

SundayTravel

NEW ENGLAND DESTINATIONS
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CHRISTOPHER
MUTHER

a dazzling
portal into the
golden age of
aviation

The Delta Flight Museum, chock-a-block with airline eye candy, reopens next month after a \$16 million refresh

ATLANTA — It may not look impressive, but the single-engine plane inside the Delta Flight Museum was once the height of modern luxury travel. In 1929, moneyed travelers could purchase a ticket on the Travel Air S-6000 B for \$90 (the equivalent of \$1,670 in 2025). This plane was true opulence, constructed of steel tubes and covered with fabric. It was touted as the “limousine of the air.” Six passengers would sit in wicker chairs bolted to the floor and enjoy a noisy flight from Dallas to Jackson, Miss., at the breakneck speed of 90 miles per hour. Even with the business class price tag, there was no in-flight meal, no beverages, no seat belts, and (gasp!) no lavatory. This was Delta Air Lines’ first passenger plane, going into service in June 1929.

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PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER MUTHER/GLOBE STAFF

Top right: Vintage travel posters recall the glamour of mid-century travel at the Delta Flight Museum in Atlanta. Above left: A copy of the iconic Fly Delta Jets sign from the Delta hangar at Atlanta Hartsfield International Airport. Above right: The Delta Flight Museum holds thousands of artifacts from the airline’s 100-year history. This is part of the museum’s color wall display.



Dara
and
Paige
Adams

This mother-daughter duo runs a joyful, disability-friendly short-term rental

By Caroline Eubanks
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Travel can be a great gift, but for those with disabilities, finding somewhere that can accommodate your needs can be tricky. It’s a lesson learned often by mother and daughter Dara and Paige Adams, who opened their Norwood-based rental, the house of id, in 2023. Paige was diagnosed with circulatory and connec-

tive tissue disorders that often make mobility difficult. She was attending the University of Massachusetts when her parents moved from Virginia to help out. “My mom took off work and became my full-time caregiver, so it really became a joint effort of creating joy and also practical ways to feel good physically and mentally,” says Paige. “My husband and I actually met at

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A new-and-improved Vienna waits for you

By Diane Bair
and Pamela Wright
GLOBE CORRESPONDENTS

VIENNA — We had a very outdated impression of Vienna. We thought: fancy, black tie balls, classical music and opera, coffee-houses, cream cakes, and carriage rides. Vienna, we thought, was old-school — been there, done that. We changed our impression on a recent trip. This capital city, set on the banks of the Danube River, is all that, and much more. Its rich history, opulent architecture, and artistic and intellectual legacies remain intact, but in recent years, the city has undergone a contemporary transformation.

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PAMELA WRIGHT

Vienna is filled with grand buildings and boulevards.

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Glenn Awong, the lead singer of Maoli, reflects on unplugging, overthinking, and being grateful

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TRAVEL NEWS YOU CAN USE

A new Bar Harbor hotel, plus a seaside sanctuary in Bermuda

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Vienna looks to its future while honoring its history

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“What I love about Vienna now is that it’s trying to be more modern,” said Ilse Heigerth, a local resident who led us on a walking tour of the city. “There’s a lot happening right now. Everything is so new and clean and improved.”

In the past 10 years or so, scores of buildings have been renovated, and pedestrian-only areas added, along with more green spaces, bike paths, and parks. (It’s now considered one of the greenest cities in the world.) An influx of young families has added vibrancy to the city, spurring new boutiques, galleries, and restaurant openings. Major museums have opened or been renovated, including the newly expanded and modern Wien Museum, following a multiyear, 100-million-euro makeover, and the opening of the new House of Strauss, commemorating composer and musician Johann Strauss II.

We’d heard rumblings of Vienna’s up-and-coming, new-and-improved status. The New York Times named it one of the top 52 destinations to visit in 2024. Then Austrian Airlines introduced its new nonstop service from Boston to Vienna, and we were committed.

