Tapas, Cava, and More Cava—
A Week in Barcelona

by Nancy Bestor

It’s 9:30 p.m. on a recent Saturday night in Barcelona, and Bob and I have forced ourselves to wait for dinner until now, the time when most Spaniards dine. Flipping through our *Eyewitness Barcelona* Guidebook, we spied the following description of a café/bar in the Old town called El Xampanyet. “This tiny, tiled bar is beloved by Barcelona residents for its cheap glasses of the Catalan champagne (cava), as well as its excellent montaditos (little sandwiches) and tapas. Seating room is limited and the bar gets rammed, but no trip to Barcelona is complete without it.” Say no more *Eyewitness Guide*, you’ve sold us, and off we went.

Although it is tucked away on one of Barcelona’s tiny old-town streets, finding El Xampanyet was not difficult. As soon as we rounded the corner onto the alley we could see people spilling out of the bar and onto the cobbled street; laughing, eating, and yes, drinking cava. Squeezing our way to the bar, we immediately ordered two glasses of the house cava. One of the four men hustling behind the counter set two simple champagne glasses down for us, and quickly spilled them full of cava. And so it began.

Most tapas bars in Barcelona place their various tapas offerings on top of the bar, so if you don’t speak Spanish (we do not), you can point to the dishes you want. And point we did. We ate like the king and queen at El Xampanyet, while jammed in shoulder to shoulder standing at the bar. Some of our favorites were the mixed fish plate, the mixed salami plate, peppadews filled with goat cheese, artichoke hearts, anchovies….”I could go on and on, because who am I kidding? Every time we walked in the door, we ordered more drinks and tapas. It kept going until we finally had to go back to our hotel room.”

continued on page 2

An Ode to Rick Steves

by Nancy Bestor

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways…..

Okay, so I don’t really love Rick Steves. I’ve only met him once, many years ago, in our Ashland, Oregon store, and it’s not possible to love someone you’ve barely (or never) met…except perhaps for Heidi Klum or Johnny Depp, but I digress. I do like Rick Steves a whole lot, and I’ll tell you why. I find the information in his guidebooks absolutely unbeatable. Our family has used Rick Steves’ guides in many countries, including Turkey, Italy, France, Great Britain, Switzerland, and just last month, Spain. When our daughter Sarah was younger, I would pull out our Rick Steves’ guidebook to read about a site or museum we were visiting and she would groan, “not Rick Steves AGAIN”, knowing I could go on and on, because who am I kidding? Every time I open the book, I learn something new.

continued on page 3

It’s Beginning to Look A Lot Like Christmas

by Ember Hood

I hate to be the one to break it to you, but the holidays are nearly here and it’s time to start looking for the perfect gift for Uncle John and Aunt Gertrude. Don’t worry though, we’ve got you covered. Here are some of our new and favorite travel gadgets for even the most hard to buy for relative.

Gorillapod Travel Tripod

The brand new Gorillapod Micro 250 ($19.95) is quite simply the best mini travel tripod ever. It is amazingly compact—so compact, in fact, that you can leave it attached to your camera all the time and you’ll barely notice it’s there until it’s time to use it. All three of the Micro 250’s legs swivel to rest against the bottom of your camera, easily tucking away when not needed. Yet they’re just as easy to swivel into position when it’s time to set up for your next great travel shot. With a flexible head and adjustable legs you’ll be able to use the Micro on

continued on page 4
dish we ate became an instant favorite. And we never had to ask for more cava, as whenever our glasses were empty, our attentive bartender came by with the house cava and splashed our glasses full again. After about an hour and a half, and many glasses of cava (Three, four each? It’s a little hazy…), combined with a fabulous variety of tapas, we left El Xampanyet. The bill? Surprisingly only 40 euros. Outstanding!

Food was one of the highlights of our weeklong trip to Barcelona. (If you’ve been a reader of the Travel Essentials News for a long time, I know what you’re thinking. Food is always a highlight of our travels.) The other highlight, not surprisingly, was the architecture. Before choosing Barcelona, I’m not sure I could have told anyone who Antoni Gaudí was, or why Barcelona was so famed for its architecture, but after reading up about Gaudí and his fantastic and unusual designs, I couldn’t wait to see them. We toured several Gaudí sites, including his most famous—the Sagrada Familia, (13.6 euros). Gaudí began work on this extraordinary church in 1883 and continued until his death in 1926. Construction continues to this day per his vision.

