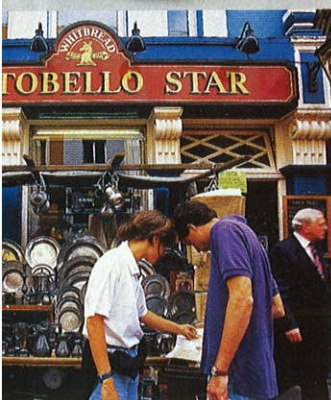


Express it



Who said silver means second place? One reader gives a gold medal to Portobello Market's coolest stall.

ALASKA: ESKIMO I SCREAM

I enjoyed your story about weird foods around the world ("Snack Alert: Bites on the Wild Side," February). In Alaska, there's a traditional dessert called Eskimo ice cream that's made with seal oil, reindeer fat, and salmonberries. Yum!

John E. Buggley, Jr., Menands, New York

You can't buy Eskimo ice cream (it's not FDA-approved), but if you want to make it at home and you're fresh out of reindeer fat, here's a "modern" recipe from the Alaska Native Heritage Center: Whip together 1/4 cup of shortening, 1/8 cup of vegetable oil, and 1/4 cup of sugar. Stir in one to two quarts berries (black, blue, or salmon). Eat fresh or frozen.

LONDON: NOW IT CAN BE TOLD...

After using your magazine as my travel bible for so long, I thought I'd return the favor and share my best tip. In the midst of the chaos of Portobello Market, I've discovered an oasis of elegance called Shine. It's a stall in the Crown Arcade devoted to "post-war and contemporary silver," and the wares are gorgeous.

Marianne Cahill, Chicago, Illinois

One-year-old Shine's designer silver jugs, spoons, teapots, and other crafts are collected by shop owners and silver-trade experts Georgina Williams and Sofia de Souza-Girao. Like everything in Notting Hill's Portobello Market, Shine is open only on Saturday.

LUGGAGE: TO CHECK OR NOT TO CHECK?

I was excited to see William Horne's article about losing your luggage ("Where's My Bag?" June), because, well, guess what? I was returning from a business/leisure trip to South Florida and Chicago. Due to my agenda, I'd packed business and casual clothes along with personal items and photos, and I checked them on a direct flight from Chicago to Nashville. I'd stopped checking bags on flights with connections long ago, but it didn't occur to me there'd be a problem on a direct run. When I arrived in Nashville and my bag didn't, Southwest told me to go home and they'd call me. That was the last I heard from them. Now, weeks later, I still haven't been compensated. Finally, I've learned to never check my bag. Oh yes, to whomever got my antique cuff links: I hope you enjoy them.

Nan Norred, Nashville, Tennessee

At press time (six weeks after Norred's bag disappeared), Southwest spokesperson Beth Harbin said the airline was still reviewing the claim.

How can air travel be improved? Make 'em check those Home Depot-sized carry-on bags. As William Horne's article pointed out, Federal statistics show that out of every 1,000 bags checked, only 5.16 are reported lost, damaged, delayed, or pilfered. Those odds sound a lot better to me than the odds of having somebody's monstrous, skull-crushing bag fly out of the overhead compartment and land on me.

Steve Goldberg, Miami, Florida

TRAVEL DOCTOR: SHOT IN THE FOOT

With all the good travel health information available, it's regrettable to see a fine magazine like yours publish an article about travel vaccines with so much misinformation ("Five Shots To Get Right Now," December/January). Let me set it straight:

■ **HEPATITIS A** This disease doesn't require two shots for immediate protection, it requires one, and that shot will last several years. The second, booster-type dose—given about six months later—is recommended for more long-term protection.

■ **LYME DISEASE** The vaccine for this disease is not life-long; evidence indicates that annual booster doses may be necessary.

■ **POLIO** The "sequential schedule" booster was used only in childhood vaccination (and now has been supplanted by a newer treatment). For travel purposes, one shot is all that's recommended for people who received the primary series as a child.

■ **RABIES** The pre-exposure treatment that you recommended doesn't "last indefinitely"—it may require booster doses. More importantly: in case of an animal bite, even people with the pre-exposure vaccine need a post-exposure shot as well.

Bradley A. Connor, M.D.

International Society of Travel Medicine, New York, New York

VERMONT: A 'CUTE' ALLERGY

I just read the review "Don't Say 'Cute'" on the Stone Hill Inn (December/January). Yes, Stone Hill Inn is wonderful, but Sherri Eisenberg makes it sound like she is against the classic B&B experience. Here at the neighboring Three Bears at The Fountain B&B, our guests love the charms of our early New England home. And overbearing innkeepers? Where has she been staying? "Cute" isn't the word in our guest comment book, it's "wonderful."

Suzanne and Stephen Vazzano, Stowe, Vermont

We have to admit, an inn named Three Bears at The Fountain B&B sounds cute ... oops, we mean, wonderful.

Share your comments and travel tips. Write: Letters to the Editor, Travel Holiday, 1633 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10019, or e-mail us at TravelHol@aol.com.