

# SundayTravel

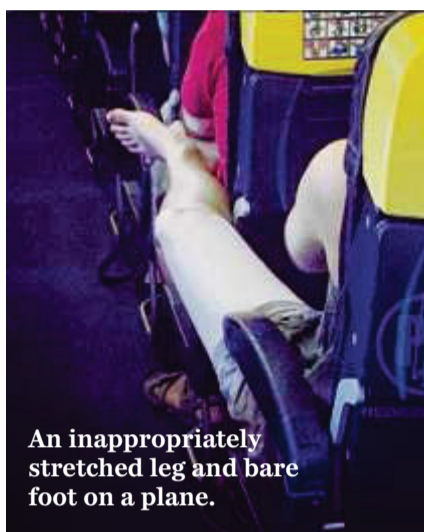
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WITH: NEW ENGLAND DESTINATIONS

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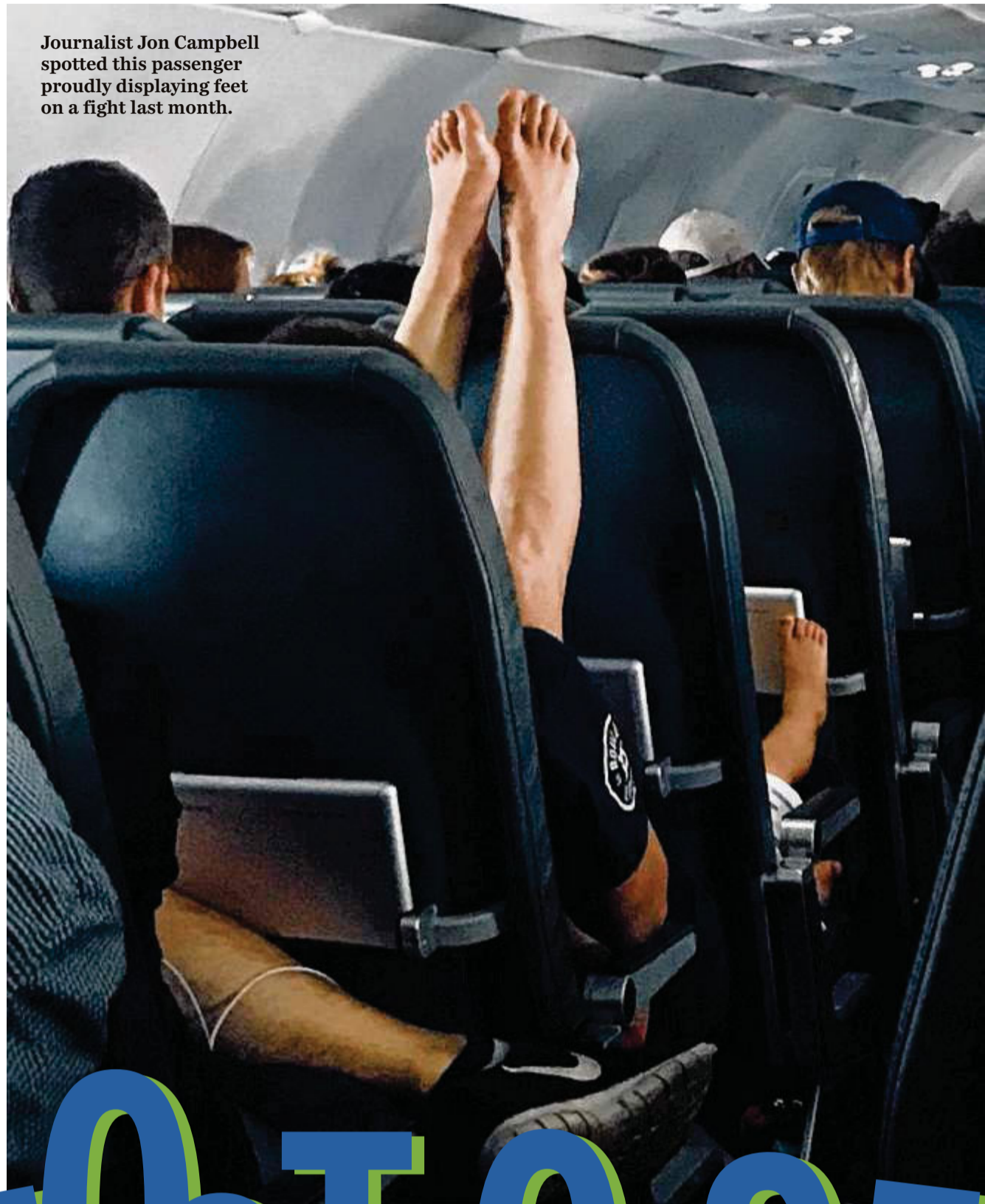
The now-infamous feet scrolling through movies on an airplane last month.



