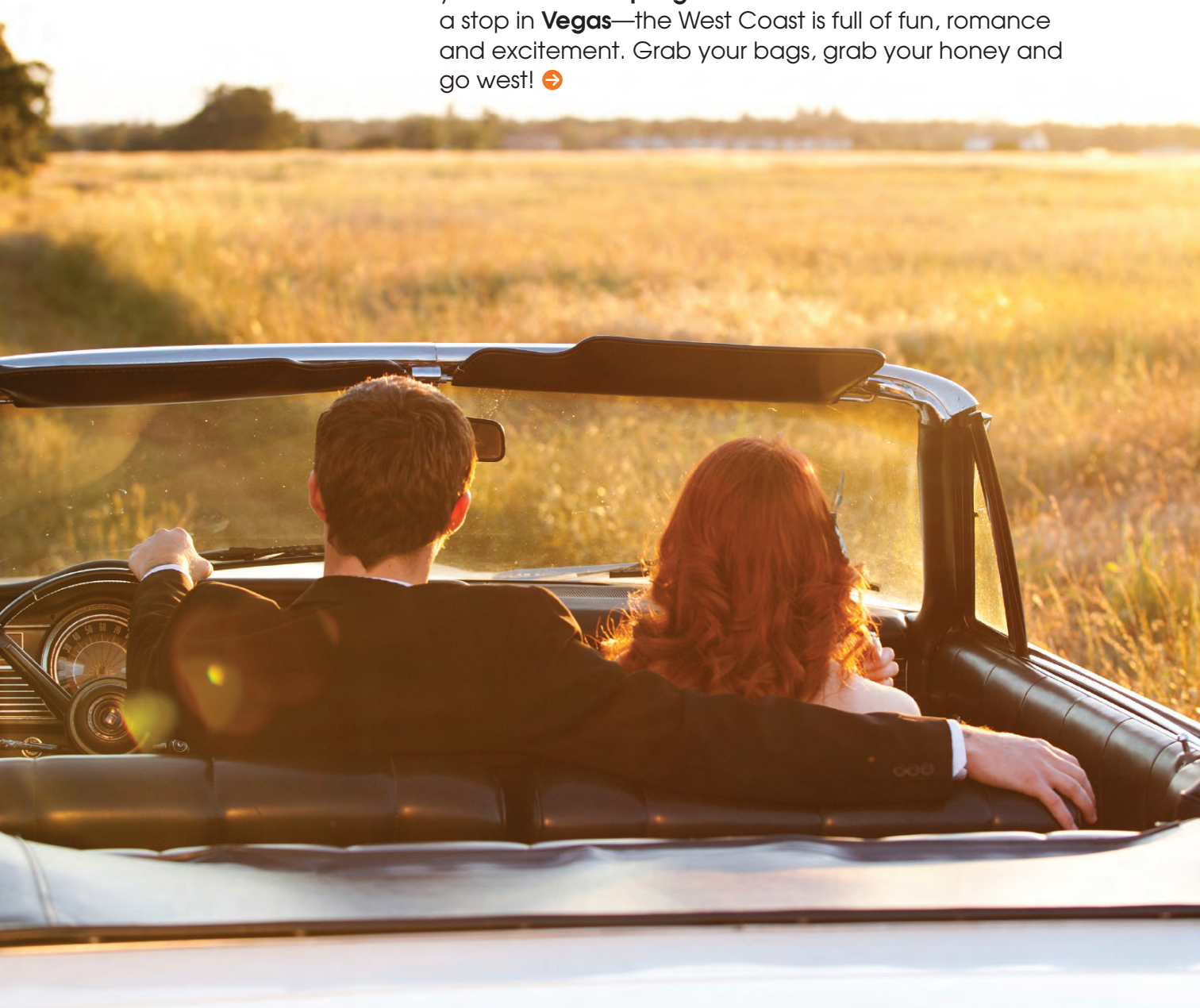


Go West!

