

Boston Landmark Celebrates Life Under the Sea

by Tom Roebuck

When Boston visitors book the Onyx Hotel's Go Fish Package, they get the opportunity to visit the New England Aquarium, one of Boston's main attractions and home to a vast array of marine life. **MYRTLE THE TURTLE** - The New England Aquarium is home to Myrtle the turtle who has been a popular attraction for more than 35 years. CNS Photo courtesy of New England Aquarium. Be sure to watch the sharks at feeding time inside the giant ocean tank and catch a glimpse of Myrtle the turtle, a resident of the aquarium for more than 35 years. This Boston landmark also features a brand-new 3D Imax theater, giving viewers the opportunity to take a journey to the bottom of the sea. The Go Fish Package includes overnight stay in deluxe accommodations; four tickets to the aquarium; kid-friendly, fish-inspired amenities, including Go Fish playing cards and Goldfish snacks; and a \$50 voucher toward any meal at the Ruby Room. Rates start at \$300 per night, subject to availability. FYI: For more information or to make reservations, call 866-660-ONYX or visit www.onyxhotel.com. **NEW BOATS WITH BETTER ACCESS** John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park in Key Largo, Fla., features a new Coast Guard-certified boat that has custom-built facilities for snorkelers who use wheelchairs. The 46-foot boat has a specially designed ramp that provides wheelchairs direct, unencumbered access to the main deck from land. The restroom on the main deck was designed to accommodate wheelchairs. The boat's low diving platform makes it easier for physically challenged snorkelers to enter and exit the water. When accompanied by an adult paying full fare, disabled snorkelers go without charge aboard the Encounter. The same fee policy is in place for the park's glass-bottom boat, Spirit of Pennekamp, which has been similarly outfitted to accommodate disabled visitors. Adult fare for a two-and-a-half-hour snorkeling tour (no scuba) is \$28.95 per person. For children under 18, the rate is \$23.95. Masks and fins can be rented for \$2 each, and a \$2 snorkel can be kept by the renter. Departures are scheduled at 9 a.m., noon and 3 p.m. Glass-bottom boat tours are also two and a half hours long. The Spirit of Pennekamp departs daily at 9:15 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 3 p.m. Tickets are \$22 per person for adults and \$15 for children under 12. FYI: Park entrance fees are charged upon entry. For more information call Pennekamp at 305-451-6300 or visit the park's Web site at www.pennekamp.com. **VINO WITH A VIEW** Discover a new favorite wine while taking in the stunning ocean view at Gourmet Au Bay in Bodega Bay, Calif. The first and third Saturday of every month, the wine-tasting bar and gift boutique in Sonoma County hosts a special winery tasting from 3 to 5 p.m. There is a \$10 fee, which is applied to the purchase of wines featured at the event. FYI: Visit www.gourmetaubay.com for a schedule or call 707-875-9875. **AUTHENTIC AUSTRALIA** Based in Adelaide, Australia, Aboriginal-owned Bookabee Tours provides private tours of the city, as well as extended and customized tours to the rugged Outback, Port Augusta and other spectacular regions of South Australia. Incorporating indigenous history and cultural wisdom, operator Haydyn Bromley and his staff offer visitors a unique experience, whether tasting native bushfoods, learning about unusual Australian animals, or listening to creation stories of the Adnyamathanha people at traditional significant sites in the Flinders Ranges. FYI: For more information visit www.bookabee.com.au. **ROAM THE ROCKIES** Under Rocky Mountaineer Vacations' new Summer Booking Bonus, guests who book their qualifying Canadian vacation by Aug. 4 for travel between now and Sept. 25 will receive a \$200 per person credit that can be applied to a variety of trip enhancements offered by Rocky Mountaineer Vacations. Guests can tailor their holiday to Canada's West and the Canadian Rockies by using the credit toward extra hotel nights, car rental, a day trip onboard the Whistler Mountaineer train or a Gray Line West sightseeing tour. If vacation time is limited, the credit can make a significant difference to the cost of a flight, or can be put toward meal plans and transfers. This offer is applicable only to new bookings and is not available in conjunction with any other promotion. The credit can be used only toward the purchase of additional services, and not upgrades. Some restrictions apply. FYI: For additional information or to book a vacation, call 800-665-7245, or visit www.rockymountaineer.com. © Copley News Service