



ARMCHAIR EXPLORER



Arte Increíble

INSIDE MEXICO'S DAZZLING ART SCENE

By Erica Moody



Mexican artist Enrique Chiu is working on what he hopes will become the world's longest mural—a colorful, politically relevant, 600-mile statement on the current border fences in Tijuana. He sees the “Mural of Brotherhood” as a symbol of unification between the U.S. and Mexico.

The powerful artwork is reflective of Mexico's rich art history and culturally revealing of its bold and ambitious present. Here you will find original masterpieces from esteemed artists like Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera, all while discovering new contemporary masters. From the top-ranked museums of Mexico City to the graffiti art of Puerto Vallarta, here's what to look for on your next art-filled voyage south of the border.



Mexico City's Downtown at Twilight



Painted Skulls



Mexican Mural



Mexican Mural

MURALS

Chiu is working in the tradition of a long line of muralists who put Mexico on the map as an art destination. Most famously, “Los Tres Grandes” (the dynamic trio of Diego Rivera, Jose Clemente Orozco and David Siqueiros) responded to the Mexican revolution via murals meant to inspire and inform. The government commissioned Mexican artists to teach the public, particularly those who were illiterate, about Mexican history after the war. This task resulted in public works of art that not only educated its citizens but also defined the trajectory of Mexican art.

Emblazoned across civic buildings such as schoolhouses, the subtly Marxist artworks saw the influence of Cubism and

the employment of intricate techniques like fresco and mosaic. Visitors to Mexico City can view many of these spectacular murals at the Palace of Fine Arts; some of Rivera’s most famous works are also on view at the National Palace, such as “The History of Mexico,” a detailed depiction of suffering and success in battle that covers 1,000 square feet.

This focus on free, public art has continued in Mexico to this day. Anywhere you go (Puerto Vallarta, Tijuana and Playa del Carmen come to mind) you’re bound to spot murals lovingly constructed by Mexican artists paying homage to history.

FOLK ART & CRAFTS

Painted skulls smile at you from shop windows, inviting you to take them home. This cheeky reminder that death is nothing to fear can be seen throughout Mexico, in festival celebrations and in folk art traditions; skeleton ladies (catrinas) were created by lithographer and printmaker Jose Guadalupe Posada in the 19th century and reproduced in clay for the first time by artist Juan Torres in 1982. Oaxacan wood carvings, multicolored paper mache skeletons (alambroides)

and Day of the Dead dioramas in tin or wood cases are popular folk art creations.

Small towns are the place to find niche markets for crafts. Onyx and marble household goods can be found in Tecali de Herrera, a name that translates to “stone house.” Ceramics are big in the Guadalajara region—the Museo Regional de la Ceramica and Museo Pantaleon Panduro in Tlaquepaque and Museo Nacional de la Ceramica in Tonalá explore the history of handmade artworks in the area. Puebla and surrounding villages are known for Talavera Pottery, a specific earthenware style that makes use of 16th-century Spanish methods.

FINDING FRIDA

Legendary artist Frida Kahlo deserves her own category. Kahlo’s vibrant self-portraits during the 1930s and 40s drew inspiration from Mexican folk art, surrealism and magic realism, and addressed themes of physical and emotional pain, serious health issues and a difficult marriage to muralist Diego Rivera. The self-taught, politically engaged artist’s striking paintings include “The Two Fridas,” “The Broken Column” and “The Wounded Deer.”

Kahlo fans can easily find her work in Mexico City where she spent much of her life. The Frida Kahlo Museum is located in her childhood home, La Casa Azul, and includes letters and objects from the artist in addition to paintings. The Museo Dolores Olmedo includes 25 of Kahlo’s paintings, along with some sketches and drawings. “The Two Fridas” can be viewed at the Museo de Arte Moderno, which houses hundreds of works from Mexican modern artists.



Museo Subacuático de Arte

MEXICO'S MUSEUMS

Mexico City has the second largest number of museums in the world! Here are a few of our favorites from the city and beyond.



MUSEO NACIONAL DE ARTE

This national art museum in the center of Mexico City holds an impressive range of Mexican and international art from the 16th to the mid-20th century.



MUSEO SUBACUÁTICO DE ARTE

See statues as you snorkel at this immersive underwater art museum in Quintana Roo that's fun for the whole family.



