

(201)

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LOVE IS IN THE AIR

10 destinations to help rekindle the romance

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Avacation is the perfect way to reignite the romance that typically takes a back seat to everyday life. Reconnect with your better half at one of these 10 romantic destinations.

HELENA BAY LODGE NORTHLAND, NEW ZEALAND

Built to host no more than five couples on the property at a time, Helena Bay Lodge provides an idyllic destination for a romantic getaway. Guests can enjoy villa accommodations with breathtaking beachfront views and private terraces, a beautiful spa, heated swimming pool, and world-class cuisine from the team behind the celebrated, Michelin-starred Ristorante Don Alfonso 1890. Couples can be treated to private gourmet meals such as a multi-course fireside dinner in the library; an alfresco lunch prepared by the chef at the property's new Beach Pavilion (or right on the beach); a gourmet picnic where guests can take their own four-wheeler buggies to a secluded spot within the forest; or dining in the meadows beside the lodge's friendly alpacas and herds of cattle. Couples can even pick their own produce with Chef Michele prior to the meal while exploring the lodge's gardens and citrus orchard. For those looking for adventure, suites are outfitted with Wellington boots (guests' shoe sizes are requested prior to arrival), along with backpacks and binoculars for hiking on-property. Guests also have access to mountain bikes, paddle boards, kayaks and more.

WESTIN PLAYA BONITA PANAMA CITY, PANAMA

The Westin Playa Bonita is located on a mile long stretch of beach, surrounded by lush tropical rain forest and just 15 minutes from bustling Panama City, and the destination boasts exotic scenery that sets the perfect mood. The resort offers accommodations with three sweeping oceanfront infinity pools, plus a separate pool for the kiddos (no splashing here!) a chic, indoor-outdoor Executive Club Lounge with a full-bar, and spacious suites with private balconies and views of ships waiting to enter the Panama Canal. To up the romance, couples can enjoy treatments at the resort's Sensory Spa by Clarins, indulge at six international restaurants, and experience the local culture with tours ranging from beach and rain forest excursions to walking tours of the city and more.

COURTESY OF THE RESORTS

THE SHOOTING STAR RV RESORT ESCALANTE, UTAH

Perfect for a secluded Valentine's Day getaway, Utah's Shooting Star RV Resort welcomes couples to vacation like old-time Hollywood stars: They offer a selection of nine Airstreams decked out to feel like the movie set trailer of classic films such as *Some Like it Hot*, *Blue Hawaii* and *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. Couples can cozy up under the Utah stars at the campground's classic outdoor movie theater, which offers 1960's cars for seating. Located just off the Scenic Byway 12, couples will feel like they are in a movie scene all their own as they cruise down the famous route to America's most beautiful parks and attractions.

RENAISSANCE TUSCANY IL CIOCCO RESORT & SPA TUSCANY, ITALY

When it comes to European hideaways, it doesn't get much more romantic than a villa tucked into the Tuscan region, where the Renaissance Tuscany Il Ciocco Resort & Spa overlooks the ever-changing colors of the mountainous Serchio Valley. This estate-turned-hotel features 180 luxurious rooms, a spa, two restaurants and two swimming pools, and offers couples one-of-a-kind experiences including chef-led tours through quaint farmers' markets, cooking lessons, wine tastings and a cinque borghi (five villages) hike that takes love birds through secret medieval villages only accessible on foot.

INN AT DOS BRISAS WASHINGTON, TEXAS

Couples can experience an immersive romantic vacation at this nine-room Relais & Châteaux Spanish-inspired retreat, located on the foothills of the scenic Texas Hill Country. Steeped in ranch-style living and an ambiance of elegant romance, couples can go on an adventure through the countryside; seasonal activities include horse carriage rides, horseback riding, and cozying up to the private fireplace in the Haciendas, which boast private plunge pools for midnight swims. Tie it all together with the Forever Together Romance Package that includes a bottle of champagne, romantic four-course dining at the renowned restaurant, a 60 minute in-room massage, afternoon clay shoot, and rose petal turndown with chocolate-covered strawberries.

