

# SundayTravel

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WITH: NEW ENGLAND DESTINATIONS

BOSTON SUNDAY GLOBE OCTOBER 11, 2020 | BOSTONGLOBE.COM/TRAVEL



TED FITZGERALD



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## GHOST SHIPS, SWAMP BEASTS, AND ALL THE *creepy things* THAT HAPPEN IN ROOM 303



By Diane Bair and Pamela Wright  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENTS

**Y**our favorite Halloween haunt may be an actual ghost town due to COVID-19, but Massachusetts has some authentically spooky spots. We're talking ghost sightings, in places you've likely visited at one time or another. There's the innkeeper who refuses to check out of his beloved hotel, a Navy ship that makes ghost hunters go gaga. We've even got scary birds and swamp beasts. They're def-

initely spine chilling, but if you're the skeptical type, take these stories with a grain of salt — or, this time of year, a handful of candy corn.

### The Bridgewater Triangle

You've heard of the Bermuda Triangle. We may have a terrifying triangle of our very own. As labeled by cryptozoologist Loren Coleman, author

of "Mysterious America" and founder of the International Cryptozoology Museum ([www.cryptozoologymuseum.com](http://www.cryptozoologymuseum.com)), the Bridgewater Triangle comprises 200 square miles and 17 towns. The towns of Abington, Freetown, and Rehoboth make up the tips of the triangle.

Some pretty bizarre stuff has happened here over the years. There's Hockomock Swamp, a zone that could populate its own creature feature. In 1980, a group of canoeists sighted a "small, red-haired, chimpanzee-like ape" in Coleman's words, in the swamp's Lake Nippenicket, a.k.a. "The Nip." An eyewitness account of a small, hairy crea-

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT The Wayside Inn in Sudbury; co-directors Aaron Cadioux (black shirt) and Manny Famolare shooting "The Bridgewater Triangle" in a swamp in Raynham; the USS Salem in Quincy; the Hockomock Swamp in Easton.



BARRY CHIN/GLOBE STAFF

## Pandemic pumpkins

Annual jack-o'-lantern spectacular is now a drive-through event

By Diane Bair and Pamela Wright  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENTS

PROVIDENCE — In an age of drive-by birthday parties, it only makes sense that a treasured Halloween tradition would go the same route. This year, the Roger Williams Park Zoo has reimagined its annual Jack-o'-Lantern Spectacular. Like the giant gourds that morph

from vegetable to glowing art, this walking tour has transformed into an after-dark drive-through pumpkinland. There's fog, lights, music, and the main attraction: more than 5,000 jack-o'-lanterns on any given night. Ultimately, about 30,000 craftily carved pumpkins will get face time during the 32-night

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## How to do Salem in a pandemic? Plan ahead.

By Lauren Daley  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Lots of people love to spend some part of the Halloween season in Salem but are probably wondering right about now: Can we still go? What will Halloween look like? How should we prepare?

"My emphasis is to plan ahead," says Kate Fox, executive director of Destination Salem. "This is not the year for a spontaneous trip to Salem. Look online, research what you want to do, buy tickets in advance."

Fox suggests a midweek trip if possible, in lieu of Halloween night, and landing with a destination in mind: Salem offers art, food, cocktails, boutique hotels, the Peabody Essex Museum.

"I just don't think it's the year to come for that costumed, wandering experience. It's a great time to come and sit and have dinner, lunch. Come and enjoy Salem, but come with the intention to do something: to experience an attraction, a museum, a shop — don't come just to wander the streets."

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## Inside HAWAII BIG ISLAND WELCOME

The 50th state unveils a new pre-travel testing program for COVID-19  
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# Hawaii welcomes guests with new COVID testing program

By Kari Bodnarchuk  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

If you've been longing for Hawaii's sun-kissed shores, friendly aloha spirit, and breezy evenings punctuated by ukulele music and luaus, the time has finally come. After nearly seven months of requiring visitors and returning residents to self-quarantine for 14 days upon arrival, Governor David Ige has announced plans to loosen the state's travel restrictions.

Beginning Oct. 15, the new Pre-Travel Testing Program lets travelers show proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of flying to Hawaii (from departure of the last leg) to avoid the 14-day quarantine period. Only children under 5 years old can avoid quarantine without having to take a test. Travelers must provide their negative test results upon arrival in Hawaii or quarantine until they receive them.

During a press conference on Oct. 1, Hawaii's Lieutenant Governor Josh Green stressed the importance of getting the right test: the FDA-authorized Nucleic Acid Amplification Test from a certified CLIA lab.

"No antibody or antigen tests will be accepted — that's very important because I don't want people to take the wrong test," said Green.

