



TRAVEL BLOG

What We Loved This Week: Bequia, Bon Iver, 'Ask the Dust' and More

by World Hum | 05.22.09 | 1:02 PM ET

Our contributors share a favorite travel-related experience from the past seven days.

Rob Verger

I loved seeing penguins, sea turtles, and oodles of fish and jellyfish at the [New England Aquarium](#) in Boston, Mass.

Terry Ward

Hearing Justin Vernon's Wisconsin accent in Hamburg. I caught [Bon Iver](#) live at [Grosse Freiheit 36](#), one of the city's best live music venues, located on the same street (Grosse Freiheit) where the Beatles played their first gig in 1960. There's already some [YouTube coverage](#) up from Wednesday night's show, but I like this [intimate footage](#) shot in a Paris apartment even better.

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When Scrimping on the Road Goes Too Far

by Eva Holland | 05.22.09 | 11:48 AM ET

We all like to save a buck when we travel. But at what point does cost-cutting cross the line?

That's the question Carlo Alcos posed over at Brave New Traveler recently, in his look at some [questionable \(but common\) money-saving tactics on the road](#). A few of the tricks listed: posing as a student or a local for admission-fee purposes, fare-dodging on public transit and inventing complaints—and then demanding compensation. After the run-down, he concludes: "I would say there is a line to be drawn. Not a black and white Sharpie fine line, but a blurry, wavy, grey line that is dependent on the circumstance."

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Goodbye to my Mickey Mouse, Wayne Allwine

by Jenna Schnuer | 05.22.09 | 11:31 AM ET



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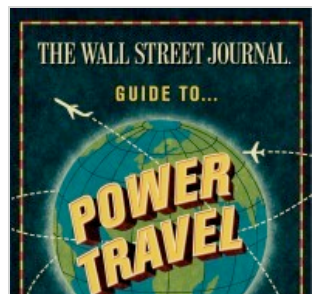
For so many, the first true travel excitement comes compliments of Mickey Mouse and co.

A few years ago, I talked to my nieces on the phone just before their first trip to Disney World. The little one, just shy of four, didn't usually have much patience for phone conversations. That day, she just kept talking and talking, offering excited (and rather detailed) explanations of all the things she wanted to see. Both girls were delighted when I told them about my own visits to Disney World as a kid. We all got kind of giddy thinking that, just maybe, there was some slight chance they would end up riding in the same [It's a Small World](#) boat I sat in 30+ years ago.

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New Travel Book: 'The Wall Street Journal Guide to Power Travel'

by Rob Verger | 05.22.09 | 10:09 AM ET



Most of us who fly are curious: we want to know how the system that is transporting us from our homes to a new destination works, and there may be no system more opaque than air travel. For those of us who want to not only understand the system, but also figure out how to get the best deals, I highly recommend Scott McCartney's latest book, [The Wall Street Journal Guide to Power Travel](#). (You can read my interview with McCartney, the Journal's [Middle Seat](#) columnist, [here](#).)

At first glance, a book advertising "power travel" may seem not to appeal to someone who, in the spirit of World Hum, is probably less interested in "powering" through a travel experience than trying to enjoy every moment of the journey. But we all have a desire to get through the air travel segment as



efficiently and cheaply as possible, and I love the way this book explains the complicated world of air travel.

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Morning Links: Vocation Vacations, the World Beard Championships and More

by Eva Holland | 05.22.09 | 9:25 AM ET

- Happy Memorial Day weekend! Forbes Traveler looks at [America's most visited memorials](#) for the occasion.
- The next [Improv Everywhere](#) stunt is taking place on New York City's Roosevelt Island this weekend, and [you're invited](#).
- In the U.K., British Airways saw its [worst-ever losses](#) this year, with a pre-tax deficit of £401 million. The good news for us? There will be no price increases to compensate going forward, as the airline struggles to retain its remaining customers.
- A friendly reminder for U.S. travelers heading overland to Canada or Mexico: the [new border rules](#) come into effect on June 1.
- In the latest Madison Magazine, World Hum contributor Frank Bures takes a "[vocation vacation](#)," working as a swordsmith for a day.
- The [World Beard and Moustache Championships](#) are set to take place in Anchorage this weekend; the Los Angeles Times has a [slideshow](#).
- The Globe and Mail's Tyler Stiem visits some of [Istanbul's lesser-known mosques](#).
- Americans are planning shorter, closer-to-home vacations this summer, [USA Today reports](#). Let's hope this doesn't prompt a resurgence of the [S-word](#).

