

The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD



Farewell to the Friend Ship
With United retiring its last Boeing 747, we take a look back

Clockwise from left: The upper lounge in a United 747; a first-class lounge; a spiral staircase from first class to the upper lounge.



Left to right: A United flight attendant in the 747's state-of-the-art galley kitchen in 1970. A bar cart was one of the amenities offered to United's first-class passengers.



BY CHRISTOPHER MUTHER | GLOBE STAFF

Last week, United Airlines ended an era when it retired its last Boeing 747 from service. At the time it was introduced in 1970, the 747 was the first wide-body jet with the highest passenger capacity. Because it dwarfed all other planes, it picked up the nickname jumbo jet or the more regal “the queen of the skies.”

“Its grace, its capabilities, and its place in history give the 747 an unmatched mystique that transcends aviation,” said Patrick Smith, a pilot and author. “Its legacy belongs to the bigger, more important context of human imagination and achievement.”

The 747 is not only a cultural icon, it's also a celebrity. The plane has appeared in more than 300 films, everything from campy disaster flick “Airport 1975” to the 1997 film “Air Force One.”

“The 747's demise is painful for a whole host of reasons, not the least of which is that it's such a great looking airplane,” Smith said.

To commemorate its final voyage, United flight attendants donned vintage uniforms and served a special menu. Here's a look back to the very colorful time when United launched its iconic 747 service into the friendly skies of the 1970s.

United Airlines' first commercial flight of the 747 was from San Francisco to Honolulu in 1970. United Airlines took delivery of the 747 from Boeing in Everett, Wash.

The 747's distinct hump-like upper deck served as a first-class lounge during early years of service. Here, passengers enjoy a cocktail in a lounge adorned with of-the-moment blue shag carpet, orange vinyl seating, and dizzying wallpaper.

A United flight attendant in a fashion-forward, patterned smock prepares meals for passengers in the 747's state-of-the-art 1970 galley kitchen.

“Coffee, tea, or hard alcohol?” A flight attendant makes small talk with a first-class passenger while pushing the bar cart through the blazing red cabin. At the time, United claimed “It's more than a new airplane, it's a new environment.”

Is it a club or an airplane? First-class passengers relax

in the very civil, spacious lounge in the 747 in 1970.

Paneling? Check. Yellow vinyl lounge chair? Check. Passenger in a plaid maxi skirt? Check. The champagne is chilling in the upper lounge. This 747 is ready for a party.

This family is dressed for excess in the lounge of a 747 in 1972. The ride is so smooth that not a hair is out of place on mom's impressive bouffant or the boys' bowl cuts.

Please note the lack of sweat pants and bare feet. In 1972, a tiara and evening gown were proper first-class attire for women. For men, a tuxedo with a purple ruffled shirt whispered “I'm a jet-setter” to fellow passengers.

A spiral staircase may not seem like the most practical or accessible way to get from first class to the upper lounge, but in 1970 it was the newest, hippest airplane amenity. Here, passengers relax in what United called “the Friend Ship.”

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HERE

BREWERY, COFFEE AND ART GALLERY DEBUT IN NORWOOD

Lovers of craft beer, fine art, and fresh roasted coffee will find all three in Norwood at the Percival Brewing Company and The Wall Gallery. The brainchild of Marine veteran Filipe Oliveira, the 4,000-square-foot venue features an event space, tasting room, art gallery, and more. The brewery is named after John “Mad Jack” Percival, a captain of the USS Constitution who lived across the street from Dorchester native Oliveira. The licensed tasting room serves up a variety of craft beers, including Oliveira's first brew, Dot Ale, named after Dorchester Avenue in Boston. Visitors can also enjoy java from the newly debuting Kahfee Roasting Company. The Wall Gallery, featuring work from contemporary artists in and around New England, will rotate shows every six weeks. Exhibit openings will feature seven days of small events, including food trucks and live music. Event schedule can be found online. 781-352-3043, www.facebook.com/PercivalBrewingCompany

FIND YOUR PERSONAL STYLE IN SHANGHAI

Boston-based startup Tailor Made Shanghai will squire you to Shanghai for a one-week vacation to see the sights, eat 10 regional Chinese cuisines, and buy tailor-made clothes that will be finished in time for your return flight. Catering to both men and women, the trip includes seven-night double-occupancy stay at the five-star Renaissance Shanghai Yu Garden Hotel; three meals per day; private transport



to all activities; bilingual English- and Mandarin-speaking guides; entry fees for Propaganda Poster Art Centre, Urban Planning Museum, Shanghai Tower Observation Deck, Yu Garden, Jing An Temple, Karaoke, and April Shanghai Fashion Week events; styling and tailoring assistance; and more. Travelers who sign up for a trip before Dec. 31 will receive two free suits/overcoats/dresses and three free shirts/blouses. Scheduled trips: March 11-18; April 18-15 (Shanghai Fashion Week); May 27-June 3. Excludes travel to and from Shanghai; cost of tailor-made clothes. Price per person \$1,995. www.tailor-madeshanghai.com

THERE

FAMILY EXCURSIONS IN BELIZE

Family-owned San Ignacio Resort Hotel offers hassle-free family-friendly vacations by organizing an array of activities for children of

all ages. All tours include a private driver and guide, including excursions such as visiting temples in the Maya Cayo District (where resident wildlife includes spider and howler monkeys); interactive exhibits at the Green Iguana Conservation Project; floating on a tube through caves with giant flowstone formations, stalactites and stalagmites; zip-lining and horseback riding in a 300-square-mile rain forest re-



serve; canoeing on the tropical Macal River; and visiting the Belize Zoo. Or stay on property and enjoy the resort's swimming pool, hiking trails, tennis court, dining options and views of the rain forest and wildlife from each of its 26 rooms. The Regal Rooms, Family Room and Royal Suite offer enough space for a family of three to six, and kids under 11 are always free. Rates from \$216 to \$594. 855-488-2624, www.sanignaciobelize.com

RV TOURS IN NATIONAL PARKS

Enjoy stress-free adventure vacations in national parks in the American and Canadian west with Tracks & Trails, a company offering more than a dozen RV trips that range from eight to 13 nights. Once you decide which park to visit, the Tracks & Trails team will plan all the details, including your fully-equipped RV rental, hotel reservations, campground reservations, maps and driving directions, and fun activities such as white-water rafting, horseback riding, rock climbing and more. All customized trips are based on travelers' interests and needs. Pricing is based on specific destinations, length of trip, and other details. One of the best trips recommended for beginners is the eight-night Grand Canyon and Sedona tour that starts and ends in Las Vegas, and includes experiences in the Grand Canyon, Lake Mead and Sunset Crater. From \$4,800 per RV. 800-247-0970, tracks-trails.com



EVERYWHERE

THE WORLD IS YOUR WATERBED

You may not be able to walk on water, but now you can sleep on it with the SmithFly's Shoal Tent. Basically, this is an inflatable floating raft with tent topper that allows you to camp out on — rather than next to — your favorite watery locale. The raft body has three air chambers (two in the lower tube, one in the structure), and a six-inch-thick drop stitched high pressure floor that doubles as an air mattress. The tent structure is totally inflatable — meaning no tent poles — and stands up to high winds without a problem. The heavy duty, waterproof fabric seals with sturdy zippers. Outside footprint 8 feet by 8 feet; center standing room 6 feet 3 inches. Kit comes with storage bag, patch kit and manual foot pump. Weight is approximately 50 pounds. Estimated to be available in late December or early January. \$1,499. smithfly.myshopify.com/products/shoal-tent NECEE REGIS