

TRAVEL BUDS

BY LAUREN MIFSUD

THIS MONTH, AS THE LATE-BLOOMING SPRING FLOWERS ARE PEEKING THEIR WAY SKYWARDS, we're packing our bags and heading off for a little R&R. Pittsburgh International Airport makes all of our travel plans a breeze, and catching the sunrise on those early morning flights is just dreamy (sigh). Stick close to home or jet set across the globe like our WHIRL Traveler this month, Roberta Weissburg. ☺



MAY 1-7

This week, I'm booking my flight for the next WHIRL business trip by taking advantage of the affordable and convenient flights out of Pittsburgh. I'll stop and grab a quick bite to eat before scooping up the hottest pair of sunglasses

Pittsburgh International Airport ranks top among business travelers.

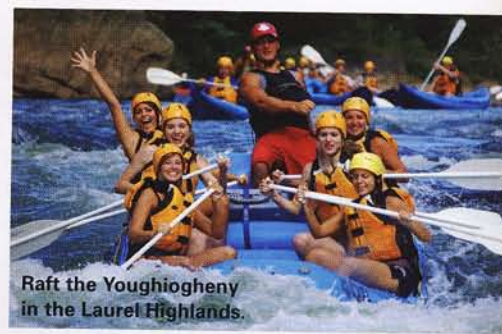
at the AIRMALL. Then, I'll pick up a copy of *Condé Nast Traveler*, to confirm what all of my trips have taught me: Pittsburgh International Airport ranks top among business travelers. For the fifth year in a row, the airport has reached the list of the top 10 best airports for business travel in the United States. The AIRMALL consistently receives top marks every year, and this year the airport jumped three spots to seventh in the country. "We are always seeking ways to improve meeting the needs of travelers. Our AIRMALL — with its variety, quality, and guaranteed street pricing policy — helps to keep Pittsburgh on top," says Bradley D. Penrod, Executive Director/CEO of the Allegheny County Airport Authority. For more information, visit flypittsburgh.com.

MAY 8-14

If your sense of adventure is kicking in early this month, visit the Laurel Highlands to explore the great outdoors. Head underground into the Laurel Caverns, or strap on your life vest for a heart-racing white rapids ride

down the Youghiogheny River. But if you're interested in keeping dry, browse the Biennial Juried Exhibit at the Greensburg Art Center/Rowe Gallery. Then, sip in the bounty of the local grape harvest during the Spring Into You! event

at Christian W. Klay Winery. For more event listings in the Laurel Highlands, visit laurelhighlands.org.



Raft the Youghiogheny in the Laurel Highlands.



Take the kids for a ride at Six Flags America.

MAY 15-21

Pencil in a road trip to Maryland next month to celebrate a great cause. The Children's Miracle Network Hospitals are hosting A Walk in the Park at Six Flags America. Register on-site for the walk that benefits the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals in Baltimore and Washington, D.C. Register online at walkintheparks.org.

MAY 22-31

Since I first watched the little-known sequel to *Dirty Dancing*, titled *Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights*, I've been not-so-secretly longing to jump the border and catch a flight to Cuba. So, I'm taking the long Memorial Day weekend, dusting off my passport, getting my credentials in order, and heading south. Pittsburgh International Airport recently announced that it is now one of eight airports in the U.S. authorized to provide charter flights to the small island nation. "The exchange between our region and Cuban residents potentially can enhance community affairs and educational/economic pursuits," says Glenn R. Mahone, Chairman of the Allegheny County Airport Authority. Of course, there are restrictions. In order to enter the country, you must be flying with an educational, religious, humanitarian, or news-gathering organization. For more information, visit flypittsburgh.com.

