



In Transit

Highlights from *In Transit*, a blog on travel news, deals and tips written by editors and reporters of the Travel section, at nytimes.com/intrans



WHAIWHAI

High-Tech Treasure Hunt For Touring Italy

Do you find walking tours too passive, like sitting through a boring lecture? Wish they were more like "The Amazing Race," the popular CBS reality show?

Then you might try Whaiwhai, a high-tech Italian touring game that is part "Amazing Race" and part treasure hunt, with a bit of DaVinci Code-style storytelling mixed in.

Fusing fact and fiction, Whaiwhai (which means "to search for" in Maori) was created by the Italian game developer Log607, and is available for four Italian cities: Rome, Florence, Venice and Verona.

In Venice, for example, you trace the disappearance of a fictional magic scepter stolen from the Chinese emperor Kubla Khan by Marco Polo. A secret code sent via text message starts the game. You advance to landmarks like the Piazza San Marco, where new codes are sent after correctly answering questions.

Sold in Italy since 2008, where it is a cult hit, Whaiwhai is now available in the United States through SelectItaly.com in both English and Italian for \$33.75. A \$75.95 kit includes a book, city map and an Italian SIM card (for local text-messaging).

The game lasts from two to nine hours, with the option to pause any time for gelato.

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