

The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD



RHODE ISLAND AIRPORT CORPORATION

Three N.E. airports land in top 10 list

Bradley, T.F. Green, and Portland get high marks with passengers — but not Logan

By Christopher Muther
GLOBE STAFF

The readers of Condé Nast Traveler have spoken, and they are fans of three New England airports — Bradley International in Hartford, T.F. Green in Warwick, R.I., and Portland International in Maine. All three landed in the magazine's official list of the top 10 airports in the United States.

Conspicuously missing: Logan and Manchester-Boston Regional. Perhaps Manchester didn't make the cut because it's nowhere near Boston and should be legally required to drop Boston from its name. Logan has been making strides, but was still denied entry into this exclusive clique of top air-

ports. First the positive. Portland International, which placed at number 10 on the list, was praised for its homey, comfortable atmosphere and shopping options.

"Departing fliers appreciate a last chance to stock up on Maine staples like Stonewall Kitchen jams or to chow down on a lobster roll at Linda Bean's," the magazine noted.

T.F. Green, which recently nabbed Norwegian Air's seasonal bargain flights to the French Caribbean, was lauded as a "great little airport" by travelers and earned high marks for being easy to navigate and centrally located.

Bradley International placed at number five thanks in part to new international offerings from Norwegian

Air and Aer Lingus.

"Customers praise its convenient on-site parking, plentiful charging stations, and free Wi-Fi, decent restaurant options, and overall relaxed atmosphere — making this midsized facility an attractive alternative to flying out of New York's and Boston's monster hubs," the readers said in the surveys.

Fortunately for LaGuardia, Condé Nast Traveler doesn't publish a list of the bottom 10 airports in the country. Its lists are focused on superlatives. Because of that, we don't know where Condé Nast readers put Logan. But based on recent information, it's safe to assume that it didn't rank particularly high.

Last month a survey from J.D. Power put Logan near the bottom of the "mega airports" category. That rating

will likely change as Logan continues to introduce new lounges and unveil refreshed areas of international terminal E.

"Various upgrades and renovations in recent years have failed to keep pace with steady passenger growth, fueled by an expanding JetBlue Airways and new international service," the Power study stated.

In some cases the Condé Nast survey is at odds with the J.D. Power survey. Bradley may have placed at number five with Condé Nast readers, but J.D. Power placed it dead last on its list of medium-sized airports.

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CONDÉ NAST TRAVELER'S TOP 10 US AIRPORTS.

10. Portland (Maine) International Jetport.
9. T.F. Green (pictured)
8. Dallas Love Field
7. Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport
6. Savannah/Hilton Head International
5. Bradley International
4. Tampa International
3. Long Beach Airport
2. Portland (Oregon) International
1. Indianapolis International

THE TIP

The first house Gaudi designed opens to the public



PHOTOYS BY POL VILADOMS

Casa Vicens in Barcelona.



By Diane Daniel
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

The next time you're in Barcelona, add one more stop to the list of Antoni Gaudi buildings to visit. After years of repairs, Casa Vicens, the first house designed by the city's defining architect, will open to the public for the first time on Nov. 16, with advance tickets already on sale.

While Gaudi is most famous for Sagrada Família, his unfinished swirling cathedral, he designed many buildings in and around the Catalan capital, from relatively standard works to the more asymmetrical, organic, even surreal buildings he became known for. Casa Vicens, a Unesco World Heritage Site since 2005, fits into the lat-

ter category.

The four-story eye-popping building was designed as a summer home for a stockbroker as Gaudi's first notable commission when he was in his early 30s. Built between 1883 and 1888, it boasts fanciful turrets, brightly colored tiles, and wedding-cake ceilings.

Over the years, various property owners had altered the space. After decades of being in the hands of the same family, Casa Vicens was sold to MoraBanc, which has spent millions on the building's restoration and transformation into a museum complex.

In Casa Vicens, Gaudi experiments with concave and convex spaces, lights and shadows, and colors and textures typically found in Moorish architecture. Natural shapes and elements also influence his work, seen here in such touches as a cast iron grill entrance depicting a palmetto leaf and ceramic tiles adorned with marigolds. More nature-themed decorative arts, including wrought iron, painting, ceramic, woodworking, intricate molding, and murals, fill the interior.

The restoration created several spaces for visitor activities and exhibits, including a welcome area, bookshop and café. Also accessible are the property's gardens and walkable rooftop.

CASA VICENS Carrer de les Carolines, 20-26, Barcelona, www.casavicens.org. Open daily excluding major holidays. General admission is \$19; for people 65 and older, students under 25, and children 7 to 18, admission is \$16.50. Children under 7 are free.