We also visited the popular Casa Milá (La Pedrera), and Casa Batlló (15 and 18 euros each, respectively). These two Gaudí buildings also showcase his wonderful imagination and technique, both inside and outside. As with the Sagrada Familia, they are absolutely unique and unusual, with a seemingly endless number of swoops, curves, waves and so much more. Both sites were well worth the entry fee. We also visited Parc Güell, a 30-acre park with many Gaudí designed structures, including his famous curved benches. Initially we turned up at this free park early in the afternoon, but the crowds were so overwhelming we opted to come back later in the day. Upon our return, just before sunset, we found the park much quieter and perfect for strolling, taking pictures and exploring the pathways, bridges and lanes without throngs of people along with us.

Can I talk a bit more about the food? Another gastronomic highlight was our nearly daily visit to the Mercat de La Boqueria, the popular produce and food market located along La Rambla, Barcelona’s most famous avenue. While tourists frequent the market and take pictures of whole hanging pigs and sharks on ice, the locals are doing their real shopping, choosing cuts of meat, contemplating produce, ordering hunks of cheese, and so much more. We stopped in at the market regularly, particularly after we found a delicious food stall that we frequented again and again, Kiosko Universal, best known for its seafood and mushrooms. Yes, mushrooms.

On our initial visit to Kiosko Universal, in the late morning of our first day in Barcelona, we grabbed two seats at the bar and ordered coffee con leche, a bacon sandwich and eggs with bacon (17 euros total). Four young men worked the counter calling out orders, heckling each other and dishing out lots of delicious food. (I surreptitiously took a picture of them for my teenage daughters, who would have appreciated their looks. Really, it was for my teenage daughters. And I will show them the picture any day now.) Our breakfast was outstanding, and we knew we had to come back again for lunch. On another visit we had the fabulous mixed mushroom plate, a side of fries, and calamaris atop fries with a delicately wonderful olive oil laced with onion, garlic and parsley. It was fabulous. This time our bill was 26 euros. An excellent deal. On yet another visit we boldly chose the menu of the day. Mine included a mixed veggie plate, along with a fish that I did not know, emparador. Turns out it was a whole swordfish, and turns out it was delicious. Bob had the mixed mushroom plate again, along with the dorado. Our meal, which also included dessert, cost 14 euros each. An amazing deal for outstanding dishes served in generous portions! The stall was always
An Ode to Rick Steves...

continued from page 1

was about to read aloud some historical information I was sure she would find scintillating.

While Sarah may not find the information in Rick’s guidebooks scintillating, I do. By the time a trip is over, I have read most every page, and benefitted from many of his recommendations. We’ve hiked his suggested routes in the Swiss Alps, eaten at his favorite ristorantes in Rome, walked his tour of the Pére Lachaise cemetery in Paris, and learned the historical significance of paintings in the National Gallery in London. His attention to detail, particularly in museums, is outstanding. For example, in Paris’ Orsay museum, Steves offers step-by-step instructions: “turn left onto the mezzanine overlooking the main gallery. Enter the first room on the left. Working clockwise, you’ll see…”

However, it’s not just the restaurant and site recommendations that I find useful in Steves’ guidebooks. In fact, those recommendations come in second to my favorite reason to use his guides—the fact that they provide invaluable “insider” cost and time saving techniques for navigating Europe. The Rick Steves’ Paris guidebook convinced us to purchase the Paris Museum Pass, a pass that gave us discounted admittance to several popular museums, thus saving us both money and time as the pass also allowed us to avoid the inevitably long, summer-season ticket lines at each one. In London, Steves suggested we buy an Oyster card—a discounted Tube and bus pass—again saving us time and money. It was in Barcelona last month, however, that Rick went from simply being quite handy and informative to being a genius.

Bob and I were visiting the Sagrada Familia, Antoni Gaudi’s most famous work, and Barcelona’s most visited site, on a weekday in October. We knew this church gets about three million visitors a year, but figured it would not be overcrowded in October. We were wrong. Upon arrival, we realized the line to buy tickets and get in was at least an hour and a half long. What did we do? Why we consulted our Rick Steves’ Barcelona guide of course. There we learned that one can purchase tickets online and entirely avoid the aforementioned interminable ticket line. You don’t even need to print them out! So, we walked two minutes to an internet café just around the corner, and with our iPhone, made our purchase. Then we walked back around the corner to a separate entrance, showed the credit card we had just used to purchase the tickets, and WALKED RIGHT IN. The whole process took about five minutes. It was outstanding. And the most amazing thing of all? We had four other guidebooks with us (Lonely Planet, Rough Guide, Michelin and Eyewitness), and not one of them mentioned this ticket buying option. Not one. The tickets did cost one extra euro online, but that was a small price to pay to save nearly two hours in line.

