



CARIBBEAN CRUISE WAS A TRULY FINE EXPERIENCE. / Where I've Been, D16

DECEMBER 4, 2005

GOING PLACES



It's hockey night in Vancouver

Vancouver-bound hockey fans can score hard-to-come-by Canucks tickets with the Canucks Hockey Package at the Comfort Inn Downtown, priced at \$159 per person (based on double occupancy, taxes extra) for one night's lodging, the hockey ticket, parking and continental breakfast. The season lasts through April 15. Information: (888) 605-5333; www.comfortindowntown.com. — Chicago Tribune

THIS & THAT

Christmas in London

London may be the greatest Christmas city of them all. Its tourism Web site has added a Christmas section that includes information on Budget London, listing free and low-cost attractions, as well as special offers. Go to www.visitlondon.com and click on "Get into the Festive Spirit," where registered users may enter to win Visit London vouchers worth 5,000 pounds. — The Boston Globe

CLOSE TO HOME

Shore leave

Seven Moonstone Hotels in Cambria and San Simeon invite guests to indulge themselves in a "Treat Before Christmas," with rooms available for \$49-\$69 and suites going for \$99-\$109, depending on the hotel and accommodations selected, some with ocean views and fireplaces. Rates are valid Sunday through Thursday nights through Dec. 22. Tax is extra. Information: 927-6114; www.moonstonehotels.com. — Chicago Tribune

Holidays in S.F.

Some 260 Bay Area properties — 140 in San Francisco — are part of the new HolidayFest Web site that provides reduced hotel rates and holiday-event listings. For example, from Dec. 12 to 15, guests can stay at a boutique hotel like the Commodore for \$80 a night (normally \$159) plus 14 percent tax. And for those who reserve at least two nights with a Visa card, there is a VIP Holiday kit of discounts, valued at \$50. Information: (888) 330-6739; www.sfholidayfest.com. — The New York Times

LIST DU JOUR

Our northern neighbors' top destinations in the United States, from the 2005 Portrait of Canadian Leisure Travelers: Hawaiian Neighbor Islands Honolulu/Oahu U.S. national parks New York City New Orleans Las Vegas San Francisco Orlando Florida Keys Los Angeles — Chicago Tribune

This week's exchange rates chart may be found on Page D13.

ENGLAND



STEVE HAGGERTY PHOTOS

Burghley House in Stamford, Lincolnshire, England, was used as Rosings in the new movie "Pride & Prejudice." Harvey Pascoe, its manager's butler, also played the same role to the film's Lady Catherine (Judi Dench).

'PRIDE' OF PLACE

Search for Jane Austen's Mr. Darcy in the British countryside

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

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a traveler in possession of a romantic nature and a ticket stub from the movie "Pride & Prejudice," directed by Joe Wright, must be in want of a trip to England.

This is Jane Austen country as it never looked before, from the palatial splendor of its stately homes to the windswept moors and misty parklands of the Midlands. And with the witty Keira Knightley as Elizabeth "Lizzie" Bennet, Donald Sutherland as her father and Matthew MacFadyen as Darcy, the story twists and turns to a heart-thumpingly happy ending. If you're up for driving — traffic moves on the left side of the road — invent your own itinerary and take your time. Your options are endless, since most of the film was shot on location, in Derbyshire, Lincolnshire and the Peaks District National Park.



Jane Austen's home from 1809 to 1817, Chawton, Hampshire, England.

But be prepared for company. Since 1870, when the first biography of Ms. Austen appeared, fans enthralled by English literature's most enduring love story have been tramping England's byways in search of the elusive author.

SOME HISTORY

No matter that she wrote "Pride and Prejudice" 200 years ago. Or that modern readers find its late 18th-century social conventions unnatural at worst and artificial at best. Even I, glued to the pages at age 12, recently found myself impatiently skipping whole paragraphs. The first wave of readers looked for Austen in the villages where she spent her life: Steventon, where she was born; Bath, near Bristol, where her family moved when her father retired; Southampton after he died; Chawton, in Hampshire, where she lived at the end of her life; and Winchester, where she moved to be close to her doctor (she died at age 41 of Addison's disease) and is buried there.

