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December 13, 2013, 4:00 pm | Comment

A Washington Hotel’s History Tour

By ELAINE GLUSAC

Hotels have employed sleep concierges, romance specialists and even “vibe managers” in charge of music. Now [the Jefferson](#) in Washington, D.C., has added a weightier position: in-house historian.

Each weekend, the historian and author Jim Garrett can be found in the lobby of the 96-room hotel, which features walls hung with documents signed by Thomas Jefferson, the hotel’s namesake. He answers questions regarding the founding father and, more often, dispenses advice on what to see in Washington, often walking guests the five blocks to the White House, discussing history en route.



Courtesy of The Jefferson
Jim Garrett in the book room at the Jefferson.

“They are in Washington to see Washington, not to learn about Thomas Jefferson,” Mr. Garrett said. “We touch on Thomas Jefferson and how the hotel values Thomas Jefferson but mostly what I do is talk about history of Washington and give them some sights they might not normally think about while sightseeing in Washington.”

His top three sights at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History, for example, include the desk upon which Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, Abraham Lincoln’s signature top hat, “and [Dorothy’s ruby slippers](#) from ‘The Wizard of Oz,’ just to lighten things up a bit.”

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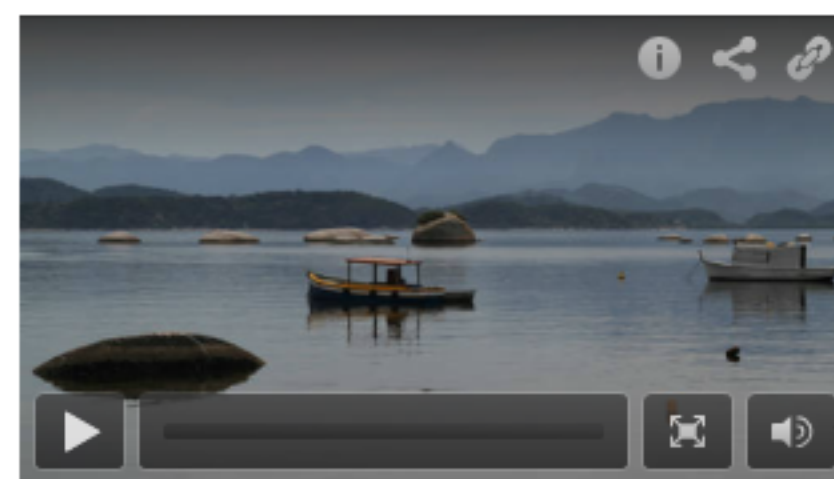
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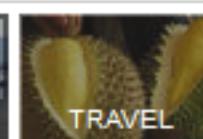
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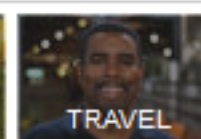
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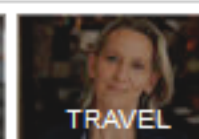
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