THE HOUSE BARBADOS

After you take in The House's stunning West Coast views and enjoy a champagne breakfast and jet-lag revival massage, explore Barbados like the celebs. The LX by The House package is perfect for couples seeking an incredible once-in-a-lifetime experience like private polo lessons at the championship Apes Hill Golf & Polo Club and a Mount Gay Rum tasting and tour. And let us not forget the VIP shopping experience (complete with a personal shopper), luxury airport transfers and a private three-hour sunset catamaran sail. Guests may also opt to island-hop, and visit neighboring islands Mustique and the Grenadines via seaplane or yacht.



KO'A KEA HOTEL & RESORT KAUAI, HAWAII

Ko'a Kea Hotel & Resort is Kauai's premier boutique hotel located on the "sunny side" of the island at Poipu Beach. In the garden isle, Ko'a Kea immerses guests in the spirit of aloha where romance and adventure meet, boasting oceanfront views from guest rooms, couples spa treatments from an outdoor seaside cabana at The Spa at Ko'a Kea, intimate dining experiences at the property's Red Salt restaurant, and more. Couples can book the Ko'u Aloha package, which includes discounted luxury room accommodations with a late check-out, \$500 food and beverage credit, \$200 spa credit, and sweet welcome amenities.

HYDE HOTEL & RESIDENCES MIDTOWN MIAMI MIAMI, FLORIDA

Located in the heart of one of Miami's most desirable neighborhoods, Hyde Hotel & Residences Midtown Miami puts love birds at the epicenter of all things art and romance. The six-story hybrid hotel and residential property features a chic, modern design that includes private kitchens ideal for couples looking for a cozy place to call home for a few days. The hotel is walking distance from the city's most notable date spots in the hottest cultural hubs. Whether you want to take a romantic stroll down to the colorful outdoor Wynwood museum and check out the world's best street art and graffiti, or head to the Design District for some high-end shopping, this property is ideal for couples who love exploring. Lovers looking to soak up the Miami sun can relax on Hyde's rooftop amenity floor, which features a heated infinity pool, tennis courts, a putting green, sunbeds and cabanas perfect for some afternoon cuddling, and a full-service Ciel Spa.

EL MANGROOVE GUANACASTE, COSTA RICA

This tropical destination is truly unspoiled, with sublime beaches, lush rainforests and tons of outdoor adventures that are perfect for couples. Situated off Costa Rica's gulf of Papagayo Bay, El Mangroove sets the stage for a picturesque vacation, offering gorgeous backdrops on every corner of the property. The 85-room resort offers a gorgeous pool stretching more than 130 feet, with sweeping views perfect for couples' photos, two on-site restaurants, and a spa with four private outdoor bungalows. Couples can opt for a sunset tour on a private boat that takes guests to a secluded beach for a romantic picnic and some R&R time. For the more adventurous lovebirds, they can opt for a snorkeling sunset session, and tie the knot underwater while swimming among wild dolphins and marine life.

THE LANDINGS RESORT & SPA ST. LUCIA

The Landings Resorts & Spa is tucked away on the shores of Rodney Bay, along one of St. Lucia's most secluded beaches. Upon arrival via helicopter or private car, couples are greeted with signature champagne cocktails before being whisked away to their suite, some of which feature plunge pools for a romantic night-time dip. From there, a personal butler will unpack the couple's bags so they can enjoy the resort's pristine white sand beach (a rarity on the volcanic island of St. Lucia) or book a rejuvenating couples massage at the spa. For thrill-seekers, The Landings can arrange a 'daycation' filled with island-hopping to the neighboring French island of Martinique, or a trip to La Soufriere, featuring a look at the Caribbean's only drive-in volcano. And because all of that excitement works up quite the appetite, the resort's personal butlers are available to stock the in-suite kitchen with groceries, or to arrange a private chef to prepare an intimate in-suite meal for two. ■