

Escape

Where to go. What to see. The deals to get you there.

Boston's craft brews

City has a staggering collection of 10 micro-breweries to try

JOHN BISHOP

BOSTON has an active craft beer scene and the state of Massachusetts has at least 47 micro-breweries, 10 of them in greater Boston.

I signed up for an evening brewery tour with the Boston Brewery Company, and eventually five of us headed off in a van across the river to Night Shift Brewing while Andy from Arkansas, our beer guide, talked about how lifting the ban on home brewing in the late 1990s had led to an explosion of experimentation.

Night Shift Brewing's story is typical: three guys in an apartment making their own stuff and giving it to friends, who eventually said, "Man, this stuff is good enough to sell."

Now they have a large warehouse with big steel tanks, a range of brews and a bar out front where people from the neighbourhood gather to sip, talk and eat stuff. Very homely.

We tried four beers there – a very plain beer called whirlpool, which had grapefruit flavours but not much else; 87, which was a 7.8 per cent IPA with hops added at the end of the brewing process; the belafonte, a beer in the Belgian style, 7 per cent alcohol; and the trifecta made with three Belgian yeasts and vanilla beans, which was like drinking beer with a healthy dose of allspice added. One for the esoteric I think.

And then on to Mystic, a brewery named after the river, for five more.

They are followers of the

Belgian tradition and their dark called Day of Doom is a 12 per cent tasty drop.

Radix has birch bark, liquorice wort and sassafras in it, but the flavouring didn't work for me.

Andy tells us: "My job is to get you educated, entertained and slightly inebriated."

He scored on all three, even though he arrived 45 minutes late at the pick-up point.

"Well, we just have to work harder at having a good time," he proclaimed, swinging his large arms about.

At a more modern bar back in the city we move – more slowly now – through a flight of four beers and a pizza meal, before the final stop, Meadhall, a modern classy bar and restaurant, where there are 130 different brews available.

It's a top spot for the young and affluent, full menu and table service.

We are allowed full pint here and I choose an English-style bitter made in Maine.

A calming influence after porters, IPAs, darks, browns and pales.

The biggest and perhaps best known brewery is Samuel Adams, named after the patriot, failed maltster and leader of the American Revolution, their beers are available across the country.

He stands outside Faneuil Hall, which is itself a fantastic market area with many high-class cafes and restaurants.

John Bishop visited Boston at his own expense. See more of his stories at www.eatdrinktravel.co.nz



Photos: istock and supplied

HOT DEALS

Lord Howe offer

LOCATED on the secluded southern end of the World Heritage-listed Lord Howe Island, Capella Lodge commands spectacular ocean, lagoon and mountain views.

Spend seven nights at the five-star Capella Lodge in a Capella Suite with gourmet breakfast and dinner with an inspired daily menu. Includes French champagne on arrival, two Capella Spa \$A50 treatment vouchers, sunset drinks (including canapes), open bar with premium wines and spirits from 6pm daily and return airport transfers.

Special offer: Stay for seven nights, pay for six with prices from \$5130 per person twin-share. Valid for select travel between August 3-December 19. Book by May 30.

<https://www.travelassociates.com/product/5418301> For more details, phone Travel Associates on 1800 044 066. Conditions apply.

Save on Bali visit

SAVE 20 per cent on a seven-night stay at Bali Garden Beach Resort and receive a bonus Finns Bali Holiday Membership when you book with Travel-Online.

Now from just \$575 per person twin-share, the offer includes seven nights' accommodation in a superior room, return airport transfers, breakfast daily, bonus two mango daiquiris, free bicycle rental, free WiFi and two complimentary 30-minute massages.

Guests can relax and enjoy the resort-style facilities including swimming pools, restaurants and bars, day spa plus much more. Book by March 31 for travel until June 14 and October 16-December 22.

For more details, visit www.travelonline.com or phone 1300 883 887. Conditions apply. Subject to change and availability.

Island cruise with musical stars

THE only thing better than a seven-day cruise is one that includes live performances from headline Australian and international music artists.

Royal Caribbean's *Radiance of the Seas* has two cruises to islands in New Caledonia from Sydney later this year.

The cruises available are:

● **Cruisin' Country** – Sailing from Sydney, October 12. A seven-night celebration of Australian country music featuring more than 30 entertainers including icons such as Lee Kernaghan, Adam Harvey, Beccy Cole and Gina Jeffreys. This fun cruise also offers artist signings, songwriting and guitar workshops and lessons in line-dancing, square dancing and clogging. Available from



STAR ACT: Lee Kernaghan will be on board. Photo: Contributed

\$3345 per person, twin-share.

● **Bravo - Cruise of the Performing Arts** – Sailing from Sydney, November 12. A seven-night cruise to New Caledonia starring acclaimed artists from the stages of musical theatre, opera, cabaret and jazz. Per-

formers include Welsh bass-baritone opera and concert singer Sir Bryn Terfel, and Australian stars David Hobson, James Morrison and Lucy Durack. Available from \$3312 per person, twin-share.

Both cruises offer up to \$US900 onboard credit.

Bookings made by March 31 receive an onboard speeding credit of \$US700 per cabin in Oceanview Staterooms and \$US900 per cabin in balcony staterooms.

Alternatively, WA passengers can take advantage of free return flights to Sydney to join the cruise. Fares are subject to availability. Call Cruise Express on 1300 766 537 or visit www.cruiseexpress.com.au.

Rare opportunity to visit desert oasis

OVER recent months, rainfall in the Northern Territory, Queensland and South Australia has led to an influx of water into the usually dry and barren inland sea, transforming Lake Eyre into a desert oasis, flourishing with life. Because of its remote location and unpredictable nature, this truly is a once-in-a-lifetime moment to experience.

To take in the beauty of this natural phenomena, APT has released a new seven-day Lake Eyre and Flinders Ranges journey. Travel in comfort aboard a custom-built 4WD vehicle and stay in a range of hand-picked accommodation, including two nights in luxury safari-style tents at the Wilpena Pound Resort.



INLAND WONDER: Lake Eyre. Photo: Contributed

Covering thousands of hectares, Lake Eyre takes on a pink hue as it floods, thanks to the developing presence of algae, while freshwater fish and a vast array of bird life, including white pelicans, begin to thrive. APT's seven-day Lake Eyre

and Flinders Ranges trip includes all meals, the services of an expert driver-guide, and a range of APT Signature Experiences, including a scenic flight over Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre. Walk on the dazzling salt flats of Lake Eyre South, traverse the iconic Oodnadatta Track and become immersed in the incredible scenery of the Flinders Ranges.

Prices start at \$3995 per person twin-share, including savings of up to \$500 per person, with multiple departures running from March 29 until late May. To find out more about joining APT on this once-in-a-lifetime journey, call 1300 196 420 or visit www.aptouring.com.au/trips/australia/sa/gole7.