Bob and I are not the kind of travelers who take tours. We’re definitely more of the do-it-yourself variety. If we did however, Steves’ tours would be the first I would consider. Friends who have taken them have nothing but praise for the way they are run, the people they meet and the sites they visit.

I also like to think Rick and I have a similar way of looking at travel. His “back door” philosophy says that adventures abroad can make you a happier American as well as a citizen of the world. “Our Earth is home to six and a half billion equally important people. It’s humbling to travel and find that people don’t envy Americans…..they like us, but, with all due respect, they wouldn’t trade passports,” Steves says. “Rather than fear the diversity on this planet, travelers celebrate it.” Well said Rick.

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It’s Beginning to Look A Lot Like...

continued from page 1

any surface, bumpy or flat, and adjust your camera for a level picture. The zinc alloy legs are strong and durable while the rubber feet securely grip the smoothest of surfaces. The original Gorillapod ($21.95) offers another option for more adventurous photography. It takes up a bit more space than the Micro 250, but its flexible arms allow it to wrap around fences, tree branches, poles, benches, or anything else you can think of. This means you can perch your camera just about anywhere and take the perfect photo every time!

ExOfficio Storm Logic Jacket
“It’s like wearing a cloud.” That’s what a recent in-store customer said when she first tried on a Storm Logic Jacket from ExOfficio ($150). While maintaining a cool style, this ultra-light jacket (available for men and women) is engineered with specially treated, ultra-fine fibers that form a water resistant, insulating layer that’s guaranteed to keep you warm and dry in wet weather. It packs away easily and even doubles as a travel pillow when tucked into its built-in stuff sack. And finally, to prove that it is perfectly adventure worthy, the Storm Logic jacket offers excellent organization with dedicated pockets for glasses, passport, tickets and cell phone—plus a key fob and zippered security pocket. When cold weather threatens your winter travels, pack a Storm Logic Jacket and stay warm, dry and organized!

Briggs & Riley Four Wheeled Spinners
Briggs & Riley has done it again! They have added three new spinner bags to their top-of-the-line Baseline collection. The 20 Inch Wide Body and the 24 and 27 Inch Expandable Bags each feature four wheels. This clever design allows you to roll the bag in any direction while it’s completely upright, so you won’t strain your back, no matter how much you’ve packed. The exterior of the Spinners features enough pockets to keep you organized and provide quick access to your gear. Inside, garment securing panels keep your clothes neat, tidy and wrinkle-free, while a mesh pocket inside the lid is the perfect spot for smaller items. But, our favorite thing about these amazingly durable and wonderfully designed bags is that they carry Briggs & Riley’s absolutely unbeatable unconditional lifetime guarantee—previously unheard of in a four-wheeled bag. So, no matter what happens to your Briggs & Riley Spinner, the good folks at Briggs will always repair the damage free of charge—for as long as you own your bag.

Baggallini Town Tote Bag
Whether you’re venturing around the world or hanging out closer to home the Baggallini Town Tote ($79.95) might just be the perfect day bag. The Town Tote offers lots of pockets both inside and out...

continued on page 5

“Ideally, travel broadens our perspectives personally, culturally, and politically. Suddenly, the palette with which we paint the story of our lives has more colors.” — RICK STEVES, TRAVEL AS A POLITICAL ACT
It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like...

continued from page 4

to neatly arrange all of your necessities. An organizational pocket on the front of the bag offers pen and card slots and space for items like wallets, keys, cell phones, glasses and more. Perhaps our favorite feature of the Baggallini Town Tote is its “zip-slip” rear pocket. Leave it zipped and use it as a quick access pocket that’s perfect for a map, or unzip it and slide the Town Tote over the handle of your wheeled bag for easy and secure carrying. This makes the Town Tote the ideal versatile personal bag for both travel and everyday use.

Silk Undercover Security Wallets

Nothing combines comfort and travel security quite like Eagle Creek’s new Undercover Silk Security Pouches.