We booked rooms at The Amauris, housed in an 1860 palace, along the famed Ringstrasse, Vienna’s grand circular boulevard. Located between the Vienna State Opera and the Musikverein concert hall, and a short walk to most Old Town sights, this Relais & Chateau property oozes grace and elegance, with lots of marble and original paintings in gilded frames. Contemporary touches — splashes of eye-popping colors, lighting, and custom furniture — keep it from being stuffy or old-fashioned. Rooms are all about comfort, with luxurious linens, fresh flowers, and large modern baths. After the long, through-the-night flight, we were tempted to crawl into their four-poster beds. Instead, we headed to a nearby coffeehouse.

Coffee culture

Mark Twain once said that “the best coffee in Europe is Vienna coffee, compared to which all other coffee is fluid poverty.” We’d never argue with Twain, but the coffeehouse itself is the real gem in Vienna, grand places where locals gather, and fancy-dressed waiters serve coffee, pastries, and traditional Viennese dishes.

“It’s in our blood,” says Heigerth of the coffeehouse experience. “This is where we meet friends, read newspapers, and hang out for hours.”

We visited several during our stay. We shared apple strudel at Café Landtmann; established in 1873. It’s one of the most famous coffeehouses in Vienna and was a favorite haunt of Sigmund Freud. Café Frauenhuber, housed in a former medieval bathhouse, is the oldest coffeehouse in Vienna, and where Beethoven and Mozart once played. Café Central, established in 1876 and housed in an Italianate mansion, is where famous leaders, poets, philosophers, and revolutionists gathered, including Freud, Stefan Zweig, Lenin, and Stalin. A little less fancy, but very authentic and a local favorite is Café Tirolerhof, where we sampled a delicious Sacher-torte (without waiting in the ridic-



PHOTOS BY PAMELA WRIGHT

Above: St. Stephen’s Cathedral is framed by pretty gardens.



Left: The newly opened House of Strauss in Vienna has exhibits, artifacts, historic photos, a small concert hall, and café.

If you go . . .

Austrian Airlines offers nonstop flights from Boston to Vienna, six times a week, year-round. The airline offers a premium economy class with much comfier seating, extra space, and better food that makes the overnight, across-the-pond journey easier, for much less money than a bump to first class.

For tourist information on Vienna, visit www.wien.info. The Vienna City Card is a good bargain with discounts on tours and attractions as well as free public transportation, including airport transfers.

couldn’t get inside. (The only way to see inside the Opera House is to book a tour or buy a ticket to a performance.)

That evening, we enjoyed sundowner drinks at Das Loft, a modern rooftop bar with sweeping views of the city, before heading to Praterwirt for dinner. When in Vienna, it’s nearly mandatory that you have Wiener schnitzel, the traditional dish of thin, breaded and pan-fried veal cutlet. Praterwirt, known for its meat dishes and authentic Austrian cuisine, didn’t disappoint. The cutlet was pounded ultra-thin, hanging over the plate, crispy and moist.

Walking about

We spent our next days in Vienna walking around the city, enamored with its stunning architecture, parks, and lively streets and squares. We visited Albertina Square, anchored by the Hofburg Palace, the Imperial home of the Habsburg dynasty, and St. Stephen’s

Square, home to St. Stephen’s Cathedral, the tallest church in Austria. The cathedral, originally constructed in the 12th century, has been rebuilt several times, and is now a magnificent blend of Romanesque, Gothic, and Baroque architecture. We climbed the South Tower to the Watch Room (a grueling 363 steps) for lofty views, and later heard there was a lift to the top of the North Tower to a viewing platform. (We would have been fine with that!) We returned to the historic cathedral one evening for a concert featuring Antonio Vivaldi’s The Four Seasons, performed by the Harmonia Ensemble Vienna.

The Ringstrasse is lined with grand, historic buildings, including Burgtheater, City Hall, and Parliament. “The tourist highway,” Heigerth said. “But you have to see it.” So, we walked it and gawked.

There was water everywhere, with more than 50 historic fountains and 1,500 drinking fountains, fed by the spring fresh waters coming from the Alps. There were signs of change everywhere, also, with ongoing construction projects and lively new restaurants exemplifying the changing culinary scene. There are now a slew of ethnic eateries, contemporary wine bars, upscale restaurants serving multicourse meals, and new farm-to-table restaurants showcasing vegetarian dishes. We dined one evening at TIAN Bistro am Spittelberg, under the helm of chef Paul Ivic, the Michelin-starred chef at TIAN. The casual, artsy bistro focuses on seasonal vegetarian dishes, like beetroot and radicchio risotto and king oyster mushroom with kohlrabi and spicy muhammara.

