

Globetrotter

ON THE RADAR



MILAN

Magna Pars is a plush home-away-from-home for design aficionados who appreciate eco-friendly surroundings in a great neighbourhood - this new hotel is found in arty Zona Tortona. The former perfume factory is powered with renewable energy and, unlike most boutique hotels in the city, there's room for a central garden with olive trees, maples and magnolias. Twenty-eight suites are decked in such covetable Italian finds as Poltrona Frau beds, Lavazza coffee makers, Flos lamps and furniture crafted by local artisans. magnapars-suitesmilano.it



BOSTON

Save room for dessert at Blue Dragon, celebrity chef Ming Tsai's new Fort Point gastro-pub and his first new restaurant opening in 15 years. The Gookie is a warm, deep-fish chocolate chip concoction topped with ice-cream and soy caramel sauce. Diner patrons can tuck into other American-Asian favourites: pan-fish and chips, Korean chicken wings or Indonesian curried lamb shepherd's pie. For lunch, try the Dragon Burger that comes laden with teriyaki onions and smoked Gouda. ming.com/blue-dragon.htm



ATHENS

Sign up for Greek Crisis, a three-hour walking tour offered by Context Travel, and you'll be led around by a resident economist to explore the sights from a fiscal perspective. Powder the public protests at Syntagma Square in Athens and, as you stroll from the old Greek parliament building to the Central Bank, learn what impact austerity has had on the city. The walk ends at a tavern where you can engage with locals and get the real scoop. contexttravel.com



LONDON

An extensive collection of early 20th-century paintings, lithographs and drawings by American realist painter George Bellows are on show at the Royal Academy of Arts (March 16 to June 9), in the first ever U.K.-based retrospective of the artist's work. His show are dark depictions of dock workers wintry New York scenes, and boxers in the throes of a prize fight. A softer side of the artist is revealed in the intimate close-up portrait *Emma at the Piano*. royalacademy.org.uk

Mercedes Sami
Special to The Globe and Mail

THE QUOTE

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One of the benefits of global warming is there hasn't been as many icebergs in the North Atlantic these days.

Clive Palmer
An Australian billionaire building a replica of the Titanic, it's scheduled to set sail in 2016.
Source: AP

BY THE NUMBERS

17,000

The price in euros of a night in the Imperial Suite at Hotel Le Bristol in Paris. Who could afford such extravagance, you ask? David Beckham, for starters. The 3,475-square-foot hotel room is the temporary residence of the soccer star, who recently signed a five-month contract with team Paris St. Germain.

22

The number of butterfly knives a person tried to get through security at Vancouver International Airport. The traveller had also packed four fireworks and eight brass knuckles.

4

The per cent of travellers who said they prefer the middle seat when flying, according to a new survey from TripAdvisor. Ninety-six is the per cent of travellers who think they're nuts.

18

The number of sites in Pondicherry, India, to be developed into tourist attractions. Officials made the announcement after *Life of Pi*, which was filmed in the seaside town, won the Oscar for best director.

4.6

The percentage that prices for flights within the United States are expected to jump in 2013. So if you're going to be travelling south of the border, start saving.

Sources: L.A. Times, TripAdvisor, PR Newswire, CNN, almartytravelblog.com

WORLD WIDE TECH



The Jordan Tourism Board announced recently that it would begin livestreaming video of the country's popular attractions. So now you can see for yourself what's happening at, say, Petra or a beach on the Dead Sea. It's a good idea - in theory. But the reality is that the country's grand ruins aren't exactly the most active things around. Besides, EarthCam, the network that provides the feed, offers way more entertaining glimpses from around the world, such as folks stumbling around on Bourbon Street in New Orleans. In all seriousness, though, this voyeuristic tool is useful to travellers for one very practical reason: What better way to figure out what to pack than to see what people are wearing at your destination? Visit earthcam.com to view feeds.

Domini Clark

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