Both the Silk Undercover Neck Pouch ($25) and the Silk Undercover Moneybelt ($28) are super soft, very slim and feature a sweat-resistant coated satin lining to help keep your passport, money and traveler’s checks dry. The Neck Pouch has an adjustable silk neck strap that can be extended and worn over your shoulder—either underneath your clothes or on the exterior as a small purse when you’re out for the evening. The Moneybelt has an adjustable elastic waist strap and a belt loop on the back, if you’d prefer to attach it to your belt. Both styles of Silk Undercover pouches have two zippered pockets so you can safely store your valuable documents, passports, cash and credit cards easily and comfortably.

ThermaSilk Long Silk Underwear

Need a simple way to stay warm and comfortable this winter? Look no further than ThermaSilk Long Underwear tops and bottoms ($41.95 each). These long-sleeved silk shirts and pants come in both men’s and women's sizes and make an ideal base layer. They are surprisingly thin for the amount of warmth they provide, yet because they are made of natural, breathable silk, you won’t overheat when you come in out of the cold. They’re perfect for winter exploring as you’ll maintain a comfy temperature whether you are outside in New York’s chilly Central Park or inside the Louvre in Paris. We think everyone should own a set!

Penguin Mapguides

Penguin Mapguides ($10 - $12) are the best and easiest to read travelers’ maps of London, Paris and New York City. Their full color pages are drawn with great, travel-specific detail to help you find your destination, while interesting sights, museums, restaurants and buildings are denoted with easy to understand graphics. Skinny and easy to carry, Penguin mapguides also offer recommendations for the best shopping, museums, restaurants, hotels, sights, theatre, sports, interesting walks, and much more. If you’re visiting one of these three amazing cities, be sure to take a Penguin with you!

Therm-a-Rest Travel Seat

Everyone wants a comfortable seat. And no matter how hard your chair or how rocky the ground, the self-inflating Therm-a-Rest Lite Travel Seat ($26.95) can help...
All For The Love of a Good Dog

by Nancy Bestor

How far would Bob and I travel to eat a hot dog proclaimed by many to be the best in all the U.S.? Would we ride the Chicago subway an hour out of our way? Would we walk 30 minutes, rolling our suitcases down a Chicago neighborhood on a cold winter’s day? Would we wait in line outside for an hour? Yes, apparently we would. And was it worth it? Yes it was.

We were visiting Chicago in March for a travel goods trade show, and looking for good city eats for the three days we were there. We ate a delicious meal at Rick Bayless’ Frontera Grill (read more about that meal in our April e-news brief, http://www.travelessentials.com/enews-brief-april-2011.aspx), but were looking to experience some of Chicago’s cheaper but equally delicious dishes. Our friend Matt suggested Hot Doug’s, in Chicago’s Avondale neighborhood. Hot Doug’s bills itself as a Sausage Superstore and Encased Meat Emporium. With a description like that how could we refuse? It has more than 1800 reviews on Yelp, with the average rating of 4 1/2 out of five stars. Even Anthony Bourdain has weighed in on Hot Doug’s, naming it one of 13 places to eat before you die (http://www.menshealth.com/nutrition/must-visit-restaurants).

We rode the subway from downtown Chicago, getting off at the nearest subway stop to Hot Doug’s, Belmont Station on the Blue Line. From there we walked, rolling our Eagle Creek suitcases behind us, more than two miles on a chilly day to get to this famed hot dog shop. Thinking we would arrive early and avoid the long lunch lines, we were surprised to see at least 30 people ahead of us, at about 11:30 a.m. The hour long wait just gave us plenty of time for the anticipation to build, as we deliberated over which dog we would choose to devour.

On any given date, Doug has at least 10 special hot dogs of the day. At the time of this story’s writing, the daily specials (around $8) included smoked antelope sausage with black garlic confit aioli and chipotle-cheddar cheese, teriyaki and mandarin orange chicken sausage with sriracha mayonnaise and kimchi. Or how about the portabella mushroom and wild mushrooms sauteed in duck fat. Or maybe you might even like the beer, white cheddar and jalapeno chicken sausage with guinness stout mustard and cheese-stuffed hot peppers. I ordered one special dog, and Bob ordered two, and we shared a basket of fries. I was sorry that we couldn’t visit Hot Doug’s on a Friday or Saturday, when he serves French fries cooked in duck fat. But on the other hand, the lunch line on those days is usually two hours. Yes, two hours.