By Lisa Horten

Leave your passports at home—we're westward-bound with these honeymoon destination hotspots. Whether your idea of adventure involves casinos and clubbing or wind surfing and wine tasting, we've got the trip for you. From **Palm Springs** to the **Pacific Northwest**—with a stop in **Vegas**—the West Coast is full of fun, romance and excitement. Grab your bags, grab your honey and go west! ➔



Palm Springs Paradise



Take a trip off the beaten path to America's desert playground—**Palm Springs**, Calif., with more than 100 championship golf courses, a thriving artist community and jaw-dropping landscapes. Once a getaway for Hollywood types and studio execs, the **Coachella Valley** desert town is now a hot destination for hipsters.

STAY: Light-hearted lovers of luxe will be right at home at The Parker Palm Springs. The playful resort features plenty of high-end amenities (think finishing touches by Hermès and Jonathan Adler in all guest rooms) without taking itself too seriously. With taglines like “We believe in the American country club experience: mixed doubles, a long steam and a stiff cocktail” it's a guaranteed good time.

For a more affordable taste of Palm Springs chic, frugalistas (and their misters) will swoon for the über-cool Ace Hotel & Swim Club. Built on the foundation of a 1965 Howard Johnson, the 180-room property's “Swim Club” includes a pool deck complete with hot tub, spa, gym, massage yurts, hammocks and a stargazing deck.

EXPLORE: Pack a picnic lunch à deux and take a day trip to Mount San Jacinto, the second highest mountain range in Southern California. The Palm Springs Aerial Tramway offers phenomenal views, departing from nearby Chino Canyon to Mountain Station, 8,516 feet above sea level.

For a lower-elevation adventure, embark on a self-guided bicycle tour of the city. Big Wheels Tours rents bikes starting at \$30 per day, and free maps are available at the Palm Springs Visitors Center. The 10-mile Citywide Loop takes you past the Botanical Gardens, or the Downtown Loop covers all of the local hot spots in less than an hour.

Get a head start on crafting your new crib on Palm Canyon Drive, home to a bevy of high-end vintage shops, boutiques and antique galleries. Head downtown on a Thursday night for Villagefest (the brainchild of the late Sonny Bono), featuring live entertainment alongside artisans displaying handcrafted wares and artwork.

EAT: No trip to Palm Springs is complete without having brunch at Cheeky's, where the menu focuses on locally grown food, and homemade goodies include the house specialty, croissant cinnamon rolls.

You won't want to miss Copley's Palm Springs, located in the historic estate that once belonged to Cary Grant. It features a seasonal selection of inventive American cuisine, like Hawaiian Ahi Tacos and “Oh My” Lobster Pot Pie.

SIP: End your evening with a nightcap (or two) at the Ace Hotel's Amigo Room, where master mixologists are serving up clever twists on classic cocktails. Try the Ace Gibson, a Ketel One martini with house-pickled pearl onions, or the Whiskey Ginger, a blend of Jameson Irish whiskey, honey, ginger juice and cinnamon—yum! ➔

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Photo credit: D.L. Thompson & Jon Thompson, Parker Palm Springs



The retro-cool Ace Swim Club by moonlight.



The Parker's indoor body-temperature pool offers a respite from the Palm Springs heat.



Things to know:

1. **Leave the Umbrellas at Home!** Thanks to its setting amongst four mountain ranges, Palm Springs boasts an average of 350-360 days of sun per year.
2. **Mid-Century Modern Mecca.** Architecture buffs will delight in the area's mid-century modern estates, including Elvis and Priscilla Presley's "Honeymoon Hideaway" and Frank Sinatra's "Twin Palms."
3. **Native Roots.** Centuries ago, the Agua Caliente Indians settled in the area now known as Palm Springs, and their ancestors still remain an active part of the community. Experience the history for yourself at the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum or at the annual Festival of Native Film and Culture (held every March).
4. **Friendly Skies.** Palm Springs International Airport is just two miles from downtown and offers direct flights from throughout the U.S. and Canada.



Cozy private patios? Sign us up!

