

# The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD

## CHECK-IN

# Tropical luxury reigns at Brazilian Court

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**P**ALM BEACH, Fla. — Most folks don't have a gilded, 126-room seaside estate down here to escape to, but can still sample a cushy, Lilly Pulitzer-hued lifestyle, at least temporarily, at The Brazilian Court.

This 80-room landmark hotel is set on a residential street, so you'll feel like you're home — a home with lavish plantings, courtyards, a gallery of fine art, and food by Daniel Boulud and company. Opened in 1926 — making it the second oldest hotel in Palm Beach after The Breakers — The Brazilian Court is a perennial entry on Conde Nast Traveler's gold list, Travel + Leisure's list of world's best hotels, a AAA four-diamond winner, and every other "best hotel" rating out there. Where else would Michael Jordan choose to show up every Sunday for brunch, Sophia Vergara host her pre-wedding rehearsal dinner, or pop singer Meghan Trainor opt to unwind while on tour?

And boy, do they make it easy to relax. Drive up from Palm Beach Interna-

tional Airport, and your car will be whisked away. You will then (if you wish) be outfitted with a beach bag with towels, water, magazines, and beach chairs, and be driven two blocks to the beach in a Mercedes. They'd probably apply your sunscreen, too, if you asked. It's an easy walk to Palm Beach municipal beach. Or, explore the island on a bright-pink-painted, limited edition Lilly Pulitzer bicycle. Lilly is very big here; as one of the hotel's partners, the brand often shoots its ad and catalog pages here, as does Jack Rogers (the preppy sandals brand).

Other than the Lilly bikes and lemon yellow shirts worn by hotel staff, the property feels un-Florida. Instead of white wicker, there's lots of dark wood (mahogany and cypress). Settees in the lobby are swathed in purple velvet. Although the hotel had a \$45 million facelift in 2008, they've retained the original character of the place, including the mirror at the end of the pool, which once reflected the images of guests like Garbo, Valentino, and Katherine Hepburn. The hotel is built around two courtyards, and is meant to mimic a pri-



A Lilly Pulitzer bicycle



The Hepburn Suite

vate Palm Beach estate. You'll use an actual key, not a key card, to open your door, and no two rooms are alike, but all have wine captains so you can store your wine appropriately. All the bathrooms have both tubs and showers. And, you can bring your pet.

Besides lounging around that palm-scaped pool, or lolling in the surf, you'll want to indulge in that other treasured Palm Beach pastime: shopping (or window-shopping) on fabled Worth Avenue, just two blocks away. Look for designer names like Cartier, Chanel, and Valentino, and — less obvious — little alleyways called vias that lead to tiny courtyards, al fresco dining, and . . . a Starbucks. You'll notice a Palm Beach look: Women are invariably slim and blonde, often garbed in linen with a cashmere wrap tossed over the shoulders, while the men are (as Worth Avenue magazine put it), decked out in "aging preppy style," always in Gucci loafers.

The sticky Palm Beach climate is hellish on hair, alas, but they can remedy that at the Frederick Fekkai salon, located within the hotel. This full-service

salon is a major draw for the local set, too, with 14 stations and full-on pampering, including a menu of shampoos. Book your appointment late in the day, so your 'do will look awesome at dinner. Of course you'll go to Café Boulud, with its seasonal menu (much of the produce is grown nearby), a foodie favorite. With both indoor and outdoor seating, Café Boulud is open all day, so if you don't wish to spring for, say, the sunflower-crusted loup de mer (\$42 at dinner), you can opt for something less pricey earlier in the day (perhaps the Café Cobb salad, \$22.) To give you a feel for the place, men tend to wear jackets at dinner.

In May, when high season ends, Palm Beach gets positively sleepy. On the plus side, rates at The Brazilian Court drop to their lowest, starting at around \$229 per night.

**THE BRAZILIAN COURT** 301 Australian Ave., Palm Beach, Fla.; 561-655-7740; www.thebraziliancourt.com. Rates from \$229 (May-September) to \$529.

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THE BRAZILIAN COURT

## HERE

### NEW RAIL EXPERIENCE IN NEWPORT

Ride the rails in a fun and inventive way with Rail Explorers. Two- and four-passenger pedal-powered vehicles allow visitors to travel in the open air along scenic Narragansett Bay area or historic Aquidneck Island. There's no need to worry about levels of difficulty; each vehicle has four steel wheels that glide along steel rails to provide a smooth ride that is easier than pedaling a bicycle. And since you don't have to steer, there's ample time for sightseeing and hands-free photo ops. The one-hour tours depart on a set schedule. For safety, a trained guide leads the way, with another in the rear. Riders depart in intervals, allowing everyone to travel at their own pace, and enjoy the solitude of the rails. Tours available through October. Tandem (2 riders) \$75; Quad (4 riders) \$125. Single rider VIP seats (next to

tour guide) \$45. Children and dogs welcome. 877-833-8588, [www.railexplorers.net](http://www.railexplorers.net)

