

The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD



CHRISTOPHER MUTHER/GLOBE STAFF/FILE

A view of Logoa do Fogo (Fire Lake) on the island of São Miguel in the Azores. TAP Air Portugal is adding a new flight between Boston and the Azores in summer 2020.

Planning a trip? Consider this.

BY CHRISTOPHER MUTHER

New direct flights out of Logan: Beginning in February, American Airlines will launch a seasonal direct flight from Boston to Key West. Austria Airlines will begin Boston's first-ever direct flight to Vienna beginning March 29. TAP announced it's adding a direct flight from Boston to the Azores in summer 2020. Bargain European airline Level will add flights between Boston and Paris in May, with fares beginning at \$140. JetBlue is discontinuing direct flights between Boston and Mexico City on Jan. 9.

Forget Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Travel Deal Tuesday is the day to book: The best day look for deals on flights is Dec. 3. The travel booking site Hopper analyzed its database of more than 25 billion to 30 billion flight and hotel prices and found the Tuesday following Thanksgiving has consistently been the best day in the post-Thanksgiving shopping period for travel deals. Hopper's data shows that last year more flights were discounted on Travel Deal Tuesday than Black Friday and Cyber Monday combined.

Logan Airport scores low on dependability: A new study found that Logan is the fifth least-reliable airport for in the country for on-time arrivals. Insurance comparison company Policy Genius looked at the percentage of on-time arrivals at the country's 30 largest airports and found that Logan ranked fifth least-reliable after Chicago, San Francisco, La Guardia, and Newark. Data for the study was culled from the Department of Transportation's Air Travel Consumer Report. Speaking of Logan, travelers can now sign up to receive text messages about airport construction updates. Text SIGNUP to 30256 to receive the updates.

The wild Frontier: Bargain carrier Frontier Airlines is more likely to bump passengers than any other airline, according to a study by the company Upgraded Points. Using data from the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, the study found the rate of involuntary denied boarding to be the highest on Frontier (6.28 per 100,000 passengers), followed by Spirit Airlines, Alaska Airlines, PSA Airlines, and American. The number of involuntary denied boardings has declined over the past three years.

Love thy neighbor, but not while traveling: Three-quarters of Americans admit that they actively avoid other Americans when traveling internationally, according to a study by fare comparison website JetCost. The same study found that Americans think English tourists are the most annoying travelers, followed by tourists from Germany and Brazil.

Top Insta-worthy destinations (a.k.a., where you'll find narcissistic members of Gen Z and millennials): The social travel company Contiki, polled its 320,000 Instagram followers to find out where they are looking to travel in 2020. If you're looking to avoid selfie-centric 18- to 35-year-olds, knock these destinations from your list. If you love taking selfies, then have at it. The top destinations are: Greece, Italy, New Zealand, Spain, Croatia, England, Japan, the Pacific Northwest, Namibia, and Iceland.

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HERE

SANTA HITS THE SLOPES

Santa fans and wannabes are heading to Sunday River Resort in Maine on Dec. 8 to watch or participate in Shredding Santas, an event where 250 skiers in full Santa attire cruise down South Ridge like a red and white ho-ho avalanche. Preregistration opens Dec. 2 at noon; all skiing Santas must sign up in advance. For a good view, spectators should arrive by 11 a.m. Registration fee: \$20. All proceeds of this fund-raising event go to the River Fund, a nonprofit organization for youth education and recreation in the local community. New this year at Sunday River: Four new surface lifts include three covered conveyor lifts to access the learning terrain on South Ridge, as well as a T-bar on Locke Mountain for alpine race and boarder-cross training and competitions. 800-543-2754, www.sundayriver.com/events/santa-sunday

NEW BEER TOUR DEBUTS

Take a break from holiday shopping at the Metrowest Brew Tour, the newest offering from Boston-based City Brew Tours. Get a close-up, VIP-access look at the beer-making methods used by four different Massachusetts breweries, with entertainment, history and all-things-beer facts provided by knowledgeable guides. The 5- to 6-hour tour includes tasting up to 16 craft beers paired with a tasty lunch at Beerworks; round-trip transportation from Boston to Metrowest breweries; and City Brew Tours swag. Limited to 14 guests. Tours offered Sundays at 10:45 a.m. \$99 per person. 617-453-



8687, www.citybrewtours.com/boston/tours/metro-west-brew-tour

RING IN THE NEW YEAR ON A HARBOR CRUISE

It's not too early to make plans for spectacular New Year's cruises. Classic Harbor Line is offering two fun-filled trips in Boston Harbor aboard the luxury yacht Northern Lights. On the 3-hour New Year's Eve Fireworks cruise, dance to a live funk music band, enjoy tasty hors d'oeuvres and ring in 2020 watching Boston's fabulous fireworks. Drinks available for purchase. Adults only, ages 21 and up. \$185. Not a late-night fan? Celebrate in leisurely style on the two-hour morning New Year's Day Brunch Cruise. Take in historic sites along the harbor and enjoy panoramic views of Boston's skyline while sipping hot cocoa from the hot chocolate bar. The three-course brunch menu includes such items as avocado eggs Benedict, sliced honey ham, assorted pastries, yogurt, waffle station, and more. Adult \$75; child \$50.

THERE

HOLIDAY MODEL TRAIN SHOW IN N.Y. Model railway enthusiasts won't want

to miss this year's Holiday Train Show at the New York Botanical Garden where more than 25 G-scale model trains and trolleys hum along nearly a half-mile track past re-creations of iconic sites from all five boroughs of New York City, Hudson River Valley, and other locations in New York State. Now in its 28th year, this season's newest display showcases New York City's Central Park, featuring replicas of architectural features — Belvedere Castle, the Dairy, the Old Bandstand, the Angel of the Waters sculpture atop the Bethesda Fountain, and two graceful pedestrian bridges — re-created from natural materials such as birch bark, lotus pods, acorns, and cinna-



Space, part of the American Museum of Natural History. Open through Jan. 26. Tickets from \$23 adults; \$10 children (ages 2-12); advance timed tickets strongly recommended. 718-817-8700, www.nybg.org/event/holiday-train-show

LUXURY JOURNEY TO GUATEMALA

Looking to avoid predictable mass tourism trips? Those looking for a personalized itinerary may want to consider visiting Guatemala, the newest destination offered by Naya Traveler. Travelers can help curate their experiences — including architectural marvels, majestic landscapes, and a rich cultural heritage — by choosing among four journeys: Tracing the Mayas; The Highland Hues; Wonders of Nature; and The Colonial Legacy. The suggested best time to visit this tropical climate is November through April. Rates from \$800 per person per day, double occupancy; rates vary depending on season and itinerary specifics. Price includes all hand-picked boutique and private accommodations,

domestic airfare, transportation, host and expert guides, daily activities and excursions in private, some meals, and services of an on-call operational team monitoring the trip 24/7. International airfare is not included. 301-358-5096, www.nayatraveler.com/guatemala



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