CHECK IT OUT:

- The Parker Palm Springs, theparkerpalmsprings.com
- Palm Springs Tourism, palm-springs.org
- Ace Hotel, acehotel.com
- California State Parks, parks.ca.gov
- Big Wheel Tours, bwbttours.com
- Cheeky's Palm Springs, cheekysps.com
- Copley's Palm Springs, copleypalmsprings.com



The chic guest rooms at the Parker feature amenities from Molton Brown, Jonathan Adler and Hermès.

Honeymoon in Vegas



You're young and in love, so live it up! They say what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas, but you'll be sure to bring these honeymoon memories back home with you. With some of the country's best restaurants, world-class entertainment and, of course, the casinos, there's something to thrill everyone's senses on the Strip. Viva Las Vegas!

STAY: Seeking seclusion amidst the high energy? Slip into one of the Four Seasons' suites, located on the 35th to 39th floors of the Mandalay Bay tower. Floor-to-ceiling windows offer an expansive vantage point of the Las Vegas action, with mountain and desert views in the distance. The Bali Hai Golf Club is a tropical golfer's paradise. The property also offers an intimate spa, two restaurants and a lushly landscaped pool deck—an oasis of understated elegance.

For a bit more action in your Vegas experience, head to the Encore. The "Romantic Retreat" package includes a Resort Suite King, a prix-fixe dinner for two at Stratta (at the Wynn Las Vegas), two premium tickets to Le Rêve and a personal shopping session at either the Wynn or Encore Esplanade. Prefer an all-day party to reading poolside? The Encore Beach Club is 60,000 square feet of fun, with European bottle service, an outdoor gaming pavilion and live house music.



ACCESSORIZE FOR THE HEAT.

SANDALWOOD FAN
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\$2

EXPLORE: For an afternoon of culture, treat yourselves to the Bellagio's famous Fountains Brunch; then, spend the afternoon at the Gallery of Fine Art. Las Vegas' foremost exhibition space presents intimate collections on loan from museums and foundations around the world.

Paris Las Vegas' replica Eiffel Tower offers one of the best panoramic views of the city (day or night!) from 460 feet above the strip. Along the way, an experienced elevator guide will point out can't-miss landmarks.

Fly high with a helicopter tour of the Grand Canyon. Papillon Helicopters offers landing tours that depart from Las Vegas and descend 4,000 feet below the Canyon rim. A once-in-a-lifetime experience to share with your sweetie.

EAT: Naked Fish's Sushi and Grill offers exotic sushi with names as creative as their flavors. "Skip! Da Beat," anyone? (It's salmon, shrimp and jalapeno inside with salmon and Yuzu tobiko on top.)

For a big night out, foodies will want to flock to legendary chef Joël Robuchon's namesake French restaurant at the MGM Grand, the only restaurant in Vegas to have been recognized with Michelin's prestigious Three Star. Reservations at Joël Robuchon may not come cheap, but they do include complimentary limousine service and a guaranteed feast for the senses. Try the decadent Le Caviar, a house specialty.

SIP: Head to celeb fave TAO Nightclub at The Venetian, and sip on one of their indulgent specialty cocktails before getting your groove on. TAO Love Potion No. 9 is an energizing mix of Bacardi Razz, cranberry juice and Red Bull. →



Things to know:

- 1. Mall Madness.** Shop the Bellagio, Las Vegas Outlet Center, Town Square, Fashion Show Mall, Forum Shops at Caesars Palace and Grand Canal Shoppes—to name a few.
- 2. High Roller.** Howard Hughes stayed at the Desert Inn for so long that he was asked to leave. He bought the hotel.
- 3. Don't Mind the Crowds.** More than 37.5 million people visit Las Vegas each year, so be prepared for a line or two.
- 4. Camera Shy.** Throughout Vegas, hotel security prowls the casinos for shutterbugs, so do yourself a precautionary favor and leave the cameras behind.



Viva Las Vegas! This 1956 welcome sign has become a Las Vegas icon.



