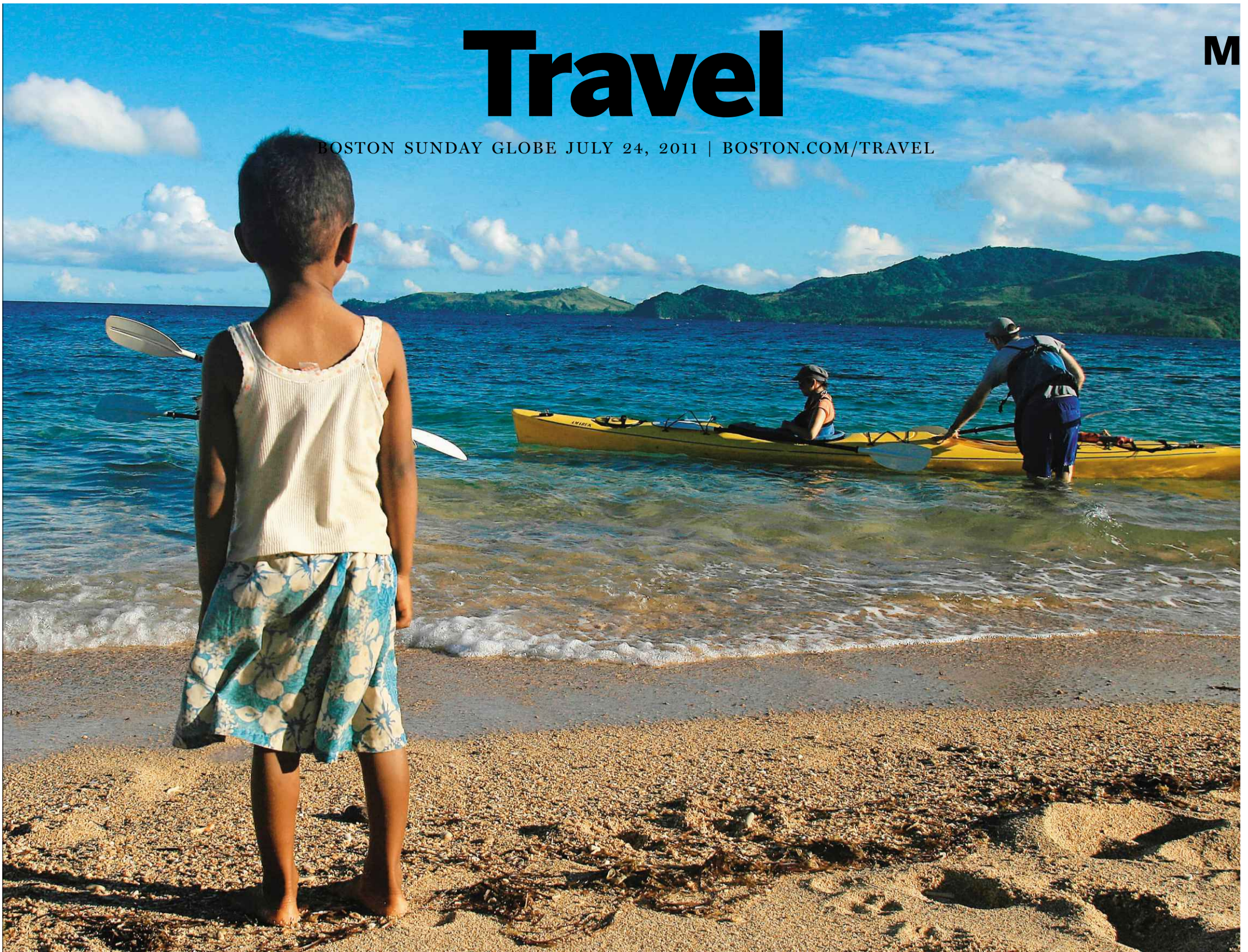


Travel

M

BOSTON SUNDAY GLOBE JULY 24, 2011 | BOSTON.COM/TRAVEL



PATRICIA BORNES FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Fijians own most of the seemingly empty beaches on the country's 333 islands, and mostly grant permission to visitors like these kayakers circumnavigating the isle of Ono.

