



June 1, 2015

Fellow Traveler,

London-- OK, write this down: Should you visit London, book afternoon tea at The Milestone Hotel.

I know, you've heard about tea at The Ritz all your life. But I've been there, done that, and here are five reasons why The Milestone is a better option:

■ The tea room at The Ritz is big--it's actually two rooms. The Milestone, (pictured, right) is an elegant and cozy hideaway--you'll feel as if you're having tea in your wealthy friend's country estate.



■ Basic tea costs \$77 at The Ritz, but of course you're going to want to have Champagne, for a total of \$102. **Tea at the Milestone is 25% less.**

■ The Milestone's service is impeccable, as are the hotel's posh rooms that the hotel's general manager, Andrew Pike, was kind enough to show me during a recent site visit.

■ The hotel overlooks Kensington Palace and Gardens. You're steps away from Kensington Gardens, the Victoria & Albert Museum, the Royal Albert Hall, and--if you're craving American peanut butter--the largest (or second largest, it's unclear) Whole Foods Market is just up the street.

■ Care for more scones, pastries, or tea sandwiches? Just ask. But I can tell you, my date and I couldn't finish the first offering, pictured here . . .

And may I suggest something else to do in London that isn't on everyone's bucket list? Take a tour of the BBC's London headquarters.

Each week about 308 million people around the world listen to the BBC. That nearly equals the population of the US and means one of every 16 people in the world

tunes in during the course of a week. BBC television broadcasts in 13 languages, and its extensive radio operation broadcasts in about 30 languages globally.

Guided tours of the BBC run seven days a week, and you should [book in advance](#). Note that children must be nine or older and accompanied by an adult.

The tour that last about 90 minutes allows you to star in your own, brief newscast and even do the voices in a mock dramatic skit that's recorded and played back for your amusement.



You'll look over the vast newsroom (pictured, right), and you'll learn some fascinating details about "the Beeb" or "Auntie Beeb," as it's sometimes called in the UK.

While BBC listeners and viewers don't have to endure pledge drives as those of us who watch public television or listen to public radio in the US must, **the broadcasting behemoth is supported mostly by an annual and controversial country-wide tax on television sets.**

I suppose the tour fee of \$23 for an adult (less for students and children between nine and 15) helps.

-Rudy

Where did the term 'bucket list' come from?

I've always wondered about the derivation of the phrase, "bucket list."

Thankfully, a short piece by the Wall Street *Journal's* "Word on the Street" columnist **Ben Zimmer** last weekend explained it. The term stems from a 2007 movie called **"The Bucket List"** that featured **Jack Nicholson** and **Morgan Freeman** as terminal cancer patients who make a list of the things they want to do before they die. Common usage now seems to mean any number of "things I got to do" before just about any deadline.

But where did "bucket" come from?

Zimmer traces that word beyond "kicking the bucket" to an old French word "buquet," meaning "balance." And etymologists say "bucket" used to mean "beam,"

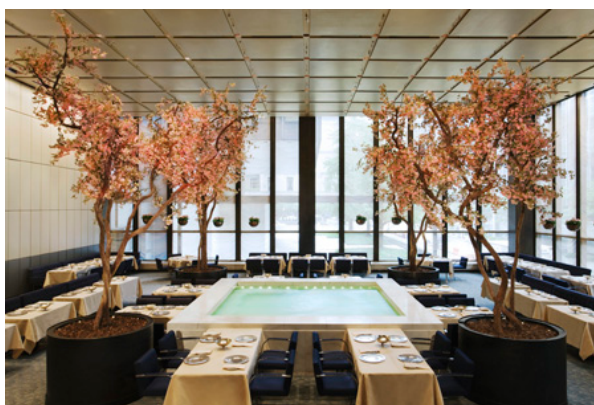
as in a beam near animals being hung up for slaughter. In their death throes, their bucking kicked a nearby beam. Ergo, "kicking the bucket."

You may read Zimmer's full article [here](#). Go head, win a bar bet with this one.

Short Travel Takes . . .

■ **For 25 years, Dr. Beach** (aka Dr. Steve Leatherman, director of Florida International University's Laboratory for Coastal Research), has named the top beaches in the USA. He uses 50 criteria to judge, from the quality of the sand to water color, pesky insects, and size of waves. Winners cannot repeat. **This year's top pick: Waimanalo Beach in Oahu, HI.** Here's the complete [list](#) . . .

■ **A bad relationship between the owner of the building** that houses New York City's Four Seasons restaurant (pictured) and the restaurant's owners means **the famed power lunch eatery must vacate the premises** after 56 years in its current location at Park Ave. & 52nd St. The place to see and be seen (Jackie O called it "the cathedral") won't agree to jacked-up rent, so owners Alex von Bidder and Julian Niccolini say they're looking for a new home. Memo to Michael Korda and other celeb diners: **The new location may be downtown!** I know--scary, right? You may read all ugly details about the feud between the landlord the restaurateurs [here](#) . . .



■ **When American Airlines and then-US Airways stopped allowing Platinum and Centurion American Express cardholders access to its airport lounges for free**, Amex decided to open its own clubhouse with the regal name, "[The Centurion Lounge](#)." The fifth location opens next week at Miami airport's North Terminal, and Seattle's airport is next. I'll review the Vegas location in the next newsletter . . .