Please see **CINEMA** on D16

Take me out to the fixture: Go where the real Brits go to watch soccer

By MICHAEL MARTINEZ
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

There was a cool crispness in the morning air, the kind of autumn day made for football. As we ambled down the street toward the stadium, my wife and I couldn't help but feel swept up in big-game excitement.

All around us, fans were bundled up in the home team's colors. Vendors hawked T-shirts and caps at souvenir stands. Sausages and hamburgers sizzled on outdoor grills. It felt like a college football Saturday in the Midwest — Notre Dame perhaps, or Ohio State. With one difference. The football was round.

This was a long way to come just to watch soccer — or football, as the rest of the world knows it — but it had been on our itinerary for some time. And we had already made all the requisite stops on previous visits to London — Buckingham Palace, the Tower of London, Big Ben, Harrods. More than once.

This time, we wanted to try something less touristy. To the soccer-loving English, football stadiums are like shrines — places they can visit on weekends to cheer or jeer their heroes during the August-to-May season. And even if their teams don't win, they can still commiserate on game days at sold-out stadiums, or at the neighborhood pub afterward.

Granted, until our visit last year, we had never heard of Charlton Athletic, one of six London-based clubs that plays in the top-tier Premier League. But first-place (and eventual champion) Chelsea and powerful Arsenal — our first choices — were either sold out or on the road. Other popular teams such as Manchester United and Liverpool were a bit too far for us.

RELATED STORY

■ Last chance to buy tickets for World Cup soccer matches to be held in Germany. D15



TOM DE WALT / NEWS-PRESS

Please see **SOCCER** on D15

Britain savors the taste of culinary stardom

By SHELLEY EMLING
COX NEWS SERVICE

After a round of appetizers that included snail porridge and sardine-on-toast sorbet, followed by a main dish of salmon poached with licorice, the waiter asked the diner if she was ready for breakfast.

The waiter scurried away, quickly returning with a bowl of parsnip cereal and skim milk, accompanied by a cheery "Good morning, madam."

Cereal and milk? Tasty, but a bit bizarre at 9 p.m. It all made sense, though, when dessert was rolled out a few minutes later: bacon-and-egg ice cream accompanied by

French toast and salted butter caramel. Toto, I have a feeling we're not dining in Britain any more.

All kinds of culinary craziness are possible at the Fat Duck, a converted Thames-side English pub in Bray (40 minutes west of London) that was named the world's top dining spot by Restaurant magazine.

Chef Heston Blumenthal's cozy establishment is only the latest sign that Britain — where greasy fish and chips is standard fare — is losing its reputation as Europe's culinary laughingstock.

Indeed, the magazine's listing is enough to make the French sputter into their soupe du jour. Only 10 of its top 50 restaurants are in France, compared to 14 in Britain, 10 of which are in London. Another 10 are in the United States.

In many cases, it's the British restaurants on the list that are giving new meaning to the term culinary adventurism.

For example, chef Fergus Henderson of St. John in London has long taken an idiosyncratic approach to cooking, with signature dishes such as roast bone marrow and parsley salad.

And at Tom Aikens, dishes include roasted foie gras with beetroot pickle and syrup.

Ella Johnston, editor of Britain-based Restaurant magazine, said that this year's

rankings show "just how far Britain has come in terms of culinary output and the range of experiences we offer."

At the same time, America's leading food magazine, Gourmet, earlier this year named London — not Rome, Paris, or New York — as the best place in the world to eat.

The magazine devoted its entire 180-page March issue to a city that has experienced a renaissance in quality and variety, thanks in part to celebrity chefs such as Gordon Ramsay and Jamie Oliver.

The latter has even managed to

Please see **CUISINE** on D15

WHERE I'VE BEEN



DON JONES PHOTO

Marian Jones, Amber Jones and Barbara Bennett, from left, try the Atlantic Ocean on for size near Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Between hurricanes Tammy and Wilma, Marian Jones of Santa Barbara was able to slip in her first-ever cruise, a seven-day Caribbean trip on the Star Princess from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., which water taxi pilot Capt. Dave said should be called "Fort Dollardale."

On a trip through the Everglades prior to the cruise, their airboat driver was missing his front teeth, "which we surmised happened when he was young, water-skiing in the swamps and wrestling alligators," she wrote.

