

TAKE FLIGHT



There's something undeniably exciting about the feeling you get before take-off, knowing that the world's most remote and exotic destinations are just a flight away. That said, it's not always practical to spend a full day or more in transit. Here we've got incredible destinations for just about any time frame, from a 20-plus-hour journey to a quick jaunt. Jet-setters, take your mark!

TEXT BY STIRLING KELSO

SRI LANKA

FLIGHT TIME → 21 hours, 15 minutes
from Los Angeles to Dickwella (plus layovers in Hong Kong and Colombo, Sri Lanka)

With serene, palm-lined beaches, tea plantations, lush jungles, and elephant sanctuaries, this island nation southeast of India is as varied as it is beautiful. At the new **Anantara Peace Haven Tangalle Resort** (anantara.com; from \$250 per night), on the southern coast, chanting Raban ladies welcome guests upon arrival. For the ultimate in romance—and Indian Ocean views—book a villa, complete with a private plunge pool. Your next stop: Sri Lanka's tropical interior. The hotel **Tri** (trilanka.com; from \$270 per night) sits on a promontory overlooking a large natural lake and has 11 suites made of recycled jackwood, three kinds of granite, and other local materials.

CAMBODIA

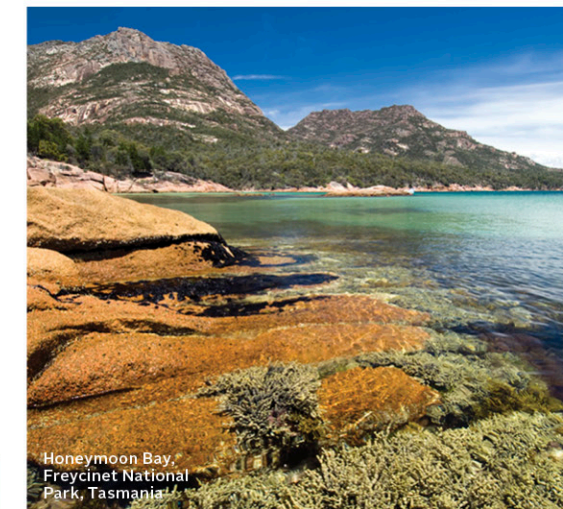
FLIGHT TIME → 19 hours
from Los Angeles to Siem Reap (plus a layover in Seoul)

Few destinations leave an impression quite like this Southeast Asian country does, thanks to its dramatic landscapes, its gracious people, and, of course, the feat of art and engineering that is the 12th-century temple complex of Angkor Wat. Make your base the year-old **Phum Baitang** (phumbaitang.com; rooms from \$375 per night), where stilted wooden villas are set on rice-paddy fields just outside Siem Reap. The best way to experience Angkor Wat is on a private tour; try **AboutAsia Travel** (aboutasiatravel.com; tours from \$143 per person), which strategically plans its itineraries to go against tourist traffic; you may even get a site all to yourself. For a romantic finale, book an overwater bungalow at **Song Saa**



Tri, Sri Lanka

(songsaa.com; from \$840 per night), a private island resort on the Gulf of Thailand where you can arrange a traditional Khmer monk blessing or light wishing lanterns and send them up into a starry night sky.



Honeymoon Bay, Freycinet National Park, Tasmania

TASMANIA

FLIGHT TIME → 17 hours from Los Angeles to Hobart (plus a layover in Sydney or Melbourne)

Australia's remote island state—more than a third of which is protected parkland—is known for its wild terrain, occasionally tamed by vineyards, organic farms, and charming villages. Drive inland to **Pumphouse Point** (pumphousepoint.com.au; from \$215 per night), where you can sleep in an industrial-chic room suspended over stunning Lake St. Clair. And just when you think it can't get any more stunning: Tasmania's crown jewel is **Saffire Freycinet** (saffire-freycinet.com.au; from \$1,475 per



Song Saa, Cambodia

night), located on a peninsula on the isle's east side. Walls of glass bring the outdoors into the 20 guest pavilions, and tailor-made itineraries include guided hikes, boating trips to secret beaches, and waterfront dinners of local oysters and farmhouse cheese.

