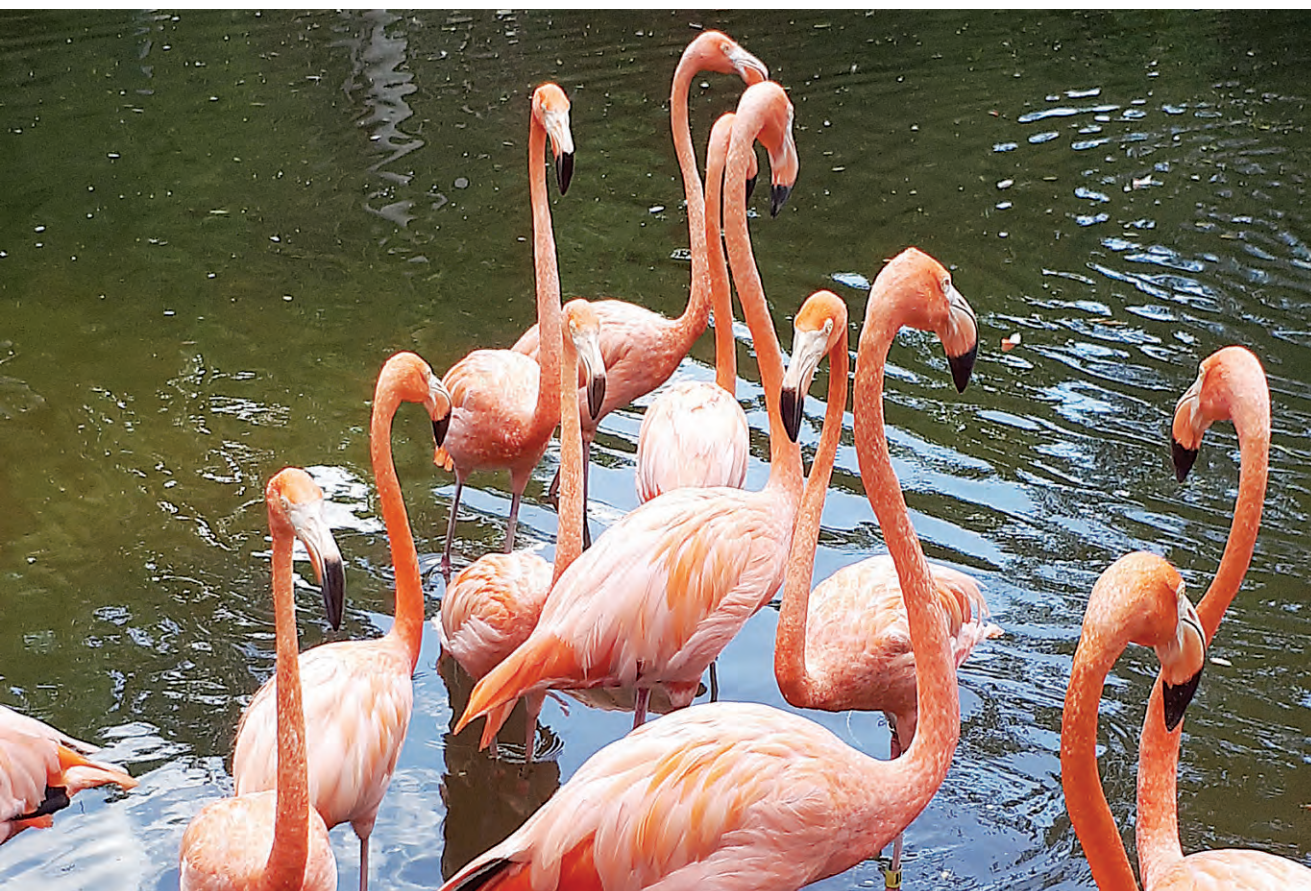


escapade

Travel
P.E.I. park offers hidden treasures **E3**



Flamigos at Jungle Gardens PHOTO: TIFFANY THORNTON/TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL



The kids canopy village at the Marie Selby gardens PHOTO: TIFFANY THORNTON/TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL



Signs on Anna Maria Island PHOTO: TIFFANY THORNTON/TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL



A break from the heat at Jungle Gardens PHOTO: TIFFANY THORNTON/TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

A WEEKEND GETAWAY IN SARASOTA

TIFFANY THORNTON
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

Florida just got a whole lot closer for Maritimers with Elite Airway's new year-round flights into Sarasota/Bradenton from Halifax, the only Canadian city they currently fly out of. The twice-weekly flights have a quick stop in Portland, Maine, (with no plane change), before carrying on to sunny Sarasota.

