

NearFar

GOING SOMEWHERE? TAKE US WITH YOU!



Portrait of a Black Cowboy, by Reid Crowell, oil on canvas, not dated. The painting is part of J.P. Bryan's art collection at the Bryan Museum in Galveston.

GALVESTON

The Bryan Museum Once Texas' wealthiest city, the seaside destination has the honor of hosting a new museum with an impressive assemblage of artifacts — more than 70,000 — chronicling the history of Texas and the Southwest. Its creator and namesake is oilman J.P. Bryan of Houston, a Stephen F. Austin descendant, historian and art collector. Bryan chose a handsome 1895 Gothic Revival mansion that served for most of a century as Galveston's orphanage to house his monumental collection. Beautiful swords, guns, saddles, tools and rare books, plus maps and documents, are among the artifacts that make up the ancient Native American, Spanish conquistador, missionary and early Texas exhibits. An impressive library is available to researchers by appointment. It's due to open this month. Visit The Bryan Museum Friday through Monday. 1315 21st St., Galveston; 409-632-7685 or thebryanmuseum.org.

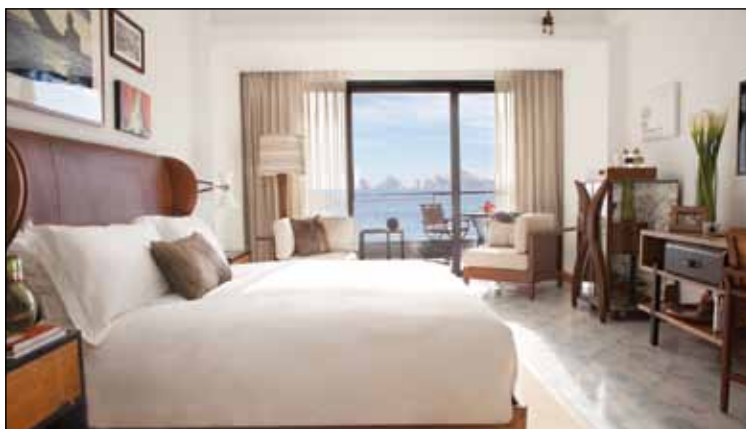
Photo courtesy of The Bryan Museum



Photo courtesy of Visit Scotland

SCOTLAND

The Picnic Butler Celebrate Scotland's "Year of Food and Drink" with north country treks led by your very own picnic butler. Visitors booking stays at luxury cabins in the forested mountain areas of Ardgartan in Argyll and Strathyre in Perthshire can opt for The Picnic Butler add-on. You get a day with Jack Black, pictured at left, an experienced forest ranger with expertise in outdoor survival, foraging and wildlife watching. But instead of allowing you to fend for yourself, Black serves up local produce, along with smoked Scottish salmon and Caboc cream cheese, bagels, Scottish crisps, Arran cheese and Arran oatcakes, seasonal fruits, Tunnock's tea cakes and caramel logs plus sparkling wine. It's about \$120 for two people. Book cabins and The Picnic Butler at forestholidays.co.uk.



All rooms and suites at this Baja Peninsula property offer views of The Arch.

Photo courtesy of The Cape

MEXICO

The Cape It has been eight months since Hurricane Odile wrecked the tip of Mexico's Baja Peninsula, and Los Cabos resorts are coming back. New is this midcentury modern jewel, scheduled to open this month at Monuments Beach. Designed by famed Mexican architect Javier Sanchez of JSa Arquitectura, The Cape offers unobstructed views of the famous Cabo San Lucas arch from 161 rooms and suites, and each of its one-, two- or three-bedroom guest quarters comes with its own private terrace. The rooftop lounge/garden rises six stories above sea level. Restaurants and bars, spa with outdoor treatment rooms, and a natural rock swimming pool plus an infinity pool with swim-up bar complete the private retreat. Getting there is easier, too, now that Southwest flies to Los Cabos from Dallas Love, typically with a stop in Austin. Opening specials from \$299; thompsonhotels.com/the-cape.

Compiled by June Naylor