PERU

FLIGHT TIME → 9 hours from New York City to Cusco (plus a layover in Lima)

It used to be that the colonial Sacred Valley was merely a jumping-off point to the 15th-century Inca site Machu Picchu. But with new hotel openings—not to mention a burgeoning culinary scene—you may be tempted to linger a bit longer. At **Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba** (inkaterra.com; from \$462 per night), rooms and private casitas have original Andean textiles, and the restaurant uses corn, quinoa, potatoes, and other indigenous ingredients from the property's 10-acre farm. Honeymooners receive a complimentary massage at the 50-room **Explora Valle Sagrado** (explora.com; three nights from \$1,910 per person, all-inclusive), which can also organize private excursions to little-known sacred sites and hikes up snowcapped Mount Veronica. And because you wouldn't fly all that way without seeing **Machu Picchu** (machu-picchu.gob.pe), make sure to book tickets at least three months in advance—there's a daily limit on visitors.

BERLIN

FLIGHT TIME → 7 hours, 50 minutes from New York to Berlin

There's a lot to love about exploring a big city as a couple. One great pick: Germany's buzzy capital metropolis, which has world-class restaurants, colorful street art, and live music that ranges from symphonies in stately halls to concerts in public green



Four Seasons Resort Lanai, Hawaii



Hacienda AltaGracia, Costa Rica

COSTA RICA

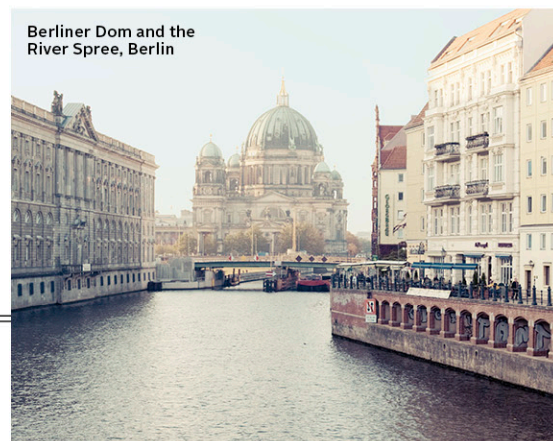
FLIGHT TIME → 3 hours, 45 minutes from Houston to San José

spaces. Get lost among the crowds as you duck into a beer hall or street-side café, or stroll hand in hand through Treptower Park to a pedestrian bridge that crosses over to Insel der Jugend, a tiny island in the River Spree. As for where to stay, there's the super-stylish **Das Stue** (das-stue.com; from \$235 per night), housed in a former Danish embassy in the city center. For something more residential, the hip and bright **Ackselhaus & Blue Home** (ackselhaus.de; from \$170 per night) has individually decorated rooms in a historic building.

LANAI

FLIGHT TIME → 6 hours, 30 minutes from Los Angeles to Lanai (plus a layover in Honolulu)

This may be Hawaii's smallest publicly accessible island, but what it lacks in size (and inhabitants) it is now making up for in luxury, with the recent opening of the **Four Seasons Resort Lanai** (fourseasons.com/lanai; from \$1,075 per night). The 217 rooms are decked out with Nepalese Lokta wallpaper, Honduran mahogany floors, and lanais with garden or ocean views. But beyond the property, the isle—which used to produce 75 percent of the world's pineapples—is still wild and rugged, with rocky red cliffs and dense rainforests. To get a taste, ask the hotel to plan a picnic at Halepalaoa Beach (keep an eye out for humpback whales!) and horseback rides along bluffs that reveal Maui and the Big Island in the distance.



Berliner Dom and the River Spree, Berlin



Playa Grande Beach Club, Dominican Republic

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

FLIGHT TIME → 2 hours from Miami to Puerto Plata

With the opening of **Amanera** (amanera.com; from \$950 per night), the northern Costa Verde—home to white-sand beaches and rural towns backed by the Cordillera Septentrional mountain range—is officially on the traveler's map. True to the Aman resort group's philosophy, the property's 25 earth-toned casitas are designed with local materials (including stone from island quarries and indigenous Aguayo tiles) that complement the island's natural habitat. For a

NEAR OR FAR?