Clinics that currently administer the NAAT test include CVS, Walgreens, and West Coast-based Kaiser Permanente (costs vary). Four airlines have also announced plans to offer rapid COVID-19 testing for travelers flying from major US cities, such as San Francisco, Seattle, Dallas, and Chicago. Those airlines include Hawaiian, Alaska, United, and American.

Starting Oct. 12, Alaska Airlines plans to open a pop-up clinic in downtown Seattle, offering the Abbott ID NOW rapid test for \$135, with results available in two hours. It expects to add other COVID-testing clinics in cities from San Diego to Anchorage beginning next month.

As of Oct. 15, United Airlines also intends to offer rapid COVID-19 tests for United customers traveling to Hawaii from San Francisco Airport. Travelers can take the rapid Abbott ID NOW test at the airport — getting results within 15 minutes, according to United — or a self-administered home test that's mailed to a lab before their trip (results typically come back within 48 hours).



MICHELLE MISHINA-KUNZ/THE NEW YORK TIMES



UNITED AIRLINES

Hawaii's new Pre-Travel Testing Program lets travelers show proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of flying to Hawaii (from departure of the last leg) to avoid the 14-day quarantine period.

a QR code that will get scanned at the airport when you arrive. You can also upload negative test results to your account.

If you arrive in Hawaii and don't have your test results back, you'll have to quarantine until you receive them. If your

results come back negative, you must report this to Hawaii's Department of Health before being cleared to leave your hotel.

"If you test positive, we're going to give you guidance on what you need to do," said Green. "If you can't afford it,

we'll work with you because we're trying to be very compassionate to our travelers who are coming back to Hawaii. We have some hotel rooms."

Also, if travelers arrive after the 72-hour testing window, "we will be accommodating if (air) delays are out of their control," said Green.

News changes quickly, so check Hawaii's official government website [www.hawaii.covid19.com](http://www.hawaii.covid19.com) for updates and more travel information.

With tourist numbers down — hotel bookings are at 19 percent compared to last year's numbers for October, according to Green — many hotels now offer packages with great deals for travelers. Make sure you ask questions about cancellation and change fees when booking your hotel or accommodations, and special offers. Maui's Montage Kapalua Bay, for instance, offers a Spirit of Now package that provides guests with flexible booking (meaning no deposit due at the time of booking), waived cancellation fees (just in case your pre-flight COVID test doesn't go as planned), complimentary room upgrade if available at check-in, and a resort credit of \$100 to \$300 per night (because these places are so happy to have you back).

Also ask about available services. Many hotels now offer rental equipment such as snorkel gear and kayaks, and open-air spa treatments, dining, and entertainment. Montage Kapalua Bay, for instance, has transformed its large luau celebrations into small-group events on private lanais so you can still enjoy those breezy evenings with the sounds of drummers and dancers, and Hawaii's welcoming aloha spirit.

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BARRY CHIN/GLOBE STAFF

## Pumpkin fest is a cut above



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event, as some are rotated out when they start to sink and sag. That's more than 200,000 pounds of pumpkin.

"We didn't want to give it up this year," says Corrie Ignagni, manager of digital communications at the property. The Spectacular typically draws about 140,000 visitors. In the new format, about 100,000 folks, paying \$50 per carload, are expected to attend. The event is the park's major annual fund-raiser. With so many Halloween events canceled this year, a 30-minute drive past a plethora of pumpkins is a fun way to get in to the spirit — and maybe pick up some ideas for DIY pumpkin carving.

These aren't the jagged-tooth creations that grace your front porch. Nope — there's the "I Have a Dream" display, featuring a pumpkin with the likeness of Dr. Martin Luther King; the faces of the Beatles, Jimi Hendrix, Diana Ross, and Smokey Robinson in a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame-themed section; and many more. The overall theme is "Special Places," which allows for plenty of variety. That keeps things fun for the carving professionals from Passion for Pumpkins, an outfit based in Oxford, Mass., that works with the park to put on the show.

A team of 14 to 16 folks transforms the pumpkins into art. Like the Sorting Hat in the Harry Potter books, the pumpkin chooses its visage, says Passion for Pumpkins cofounder Matthew Curl. "Every pumpkin is different," says Curl. An artist will draw the design on the pumpkin with ink and Sharpie pens, and etch out the places where she wants the white inside layer of the pumpkin to come through. They use

Visitors can see 5,000 intricately carved pumpkins each night.

own jack-o'-lantern this year, but consider this handy trick from the pumpkin pros: Don't cut the top off. Cut the bottom off to place over your light source. Genius! Your pumpkin will last longer this way, and the stem won't break off.

