



## 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](http://nytimes.com/intransit).



PROVINCIA DI ROMA

### On the Web

#### FRUGAL TRAVELER

Seth Kugel gives a rundown on hotels from Jacksonville to Daytona Beach, Fla.

[nytimes.com/frugaltraveler](http://nytimes.com/frugaltraveler)

#### GLOBESPOTTERS

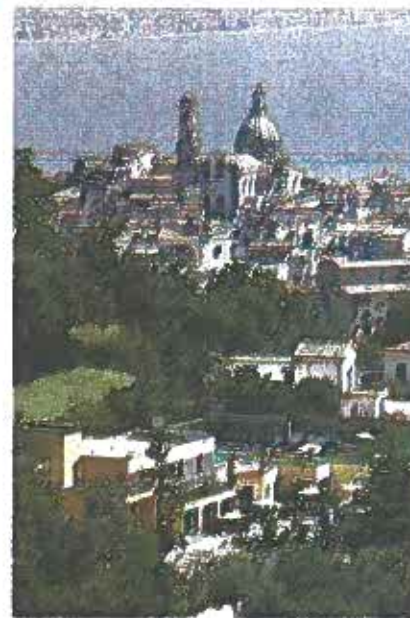
Correspondents report on where to get custom-made suits for men in Hong Kong, an exhibition of World War II-era photographs in Amsterdam and new tours of historic villas in Rome (above).

[nytimes.com/globespotters](http://nytimes.com/globespotters)

#### WHY WE TRAVEL

Readers are invited to submit their best travel photos of 2011. Selected photographs will appear in the print edition of the Travel section, and in an online slide show.

[submit.nytimes.com/why-we-travel](http://submit.nytimes.com/why-we-travel)



### Anniversary Celebration Is Spread Across Italy

Italy is celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Risorgimento, the unification of the former patchwork of states up and down the peninsula.

Cities are home to a bevy of cultural events — dinners, concerts, museum shows in Turin; a scholarly walk in Rome — but a couple of hotels on the Amalfi coast are also celebrating with deals for travelers.

Last month Hotel Raito ([hotelraito.it](http://hotelraito.it)) introduced a unification package that starts at 210 euros, about \$297 at \$1.40 to the euro, and this month Relais Paradiso ([relaisparadiso.it](http://relaisparadiso.it)) began a package that starts at 340 euros. Both offer lodging, dinner, breakfast and admission to one of two Neapolitan museums with birth-of-the-nation exhibitions.

Tour operators are also getting in on the act.

ItalyVacations.com will discount trips to Rome, Florence or Turin by \$150 to travelers booking with the promotional code 150YEARS. **ELAINE GLUSAC**



STEVE FILIPIAK/ABERCROMBIE & KENT PICTURE LIBRARY

### Have Discount, Will Travel Solo

Solo travelers going on expeditions often must pay additional fees that can significantly increase the cost of a trip. But the luxury travel company Abercrombie & Kent has a new solo-savings initiative that reduces, and in some cases waives, extra expenses for those hitting the road on their own.

About 10 percent of Abercrombie & Kent's bookings last year came from those traveling alone, the company said. "Solo travelers have been penalized in the past with higher fees, but we wanted to present them with value," said Bob Simpson, the company's vice president of business development in the United States.

Fees are waived or reduced on more than 45 trips, including to China, Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, Kenya and other popular destinations. The \$1,625 fee for an 11-day safari in Kenya, for example, is now waived, and the solo travel fee of \$3,805 for a 13-day trip in Turkey is now \$951.

The company's Web site has a separate section for solo travelers ([abercrombiekent.com/discover/solo-travel](http://abercrombiekent.com/discover/solo-travel)), where they can find trips catering to their interests. **SHIVANI VORA**



### Surprise! You're Going To Paris and Portugal

The biggest surprise that most travelers face is a flight delay. But American Express Travel is offering a new twist that promises to introduce some spontaneity: it chooses destinations for you, and shares the details later.

The service, called Nextpedition, started this month. Users answer a series of multiple-choice questions to determine their travel style. The results sort travelers into categories like Adrenalistas (outdoor lovers) and Tastebazers (foodies). Using these profiles, American Express agents design a seven-day, dual-destination trip.

The first stop is a mystery until a week before departure, when travelers receive a loaner smartphone loaded with flight information, Lonely Planet guidebook content and a partial itinerary. During the trip, two mystery activities and a second mystery destination are each revealed 24 hours in advance.

This leap of faith costs \$1,000 to \$2,000 per person, double occupancy for domestic trips, and \$2,500 to \$3,500 for European ones, including hotel, airfare.

## Letters

### WHY WE TRAVEL

To the Editor: As a young traveler with a predisposition to developing countries and sometimes controversial locations, I was initially pleased to see "Why We Travel" by Paul Theroux (April 3). I agree that some of the most enriching experiences come from places with deep, complex political history as well as those with some current discord. I've experienced a more open and talkative people in places from Vietnam to India, versus those living in, say, Cancun.

Mr. Theroux had me mentally fist-pumping the joys of travel. That is, until the close of his piece in which he says, "And along with oppression and human rights violations, I found hospitality, marvels and a sense of discovery." Violations of human rights can never be overshadowed by the "marvels" of any destination and Mr. Theroux sounds callous, if not ignorant. **MICHELLE STARIN**  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

To the Editor: Had I listened to the naysayers, I would not have dived in Indonesia, trekked in Myanmar, or gone down the Zambezi in Zimbabwe. Although Paul Theroux speaks of not going to Pakistan or Afghanistan, Roger Williams of Wilderness Travel has safely led more than one expedition into those seemingly dangerous destinations. Admittedly I have not done it yet, but cannot resist signing up for Mr. Williams's trip "Zhivago's Siberia: Camel Polo in the Gobi, Winter on Lake Baikal."

**LYNN MEYER BROWN**  
Houston

### CORRECTIONS

An article on April 10 about the growing green movement in Paris misstated the charge by Ecovisit Paris for a one-hour tour of the city's eco-friendly sights. It is 80 euros (about \$113), not 60 euros (\$85).

The cover article on April 10 about driving the Great Ocean Road along the southern coast of Australia mis-