According to Jim Augerinos, president and travel advisor at Perfect Honeymoons, the answer depends on one thing: how much time you have.

TRIP LENGTH (in days)	FLIGHT TIME (in hours)
5 - 7	0 - 8
8 - 10	9 - 14
11 - 14	15 - 22

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: COURTESY OF HACIENDA ALTAGRACIA; GUIDO MIETH/GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY OF FOUR SEASONS. OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: THOMAS HART SHELBY; COURTESY OF INKATERRA; COURTESY OF PLAYA GRANDE BEACH CLUB



The Cape, a Thompson Hotel, Cabo San Lucas

perfect end to a relaxing day, the hotel can arrange a candlelit, toes-in-the-sand dinner under the stars. Farther west, learn to windsurf at **Playa Grande Beach Club** (playa-grandebeachclub.com; from \$800 per night), where nine cheerful, light-filled bungalows are surrounded by verdant gardens.

CABO SAN LUCAS

FLIGHT TIME → 2 hours from San Diego to San José del Cabo

This popular West Coast getaway—where activities range from whale watching and ATV tours to just soaking up the sun on Lovers Beach—has bounced back in a major way from 2014's Hurricane Odile. And it's got the top-notch resorts to prove it. The **Cape, a Thompson Hotel** (thompsonhotels.com; from \$579 per night) has spacious rooms with balconies (some with hanging daybeds overlooking the Sea of Cortez), and a restaurant by star Mexico City chef Enrique Olvera. (Don't miss the sea bass ceviche with coconut, avocado, and sweet corn.) Fresh from a \$32 million renovation, the **Resort at Pedregal** (theresortatpedregal.com; from \$650 per night) is looking better than ever; it recently added the first of seven villas and a cliffside Champagne terrace for sipping bubbly while Pacific waves crash below. And finally, in December, the adults-only Pueblo Bonito Pacifica Golf & Spa Resort is opening the 47-room-and-suite **Towers at Pacifica** (pueblobonito.com; from \$800 per night, all-inclusive), a resort-within-a-resort with perks like 24-hour butler service, custom mini bars, and a sundeck.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

FLIGHT TIME → 1 hour, 30 minutes from Miami to Grand Cayman or Cayman Brac

It's been a decade since Grand Cayman has welcomed a new hotel—and the 266-room

Kimpton Seafire Resort + Spa (seafire-resortandspa.com; from \$339 per night), on Seven Mile Beach, is worth the wait. Couples will want to hole up in one of the bungalows, each with its own sundeck and spa soaking tub. The resort also features three restaurants, complimentary beach activities like yoga and paddleboarding, and an adults-only pool. We're also fans of the intimate, eight-room **Le Soleil d'Or** (lesoleildor.com; from \$350 per night), on small Cayman Brac—especially the Beach Cottage, set right on the shore. The food-centric property offers cooking classes and grows its own produce on a 20-acre organic farm.



Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba, Peru

CATCH A TRAIN

↓
The dining cars!
The unbeatable vistas! The hatboxes! These six trips around the world conjure the best of old-school rolling romance.

TEXT BY
KATHRYN O'SHEA-EVANS

ROCKY MOUNTAINEER, CANADA

TRIP DETAILS → *First Passage to the West*, from \$1,762 per person for 4 days/3 nights, includes breakfast and lunch; rockymountaineer.com.

You'll pass Kicking Horse River, the Continental Divide, and umpteen waterfalls on your way from Vancouver, British Columbia, to turquoise Lake Louise, high in the snow-dusted Canadian Rockies. But there's plenty to love on board, including a world-class menu; try the steelhead salmon with dill cream sauce and the Alberta beef short ribs braised in Okanagan Valley Merlot. The train lacks a sleeping car—which means nights are spent in gorgeous hotels like the fairy-tale-worthy Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, a former playground of Marilyn Monroe.



