



SIMON J. HARVEY/CELEBRITY CRUISES

The 2,918-passenger ship Celebrity Edge will begin sailing out of Port Everglades, Fla., in November.

Celebrity gets closer to the Edge

By RICHARD TRIBOU
Orlando Sentinel

Celebrity Cruises recently gave a first look at its new cruise ship Celebrity Edge ahead of its Florida debut this fall.

The 2,918-passenger ship will begin sailing out of Port Everglades in November but is getting its finishing touches at France's Chantiers de l'Atlantique shipyard, where invited guests got to take in some of the ship's unique features for the first time.

Among those is a ride on the Magic Carpet, which has multiple roles, but will offer an innovative way for passengers to disembark and reboard the ship when it tenders at ports of call.

While that's an exterior feature, visitors to the ship also got their first look at some of the inside features, including the ship's atrium, known as the Grand Plaza, from French designers Patrick Jouin

and Sanjit Manku.

The main draw could be referred to as the elephant in the room, in that it's a 7-ton chandelier. The feature that looms three decks above the circular-designed Martini Bar features LED light strips that adjust the color depending on the time of day.

"The chandelier is like a passive, beautiful sculpture that at night becomes this kind of beating heart," Manku said. "And every single time you look at it, you see it in a different way. It reveals itself as a different thing."

Also in the public space is something you don't see every day on a cruise ship, untouched sections of the hull, meant to pay deference to the construction process of the ship.

For this exposed corridor, Jouin and Manku said they wanted to show welders' touches, architect markings and engineer's

notes, the backbone of what Celebrity touts as a sleek, modern design.

"I think what we love in each project is we're always trying to find technique and material craftspeople that allow us to do something we've never done before," Manku said.

"When we were asked to work on the Grand Plaza, one of the big things was these incredibly talented people who can work with steel, and work with steel in ways that become very plastic," he said. "So what we really want to do as well is, 'How can we show the bones?' Because the bones are so good, you don't need to put a covering over them."

Aside from the chandelier, a hanging art installation titled "The Pendulum" is something the designers said they wanted to remind cruisers they were on a ship. It suspends from three decks up and moves with the

sway of the ship. Surrounding the Martini Bar is a hand-stitched mesh screen with 13,500 pieces of metal, leather and fabric.

"We hope that all their life they will remember this special moment and why they were here, and why they were together," Jouin said. "That's the joy for us."

The 1,004-foot-long vessel's first sailing from Port Everglades is Nov. 21. It will continue sailing seven-night alternating Eastern and Western Caribbean itineraries until summer 2019, when it migrates to the Mediterranean.

Celebrity Edge is the first of a new class of ship. The line's last class of ship, the Solstice class, debuted more than 10 years ago.

A sister ship, Celebrity Apex, is slated for delivery in spring 2020 with two more on order for 2021 and 2022.

NEWS TO USE

By PHIL MARTY
Chicago Tribune

Here are some of the more interesting events, deals, websites and other travel tidbits that have come across our desk recently:

■ Competitive mountain bikers will tackle the 2018 Bell's Beer Iceman Cometh Challenge on Nov. 3. The 30-mile race runs from Kalkaska to Traverse City, Mich., on dirt roads, mountain bike tracks, abandoned railroad beds and the Vasa Nordic ski trail. The race attracts more than 4,000 riders. www.iceman.com

■ "Literary Heroines: Their Times, Their Fashions" includes vignette displays of apparel and accessories that tell the story of literary heroines from books such as "Pride and Prejudice," "Memoirs of a Geisha," "The Help" and "Little Women." The exhibit at the Putnam Museum in Davenport, Iowa, will be on display through Jan. 4. The exhibit includes a section on "Hometown Heroines" that features recorded oral history excerpts from some successful women of the Quad Cities. tinyurl.com/y8ud8e7r

■ In the spirit of the Halloween season, the Wisconsin tourism folks have put together lists of some of the state's haunted houses (tinyurl.com/yapowkj9), ghost tours (tinyurl.com/y8rus743) and haunted historic hotels (tinyurl.com/yctj5v38).