MUSEO DE ARTE POPULAR

For a true understanding of Mexican folk art, head to this quirky Mexico City museum for skeleton art, religious artifacts, pottery and other unique cultural objects.



SOUMAYA MUSEUM

This museum is visited as much for the architecturally astounding building as for the art inside of it. Check out how it's tiled with 16,000 aluminum hexagons.

THE BERKSHIRES

Historic streets, farm-to-table cuisine and natural beauty can all be found in the Berkshires, in western Massachusetts, finds Stephanie Gravalese

1



From left: Main Street, Stockbridge; Shakespeare & Co actors; Norman Rockwell Museum

IMAGE: IAN GODDARD/MALL

DAY 1

Start the day with a walking tour along Norman Rockwell Main Street, in downtown Stockbridge. Author, painter and illustrator Rockwell spent the latter half of his life here and was inspired by the area. Many of the buildings on Main Street were featured in Rockwell's works, including a red-and-white firehouse that dates from 1862. Grab lunch at Theresa's Stockbridge Cafe, the original location of Alice's Restaurant, made famous by folk singer Arlo Guthrie, or in the courtyard of The Red Lion Inn. For a low-key afternoon, grab a seat and a drink at the Inn's famous front porch and watch life pass by.

If traveling between June and October, take a short drive from downtown Stockbridge to Naumkeag, the historic Gilded Age estate of famous lawyer and diplomat Joseph Hodges Choate. Dating back to 1887, Naumkeag is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and operates as a museum. Wander through the ornate gardens, designed by famed landscape designer Fletcher Steel and Choate's daughter Mabel over a period of 30 years.

Later, take a short drive over to the Norman Rockwell Museum, which contains extensive works by Rockwell and rotating exhibits featuring American illustrators. During the holiday season, Stockbridge's Main Street is transformed to recreate Rockwell's magical painting Main Street at Christmas, which depicts a quintessential New England festive scene.



2



DAY 2

Heading 6.5 miles north, stop and take in the view at Olivia's Overlook. The center of the Yukon Ridge reserve, this spot is the kicking-off point for six miles of trails and is a perfect place for a picnic, with the views of nearby Lake Mahkeenac.

From there, make your way to downtown Lenox for some great shopping. If theater appeals, the award-winning Shakespeare & Company is a short drive away. After working up an appetite, grab an early dinner at Nudel Restaurant. Chef-owner Bjorn Somlo, a James Beard Award nominee, delivers inventive,

delicious cuisine created in large part from locally sourced ingredients.

If visiting during the summer months, end the day with a performance at the Tanglewood estate, the summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. The venue features a schedule of musical performances, ranging from classical to pop.

For a late-night bite, stop at Brava wine bar in downtown Lenox. This cozy spot serves Spanish tapas and flatbread pizzas, and offers an extensive selection of wines and beers from around the world.

DAY 3

Start the day at the at the highest peak in Massachusetts. Mount Greylock has inspired a number of authors over the years, including Herman Melville and Nathaniel Hawthorne. Enjoy one of the many hikes along the mountain or drive up to the summit and take in views that stretch for 90 miles on a clear day, and span five states. Stop for lunch at Bascom Lodge: built in the 1930s, the mountain-top restaurant specializes in locally sourced ingredients.

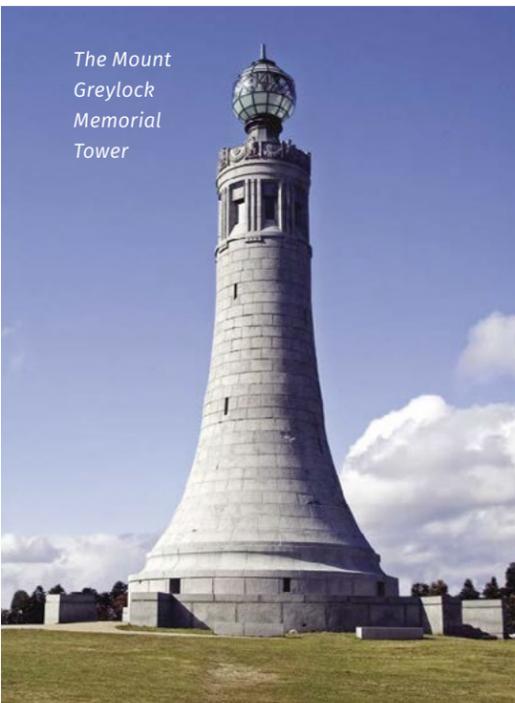
In the afternoon, head to the fascinating Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art in North Adams. A former textile mill and electronics plant, the 19th-century factory complex is one of the largest centers for contemporary visual and performing arts in the country. Enjoy indoor and outdoor installations, including Sol LeWitt: A Wall Drawing Retrospective, which consists of more than 100 large-scale works across three floors. Visit the website to sign up for musician Laurie Anderson's virtual reality experience. Grab a late lunch at A-OK Berkshire Barbeque with a local beer across the way at Bright Ideas Brewing.



Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art

3

The Mount Greylock Memorial Tower



// ESSENTIALS



When to go: The Berkshires is a three-season destination: summer (June-August) is full of arts, culture and hiking opportunities while September through October brings the vibrant colors of the fall foliage season. The winter months (December-February) offer skiing and outdoor adventures..
Currency: U.S. dollar
Language: English
Getting around: A visit to the area is best done by rental car. Uber and Lyft services, as well as taxis, are also an option. Cycling is another great way to explore the region.

IMAGES: GETTY; ZORAN DRLIC; MAP ILLUSTRATION: JOHN PLUMER



TROPICAL TASTES

STIR UP SOME FUN WITH VACATION-MADE COCKTAILS.

By Erica Moody

Nothing says vacation quite like a colorful umbrella drink in hand. Whether you're at an all-inclusive resort or bar-hopping across the Caribbean, fruit-filled elixirs fueled by the island's local spirits are par for the course. While you're awaiting your tropical getaway, here are a few tasty beverages you can easily prepare at home. Let's drink to that!



PIÑA COLADA

Do you like Piña Coladas? Most would answer with a resounding YES. In 1978, the creamy, rum-based cocktail was declared the national drink of Puerto Rico. Throw calories to the sea and indulge in this heavenly, coconut-milk concoction that songs have been written about.

History has it that the Piña Colada was created by bartender Ramon "Monchito" Marrero at The Caribe Hilton in San Juan in 1954, where he served it personally for 35 years. The Caribe Hilton has kept that tradition strong with its signature drink.

Caribe Hilton's Original Piña Colada Recipe:

- 2 oz. white rum
- 1 oz. coconut cream
- 1 oz. heavy cream
- 6 oz. fresh pineapple juice
- 1/2 cup crushed ice

Mix rum, cream of coconut, heavy cream and pineapple juice in a blender. Add ice and mix for 15 seconds. Serve in a 12-oz. glass and garnish with fresh pineapple or cherry.

HIBISCUS MARGARITA

The margarita is America's favorite cocktail, ordered more often than any other drink. The sweet and salty libation is associated with Mexico, but its origins are questionable, with several people claiming to have invented it. We do know that the first frozen margarita machine was invented by Dallas restaurateur Mariano Martinez in 1971 and now sits in Washington, D.C., at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

Whether frozen or on the rocks, there are multiple ways to order the festive drink—one is by adding hibiscus flowers, a method the Ritz-Carlton, Waikiki Beach has perfected.

Hibiscus Margarita at The Ritz-Carlton, Waikiki Beach

- 1.5oz Corozòn Reposado Tequila
- 1oz Cointreau Orange Liqueur
- 0.5oz Lime Juice
- 0.5oz Hibiscus Syrup

Combine all ingredients over ice. Shake until chilled. Strain over fresh ice into a glass with sea salt and dried hibiscus rim. Garnish with Marinated Hibiscus Flower.

RUM SWIZZLE

Rum seems to be the alcohol of choice for summertime concoctions, and nowhere is that more prevalent than Bermuda. The rum swizzle, a drink commonly associated with the island territory, is said to predate the cocktail, first appearing in print in 1788. The “swizzle” refers to the way the drink was made, using the stem of a local plant or an allspice bush.

What’s often called Bermuda’s national drink is best enjoyed at the luxurious Fairmont Southampton, looking out on pink-sand beaches or at Bermuda’s oldest pub, The Swizzle Inn, where actor and resident Michael Douglas is frequently spotted.

