

From Mass Bikepike tour to Virunga's gorillas



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ANDREW HENDERSON/THE NEW YORK TIMES

By **Kari Bodnarchuk** | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT MARCH 07, 2015

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MASS BIKEPIKE TOUR TAKES A NEW ROUTE

The ever-popular Mass BikePike Tour has turned into the new Cycle Massachusetts bike adventure, with options to join for two to seven days between Aug. 1 and Aug. 7. The trips cater to riders of all levels: Choose to pedal as little as 30 miles a day, stopping to grab ice cream, poke around farm stands, or take photos along the way. Or tackle 45- to 70-mile days and even more challenging rides, like an optional 100-mile century ride in the Pioneer Valley and Berkshire foothills, or an epic hilly route around the Quabbin Reservoir. The new seven-day option begins and ends in Northampton. Spend two nights camping in Northampton, Hardwick, and Greenfield. Prices run \$175 for two days to \$795 for the seven-day trip; includes gear transport, campsites, most meals, road support, nightly entertainment, T-shirt, and Northampton parking. 617-710-1832, www.cyclema.com

LOW TEMPS EQUAL LOW PRICES AT BOSTON HOTEL

Take advantage of the frigid temps with a stay at The Colonnade Hotel in Boston's Back Bay. Until March 28, guests who reserve the two-night Frosty Fridays weekend package will pay only the equivalent of the outside temperature on Friday night, based on a 5 p.m. reading by the National Weather Service, and then a special rate of \$289 for their Saturday night stay. So if it's 10 degrees on Friday at 5 p.m., you'll pay \$299 (plus taxes) for the two-night stay, based on availability. The package includes accommodations for two, free onsite parking, hot chocolate for two at the hotel's Parisian-style restaurant, Brasserie Jo, and a choice of admission and ice skating rentals for two at Boston Common's Frog Pond, or a \$20 gift card and 30 minutes of free Ping-Pong at Blazing Paddles by Fenway Park. 617-424-7000, www.colonnadehotel.com

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NEW YORK CITYPASS ADDS TWO MUSEUMS

Buy a New York CityPASS and now you can gain entry into either the National September 11 Memorial & Museum or the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum. The ticket booklet includes discounted entry to six of the city's most popular attractions, such as the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, saving you up to 42 percent off regular combined admission prices and letting you skip most ticket lines. The 9/11 museum displays monumental artifacts linked to that day, from an airliner fuselage to a fire truck to personal items from those who died. Highlights of the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum include the legendary aircraft carrier Intrepid, the world's first space shuttle, the Enterprise, and the fastest trans-Atlantic commercial aircraft, the British Airways Concorde.

Prices: \$114 adults, \$89 ages 6-17; valid for nine consecutive days. www.citypass.com



EPIC TOUR TO SEE VIRUNGA'S GORILLAS AND MORE

Explore Africa's oldest national park and see some of the world's last remaining mountain gorillas on a new trip offered by Extraordinary Journeys and The Safari Collection. The six-day luxury trip takes visitors to the newly reopened southern section of Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), an area featured in the Oscar-nominated Netflix documentary, "Virunga." The park, a UNESCO World Heritage site and Africa's most biologically diverse protected area, is also home to hippopotami, elephants, lions, and rare birds. Trip highlights include a stay at a newly opened tented camp and lodge, two days hiking through tropical forests in search of gorillas, and a trek to the top of Mount Nyiragongo's active volcano, where guests camp beside the world's largest molten lake. Price is \$4,200 per person, double occupancy, includes accommodations, meals, permits, transfers, and privately guided trip to the park; flights and visas cost extra. 212-226-7331, ejafrika.com/blog/explore-virunga-national-park

everywhere

KEEP YOUR DEVICES SAFE AND SECURE

Protect your super-thin portable devices, such as your Ultrabook or tablet, while on the go using Kensington's new Mini-Saver Mobile Lock. This ingenious lock easily attaches to any laptop or tablet that has a Kensington security slot using the company's new proprietary Cleat locking system. Wrap the thin yet durable, 6-foot-long cable

around an airplane tray table or park bench, for instance. Then slip the metal end of the MiniSaver into the security slot on your device and push a button on the main lock. Claws clamp onto the internal sides of the security slot and secure your device. Unlock the MiniSaver using a special key (two are included). The 8.5-ounce lock retails for \$59.99. www.kensington.com

A DEVICE FOR STORAGE, STREAMING, CONNECTING

Take Kingston's MobileLite Wireless G2 on your travels and use it to back up photos from your other portable devices, charge your smartphone, stream movies to multiple devices at once, and create a Wi-Fi hot spot from a broadband connection. This handy and versatile wireless media reader weighs just 6 ounces and measures about the size of a smartphone. It has an Ethernet port that turns the device into a secure portable router, and USB and SD slots for accessing thumb drives and SD cards (it has no internal storage). Use the G2 to transfer data from SD cards or flash drives directly to social media sites, or to your mobile devices for backup. Download the free app and use it to manage files on your removable storage drives. The G2 works with most Android, Apple, and Kindle Fire devices. Currently \$29.99 on Amazon.com. 877-546-4786, www.kingston.com

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