

Romantic California Getaways

Written by Amanda Rumore

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Valentine's Day is around the corner and gift-giving is quickly becoming a priority for many attached men and women. This year, many Phoenicians are skipping the store-bought gifts and planning a special trip to our neighboring coastal state. California is a favorite amongst Valley residents in the know. Not only is it a short plane ride or road trip away, but it's a perfect time for a mini-vacation to distress from the previous holiday season, get away from the chaos of home and grab some R&R while we await for our summer vaca season.

If you want to surprise your significant other with a romantic trip, it needs to be perfectly planned and executed. With so many options, it may seem overwhelming. Luckily, we have the details to ensure you have a memorable holiday filled with adventure, romance and relaxation.

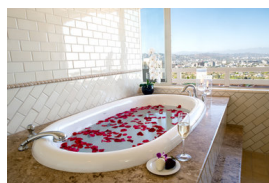
Hotel Carmel: This boutique coastal California hotel is offering an "All Signs Point to Love" package. Couples who purchase this package will enjoy a two-night stay; kayaking for two out of Lover's Point, a beautiful marine preserve brimming with colorful sea life, tide pools, and sandy beaches; a chauffeured excursion in a Mercedes Benz on the storied 17-Mile Drive, a scenic road running through [Pebble Beach](#) on the Monterey Peninsula, much of which hugs the Pacific coastline and passes famous golf courses, mansions and scenic attractions; a romantic dinner for two at Porta Bella (alcohol not included), a quaint eatery in a bungalow featuring Spanish, French & Italian fare; and an 80-minute in-room couples massage plus one relaxing turn-down amenity (e.g., essential oil, candle, bath bomb). **Package rates start at \$1,440.**



Laguna Beach House: This beachside charmer located steps away from Main Beach and the bustling downtown Laguna scene, is offering a unique "Shape, Surf, and Stay" experience for surf-obsessed couples on Valentine's Day. The package includes two nights' accommodation in an ocean-view room, one-on-one lessons for shaping a custom board with the legendary Donald Brink, a lesson in shaping theory and design, a local surf session with Brink, surfer's snacks mini bar with a s'mores kit and guest's choice of beer or sports drinks, bananas, dried fruit, potato chips and health bars, as well as complimentary parking, wi-fi, morning coffee, evening wine hours and nighttime cookies and milk. **Package rates start at \$1,475.**



InterContinental Los Angeles Century City: This iconic Los Angeles landmark hotel is helping lovebirds celebrate the year's most romantic holiday with a special Valentine's Day menu at signature restaurant, [Mari Los Angeles](#). Sous Chef Nicholas Loncar has created a bespoke dinner for two that's sure to woo that special someone. The hotel is offering a three-course prix fix dinner featuring Fanny Bay oysters, blood orange champagne granita, deviled eggs, filet mignon, seabass, as well as a selection of sides including black truffle risotto, duchess potatoes, creamed spinach, sautéed asparagus and winter vegetables. End the meal on a sweet note with a decadent raspberry chocolate macaroon duet. Enjoy one night's accommodations on February 14; valet parking; breakfast for two; and chocolates and champagne upon arrival. **Package rates start at \$499.**



[Amanda Rumore](#) is a writer, mom blogger and lifestyle expert. Scottsdale-based, by way of Chicago and Los Angeles, she lives with her husband, Anthony, daughter, Mia Valentina, and Boston Terriers, Gigi and Harley. Amanda is the founder of [ValleyGallInc.com](#), writes for various magazines and appears on local television stations featuring family and lifestyle stories. She was also voted "Favorite Valley [Mom](#) 2016" in the Best of the Valley.