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Helsinki Airport makes accommodations for pod people



GoSleep pods in Helsinki are the first in a European airport. (GoSleep)

By Phil Marty
Chicago Tribune

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Twitter - Pods for travelers arrive in Helsinki

MARCH 23, 2015, 11:53 AM

Sometimes when you're traveling, it would be nice to get away from the frantic atmosphere of the airport. If you're in Finland's Helsinki Airport, you can get a respite in the 19 GoSleep sleeping pods available at Gates 18 and 38. Each pod is an ergonomic seat that can be turned into a bed enclosed by a cover that shuts out light and noise. There's space underneath to safely store your hand luggage, and there's a power point inside for charging your laptop or phone. The makers of the pods claim air circulation is good enough to keep you from overheating, and the pods are cleaned after each use and get fresh pillow cases. Cost is about \$9.50 per hour. Helsinki is the first European airport to get the pods, which were invented in Finland but debuted in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Info: gosleep.fi

A window of opportunity

The U.S. Travel Association is running its Daily Getaways promotion again this year, with effective dates from March 23 to April 22. Each weekday, a new exclusive offer from a prominent travel brand is unveiled at DailyGetaways.com at 1 p.m. EDT. A limited quantity will be available for purchase through the promotion period or until the inventory is sold out. More than 20 companies are participating, including Alamo, Best Western, **Busch Gardens**, Choice Hotels International, Hertz, Hilton Hotels & Resorts, InterContinental Hotels & Resorts, **MGM Resorts International** and Universal Studios Hollywood. An example of the deals is a four-pack of two-day park tickets to Universal Studios Hollywood priced

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value is \$3,500. Deals can be viewed on the website in advance but can't be purchased until the appropriate day.

Economy trumps space

All of us who fly economy class would love for the airlines to provide wider seats. But to pay a lot extra? Probably not. That's the conclusion of a poll of 8,300 travelers conducted by Airfarewatchdog.com. Forty-one percent said flat-out that they'd like wider seats but wouldn't pay anything extra. Twenty-six percent said they'd be willing to pay \$10 extra, 24 percent said they'd pay up to \$20, and only 9 percent would pay more than \$20. An earlier poll by the website of 1,700 fliers asked which domestic airline has the most comfortable economy class seats. Southwest was the clear winner, with 22 percent picking it. Delta and JetBlue came in second with 19 percent. Alaska was at 11 percent, United at 9 percent, American at 7 percent, **US Airways** at 5 percent, Frontier and Hawaiian at 4 percent, AirTran and Allegiant at 3 percent, and Spirit was at the bottom at 1 percent.

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at \$313. Regular price would be \$436. Another offer, from Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas, gets you three nights' lodging in a suite, tickets for a Cirque du Soleil show, dinners and massages for \$1,525. Estimated

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