



THE GLOBE AND MAIL

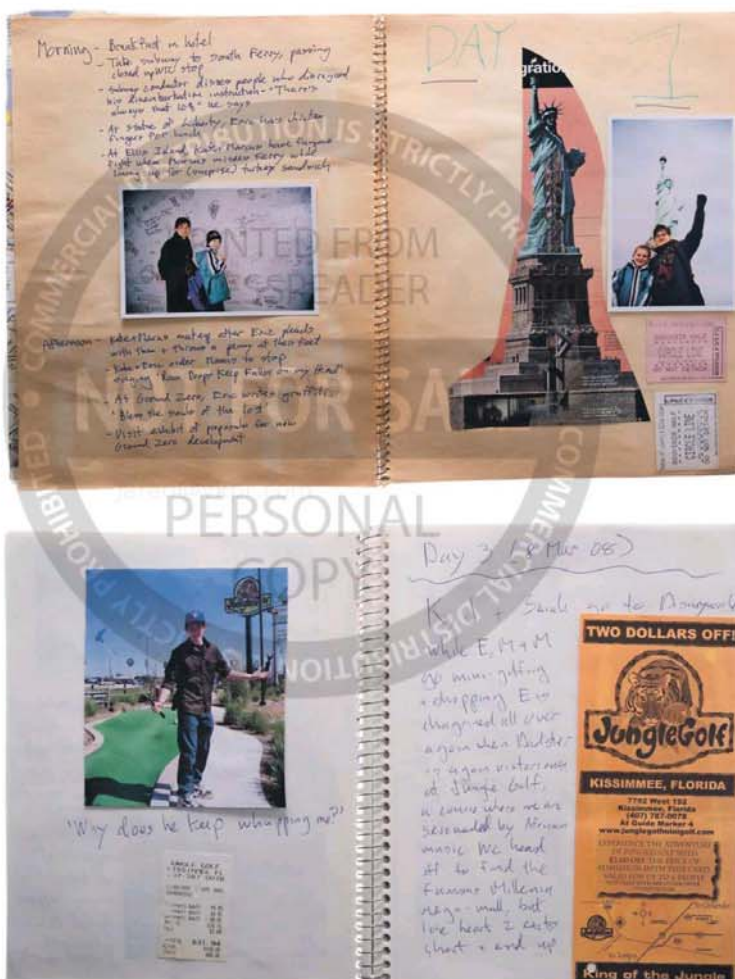
SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 2014

SECTION T

Globe Travel

INTRODUCING YEAR-ROUND FLIGHTS TO RIO DE JANEIRO.
AIR CANADA *You would arrive.*

EDITOR: DOMINI CLARK



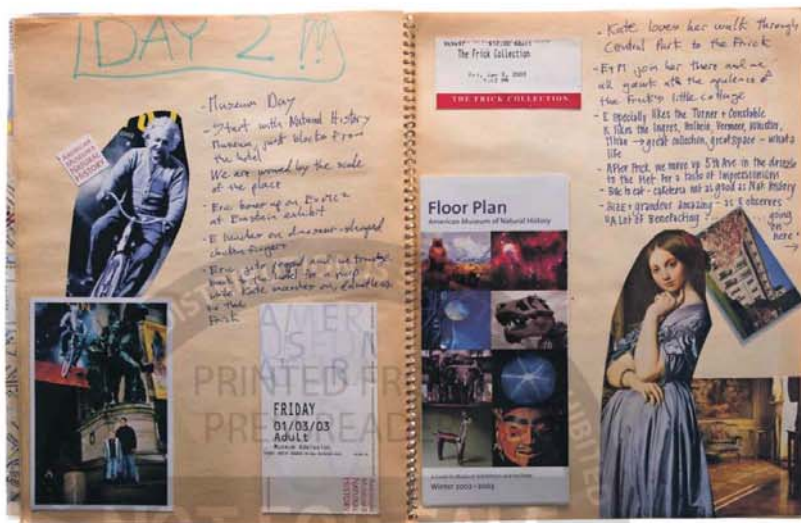
Of trips past

MEMENTOES On family getaways, **Marcus Gee** is the one stealing menus, hoarding ice-cream spoons and toting a glue stick. He's a scrapbooker – 'not for the fun of it,' but for the hope that one day in the future, the past will come alive

