

## TRAVEL ADVISORY

### Mexico update

There is life after Wilma. The hurricane struck Cancun and the surrounding area in Mexico hard Oct. 21 to 23, but services and tourists are coming back.

Le Meridien Cancun began taking guests again Nov. 16. The Gran Costa Real was to be back at full service this week. Several thousand more rooms are expected to open by the end of December. The Maya Riviera, a popular coastal stretch south of Cancun, was spared extensive damage, with more than 80 percent of its hotel rooms to be open by this week, according to the Mexican tourism board. Cruise lines returned to Cozumel; still, the docks have been damaged, so ships are anchoring offshore and ferrying passengers to shore.

Some travelers are switching coasts, however. American Express Travel has rebooked hundreds of customers to resorts on the Pacific, including Los Cabos, Puerto Vallarta and Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo, according to Desiree Fish, a spokeswoman. Two official websites offer updates for travelers: [www.islacozumel.com.mx](http://www.islacozumel.com.mx), run by the Cozumel tourism board, and [www.cancun.info](http://www.cancun.info), from the local convention and visitors bureau.

## NEW YORK TIMES

### WEB WATCH

#### Niches to fill

Many guidebooks and websites offer travel ideas, but a few companies think there are niches still to fill. Sites such as [WallBounce.com](http://WallBounce.com), [SixNewThings.com](http://SixNewThings.com), [ThingsToDo.com](http://ThingsToDo.com), and DailyCandy.com put forth ideas for vacations, side trips, attractions and restaurants that are new and off the beaten track. WallBounce charges customers a fee for the experiences plus a markup for itself. SixNewThings offers its listings for \$2 a month. DailyCandy and ThingsToDo are free.

## BOSTON GLOBE

### TRIP TIP

#### Ship your bags ahead

If you are traveling with a load -- skis, holiday presents and the like -- you might be glad to know there

are services that will pick up luggage at your home and get it to your destination. But they will cost you: Luggage Free charges \$90 or more for transporting a 50-pound bag one-way within the United States (1-800-361-6871; [www.luggagefree.com](http://www.luggagefree.com)). Rates are similar at other services, such as Luggage Concierge (1-800-288-9818; [www.luggageconcierge.com](http://www.luggageconcierge.com)) and Sports Express ([www.sportsexpress.com](http://www.sportsexpress.com)).

KERRI WESTENBERG

NOW YOU KNOW

Map as neck wrap

Don't want to carry a map when you travel? No problem. Now you can wear one. Silk scarves designed by London-based Tasaram lay out the streets, waterways and tourist sights of Venice, Berlin, Washington, D.C., and six other major cities. The maps are easy to read and detailed enough to help the most confused visitor navigate. To check the options and to order, go to [mapscarves.com](http://mapscarves.com).

KERRI WESTENBERG

THIS JUST IN

Angkor tour by bike

The Cambodian government has begun offering 300 battery-powered bicycles for tourists to rent while visiting Angkor archaeological park, Cambodia's main tourist attraction, an official said. The environmentally friendly transport is part of the government's efforts to reduce noise and pollution in and around the country's ancient city, said Seung Kong, deputy director-general of Apsara authority, a government agency managing the Angkor complex. The bicycles rent for \$4 per visit during the daytime. There are 14 repair stations within the park where tourists can have bicycles fixed or have batteries recharged.

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BOOK BRIEF

A writer's New York

"A Journey Into Dorothy Parker's New York" is the first book in a series about places associated with American writers and artists. Parker, a regular at the Algonquin Hotel's famed "Round Table" gatherings of New York literati in the 1920s, lived most of her life in Manhattan. The Artplace book by Kevin C. Fitzpatrick (\$19.95 Roaring Forties Press) walks in her footsteps. Parker's childhood homes include many small apartment buildings in quiet residential neighborhoods that are still standing on the upper West

Side. She worked for the Conde Nast magazine company on W. 44th St., a two-minute walk from the Algonquin, and contributed to the New Yorker magazine, originally located at 25 W. 45th St., and later at 28 W. 44th St.

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