Doug himself works behind the counter, chatting customers up and helping them decide what to order. Hot Doug’s is open Monday-Saturday from 10:30-4ish. Call ahead to make sure they’re open, as they take off many holidays and close up shop if they run out of dogs. Hot Doug’s is well worth any detour in the Chicago area.

As Tony Bordain says “Hot Doug’s is proof that food doesn’t have to be expensive to be great.”

Flight Cancelled or Delayed? You DO Have Rights

by Ember Hood

What happens when you get to the airport more than an hour in advance only to find that your flight is delayed or worse, cancelled? The Department of Transportation has recently stepped in to advocate on behalf of passengers. Here are some highlights.

If an airline keeps you stranded on a plane on the tarmac for more than three hours, the airline is required to offer you food, water and functioning restrooms (It’s amazing that the Department of Transportation even has to mention functioning restrooms, as that should go without saying. Right?). After three hours, airlines must let passengers disembark if they wish. For delays inside the airport, most airlines will compensate you for meals or give you hotel rooms if the delay is both long enough and the fault of the airline.

If your flight is canceled, no matter the reason, you will be offered a seat on the next available flight to your destination with that airline carrier. If it is the airline’s fault, you’ll likely be offered meal and hotel vouchers. If it is a weather delay, the airline is not expected to compensate you in any way, but it doesn’t have to ask!

“you can’t be a real country unless you have a beer and an airline—it helps if you have a football team, or some nuclear weapons, but at least you need a beer.” —FRANK ZAPPA

If your plane is oversold, and you are bumped from the flight without volunteering, the airline is required by law to compensate you. If your rebooked flight arrives between one to two hours later than your original flight (four on an international flight), the airline must give you 100% of your ticket price, up to $400. If you are more than two hours late (or more than four internationally) the airline must offer you 200% of your ticket price, up to $800.

An important thing to remember when your flight is delayed, canceled, or oversold is that you have to speak up. If you are not happy with the compensation you are given, keep asking for more. The only person advocating for you is YOU.
Tapas, Cava and More Cava...

continued from page 2

hopping and almost always featured at least a short wait for a spot at the bar or one of the few tables.

If I could talk about the food in Barcelona for one more paragraph, we also treated ourselves one afternoon to xocolata amb xurros (chocolate with churros) at Dulchinea, one of Barcelona’s oldest chocolate cafes. The hot chocolate was nearly as thick as pudding, and great for dipping the churros in. Spoons were necessary, and this was like no hot chocolate I have ever tasted. The waiters were in black ties with white shirts and rolled up sleeves, and the dark wood walls and tables gave the café an old world feeling. Dulcinea is hard to find, among the labyrinth of streets in the Old Town, but it’s well worth the search.

We walked everywhere in Barcelona, not because there isn’t good public transportation, but because it gave us such a good feel for the city. After a few days we could navigate our way through the Gothic neighborhood’s winding alleys and the streets off La Rambla. It’s a good thing we walked so much too, otherwise I’m sure we would have put on several pounds with all the eating and drinking we did.

We stayed at The 5 Rooms, (www.thefiverooms.com), a bed and breakfast with 12 (not five!) rooms in an apartment building, centrally located just off the Plaza Catalunya in the Eixample neighborhood. Our room was lovely and included an excellent breakfast. It didn’t come cheap though, at 175 euros per night.

We took the blue aerobus from the airport to downtown Barcelona. This great public bus system costs 5.10 euros each and stops at three different downtown locations in Barcelona.

The buses leave from both the airport and downtown Barcelona back to the airport every 5-10 minutes, and the ride takes about 40 minutes.

—Nancy Bestor is the co-owner of Travel Essentials. After seeing Antoni Gaudí’s beautiful and modernistic designed buildings she came home and had a contractor build her a new front door. Baby steps, baby steps.

It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like...

continued from page 5

you out. It easily rolls up and packs away small. When needed, simply open the valve and watch the Therm-a-Rest Travel Seat do all the work and inflate all by itself! Better yet, the handy patented valve makes it easy to dial in your own perfect, comfort level. Pack one for your next play, sporting event, or anytime you know the seating will be less than cushy.