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HERE

STRESS FREE CAMPING IN TINY HOUSES

The camping experience gets a makeover with Getaway, a company that designs tiny houses and sets them in beautiful landscapes within a two-hour drive from major cities. Now Getaway announces its expansion to the Boston market with a collection of 35 tiny houses hidden in a 40-acre site in the forests of southern New Hampshire. Available to rent on a nightly basis, the sites offer a fully equipped woodland vacation without stressful what-to-bring planning. Think of it as Camping 101: Each house includes built-in toilet and shower, kitchen stovetop and sink, electric heater, linens, cooking essentials, and is stocked with a box of provisions for simple meals and snacks such as pasta and sauce, s'mores, popcorn, and coffee. Enjoy the great outdoors with private picnic table, and fire ring with wood and kindling. Sleeps 2-4 guests. Pets welcome with additional fee. Rates from \$125 per night. <https://getaway.house>

THANKSGIVING ON NANTUCKET PACKAGE

Celebrate Thanksgiving within the scent of the sea at the Jared Coffin House, a landmark mansion-turned-hotel that was built by and named for one of Nantucket's most prominent shipping merchants. Located in the historic district, steps away from restaurants, shops and local attractions, the property's new Thanksgiving Package offers guests two tickets to the Whaling Museum (featuring a 46-foot sperm whale skeleton!); mini cranberry loaf welcome amenity; and \$100 credit to Brant Point Grill, which can be used for the restaurant's Thanksgiving menu. Rates from \$430 for two nights. Code: GIVING. 800-248-2405, <http://www.jaredcoffinhouse.com/special-pkg>



THERE

LEONARD COHEN'S LEGACY ON DISPLAY IN MONTREAL

The life and works of Montreal poet, singer/songwriter, and novelist Leonard Cohen are celebrated at MAC Montreal's new exhibit, "Leonard Cohen — Une brèche en toute chose / A Crack in Everything." This multidisciplinary exhibition is part of a special program marking the 375th anniversary of Montreal, and features the work of 40 artists, filmmakers, and musicians from 10 different countries who were inspired by Cohen's unique style and recurring themes of sorrow, melancholy, exalted spirituality, and earthly sexuality. The show also includes a survey of Cohen's archival writings, drawings, and recordings produced over the past half-century. Through April 9, 2018. <http://macm.org/en/exhibitions/leonard-cohen/>

LGBTQ+ WEDDINGS ACHIEVE LEGAL STATUS AT SEA

After a transformative vote in Malta, where a majority of Celebrity Cruises' fleet is registered, the company has announced their fleet's captains may now legally officiate onboard same-sex marriages. Though many onboard same-sex weddings in the United States, Mexico, and Caribbean waters were already legal, this new Malta ruling opens up marriage equality for anyone and everyone sailing with Celebrity Cruises while in international waters, meaning the Celebrity Weddings program can legally offer onboard ceremonies and destination weddings for the LGBTQ+ community. The Nautical Nuptials at Sea package includes a Captain-led ceremony, an event coordinator's services, live music, one hour of photography, cake for two, bottle of champagne, a bouquet and boutonniere, plus additional romantic turn-down amenities post-ceremony. 800-

437-3111, <https://www.celebritycruises.com/groups-and-events/special-occasion-cruises/wedding-cruises>

EVERYWHERE

REVERSIBLE GARMENTS DOUBLE FASHION OPTIONS

Obermeyer's new Soleil reversible down insulators and vests offer two ways to look stylish while staying warm. Wearable with either side out, each side is finished in a distinctive look from the other, meaning you can pack half as many clothes and also have a variety of wardrobe options. Within slimming stitch lines you'll find 800-fill power-goose-down for ultimate warmth without sacrificing weight, making it easy to squish in a suitcase for all your winter travel activities. High performance fabrics use fully coated hydrophobic laminations and DWR polymer coating for stain protection and coating integrity. Resists water penetration while allowing water vapor to pass creating a water-resistant breathable barrier. Available in four to six solid colors with reversible patterns including wild leopard, dusk, and "It's Snowing Roses." \$159-\$189. <https://www.obermeyer.com/catalog/womens/soleil-reversible-down-insulator?v=12043>

GLOBAL WI-FI HOTSPOT FOR DIGITAL NOMADS

In a 24/7 world one needs easy phone access when traveling abroad. If spotty Wi-Fi, unexpected roaming charges, and expensive data programs drive you crazy, perhaps Roaming Man is the solution. Originally designed for use in Asia, the rentable, portable, and rechargeable pocket-sized device is now available for American business and leisure travelers. Using advanced Cloud SIM technology, Roaming Man offers an affordable SIM-free and roaming-free Wi-Fi hotspot that works in more than 100 countries. Guaranteed to arrive within a couple of days after ordering online, the unit provides secure high-speed 4G Internet access for \$9.99 a day, sharable across up to 5 devices. Long-lasting power allows up to 15 consecutive hours of use in single day. Delivery of the device is also now available at JFK International Airport, via a courier that meets travelers at airport check-in. Roaming Man also offers 24/7 international customer service. <http://www.roamingman.com/>

KARI BODNARCHUK