An inappropriately stretched leg and bare foot on a plane.



A passenger plays a card game with his feet.



Journalist Jon Campbell spotted this passenger proudly displaying feet on a flight last month.



The plague of bare feet can even be found in the business class section.



You should never go barefoot on a plane, but if you do, at least wash your feet first.



Even a nap is no excuse to leave your feet bare on a plane.

# FOOTLOOSE!



Jessie Char was elated. She had scored an empty row on her Jet-Blue flight from Long Beach to San Francisco. She pulled up the armrests to stretch out and

enjoy the breathing room.

Then *it* happened.

A pair of bare feet emerged from the row behind her. The feet pushed down the armrests and turned them into footrests. One of the bare feet then pulled up Char's window shade, and then pulled it down. Char documented it all through photos on Twitter, and 30,000 people followed along.

"Today, I flew on the set of a nightmare," she posted.

No one wants to see your bare feet on a plane. Ever.

CHRISTOPHER MUTHER

Her tale wound up on the "Today Show," People magazine, CNN, and the British newspaper the Telegraph.

"Most people were absolutely horrified at the scene — more than I actually felt being there," Char recently told me. "I was stunned by the boldness of it. I'm sure I'd been around bare feet on plenty of flights. This was the first time they demanded such . . . attention. There was no coyness when those feet came out."

Sadly Char's experience was far from unique. Most of us who have been on a plane have been a victim of exposed feet creeping into our personal space — or simply creeping us out. For some reason, and I've yet to figure out why, there are passengers who feel comfortable, even compelled, to remove their shoes and socks and wiggle their

BARE FEET, Page M4

PHOTOS FROM PASSENGER SHAMING EXCEPT ALAFAIR BURKE (TOP LEFT) AND JON CAMPBELL (CENTER)

## TRENDSPOTTING

# Making architecture the blueprint for trips



TRAVELWISCONSIN.COM

By Jon Marcus  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

It's hard for any particular package tour to stand out from the many scheduled this fall to places like Croatia and Slovenia. But there's one that breaks the mold.

This tour won't be led by a historian. It's not a spiritual expedition, or a culinary journey to sample the area's distinctive food and wine. It's 12 days with . . . an architect.

A Frank Lloyd Wright-designed church in Wisconsin.

Architectural Adventures, which is offering this tour and two dozen like it to places as varied as Brasilia and Berlin, is a new offshoot of the prestigious American Institute of Architects.

It's also part of an upsurge of interest among travelers in architecture, which has been moving from the background to the foreground among the

ARCHITECTURE, Page M4



Inside

NEW ENGLAND  
SAILING INTO  
LATE SUMMER

There's still time for R&R. Here are some easy getaways close to home.

M5



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## Understanding places through their buildings

### ► ARCHITECTURE

Continued from Page M1

principal things that draw people to a destination.

“More and more people are looking for opportunities to not only look at a building from the outside but to go inside, to understand what materials were used and why and how that building reflects the time and place where it was built,” said Luke Diorio, Architectural Adventures’ managing director.

The trend is getting a boost this year from the 100th anniversary of Bauhaus, the school established in Weimar, Germany, in 1919 that broke decisively with traditional design and whose influence endures worldwide.

