

FYI Travel: This tour of Boston ends with a splash

by Tom_Roebuck

For Boston visitors who want to tour its historic streets and see the city from a vantage point on the Charles River, the Fairmont Copley Plaza hotel offers its Just Ducky package. Included is a Boston Duck Tour, conducted aboard an authentic, renovated World War II amphibious landing vehicle called a duck. The conDuctor provides little-known facts and interesting insights about Boston, but the highlight has to be the splashdown, when the duck rolls into the Charles River for a unique view of the Boston and Cambridge skylines.

SPLASHDOWN - The truck gets wet, but the guests stay dry when the Boston Duck Tours' renovated World War II amphibious landing vehicle splashes into the Charles River. CNS Photo courtesy of Boston Duck Tours. The package includes overnight accommodations and two tickets for Boston Duck Tours, rates start at \$329, and is available until Nov. 25. Make it a family weekend getaway with the kids (ages 3-11) for \$361, which includes a double guest room and four Duck Tour tickets. Package must be booked five days in advance.

FYI: For reservations or more information, call 800-441-1414 or visit www.fairmont.com/copleyplaza.

GRAND CANYON HELP IN HAND

FUNfinder Inc., a technology company based in Phoenix, has reached an agreement with Grand Canyon National Park to supply visitors with hand-held Global Positioning System units that will provide an interactive and easy way to navigate through the sometimes-confusing trails and intersecting roads at the Grand Canyon.

FUNfinder is venue-based, so it provides an easier user interface and information far beyond the usual, generic information that is currently found on maps or GPS units that are not programmed for a specific location. The easy-to-use, lightweight units are suitable for everyone, from "high-tech" kids to "low-tech" seniors.

The devices will function when the user is in the car or exploring by foot, and will not only help to navigate through the numerous sights and hiking trails at the Grand Canyon, but also will provide other logistical information, including locations of restrooms, lodging, shops and concessions. The GPS will also provide locations and routes to medical, fire and park security facilities, as well as pointing out handicap-accessible routes.

FYI: FUNfinder's GPS units will be available at the Grand Canyon beginning in June, and can be rented for under \$12 at the National Geographic IMAX Visitor Center and at various locations inside the park. For more information on FUNfinder, call 602-279-3866 or visit www.funfindergps.com.

THE ART OF GIVING

Master craftspeople from around the world will be gathering in Santa Fe, N.M., this summer and Inn on the Alameda has crafted a special package for the folk art aficionado that includes a tax-deductible donation to the Market.

The acclaimed Annual International Folk Art Market takes place July 14-15 with artisans from some 32 countries sharing their multicultural heritage and allowing visitors the rare opportunity to purchase directly from the artist. The Market features authentic folk art in a variety of mediums by more than 100 artists and fittingly takes place on Milner Plaza, home to the Museum of International Folk Art.

The Inn on the Alameda's Think Globally - Act Locally package is available Thursday July 12 through Monday July 16 and is based on a three-night stay with double occupancy. The package includes:

- Three nights accommodations for two.

- A lavish continental breakfast and an afternoon wine and cheese reception daily.

- One whimsical folk art keepsake per booking.

- Free bus transportation to Museum Hill.

- Tickets for two to attend opening day of the festival on July 14.

- A \$50 tax-deductible donation to the Santa Fe International Folk Art Market to help continue the success of this creative international endeavor.

Package rates range from \$645 to \$1,050 (depending on room type), are exclusive of tax and are subject to availability. Rates for additional nights and additional guests are available.

FYI: For reservations and information, contact the Inn on the Alameda at 800-289-2122 or visit www.innonthealameda.com. For information on the International Folk Art Market, visit www.folkartmarket.org.

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