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THE ULTIMATE GUIDE FOR ALTERNATIVE BRIDES

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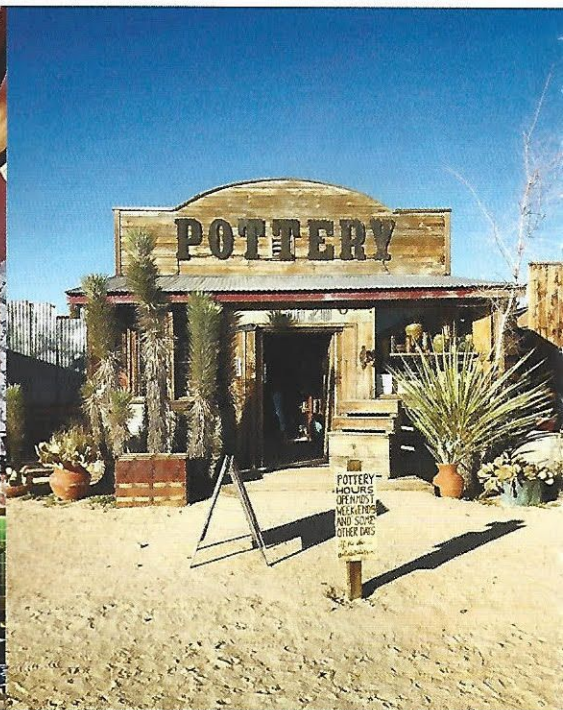
Palm Springs

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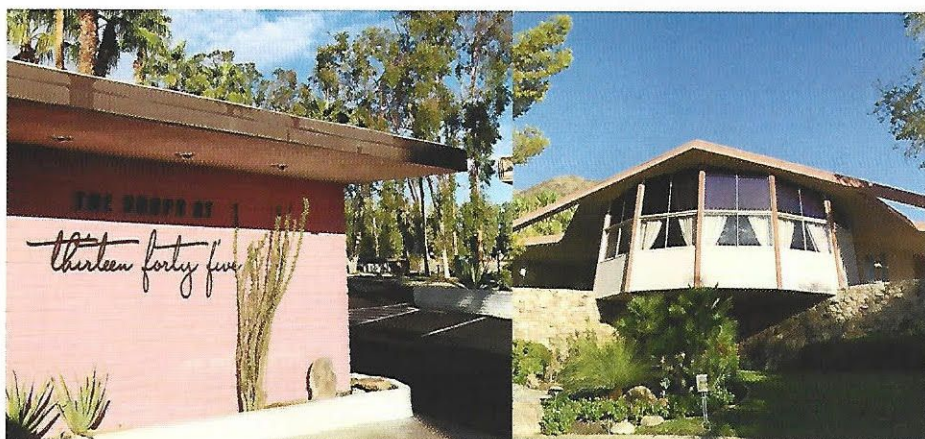
HONEYMOON TRAVEL GUIDE

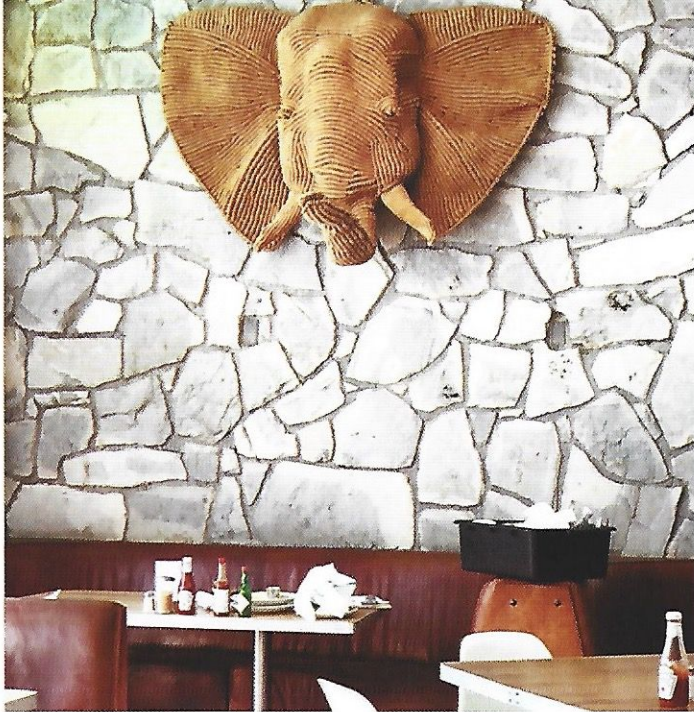
Palm Springs is a vacation destination like no other. With its mid-century architecture, Instagram-worthy hotels, vintage shopping and year-round sunshine, it's no wonder this desert destination was the weekend escape for the rich and famous during Hollywood's golden age. Liberace, Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin called this desert oasis home, and Elvis and Priscilla famously honeymooned here.