RFID Blocking Wallets

With recent advances in technology, all new passports, and even some new credit cards, have been fitted with electronic chips that can be scanned to verify and access your personal information. While this new technology makes it much harder to create fakes, it also leaves an opening for identity thieves to swipe this information by scanning through bags or pockets. A simple way to protect against this invasion of privacy is to store credit cards and passports in an RFID (radio frequency identification) blocking wallet or cover ($9.99-$29.99). We now offer a variety of wallets, planners, passport covers and boarding pouches that will simply and effectively keep your identity safe from rogue RFID scanners for peace of mind when you’re on the go.

Waterproof Journals

Rite in the Rain Journals ($4.95 - $8.95) are wonderfully useful and durable little notebooks that are completely waterproof. Their rugged pages repel water to insure your information stays safe even in a downpour. Yes, if you so desire, you can take notes or even write a short story while standing in the pouring rain (but come on, why would you?). Great for winter weather, wetter climates, or as added protection for your notes and journal entries wherever you go!

Not For Parents Guidebooks

Lonely Planet’s new “Not for Parents” guidebooks ($14.99) are a fun line of travel guides directed at families and designed to engage kids in the history and culture of London, Rome, New York and Paris. Through entertaining graphics, charts, maps, photographs and plenty of fun facts, the “Not for Parents” series explores these cities through their customs, famous people, food and facts. They are perfect for a child who’s set for adventure, or one who loves to learn about their world!

“If there is a nice place, and the place does not come to you — you have to come to the place.”

—TONY WHEELER
European Travel News and Tips

by Robert H. Bestor, Jr.

For most of us, travel to Europe—or contemplating travel to Europe—is finished for 2011. Though it was supposed to be a rebound year, the expected hordes of visitors from North America never materialized. Millions did cross the ‘pond’ during the traditionally strong travel months of May-October, but the bet here is that, when the final numbers are in, they will fall short of the glory years of ’06-’08. There are several reasons why many veteran sojourners chose to stay on the western side of the Atlantic this summer, including a weak dollar and high air fares. The euro dipped as low as 1.31 to the dollar, while in April through August, when many vacation decisions are made, it ranged from 1.41 to 1.48. Many who thought 2010 air fares were an aberration and in 2011 waited for sales, found out the hard way that high air fares to Europe in high season are likely here to stay.

How will fewer European travelers in 2011 affect travel in 2012? Many travel companies, car rental agencies, cruise lines, hotels and yes, even airlines, have rolled out some great deals—many of which are good into 2012. Here are a few we found at press time.

- Lufthansa recently announced a sale on fares to Europe for travel from mid-November to March 22, 2012, starting at $438, INCLUDING all taxes and fees. (Call 800-521-6722 x 2 for quotes.)
- For travel now through March 29, SAS offers roundtrip fares from the U.S. to Europe starting at: $140 to Copenhagen, Oslo, and Stockholm, and $226 to Berlin and Gdansk. Fees and taxes are extra. (Call 800-521-6722 x 2 for quotes.)
- Rent a compact car—VW Golf or similar, four doors, air, manual transmission—through Gemut.com for one week from major airports in Germany for $174. Summer 2011 prices for the same car were between $250 and $300. Rental prices are now lower than they have been in several years. It’s okay to book for 2012 because you can always cancel and get a full refund. Nothing to lose. (Quotes at www.gemut.com.)
- Through February 2012, book the three-star Hotel Eiffel Saint-Charles (in the 15th arrondissement, near the Eiffel Tower) in Paris for three nights at rates starting at $142 and get a fourth night free. Call 800-521-6722 x 3.

A final note…

European car rental companies are particularly skilled in finding dings and scratches on returned rental cars, a practice that often results in a charge of several hundred dollars to the customer. Thus, when renting an auto in Europe it is essential that the renter carefully inspect the car before driving away from the rental station. Which brings me to my Europe travel ‘tip-of-the-month.’ For examining rental cars in dark garages, peering into such dark places as the deep recesses of a black computer bag or briefcase, and generally having an emergency light source, a flashlight is the obvious solution. But when traveling, even a small Mag Lite isn’t handy to carry in a pocket. A few months ago, however, I was given a Photon Keychain LED light (available for $14.95 at Travel Essentials). It weighs about an ounce, is 1.5 inches long, hangs on my key ring, and puts out an amazing amount of light. The bulb is good for 100,000 hours and the battery provides 12-20 hours of use. It has already proven useful on several occasions.