

in Barcelona's theater district near La Rambla. One sprayed him with "something," the other offered to "help" brush off the spray, then they pushed him into the rest room in the lobby and robbed him.

On our last day in Barcelona at the end of our trip, we saw a man running from our hotel carrying a backpack, with another man chasing him until the backpack was dropped. This was another incident involving being sprayed, distracted and robbed.

The people involved in two of these incidents informed us that the police told them they lacked sufficient personnel to look into these criminal acts (unless more than \$400 was taken). Staff at the B-Hotel were as upset about these events as we were.

We had traveled to Barcelona twice before and enjoyed our time there. We hope travelers to this beautiful city will be vigilant in protecting themselves and their belongings.

**CONSTANCE LERNER**  
Henderson, NV

*ITN e-mailed a copy of the above letter to the B-Hotel (b-hotel@nnhotels) and received no reply.*

## Passport too

**thick** I visited the US Consulate in Buenos Aires in May '12 to get additional pages for my US passport, but I was told that no more pages could be added, as this would be the third time and pages can be added only twice.

My passport doesn't expire until mid February 2015. My options were to get a shiny new passport for a mere \$110 or an emergency passport, good for 12 months, for \$100. Additional pages would have cost only \$82.

I asked, "Why should I have to toss a passport 33 months before it expires? It contains visas that expire when the passport expires."

"Because that's the rule" was the answer always given.

'Nonsense,' I say.

I'm wondering if any *ITN* sub-

scribers have had this experience, and can there be a happy ending?

**JERRY MENDEL**  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

## Day tour in SE

**Hungary** In southeastern Hungary, I took a one-day tour of Szeged and the Ópusztaszer National Historical Memorial Park and open-air museum on Sunday, April 22, 2012, led by Peter Antal (phone +36 70 56 888 76, e-mail [peti@tourguideing.hu](mailto:peti@tourguideing.hu) or visit [www.tourguideing.hu](http://www.tourguideing.hu)).

Peter is local to Hódmezővásárhely and leads tours in the area. He has a very good command of English, and I found his price to be reasonable.

The cost of HUF5,000 (about \$21) covered the van for 10 and the guide. Entry to sites cost extra (\$6 to the historical park). Lunch was self-pay. I recommend Peter.

By the way, on his website is a page for dental tourism. Appar-

ently, Hódmezővásárhely has become a dental-tourism center. In fact, members of my tour were primarily dental patients from Ireland and their families.

**FRANK SCHNEIDER**  
Chicago, IL

## A month in Brazil I

spent a month in Brazil, Aug. 6-Sept. 5, 2011, to study Portuguese (*June '12, pg. 16*).

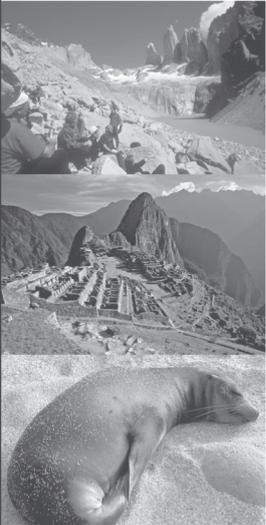
When I visit other countries, I like to travel on the weekends, so on the first weekend I took a taxi to the *rodoviaria* (bus station) and, from the company Real Alagoas, bought a ticket to Recife for \$30.

About 4½ hours after leaving Maceió we arrived in Recife. I took a taxi (\$30) to my hotel, the **Canarius Palace** (\$120), arriving at about 5 p.m. It was dark and raining.

After taking a shower, I walked around the beach area and found a super restaurant, **Parraxaxá** (*Boa*

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