Mazatlan is more than your average Mexican beach town

The Washington Post - Sunday, September 28, 2008 - Travel

WHERE TO STAY

Go to: www.traveldirectory.washingtonpost.com

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WHERE TO EAT

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WHERE TO SHOP

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WHERE TO SIGHTSEE

Go to: www.sinaloa.gob.mx

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WHERE TO PLAY & DANCE

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Go to: www.mazatlanfitness.com

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WHERE TO REST

Go to: www.mazatlanbeach.com

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WHERE TO FISH

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WHERE TO FLY

Go to: www.mazatlanairport.com

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WHERE TO EMBASSY

Go to: www.mexicoembassy.org

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WHERE TO FISH
**Where artists were inspired**

**BY FAYE ROSE**

**TIME for a break, and to savor a major work of the Hudson River School of American landscape artists, we nibble a delicious plate of lips from the Crib's Blue Moon.**

The Crib is the centerpiece of the Hudson River School Art Museum, the new home of the 19th-century landscape paintings by the American artists who were inspired by the Hudson River. The museum, which opened in 2015, is located in the historic floodplain of the Hudson River, just a stone's throw from the Catskill Mountains.

The museum, which is housed in a former railroad station, is a wonderful place to explore the art and culture of the Hudson Valley. The museum features an extensive collection of 19th-century American landscape paintings, as well as a variety of interactive exhibits and educational programs.

One of the highlights of the museum is the gallery dedicated to the Hudson River School artists, who were known for their romantic landscapes that depicted the beauty and grandeur of the American wilderness. Visitors can explore paintings by artists such as Thomas Cole, Asher Durand, and Frederic Church, who were all inspired by the Hudson River and its surrounding mountains.

Another highlight of the museum is the permanent collection of American art, which includes works by contemporary artists as well as early American masters. The collection includes paintings, sculpture, and photography, and is arranged in a way that allows visitors to explore the development of American art over time.

In addition to the permanent collection, the museum also offers a variety of temporary exhibitions and events throughout the year. These exhibitions and events feature works by both established and emerging artists, and are a great way to stay up-to-date on the latest developments in the art world.

Overall, the Hudson River School Art Museum is a wonderful place to visit for anyone interested in American art or the Hudson Valley. Whether you are a serious art connoisseur or simply enjoy the beauty of the natural world, there is something for everyone at this museum.

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**WHERE TO EAT**

The Crib, which is located just across the street from the museum, offers a delicious menu of American cuisine. The menu features a variety of hearty dishes, including burgers, pulled pork, and barbecue chicken. Be sure to try the berry crumble, which is a delicious dessert that is sure to satisfy your sweet tooth.

**WHERE TO STAY**

If you are planning to stay in the area, there are several options to choose from. The Catskill Motor Court, which is located just a short drive from the museum, offers clean and comfortable rooms at an affordable price.

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To learn more about the Hudson River School Art Museum and the surrounding area, be sure to visit their website or contact them directly for more information. The museum is open year-round, and admission is free to the public.
What clueless tourists lack: Travel literacy

By MARIE V. REMOLD

Now that vacation season is in full swing, countless travelers are on the move, each with their own set of idiosyncratic quirks and preferences. It’s no surprise that some find themselves lost or bewildered in unfamiliar cities, with referrals to local authorities or hotel staff often ending up in failure. This travel season, THE NAVIGATOR offers tips on avoiding travel mishaps, particularly among those who are not particularly skilled in navigating unfamiliar environments. We all have a way of doing things, and sometimes, our methods may not be the most efficient or effective for others. Let’s take a look at some common travel-related missteps and how to avoid them.

**1. **Failing to read maps. 

Maps are a traveler’s best friend. They provide a bird’s eye view of an area, showing streets, landmarks, and other important information. Failing to read maps can lead to confusion and frustration, especially in large cities with complex transportation systems. To avoid this, always carry a map of the area you’re visiting and take advantage of online resources like Google Maps or Citymapper.