WHERE TO STAY

You'll be spoilt for choice with the accommodation options in Palm Springs. The Ace Hotel was originally a mid-century motel and Denny's diner and retains a Flintstones-meets-Jetsons vibe. The rainbow-hued Saguaro Hotel needs to be seen to be believed and The Parker, which was given a \$27 million makeover by designer Jonathan Adler in 2003, is quirky yet sophisticated. We stayed at The Sands, located in Indian Wells, a 10-minute drive from Palm Springs. Designed by Martyn Lawrence Bullard, this Cali-meets-Morocco retreat features bright prints, exotic tiles, pink stucco walls, cacti, fire pits and black and white striped pool side cabanas. Palm Springs also has over 2000 Airbnb rentals throughout the city, many of which are mid-century modern gems.





THINGS TO DO

Cabazon Dinosaurs

As you drive into Palm Springs you may see something prehistoric on the side of the road...! Cabazon Dinosaurs is a roadside attraction featuring two enormous steel and concrete dinosaurs. It's definitely worth stopping by for a photo op!

Visit Elvis' Honeymoon Hideaway

When The King honeymooned here back in 1967, he allegedly carried his beehived bride over the threshold singing the "Hawaiian Wedding Song" from his film *Blue Hawaii*. Relive this moment with a tour of the futurist, circular home, where you can wander through the five-bedroomed abode, soaking up the groovy sixties interiors. Daily tours cost \$35 per person.

An Old West Road Trip

Just 40 minutes from Palm Springs, you'll find the completely surreal Pioneertown. Originally built in 1946 as a movie set for westerns, the frontier town is now home to the rustic Pappy & Harriet's restaurant and music venue. After filling up on live music and authentic BBQ, bed down for the night at the nearby Pioneertown Motel.

Ride the Aerial Tramway

Escape the heat of the city by hopping on The Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, which sweeps you up into the Mt. San Jacinto State Park, where the air is cool and the landscape is stunning. Once at the top, you'll find restaurants, a museum and miles of hiking trails to explore. Like so much of Palm Springs, famed architect Albert Frey designed the tramway – make sure you stop off at his sci-fi tramway gas station at the entrance, which is now the iconic visitor centre.

Hit the Shops

Palm Springs is a treasure trove for vintage style lovers. Head to North Palm Canyon Drive, where you'll find dreamy kaftans at The Frillery, expertly sourced womenswear at Preloved Boutique, on-trend fashion and housewares at Trina Turk, plus an amazing array of Carmen Miranda style accessories at Dazzles.

PICTURED: The Parker's picturesque entrance, The Pink Cabana at The Sands Hotel, the western-themed Pioneertown, shopping at Thirteen Forty Five, Elvis and Priscilla's honeymoon hideaway, the pool at The Sands, King's Highway diner at The Ace Hotel and breakfast at Norma's.

EAT

For breakfast, stop by Cheeky's but get there early or prepare for a line out the door. If you want an old school diner vibe, give King's Highway inside Ace Hotel a try. If you're feeling flush with cash and have a big appetite, Norma's at The Parker serves picture-perfect breakfasts. Lulu California Bistro is a local crowd-pleaser for breakfast, lunch and dinner. To cool off, stop by Great Shakes for a homemade milkshake. Native Foods, Chef Tanya's and Palm Greens are local staples for plant-based meal options. For some of the best drinks in town, swing by Azucar. A must-see is the "secret" bar behind the shrubs at The Parker, Counter Reformation, which features religious imagery, loud rock and roll and a confessional booth tucked in back. Finally, the best-kept secret in the desert where the locals go to dine, dance and unwind is The Nest, which also boasts some of the best people watching.



WHEN TO GO

Boasting 350 days of glorious sunshine, Palm Springs is a great year-round honeymoon destination, although avoid July and August as temperatures easily reach 40 °C.

GETTING THERE

If you fly into LAX, Palm Springs is an easy two-hour drive away. The Flix Bus departs from downtown LA every few hours and costs less than \$20 USD per person.

MORE RECOMMENDATIONS

Further advice and recommendations for your trip can be found at visitpalmssprings.com.

ABOUT ZOEY GOTO

*Zoey Goto is a journalist and author, writing for international publications about fashion, lifestyle and travel. She writes for titles including GQ, GQ Style, The Times, Escapism and Elle magazine and is also author of the book *Elvis Style: From Zoot Suits to Jumpsuits*.*