

# News to use

By PHIL MARTY  
Chicago Tribune

Here are some of the more interesting deals, websites and other travel tidbits that have come across our desk recently:

■ La Compagnie, the all-business class airline, is offering the Brit Spring Escape, which provides round-trip flights from Newark, N.J., to London for just \$2,790 for two. Bookings must be made by April 30 for travel through June 30. 800-218-8187, [tinyurl.com/hg9g6ch](http://tinyurl.com/hg9g6ch)

■ Avoya Travel has seven-night Mediterranean cruises aboard Norwegian Cruise Line that are priced as low as \$639 per person, double occupancy. The Sept. 18 sailing from Barcelona, Spain, makes port calls in Naples, Rome (Civitavecchia) and Livorno, Italy, and Cannes and Marseille, France. 888-342-2815, [tinyurl.com/hf54dng](http://tinyurl.com/hf54dng)

■ Iowa plans to roll out a new museum for quilt fans. The Iowa Quilt Museum will debut May 21 in Winterset. The opening exhibit, "Three Centuries of Red + White Quilts," will feature



KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/AP

A double-decker bus passes a field of daffodils in a park in London, where La Compagnie is offering a spring package with reduced business-class rates.

roughly 30 quilts from the 1800s to the present.

[www.iowaquiltmuseum.org](http://www.iowaquiltmuseum.org)

■ Nantucket, the popular Massachusetts island off Cape Cod, will host the Nantucket Wine Festival May 18-22. [www.nantucketwinefestival.com](http://www.nantucketwinefestival.com)

■ "The Taming of the Shrew" will be presented at

the Palm Beach Shakespeare Festival on July 7-10 and 14-17 in Jupiter, Fla. [www.pbshakespeare.org](http://www.pbshakespeare.org)

■ Getting around in Vancouver, British Columbia, should be easier this summer with the introduction of bike-share and electric scooter-share programs. [tinyurl.com/znwml3m](http://tinyurl.com/znwml3m)

■ GO Fest — Whistler's

Great Outdoors Festival is May 20-23 in the popular British Columbia ski and adventure sport town.

[tinyurl.com/z94gwm8](http://tinyurl.com/z94gwm8)

■ IndependentTraveler.com offers advice on how to hack your way to a cheaper airfare at [tinyurl.com/jhf9yvh](http://tinyurl.com/jhf9yvh).

■ The Travel Insider from Qantas Airways lists 10

insider spots to visit in Mexico City at [tinyurl.com/jnleqgu](http://tinyurl.com/jnleqgu).

■ The It List 2016 reveals Travel+Leisure's picks for the best new hotels in the world. [tinyurl.com/lurg5qp](http://tinyurl.com/lurg5qp)

■ CruiseCritic.com has advice on how to find the best cruise bargains this year at [tinyurl.com/](http://tinyurl.com/)

[gm47lc3](http://gm47lc3).

*Prices include taxes and fee unless otherwise noted. Deals and websites listed here have been checked for availability as of press time, but the listings are not endorsements.*

*Phil Marty is a freelance writer.*

## New St. Louis museum is all about the blues

By BETH J. HARPAZ  
Associated Press

A new National Blues Museum opened this month in St. Louis, telling the story of the blues through interactive exhibits that emphasize the genre's roots and worldwide influence.

An introductory video at the museum has rocker Robert Plant of Led Zeppelin explaining how the blues of the Mississippi Delta sparked the music of the Beatles, Rolling Stones

and other British bands. A quote in another exhibit from Muddy Waters says, "The blues had a baby, and they named it rock and roll."

The Great Migration of African-Americans from the rural South to urban centers in the Midwest and North during the first half of the 20th century also helped spread the blues, as the museum tells it. St. Louis was one of the cities where some of those migrants settled.

Visitors begin their tour

by writing their own lyrics on a screen and then adding musical riffs on guitar, harmonica and piano at different stations as they go through the museum. The unique compositions are emailed to their creators.

In the Jug Band Room, a studio invites visitors to play rhythm instruments like spoons, shakers and washboard. A computer adds your face to a real jug band performing on a screen.

The \$14 million museum's 23,000 square feet

also includes an art gallery, along with a performance stage and full bar in a nightclub setting that hosts live music.

