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D18

**ALSO**

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FAVORITE PLACE. SEND US  
YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS. / **D18**

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**GOING  
PLACES**



**Be thankful for  
Cabo San Lucas**

For a change of pace, tired turkey carvers might consider a Thanksgiving special at the Marquis Los Cabos Beach, Golf, Spa and Casitas Resort in Mexico. Guests who pay for three nights receive Thanksgiving night free. The cost of the three nights for two people is \$1,540 for a junior suite; \$2,610 for a one-bedroom casita with a private pool. Packages include Thanksgiving dinner; massages for two (normally starting at \$100); daily breakfast; and access to fitness facilities. Information: (877) 238-9399; www.marquisloscabos.com.

— *The New York Times*

**THIS & THAT**

**Tippling tips**

● On Nov. 24, the British government, apparently sure that mandatory 11 p.m. pub closings have led to binge drinking, will let pubs stay open longer, even up to 24 hours a day, if they can get local government approval.

● There are reports, however, that Barcelona plans to introduce on-the-spot fines aimed at tourists who exhibit public displays of inebriation. The fines could reach 1,500 euros (\$1,830, at \$1.22 to the euro) and a city spokesman said that arriving visitors would receive explanatory leaflets.

— *The New York Times*

**CLOSE TO HOME**

**Jewish museums**

● “Max Liebermann: From Realism to Impressionism” is at L.A.’s Skirball Cultural Center through Jan 29 with more than 70 works by Berlin’s premier artist from the mid-1880s until the Nazis seized power in 1933. Admission is free on Thursdays.

Information: (310) 440-4500; www.skirball.org.

● Through Feb. 26, San Francisco’s Contemporary Jewish Museum is the sole American venue for “Intersections,” an exploration of the changing issues of women and faith.

The museum plans to open a new Daniel Libeskind-designed location in the Yerba Buena District’s Jessie Street Power Substation in 2007.

Information: (415) 344-8800; www.jmsf.org.

**LIST DU JOUR**

The most family-friendly resorts in Continental U.S. and Canada, from Travel + Leisure Family magazine:

1. Disney’s Wilderness Lodge Resort, Fla.
2. Four Seasons Resort Whistler, British Columbia
3. Disney’s Grand Californian Hotel, Anaheim
4. Disney’s Grand Floridian Resort & Spa, Fla.
5. Disney’s Animal Kingdom Lodge, Fla.
6. Keltic Lodge Resort & Spa, Middle Head Peninsula, Nova Scotia
7. Jenny Jake Lodge, Grand Teton National Park, Wyo.
8. Tides Inn, Irvington, Va.
9. Wickaninnish Inn, Tofino, British Columbia
10. Disney’s Vero Beach Resort, Vero Beach, Fla.

— *Chicago Tribune*



STEVE HAGGERTY PHOTO

The convergence of three unstable faults results in the unique geology of the Devil’s Punchbowl.

**ON THE ROCKS**

In northern Los Angeles County, Devil’s Punchbowl reveals nature’s power

By ANNE Z. COOKE  
and STEVE HAGGERTY  
NEWS-PRESS CORRESPONDENTS

**T**hey come without warning, tearing the earth and vanishing without an apology. Earthquakes, California’s bête noire, lurk in the collective subconscious, out of mind until cupboard doors rattle and things go bump in the night.

For sensible people, the less said about them the better. But not at the Devil’s Punchbowl, a Los Angeles County park on the southern fringe of the Mojave Desert, 24 miles from Palmdale. Here where the desert grinds past the San Gabriel Mountains, earthquake power is at the heart of a remarkable geologic marvel.



TOM DE WALT / NEWS-PRESS

Please see **PARK** on **D18**

**Historic sites  
losing out to  
deterioration**

By GARY A. WARNER  
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Dozens of historic sites were damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in August. While New Orleans’ French Quarter and Garden District survived relatively unscathed, places like the antebellum historic district of Biloxi, Miss., were ripped apart.

But the dramatic damage is just a fast-forward version of the slower deterioration and destruction affecting hundreds of historic sites across the country and around the world.

