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SOHO HOUSE
NEW YORK

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BABINGTON HOUSE

DEPARTURES



NEW BRUNSWICK / T.O. & NYC / MALAYSIA

1 Pedals and plaid

Before you saddle up for a cycling tour with Off-Kilter Bike in **ST. ANDREWS BY-THE-SEA, N.B.**, owner Kurt Gumushel will hand you a helmet, a bottle of water — and a kilt. The unexpected accessory is a bit of a gimmick, but it sets the tone for the company's fun and informative tours of this pretty (and relatively flat) little tourist town, about 100 kilometres west of Saint John.

The area's Scottish heritage is one reason Gumushel opted for the tartan togs, but it's also good advertising for his father, Fuat, who, despite his Turkish heritage, is a master kilt maker in town. A two-hour tour with Off-Kilter (offkilterbike.com) costs \$60 per person and will take you along the scenic waterfront, through the woods and past the town's historic Algonquin Resort. Longer tours to nearby Ministers Island and Grand Manan Island are also available. And, yes, you're allowed to wear bike shorts or pants under your kilt. With those sea breezes coming off the Bay of Fundy, it's probably a good idea.



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2 Club quarters

You don't have to pay Trump-size annual dues to enjoy the privileges of an exclusive club membership. Next time you're travelling, check out the accommodations offered at some private clubs in Canada, the U.S. and abroad.

VERITY, a private women's club in downtown Toronto, runs a four-room hotel on one of its upper floors called The Ivy at Verity (theivyatverity.ca), which is open to the public. There's no doorman and not even a sign out front to tell you the hotel is there, but The Ivy's spacious and well-appointed rooms rival those at splashier boutique hotels. Both men and women are welcome to stay, but only female guests can take advantage of such club amenities as its fitness centre, swimming pool and spa.

In Manhattan's Meatpacking District, guests at the 24-room hotel in **SOHO HOUSE NEW YORK** (sohohousenyc.com) can use all the club's swish facilities, from its heated rooftop pool to its 44-seat cinema. And in Somerset, England, visitors to **BABINGTON HOUSE** (babingtonhouse.co.uk) have access to the snooker room, spa, tennis courts and cricket pitch that its dues-paying members call their home away from home.

3 No babies on board

Next to lost luggage and missed connections, the airline affront most frequent flyers dread is being stuck on a long flight beside a bawling baby.

So a recent initiative by **MALAYSIA AIRLINES** to discourage adults travelling with children under 12 from sitting in the upper-deck economy section of some long-haul flights should be music to their ears.

Malaysia Airlines (malaysiaairlines.com) had previously bumped babies from the first-class sections of all its 747 flights in response to complaints from its premium passengers that wailing infants kept them awake.

The newest policy, in effect as of July 1, applies to the airline's new Airbus A380 aircraft, where passengers can enjoy kid-free peace in upper-deck economy. The only exception is when the 350 economy seats on the plane's main deck are fully booked — families with kids are then allowed in economy up top. (Children are always allowed in the A380's 66 business-class seats on the upper deck.)

On the airline's Facebook page, reaction has been overwhelmingly positive, summed up by one customer's comment: "Finally! Bless you. More airlines should follow suit."