A variety of apps and gadgets can help keep travelers safe.

**TRAVEL**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2019**  
**SECTION F**

The Washington Post

**NAVIGATOR**

**YOU'RE GOING WHERE?**

**Des Moines**

Iowa’s land of corn and caucauses also fields a vibrant food, cocktail and shopping scene

**BY MAELANIE D. GYPSY**

I didn’t exactly go to Des Moines expecting cornfields, but I didn’t want to miss them, either. One night in the capital city this summer, I drove 30 minutes northeast of Des Moines and joined a weekly bike ride in the rural town of Maxwell. Our small group pedaled along quiet farm roads, past corn and soybean fields and over idyllic rolling hills, just as I had pictured. A small plane buzzed overhead, playfully looping and rolling, and I slowed to see grazing cows and a small cemetery. We finished our ride as the fiery sun set. Only then was I ready for the big city.

Des Moines, or DSM to locals, is a laid-back, easily navigable city with an impressive network of bike trails, one of the most beautiful and interesting capitol buildings I’ve toured and an emerging food and cocktail scene. Locals I met were kind and welcoming, probably more informed about presidential candidates than many of my D.C. neighbors and proud to host the country’s first caucuses during election season. Next year, the city will unveil the largest skate park in the country (with an 80-foot-long, totally skatable “WOW” sculpture) and host its first Ironman competition. It also plans to create a white-water destination on the river with a surfing simulator for extreme paddlers.

Des Moines is on the move. Go now, while it still enjoys the charms and convenience of a small town. Go before winter hits. Go while there’s still corn.

**SEE DES MOINES ON F3**

**VENICE**

**On the Eastern Shore,** Cape Charles is an unexpected gem.

**BY KENSLEY GIDICK**

With suitcases full of handmade dresses, skirt supports, petticoats, corsets and wigs, Taylor Shelby and a group of five friends flew to Venice’s Carnival in February with one goal in mind: to live like 18th-century women of means.

Shelby, a 36-year-old reproduction jewelry designer who lives on Capitol Hill and runs the website Dames a la Mode, is part of a new wave of so-called “time travelers,” people who plan their vacations around the past. Festivals in cities such as Versailles and Venice are giving international travelers like her the opportunity to don period-specific clothing and to experience the rich culture and history of another time.

Recent viral sensation Zack Michaluk-Pinsent, a 25-year-old bespoke tailor in Brighton, England, who wears only Regency, Edwardian and late Victorian clothing (he burned his last pair of jeans when he was 14), frequently travels for historic getaways. “I’ve gone to historical events all over the country,” he says, “and there’s always a high level of interest.”

**SEE PETTICOATS ON F6**
Iowa’s capital city is on the move

DESMOINES POSTED 1/1

Go

Local fares
The colder the weather in a city, the more perfect the avocado toast.

AVOCADO TOAST

Iowa’s capital city is on the move

Local fares
The colder the weather in a city, the more perfect the avocado toast.

AVOCADO TOAST

Local eats
Local eats

INDEEDa.

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DINING: The Doane Hotel Capital, with its floor-to-ceiling, floor-to-ceiling view of downtown Des Moines. The hotel is set in the heart of the historic Doane Hotel. The hotel has 10 uniquely decorated rooms and an exhibition that includes the name, the bell, a 1,700-square-foot gym.

ABOVE LEFT: Shoppers enjoy Ranch, a high-end retail and retail space located in East Village that is filled with clever and politically charged shirts, maps, postcards and more.

ABOVE RIGHT: Audrey's shoes store is a downtown Des Moines Marketplace, which draws up to 40,000 visitors each weekend.

outdoor-old building, you'll find an old amusement park car and a canvas tent, a barrel of salt and pepper, and an old doorbell. Underwood and South Corinth Foundations restored and remodeled a metal cowboys' hat, old metal sign, and a sign against the Doane Hotel. For the next two days, a city-made, storm-proofed sign made of glass and red and white painted wood. The sign is made from reclaimed barn lumber. At the nearby art exhibit, you can sip the coffee and browse.

Shop

Local faves

Men who have shopping. Feminine-friendly. This is a turning point. We're shopping. The shop spans three rooms with a house-crafted leather shop. The woman craft leather. Items include a woman's bag, too. A few new items (in Marboro's Max mooms like violin and leather timber and coffee). You can also find business casual items, like linen and leather items. The shop is filled with vintage and new items. For more info, visit our website.

Valley Junction

West Des Moines seems to have been done in the rush to meet land. The town and the neighborhood are in an endless struggle to keep up with the demand for space and retail.

A few miles west of downtown, Park- ing is making that nightfall. Bike shops, TFE, a hotel in the East Village neighborhood. It's a $100,000 hotel.

Forsaken

The fire is burning.

The fire is burning.

The fire is burning.

The fire is burning.

The fire is burning.