights, and give their bags custom names. Normally \$1.99, the app is free through July 8. *iflybags.com*



RITZ-CARLTON GOES MOBILE

The Ritz-Carlton Hotel has launched a mobile app. Now you can make reservations, check your itinerary, and manage your Ritz-Carlton Rewards account from anywhere. GPS technology allows the app to recognize when you arrive at a Ritz-Carlton and can provide location specific advice, information, and exclusive offers. Scan a QR code check-in for property tours of 20 hotels. New destination and landmark tips will be offered by Ritz-Carlton Concierge specialists every week. www.ritzcarlton.com/ en/Mobile/Default.htm





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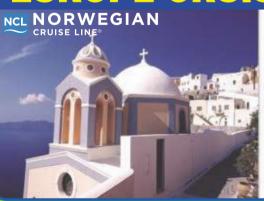
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At Brown's Hotel, tea is the real deal

LONDON — This city has secured its place as cosmopolitan mecca by embracing the new Norman Foster's Suisse RE "gherkin" tower, the

Millenium Bridge, the Tate Modern without losing sight of the traditions that visitors have long associated with

all things British. A pint at a pub still trumps a wine bar, and even celebrity regulars order the fish and chips with mashed peas at

Also near the top of the list of such rituals is afternoon tea. But it's important to experience the real deal: the tea varieties laid out like fine wine, the cucumber sandwiches crustless and dreamy. The English Tea Room at Brown's Hotel in Mayfair, hard by the fabulous shopping on Regent Street, SoHo, and Picadilly Circus, is packed most afternoons for just that reason. The service is stately without being stuffy, with the delicacies, scones and the mandatory clotted cream and strawberry preserves, arriving stacked on silver trays, along with 17 teas.

The room has the feeling that an important social event is taking place, with tourists and locals alike, and the mix of contemporary and traditional style (read: original wood and Hogwarts-calibre fireplaces, with Paul Smith lighting, fabrics, and art). "Tea sommeliers" are on



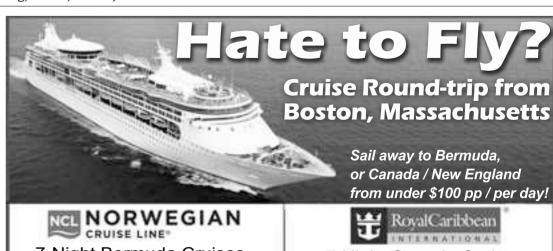
hand for guidance or full-on "tea tutorials."

The daily event, for an extended time on Sundays, is fitting for a property originally owned by Lord Byron, then bequeathed to his faithful servants the Browns to become downtown London's first hotel, and recently renovated by Rocco Forte. (The reuse of urban townhouses is similar to another gem, in Dublin, The Merrion Hotel.) Rudyard Kipling, Agatha Christie, and Winston Churchill all loved the place, and photographs of the latter are in all the rooms.

The city is ready for still more adulation. Book ahead for afternoon tea. Walk it off window shopping around Savile Row. The top-hatted doorman will advise a shortcut through Tiffany's.

Albemarle Street, Mayfair, 011-44-20-7493-6020, www.brownshotel.com, \$62 for traditional tea, \$78 with champagne, per person

ANTHONY FLINT



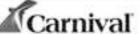
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