Civil War battlefields are being hemmed in by rapid development. A landmark Los Angeles home designed by Frank Lloyd Wright is crumbling under rain-soaked hillsides.

A neglected 18th-century Irish barn and a 2,000-year-old Roman temple flaking apart under the assault of rain and pollution are among the buildings in danger of disappearing forever.

Each year, the nonprofit National Trust for Historic Preservation releases a list of the 11 most endangered sites in North America. The World Monument Fund does the same for the 100 most fragile spots around the world.

The sudden destruction of a hurricane spurs intense attention. The places on these lists are just as vulnerable, though their possible



Severe storms have weakened the Ennis-Brown House, a 1924 Frank Lloyd Wright building in Los Angeles.

demise often occurs amid anonymity and neglect. Travelers who seek them out can help call attention to these special places in the life of our civilization.

Since 1988, the Washington, D.C.-based group has issued an annual list of the most endangered sites in North America. During that time, 168 buildings and sites have made the roster — including the entire state of Vermont.

The current list: **American historic sites near Washington, D.C.:** “The Journey Through Hallowed Ground” corridor, running through Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania, encompasses hundreds of battlefields, historic sites and six homes of former U.S. presidents.

Please see **LIST** on **D17**

**Wilma’s wallop leaves  
Mexico plans in limbo**

By PAMELA LeBLANC  
AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN

Hurricane Wilma didn’t just uproot trees and flood homes from the Caribbean to Florida — she dealt a wallop to Mexico’s \$11 billion tourism industry.

If you have a trip to the Yucatan coast booked, the storm might have thrown a soggy punch to your vacation plans.

The hurricane smashed Cozumel, a popular spot for divers and cruise ship stops 11 miles off the Mexican mainland. Last weekend Wilma substantially damaged hotels and the Punta Maya Pier for cruise ships was destroyed. White-sand beaches disappeared in some areas, but early reports from dive shops indicate the famous coral reefs off the island escaped major damage.

Although airport and ferry services were restored Tuesday, electricity was still out late last week and cruise ship dockings remained suspended.

After battering Cozumel, Wilma came ashore in a sparsely populated area near Playa del Carmen, a tourist town about 30 miles south of Cancun. It flattened dozens of



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hurricane Wilma did untold damage to the heart of Mexico’s \$11 billion tourism industry.

wooden houses before creeping north.

In Cancun, the hurricane sent ocean waves surging over the narrow strip of land known as the hotel zone, flooding streets, shattering windows and tearing off hotel roofs. Falling trees crushed cars and pay phones juttied from waist-deep water. Some beaches were washed away and officials said high-rise resorts could take weeks, if not months, to repair.

So what do you do if you’ve already booked a trip to the area? “Number one is keep in close con-

Please see **MEXICO** on **D17**

**Transylvania has gorgeous medieval villages — but no vampires**

Simion Alb, 41, is the New York-based director of the Romanian Tourist Office of North America

the first words people say when they call our New York office; 62 percent of people who call for information

sylvania make of vampire-driven visitors?

**A:** Basically, not many Romanians were familiar with the “Dracula” novel and movies until 1990, when we got rid of the communist regime and finally could have access to more information and could communicate openly. That’s the way they learned about this whole thing.

Vlad Dracula — the Romanian prince who inspired the novel — lived in the mid-1400s. Most Romanians see Vlad as a hero. He was a very bloody ruler who fought against corruption and against the Turkish invaders.

He got his nickname of “Vlad the Impaler” because he used to impale enemies on wooden sticks. He had

**FOREIGN  
CORRESPONDENCE**

John Bordsen

**Question:** In America, “Dracula” means “Transylvania.” Does that translate into tourism?

**Answer:** Transylvania may be the best-known name of a region in the world, probably due to Bram Stoker’s contribution: He wrote the novel “Dracula.”

“Transylvania” is probably one of

**Q:** What do people living in Tran-

Please see **FOREIGN** on **D17**



Built in 1377 to protect nearby Brasov from invaders, Romania’s Bran Castle is often referred to as Dracula’s Castle.