■ Opportunities to jam abound at the 28th annual Bluegrass Masters Weekend, Nov. 2-4 at the Lutsen Resort in Lutsen, Minn. Nov. 3 will be a full day of vocal workshops led by international performer Valerie Smith. She'll join her band, Liberty Pike, for a performance that night. The other two days of the event are devoted to informal jamming. 218-387-1272, tinyurl.com/y8ubzbr6



ICEMAN PROMOTIONS

More than 4,000 riders turn out for the Bell's Beer Iceman Cometh Challenge.

■ Realm of Terror, which has been highly rated among Illinois haunted houses, operates Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Oct. 28. The attraction in Round Lake Beach also will have a final Bloodbath on Nov. 3, with ponchos available. www.realmofterror.com

■ Manistee County, Mich., has a list of 14 self-guided tours in the county, including inland and coastal fall color outings, U-pick orchards and natural wonders. The county borders Lake Michigan and includes a portion of the Huron-Manistee National Forest. tinyurl.com/y74c5kha

■ Amtrak's Hoosier State train runs four times a week between Indianapolis and Chicago, with stops in Crawfordsville, Lafayette, Rensselaer and Dyer. Through the end of the year you can get 15 percent off tickets with promo code V524. tinyurl.com/y806e44f

Deals and websites listed here have been checked for availability as of press time. Listings are not endorsements. Send tips at least a month ahead to ChicagoTribTravel@gmail.com.

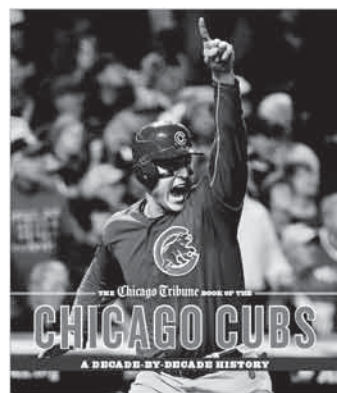
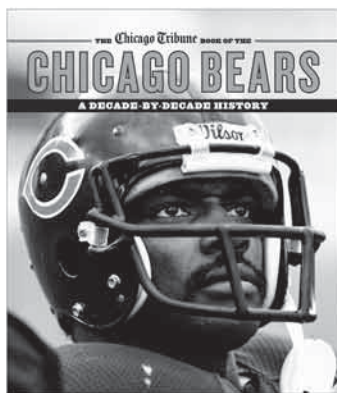
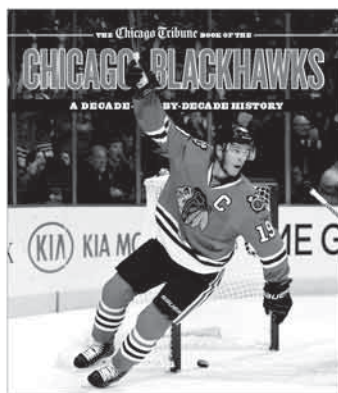
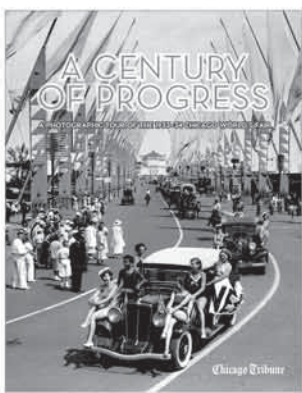
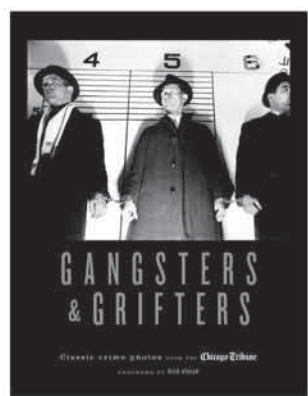
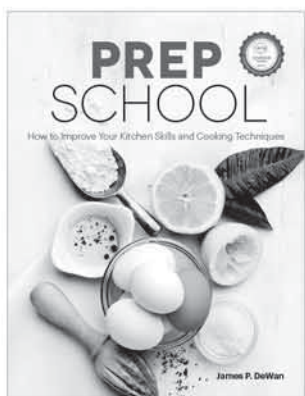
Phil Marty is a freelancer.

GEOQUIZ ANSWER

Mississippi. Union troops laid siege to the town from late May until July 4, 1863, when it was surrendered.

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