Elite Airways is also pet friendly – you can buy a seat onboard for your four legged friend weighing up to 90 pounds. Forget Disney, this check out the Sarasota area for a few days, you won't be disappointed. With so much to see and do, from dolphin watching, to feeding flamingos to the United States's best beach boasting the finest white sand you will ever sink your feet into, it's the perfect family getaway.

Old Florida Charm

Start your stay on Anna Maria Island, a true tropical oasis on the Gulf of

Mexico. It feels like you are miles away from civilization, yet it is just less than half an hour from the airport. The island is only seven miles long, and a free, air-conditioned trolley runs the length of it, so you can hop on and off to explore. Take it out to the Anna Maria pier for some stunning ocean views and spectacular sunsets.

Right near the pier on Pine Street, is Beach Bums, which offers daily and weekly bike rentals. Cycling is a fantastic way to navigate a new place if you are looking for family fun. Beach Bums offers free delivery of the bikes to wherever you are staying on the island, from cruiser bikes to tandems and even Surrey bikes which fit up to six people. A canopy is included to keep you out of the sun. You will be zooming around the beautiful island in no time.

Lunch Time

Cycle over to Popos Taqueria for some fresh burritos, tacos, quesadillas and more. Inspired by Mexican gourmet street food, all the yummy items are

served on homemade tortillas stuffed to the brim with tasty fillings.

Dolphins on the Ocean

Set sail on the clear blue waters with dolphins on Captain Sherman Baldwin's Boat Tour. Dolphins are everywhere off the coast of Anna Maria Island, so you are guaranteed to spot more than a few playfully hanging out alongside of the boat showing off their flippers. The tour guides really take the time to fill you in on all things dolphin, like how they love the shallow waters, are as smart as apes, and incredibly social. You may even spot a super plump manatee (also known as a sea cow) bobbing around.

Into the Jungle

Jungle Gardens has been a local attraction since 1936, offering over 170 acres of flora and fauna, and over 200 animal habitats to explore. Get up close and personal with a bunch of pink

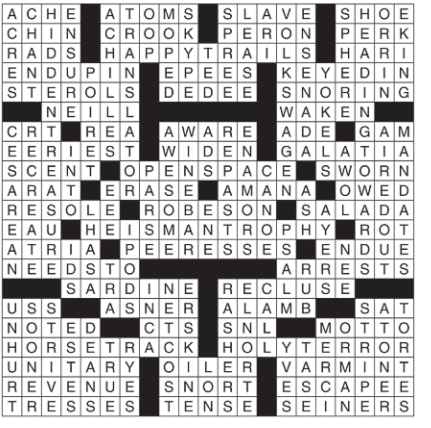
PLEASE SEE → SARASOTA, E6



The pier on Anna Maria Island PHOTO: TIFFANY THORNTON/TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

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Answer to puzzle on page E2.



A weekend getaway in Sarasota with the whole family

SARASOTA →E1

flamingos. You can feed these beauties that roam freely by a lagoon, making for the perfect photo-op, and something the kids will be talking about forever. Throughout the day you can take in a birds of prey show, where parrots, macaws and other avian performers impress you with their talent. If its reptiles you are after, learn all about gators, crocs and more. You may even have a chance to hold a small alligator.

Circus Delight

Just up the road from Jungle Gardens is

the Ringling Museum. Allow for a full day here to take in the lush grounds and all the various museums have to offer, from old circus memorabilia to a Venetian style mansion filled with famous works of art. At one time, the circus was touted as the greatest show on earth! It was John and Mable Ringling who brought the idea of a circus to the public in the early 19th century.