**2. **Not understanding foreign currency. 

Currency conversion rates can vary widely, and it’s crucial to understand how to calculate them correctly. Use a reliable currency converter or app to ensure you get the best rate possible. It’s also important to keep an eye on exchange rates and carry sufficient cash or credit for unexpected expenses.

**3. **Ignoring local customs. 

Each culture has its own customs and traditions, and it’s important to respect them. Not understanding local customs can lead to embarrassment or even offense. Research the customs and traditions of your destination beforehand and be open to learning and adapting.

**4. **Overpacking. 

Traveling lightly is key to a comfortable journey. Overpacking can lead to delayed flights and added baggage fees. Be strategic about what you pack, focusing on versatile items and packing as little as possible.

**5. **Neglecting to research your destination. 

Knowing your destination thoroughly can save you time and money. Researching the culture, history, and local customs can help you make the most of your trip. This also includes understanding the local language and transportation options.

**6. **Failing to adjust to time differences. 

Traveling across time zones can be challenging, and it’s important to adjust your schedule accordingly. Consider planning your activities to accommodate for the new time zone, and try to get plenty of rest before your flight.

**7. **Not understanding local laws and regulations. 

Different countries have different rules and regulations, and it’s crucial to be aware of them. Researching local laws and regulations can help you avoid fines or other legal issues.

**8. **Failing to secure accommodations. 

Booking accommodations in advance can save you money and ensure a comfortable stay. Be mindful of booking scams and always use reputable booking sites to secure your accommodations.

**9. **Ignoring safety precautions. 

Traveling in unfamiliar environments can be risky, and it’s important to take precautions to ensure your safety. This includes avoiding area with a reputation for crime, being aware of your surroundings, and carrying a map or GPS device.

**10. **Neglecting to have backup plans. 

Travel plans can fall apart at any moment, so it’s crucial to have backup plans in case things go wrong. Always have a Plan B in mind, whether it’s a different route, a backup hotel, or even a different destination.

By being aware of these common travel-related missteps, travelers can avoid potential pitfalls and make the most of their journeys. Happy travels to all!

** Bonus Tip:**

**11. **Understanding local culture and traditions.

It’s crucial to understand and respect the local culture and traditions of your destination. This includes understanding local customs, dress codes, and religious practices. Failing to do so can lead to misunderstandings and even offense.

**12. **Failing to adapt to local customs.

Each culture has its own customs and traditions, and it’s important to respect them. Not understanding local customs can lead to embarrassment or even offense. Research the customs and traditions of your destination beforehand and be open to learning and adapting.

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Why Cleveland? It’s a gift that keeps on giving.

Rock Hall, baseball and 'A Christmas Story' home among highlights

By ALEXANDRA FEIN

A trip to Cleveland means exploring the city’s rich history, culture, and attractions that make it unique. It’s a city that offers something for everyone, whether you’re interested in music, sports, or history. Here’s a look at some of Cleveland’s top attractions:

**1. **Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is a must-visit for music lovers. The museum tells the story of rock and roll through interactive exhibits, artifacts, and more. It’s a great place to learn about the history of music and the influence it has had on popular culture.

**2. **Progressive Field.

If you’re a baseball fan, Progressive Field is a must-see. It’s the home of the Cleveland Indians, and a visit here is a great way to experience the city’s love for sports. The stadium is filled with history and offers great views of the lake and city. It’s a great place to watch a game or take a tour.

**3. **Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park is a natural paradise just outside of Cleveland. The park features miles of hiking trails, scenic views, and opportunities for birdwatching. It’s a great place to escape the city and enjoy the beauty of nature.

**4. **A Christmas Story Home.

For fans of the classic movie 'A Christmas Story,' the A Christmas Story Home is a must-see. The house is decorated like the one in the movie, complete with the iconic leg lamp andTurk's Nest. It’s a unique and fun attraction that’s perfect for families and movie lovers alike.

**5. **Cleveland Museum of Art.

The Cleveland Museum of Art is a must-visit for art lovers. The museum features an extensive collection of art from around the world, including paintings, sculptures, and more. It’s a great place to explore the history of art and learn about different cultures.