Got a suggestion? [Send us](#) your link.

Checking in at the Boone Tavern

by Alexander Basek | 05.21.09 | 3:33 PM ET



Photo by Alexander Basek

Swinging through the positively quaint town of Berea, Kentucky, last week, I had the chance to stay at the refurbished [Boone Tavern](#). The hotel, which is owned by Berea College, just across the street, celebrated its 100th anniversary this year with some renovations that are now more or less complete; they were laying a snazzy brick design in the parking lot turnaround when I was there.

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Museums on Film: Three Memorable Moments

by Eva Holland | 05.21.09 | 1:24 PM ET



Photo by [brainware3000](#) via Flickr ([Creative Commons](#))

With [Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian](#) set to open this weekend, I've been thinking a lot about museums and the movies. The first [Night at the Museum](#), released in 2006 and set at a fictionalized version of the American Museum of Natural History, raked in money at the box office and is credited with increasing attendance at the real-life Upper West Side museum by as much as 20 percent. [According to USA Today](#), the Smithsonian is hoping to see similar benefits from its featured role in the sequel.

The two Ben Stiller vehicles may be remarkable for the amount of traffic they're driving to museums, but they're not unusual in their choice of setting. Museums and galleries have played prominent roles in any number of films and television shows over the years. Here, with apologies for my clear bias towards New York City and romance, are three of my favorite museum movie moments.

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Interview With Scott McCartney: Author of 'The Wall Street Journal Guide to Power Travel'

by Rob Verger | 05.21.09 | 11:30 AM ET



Scott McCartney, who writes the popular [Middle Seat](#) column for The Wall Street Journal, has a new book out with an enticing subtitle: [The Wall Street Journal Guide to Power Travel: How to Arrive With Your Dignity, Sanity, and Wallet Intact](#).



The book, which provides a look inside almost all aspects of the airline industry, is full of great advice on how to navigate air travel today. I'll have my review of the book in a forthcoming item here, but in the meantime, I caught up with McCartney, who is also a licensed private pilot, via email to ask him a few questions.

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Morning Links: 'Hello Kitty' Holidays, Traveling During Pregnancy and More

by Eva Holland | 05.21.09 | 8:52 AM ET

- So long, Vegas: the Blue Man Group is [headed for the high seas](#) with Norwegian Cruise Lines.
- “Hello Kitty Dream Holiday” package, anyone? [Taiwan can provide](#).
- For all our fellow heat seekers: World Hum contributor Lola Akinmade checks out [the world's hottest peppers](#), and where to find them.
- In the U.K., Google Street View has [obscured the faces](#) of anyone included in their images—including Colonel Sanders.
- A flight to Hawaii for \$400 round-trip? Arthur Frommer [has the details](#).
- “Dancing With the Stars” may be over for another year (and hey, congrats, Shawn Johnson) but dancing is forever—and World Hum contributor Abbie Kozolchik [has the down low](#) on where and how to learn some of the world's iconic steps.
- We've gone way beyond shampoo and conditioner: Matador Goods offers up [10 surprising travel-sized items](#).
- Just in time for Memorial Day, HalogenLife picks [10 favorite local brews](#) from across the U.S. (Via [Gadling](#))
- Traveling while pregnant? Check out Delicious Baby's ongoing series on the subject. The latest post tackles [flying while pregnant](#).

Got a suggestion? your link.