Rocky Mountains, Canada



Hawa Mahal, Jaipur, India

MAHARAJAS' EXPRESS, INDIA

TRIP DETAILS → *Gems of India*, from \$3,850 per person for 4 days/3 nights, all-inclusive; the-maharajas.com.

The *Darjeeling Limited* this isn't: the **Maharajas' Express** train is fit for royalty, with attentive butlers, a dining car awash in gold and mahogany, and en-suite bathrooms and showers in all cabins. You'll start and end in Delhi, with visits to jaw-dropping sites like the Taj Mahal and the ancient red-sandstone Agra Fort in between. Travel adviser Pallavi Shah, founder of Our Personal Guest, recommends forgoing the included group tours and springing for private guides and drivers for an even more memorable experience.

BELMOND GRAND HIBERNIAN, IRELAND

TRIP DETAILS → *Legends and Loughs*, from \$6,101 per person for 5 days/4 nights, all-inclusive; belmond.com.

You could be forgiven for thinking your opulent cabin on this newly launched train is actually a suite in a Irish boutique hotel. Each one is named for a local county, and the beds have traditional tartans to match.



Belmond Grand Hibernian, Ireland

During the round-trip journey from Dublin, you'll get VIP access to the Jameson whiskey factory and medieval Blarney Castle, and hike through Connemara National Park (keep an eye out for wild ponies).



Cape Winelands, South Africa

GOLDEN EAGLE, RUSSIA & NORWAY

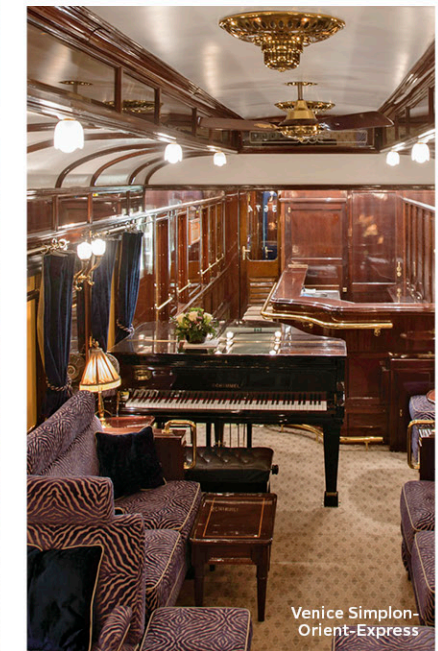
TRIP DETAILS → *Golden Eagle Arctic Explorer*, from \$11,995 per person for 12 days/11 nights, all-inclusive; goldeneagleluxurytrains.com.

There's a good chance you'll see the Northern Lights as you ride from St. Petersburg to Moscow—hence the dedicated astronomer on call. Also on the agenda: visiting the ancient city of Suzdal and a two-night stay in Norway that includes fishing through ice for Arctic king crab (which is then prepared for a fireside dinner in a nearby lodge). On board, no ornate luxury is spared; that means Champagne upon arrival and a caviar-themed gala dinner, where you'll try local specialties like black sturgeon roe.

THE BLUE TRAIN, SOUTH AFRICA

TRIP DETAILS → from \$1,050 per person, departs at 8:30 A.M. and arrives at 3 P.M. the following day; www.bluetrain.co.za.

The postcard-perfect Cape Winelands and wetlands filled with flamingos roll past your windows while you're on this historic locomotive, which travels 994 miles overnight between Cape Town and Pretoria. The suites come with personal butlers and marble bathtubs—but the real highlight is the food. Jackets and ties are required for the five-course dinner, which might include crispy duck breast with flambéed peaches and black-currant mousse. And the well-stocked wine list showcases South African bottles such as rosé from Stellenbosch and buttery Pinot Gris.



