

The itinerary

Compiled by Sandy Guerra-Cline



"Running in the Rain" is part of "MythBusters: The Explosive Exhibition." Museum of Science and Industry via AP

See 'MythBusters' in Chicago

Who gets wetter, someone walking in the rain or running? Is it really possible to hang from a cliff by your fingers until help arrives, like they do in the movies? "MythBusters: The Explosive Exhibition," which opened this month at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry, marks the first time the show has taken such questions on the road. The Chicago exhibition, which runs through Sept. 3, is the first of a multiyear national tour that will include stops at several other U.S. cities. (A West Coast stop is planned next.) It has timed ticketing. For details: 773-684-1414; www.msichicago.org.

— The Associated Press

Q&A: A summer trip to Paris



Paris afares and crowding tend to drop at summer's end. Getty Images

My husband and I would like to visit Paris this summer. Is it too late to get good airfare and accommodation deals? Will the Olympics in London in July wreak havoc on our plans? Would it be better to wait until the fall?

Airfares and hotel rates aren't tied to advance purchases. In other words, buying months in advance doesn't guarantee a cheaper deal. I don't think the Olympics will have much of an effect on Paris, but if you're worried about that, go earlier in July or later in August. To save money, go in autumn: Fares typically fall by \$200 to \$300, and crowds have thinned. It'll be cooler and rainier, but September is still fairly nice. Keep checking sites such as Kayak and Bing Travel for fares. And check the Paris Convention and Visitors Bureau (en.parisinfo.com) for hotels.

— Carol Sottili, The Washington Post

Pixies in the California garden



Ojai Valley Inn & Spa has a sweet deal. Gaszton Gal

The elegant Ojai Valley Inn & Spa, in Ojai, Calif., 45 miles north of Los Angeles, has a special offer for citrus-lovers . . . yes, citrus-lovers. To celebrate the spring Pixie tangerine season, the resort, in a setting framed by mountains and orchards, is offering a special package based on the sweet, little fruit. It includes daily breakfast for two (waffles with Pixie topping are on the menu), Pixie twist cocktails for two and a Pixie body spa polish treatment. Rates start at \$499 per night, plus taxes, gratuities and resort fees. The package is available through May 31; use the promotional code "Pixie." 800-422-6524; www.ojairesort.com.

Fun fact

Top 10 hikes to take with dogs

Don't forget to pack a collar and a leash for these pup-friendly jaunts, although many will allow dogs to walk without them, in your sight, if they obey commands well:

1. Mesa Trail, Chautauqua Park, Boulder, Colo.
2. Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, Oregon
3. Turtle Rock Trail, Vedauwoo Recreation Area, Wyoming
4. Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg, Pa.
5. Mill Creek Canyon Trail, Moab, Utah
6. Mount Pisgah Trail, Blue Ridge Parkway, North Carolina
7. Undercliff Carriage Road to Overcliff Carriage Road, Mohonk Preserve, New York
8. Crissy Field, San Francisco.
9. Sauk Point Trail, Devil's Lake State Park, Wisconsin
10. American Lake Trail, Wenatchee National Forest, Washington

— away.com



Getty Images



Museum director Jonathan Ullman explains the St. Valentine's Day Massacre wall at the Mob Museum. Orange County Register/Cindy Yamanaka via MCT

Mob cache

This museum's collections are a hit with the folks who love gritty shots of history mixed with the glam of Las Vegas' heyday

By Gary A. Warner
The Orange County Register

LAS VEGAS — Valentine's Day is for a day of love and kisses and chocolate and roses.

Except on Feb. 14, 1929, in Chicago, which featured Tommy gun bursts, shot-gun blasts, pistol shots and headlines of the slaughter of seven gangsters in a South Side garage. A hit ordered by Al Capone.

Today, the wall peppered with bullets, buck-shot and blood from "The St. Valentine's Day Massacre" has been transplanted to downtown Las Vegas. It's a major piece of the new \$42 million National Museum of Organized Crime and Law Enforcement.

But nobody calls it that. Not even its own website. Befitting its subject, it only prefers its alias: the Mob Museum.

The Valentine's Day opening marked a new turn in Sin City's embrace of its long relationship with organized crime.

"We're the only American city that springs from the mob," former Mayor Oscar Goodman said. "We



The National Museum of Organized Crime & Law Enforcement, in downtown Las Vegas, is better known as the Mob Museum. Orange County Register/Cindy Yamanaka via MCT

want to tell that story."

Goodman is part of the tale. His old briefcase is on display in the museum — the one he used when he was a high-profile defense attorney for alleged mobsters. It was also the one that would sometimes travel east to visit his clients' associates.

"It was full when it left Las Vegas and empty when it came back," Goodman said with a wry smile.