FIJI

Where the sky meets the sea

And life is lived with a different footprint

BY PATRICIA BORNES | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

KADAVU — To travel 7,500 miles for a five-star, air-conditioned villa on the beach would have been to miss the heart of Fiji. That was not what I had in mind as I traveled with a 50-pound suitcase of medical supplies from the East Coast to Fiji's Nadi International Airport and on to Kadavu.

Rising from the sea in a wall of densely forested mountains, Kadavu, the fourth largest of Fiji's 333 islands, is surrounded by Great Astrolabe, the world's fourth largest barrier reef. Eight years ago, after sailing through Fiji's Yasawa archipelago, I came here on a whim and ended up pledging to provide medical supplies for one of the villages. Now I was returning to fulfill that promise and explore the closest place to paradise I had ever been.

Kadavu's seduction is twofold: the seclusion of an almost uninhabited island and a culture so embracing that you do not feel alone. Divers come here to drift down the five Great Astrolabe reef passages. Snorkelers like me find opportunities to wriggle through soft coral gardens fringing bay after deeply indented bay.

For my 10-day stay the thunderous reef breaks and empty gold and white beaches seemed to belong to only a few visitors. Of course, they do not. Kadavu is home to 75 small villages where smartphones and tradition coexist to a surprising degree. Seemingly poor, they are rich with natural resources that still sustain them. A growing number of eco-resorts help preserve their environment and way of life.

When I met Adrian Watt, Richard Akhtar, and Jeanie Mailliard on my first trip, they had just left high-powered jobs to become the owners of Matava Resort on Kadavu's southeast

FIJI, Page M4

NEW YORK



PHOTOS BY ESSDRAS M SUAREZ/GLOBE STAFF

Everything's looking up along the waterfront

By Marie Elena Martinez
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Daunted, perhaps, by its concrete jungles, the island of Manhattan's many visitors often forget its more than 500 miles of waterfront. Through Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Waterfront Vision and Enhancement Strategy, more open spaces are being revitalized. Whether you spend lazy afternoons amid postcard-memorable landscapes, wiggle your

Photos from left to right:

THE HIGH LINE
Lower Manhattan never looked so preserved, so green, so well.
SOUTH STREET SEAPORT
Historical, commercial, now brewing with things to do.
BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK
Where a bride can pose and Pier 1 offers fun and fitness.
WATER TAXI
Get on or off along the Hudson, or ride to Governor's Island.

NEW YORK, Page M2

INSIDE

An English village has its ups and downs. M3



EXPLORE
NEW ENGLAND
CAPE COD

There's a quiet place for every paddle. M5
Trying to lure back the wild oyster. M5

Mont-Tremblant
Experience pure relaxation

TOURISME
Mont-Tremblant

Indulge yourself

Spa & Stay

- 1 night of lodging
- 1 bath access to Scandinave Spa Mont-Tremblant

Starting from **\$142 USD***

* More details at

tourismmonttremblant.ca • 1-888-818-8777

THE
LAURENTIANS
North of Montreal

Mont-Tremblant is located
in the Laurentian region.
www.laurentians.com

Quebec
Canada

Currents

Learn a language, live the culture

New York-based Cactus Language Training offers cultural immersion trips to 60 countries that help travelers learn more than 30 languages. This year's new programs include learning Spanish and Latin dance at a school on the banks of the Amazon River in Colombia, studying German in a Bavarian town overlooking the Swiss Alps, and mastering Russian in culturally diverse Kiev. Cactus incorporates cultural experiences, like wine tasting, cooking, dancing, diving, surfing, and photography, into each program. Prices start at \$123 per week for instruction; various types of accommodations are available. Summer specials include free private lessons in Playa del Carmen, Mexico, when you book a two-week group course. 888-577-8451, www.cactuslanguagelearning.com/us