Venice Simplon-Orient-Express

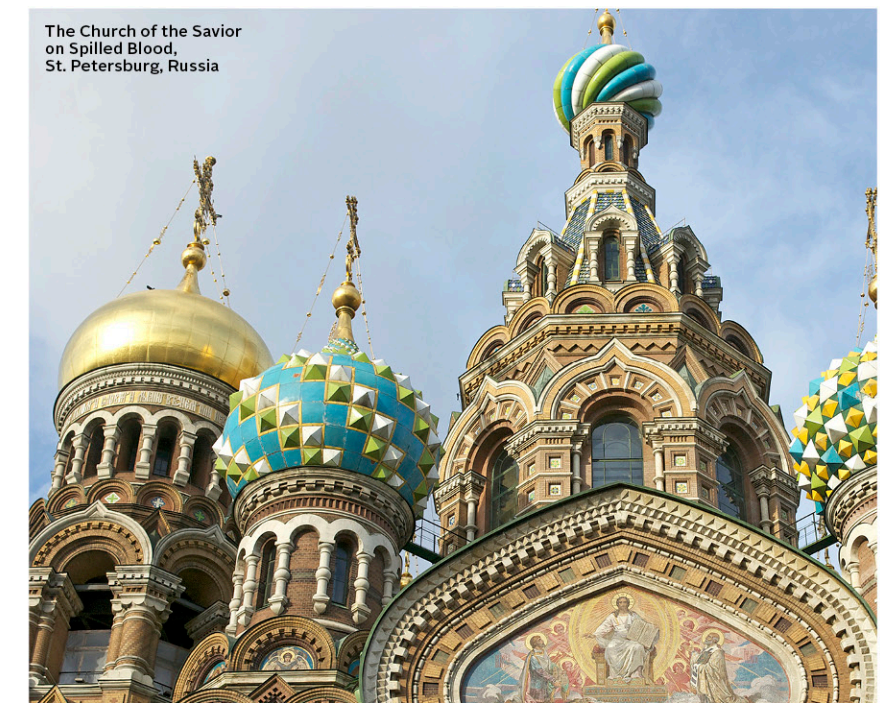
VENICE SIMPLON- ORIENT-EXPRESS, EUROPE

TRIP DETAILS → *London to Berlin*, from \$3,176 per person for 2 days/1 night; belmond.com.

Why take a standard rail from London to Berlin when you can climb aboard a handsomely appointed oak-paneled train? On this itinerary—which launched in June—you'll be tempted to spend (almost) all

your time in the new Champagne bar, sipping Taittinger from Lalique crystal glassware. And when hunger strikes, there are menus created by Guy Martin, who earned three Michelin stars at Le Grand Véfour in Paris.

↓
+ For more amazing honeymoon ideas, go to marthastewartweddings.com/msw-travel.



The Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood, St. Petersburg, Russia

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: JASON EDWARDS/GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY OF VSOE; KEENPRESS/GETTY IMAGES. OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: JODIE GRIGGS/GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY OF BELMOND; COURTESY OF ROCKY MOUNTAINEER

ROMANCE THE ROAD

These honeymoon-worthy drives showcase the beauty of the U.S., whether you're California dreamin' or mad for Montana's wide-open spaces. So turn the radio up and roll down the windows—it's time to take the wheel.

TEXT BY GINA HAMADEY

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

DISTANCE COVERED → 385 miles

Why go: Only in this region is it possible to hit the beach, a city, and the desert in one fell swoop. Orange County has a fresh sheen of sophistication, thanks in part to the recently renovated, shoreline-chic **Ranch at Laguna Beach** (doubles from \$350 per night; theranchlb.com), about 56 miles of (mostly) highway from LAX. You'll be in full relaxation mode after a few days on the pristine beach and nights by the on-site fire pit—not to mention an afternoon at the nearby Monarch Beach Resort's **Miraval Life in Balance Spa** (monarchbeachresort.com). A gorgeous stretch of coastal highway leads you farther south, to San Diego's Gaslamp Quarter. Here, the **Pendry San Diego** (doubles from \$325 per night; pendryhotels.com)—the brand's first outpost—has made quite a splash. For a casual date night, sip craft pints at **Half Door**