But there has also been a spurt of new architectural tours around unlikely destinations such as Buffalo and Columbus, Ind., which turn out to be rich in architectural treasures. The state of Wisconsin has unveiled a 200-mile trail devoted to Wisconsin native Frank Lloyd Wright, connecting nine of the private homes, commercial buildings, and places of worship he designed. There’s a sort of architecture theme park called Polymath Park near Pittsburgh where enthusiasts can tour, stay overnight, or dine in two Wright homes — one of them, Mäntylä, newly moved there and rebuilt — and two by his Massachusetts-born apprentice Peter Berntson, not far from one of Wright’s most famous creations, Fallingwater.

The travel company Stride, whose TripFinder helps users choose from among guided and self-guided tours worldwide, has just added a separate “architecture” category, with 15 architecture-themed packages including a Queen Mary 2 voyage that will focus on British architecture. Audley Travel, whose US headquarters is in Boston, offers a trip that’s focused on French art and architecture. Vermont-based Country Walkers has a Spain itinerary that spans buildings from Antoni Gaudí’s Episcopal Palace in Astorga to Frank Gehry’s Guggenheim Bilbao. Urban Adventures leads day tours of the communist architecture of Bucharest, Romania, and Nowa Huta, Poland.

“We have absolutely seen this uptick in the number of people who want architecture as a destination,” said Lynn Osmond, president of the Chicago Architecture Center, which offers boat and walking tours of that city’s many architectural gems and just moved into a new 20,000-square-foot exhibition and visitor center in the heart of town, on the Chicago River.

After all, said Osmond, “What better way to tell

the story of a place than through its buildings?”

There are other reasons, too, that architecture has become a draw for tourists.

One is social media. “It’s all about where you are,” said Matt Thompson, brand manager at Country Walkers. “And certain buildings are becoming more recognizable and more widely known, just as a result of being on those platforms.”

Another, said Diorio: the same artisan movement that is driving farmers’ markets and locally sourced items on restaurant menus, which has increased travelers’ interest in architecture that’s decidedly local.

But one of the biggest reasons people travel to see notable architecture is the homogenization of many neighborhoods and cities where they live, with cookie-cutter buildings that dilute their architectural distinctiveness.

“Sometimes you wake up and don’t know what city you’re in because it all looks the same,” said Sara Meaney, secretary designee of the Wisconsin Department of Tourism, which oversees the Frank Lloyd Wright Trail there.

“The same developers, the same architects, are building in different communities and using the same designs,” said Osmond. “People want uniqueness. They want to relate to and engage with the distinctiveness of the community. And they will travel to see that.”

Architecture such as Wright’s, for instance — in Wisconsin, it includes such masterworks as the SC Johnson company headquarters, the First Unitarian Society Meeting House in Madison, and his own estate, Taliesin — “is not the type of thing we see as much anymore, certainly in the run-of-the-mill apartment or office buildings.”

It was this same kind of impatience with conformity that brought about the Bauhaus School. A century later, an entire new museum in Weimar has been devoted to it; the museum’s debut, in April, attracted 18,000 people. There are also events underway in Berlin and Dessau, a “grand tour” linking 100 Bauhaus and modernist structures across Germany including the Dammersstock housing development and the Schwarzwaldhalle, and celebrations worldwide around the buildings Bauhaus inspired.

Shut down by the Nazis, Bauhaus and its adherents dispersed around the world. “Had things not been interrupted by that, this might have been a far more local or regional thing, but the fact that so many artists and architects went to so many different places really magnified the reach,” said Amy Finstein, an architectural historian at

## New ways to appreciate Boston’s architecture

Want to see some of America’s greatest architecture? Look up.

Better yet, look down, at the new American Institute of Architects Guide to Boston Architecture app. Or through the virtual reality installations on the Rose Kennedy Greenway. Or around the house designed for himself by Walter Gropius, founder of the Bauhaus School, who came to Harvard and settled in Lincoln after being chased from Germany by the Nazis.