See Jerusalem by smartphone

Travelers to the Old City of Jerusalem can now tour the city's historical, religious, and cultural sites with the new self-guided digital JerusalemMP3 walking tours. Download the tours for free and explore the Jewish Quarter, Via Dolorosa, the Temple Mount compound, and the marketplaces in the Old City, among other areas. Maps and written explanations are available in English, French, Russian, and Hebrew. These free multimedia audio tours include videos, and can be operated from a smartphone or a similar audio device. 212-499-5660, www.jerusalem-oldcity.org.il

Pedaling around Boston

The Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel offers a special Tour de Boston package through Aug. 31 for guests who would like to explore the city on a bike. The package includes a "biker-to-go pack" with a bottle of water and a homemade granola bar, a map of local bike routes, accommodations, and access to the hotel's health club and lap pool. After a day of biking guests can retreat to the hotel's Capiz Lounge. Rates start at \$199 per night, based on double occupancy, not including tax, parking, or gratuity; some blackout dates apply. Ask for the Tour de Boston package if reserving by phone, or enter promotional code ARN if booking online. 617-338-4111, www.renaissanceboston.com

KARI BODNARCHUK

Destinations

EVENTS

Soaking in the sounds of summer

AUG. 20-21
TAOS, N.M.

Taos Mountain Music Festival: There's time for at least one more big trip for music fans this summer, and even though Lollapalooza is just about sold out, there are dozens of late-summer fests that boast an impressive bill. The early-bird passes for Taos are sold out, but you can still get regular weekend passes to see proud Jewish reggae man Matisyahu, the socially conscious Donna the Buffalo, and the very crush-worthy Shannon McNally. There is also a "kid zone." \$100 for weekend pass, \$175 for VIP pass. *Taos Ski Valley, 1-970-728-8037, www.taosmountainmusicfestival.com*

AUG. 19-21
VAIL, Colo.

Vail Soul Music Festival: This showcase features newcomers in the world of soul, including Ryan Shaw, who was nominated for two Grammys and performs the single "It Gets Better." Other artists on the very cool lineup include Lalah Hathaway, daughter of Donny and also a Grammy nominee. The shows feature other activities such as pre- and post-parties surrounding gigs and a "Soul Strollin' Around Town/Celebrity Meet & Greet," so we assume that artists like Shaw and Hathaway will be accessible. Packages run \$45-\$145. *Ford Amphitheater, www.vailsoulmusicfest.com*

AUG. 26-28
IRISH HILLS, Mich.

Holler Fest: This music festival is a lot less loud and confrontational than it sounds. Its lineup features mostly bluegrass, Cajun, folk, and thoughtful indie acts such as Galactic Sherpas and Nervous But Excited. It's so family-friendly that there's a picture of a cute kid on the home page of the festival's website. You also will not go hungry. Local restaurant Pilar's Tamales will be feeding the crowd, as will Silvio's Organic Pizza. *Frog Holler, 517-592-8017, www.hollerfest.com*

SEPT. 3-4
IRVINE, Calif.

Playground Festival: If Lollapalooza is where you want to be, this is a good backup. Instead of Lollapalooza headliner Eminem, you get The Game and Lil Jon. Instead of Flogging Molly and the Moun-



Matisyahu will be one of the headliners at the Taos Mountain Music Festival.

tain Goats, you get Shiny Toy Guns. And instead of Muse and Ellie Goulding, you get The Cataracs. And being in Irvine puts you a lot closer to good beaches than if you were in Chicago (home of this summer's Lollapalooza). Packages \$55-\$225. *Hidden Valley, www.playgroundfestival.com*

vals in our summer, there's always the summer on the other side of the world. Late November south of the equator will be a good time to see this show, which features the alt-pop group Gypsy & The Cat, down-under roots band The Beautiful Girls, and retro singer Lanie Lane. *Bellarine Peninsula, Victoria, 011-03-5258-4816, www.qmf.net.au*

MEREDITH GOLDSTEIN

PLAN AHEAD

QUEENSLIFF, Australia

NOV. 25-27

Queenscliff Music Festival: If you miss the festi-

Events are sometimes canceled, rescheduled, or sold out; check online. Meredith Goldstein can be reached at mgoldstein@globe.com.