And here's another tip: If you want to see the carvers at work, come to the zoo during the day. "Our show is free during the day (with zoo admission) when you come through the zoo," Ignagni says. You can walk through the path and see the artists doing their work, and get a closer, unhurried look at the crazy coterie of jack-o'-lanterns. "People see us carving up a 1,600-pound pumpkin, and they just love it," Curl says. All the pumpkins used are from New England farms, he notes, including "the biggest pumpkins in New England, from the Topsfield Fair." For a full-time pumpkin carver, that's like doing a concert with Beyoncé.

The one downside about a drive-by pumpkin peek is that it goes by too fast. You'll have your headlights off and drive no faster than 3 miles per hour as you wind past the pumpkin displays. There are foam pumpkins hanging from the trees, and pumpkin vignettes loaded with dozens of real pumpkins on both sides of the car, so you can't possibly see everything — you'd have to turn the car around and retrace your route for that.

It would be nice if you could do it again, and switch up drivers, but this is an in-and-out affair. The whole thing takes about 30 minutes.

And if you have small fry in your car — we had 4-year-old



PIUMPOUS WARE...  
white inside layer of the pumpkin to come through. They use duotone and the orange pumpkin skin to create a 3-D effect. Then, the pumpkins are cut and gutted. It's important to take out just the right amount of meat (the pumpkin's pulpy insides), Curll says. "If you take out too much meat, it looks too light, you'll screw up the structure, and the pumpkin will die too soon." Do it right, though, and "it glows like a lantern," he adds.

Pumpkins are a challenging medium, says pumpkin artist Ariane Koutsoukounis, who also runs a body art studio. "There's no erasing, or painting over, once you've begun carving." Then there's the matter of letting go, "accepting that we don't have to make everything perfect, because it is ephemeral," she says. "This can be especially hard for me and a few other artists. Sometimes we get really carried away and put 15 hours into just one pumpkin, all the while knowing that a couple warm, muggy days will terminate our masterpieces."

That doesn't stop the carvers from pouring the love into their "show stoppers," however. "That's what we call pumpkins carved for the love of pumpkin carving, or a pumpkin that we've spent a crazy amount of time perfecting," Koutsoukounis explains. "This year, I carved a 500-pound pumpkin, featuring Norman Rockwell's painting 'Do Unto Others.'" Her version features 22 faces from the original image, and an additional face, that of John Reckoner, the "Lord of the Gourd," who launched the Jack-o'-Lantern Spectacular in 1988. "Start to finish, it took about 26 hours," she says.

You may not have that amount of time to put into your

And if you have small fry in your car — we had 4-year-old Ava — know that there's some patience required. Cars queue up in six rows, and then peel off one row at a time. While you wait, a couple of sellers walk past the cars, hawkling Halloween merch and cider donuts and pretzels. "But where are the pumpkins?" Ava kept asking as we waited for our row to move. We passed her slices of veggie pizza we'd picked up at 401 Pizza, located just down the block at 609 Elmwood Ave. (And, yeah, a cider donut.) Bring food, or eat first, if you're visiting during dinner hour.

Seeing the pumpkins, though, really is magical. They're orange orbs of art. "It's all about the love you put in," Curll says. "We really have a lot of passion here." And here's another tip: If you want to see the best of the best carver's efforts, visit near the end of the run (the show runs until Nov. 1). "By then, the carvers are on their third pumpkin, and their creative juices are really flowing," says Passion for Pumpkins' Tristan Wright.

By the way, what happens to all of those, um, retired jack-o'-lanterns? "We compost them," Curll says, "and then they go into the pig pile." Kind of an ignoble end for an organic piece of art!

*Drive-Through, Jack-o'-Lantern Spectacular, Roger Williams Park Zoo, 1000 Elmwood Ave., Providence; \$50 per car-load (\$45 for RWPZ members.) Ticket sales are online only. Runs rain or shine, nightly from 6:30-11 p.m. through Nov. 1. 401-785-3510; www.rwpz.org.*

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PHOTO: MARISSA HARRIS FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Hawaiian Airlines will offer customers a mail-in saliva test that's shipped overnight to a lab for processing, with results available within 24 hours of arriving at the lab, according to that airline's website. Travelers get assistance on collecting their sample by video call.