**6. **Great Lakes Science Center.

The Great Lakes Science Center is a hands-on science museum that’s perfect for kids. It features a variety of exhibits and activities that focus on science and technology. It’s a great place to learn and have fun at the same time.

**7. **West Side Market.

West Side Market is a historic outdoor market that’s nestled in the heart of Cleveland. The market features over 100 vendors selling everything from fresh produce to handmade crafts. It’s a great place to shop and discover local goods.

**8. **The Cleveland Orchestra.

The Cleveland Orchestra is one of the top orchestras in the world and performs at Severance Hall. It’s a must-see for music lovers and offers a wide range of performances throughout the year.

**9. **Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad.

The Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad is a scenic train ride that takes you through the beautiful Cuyahoga Valley National Park. It’s a relaxing and entertaining way to explore the area.

**10. **The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History is a museum dedicated to natural history and science. It features exhibits on everything from dinosaurs to space exploration. It’s a great place to learn and discover the wonders of the natural world.

**11. **The Great Jones Lighthouse.

The Great Jones Lighthouse is a historic lighthouse that’s located on the Lake Erie shore. It’s a great place to enjoy the views of the lake and learn about the history of the area.

**12. **The Tower City Center.

Tower City Center is a modern urban center that’s home to a variety of shops, restaurants, and entertainment venues. It’s a great place to visit for shopping, dining, or simply enjoying the city’s contemporary architecture.

**13. **Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo is a zoo that’s located in the heart of Cleveland. The zoo features a variety of animals, including rare species, and offers a range of educational programs. It’s a great place to learn about wildlife and have fun.

**14. **Cleveland Botanical Garden.

Cleveland Botanical Garden is a beautiful garden that’s located in the heart of Cleveland. The garden features a variety of plants and flowers, as well as a range of educational programs. It’s a great place to enjoy nature and learn about plants.

By exploring Cleveland’s top attractions, you’ll get a glimpse of the city’s rich history, culture, and attractions. Whether you’re a local or a visitor, there’s something for everyone in Cleveland. Happy exploring!
In New York’s Catskills, the Hudson River school art trail brings landscape painting to life

By Ben Yagoda
September 28

My wife and I were standing on a bridge by the side of Route 23A, outside of Catskill, N.Y., a bit more than a hundred miles up the Hudson River from New York City. Cars were whizzing by us in both directions. On the right bank of Catskill Creek was Tatiana’s Italian Restaurant; on the left were some dilapidated houses with “For Sale” signs in front of them.

But when I directed my gaze straight ahead out over the creek, I saw much the same landscape that Thomas Cole did when he painted “View on Catskill Creek” in 1833. In my view the distant North Mountain was obscured by clouds, while Cole painted on a sunny afternoon, and the kayaker I spied was way at the back of the creek, as opposed to his boater in the foreground. Otherwise, it was the identical scene, 185 years apart.

My journey to that spot had started about 10 months earlier. My wife, Gigi, and I were on our way back to our home outside of Philadelphia from a trip to Lake George in New York's Adirondack Mountains. On the New York State Thruway I spotted a sign for the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in Catskill. I took the exit because a) it was time for a break, and b), I am a major fanboy of the Hudson River School of American landscape painting, of which Cole (1801-1848) is considered the founder.

The historic site consists of Cole’s house, his barnlike original studio, and a “New Studio,” demolished in the 1970s and rebuilt in 2015 as a small museum space. It’s well worth visiting, especially since there is always a Hudson River School-related exhibition in the New Studio.

On the way out, I picked up a brochure that intrigued me. It described something called the Hudson River School Art Trail, which, according to the brochure, “takes you to the sites that inspired America’s first great landscape artists.” Specifically, it listed eight spots — some reachable by car, some by a short hike — that Cole and his followers used as vantage points to create some of their notable paintings. That is, you could stand where they stood and see what they saw. We needed to get back home for dog pickup and other duties, but I determined that I would venture onto the art trail at the first available opportunity.