Gosling’s Rum Swizzle

- 4oz Gosling’s Black Seal Rum
- 4oz Gosling’s Gold Rum
- 5oz Pineapple Juice
- oz Orange Juice
- 0.75oz Grenadine or 2 oz Bermuda Falernum
- 6 Dashes of Angostura Bitters

Mix all ingredients in a pitcher with cracked ice and shake vigorously until frothing head appears. Strain into cocktail glasses.



PAINKILLER

The official cocktail of the British Virgin Islands will take all your sorrows away. A swim-up bar is where it all got started, at Soggy Dollar Bar on the island of Jost Van Dyke in the 1970s. Sip the sweet cocktail on the white sand beaches of Virgin Gorda while staying at a luxury boutique property like Bella Beach Villa or Blue Lagoon or on Sir Richard Branson’s island paradise, Necker Island.

The Pusser’s Painkiller

- 2oz Pusser’s Rum
- 4oz Pineapple Juice
- 1oz Orange Juice
- 1oz Cream of Coconut
- Freshly Grated Nutmeg

In a cocktail shaker filled with ice, add first four ingredients (beginning with the rum) and shake. Pour into cocktail glasses over ice and top with grated nutmeg and an orange slice.



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Travel Inspired Movies to Stream



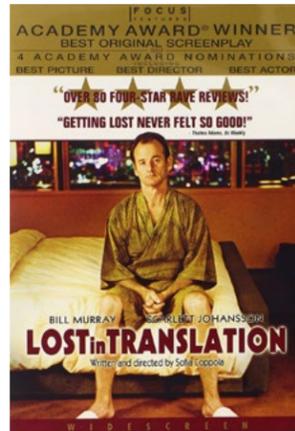
For over a century, movies have proven to be the ideal escape. Romance, action, thrillers, fantasy, classics — not only do we get caught up in the characters and the stories, but we also get drawn into the settings. With that in mind, here are 14 movies you can stream that truly showcase some of the world's most inspiring locales.



EAT, PRAY, LOVE (2010)

In this charming film based on the life of writer Elizabeth Gilbert, Julia Roberts not only discovers herself, but also the spirit and beauty of four remarkable locales: New York City, Italy, India and Bali.

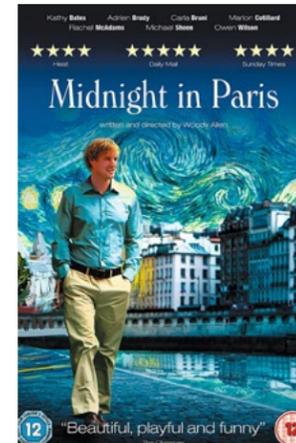
[Streaming and rental options.](#)



LOST IN TRANSLATION (2003)

Sophia Coppola's award-winning comedy-drama is a mesmerizing look at culture shock told through the eyes of two Americans in Tokyo — one world-weary actor and a young woman on the cusp of life.

[Streaming and rental options.](#)



MIDNIGHT IN PARIS (2011)

The City of Light plays a major role — both the modern and the 1920s versions — in this time-traveling comedy-romance starring Owen Wilson and written and directed by Woody Allen.

[Streaming and rental options.](#)



LION (2016)

Dev Patel gives a phenomenal performance in this powerful drama that follows an orphaned boy raised in Australia returning home to India to find his family.

[Streaming and rental options.](#)



THE BEACH (2000)

The gorgeous scenery of Thailand is on full display in this tense thriller about Leo DiCaprio finding a strange map that leads him to a mysterious beach.

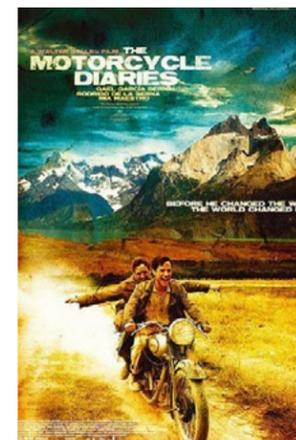
[Streaming and rental options.](#)



BEFORE SUNRISE TRILOGY (1995, 2004, 2013)

Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy explore the stages of relationships across three movies, all shot in realtime as the couple wanders through Vienna, Paris and southern Greece.