In Cozumel, Mexico, the "delightful" driver George took them to Chankanob, a beautiful tropical park, then showed off his neighborhood on request.

Other cruise stops included the Grand Caymans (driving on

the left was fun), Jamaica and the Bahamas, where the water was fine.

Ms. Jones highly recommends the cruising experience: "Take along your family and best friend, just unpack once and go make some memories."

Tell us where you've been.

Submit a photo of your favorite vacation along with a brief description of the site, what made the trip special and why others might enjoy visiting. Send entries to Al Bonowitz, Santa Barbara News-Press, P.O. Box 1359, Santa Barbara, CA 93102-1359 or e-mail abonowitz@newspress.com.

Include your name, address and phone number. Photos will be held until publication and will be returned if you enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Surcharges still burden young rental drivers

By BRUCE MOHL
THE BOSTON GLOBE

It's easier for younger drivers to rent a car than it used to be, but it's still not cheap. Hertz, Avis, and Budget all have lowered their minimum rental age recently from 25 to 21, but they are imposing daily surcharges on younger drivers because they tend to get in more accidents.

Hertz, for example, charges drivers 21-25 an extra \$25 per day for most vehicles and \$35 a day in New York. In New York and Michigan, where state laws require companies to rent to 18- to 20-year-olds, Hertz tacks on an even higher surcharge: \$51 a day in New York and \$41 a day in Michigan.

Richard Broome, a spokesman for Hertz, said the higher surcharge in New York for drivers in that age group reflects a higher incidence of accidents among them in the New York City area and to a lesser degree the rest of the state.

Budget has policies that are similar to Hertz's but its New York surcharge is a whopping \$115 a day. Alamo, which has been renting to those drivers for years, charges an extra \$25 a day nationally and \$70.82 a day in New York.

The surcharge fees can add up quickly. A one-day rental of a Hertz compact car at Boston's Logan International Airport costs \$84.50 with taxes and fees, but the cost rises to \$109.50, a 30 percent increase, for a driver 21-25.

The chief reason Hertz, Avis and Budget lowered their minimum driving age was reduced liability. In August, President Bush signed into law a federal highway bill that contained a provision effectively abolishing state laws establishing vicarious liability for rental and

leasing companies.

Vicarious liability is a legal concept that in this case means the owner of a leased or rented vehicle could be held liable for injuries to others caused by the renter, even if the owner of the vehicle did nothing to contribute to the accident.

Mr. Broome said judgments against companies involving vicarious liability have run as high as \$40 million. He said a rental car company could follow all proper procedures, including making sure the renter had a valid driver's license and the vehicle was maintained properly, but still be held liable if the renter got drunk and hit someone.

"These judgments were almost like a lottery, you never know when your number will come up," Mr. Broome said. "You couldn't price it properly to cover yourself."

With the passage of the amendment abolishing vicarious liability, the companies that previously refused to rent to younger drivers have amended their policies to make rentals available. Mr. Broome said daily surcharges are being assessed on younger drivers because they still cause so many accidents, although not as many as the company had originally believed.

According to Mr. Broome, Hertz had always rented to younger drivers who worked for companies with corporate rental accounts or who received rentals as part of an insurance replacement policy. Mr. Broome said the evidence gathered through those two programs indicated younger drivers were safer risks than believed.

"Our experience wasn't as bad as the national statistics would have led us to believe," Mr. Broome said, without giving any statistics.

Discs offer a spin through cities' youth subculture

By AUSTIN CONSIDINE
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Trying to sniff out subculture when visiting a city for the first time can be pretty daunting, especially when time is short. The Other Side, a single-disc city guide that plays as a DVD on one side and a music CD on the other, could help globetrotters quickly find those hidden hot spots.

The guides are a collaborative effort between Time Out magazine and Deaf Dumb and Blind Communications, a New York media group.

Aimed at the young traveler, the guides are heavy on club-culture attractions. Each disc features comments by local musical artists who appear on the DVD and who select and mix the music on the CD side.