That a colorful ex-orga-

nized crime lawyer could be a three-term mayor, then be succeeded by his wife, says a lot about how Las Vegas views its long-time relationship with the mob. What outsiders might view as the bad old days are seen from inside the Clark County line as the good old days.

It's an attitude that Mob Museum executive director Jonathan Ullman is acutely aware that he has to deal with. He has to sat-

isfy — or at least not enrage — those who see the mob's 1950s to 1970s heyday as a golden age for Las Vegas, while telling a story filled with gambling, prostitution, graft and murder.

"What we're trying for is something as close as possible to the truth," Ullman said.

The eyes of Al Capone glare out at an exhibit that starts by looking back 100 years to the roots of organized crime in the U.S. After a brief introduction near the entrance, visitors begin on the third floor and work their way down.

The opening portion shows how immigrants from various communities in Europe bound together in the U.S. and created ethnic gangs that expanded into the Mafia. Groups like the Italian "Black Hand" More on MUSEUM, 12E

If you go

The National Museum of Organized Crime & Law Enforcement, alias the Mob Museum
300 Stewart Ave., Las Vegas
themobmuseum.org

Even the dolphins stay at Hawks Cay

📍 The resort, in Duck Key, Fla., lets its guests commune with the mammals, soar with jetpacks and more.

By Debbra Dunning Brouillette
Special to the Star-Telegram

A once-in-a-lifetime kiss by a 38-year-old male named Sebastian left me beaming, and my husband wasn't even jealous. Sebastian is one of five bottlenose dolphins that are part of the Dolphin Connection at Hawks Cay Island Resort in the Florida Keys — the only resort in the continental U.S. that features a dolphin research facility.

Hands-on encounters with the dolphins in an ocean-fed saltwater lagoon require a brief orientation session before guests enter the water to interact with these incredible mammals. If you'd rather not get into the water, sign up for the dockside program or, for maximum exposure, become a "trainer for a day."

Besides enjoying time with the dolphins, guys who are ready to propose can arrange for the dolphins to help out. At the end of the couple's time with the dolphins, a trainer cues one of them to swim up to the prospective bride carrying a sign that says, "Will you marry him?" A box containing the ring is then produced so it is ready to place on her



Hawks Cay Island Resort has five swimming pools, a saltwater lagoon and the open water beyond. Hawks Cay Island Resort

finger if she says yes. Some couples return to be married at the resort.

The Dolphin Connection was one of many things that drew me to Hawks Cay, located midway down the Florida Keys at Duck Key, a 100-mile drive from Miami's International Airport.

With its 177 guest rooms and suites and 225 two- and three-bedroom individually owned villas fronting the harbor and marina, Hawks Cay Resort caters to families, couples and solo travelers quite nice-

ly, with a multitude of activities and accommodation choices to keep everyone happy.

Families can stay together or do their own thing for all or part of the day, thanks to Hawks Cay's program for kids ages 5-12. Voted the best hotel kids' program by Travel + Leisure readers, it is the only resort program in the Keys to offer a full schedule of supervised children's activities. While the kids are at Camp Hawk, adults can choose pampering at the More on RESORT, 13E

Resort

Continued from 11E

Calm Waters Spa, tennis lessons or paddle boarding. There is also a game room for teens.

Adults traveling without children can spend time in a separate resort-within-a-resort. A strategically placed sign says: "Entering a Tranquility Area. Must be 21 and over. (Maturity Optional.)" Rooms in the Tranquility Area, most with a view of the Atlantic, surround one of the resort's five pools. The poolside grill, Sand Bar, is staffed with friendly servers who will keep the mojitos coming.

A \$1 million renovation project completed in March focused on enhancing the resort's menu offerings in all Hawks Cay restaurants. For maximum ambiance, make sure to dine at least once at the upscale Alma, either by candlelight on the veranda or in a cozy booth inside. Tom's Harbor House on the waterfront at Hawks Cay's 85-slip marina is the perfect choice for casual evenings. Guests returning from a day of fishing may bring in their fresh catch, where it will be prepared to order and served with selected side dishes. After dinner, walk next door to Emack & Bolio's for frozen specialties like Key lime ice cream.

Natural beaches are few and far between in the Keys, but you won't feel water-deprived at Hawks Cay, with its gorgeous saltwater lagoon, five



Hawks Cay's Dolphin Connection offers the opportunity to be kissed by a dolphin. Special to the S-T/Debra Dunning Brouillette

pools to play in, and blue ocean waters surrounding the resort. The marina is the place to be for active travelers who come to the Keys to participate in sporting activities on or in the water. Charter fishing boats share space with Hawks Cay's catamarans, used for snorkeling excursions and sunset cruises. On-site scuba operator Dive Duck Key makes twice-daily scuba trips and is one of only three operators in the continental U.S. authorized to offer SNUBA, a unique diving experience that provides all the thrills of scuba diving without requiring certification to dive.