Make your way to the circus museum, home to the world's largest miniature circus – an astounding 3,800 square feet exhibiting the entire circus process from start to finish. Mini people line up to enter the big top, acrobats soar through the air on a trapeze, and tiny elephants adorned in show attire head out into the ring.

Gardens Galore

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens and Children's Rainforest evokes a sense of

whimsical wonder as soon as you arrive. The gardens showcase a variety of orchids, a rose garden, a serene waterfall filled with koi, and even a butterfly garden where large monarchs flit around landing on the flowers while dragonflies prance in the sun.

The tropical rainforest is a fantastical place to play. Straw huts tower above gnarly tall trees, while a canopy bridge leads the kids across to explore the magical terrain. You can dress up in one of the tents as a fairy, serve up fake tea, and even hula with colourful frogs. If you get too hot, the Children's Rainforest has misters that jut out of the rocks to cool you off.

Manatees and More

The Mote Aquarium is a marine research facility. It is filled with an abundance of ocean life – from silly otters to salad eating manatees that can weigh

up to 1,200 pounds. The aquarium offers numerous immersive experiences. You can hang out with the sea turtles, each with a unique story of their own or stare eye-to-eye with the sharks in their 135,000-gallon tank. You can even tour the seahorse conservation lab, they breed them there and give you a chance to feed a few of these delicate creatures.

Beauty and the Beach

Siesta Key beaches are rated the best in the United States for a good reason. As soon as you pack your gear and head on down to the turquoise waters, you become smitten. Sure it may be busy, but you can still find that stretch of white sand on one of the three beaches that feels like yours. You will want to be swimming in the warm waters, riding the waves and taking in the Gulf of Mexico breeze.

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11-DAY DELUXE 'NO FLY' BOSTON TO BERMUDA CRUISE TOUR
April 25 - May 5, 2018

- 3 night accommodation: 1N Portland (pre-cruise), 1N Colonnade Boutique Hotel (post-cruise), 1N Augusta, Maine
- 4 Group dinners included
- 7 night cruise on Norwegian Dawn including 3 days docked at King's Wharf in Bermuda
- Exclusive Collins Tours cocktail reception on board ship
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily during the cruise
- All entertainment aboard the Norwegian Dawn including Broadway style shows
- Hot continental breakfast during pre- and post-cruise hotel stays

SAVE UP TO \$400/CPL

MID-SHIP INSIDE STATEROOM \$2995 pp TAX INC

5-DAY CHRISTMAS WITH THE BOSTON POPS ORCHESTRA PREMIUM TOUR
December 6 - 10, 2017

- 4N accommodation: 2N Boston, 1N Augusta, 1N Bangor
- 6 Meals: Breakfast daily, 2 Dinners, including a Farewell Dinner with a complimentary glass of wine or beer
- Center Stage Seats for Boston Pops Symphony included
- Half-day guided historic city tour of Boston
- Visit Faneuil Hall & Quincy Market
- Return Premium Motorcoach Transportation

SAVE \$100/CPL

DBL \$1525pp \$1475pp TAX INC

ONLY 8 SEATS LEFT

7-DAY NEWPORT MANSIONS & FALL FOLIAGE IN THE WHITE MOUNTAINS
October 10 - 16, 2017

- Return Premium Motorcoach transportation from the Maritimes
- 6N Premium accommodations: 1N TownePlace Suites – Bangor NE, 2N Historic Eagle Mountain House – Jackson NH, 2N Newport Beach Hotel & Suites – Newport RI, 1N Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton – Augusta ME
- 10 Meals: 3 Group Dinners, 1 Lunch and hot breakfast daily
- 1/2-day professionally guided tour in Newport
- 1-3/4-hr. train ride and three-course lunch aboard Conway Scenic Railroad
- Rhode Island Welcome Reception
- Shopping excursion at tax-free Settlers Green Premium Shopping, New Hampshire

