From shark tagging to photo sharing

By Necee Regis | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT  AUGUST 02, 2014

Shark tagging in Fort Lauderdale.

here

NEWPORT, R.I., HOTEL ADDS BEACH-THEMED ROOMS

Yearn for a bit of the beach in the city? This summer, Newport, R.I.’s design-driven boutique hotel the Attwater has expanded, offering three new suites at the adjacent Urban Beach House. Designed by Rachel Reider Interiors, the new in-town accommodations offer a casual seaside ambience with “outdoor style” showers in the rooms, beachy fabrics and decor, and a sandy shell lounge in the yard. Amenities include free wireless Internet, waffle kimono robes,
Keurig coffeemakers, free parking, and use of the fitness room. Open through October (the main hotel is open year-round). Rates from $169 to $469. 401-846-7444, www.theattwater.com/rooms/urban-beach-house/

**THERE**

**SHARK TAGGING IN FORT LAUDERDALE**

Experience a day in the life of a marine researcher and participate in a conservation mission with the Westin Beach Resort & Spa’s shark tagging package. Offered during select weekends throughout the summer — in collaboration with Nova Southeastern University’s Oceanographic Center, the Guy Harvey Foundation and the Guy Harvey Research Institute — guests aboard the research vessel will help put fishing equipment together, bait hooks, and measure and tag sharks before releasing them safely back into the water. Participants may encounter a variety of shark species, including nurse sharks, blacknose, lemon, sandbar, Atlantic sharp nose, great hammerhead, tiger, and bull sharks. Rates from $249 per night (2-night minimum) include five-hour shark tagging experience (pictured at left) for one guest (additional attendees from $200 per person) with lunch, accommodations, behind-the-scenes tour of NSU’s Oceanographic Center, and more. Mention rate plan SHKTAG. 954-467-1111, www.westinftlauderdalebeach.com

**GET PAMPERED IN NICARAGUA**
Specializing in one-of-a-kind customized trips, Nicaragua Vacations (pictured below) has crafted The Ultimate Nicaraguan Escape, a 7-night package offered at a 5-night rate. Package features accommodations at the Aqua Wellness Resort, located on a white sand beach on the Pacific coast, and also includes stays in private hardwood casitas at Jicaro Island Eco Lodge on a private island in Lake Nicaragua; all ground and boat transfers; complimentary couples massage; yoga class; two-hour tour of historic Granada in a horse-drawn carriage; and some meals. International flights not included. Valid for travel Aug. 1-Dec. 19. Per person, double-occupancy rates from $1,059, includes tourism taxes. 866-347-4012, www.vacationsnicaragua.com/package/ultimate-escape/

FANCIFUL SHOE BAGS
Tired of losing one shoe when you travel? The brightly colored Shoes on the Fly Shoe Bags are easy to spot in your hotel room, your suitcase or duffle bag, making it less likely to leave one behind. They also keep any grime on your shoes from soiling your clothes when you pack. The heels and flats bag, made of soft, cotton flannel, is designed to keep shoes cozy and contained, while the nylon sneaker and flip-flop bags can be washed easily to clean sand, dirt, and mud. Built to last, Shoes on the Fly Shoe Bags (pictured above) sell for $21 (flip-flop), $22 (sneaker), and $23 (heels and flats) per bag, www.shoesonthefly.com

everywhere

GROUP PHOTO SHARING APP

Create your own group travel album of photos and experiences with PicPack, VirtualTourist’s group photo sharing app. Simply join and sign in, then start viewing, downloading, and sharing everyone’s vacation photos. The app organizes all the photos by date and GPS location; easily adds new photos from your computer, smartphone, tablet, or camera to the timeline; and shares in real time on social media sites Facebook and Twitter, and by e-mail. All photos, including ones taken by your friends, can be downloaded in high resolution. There’s no limit to the number of PicPack albums you may create. Available for iOS, Android, and the Web. Free, www.picpackapp.com

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Keep both your Sena Bluetooth Audio Pack and GoPro Hero 3/3+ safe from moist or wet elements with Sena’s new Water-proof Housing. Enjoy the benefits of using the audio pack to integrate wireless voice audio to video without worrying about keeping the product dry, leaving you more time to focus on documenting your travel adventures. $39.95.
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