Boston is among America’s most architecturally distinctive cities, something there are new ways to appreciate.

“Chicago seems to have claimed the mantle of being the place where architecture is a key theme. In Boston, if you asked people what the key theme was, they’d say history. If it wasn’t for that, I think it belongs in the top ranks for architecture,” said Tom Pounds, publisher of the AIA guide.

Pull out the app and learn about the buildings around you whose de-

tails you may not have noticed, or take a walking tour of architecturally rich neighborhoods.

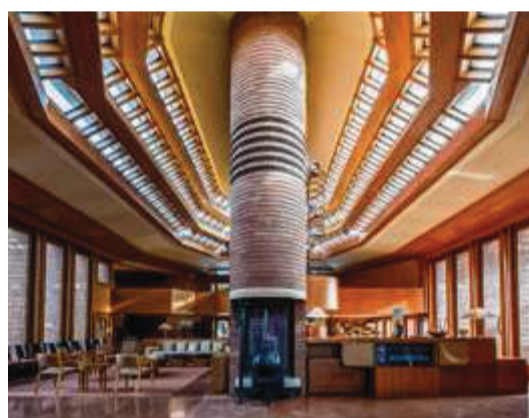
“People do gravitate to these really distinctive neighborhoods — Back Bay, Beacon Hill, the Harvard campus — which each have a really distinctive flavor and feeling,” Pounds said.

On the Greenway, there’s an augmented reality exhibit through which visitors can see the evolution of that corridor through a century, including when it fell beneath the shadow of the elevated Central Artery.

A century after he established Bauhaus, Gropius is being commemorated in his Lincoln home, now a museum run by Historic New England — and by Gropius House Cider, a special blend whose proceeds will help restore the original apple orchard that surrounded the house.

“There’s just so much here to see,” Pounds said. “Most people don’t know about it, but it’s around us all the time.”

JON MARCUS



Frank Lloyd Wright designs throughout Wisconsin (from top): SC Johnson company headquarters in Racine; exterior view of Monona Terrace in Madison; interior of Wingspread in Wind Point.

The wealthy wanted to show off by bringing in some of the best-known architects,” Hahn said.

Then, for the better part of the 20th century, “Buffalo wasn’t thriving economically, so we didn’t tear down a lot of buildings that anywhere else would have been torn down and replaced with newer shiny buildings.”

The opposite is true in Los Angeles, where there have been successive waves of eclectic architecture, from Tudor and Egyptian Revival to midcentury modern and post-modern.

“It really tells you what the values of that population were at any given time — like looking at art in a museum, only you can be out in a city and there it is,” said Laura Massino Smith, an architectural historian and the owner of Architecture Tours LA.

In surveys by Stride, seeing standout architecture “came up constantly” as one of the important reasons people like to travel, said Gavin Delaney, CEO and founder. That is triggering a further growth in the number of tours with architecture themes, he said.

“If we were to play the tape forward 10 years from now,” Delaney said, “I’d suspect there will be more cities in the US like Buffalo and others that, if they’re smart, will invest in their local branding campaigns as architecturally interesting places to visit.”

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## Toe the line: Bare feet have no place on an airplane

### ► BARE FEET

Continued from Page M1

toes in the recirculating breeze of the cabin. In other words, all their little piggies went to market, and none stayed home.

I can’t believe I need to say this, but it’s clearly necessary, so here it goes: In the name of all that is holy, please leave your shoes and/or socks on your feet when you’re on an airplane. No one wants to see your bare feet hoisted in the air, resting on a tray table, walking down the aisle, or going into the lavatory.

You know how the floor in an airplane bathroom is usually wet? Well, I hate to tell you, but that’s not Pine-Sol down there.

I know for a fact that I’m not the only one disturbed by this phenomenon. In fact, in our currently divided nation, it seems that a shared disdain of bare feet on planes is bringing the country together. Last month a short video of an unidentified man scrolling through movie options on an airplane screen with a bare foot went viral. Who knows where this foot had been, and yet there it was, shamelessly touching a screen with toes that had likely stepped in probably-not-Pine-Sol on the bathroom floor.