That turned out to be a weekend in late May. When we set out from home first thing Saturday morning, it was raining. And when we arrived at the Cole Historic Site — which is the unofficial starting point for the art trail — at about 11, it was still raining. So rather than hit the trail, we strolled to the New Studio and took in “Picturesque and Sublime.”

That exhibit, which runs through Nov. 4, was compact but enlightening. It explores in works from England (including paintings by John Constable and J.M.W. Turner) and then the Hudson River School the two ideas named in its title. The picturesque can be seen in pictures that show (usually benign) human influence on the landscape: photogenic ruins, orderly farmland, tiny men and women out enjoying themselves. The sublime, by contrast, depicts nature as transfixing and sometimes scary in its power and majesty. Part of the genius of the Hudson River School was to take inspiration from the river and the Catskill Mountains, just to the west, and combine the two modes in a new way of looking, the American Sublime. So, while “View on Catskill Creek” is mostly picturesque — the creek is so calm that the boater can turn and peer at the reflected clouds in the creek and a deer at the back, gently sipping — the splendid sunset and cloud-piercing mountain hint at the sublime.

When we walked out of the New Studio, it was raining even harder — too hard to embark, for the time being, on the art trail. But it was coming up on lunchtime, so we got in the car and drove via the Rip Van Winkle Bridge to the town of Hudson, which, I had read, has become a weekend destination for New Yorkers who aren’t interested in or can’t afford the Hamptons.

Maybe it was the pouring rain, but Hudson’s reputation seemed to overstate its cuteness, and we walked for several blocks before finding a place to eat — Wm. Farmer and Sons, an inn, restaurant and bar in a restored 19th-century building on Front Street. We scored a table and shared a country ham board and a bowl of split pea soup. On the way back to the car, we happened on a shop called Verdigris Tea & Chocolate, which advertised, and delivered, a cup of superb hot chocolate.

With the rain still coming down hard, we decided to head to stop No. 2 on the art trail — nearby Olana, Frederic Church’s home and now a museum. But when I looked on my phone for directions, I learned that it closed at 3 p.m. — just 20 minutes away.

So we put Plan B, or maybe it was Plan C, into effect: Drive the scenic route back to our hotel and see where it took us.

The scenic route was fairly long: I’d waited too late to book accommodations and had ended up with a room in Lenox in Massachusetts's Berkshires, a little more than 30 miles away. About halfway there, next to a small lake outside Chatham, N.Y., I spotted a small parking area and pulled in. It turned out we were in the Ooms Conservation Area at Sutherland Pond. An inviting trail to our right went alongside the pond. The rain had pretty much subsided; we took it.

Other than wishing we had Wellingtons on instead of hiking shoes, it was a lovely two-mile walk. The trail circled partway around the water and then ascended to a gazebo, where there was a view of meadowlands, the pond and the Catskills in the distance. A lot of birds were out and about and making noise. My avian identification skills are lacking, but a brochure we picked up said the meadow provides habitat for bobolinks, eastern meadowlarks and northern harriers.

Definitely, a picturesque scene.

Sunday morning dawned cloudy but dry. Studying our Art Trail brochure over an early breakfast at the Lenox Hampton Inn, we decided to save Olana for another trip as we wouldn’t be able to give it the time it deserved today. So we headed directly to the Catskill Creek site, stop No. 3 on the trail. From there we drove due west into the Catskills. After about 15 miles, the brochure directed us to a parking area at the side of the road. At the back of the lot was Art Trail Stop 4, Kaaterskill Clove.
It was a well-known spot even in 1828, when dictionary maker Noah Webster name-checked it in his definition of the Dutch-derived "clove": “a cleft; a fissure; a gap; a ravine. This word, though properly an appellative, is not often used as such in English; but it is appropriated to particular places . . . as, the Clove of Kaaterskill.” The view was nice but not dramatic, which may be why at least two of the several notable paintings of the Clove contained significant inventions by the artists. My favorite is Asher Durand’s “Kindred Spirits,” which plops an imaginary waterfall at the bottom of the Clove and depicts a fictional meeting between the recently deceased Cole and his friend the writer William Cullen Bryant.