Unless he is an elementary-school art teacher, a middle-aged adult should not be wielding a glue stick. Of this, I am fairly certain. Yet, if you had followed me on a recent family vacation you would have seen a weary-looking figure hunched over a hotel-room table every night, equipped with not only a glue stick but Scotch tape, coloured markers, scissors and Sharpies. Around him would have been spread an unruly collection of postcards, theatre tickets, museum maps, brochures and receipts. If you have deduced that he is making a vacation scrapbook, congratulations. If you imagine him surrounded by his loving wife and children, merrily reliving the adventures of the day as they glue mementoes into the book together, think again. When I scrapbook, I usually scrapbook alone.

This is not how it was supposed to turn out. When I first proposed scrapbooking a trip, I thought it would be a great way to spend some family time while recording the experience for posterity. My father, a Mad Men-era advertising executive with the square jaw and sharp suits of Don Draper, brought scrapbooks on our 1960s car trips to New York, Detroit, Chicago and Nantucket. Making use of his ad skills, he helped with the layout. My younger brother and I wrote the misspelled captions. "The waitress in Albany gave me this," I wrote next to a brown Tootsie Roll wrapper. Those scrapbooks sit in my living-room bookcase still. Every time I open their yellowed pages, the tide of memory rolls in.

Scrapbook, Page 5



Marcus Gee's handiwork: 'There is something different about having a physical book that you can pick up and flip through together.' KEVIN VAN PRAESSEN FOR THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Globetrotter

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AMSTERDAM

The former headquarters of Dutch morning paper de Volkskrant has been converted into Volkshotel, a multiuse structure that includes a shared workspace, a club and cocktail bar, a restaurant and a three-star hotel. Dubbed a "24-hour micro society," the crash pad has a youthful vibe that seemingly never sleeps. Accommodations range from no-frills dorm-style rooms that have a bed, bathroom and TV, to designer-made suites that feature quirky amenities such as a dancing pole, a bed that's crafted out of a bicycle frame and a four-poster bath. The rooftop features an outdoor sauna, hot tubs and massage services that are open from 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. daily. volkshotel.nl



ATHENS

New Hotel's penthouse suite offers its well-heeled residents a rare opportunity to sleep under the stars with a view out to the Acropolis. Designed by the hotel's Brazilian owners Fernando and Humberto Campana, the suite's new terrace comes with lounge chairs, a dining table and a bed that's dressed in crisp white linens and an artistic headboard. Weather permitting, you can get a good night's rest in the open-air with 360-degree vistas over the city skyline. If you can't afford to stay the night – rates start at €800 (\$1,147)/night – get the same views from the recently opened rooftop lounge, where food, drink and a library of more than 2,000 art books are on offer. yeshotels.gr



KAOKOVELD, NAMIBIA

With its new Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp, Wilderness Safaris makes one of the most remote areas of Namibia more accessible to well-heeled safari goers. Accessible only by light aircraft, the luxury outpost has eight comfy tents with ensuite bathrooms and outdoor decks, a swimming pool and fire pit. Private guides take guests out on foot or by car to explore the surrounding lunar-like landscapes that are home to desert-adapted elephants and lions. If you have time, take a small plane journey to see the seal colonies and pebble beaches of the Skeleton Coast. wilderness-safaris.com