Brewing Co. (halfdoorbrewing.com) before sharing the white anchovy pizza at **Herb & Wood** (herbandwood.com) from *Top Chef* finalist Brian Malarkey. Your next stop: Palm Springs, about 140 miles away. Take a scenic route that includes the Pines to Palms Highway, and wind through desert backcountry and the charming towns of Temecula, Julian, and Idyllwild. Upon arrival, it's clear that stylish accommodations and restaurants have been breathing new life into the classic SoCal getaway. At **SO.PA** (lhorizonpalm springs.com), in the buzzy L'Horizon Hotel and Spa, an alum of Chicago's Alinea serves artful, globally inspired dishes. Need a nightcap? Make it a Little Owl (rye, walnut liqueur, and IPA syrup) from **Seymour's**, a cozy bar tucked inside the year-old **Mr. Lyons Steakhouse** (mrylionsps.com). For a peaceful oasis just outside of town, try the intimate **Chateau at Lake La Quinta** (doubles from \$140 per night; thechateau lakelaquinta.com); its 24 rooms have waterfront patios or terraces.

MONTANA

DISTANCE COVERED → 410 miles

Why go: The American West is as Instagram-worthy as it gets in the States, and it's home to some top-notch distilleries and luxe lodges, to boot. They don't call it Big Sky Country for nothing—and the vast beauty of the landscape is always on full display in Flathead Valley. Only seven miles from Glacier Park International Airport, **North Forty Resort** (\$195 per night; northfortyresort.com) just launched a tricked-out glamping tent (complete with a mini fridge and coffee-maker), and you'll be close to hikes and

zip lines in Glacier National Park. Stock up on sundries at the **Columbia Falls Farmers' Market** (columbiainfallsfarmersmarket.com) and, if your fireplace isn't enough to keep you warm, a bottle of Orange Clove Rum from **Whitefish Handcrafted Spirits** (whitefishspirits.com). Leave early for the long drive south; lined with ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, and larch, it runs through the rolling Seeley-Swan Valley (keep your eyes peeled for deer and other animals). After about four hours, you'll reach the **Ranch at Rock Creek** (from \$1,800 per night, all-inclusive; theranchatrockcreek.com), a splurge-worthy resort that offers horseback riding, archery, mountain biking, and Saturday-night barn dances. Ease your way back into civilization about 150 miles east, in Bozeman, the state's center of cool. It's got a booming beer scene (don't miss MAP Brewing Company), farm-to-table restaurants (the husband-and-wife-owned **Bisl** is our pick), and hip hotels like the **Lark** (doubles from \$149 per night; larkbozeman.com). At this revamped 1960s motor lodge, check-in includes a

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Monarch Beach Resort, Dana Point, California

travel journal packed with personalized recommendations, and the 38 rooms are individually decorated with local artwork. Fuel up for the drive to Bozeman airport at **Victory Taco** (victorytaco.com), which peddles bacon-jalapeño breakfast burritos out of a silver trailer in the property's parking lot.

SOUTHERN MAINE

DISTANCE COVERED → 115 miles

Why go: With amazing farm-to-table restaurants and refreshed hotels, this quintessential summer escape is about more than just lobster rolls and blueberry pie (though we love those, too!). While this drive doesn't cover the same kind of ground as the others, southern Maine is too romantic and beautiful to pass over—and less time in the car means more time to linger at each stop. Upon landing in Portland, head straight for Ogunquit, a dreamy little coastal town that'll instantly put you in a vacation state of mind. The landmark **Cliff House Maine** (doubles from \$299 per night; destinationhotels.com/cliff-house) on nearby Cape Neddick recently completed the first phase of a major face-lift, and its 132 tranquil rooms come with terraces and water views. While there are plenty of great lobster shacks in town (don't miss Barnacle Billy's), it's worth the short drive into the woods to the bucolic restaurant the **Velveteen Habit** (thevelveteenhabit.com), housed in a farmhouse. You can meander through the kitchen garden, glass of wine in hand, before settling in to taste its bounty in dishes like gnoc-chi with sweet corn and pecorino. About 20 miles north, Kennebunkport's **Hidden Pond** (bungalows from \$329 per night; hiddenpondmaine.com) ups the romantic ante with 36 charming one- and two-bedroom cottages set in a birch forest, plus two pools, a treetop spa, nightly campfires (with s'mores!), and world-class food. And as hard as it may be to leave, we recommend an evening jaunt to Kennebunk. After slurping down some briny bivalves at the just-opened **Spat Oyster Cellar** (pearloysterbar.com), take in a show at the **Vinegar Hill Music Theatre** (vinegarhillmusictheatre.com), set in a historic barn in