[Before Sunrise](#)
[Before Sunset](#)
[Before Midnight](#)



THE MOTORCYCLE DIARIES (2004)

This epic coming-of-age story depicts a young Che Guevara — played by the talented Gael García Bernal — traveling across South America in 1952, soaking in the lush landscapes of Bolivia, Chile, Venezuela and Peru.

[Streaming and rental options.](#)



LA LA LAND (2016)

This masterful story of an actress and a musician falling for each other is a cinematic love letter to classic Los Angeles.

[Streaming and rental options.](#)



THE LORD OF THE RINGS TRILOGY (2001-2003)

Even if you're not into the most epic fantasy story ever told, you can simply mute your television and just enjoy the mighty mountains and enchanting landscapes of New Zealand.

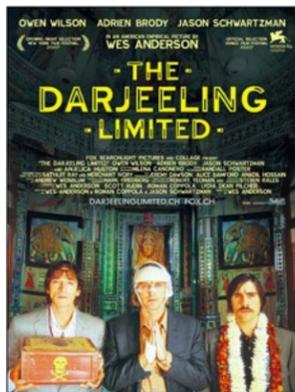
- [The Fellowship of the Rings](#)
- [The Two Towers](#)
- [The Return of the King](#)



MAMMA MIA! (2008)

Watching this star-studded musical based off the long-loved play will inspire you to place Greece at the very top of your bucket list.

[Streaming and rental options.](#)



DARJEELING LIMITED (2007)

Adrien Brody, Jason Schwartzman, Bill Murray and Anjelica Huston. Need we say more.

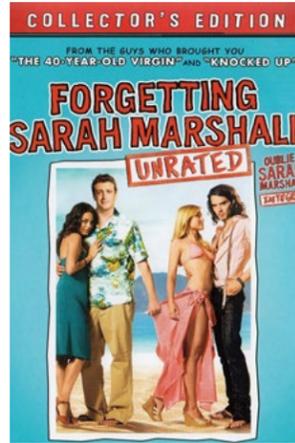
[Streaming and rental options.](#)



PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: THE CURSE OF THE BLACK PEARL (2003)

The original movie is still the best of the franchise, not only because it contains the tightest plot, but mostly due to many scenes filmed on St Vincent in the Grenadines.

[Streaming and rental options.](#)



FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (2008)

Aloha means hello, goodbye and LOL in this raunchy comedy set amid the Hawaiian islands.

[Streaming and rental options.](#)



CRAZY RICH ASIANS (2018)

This modern classic follows a native New Yorker traveling to and falling in love with one of the most eye-popping cities in the world: Singapore.

[Streaming and rental options.](#)

Other Great Travel Inspired Movies

- The Hundred-Foot Journey (India, France)
- A Good Year (France)
- The Descendants (Hawaii)
- Out of Africa (Kenya, England)
- Under the Tuscan Sun (Tuscany, France)
- French Kiss (France)
- Captain Corelli's Mandolin (Greece)
- P.S. I Love You (NYC, Ireland)
- The Talented Mr. Ripley (Italy)
- The Da Vinci Code (France, England)
- Angels & Demons (Rome)
- Harry Potter Series (England, Scotland)
- Jason Bourne Series (Paris, Russia, NYC, India, Philippines)
- Indiana Jones Series (Africa, Asia, Middle East)
- Secret Life of Walter Mitty (Greenland, Iceland, Afghanistan)
- Love Actually (London)
- The Bucket List (France, China, India, Egypt, Tanzania)

Family Friendly & Animated Movies

- Lizzy McGuire Movie (Rome)
- Nim's Island (South Pacific)
- Paddington (London, England)
- Jurassic Park Series (Kauai, Hawaii)
- Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants (Greece, Mexico)
- Aladdin (Morocco)
- Mary Poppins (London)
- Sound of Music (Austria)
- Coco (Mexico)
- Rio (Brazil)
- Brave (Scotland)
- Ratatouille (France)
- Up (South America)
- Moana (South Pacific)
- Lilo & Stitch (Hawaii)
- Finding Nemo (Australia)
- Frozen (Norway)



TOP INTERNATIONAL
DESTINATIONS FOR

Beer Lovers

For true beer lovers, the highlight of any vacation is hoisting pints of the local stouts, IPAs and lagers of their vacation destination. They will not be disappointed at these destinations, where the quality and variety of the beer attracts millions every year. Fun fact: Beer-related travel — visiting breweries, brew pubs and tap rooms — has been on the rise for years, becoming nearly as popular as traveling to wine-producing regions to visit vineyards.



■ MUNICH, GERMANY

No beer bucket list would be complete without Munich, the place where millions of barley buffs converge every year for the 16-day festival called Oktoberfest. But even if you can't make it during that time, you can still enjoy the city's legendary beer gardens and the famed 425-year-old brewery Hofbräuhaus.

■ MONTREAL, CANADA

For decades now, Montreal has been a mecca for brewpubs, perfecting the art of microbrewery. Beer brewed here is often defined by its color—blonde, rousse, ambrée or noir—than by its style at such places as the world-famous Le Cheval Blanc.

■ AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

Home to globally popular brands Heineken and Amstel, Amsterdam is a town steeped in beer history. Locals like to linger long over their pints of pils at neighborhood watering holes called brown bars, where the darkened, nicotine-stained interiors inspire profound conversations.

■ DUBLIN, IRELAND

Guinness. Need we say more? Fine, inside the Guinness Storehouse —Ireland's top tourist attraction — you'll get a grand history lesson along with a perfectly poured pint. Afterward, soak in the city's thriving pub culture at The Porterhouse, Dublin's first brewpub, to sample their homemade porters.

■ BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

This is the capital of Belgian beer, the award-winning ale that has been traditionally brewed by monks since the Middle Ages. Here, beer aficionados debate over the quality of their lambics at charming café-bars called L'Estaminets.

Four Romantic Getaways in the US

let love be your guide

BY JESSICA COLLEY

East. West. North. South. Whichever direction you choose, the U.S. is full of romantic surprises. Dancing under the bright lights of the biggest city. Picnicking in the rolling hills of a breathtaking vineyard. Sipping bubbles in bubbling hot springs. And of course, long strolls on the most gorgeous beaches. It's all here. So, pack your bags, take your partner by the hand and embark on a romantic getaway you will always remember.



NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Big City Thrills

NEW YORK CITY

When New Yorkers want romance, they venture into the quiet corners, the cobbled neighborhoods, the late-night watering holes. Cocktails over candlelight, cuisine that is new to your palate, a celebrity sighting over a luxurious brunch—these are the intimate pleasures of New York, the things to experience together and later reminisce over once you're back home.

One way to approach this city is over shared pleasures. Both adore authentic New York pizza? Set up a tasting itinerary of the city's best pies. Addicted to your exercise routine? Take advantage of the new bike share program, Citi Bike, and pedal through Manhattan Waterfront Greenway. Love bargain hunting? Explore the weekend flea markets from Williamsburg to Chelsea. After hitting the pavement hard, return to that room with a view, and start dreaming about tomorrow's breakfast in bed.

Among the Giants

COLORADO

Long days on the slopes lead to lazy nights under the stars. In Telluride, Vail and Beaver Creek, the views aren't only for skiers and snowboarders—even those with two clumsy feet can admire the mountains from a hot tub made for two or watch the snow fall from a cozy fireside chair, mulled wine or hot cocoa firmly in hand.

And where there are mountains, there are hot springs. Seriously, what could be more romantic than soaking in hot springs while a gentle snow falls around you? Rustic, private, all-inclusive, adults-only, clothing-optional...pick your romantic poison and there's a bubbling bath for you. Some even exist in the wild, which are ideal to soak in after a long hike.



BEAVER CREEK, CO

Big Easy Bliss

NEW ORLEANS

Big days, full flavors, live music...what more could you ask for? The best of Europe, Africa and the Caribbean culturally combined to craft this unique playground, providing all the stimuli a couple needs to break free of routine and have a ball. Go wherever your whims take you: slurp oysters, wander through art galleries, get lost in the charming historic streets.

Plan ahead and your trip can coincide with the famous festivals of New Orleans, including the Jazz & Heritage Festival in late April or early May, New Orleans FilmFest in October and the Food & Wine Experience in January. Others simply walk out on Bourbon Street and embrace whatever celebration is underway when they arrive, because you're always welcomed in New Orleans.

The Classic Hideaway

MAUI

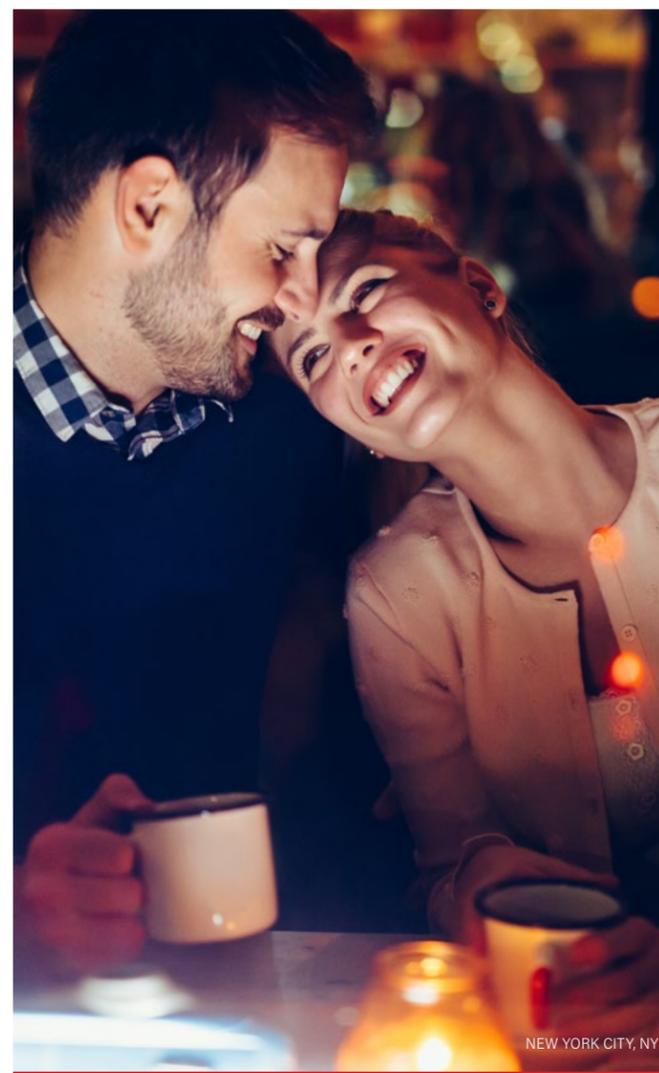
Some classics never go out of style. During a Hawaiian getaway, romance is heightened from the moment you touch down in Maui. Food tastes better. Drinks are more refreshing. Your work worries fade away during the late afternoon on the beach when most people have retreated to their rooms and the coolness in the sand, the peaceful lapping of the ocean, is all yours. These are the moments when conversation opens up, when dreams are articulated and plans are made.

That's what Hawaii does best: it provides all the beauty and pleasure for couples to decompress and connect. Honeymoon, babymoon, retirement celebration or any occasion (or non-occasion) in between, the shores of Maui will work their romantic magic.

Southern Belle

CHARLESTON

Charleston is the capital of southern charm, made evident by its horse-drawn carriages, cobblestone streets and an abundance of elegant plantation houses, home to some of the oldest landscaped gardens in the country. Tour some of Charleston's most famous plantations, such as at McLeod Plantation and Historic Site, Middleton Place or Magnolia Plantation, learning about their role in the fight for civil rights while taking in the grandiose antebellum architecture, fragrant, ever-blooming flowers and refined stable yards. Then, soak up the harbor views with a stroll along the waterfront, tee off on perfectly manicured golf courses or take a self-guided walking tour of the city's many historic sites.



NEW YORK CITY, NY



MAUI, HI

Traveling Tunes



Spotify

Music often moves us, but did you know it can also take us to another country? We put together several Spotify playlists that will musically transport you to destinations around the world. Click the link below and take your ears on a toe-tapping vacation with these playlists:

- ALOHA, MAHALO
- BEACH MUSIC
- CALMING AIRPLANE TUNES
- CARIBBEAN REGGAE SOUNDS
- FRENCH ROMANCE
- HAVANA PULSE
- IBIZA NIGHTS
- ITALIAN CAFÉ
- MEXICO MARIACHI
- ROADTRIP

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WHEN THIS IS OVER WE'RE ALL GOING
TO NEED A GREAT VACATION . . .
AND OUR ADVISORS ARE HERE FOR
YOU WHEN YOU ARE READY TO START
EXPLORING YOUR OPTIONS.



ARMCHAIR **EXPLORER**