Revived open spaces give new life to urban landscapes

► NEW YORK
Continued from Page M1

toes in the sand, or pulse with the beat of a visiting headline band, New York's waterfronts are worth the visit.

THE HIGH LINE: Phase Two

Built in the 1930s, the High Line's original function was to lift freight train traffic off the streets of Manhattan's largest industrial district. Defunct since the '80s, the structure was threatened by demolition in 1999, which encouraged various groups, including the City of New York, to work together in preserving it as an elevated public park. The first section, from Gansevoort Street to West 20th Street, opened in 2009 to widespread acclaim. The latest section, between West 20th and West 30th, opened in June and includes new features such as the first lawn (West 22d-23d streets), a Woodland Flyover (West 25th-26th streets) that features a steel walkway under a canopy of sumac and magnolia trees, and a wildflower field (West 26th-29th streets).

Lot on Tap, directly under section two of the High Line, has two bars with a rotating list of beers, including an original from Brooklyn Brewery, and a domestic wine list. Food from Colicchio & Sons and various food trucks is



Tall ships docked at the South Street Seaport; Brooklyn Bridge Park's nearly 10 acres attracts people outdoors in any weather.

also available. *Daily 7 a.m.-11 p.m., Gansevoort Street to West 34th Street between 10th and 11th avenues, 212-500-6035, www.thehighline.org*

HUDSON RIVER PARK: Pier 25 and The Frying Pan

Opened in 2008, this is the largest open space to be built in Manhattan since Central Park. Running along the West Side, it includes

popular spots like the Intrepid Sea, Air, & Space Museum and Chelsea Piers.

In November, the park debuted its newest addition: Pier 25. Located at North Moore Street in Tribeca, Pier 25 is a family-oriented outdoor space that includes an 18-hole miniature golf course, snack bar, sand volleyball courts, a children's playground, small boat moorings, berthing



PHOTOS BY ESSDRAS M SUAREZ/GLOBE STAFF

FRONT AND CENTER

Catch up on New York's vision for its miles of waterfront and nearby open spaces at www.boston.com/travel.

areas for historic ships, and a turf "lawn" on the western end for both catnaps and athletics. A pedestrian boardwalk extends from Watt Street to Laight Street, and basketball courts remain lighted until 12:30 a.m. for night play. *6:30-12:30 a.m. daily, www.hudsonriverpark.org*

A hugely popular seasonal bar and grill where sunset happy hours are hard to top, The Frying Pan is one of 13 remaining historical lightships, or floating lighthouses, in the United States. One of a hundred built in 1929, Lightship No. 115 "Frying Pan" guarded its namesake, Frying Pan Shoals, 30 miles off North Carolina, for 35 years. After a broken pipe caused the Frying Pan to sink, it was subsequently raised by salvors and docked at Pier 66 Maritime. While the exterior has been restored, the rusty, barnacle-encrusted interior nods to its underwater period. Open noon-midnight, May through October, the Frying Pan is the place to go for some warm weather carousing. *Pier 66A at West 26th Street, www.fryingpan.com*

GOVERNORS ISLAND: Water Taxi Beach

Used by the military through the 1960s and the Coast Guard until 2002, the island was sold to the state by President George W. Bush for public use shortly after 9/11. Since then, this 172-acre island between Brooklyn and Manhattan has under-

gone quite a transformation. Bike paths abound (on Fridays, visitors can borrow a bike for free), as do hammocks, massive green spaces, a miniature golf course, and rotating art exhibits. *Fri 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat, Sun, holiday Mon till 7 until Sept. 25, www.govisland.com, ferry from Manhattan or Brooklyn free, water taxi \$5*