Another evening, we dined at the elegant Glasswing restaurant, with white linen-topped tables, gilded framed paintings, and a finely executed, sophisticated menu, including dishes like lobster with hollandaise and caviar, sweetbreads with bacon and figs, and dry-aged duck with foie gras.

Boston connection

Before flying out on our final day, we took public transportation (easy to do) to the newly opened House of Strauss, where the waltz king once played. In 2025 Vienna will celebrate the 200th birthday of Johann Strauss II, with concerts, special events, exhibitions, and a dedicated website listing event highlights (www.strauss.vienna.info).

Dr. Eduard Strauss, the great-grandnephew of Johann Strauss II, gave us a tour of the museum, which includes exhibits, a small concert hall, and café. There were artifacts and photos and interactive displays showcasing the Strauss family and life in Vienna during the 19th century. Did you know that a highlight of Johann Strauss II’s career was the World’s Peace Jubilee and International Music Festival of 1872? It took place in the Back Bay area of Boston, and lasted 18 days, honoring the end of the Franco-Prussian War. Coverage of the event reported that Strauss conducted an orchestra of nearly 1,000 musicians before some 50,000 spectators. Eduard Strauss told us that his dream is to someday open a House of Strauss in Boston. Until then, Vienna waits for you.

Train to Salzburg

“Doe, a deer, a female deer, ray, a

drop of golden sun...” A group of South Korean men and women tourists were belting out the Do-Re-Mi song. They were poised on the steps descending into the elegant Mirabell Gardens in Salzburg.

Later, standing next to the Pegasus Fountain, our guide Trudy Rollo, dressed in a traditional Austrian-style dirndl, also broke into song. Strangers passing by joined in.

*“sew, a needle pulling thread
la, a note to follow so
tea, a drink with jam and bread
That will bring us back to do oh oh oh”*

There was no doubt we were in the Sound of Music City, where the famous von Trapp family originally came from and where “The Sound of Music” movie was filmed. The Oscar-winning film will celebrate its 60th anniversary in 2025.

We took the train from Vienna to Salzburg, a pleasant three-hour or so trip, and spent two jam-packed days exploring this charming, picturesque city, with its Baroque towers, Medieval alleyways, historic squares, and alpine views.

We started at the baroque Mirabell Palace, where Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart performed, crossed the River Salzach, and took photos in front of the house where Mozart was born.

We could have spent hours trolling the narrow, cobblestone alleyways through Altstadt (Old Town), a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We strolled the Getreidegasse, one of the main shopping streets in Old Town, with elaborately decorated cast-iron store signs, and poked around the skinny passageways, lined with shops and restaurants, working up a thirst. The Sternbrau beer garden in a nearly hidden courtyard in Old Town, was a welcome stop. We listened to the 35 bells of the Salzburg Carillon chime while we enjoyed bratwursts and local brews. Worth a mention: Salzburg has a rich beer tradition. The first commercial breweries in Salzburg were established at the end of the 14th century and one of them was the well-known Stiegl brewery. Today, there are 11 breweries in and around town, including Stiegl (still family-owned!) and the Augustiner Brau, the largest brewery in Austria, with 1,400 seats.

The tour of the DomQuartier, the former center and residences of the prince archbishops, including a large museum with some 2,000 exhibits, galleries, a terrace connecting to the Cathedral with fine views of Old Town, and the Benedictine monastery of St. Peter, gave us an interesting and comprehensive lesson in the history of Salzburg. So did a visit to the massive Hohensalzburg Fortress, the largest fully preserved castle in Central Europe, with exhibits, artifacts, and unrivaled views.

On our last afternoon, we took the local bus to the 1612 Hellbrunn Castle, with beautiful gardens and the unusual, not-to-be-missed Trick Fountains, a delightful, astounding land of shooting water, grottos, fountains and more. They were as magical as Salzburg itself. For more information, visit www.salzburg.info.

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Disability-friendly short-term rental in Norwood a place of joy

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Clark, back in 1987 or ‘88. We decided to move up this way because I had been making the commute eight hours every time Paige wasn’t able to be independent,” adds Dara.