On the New York disc, Casey

Spooner of the art rockers Fischerspooner shows viewers the inside of Alife Rivington Club on Manhattan's Lower East Side, an unmarked, exclusive shoe store, which he describes as a "shoe store speakeasy" for expensive collectibles. Or in Paris, there's the Black Dog, a bar and restaurant in the 4th Arrondissement, where Arnaud Rebotini of the electro-goth group Black Strobe says "you can have the best beef in Paris" and "see some goth and metal freaks."

The first three in the series — London, New York and Paris — were released in October and are available in record stores and online at www.timeout.com/other-side; the retail price is \$18.98. The creators plan to cover six cities each year, issuing three new discs every six months. Berlin and Los Angeles will be among the next releases.



ENGLAND



STEVE HAGGERTY PHOTOS

Chatsworth House in Derbyshire, England, served as Pemberley, Mr. Darcy's ancestral home. This is the Painted Hall.

Austen film uses splendid British locations

■ CINEMA

Continued from Page D14

But it was films — the 1940 movie and two BBC television productions, from 1985 and 1995 — that turned Ms. Austen into an industry. Once viewers saw the Bennet family at home at Longbourn, and Lizzie dancing with Mr. Darcy, they yearned for more.

After the second BBC series aired, enshrining the famously handsome Colin Firth as the once and forever Darcy (see www.austenblog.com for current opinions on the subject) viewers could hardly wait to climb onto a plane.

To its credit, the latest "Pride and Prejudice" breaks new ground with more nuanced characters and natural settings. No longer continually bedecked in ribbons and white lace, the Bennet sisters wear everyday cotton dresses more suitable for country girls whose home abuts a barnyard, bed sheets flap on the line and rain turns the roads to mud.

Fortunately, the film was shot in two general areas: Derbyshire and Lincolnshire, in the East Midlands (on a map, look east of Liverpool); and southern England, between Bath and Salisbury.

If you have difficulty locating these sites in an atlas, order the official "Movie Map" (see below); it simplifies the planning. The Internet is also a good source of information, with a veritable wish list of tours and day trips offered by local companies.

SIGHTS TO SEE

What should you see in Derbyshire? Start at Chatsworth, a magnificent 16th-century limestone house, which appears in the film as Pemberley, Darcy's ancestral home. Owned by the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, who live in one of the wings, the house is both museum and national treasure, decorated with murals, stuffed with portraits and antique furniture and surrounded by woodlands and gardens. Visitors can walk through the grounds and play in the cascading water feature, a happy reversal of the usual "look but don't touch" policy.

No wonder Lizzie is impressed as she and her aunt and uncle drive through the park, beneath the trees and to the entrance. You will be, too. Inside, look for the black-and-white tiled floor in the Painted Hall (filmed from above) and the Sculpture Gallery.

For the Inn at Lambton and Lizzie's bedroom, go next to Haddon Hall, another family manor whose oldest portions date from the 12th century. Here the 14th-century Banqueting Hall was used for the Inn, and the 16th-century Parlour is Lizzie's bedroom. You might even meet the owner, Lord Edward Manners, who stops in on occasion to greet guests. Haddon Hall is open from April through October.

Remember the windswept cliff where Lizzie looks out over rocky peaks, purple heather and sheep pastures? This is Stannage Edge, in the Peak District National Park, popular with hang gliders and rock climbers. Incidentally, North Lees Hall, whose lonely tower inspired Charlotte Brontë's "Jane Eyre," is visible far below the cliff.

And Lincolnshire's role in the film? Burghley House, a 15-minute



Lord Edward Manners, the owner of Haddon Hall, speaks to visitors. Rooms at this Rowsley, Derbyshire, site were used as Lizzie's bedroom and the Inn at Lambton.



Lord Manners owns the Peacock Inn in Rowsley. Keira Knightley and Matthew MacFadyen stayed there during filming.

drive from Stamford, was used as Rosings, the home of Lady Catherine de Bourg (played by Judi Dench). Palatial in size and design, Burghley House dates from the reign of the first Queen Elizabeth, and is furnished with 500 years of treasures and furniture.

The gardens are open to the public and the cafeteria serves meals and snacks. Just for fun, ask for Harvey Pascoe, butler to Burghley's manager, Lady Victoria Leatham, who was also drafted to play butler to the film's Lady Catherine.