■ **Care to take a look at 15 of the most expensive vacation rentals in the US** as compiled by Susan B. Barnes at *USA Today*? You can sleep 26 in this nine-bedroom, 11-bathroom mansion with an indoor pool in Austin, TX, for \$5,000/night with a three-night minimum. It's available for rent on HomeAway.com right [here](#), and it's quite a home. Prices go up from there. Here's a [link](#) to the other 14, though if you check out the places on the list, you may find prices lower than the numbers quoted in the *USA Today* story.

And we pause for a word from our sponsors . . .

It occurred to me that sponsors/underwriters of my radio & public television shows offer some discounts to my listeners/viewers. See if any are of interest to you . . .

■ **Medical Evacuation While Traveling:** Even premium credit cards that promise medical evacuation if you require hospitalization while away from home only promise

transport to the nearest medical facility. You may not want to go to the nearest medical facility. [MedjetAssist](#) will fly you in a medically equipped, private jet (if need be) to the hospital of your choice and regularly rescues travelers from around the globe. Use the discount code "MAXA" for 10% off coverage for eight, 15, 21, 30 days or a year of travel for individuals, students, families, and ex-pats. Call 800-527-7478.



MedjetAssist™
Take Trips. Not Chances.

■ **Protecting Your Identity:** In this era of identity theft, consider Lifelock's Ultimate Plus policy that lets you know if, among other things, **anyone is trying to change your address or making making large purchases using your credit card.** The company also scans "black market" websites that sell personal information to thieves and notifies you if your data has been hijacked. Lose your wallet, and Lifelock cancels credit cards and helps replace Social Security and insurance cards as well as your driver's license and covers you for \$1 million to pay for lawyers, accountants or investigators should you need them. The company also helps you restore your good name and credit if you're a victim of identity theft. Review more benefits [here](#). Mention the code "RUDY" and receive 10% off a Lifelock Ultimate Plus policy. Or use "RUDY" when you call 800-637-8149.



■ **Discount on Iceland Tours:** Europe is as close as Iceland, where the landscape and the Reykjavik nightlife are legendary. The [Iceland Tourist Bureau](#) offers a wide range of well-priced tours and offers listeners of the Rudy Maxa's World radio show a discount if you use the promo code "RUDY." I've visited Iceland three times--that's how much I like the country. Think: hot-spring lagoons & Northern Lights!

■ **Sleep On It:** And if you haven't changed your pillow in 10 years, this deal is for you. The official pillow of the National Sleep Foundation comes from [MyPillow.com](#) that guarantees you'll love their pillows; if you don't sleep better within 60 days of receiving your pillows, you'll get your money back. And they're washable.

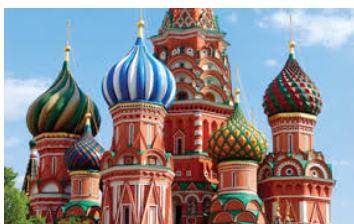


Use the discount code "RUDY" to receive a two-for-one offer when you call 800-775-1983 or visit the company's flamboyant website.

■ **For Pain:** Chronic inflammation? Muscle or joint pain? [Relief Factor](#) is a potent, *natural*, solution to chronic injury patients. Using plant-based icariin, resveratrol (the good stuff in red wine), Omega-3, and Curcumin, Relief Factor offers a natural approach to reducing inflammation, the cause of so many ills. Get a quick-start pack for \$19.95 on the company's website while this radio promotion lasts.



Deals & More



Time To Visit Russia? The Pros Say, 'Da!'

Tourism from the West to Russia has declined by 50% since this time last year says the **Association of Tour Operators of Russia**. And even with Russia's high inflation, there's still a significant discount if you can pay with dollars.

According to **Charly Wilder** [writing in the New York Times](#), a cappuccino that used to cost \$8 or \$9 dollars in Moscow is now \$5. **A night at the Sheraton Palace in Moscow was once \$362;** now it's \$136 less. **A \$900 Ritz-Carlton room is now \$550.**

While fancy restaurants are a little less fancy because they can't get some products from the West, **your tab should be 40% less than it was last year.**



Flight Attendants Reveal Gross Stuff (& So Can You)

Ever been on an airline flight during which the stranger in the seat next to you clips his or her toenails? Or stuffs a diaper in the seat back in front of them?

If not, you're lucky. But if you want to know secrets of passenger crews, check out former flight attendant **Shawn-Kathleen's** website, [Rants Of A Sassy Stew](#).

I learned one of the more irritating questions a passenger can ask is, **"Do you fly this route regularly?"** (Who knew?)

For gross photos of passenger behavior (you're welcome to post your own), visit her Facebook page: ["Passenger Shaming."](#)



AdventureLink Partners With RMW For Tours

I recently formed an alliance with a California-based tour company that I like a lot called AdventureLink. The company curates above-average tours through Asia, Europe, Africa, South America, India, and the Americas.

Examples: A 10-day, \$207/day (based on two people traveling together) village [trip](#) from **Ho Chi Minh City**; a Croatian [sailing trip](#) from **Dubrovnik to Split** (that I'd LOVE to go on) for \$150/day; or a **Rome-to-Tuscany**, [seven-day trip](#) including biking through **Chianti** for \$916/day.

For an overview of trips with clear, concise descriptions of what's on offer, [click here](#). If you purchase a trip via my link, a modest commission helps support this newsletter.

Get Social

Join Our Mailing List



Forward To A Friend

Rudy Maxa's World | rudv@rudymaxa.com | www.rudymaxa.com
PO Box 4508 | St. Paul, MN 55101
800-387-8025

Copyright © 2014. All Rights Reserved.

[Forward this email](#)

SafeUnsubscribe™

This email was sent to savtrav@aol.com by rudv@rudymaxa.com | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [About our service provider](#).