Granite Lodge at the Ranch at Rock Creek, Phillipsburg, Montana

nearby Arundel. A trip to Maine is not complete without at least one lighthouse photo op, a whole lobster, and that blueberry pie. Luckily, the **Lobster Shack at Two Lights** (lobstershacktwolights.com) in Cape Elizabeth delivers all three in spades. Complete the loop back in Portland for an epic culinary adventure on Washington Avenue: a deviled-egg salad for lunch at **Terlingua** (terlingua.me), organic Loire Valley wines from **Drifters Wife** (drifterswife.com), and dishes like swordfish with eggplant, citrus farro, and salsa verde at market-driven Italian-American spot **Roustabout** (roustabout.me). Fall into a food coma at the newsroom-themed **Press Hotel** (doubles from \$259 per night; thepresshotel.com), in the former *Portland Press Herald* building.

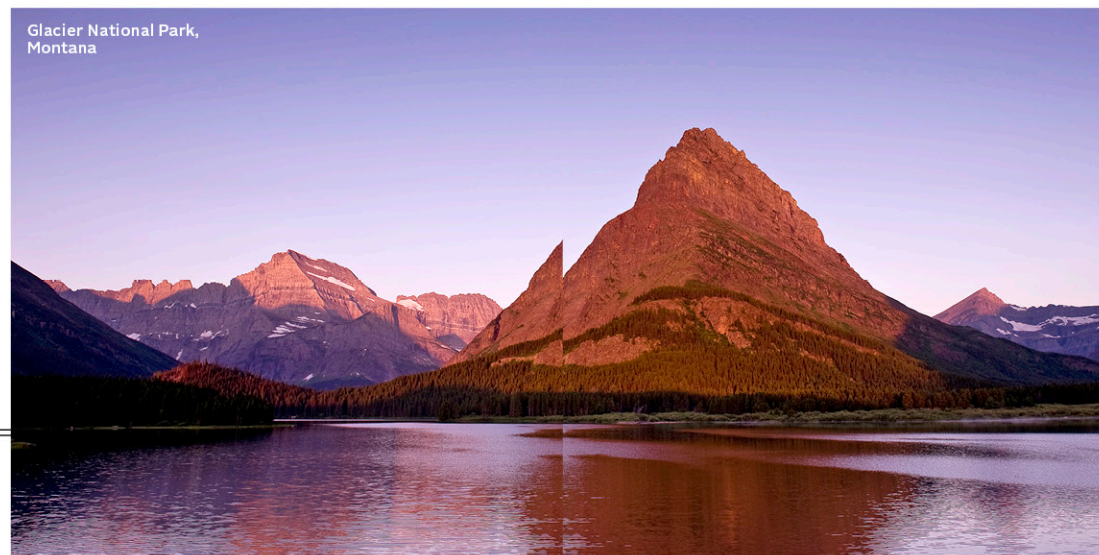
FLORIDA KEYS

DISTANCE COVERED → 163 miles

Why go: The Keys are classic Florida, and gorgeous new properties are attracting a new generation of travelers. U.S. 1 South, which you'll pick up near the Miami airport, is one of the country's most beautiful roads—and you have no choice but to savor the journey, since the speed limit tops out at 55. Pull off at Mile Marker 97.5 for a stay at **Playa Largo Resort & Spa** (doubles from \$199 per night; playalargoresort.com), the first new-build resort in the Upper Keys in more than two decades. Its beachfront Sand Bar will be a welcome sight after a long hike in the 2,421-acre **Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park** (floridastateparks.org). Islamorada (Mile Marker 91) is known for sport fishing and diving, and **Amara Cay Resort** (doubles from \$249 per night; amaracayresort.com) has an ace staff that can arrange your water activity of choice. But it's equally acceptable to just



The Marker Waterfront Resort, Key West, Florida



Glacier National Park, Montana