



Witch Hunt Exhibits, USA

In 1692, two young girls aged 9 and 11, the daughter and niece of Salem's parish priest, started behaving strangely...

What followed was the most infamous and intense witch hunt witnessed by the US. True, it wasn't as widespread or gruesome as the one that swept across Europe...

The saga of how the tragic events unravelled is played out with dramatic sound and light effects in Salem Witch Museum. Located in a renovated church building...



Gustasp and Jeroo Irani take you to museums that don't showcase splendid art and sculpture, but spotlight the dark and zany side of human nature

QUIRKY, UNEASY QUARTERS

Of Pirates and Prisoners, Argentina

As we walked down the silent corridor of cells—empty, eerie, with flaking paint and doors left evocatively open, our footsteps echoed.

Perhaps it was just our over-active imagination, but the illusion that the former prison in Ushuaia—at the tip of the South American continent—was still in use, felt very real.

The former prison has now been converted into the Maritime and Prison Museum and is in fact an important landmark in this End of the World city as it bills itself.

Back-dropped by the snow-streaked Andes, with a view of the wind-swept Beagle Channel in front, the prison had wings radiating out from a hub. Today, the former jail has been re-jigged for viewing.



Artworks of local artists stand side by side with displays of pirates and stories of notorious inmates



View of the cathedral, which houses the Museum of Inquisition, from across the river

Inquisition Tales, Spain

Córdoba was the heart of Islamic Spain and its Mezquita, the iconic mosque (now a cathedral), towering over all the sights like a colossus.

Located in the Jewish Quarter, the museum's nondescript entrance leads to many gruesome tales and a series of halls, where 700 years of torture (from the 13th to the 19th centuries) is encapsulated in the display of instruments used to extract confessions...

The logic was, we are told, "If a prisoner died under torture without confession, the Inquisition was to find him or her not guilty as God had given him the strength to bear the pain!"



The Beatles Story, England

Hair-tearing teeny boppers in miniskirts, screaming, fighting, fainting... Four faces framed in their signature hairstyles, rocking a wild audience doped out on their music...

Sound tracks of music—Love Me Do, I Want to Hold Your Hand, She Loves You—that defined the youth of a rebellious generation plays in the background as one relives the euphoria generated by the Fab Four: John, Paul, George and Ringo.

Shelves stacked with LP and 45rpm records; John's first guitar; clips from Hard Day's Night, their concerts, of their adoring fans... And John at the end of a performance, "The audience in the back rows may clap. Those in the front may rattle their jewellery."



Ode to Imelda's Shoes, Philippines

The collection of 3,000 shoes of Imelda Marcos, the controversial First Lady of Philippines, may have sparked outrage in diplomatic circles, but it still has the ability to make women drool with envy.

The rather unpretentious museum is located in a two-story building that dates back to the 1880s. It houses 800 pairs of fanciful shoes (the location of the rest of the collection is a subject of conjecture) plus the more prosaic ones worn by former presidents, ambassadors, Filipino TV stars and ballerinas.

shoe fetish, they range from stilettos, open-back sandals, pumps, strappy shoes, knee-high boots, moccasins to fluffy bedroom slippers! Charles Jourdan, Givenchy, Dior, Chanel, Gucci, Bally, Ferragamo...most international designers feature in the collection.

Imelda reportedly reminisced about the storming of the presidential palace after she and her husband escaped to the US: "They went into my closets looking for skeletons, but all they found were shoes, beautiful shoes!"



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Standing on Canada's Athabasca Glacier, Charukesi Ramadurai gets a sense of being alone on the surface of something primeval and powerful, despite the crowds

Walking on thin ice

My only prior experience with a glacier was sighting Fox and Franz Josef glaciers in New Zealand's South Island. I remember craning my neck and zooming right on top of the glacier and even miming crazy dance poses for keepsake photos.

About three hours after leaving Banff, our small group pulled up at the Columbia Icefield Discovery Centre for tickets and lunch. Fortifying ourselves with more layers of socks and sweaters, we trudged to-

wards what I can only describe as a red mechanical monster. The trusty old, all-terrain bus called 'Ice Explorer'—with wheels that came up to my shoulders—carried us through steep ups and downs of the slippery ice, to a safe spot on the glacier where we could get off and walk.

The first thing I did on getting off was to remove my gloves and dip my hands into the thin ribbon of glacial spring. As I sipped the cold water from my cupped (not to mention frozen) palms, I got a sense of what the expression 'pure as the driven snow' actually meant.

The glacier was formed thousands of years ago, when most of this region was under ice. It's part of the massive Columbia Icefield, itself believed to be a remnant of the last Ice Age.

Even on that sunny day, there was a chill in the air, not easily defeated by all

my thermal wear. But that didn't deter me from exploring the area, stepping gingerly on ice that seemed solid, but was slippery in places. Despite that, kids were running around with gay abandon and adults were lying on the snow, sliding their hands and legs against the surface to create snow angels.

All too soon, it was time to return. Back in the Indian weather, my mind often harks to that day in the Rockies, when I made snowballs on the venerable marvel of nature, standing reminded I was a minuscule part of the Universe.

Given that the glacier has receded almost 2 km in the last 100 years and is disappearing at an alarming rate, I'm grateful for the up-close encounter.

Visit: Between June and September, when the weather is temperate; it's open only from May 1 to October 15



The route to the Icefields Parkway—in Alberta, Western Canada—is hailed as one of the world's most scenic drives

What's New T2 gets Tastier



In a bid to offer passengers a great gourmet experience, Mumbai International Airport has been upgrading its host of eateries since the beginning of the year. It introduced Aaswad, now internationally famous for its misal pav, in March; popular seafood restaurant Mahesh Lunch Home, Costa Coffee and Häagen-Dazs in July; and its latest addition is Cha Point that not only offers a variety of teas, but also bites to go with it.