The museum is in a refurbished downtown department store building at Washington and Sixth streets, walking distance from the Gateway Arch. It's open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday-Monday, noon-5 p.m. Admission: adults, \$15, seniors, \$12, students and children, \$10. [www.nationalbluesmuseum.org](http://www.nationalbluesmuseum.org)



NATIONAL BLUES MUSEUM

The \$14 million National Blues Museum in St. Louis offers artifacts and interactive exhibits in its 23,000 square feet.



## GREAT AMERICAN Waterways

June 30 - July 19, 2016  
Departing Once Only!  
20 Days from \$5,695 per person

Chicago to the Atlantic Ocean via America's great inland waterways including the Great Lakes, Erie Canal, Welland Canal, Hudson River, and Rhode Island Sound.



✦ Complimentary train travel to Chicago from any Midwestern point. Guests living in other parts of the country may take advantage of our special 'Add-on' train fares ranging between \$99 and \$299 depending on your home city. For those with less time, we also offer special airfares beginning at \$199. pp with details available on request.

✦ Fully hosted by a professional tour manager from start to finish to handle all of the details with special parties and events ashore and aboard the ship.

✦ Overnight stay in Chicago the evening of June 30th at the storied Palmer House Hilton, the best location in town, just steps from the Art Institute, Millennium Park, State Street shopping and Grant

Park. A second night in Chicago is spent, aboard our ship docked at Navy Pier along with a special sailing day lunch at famed Giordano's Restaurant, known for its authentic Chicago-style deep dish pizza.

✦ Fifteen-night passage from Chicago to Newport, RI via the Erie Canal aboard the mini-liner 'Grande Caribe' with all meals & beverages while aboard included.

✦ Two-night stay in glorious Newport RI with its opulent mansions and great history after the voyage at the superb Newport Marriott including sightseeing and a special Farewell Dinner. We provide a complimentary transfer to Boston airport and train station on the final day of the holiday.

## A Journey to ATLANTIC CANADA

ONCE ONLY! SEPTEMBER 27 - OCTOBER 9, 2016  
13 DAYS FROM \$3,495 PP

By Vintage Train, the "Montreal Limited" and the Holland America liner ms Zuiderdam



✦ Fully escorted from start to finish by a professional Tour Manager with special cocktail parties and events, both aboard and ashore for our guests only.

✦ 10-night voyage from New York to Quebec City aboard Holland America Line's Dutch ocean liner, the ms Zuiderdam.

✦ Quebec City sightseeing tour including the Citadel and the Old Town, Montmorency Falls and luncheon.

✦ Two-night Montreal

Hotel stay with city sightseeing tour, baggage handling and breakfast.

✦ Dinner with our compliments in the Pinnacle Grill aboard the ms Zuiderdam one evening.

✦ Passage from Montreal to New York City aboard our own classic private Streamliner train, the 'Montreal Limited' over the Canadian Pacific Railway, a stylish and nostalgic passage through the prettiest scenery in the Northeast.



### Book Early!

Bookings made by April 27th qualify for FREE round-trip train travel from any US City before & after the tour!

## 4TH OF JULY with the QUEEN

SAILING ROUND-TRIP FROM NEW YORK CITY  
JUNE 30 - JULY 6, 2016  
7-DAYS FROM \$2,895PP

● FREE one-way train travel from any city East of St. Louis/Omaha/St Paul to New York City.

● Overnight hotel stay the evening before sailing at the legendary Waldorf=Astoria on Park Avenue, including tax & luggage handling.

● Special Bon Voyage luncheon on sailing day along with transfer to the pier.

● A one-time only six-day round-trip from New York City 'Fourth of July Getaway' cruise aboard the Queen Mary 2 making calls in Halifax and Boston, where the ship overnights for optimal enjoyment of Boston's spectacular fireworks display. Naturally all meals & entertainment aboard are included.

● A professional Uncommon Journeys tour host aboard Queen Mary 2 with special events and cocktail parties exclusively for Uncommon Journeys guests.



Reserve by April 27 for Free Round-trip travel to New York from any Midwestern City!

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Without Flying!

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& Other Great Itineraries!