With hop-on/hop-off service down the Hudson River, water taxis are the yellow cabs of the sea with a destination all their own at Governors Island's Water Taxi Beach. Offering some of the best views of downtown, Ellis Island, the East River bridges, and Liberty State Park as well as a live concert space, beach volleyball, and a full grill, this is Manhattan's best bet for a salty, sand-in-your-hair kind of day. *1 Carder Road, 212-385-4494, www.watertaxibeach.com*

CONY ISLAND: Luna Park and Scream Zone

In May of last year, when Coney Island's Luna Park opened its gates, thousands lined up to be among the first to sample the city's first new amusement park in over 40 years. Named after one of Coney Island's original parks (which operated from 1903 to 1948), and with 19 new rides, Luna Park's opening marked the rebirth of Coney Island. In April, Luna Park added Scream Zone, an adrenaline junkie's heaven with four additional thrill rides such as the 150-foot freefalling Sling Shot, and two new roller coasters. With no entrance fee, Luna Park can lure those who prefer games to rides, or simply prefer a boardwalk stroll. *1000 Surf Ave.,*

Information

www.nycgo.com
www.nyharborway.com
www.nyharborparks.org

Brooklyn, 718-373-5862, www.lunaparknyc.com, unlimited wristbands Mon-Thu \$26; Weekend Ride Credit Cards, rates vary

BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK:

Pier 1 Sitting pretty at the base of Old Fulton Street, just south of the bridge, Pier 1 is now open. Including two large lawns — Bridge View and Harbor View — playgrounds, a waterfront promenade, a series of freshwater gardens, a boat ramp, and summer kayaking, Brooklyn Bridge Park is the largest of the park piers at 9.5 acres and boasts spectacular views of lower Manhattan and New York Harbor. Pier 1 celebrates summer with fitness classes, weekly outdoor movie screenings ("Breakfast at Tiffany's," Aug. 11), and simple relaxation on the sprawling lawns. *Atlantic Avenue to Jay Street, Brooklyn, daily 6 p.m.-1 a.m., 718-222-9939, www.brooklynbridgeparknyc.org*

SOUTH STREET SEAPORT: The Beekman Beer Garden Beach Club

South Street Seaport and Pier 17 have a history as cultural marketplace and gateway to the harbor. The area offers attractions, shops, and restaurants for visitors while diverse year-round events like museum and naval exhibits and live concerts draw crowds. www.southstreetseaport.com

This year South Street Seaport debuts Beekman Beer Garden Beach Club, a 22,000-square-foot outdoor waterfront restaurant, bar, and event space. With a tent for table tennis, foosball, and billiards, a menu including brats and spicy cheddarwursts snug in pretzel buns, La Frieda burgers, lobster and crab rolls, watermelon, and fire-roasted corn, plus brews, wine, cocktails, and a free indie rock series on Sunday afternoons featuring such acts as George Clinton and Parliament Funkadelic and Bruce Hornsby, the buzz factor for this beach party is high. *89 South St. on the north side of Pier 17, daily noon-3 a.m., 212-896-4600, www.beekmanbeergarden.com*

Marie Elena Martinez can be reached at www.marieelenamartinez.com.

Hate to Fly?

Cruise Round-trip from Boston, Massachusetts

Sail away to Bermuda, Canada or the Caribbean from under \$100 pp / per day!

 <p>7-Night Bermuda Cruises from Boston, MA from \$499* pp.</p> <p>2-Night Cruise to Nowhere from Boston, MA from \$309* pp.</p>	 <p>7-Night Canada Cruises from Boston, MA From \$699* pp.</p> <p>14-Night Caribbean Cruise from Boston, MA to Tampa, FL (Return flight required) from \$1,319* pp.</p>
---	--

Book Today & Receive FREE Onboard Credits + Travel Insurance at no extra Cost!

Call Now for FREE Brochures or to Reserve your cruise vacation for the **LOWEST** fare:
1-800-DLC-8088
www.DirectLineCruises.com

Direct Line Cruises Inc.
Official Agency for the Cruise Industry

*Rates shown above apply to select sailings and are subject to availability. Government taxes & fees are additional.