DBL \$2095pp \$2020pp TAX INC

SAVE \$150/CPL

ONLY 6 SEATS LEFT

16-DAY ANNUAL HAWAIIAN ISLANDS NCL CRUISE TOUR
March 22 - April 6, 2018

- Round-trip airfare from Maritimes to Honolulu, Round Trip Airport Transfers included Taxes and Port Fees included
- 7N accommodation at the fully renovated Courtyard by Marriott Waikiki in Honolulu (2N pre-cruise & 5N post-cruise)
- Group welcome cocktail reception and 2 Dinners in Oahu, Breakfast included daily in Waikiki, Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily during the cruise
- Authentic Hawaiian Luau with dinner, drinks, and entertainment
- 7-Night cruise aboard NCL Pride of America to Maui, Kona, Hilo and Kauai
- Full day tour in Oahu including Dole Plantation aboard the Pineapple Express Train, the North Shore beaches (Waimea Beach and Sunset Beach) and Waimea Falls
- Half Day guided City tour of Honolulu
- Free half day Maui Excursion
- Pre-paid onboard cruise gratuities for Norwegian Cruise Line staff

LAST CALL 3 CABINS LEFT

MID-SHIP OCEANVIEW \$6725 pp CABIN UPGRADES AVAILABLE

SAVE UP TO \$400/CPL

4-DAY CAPE BRETON CELTIC COLOURS TOUR
October 2 - 5, 2017

- 3 nights deluxe accommodations: 1N Baddeck, NS, 1N Ingonish, NS, 1N Sydney, NS
- 6 Meals, Breakfast Daily, 1 lunch & 2 Group Dinners in Cape Breton!
- Professionally Guided Tour of the Cabot Trail plus travel along scenic Marconi Trail
- Local Cape Breton Musical entertainment at two dinner venues.
- Entrance fees to: Alexander Graham Bell Museum, Fortress of Louisbourg, National Historic Site of Canada, Visit Rita's Tea Room

DBL \$1225pp TAX INC

OVER 50% SOLD

11-DAY HIGHLIGHTS OF PERU ADVENTURE
January 31 - February 10, 2018

- 10 Nights Premium Accommodation: 4N Lima, 2N Cuzco, 1N Machu Picchu, 2N Sacred Valley and 1 Overnight Flight back to the Maritimes
- 14 Meals: 8 Breakfasts, 1 Light Lunch on return Peru Rail trip, 1 Buffet Lunch at the top of Machu Picchu, 1 Welcome Dinner in Lima, 1 Group Dinner in Aguas Calientes, 1 Group Dinner in Sacred Valley & 1 Farewell Sunset Dinner in Lima
- Half-day professionally guided tours of Lima, Cuzco, the Sacred Valley and Machu Picchu
- Roundtrip Peru Rail train ticket from Cuzco to Aguas Calientes, at the base of Machu Picchu

DBL \$4650pp TAX INC

ONLY 4 SEATS LEFT

5-DAY CANADIAN THANKSGIVING TOUR TO NEW YORK CITY
October 5 - 9, 2017

- 4N accommodations: 1N Portland, 2N New York, 1N Augusta
- 2 breakfasts
- Optional: Ticket to HOT Broadway musical.
- Half-day guided sightseeing tour of New York City including Battery Park for a photo opportunity of the Statue of Liberty, Rockefeller Centre, Central Park, St. Patrick's Cathedral & more!
- Visit to one World Trade observational deck

DBL \$1495pp TAX INC

LAST CALL 4 SEATS LEFT

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Siesta Key Beach PHOTO: TIFFANY THORNTON/TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL



A globe at the Marie Selby gardens PHOTO: TIFFANY THORNTON/TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL



A Ringling Circus vintage sign for The Big Show PHOTO: TIFFANY THORNTON/TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL



The kids canopy village bridge at the Marie Selby gardens PHOTO: TIFFANY THORNTON/TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL



Anna Maria Island's Beach Bums bike rental PHOTO: TIFFANY THORNTON/TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL



The dolphin tour on Anna Maria Island PHOTO: TIFFANY THORNTON/TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL



Anna Maria Island is a tropical oasis on the Gulf of Mexico. PHOTO: TIFFANY THORNTON/TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL