

Great Escapes

Written by Written by Melissa Larsen

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Whether it is sun-soaked sandy shores or mountaintop adventures that you desire, here are 13 not-too-far travel destinations to escape to this summer.



The Grand Del Mar: San Diego

Whether art and architecture, wine and mixology or outdoor adventures are your passion, there is something for just about everyone on the summer agenda at The Grand Del Mar. From July through Labor Day, the five-star resort rings in its Grand Masterpiece Series comprising perfume-making classes, photography walks, culinary, wine and mixology workshops and much more. Sand castle-building expeditions and nightly s'mores roasting suit even the youngest guests. www.thegraddelmar.com.

Music to our Ears: Sundays, through Labor Day, Summer Concerts at The Grand bring world-class music acts to the resort for a one-night-only performance.



The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel: Dana Point

After a multi-year, \$70 million transformation, The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel once again proves that it is among the West Coast's top spots for a beachfront family getaway. (Some of the resort's most notable upgrades are new décor in the guest rooms, four fresh restaurant concepts and a world-class eco-adventure center.) This summer, guests are invited to experience the up-to-date destination via a variety of unique amenities and programs. First up, families can get cozy at Salt Creek Beach with the help of the resort's Beach Butlers who can cater to nearly every guest's desire—from helping build sand castles with the kiddos to fetching food, drinks, towels, umbrellas and any other beach-day necessity. For an afternoon of education, guests of all ages are welcomed to the new Eco-Adventure Center to learn, through experience, about Southern California's natural wonders. www.ritzcarlton.com/laguna.

Hit the Links: The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel is thisclose to several first-class golf courses, including those by Tom Fazio and Robert Trent Jones, Jr.



The Resort at Pelican Hill: Newport Beach

Though The Resort at Pelican Hill is only five years old, it has already racked up awards from national publications, travel guides and more. Two of the Newport Beach destination's biggest pulls: golf and spa. The Spa at Pelican Hill—the only five-star spa in the area—has unveiled fresh summertime treatments, including upping its lineup of Diamond services (which include real diamond dust). Those seeking a little green this season will enjoy the resort's junior golf camps, golf clinics for all ages and a weekend golf academy package. www.pelicanhill.com.

Make Room: The Resort at Pelican Hill offers villas that have up to four bedrooms, making the stay ideal for families traveling together.

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Shutters on the Beach: Santa Monica

Don't have your own private beach house? A check-in at Shutters on the Beach in Santa Monica is the next best thing. With the sounds of waves crashing outside your window and the sandy shore just a few steps away, it is perfectly acceptable if the resort transforms you into a beach bum during your stay. For a more active time by the water, guests are invited to savor volleyball or yoga on the sand, a bike ride along a beach path and more. www.shuttersonthebeach.com.

Hey, Good Lookin': Each room at Shutters on the Beach comes with a "Bath and Beach Chest," a fully stocked beauty mini bar (think nail polishes, bath fizzes and more).



Loews Coronado Bay Resort: Coronado

In the winter, Loews Coronado Bay Resort unveiled a \$12 million, nine-month-long renovation with a fresh design that brings together San Diego's much-loved sun and surf with casual elegance. The summer schedule at the new-and-improved resort includes gondola rides, stand-up paddleboarding, tennis camps and clinics, kayak tours, painting lessons, yoga on the beach and so much more. If Mom and Dad crave a little alone time, the waterfront destination also hosts a kids' club and a teen lounge that'll keep the little ones busy with fun and educational activities. www.loewshotels.com/coronado-bay-resort.

Water Wonder: Looking to play captain for the day? Guests have access to a private 81-slip marina.

San Ysidro Ranch: Santa Barbara

Located on 500 acres in Southern California's wine country, San Ysidro Ranch offers tranquility, romance and too-cute bungalow-style accommodations (with standout features being outdoor showers, private hot tubs and masonry fireplaces). Though it offers modern amenities, the ranch boasts a rich long-standing history; in fact, it first accommodated guests in 1893 and has hosted the likes of Audrey Hepburn, Lucille Ball and Bing Crosby. (John and Jacqueline Kennedy even honeymooned at this swoon-worthy vacation destination.) www.sanysidroranch.com.

Cheers!: For those wanting to experience the area's wine country, San Ysidro Ranch is in great proximity for day trips to nearby wineries.



The Lodge at Torrey Pines: La Jolla

Honoring the California Craftsman style of architecture of the early 1900's, The Lodge at Torrey Pines is as handsome as its long list of amenities and accommodations. Days at The Lodge are best spent lounging in a poolside cabana or maybe enjoying a leisurely game on the croquet lawn or the Torrey Pines Golf Course. The evenings call for dinner and drinks at the renowned A.R. Valentien, one of the area's top farm-to-table restaurants. www.lodgetorreypires.com.

And the Award Goes To: For 10 consecutive years, The Lodge at Torrey Pines has been awarded with the coveted five-diamond designation.

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The Resort at Paws Up: Greenough

Perhaps traditional camping isn't your cup of tea. Well, even the most pampered of travelers can enjoy the fine art of "glamping" (glamorous camping) at The Resort at Paws Up. On June 1, the Montana resort debuts its most luxe campsite yet: Cliffside Camp. With views of Blackfoot River, each private tent features all the comforts of home: a cozy bed, an ensuite bathroom, hardwood floors, air-conditioning, electricity and a deck to take in the majestic pine trees that surround the site. Nearby, in the centrally located dining pavilion, guests can enjoy scrumptious feasts by a private chef—and we're talking more than just s'mores and baked beans. www.pawsup.com.

All in the Family: The Resort at Paws Up's River Camp is a special favorite of the kiddos; it hosts a new game room with ping-pong, foosball, video games and a special play area tailored to young children.



Amangani: Jackson Hole

For a once-in-a-lifetime summer adventure, Amangani in Wyoming offers three unique excursions this season (and next) that are sure to bring out your "wild" side. May through October, the Wolf and Bear Expedition invites guests to explore the wildlife of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem with an expert from the renowned Teton Science Schools. Adventures of the Wild can be suited to guests' interests, whether that is horseback riding, fly-fishing or bird-watching, from June to October. Lastly, in September and October, the Fly Fishing Adventure gives participants of all levels of expertise the chance to cast out on Snake River—a haven for rainbow, brown and brook trout. www.amanresorts.com.

An Eyeful: Amangani at Jackson Hole proffers views of the Teton peaks, the Snake River Range and the awe-inspiring seasonal changes that reach the valley below.

Hotel Terra: Jackson Hole

Whether it is time in the spa or adventure you seek, Jackson Hole's Hotel Terra has a summer escape geared for your vacay wish list. The eco-luxury mountain resort puts minds and bodies at ease with its Exhale spa package (available through Oct. 15), which includes a 50-minute spa treatment, while the Bring Your Bucket List offering invites guests to enjoy the area's outdoorsy—and sometimes blood-pumping—pursuits, be it paragliding, hiking Teton Crest Trail and more. (Hotel Terra is also serving up Father's Day and July 4 room specials.) www.hotelterrajacksonhole.com.

Easy Being Green: LEED silver-certified Hotel Terra prides itself on sustainable practices, like water-conservation systems and energy-recovery technology.



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Rainbow Ranch Lodge: Gallatin Gateway

For a rustic—yet regal—summer escape, Rainbow Ranch Lodge offers pond- or lakeside cabin-inspired rooms (with the likes of Italian linens, wood-burning fireplaces and soaking tubs) and an endless list of alfresco amenities. While friends and family are sweatin' it back home, a trip to this Montana resort means plenty of time in the cool open air fly-fishing, mountain biking, hiking, horseback riding and enjoying some outdoor yoga. <http://www.rainbowranchbigsky.com>.

Happy Campers: Rainbow Ranch Lodge is a mere 45 minutes away from Yellowstone National Park.



Four Seasons Resort, Jackson Hole: Teton Village

At Four Seasons Resort, Jackson Hole, relaxation seamlessly meets recreation. Adventuresome souls can enjoy white-water rafting, fishing, biking, hiking and more alfresco fun. Or, at the spa, guests can settle in for a refreshing body ritual (like the Alpine Berry that includes an exfoliant of local hawthorn berries mixed with strawberry seeds, wild honey and peppermint). For a truly unique look at Jackson Hole, resort guests are invited to try a wooden boat tour, a hot-air balloon ride or stargazing for the whole family at Grand Teton National Park.

www.fourseasons.com/jacksonhole.

Warm Up: For a first-row seat to the Wyoming Tetons, snag a spot in one of Four Seasons Resort, Jackson Hole's hot-springs-style open-air whirlpools.

The Coeur d'Alene Resort: Coeur d'Alene

Though there is plenty to adore about Idaho's The Coeur d'Alene Resort—like its cool contemporary design, full-service spa and divine dining destinations, perhaps—its claim to fame is that it hosts the world's only floating green. At 15,000 square feet, the floating green holds an award-winning golf course and such eye-popping beauty that even non-golfers can appreciate it (think lake views and 1,500 wild flowers, 4,000 petunias, 25,000 junipers and 30,000 geraniums). www.cdaresort.com.

Shower Power: In its 30,000-sq.-ft. spa, The Coeur d'Alene Resort is home to an exclusive \$100,000 Silver TAG Swiss shower.