Experience how the other half lives with Four Seasons pool attendants offering a spritz of Evian, fresh fruit and chilled water. We could get used to this!

CHECK IT OUT:

- Four Seasons Las Vegas, fourseasons.com/lasvegas
- Encore, encorelasvegas.com
- Bellagio, bellagio.com
- Paris Las Vegas, parislasvegas.com
- Papillon Helicopters, papillon.com
- Naked Fish's, nakedfishlv.com
- Joël Robuchon, mgmgrand.com/restaurants
- Tao Nightclub, taolasvegas.com



Party 24/7 at the Encore Beach Club.



MGM Grand's luxe spot, Joël Robuchon.



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Into The Great Wide Open



CHECK IT OUT:
Kennedy Hotel,
mcmenamins.com
Hotel deLuxe,
hoteldeluxeportland.com
Timberline Lodge,
timberlinelodge.com
Portland Saturday Market,
portlandsaturdaymarket.com
Hood River Water Play,
hoodriverwaterplay.com
Portland Spirit,
portlandspirit.com
Park Kitchen,
parkkitchen.com
Cafe Castagna,
castagnarestaurant.com

A hidden gem of a city, **Portland** is rich in local flavor, with a thriving food and beer scene (boasting more breweries per capita than any other city in the U.S.) and a focus on sustainable living. Once you've had your big city fix, head east to the majestic **Mount Hood**, world-renowned for the region's 1,879 square miles of outdoor adventure territory. From year-round skiing to wind surfing, fishing, hiking, biking and more, if it can be done outdoors, it can be done in Mount Hood.

STAY: Portland's swanky Hotel deLuxe pays homage to the Golden Era of Hollywood filmmaking with Art Deco-inspired chandeliers, furnishings and artwork. Located amongst the shops and restaurants of Pearl District and Nob Hill, Hotel deLuxe is just steps from the Max rail, allowing easy access to the rest of the city.

Experience some of the most eccentric accommodations in the country at the Kennedy School, a 1915 elementary school that was converted into a hotel. In addition to the 35 classrooms-turned-guestrooms, the property boasts an impressive array of dining and drinking options (six in total); plus, its own brewery (what would the principal say?!), movie theater, art gallery and soaking pool.

For part two of your Oregon adventure, head about an hour east to Timberline Lodge in Mount Hood Territory. Declared a National Historic Landmark in 1977, the rooms have a rustic lodge vibe with modern amenities, and the property has five eateries.

EXPLORE: For true local flavor, start your day at the Portland Saturday Market alongside the Westside Riverwalk. The market features local artisans (score a one-of-a-kind memento of your

romantic getaway), international cuisine and live music.

Set sail for an afternoon outing on the water. Portland Spirit's "Outrageous Jetboat" offers a Willamette River or Columbia River tour both complete with breathtaking scenery and the rush of high speed. Or, since you are in the wind-surfing capital of the world, opt for a new athletic endeavor at Hood River Water Play.

Snow bunnies will love Timberline Lodge's summer ski and ride, the only place in the country with lift-accessible snow all summer long.

EAT: Visit Park Kitchen, which focuses on fresh, locally sourced ingredients. Seasonally changing menus include such specialties as lamb tartar with spiced chickpeas and mint and Berkshire pork with pears and sauerkraut.

For a more affordable taste of foodie fave Castagna, stop by Cafe Castagna for one of their legendary burgers.

While in Hood River, experience Pacific Northwest cuisine at the cozy Cello Restaurant and Bar, which also supports the local arts community by displaying the works of Columbia Gorge artists throughout the restaurant.

SIP: Experience the history of winemaking in the Pacific Northwest with an intimate tour of Timberline Wine Vault. It includes tastings of up to five regional wines for just \$16 per person.

A ROOMY TOTE FOR THE DAY'S EXCURSIONS.

FLAMINGO PINK STRIPED TOTE
SHOP.GETMARRIED.COM
\$35



Photo credit: Travel Portland/Edward Nugent