Think of a water sport and Hawks Cay is almost guaranteed to offer it. In addition to scuba diving and snorkeling, there is parasailing, ocean kayaking and kite surfing. If you are ready for a one-of-a-kind adrenaline-pumping experience, Hawks Cay is one of the only places in the world to offer JetLev, a water-powered jetpack experience. Soar nearly

If you go
Promotions include a fifth night free; the offer is valid April 15-June 30. Book by April 30. Dolphin Connection packages, Web-only room rates and discounts for military personnel and First Responders also are available. 877-497-2642; www.hawkscay.com.

The resort is just more than an hour's drive from Key West's attractions and nightlife, and only minutes from the village of Marathon, where you'll find the Seven-Mile Bridge. Enjoy a day on a two-mile stretch of white sand beach at Bahia Honda State Park, at mile marker 37.

Daily flights land nearby at airports in Miami, Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood and Key West. The Marathon Jet Center, nine miles from the resort, offers charter flights and private jet service.

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Factor in Family Fun Hawaiian Style

Factor in some family fun with AAA Travel when you book your summer vacation at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort & Spa on Oahu or the Hilton Waikoloa Village on The Big Island. Children ages 5-12 can participate in half-day or full-day programs at the Hawaiian Village's Camp Penguin and the Waikoloa Village's Camp Menehune, plus, kids 18 and younger stay free!

Both Hiltons make-up the 28 family-friendly properties on sale during "Aloha Days," AAA Travel's yearly venture with Pleasant Holidays to bring guests to the islands the biggest values at the best hotels that Hawaii has to offer.

"We're the largest full-service travel agency in North America," said Rob MacDonald, AAA's Fort Worth Area Manager, "and Pleasant has been the leader in the South Pacific since 1959, so it's the kind of partnership where only we can deliver these deep discounts. Anyone going to Hawaii wants to book their trip with AAA Travel.



Aloha Days runs through the end of April, and on top of money off lodging, transportation and island activities, include such added values as complimentary full breakfast daily, a nightly manager's reception with entertainment, a shopping and dining discount booklet, complimentary internet access and no charge for kids 18 and younger at the Embassy Suites - Waikiki Beach Walk on Oahu, and daily buffet breakfast for two, free parking, an activity credit per room, no resort fee, and complimentary stays for kids 17 and younger at the Makena Beach & Golf Resort on Maui.



"We know how different benefits appeal to different guests," MacDonald said. "One of my favorite things about Aloha Days is how AAA does that - every member saves on their hotel, their Hertz car and their activities, and then our travel agents can help them decide on the right property for their interests."

While Aloha Days goes on another month, MacDonald advised that availability is always limited, and to come into AAA Travel this week to book or for more information. **For the branch nearest you, call 888-467-4957 and press 2. With 14 branches from Arlington to Allen, Fort Worth to Frisco, AAA Travel is always convenient and happy to serve you!**



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International Travel Tips from Gulliver's Travel

Regardless of whether this is your first trip abroad or you are a seasoned international traveler, the following tips will make your journey easier.



1. Make several copies of your passport. Take at least 2 with you and keep one in your carry-on and one in your luggage. Leave one with someone at home.
2. Make copies of your credit cards and do the same as your passport.
3. Email copies to yourself so you can access them even if you lose copies.
4. Notify your credit card companies of dates and countries of travel.
5. Carry an American Express card. If one traveler loses their card you only cancel that card. It has a unique number. MC and Visa accounts have the same number on all cards
6. Don't take or wear expensive jewelry or watches.
7. Pack your medicines and cell phone/computer chargers in your carry-on.
8. Pack as light as possible. Plan your wardrobe so that everything goes together and can be layered. Black and khaki are great.
9. Convert some currency before you leave so you have some local currency when you arrive.
10. Always arrive a day early when cruising. Flight delays and cancellations have ruined many vacations.
11. Mark your luggage with a ribbon or something that will help you identify it quickly and will prevent someone else from taking it by mistake.
12. Buy travel insurance. Most health insurance does not cover you outside the US.
13. Leave an itinerary with phone numbers with your office and family.
14. Contact your cell phone company to determine if your cell phone will work at your destination and if they have an international plan. You may want to consider an international phone or sim card.
15. Research your destination. Consult your travel agent for the latest information.



These tips were compiled from experienced travel agents at Gulliver's Travel. If you have questions or need assistance with your travel plans call Gulliver's Travel at 817-924-7766.

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