

B

Here, there, and everywhere

By Necee Regis | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT MAY 01, 2018



Lilac Festival at Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion in Portsmouth, N.H.

TWO LILAC CELEBRATIONS

When the sweet smell of lilacs fills the air, two locations in New England dedicate an entire day to celebrating these lush flowering trees. An annual event since 1908, Lilac Sunday at the Arnold Arboretum offers tours of the lilacs and family activities on the arboretum's 281 acres in Jamaica Plain (May 13, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.). Picnicking is allowed on this one special date. Because of parking restrictions in the area, visitors are encouraged to take public transportation (www.arboretum.harvard.edu/news-events/lilac-sunday/). The lilacs bloom a little later in Portsmouth, N.H., where the Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion hosts its popular Lilac Festival (May 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.). The mansion was originally the home of Royal Governor Benning Wentworth, who is credited with introducing lilacs to America as early as 1750. Visitors will enjoy a free guided tour of the mansion — a National Historic Landmark — as well as a nature walk on the Little Harbor Trail, scavenger hunt for kids and an opportunity to purchase a lilac sapling to take home (wentworthcoolidge.org).

LILLY PULITZER COTTAGE DEBUTS

Summer is coming and the White Elephant Hotel is ready for the season with a newly designed cottage that reflects the coastal charm of Nantucket. Working in collaboration with the Lilly Pulitzer Design Team, the one-bedroom Lilly Pulitzer Cottage debuts with new furniture and wallpaper in a nautical blue and white color scheme with touches of gold. Woven baskets, hand-shelled mirrors, original framed artwork by a Lilly print artist, and a variety of ceramic trays and candles are all splashed with signature Lilly prints. Cottage guests will receive their own Lilly Pulitzer Beach Tote in a limited-edition Nantucket print. The comfortable living space includes a full-size pullout sofa. Rates from \$350 per night. 800-445-6574, www.lillypulitzer.com/resort365/white-elephant/3038.

CANADIAN CULINARY AND CRAFT TOUR

How can anyone resist a tour named Looms, Lambs and Lobsters? Especially when the tour is offered on the verdant green Prince Edward Island. This culinary knitting adventure combines Scottish and Acadian cultures with the island's farming and fishing communities. Travelers will head straight to [Knit Pickers studio](http://www.knitpickerspei.com) for a knitting lesson on an old-style knitting loom led by Margaret McEachern, an internationally recognized knitter and weaver. Next, participants visit Ferme Isle Saint-Jean, a sheep farm that crafts local wool and award-winning cheese, to learn about the sheep and taste its cheese, milk, and yogurt. The day ends at The Yellow House in North Rustico, where classically trained French chefs will serve a signature lobster dish. \$55 per person. Available May 19 through the end of September. [www.knitpickerspei.com/store/p76/Looms%2C Lambs and Lobsters.html](http://www.knitpickerspei.com/store/p76/Looms%2C+Lambs+and+Lobsters.html)

LUXURY BALLET AND OPERA CRUISES SET SAIL

Not all cruises involve dancing the Macarena. Silversea, an ultra-luxury cruise line, has announced a new collection of ballet- and opera-themed sailings for 2018 and 2019. Designed to blend culture and travel, the sailings will feature opera shows performed by the world-renowned Accademia Teatro alla Scala and classic ballet performances by soloists from such legendary companies as the State Academic Bolshoi Theater of Russia. Along with lectures and discussions, guests will have the chance to mingle with the artists at a signature cocktail party. Opera voyages begin Sept. 28; rates from \$3,240. 888-978-4070, www.silversea.com/opera-cruises.html. Ballet voyages begin Aug. 19; rates from \$6,800, www.silversea.com/ballet-cruises.html.

PASSPORT FEE INCREASE

As of April 2, the execution fee for a US passport changed from \$25 to \$35. The increase applies to applicants using the DS-11 form, including first-time applicants over age 16; children under age 16; and applicants who re-apply after reporting their previous passport lost or stolen. (This fee is in addition to the application fee.) Those planning international summer sojourns should plan ahead. According to the US Department of State, passport demand is highest from February through August. It is recommend you apply for a passport at least 10 weeks prior to international travel. If traveling in less than six weeks, expedited applications are encouraged; within two weeks, there are 27 agencies where you can apply for urgent passports. Appointments can be made online at [Passport Appointment.travel.state.gov](http://PassportAppointment.travel.state.gov). For general forms, fees, and processing times, visit travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html.

TRAVEL SKIN CARE FOR MEN

Travel can be tough on skin, leaving one wan and tired looking. With a plethora of products on the market for women, men are often left with few options to refresh and renew. Now Lab Series a skin care company for men, is promoting its Future Rescue Repair Serum, a high-performance, concentrated, daily antiaging treatment that is the perfect travel companion for dehydrated, thirsty skin. The ultra-potent serum creates a barrier to help protect and repair dry skin while defending against pollution and combating aging. At 1.7 ounces, it easily passes through TSA screenings in a carry-on bag — in case you need a midflight treatment. \$62. www.labseries.com/product/14985/37062/repair/future-rescue-repair-serum