For a real waterfall, we had to walk a mere quarter of a mile back down Route 23A to the foot of Bastion Falls. And for real drama, we had to hike a half-mile, almost all of it up, to the foot of the 271-foot Kaaterskill Falls, Art Trail Stop 5. There was already a good selfie-taking crowd there — catskillmountaineer.com describes the trail as the most popular in the Catskills — but if we squinted them out, we could replicate the sublimity Cole expressed in a painting such as “Falls of the Kaaterskill” (1826).

A couple of miles away, in the town of Haines Falls, we stopped at Selena’s Diner for a very decent Reuben sandwich (me) and veggie burger (Gigi). We proceeded into the North-South Lake Public Campground, paid our $10 daily fee and drove to the north bank of North Lake, from which Cole painted “Lake with Dead Trees” (1825). Frankly speaking, I wasn’t much inspired by the scene or (when I looked at it online later) the painting.

Site 7, Sunset Rock, was a two-hour hike, which we would have to save for another visit. That left one more stop on the trail, the Catskill Mountain House site, described as a fifth of a mile away. I suggested passing it by and heading home, but Gigi insisted that, having come this far, we give it a look.

The Mountain House, built in 1823 on the edge of a cliff known as the Escarpment, was a popular resort in its day and a favorite of the Hudson River School — views both of it and from it. It ceased operation in 1941 and (oddly) was burned down by the state in 1961. The path was more like a service road, but after five minutes we arrived at the spacious, grassy Escarpment. We strolled to the edge and looked out to the east. The skies had cleared enough so that we could see, as advertised, the Hudson and parts of three states — Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont.

It was sublime.

Yagoda is a writer based near Philadelphia. His website is benyagoda.com. Follow him on Twitter: @byagoda.

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Looking for French connections in Upstate New York

In New York City, following in David Bowie's footsteps

An end-to-end walk on the High Line in Manhattan

IF YOU GO

Where to stay

The Wick
41 Cross St., Hudson
833-843-9425
thewickhotel.com

The 55-room boutique hotel — built in a converted candle factory — opened in May 2018. It’s only a few steps away from Hudson’s Amtrak station. Rooms from $99.

Catskill Motor Court
5100 Route 32, Catskill
518-678-5559

Located about 10 miles west of the Thomas Cole National Historic Site, this old-fashioned motel is situated in a pine forest at the base of the Catskill Mountains. Rooms from $70.

Where to eat

Wm. Farmer and Sons
20 S. Front St., Hudson
518-828-1635
wmfarmerandsons.com

A converted 19th-century building located at the center of Hudson that has been operating as a restaurant, bar and inn since 2015. The eatery specializes in country ham, oysters and local produce. Happy hour and dinner service offered daily excepts Mondays. Lunch entrees from $10; dinner entrees from about $29.

Verdigris Tea & Chocolate Bar
This coffee bar has dozens of teas, six varieties of hot chocolate and a wide assortment of house-made baked goods on menu. Tea and coffee from $2.25, and hot chocolate starts at $5.75. Baked goods from $1 to $5.

**What to do**

**Thomas Cole National Historic Site**
218 Spring St., Catskill
518-943-7465
thomascole.org

Explore Cole’s house, studio and a museum that specializes in Hudson River School-related exhibitions. Hours vary; check website. Admission $16; seniors and students $14. Tickets include a guided tour (reservations recommended) or self-guided options. Hudson River School Art Trail brochures and guides are available here, as well as Olana.

**Olana State Historic Site**
5720 Route 9G, Hudson
518-828-0135
olana.org

Olana, the estate of painter Frederic Church, was restored in the 1960s. Admission to the museum is only by guided tour; reservations are highly recommended. Open 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday-Sunday, through Oct. 28. Admission $12; seniors and students, $10. The grounds are free and open 8 a.m.-sunset daily. The website offers a streamable audio tour.

**Information**

hudsonriverschool.org offers general information and maps on the trail. For a downloadable map, go to wapo.st/catskills

The Washington Post