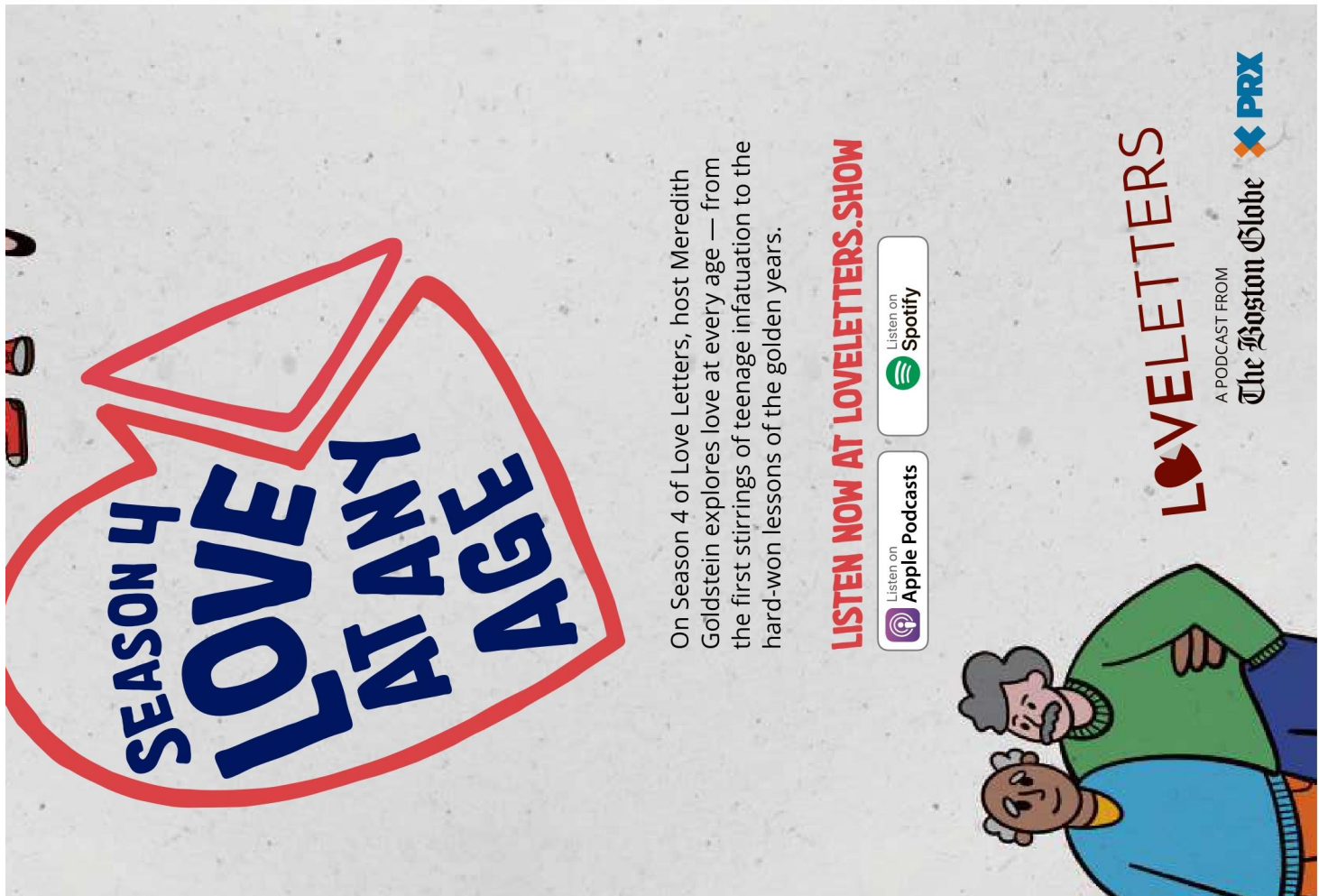
These rapid airline tests aren't cheap, especially for families: They range from about \$80 to \$250 per person. Still, the testing programs are expected to enable more people to travel to Hawaii — and boost the state's tourist-driven economy — while hopefully preventing the spread of the novel coronavirus.

These programs could be the start of a new era of airline travel, and an antidote for the floundering aviation industry.

"We'll look to quickly expand customer testing to other destinations and US airports later this year," Toby Enqvist, Chief Customer Officer at United, said in a statement.

Check each airline's website for updated details on testing clinics, and leave plenty of time for mail-in tests. United, for instance, recommends their customers purchase the Color self-collection kit at least 10 days prior to travel, collect their sample at home within 72 hours of departure to Hawaii, and then either overnight mail the sample or drop it off at the airport in San Francisco.

To save time before you arrive in Hawaii, create an account on the Safe Travels site — a must for all travelers to the Aloha State — and add in information on your upcoming trip to Hawaii (go to [travel.hawaii.gov](http://travel.hawaii.gov)). Fill out the health questionnaire within 24 hours before flying and you'll receive



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