

114	89	116	382	592
CALIFORNIA	LONDON	PARIS	JOHANNESBURG/AUSTRALIA	
Seattle 79	Frankfurt 114	Brussels 182	Tokyo 240	Essen 285
Dakar 352	Paris 114	London 116	Hong Kong 251	Brazil 315
Nairobi 453	Amster 89	Jamaica 125	Panama 195	Singapore 281
Bangkok 330	Taipei 574	Glasgow 89	Madrid 136	Tokyo 214
Casablanca 265	Santiago 330	Auckland 606	Manche 89	Gosport 150
Lima 220	Beijing 270	Manila 360	Freeport 815	Dublin 114
Mexico City 155	Guam 240	Sydney 265	India 370	Mumbai 915

The Boston Globe
The Pulse of Boston

Dates to book campsites expected Tuesday

By Bruce Mohl
GLOBE STAFF

It looks as if there's going to be a scramble this year for sites at the state's most popular campground. Close to \$3 million in damage caused by a Dec. 9 windstorm forced state officials to close most of Nickerson State Park in Brewster and put on hold reservations for this summer.

Reservations are normally made six months in advance, but delays in getting the park reopened will probably mean all the campsites for this summer will go on sale at once, or at least in a more condensed time period.

Park officials say they intend to announce a schedule for resuming reservations on Tuesday. Vanessa Gulati, a spokeswoman for the Department of Conservation and Recreation, declined to provide any details, but said the scheduling announcement would be posted on ReserveAmerica.com, where campsites can be reserved, and on Mass.gov/dcr. She said at least two weeks' notice would be provided before resuming reservations.

The storm that hit the park Dec. 9 knocked down more than 1,000 trees, clogging campsites, roads, and bicycle paths. Most of the electrical lines in the park are



LANE TURNER/GLOBE STAFF/FILE 2003

Repairs on the Cape Cod Rail Trail from Nickerson State Park to Wellfleet are expected to be completed by June 2007.

down or damaged. A yurt, or small hut, was damaged beyond repair and two bathrooms were heavily damaged.

Gulati said crews have been removing trees but that work on the park's electrical system had not yet begun. The park is likely to be fully operational for the peak summer months, but it may not be ready to open in April.

There are other camping areas on the Cape, but few are as centrally located — or as beautiful — as Nickerson. The park has 418 campsites scattered across 1,900 acres of land. Many of them are adjacent to great swimming ponds.

Bike trails wind throughout the

park, and the Cape Cod Rail Trail runs right by the park. The portion of the rail trail running from Dennis to Brewster is undergoing repairs that are expected to be finished by June. Repairs on the part of the trail running from Nickerson State Park to Wellfleet are scheduled to begin in September and be completed by June 2007.

Campsites at Nickerson cost \$15 a night. Reserve America charges \$9.50 for every reservation.

Expedia guarantee

Expedia says its new best-price guarantee allows travelers to shop with confidence, knowing they are getting the best price possible with

the online travel agency. The guarantee is similar to what many airline websites and other online travel agencies offer. If a traveler finds a lower price online for the exact same trip they purchased on Expedia, Expedia will refund the difference and give the traveler a \$50 coupon for future travel.

Expedia says its guarantee means "no more clicking frantically from site to site, chasing that elusive lowest price."

Don't believe it. No website offers a comprehensive review of all the available travel options, and Expedia's guarantee, like the guarantees of other travel companies, only applies to the fares and trips it sells. Expedia doesn't sell fares on JetBlue Airways or Southwest Airlines, so if you want to know what they charge, you have to go to their websites.

The Expedia guarantee is also a bit complicated. There are 13 footnotes in the terms and conditions section. One points out that in order to qualify for the best price guarantee, a lower fare must be at least \$6 less than the price on Expedia. That is so Expedia will not be penalized for its booking fee in price comparisons.

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A random tour in words and images

By Clare Innes
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

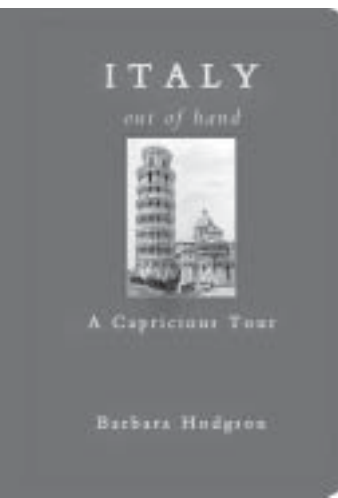
Leaving useful mundanities such as hours of operation, admission fees, and directions to more typical guidebooks, Barbara Hodgson in "Italy Out of Hand" teases out those palazzi, cathedrals, museums, and cafes where history and legend ebb and flow with the present in fabulously moody tides.

Readers are taken on a ramble through 3,000 years of art and architecture, meeting the rich and infamous whose passions have ignited Italy with a delicious chaos of intrigue, creativity, vice, and "amore."

Hodgson, a veteran designer, illustrator, and author, mixes prose and image such that her wide-ranging subtext excites that dreamy core of the imagination, that has little use for words. With no map less than 80 years old, line drawings hovering behind text, and hundreds of historic photographs and portraits in black-and-white and color, she casts her spell to blur the edges of time and place, reality and legend.

The book has surprising heft for such a diminutive volume. Rounded corners and the quiet blue fabric of the cover lend it the quality of an explorer's journal. On the cover, a small engraving of the non-leaning Tower of Pisa suggests a lush history behind the thin cliché of a modern mindset

Italy Out of Hand: A Capricious Tour
By Barbara Hodgson
Chronicle, 208 pp., \$19.95



that lingers just long enough to frame a snapshot before racing to the next icon.

"The Italy I have come to know has given me a taste for the random and the bizarre," Hodgson writes in the introduction.

Descriptions of cities and regions contain mini-biographies of rulers, scientists, thieves, artists, writers, and mercenaries. Hodgson wryly notes throughout those whom Dante has further immortalized in his "Inferno" by relegating them to various circles of hell for their misdeeds.

We learn how Milan became

the fashion center of the world, in spite of a nearly continual state of invasion by waves of unstylishly shaggy plunderers. We are taken on a humorous, if ghoulish, tour of Venetian relics. We book a room where Richard Wagner composed the second act of his opera "Tristan und Isolde." We peruse the palazzo where the poet Lord Byron lived with his illegitimate daughter, a stream of mistresses, and a collection of exotic pets. We cruise cafes still in operation, where rabble and rulers alike have quaffed through the centuries.

If references such as to Galileo's "run-in with the Inquisition" leave you looking for more depth, you won't necessarily find it here. Hodgson makes no pretense of having written a history book. A robust reference section offers suggestions for further study.

This book makes no attempt to cover all of Italy. It drops in on 13 important places and ventures into surrounding areas of interest. What it also does is evoke the current of sensuality that courses through Italy's equally boisterous past and present. It shines a curious light into the catacombs of Italy's past, peering into shadows cast by those who built, destroyed, invaded, rebuilt, frolicked, loved, ruled, and wandered its serpentine corridors of time.

Contact Clare Innes, a freelance writer in Vermont, at indigoclare@yahoo.com.

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