LONDON

The eclectic collection of furniture, lighting and ceramics that Turner-prize-winning artist Martin Creed pieced together for his 2012 redesign of Sketch's Gallery restaurant is for sale. From Sept. 1 – 7, in the Glad room, the Michelin-starred Mayfair brasserie is hosting a Moroccan bazaar-styled pop-up boutique where shoppers can purchase pieces from Creed's Work No. 1343. The vintage flatware, depression-era glass and mismatched tables and chairs from the 1960s and '70s start from £4 (\$7). sketch.uk.com

Mercedes Sanati
Special to The Globe and Mail

SLEEPOVER MATAKAURI LODGE

Stunning sights abound around Lake Wakatipu

TIM JOHNSON
QUEENSTOWN, NEW ZEALAND

Stunning sights are often accompanied by tall tales, and Lake Wakatipu – an aquamarine, serpentine body of water ringed by dramatic peaks on New Zealand's South Island – is certainly no exception. Maori legend has it that here, a mighty warrior slayed a giant who had stolen the local chief's daughter; vanquished and set aflame, the giant's body melted the snow on the neighbouring ranges, creating the lake. And if it had been there at the time, that warrior would have almost certainly celebrated his marriage to the chief's daughter by taking her to the Owner's Cottage at Matakauri Lodge.

The four-bedroom, five-star cottage, which recently underwent a \$5-million reno, includes six outdoor areas, a lakeside Jacuzzi and custom artwork (including a \$250,000 Picasso original clay vase).

LOCATION, LOCATION

Perched on the edge of Wakatipu, Matakauri Lodge enjoys breathtaking views of the lake, the twin peaks of the Cecil and Walter and the Remarkable range – mountains that feature heavily in *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. While the location offers a feeling of complete seclusion, and direct access to both the lake and some amazing trails, Matakauri is close



The Owner's Cottage has four bedrooms and includes six outdoor areas, a lakeside Jacuzzi and custom artwork – including a Picasso original clay vase.



enough to Queenstown (about 20 minutes) that running into town for some shopping is always an option. (The lodge even provides a car for that purpose.)

WHOM YOU'LL MEET

While the resort attracts a well-heeled crowd, guests here are more likely to pack their hiking boots and golf shoes than a tie and a dinner jacket. While some come with entourages and bodyguards, everyone's just looking for anonymity and a little time on the lake. Many come here to complete the so-called "Tiger Trail," which includes two other lodges built by the same owner (the Farm at Cape Kidnappers and the Lodge at Kauri Cliffs, both on

New Zealand's North Island).

IF I COULD CHANGE ONE THING

Things get a little too quiet after the sun goes down. Beyond reading silently in the lodge's library, sitting by the fire in your room or watching a little TV, there's not a whole lot to do after dinner. While Queenstown offers a bit of nightlife, a little something to keep guests entertained on property would be nice.

BEST AMENITY

Every suite includes an "infinity bathtub" positioned by the window (at a strategic angle, so neighbours can't see in), and it feels like bathing right on top of

the lake. Soak solo (a nice jar of bath salts and high-end bath products are provided), or request a romantic turn-down, which includes rose petals on the bed, small bites on the table and candles and incense burning around the tub.

EAT IN OR EAT OUT?

Breakfast and dinner are included in the room rate. While the lodge maintains a relationship with a carefully selected handful of upscale restaurants in Queenstown (where guests can dine at a discount), there's no reason to leave for a meal – Matakauri is well-known for its excellent cuisine, especially the degustation menu by chef

Jonathan Rogers. Offerings take advantage of excellent local ingredients and mix Western and Pacific influences. Two favourites include venison hunted by helicopter in nearby Fiordland National Park (where the deer are considered an invasive species) and cooked over manuka wood, and merino lamb which, fed on high alpine grasses, offers a uniquely robust flavour.

Matakauri Lodge, 569 Glenorchy Rd., Queenstown, New Zealand, matakaurilodge.com. Rooms from \$1,121 a night; the Owner's Cottage starts at \$8,435 a night.

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The writer was a guest of the hotel.



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