

# 'Future' ride a kick for visitors to Florida

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The Streets of New York are highlighted by Ghostbusters and Kongfrontation. Production Central includes Nickelodeon Studios, the Fantastic World of Hanna-Barbera and "Murder She Wrote" Mystery Theater.

San Francisco features the Earthquake and the Dynamite Night Stunts Spectacular. In Hollywood you can go to the Gory Grosse & Grotesque Horror Makeup Show. And then there is the Expo Center, featuring the Animal Actors Stage, the ET Adventure and Back to the Future — The Ride.

I did them all. Whizzed through the cartoon characters, got swallowed by King Kong, watched the kids get slimed at Nickelodeon, rode

to another planet with ET. I even walked across the lagoon to the site of Back to the Future — The Ride.

On the way across the bridge we passed a group of women who had obviously just ridden to the future and back. One of them looked at me straight in the eye and said, "Don't do it!" My feelings exactly.

"Why don't you come with us as far as the pre-show, so you can give your readers some idea of what the ride is like?" somebody asked.

They have a count-off system for participants who go to each of the three levels of Back to the Future — The Ride. I followed the ramp to the middle level where a familiar character was rampaging around the video monitors.

Doe Brown, the master of time

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travel, whom we all met in "Back to the Future," was in his usual state of panicked weirdness.

We were led, eight at a time, into a small room, where he told us about that movie villain Biff Tannen, who had stolen the convertible eight-passenger time vehicle and had to be

stopped.

Another door opened, and we were led into a second room containing a car and a platform.

"I'm not going anywhere on that thing," I said firmly. "I'll wait right here."

"You can just sit in it. It doesn't go anywhere," a voice said, and the

door slammed behind me. I knew I was in trouble when he said over his shoulder, "Leave your camera bags and purses on the platform."

A curl of mist rose and covered us all. When it cleared we were zooming across Universal Studios, clearing the tops of buildings by an inch, crashing through a Texaco sign, ready to drop to almost certain death.

I thought I said, "Somebody get me outta here!" but apparently the words never came out of my mouth.

I hung on as we plummeted into a live volcano, collided with dinosaurs, crashed into mountain sides and whirled into outer space. Hey, this is kind of fun. It scared my out of my wits and I loved it.

The man responsible for this mayhem is Douglas Trumbull, of Berkshire Ridelin who did the special effects for "2001: A Space Odyssey" and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

It's all done with sophisticated hydraulics that make your car move in time with a film on a gigantic screen. The car never leaves the station.

I hate to admit it, but I enjoyed it. Please don't tell my friends about this. It's taken me a long time to convince them that I will not, absolutely will not, go with them on these scary theme park rides.

If anybody asks me about Back to the Future — The Ride, I will reply "I prefer the ET Adventure." You can torture me, but I will never admit otherwise.

## Creative accommodations abound in east Canada

By Ann Corliss  
special writer

By far, the best part of a trip to the Canadian Maritimes is staying in the marvelous bed-and-breakfasts and inns. It's the only way to go in that part of Canada. We stayed in unusual and interesting places, such as a converted barn perched on the edge of an ocean cliff, an 19th century sea captain's house, several elegant old Victorian mansions and a home in the middle of an apple orchard, where the owners took us via tractor to the orchard so we could pick our own apples. They turned them into delicious apple pancakes the following morning.

The bed-and-breakfast was fittingly called Happy Apple Acres. Many of the B&Bs had interesting names such as Fiddlers 'n' Vintners, Snore by the Shore and Needles & Haystacks.

I'm sure everyone has been caught snoozing in a classroom at least once. Well, we did on this trip, but it was expected of us. One of our more interesting stays was in a converted schoolhouse where the bedrooms were former classrooms — complete with blackboards on the wall, lockers in the hall and bathrooms little changed from when students were in residence.

At the other end of the accommodation scale, some of the inns were the most luxurious places we've ever stayed, with rooms to suit the queen of England. The best part was that these places were relatively inexpensive, and included a very full home-cooked breakfast — far better bargains than B&Bs in the US, or the Canadian hotels and motels.

A few words must be said about the wonderful tourist information and accommodation systems in the Maritimes. Before leaving, you should call or write each

province's central tourist bureau for copies of the main tourist guides.

These have complete listings of all accommodations available in the province, covering hotels, motels, inns and B&Bs. They also include details, such as number of rooms, bathrooms, dining facilities, prices, location, etc. Then, unless you've made prior reservations from home, when you enter a province, just stop at the first highway information center and the very helpful personnel there will make reservations for you by making numerous calls, free of charge, until you have just the place you want at the right price.

During a busy Canadian holiday weekend, one tireless agent spent almost two hours on the phone for us securing B&B reservations for the next three nights.

Nova Scotia carries this system one step further. When you visit one of the tourist information centers for the first time to secure accommodations, they will enter your name and necessary information into their computer system, giving you an ID number to use in the future.

Then, no matter where you are in the province, you can call an 800 number, give them the names of places you might like to stay in the next area you plan to visit. And while you're on the line, they'll make the calls for you and secure your reservations. We found this to be the most useful reservation system we encountered anywhere in our world travels.

The following toll-free numbers will get you the information you need: Tourism New Brunswick (800) 561-0123, Prince Edward Island Visitor Services (800) 565-1267, Newfoundland Tourism (800) 563-6353; Nova Scotia Department of Tourism, (800) 341-6096.

For the CHECK-IN reservation system, which can be reached from within any of the Maritime provinces mentioned above, by calling (800) 565-7105.

