

Travel

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In Transit

Highlights from *In Transit*, a blog on travel news, deals and tips written by the editors and reporters of the Travel section, at nytimes.com/intransit.



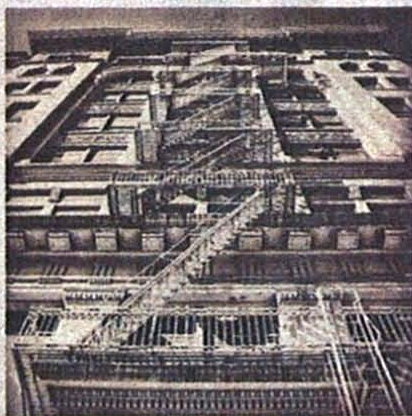
Avoid Roaming Charges With Apps to Use Offline

For travelers who want to use digital applications abroad but would like to avoid the outrageous post-vacation data charges, Lonely Planet has a solution. The company recently introduced a series of travel-guide apps for several countries that can be used offline.

"We found out early on that for leisure travelers, roaming is a really scary thing," said Jeremy Kreitler, Lonely Planet's vice president for Wireless Services. "Everybody has a friend with a bad phone bill from traveling abroad." Apps for Italy, Ireland, Australia, France, Spain and Costa Rica can be downloaded to an iPhone, iPad or iPod Touch, from either the App Store or through the Lonely Planet Travel Guides app. Each guide is \$9.99 and provides suggested itineraries, as well as practical and historical information about the country. Detailed maps allow you to find points anywhere in the country, using your device's GPS.

"The content is the same as what's in our books; we're just adapting it to a mobile format," Mr. Kreitler said. "And you don't have to rack up a huge phone bill in order to use it."

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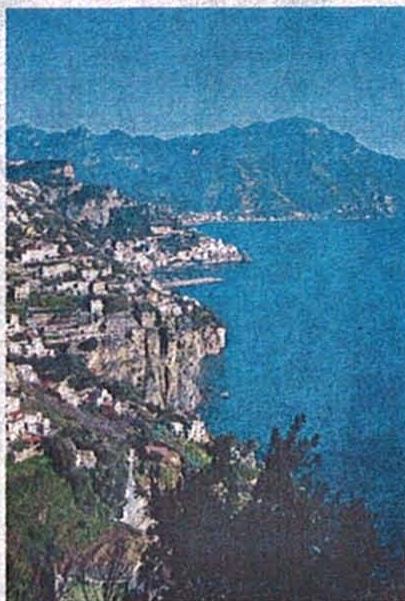
Hotel Rooms With a View Of Photography Shows

Dozens of hotels have notable art collections, but a few are focusing specifically on photography, with shows that wouldn't be out of place at a gallery. W Hotels, for example, will introduce its first Instagram photo exhibition on May 1 at the Living Room in its Times Square property. The hotel is in partnership with the photo-sharing company to curate a display of pictures from New York-based Instagrammers who capture architecture, design and street art in the city (one is seen above). The exhibition will be on display through June.

Sofitel Luxury Hotels has a traveling photo show focusing on the French actress Brigitte Bardot called "BB Forever: Brigitte Bardot, the Legend." The exhibition, which has 30 never-seen pictures that showcase Ms. Bardot's rise to fame, opened during Oscar Week at the Sofitel in Los Angeles and will travel to Sofitel properties in the United States throughout the rest of the year.

In the fall, the Ace Hotel in New York City will join with the Impossible Project, which produces instant film for Polaroid cameras, for a follow-up to its show last fall featuring shots by notable figures like the actor Elijah Wood and the designer Araks Yeremyan.

SHIVANI VORA



Offering Luxury Stays, With Some Breaks

The closest that many travelers get to a luxury hotel is by looking at an ad in a glossy magazine, but several new properties offer posh living for the midrange budget.

One of them, the Monastero Santa Rosa (above), a 20-room hotel on the Amalfi Coast of Italy overlooking the Bay of Salerno, is scheduled to open in mid-May. It has two packages for travel between May 17 and June 7: guests can stay five nights for the cost of three, or three nights for the cost of two. That translates to rates starting at 330 euros (about \$423 at \$1.28 to the euro) per night, including breakfast.

The 611-room Westin Playa Bonita Panama, on a beach and surrounded by rain forest, opened in January and is offering a free fifth night when four nights are booked, plus daily breakfast and room upgrade through the end of the year. That means rooms as little as \$240 a night with the discount.

And the oceanfront Raffles Praslin in the Seychelles, which has 86 villas, has a deal through Dec. 24 that gives guests five-nights for the price of four, an upgrade to the next villa category and breakfast. Those rates start at \$500 a night.

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