The pair found a 1911 Spanish stucco bungalow amid classic Cape Cod-style homes that became a passion project, where Paige lived for a time during the yearlong renovation process. That was the start of their shared business.

“We found the house ... or the house found us. We didn’t look at any other place,” says Dara. “It was right at the epicenter of a lot of the places that were disability-friendly in terms of accessibility to find things.” This includes access to the commuter rail station and Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital.

The home was inspired by their own needs as a caregiver and person with accessibility needs, including ramps, a chair lift, a shower chair, remote lights, and grab bars. It’s not ADA-accessible but thoughtfully prepared for travelers with different requirements. The house has earned designation from Becoming RentABLE, an organization offering accessibility certifications for rental homes that address the needs of both those with mobility concerns and people on the spectrum.

The business name comes from the urge to indulge your impulses, in this case with funky secondhand furnishings you might consider to be “dopamine decor,” also adding something fun to accessibility concerns, which of-

ten feel cold and medical.

“We’re both huge psychology nerds. It felt like indulging your id is not something that you get to do a lot with disabilities,” says Paige. “So we made a space for your id as opposed to your ego.”

Each guest also helps contribute to what the house of id is.

“We’ve gotten great feedback from people. We added a microwave that you could put on the counter, so if you can’t reach down to the microwave, you can. So we’re learning from our guests, for sure,” says Dara.

But the house also became an exercise in creativity, sparking joy for both the Adamases and their guests, with colorful decor from vintage shops, Facebook Marketplace, and secondhand stores like vintage glassware, cozy crocheted afghans, and even the lamps.

“It would be my practical exercise. We would go to a vintage shop. Either I’d get pushed around, or I’d walk around. We would just accessorize our space to feel more like us,” she adds. “That’s the idea of having joy right around you, at your fingertips.”

Dara used these shopping trips as a way to get to know her surroundings. “I got here and didn’t know anyone, anything. We started to do what we had done before, which was learn the area via thrift shops and antique shops.”

The house of id takes its love of all things vintage one step further, allowing guests to actually purchase the items within the home after a friend of Dara’s admired an item at a rental at



Mother and daughter Dara and Paige Adams opened their Norwood-based rental, the house of id, in 2023.

which she was staying.

“Something that I feel like makes us very accessible is the fact that you can buy the things in the house. You are here, you’re existing in the space, you get to play records, you get to experience the plants, you get to experience the decorations, you can move all the decorations, you can change the space how you want to change it,” adds Paige.

“We found that a lot of the people that come to us, they are not able to go to a million places [to shop for vintage items],” Dara says. They’ve sold some interesting items like a vintage pink lo-

tus floor lamp, an ‘80s home staple.

“We sold a Curtis Jere Parisian cafe scene from a young woman whose grandma used to put Lego mini figures in the metal seats and changed them seasonally,” Dara adds.

The co-owners wanted to open up shopping to customers, who represent a broad range of abilities.

“The disability umbrella is just the same as it is with everything else. Our particular flavor of that is that sometimes Paige is able, and sometimes she isn’t,” she notes. “We wanted this business to be for people across a broad

range, because when you think of disability, sometimes people just think wheelchair. And that’s not what’s going on here.”

Some people come to stay at the house of id to visit Boston, but many just want to experience it in all its glory, even renting for parties and events like baby showers.

“We had local people, who came because a tree fell on their house. One of my favorites is a sister and her mother and her daughter came because their brother is in a group home here. It was his birthday, and he wanted to do something special,” says Dara. “We have people going to Foxborough to see the Army-Navy game.”

Dara and Paige also partner with Hospitality Homes as both a host home and helping with fund-raising. “They provide housing for people who come to Boston for medical care and can’t afford housing,” explains Dara.

The house of id is something special for both the Adamases and their guests. Paige describes it best:

“The house itself is not only colorful and vibrant, and we have these fun different types of artwork, but it’s also the inclusivity of it all. You want to show that we are a women-owned space, that we’re a half queer-owned space, that we are disability-owned, that we are accepting of really any shape, size, gender, sexuality, nationality, whatever it is.”

The rental is around \$450 per night, plus applicable taxes and service fees. It has a two-night minimum stay.