The video was uploaded by author Alafair Burke (she did not take the video) to Twitter and has been viewed more than 10 million times.

The scrolling foot scandal of 2019 set off a torrent of disgusted responses when it was posted on the Instagram account of Passenger Shaming, a hilarious, often horrific look at the worst behavior on airplanes. Many of the posts involve inappropriately bare feet.

Nearly 500,000 people watched the clip of the foot scroller on Passenger Shaming, prompting comments such as “This is what the no fly list should be for,” and “Every time I think humanity can’t set the bar any lower, someone like this says, ‘Hold my beer.’” Those feet showed up on evening news broadcasts, newspaper websites, and launched a thousand Internet rants.

If the world appears disgusted by so many naked feet on airplanes, why on earth are people still doing it?

“They have zero self awareness,” said Shawn Kathleen, a former flight attendant who runs the Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook accounts for Passenger Shaming. “They’re thinking ‘I paid a few hundred dollars, I can do whatever I want. I can treat this \$100 million aircraft like my living room.’ P.S., I feel like you wouldn’t even do that in your own living room. Would you put your feet up on your wall?”

While bare feet in general aren’t a good idea on planes, feet that creep onto armrests and invade personal space are even worse. It’s like a foot flashing

the middle toe and saying, “Bug off. I’ll do whatever I want.”

Jon Campbell, a reporter based in Albany, was on a Spirit Airlines flight last month ready to begin his vacation when he spotted a pair of bare feet swaying high above the seats like some

While bare feet in general aren’t a good idea on planes, feet that creep onto armrests and invade personal space are even worse.

sort of flag with toe nails.

“I wouldn’t say I was horrified,” Campbell said of the scene. “More like perplexed. It seemed like such a blatant violation of the unwritten code of being a good airline passenger.”

Etiquette experts are unwavering on the topic: You need to keep your feet covered.

“If you’re at home alone, you could sit around stark naked with your feet

up on the wall and it wouldn’t bother anyone. Out in public, and especially in such a confined space as an airplane, behavior like that is aggressively inconsiderate,” said Boston resident Robert Dimmick, who runs an etiquette advice website called Etiquetteer. “Good manners prevent embarrassing situations, pure and simple. That also means that shoes need to stay on, because your socks stink, too.”

Diane Gottsman, author of “Modern Etiquette for a Better Life,” and founder of The Protocol School of Texas, also said foot odor is one of the key reasons why feet should remain covered on flights.

“Every passenger should take pride in their personal hygiene and be keenly aware of what others are going to think before deciding to remove their shoes in any enclosed space,” Gottsman said. “If you are on a long flight, bring a pair of clean socks to change into, and make sure the shoes you are wearing are fresh, without any odor. If the flight is multiple hours, a clean pair of house shoes is a better option than bare feet.”

Bare feet can present a problem for those of us who are thoughtful enough to keep our feet covered. What do we do if a pair of bunions crosses into our already limited economy class territory?

Because I’m from Boston, I often take a passive aggressive approach to

dealing with bare feet on my armrest. With a slow, deliberate turn, I give a side-eye so chilling it could freeze fajitas. You’d be surprised how often the technique works.

The experts don’t recommend a chilling side-eye. If a bare foot, or generally any appendage, is invading your personal space, you should politely ask the individual to remove the offending body part.

“I wouldn’t ask a crew member until you’ve exhausted trying to ask without causing a big argument because, obviously, you don’t want this to be a huge issue,” said Kathleen of Passenger Shaming.

Despite the scourge of bare feet in the air, remember, it could always be worse.

“As a former flight attendant, I can say as disgusting as this is, it’s probably not quite at the top of the list of disgusting things any flight attendant who has been flying for a while has encountered,” said Vikki Brown, a psychologist and anxiety specialist in Cambridge.

I refrained from asking Brown what some of those other disgusting things are. At this point, bare feet are more than enough for me.

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