The town of Stamford, famous for its classical Georgian architecture, is the site for scenes of Meryton, where the Bennet family shopped and where Lizzie's sisters flirted with Wickham. Stop at the Tourist Information Office in the Arts Centre, on St. George's Square, and compare the "before" and "after" photos. For the 200-odd residents who got jobs as "walk-ons," the movie was a seminal experience.

The remaining film sites are in southern England. Several interior scenes were shot at Wilton House, in Salisbury, notably where Lizzie meets Darcy's sister, Netherfield, the house leased by Mr. Bingley, was shot at Basildon Park, a Palladian Mansion west of Reading, on the Thames River. We missed this one, arriving too late. But it is open to the public.

Unfortunately, the house with the most movie exposure, the one used



Chatsworth House's south front and seahorse fountain.

as the Bennet's home, Longbourn, isn't open for tours. Groombridge Place, as luck would have it, was between owners and awaiting restoration, allowing the set designer considerable freedom to make changes.

Since then, the new owners have moved in and the house, in Tunbridge Wells, is private. But the gardens, also restored, are open from late March through October. You can walk over the grounds, and your kids will love the bit of wild woodland they're calling the "Enchanted Forest." Check their Web site for special events.

THE AUTHOR

While searching for "Pride and Prejudice," one inevitably finds its creator. In Bath, east of Bristol, Ms. Austen is a celebrity, though her family lived here just five years. She and her sister attended dances at the Assembly Rooms and shopped on High Street, scenes that made their

IF YOU GO

Getting there: Why fly into the hurly-burly at London's airports, when you can fly on Continental, Delta, Northwest and British Airways into Bristol's smart new international airport, a 45-minute drive from Bath. And Bristol is a good launch point for an Austen pilgrimage.

Staying there: Get into the spirit and stay where the cast stayed.

In Derbyshire, Keira Knightley and Matthew MacFadyen stayed at the Peacock at Rowsley (near Bakewell) a 16-room deluxe inn, charmingly restored, with an excellent dining room, large garden and prompt service. (011 44 16) 2973-3518; www.thepeacockatrowsley.com.

In Lincolnshire, Matthew MacFadyen, Donald Sutherland and Judi Dench stayed at The George, a historic 16th-century coaching inn, with 47 elegant rooms, a pub and a traditional English dining room. (011 44 17) 8075-0750; www.georgehotelofstamford.com.

In Bath, revisit the Georgian era at the famous Royal Crescent Hotel, at No. 16 in the very center of Bath's Royal Crescent. Enlarged and with a private garden at the rear, the 40-room hotel has an award-winning dining room and sumptuous spa. (888) 295-4710; www.royalcrest.com.

RESEARCH

Call Visit Britain at (800) 462-2748, or visit www.visitbritain.com. For the "Movie Map," e-mail your request to travelinfo@visitbritain.org.

Other Web sites include: www.visitprideandprejudice.com, www.visitlincolnshire.com, www.visitderbyshire.com, www.visitpeakdistrict.com, www.britishtours.com/prideandprejudice.html, www.derbyshire-thepeakdistrict.co.uk

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/print/w-h/w-visits, www.chatsworth.org, www.burghley.co.uk, www.haddonhall.co.uk, www.jane-austens-house-museum.org.uk, www.janeausten.co.uk/centre, www.groombridge.co.uk

way into her novels.

Look for her, too, at the Jane Austen Centre, at 40 Gay Street on Queens Square. A book store and tea shop, the Centre dispenses maps and sells books by and about her, gifts and souvenirs.

The journey comes full circle in Ms. Austen's house (now a museum) in Chawton, a cozy red brick house with white windows. Ms. Austen lived there with her mother, sister Cassandra and a friend, Martha, from 1809 to 1817, until she moved to Winchester to be near her doctor. And this is where she revised "Sense and Sensibility" and "Pride and Prejudice," and wrote "Mansfield Park" and "Emma," and where she lived to see them published. "Persuasion" and "Northanger Abbey" appeared after her death.

Our search ended here, too, among family books, simple furniture, family portraits and exhibits of Ms. Austen's letters and needlework. But for some fans, it's the beginning.

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