Love Letter to the Interstate System

by Sophia Dembling | 05.20.09 | 3:25 PM ET



A certain type of traveler, the “I-only-watch-PBS” type of traveler, scorns the Interstate. These travelers are all about the [blue highways](#), those small rural roads that require time and patience and don't send you hurtling through America's heartland. (Today's rumination is brought to you courtesy of [this New Yorker cartoon](#), which got me thinking when it turned up in my email inbox.)

But I love America's great Interstate system, officially (and a little frighteningly) called The Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways.

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From Scenic River to a Stream of 'Black Gel'

by Joanna Kakissis | 05.20.09 | 1:31 PM ET



The great master of riverine prose, Norman Maclean, was haunted by the crystalline waters of Montana's Blackfoot River. But the residents of Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, are haunted by the stench of the Buriganga, a river so polluted by human and industrial waste that it's turned into a dead stream of “black gel,” [Reuters reports](#).

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Travel Movie Watch: 'Homage to Catalonia'

by Eva Holland | 05.20.09 | 10:53 AM ET



More than 70 years after its initial publication, George Orwell's Spanish Civil War memoir is [hitting the big screen](#).

Hugh Hudson, best known for “Chariots of Fire” and “I Dreamed of Africa,” will direct, while Colin Firth and Kevin Spacey have already signed on to star—the media coverage of the news doesn't offer



anything definite, but it looks as though Firth will play Orwell, and Spacey will take on the role of Georges Kopp, Orwell's [POUM](#) commander.

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Morning Links: Watering Old Faithful, the Salish Sea and More

by Eva Holland | 05.20.09 | 7:35 AM ET

- Two employees at Yellowstone National Park [have been fired](#) after being caught urinating into Old Faithful—the story notes that the geyser “was not erupting at the time.”
- Nobel Prize winner (and occasional travel writer) Orhan Pamuk is [headed back to court](#) over complaints that he insulted Turkishness. (Via the [Book Bench](#))
- For the second year in a row, New York City has [free bike rentals](#) available through the summer.
- Strait of Georgia? Puget Sound? Juan de Fuca? A retired professor [has a proposal](#) to give those confusing bodies of water around southern British Columbia and Washington a single name: the Salish Sea.
- In the wake of February's Buffalo plane crash, several senators are [calling for an investigation](#) of the safety standards being enforced for regional airlines.
- London's rail commuters are [Twittering haikus](#) about “the great British summer,” in “the world's first interactive Twitter poetry competition.” Yoko Ono will select the winners.
- Breaking news: Airport currency exchanges [offer the worst rates going](#). I know. I was shocked, too.

Got a suggestion? your link.

Hawaii Passes Islam Day Resolution, Haters Call for Boycott

by Pam Mandel | 05.19.09 | 3:44 PM ET

High on the list of reasons I lost my heart so completely to Hawaii?

The diversity. You've got your Pinoys, your Japanese, your mainland surfers, your Native Hawaiians, your Portuguese and Spaniards, the descendants of European shippers and missionaries, a whole mess of “hapa” types who are half one thing, half something else, be it Scottish, Korean, Hawaiian, Jewish ... If you're looking for a slice of world culture, you're as likely to find it in Hawaii as anywhere. All those cultures make for a lively and appealing place.

But a few spoilsports are calling for a boycott of travel to the islands because the Hawaii state Legislature recently passed a resolution recognizing “Islam Day.”

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Drink a Microbrew, Save the Planet, Taste the Culture

by Joanna Kakissis | 05.19.09 | 1:29 PM ET



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I've said before that travelers who want to walk the talk of environmentally responsible living [must also seek out sustainable food](#) (i.e. no Chilean sea bass!) when on the road. I'm adding [locally brewed beer](#) to my list.

Making and transporting beer doesn't produce nearly as many carbon emissions as boutique wines, which are often flown by overnight air, says [Pablo Paster](#) in his column for [Treehugger](#). Still, Paster advises eco-imbibers to drink a local brew over that beloved German beer.

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