### LUXURY CRUISES FROM PORT OF BOSTON

Cruise the Eastern United States in five-star luxury aboard Le Soleal, Ponant's intimate 132-stateroom and suite vessel. Sailing roundtrip from Boston, the 10-day, 9-night tour features port of call stops and excursions in the 18th-century fishing village of Lunenburg, Nova Scotia; the seaside resort of Bar Harbor, Maine; Salem, Newport, R.I.; and a two-day stopover in New York City. (Sept. 28 through Oct. 7.) Fares from \$6,251 per person. Or sign up for an 8-day, 7-night, one-way sea journey from Boston to Colon, Panama. (Oct. 7 through Oct. 14.) Rates from \$1,560. All Ponant cruises feature French crews, attentive service, and cuisine inspired by the culinary heritage of France. 888-400-

1082, [us.ponant.com](http://us.ponant.com)

## THERE

### FAMILY-FRIENDLY DC HOTEL PACKAGE

Before school begins, take advantage of the Washington, D.C., With the Family package offered by the Dupont Circle Hotel. It includes overnight accommodations for two adults and two children in a guest room with two large beds; daily boxed lunch for each of the kids, with peanut butter and jelly or grilled cheese sandwich, soft drink or juice, and cookies, chips, and fruit salad; and valet parking. The hotel's location, across the street from the Dupont Circle Metro Station, offers easy access to popular destinations. In addition, guests can get up to 40 percent off popular paid attractions with the Go Washington DC Explorer Pass to experience everything from Madame Tussauds Washington D.C.,

Bike & Roll rentals, Hop-On Hop-Off Big Bus Tour, Newseum, National Geographic Museum, International Spy Museum, and more. Rates from \$199 per night; through Sept. 10. 202-483-6000, [www.doylecollection.com/hotels/the-dupont-circle-hotel](http://www.doylecollection.com/hotels/the-dupont-circle-hotel)

### TWO HOTELS DEBUT IN DOWNTOWN AUSTIN

Two snazzy contemporary hotels are debuting this summer in Texas. Aloft and Element Austin Downtown are dual-branded hotels on one property, close to the convention center and Sixth Street Entertainment District in the heart of this capitol city. Element features apartment-style suites including in-suite kitchens, spacious spa-inspired bathrooms, and functional workspaces; Aloft offers 278 guestrooms. Grand opening rates from \$199/\$216 per night. Guests at either property can book the Austin Adventure Package, a way to stay cool while exploring the city. Includes stand-up paddleboard or kayak rentals for two on Lady Bird Lake; two Austin B-cycle unlimited day passes; two passes to cool off at Barton Springs (and two Hydroflask water bottles for a Barton Creek hike); 8 chilled sports drinks; complimentary bottle of wine in your room; and \$150 dining and drinking credit at Caroline, the hotel's casual eatery serving a New American menu. \$579. Book online, or call 877-782-0151 and mention rate plan LCPKG1. [www.elementaustindowntown.com/active-in-austin](http://www.elementaustindowntown.com/active-in-austin)

### GOES FOR THE GOLD

Ultra-lux men's active clothing brand Rhone recently introduced Gold Fusion, a new technology that infuses gold particles into high-performance fabrics. The result is a softer, safer, faster-drying, longer-lasting, odor-neutralizing garment. Perfect for non-fuss travels that include running, cross-training, and other sporty activities. The line features a multi-sport short with mesh ventilation panels; Glacier Tee, designed to keep you cool in hot environments; Merino wool Captain Tee; and Sequoia Air, a quarter-zip, long sleeve pullover. (\$68-\$98) Guaranteed to be nontoxic and environmentally friendly.

[www.rhone.com/collections/goldfusion](http://www.rhone.com/collections/goldfusion). Travelers on the go in need of a quick wardrobe upgrade can simply choose a curated kit of everything you'll need for the gym, trailblazing, running, and more. [www.rhone.com/collections/kits](http://www.rhone.com/collections/kits)

### BOOTCAMP BAG FOR BABY

Traveling with your baby just got easier. The Babyzala Bootcamp Bag allows you to pack your baby's thing — and yours — in one convenient, lightweight bag. The all-in-one backpack and diaper bag can carry bottles, laptops, iPads, and more, and converts into a diaper-changing station. Practical, sturdy, and durable, the bag can accommodate everything from a rolled up beach towel to your yoga mat in the front, and keeps your liquids upright in the bottle holders on the sides. Unisex style is suitable for mom or dad. \$59.99. [www.babyzala.com/product-page/baby-bootcamp-bag](http://www.babyzala.com/product-page/baby-bootcamp-bag)

## EVERYWHERE

MEN'S ACTIVEWARE

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