

## TRIPEDIA



### Batter up

Remember when baseball was about more than big salaries and steroids? The [Hotel Commonwealth](#) thinks it can help.

The Boston hotel recently debuted its Baseball Suite, complete with rare collectibles from legends such as Babe Ruth, Jackie Robinson and Lou Gehrig. Even the vintage-style furniture evokes baseball's heyday from the 1930s and 1940s, with wingback chairs and a leather steamer trunk.

But no need to panic — you'll still find modern touches such as a 50-inch plasma television and DVD player, in which you can play the 40-plus classic baseball films from the included library.

The nightly rate is \$755. Yep, to match the career home-run record set by Hank Aaron in the 1970s.

Details: [www.hotelcommonwealth.com](#); 866-784-4000.

### Spicing up brunch



In Las Vegas, everything looks and feels flashier. Even Sunday brunch.

Example 1: The Luxor with its Mariachi Brunch. Along with traditional brunch fare, you get two-for-one margaritas and Bloody Marias and a Mariachi band at the casino's Tacos & Tequila restaurant. Antacid tablets not included. Details: [www.luxor.com](#).

Example 2: Mandalay Bay's House of Blues Gospel Brunch. A live gospel music show will entertain while you savor an all-you-can-eat southern-style buffet. Tips and Hallelujahs welcome. Details: [www.mandalaybay.com](#).

### Where to park it



The beaches in California's park system dominated the Top 10 State Parks based on the most recent attendance figures from 2008. Here are the 10 most popular parks:

1. Old Town San Diego State Historic Park
2. Huntington State Beach
3. Bolsa Chica State Beach (pictured)
4. San Onofre State Beach
5. Sonoma Coast State Park
6. Seacliff State Beach
7. Cardiff State Beach
8. Oceano Dunes (State Vehicular Recreation Area)
9. Carlsbad State Beach
10. New Brighton State Beach

### Travel tip

This week's tip from Budget Travel's "Smart Family's Passport" comes from Tarryn Rivkin of San Jose: "If you're heading to London and plan to spend time touring castles, it pays to become a member of the not-for-profit Historic Royal Palaces ([www.hrp.org.uk](#)). You'll get in free to five of the city's most impressive landmarks, including the Tower of London, Kensington Palace and Kew Palace. Flash your card to bypass long lines and visit unlimited times within a year."

— Ann Tatko-Peterson