## Neil Armstrong museum entertains Ohio tourists

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The space flight gallery emphasizes the Gemini 8 mission. The spacecraft that propelled Armstrong and Maj. David Scott in history's first docking mission in March 1966 is on view. There's also a Gemini space suit, a mock-up of lunar equipment used to train for the moon flight and original space food among the artifacts.

Moving through a sound tunnel, visitors discover the moon rock gallery. Here is Armstrong's Apollo 11 back-up spacesuit and a moon rock. A demonstration lab has either a 12-minute film or live demonstration available throughout the day.

Around the corner is the "Infinity Cube." This 18-foot square room is completely lined with mirrors

and gives the sensation of being in space. Adults stand and stare at the mirrored images, trying to make sense of what they see. Children simply enjoy the sensation.

In the Astro-Theater, a 56-foot dome, a film called "The Conquest of Space" is shown continuously. The 25-minute presentation on three screens includes the sound and visual effects of rockets lifting off and satellites flying overhead.

The tour ends with displays of the space shuttle and today's space food.

There are no tour guides, but sales clerks and employees, who are never far away, will answer questions. (The most frequently asked question is, "How do astronauts go to the bathroom?" The answer may surprise you.)

The gift shop specializes in gifts

and books pertaining to space travel. The most popular item with children is the space ice cream. (It's good, but not cold.) Adults favor the space pens.

Visitors should allow at least two hours for a visit. The museum is operated by the Ohio Historical Society.

In mid-July the Festival of Flight celebration is held on the weekend closest to the July 20 lunar landing anniversary, this year July 19-21.

The Neil A. Armstrong Air and Space Museum is open 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 12-5 p.m. Sunday and holidays. Admission is \$3 for people 13 and over, \$1 for children 6-12 and \$2.40 for Golden Buckeye Card holders. Ohio Historical Society members are admitted free.

## Washington, D.C. is beautiful, uncrowded in spring months

By Bob DeMayer  
special writer

Spring is the perfect time for a weekend trip to Washington, D.C.

The town is surprisingly calm before "the storm," also known as the hordes of summer tourists. My brother, sister and I had a wonderful time in Washington recently.

The picturesque rows of Japanese cherry trees along the beautiful tidal basin were in full bloom, a delightful feast for the eyes. Since we had been there several times before, we skipped the usual sites, opting for something different instead.

On Saturday we went to the historic Ford Theater where President Abraham Lincoln was murdered. The theater is set up as it was the night John Wilkes Booth shot our 16th president.

In the basement, there is a museum showing a chronology of the events and artifacts of Lincoln's life, including Booth's pistol.

Afterward, we walked across the street to the Peterson House and viewed the blood-stained pillow on the small bed where Lincoln died at 7:22 a.m. April 15, 1865.

For lunch, we had a rip-roaring good time at the ever-noisy Hard Rock Cafe right across the street. Here one can view the memorabilia from rock 'n' roll idols that grace every inch of the restaurant's engaging interior.

After lunch, we actually managed

### reader's report

to walk all the way to the top of the Capitol steps for a breathtaking view of "The Mall" and the Lincoln Memorial in favor. The Capitol is located on Capitol Hill in a lovely 209-acre park at the meeting point of the city's four sections.

The magnificent five-story Capitol alone covers almost 3 1/2 acres. The central part of the building includes the Rotunda, Statuary Hall, the original Supreme Court and the Senate and House of Representatives chambers.

Before heading back to our hotel, we stopped at the United States Botanical Garden, located a few feet from the Capitol. Walking through here is like walking through a tropical rainforest. More than 8,000 varieties of plants from all over the world are on display.

On Sunday, we spent a tiring day at the humongous National Zoological Park, covering more than 175 acres. However, viewing the Chinese giant pandas, Ling-Ling and Sing-Sing, quickly lifted our spirits.

After walking through every inch of the zoo, we enjoyed a leisurely drive through the beautiful United States National Arboretum. The highlight of this attraction has to be the towering and stately Corinthian

columns that make you feel as if you are in another time and place.

Frees, shrubs and flowers of every imaginable kind can be found here, including azalea, rhododendron, camellia, holly, magnolia and dwarf conifer. The on-site Herbarium contains more than 470,000 dried plant specimens. A Japanese garden and National Bonsai Collection are also on the grounds.

All in all, it was a very pleasurable, fun-filled weekend. Now, at least, we can say we didn't let spring pass us by.



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## Mushroom lovers scour Michigan's north woods

The championships and festivals may be over, but May is still morel month, and you can still join the mushroom lovers prowling around Michigan's north woods.

It may be a tongue-twister, but April showers and warm temperatures bring on Michigan's luscious morel crop.

Although last year's harvest was not as good as previous years because of a dry April, mushroom hunters hope this season will produce an abundant supply of morels. And so are tourism officials, since a good morel crop brings thousands of visitors.

"About half a million people residing in and out of the state head for the Michigan north each year to hunt mushrooms," said Peter Erickson, AAA Michigan Club Services director. "Hotel rooms, restaurants and

shops all benefit from morel fever." Many folks with morel-mania, especially from Ohio and Indiana, also stay overnight in Michigan campgrounds in their search for the elusive morel.

The black morels, which usually surface in late April or early May, are in full bloom. White morels, which fruit about a week later, are followed by giant morels.

Mushroom hunters say the best spot to find morels is in the upper half of the Lower Peninsula in woods near the base of hardwood trees and in hilly areas.

Experts say the most important thing to know about morel hunting is how to recognize false morels that may be poisonous. Inexperienced pickers should hunt with a knowledgeable guide.