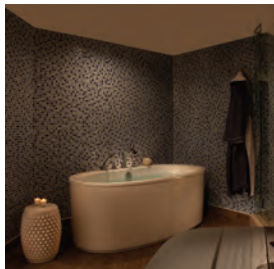


Haute TRAVEL

BY KATIE SWEENEY



SEASIDE DETOX
Clockwise from above: a private tub in the spa at Kona Kai Resort; Vessels restaurant; a view of the marina on Shelter Island



HOT WINTER ESCAPES

This January and February, why not head to warmer climes for some fun in the sun? Whether you want to pop down to SoCal for a quick weekend getaway or go on a long trip to an exotic faraway destination, we've got you covered.

SAN DIEGO

Shelter Island is quite possibly the most picturesque place in San Diego. The man-made mini peninsula is home to the Kona Kai Resort & Spa, a charming property with a private beach and massive marina. The Kona Kai was built in the 1950s as a luxury resort and playground for the rich and famous. Today, it's a chic boutique hotel with modern furnishings, a beachy vibe, and a private club. Rooms have crisp white bedding, leather headboards, ikat-pattern rugs, turquoise accents, and a private outdoor space. A pool and hot tub are surrounded by lounge chairs, private cabanas, and a tiki-hut bar. Vessels, the resort's restaurant, serves up delicious surf and turf—spicy tuna tacos, hearty vegetable salads, and thick-cut pork chops with mustard-parsley spaetzle and crispy bacon. Want to go stand-up paddleboarding in the bay or ride a bike around the island? The



Kona Kai has plenty of daily activities like these, plus an assortment of fitness classes, that will get you moving. No trip to the resort is complete without an afternoon at SpaTerre, an underground spa featuring six treatment rooms. The spa offers everything from manicures and waxing to a milk ritual inspired by Cleopatra. If you're getting a massage, you must try the heated sandbox. Imagine sinking into a heated alpha-quartz sand bed for a massage unlike anything you've experienced. You'll find the warm sand has an incredibly soothing effect on body and soul.



DIVE INTO THE DEEP BLUE

*Left: the view from the lobby.
Above: a private balcony and room in the new towers*

MEXICO

The newest getaway in Cabo San Lucas is the just-opened Towers at Pueblo Bonito Pacifica Golf & Spa Resort, with 47 luxurious new guest rooms and suites that have been added to the resort's existing property. An oasis in the middle of the sandy Mexican seaside, the Towers at Pacifica have beautiful views of the ocean and pool. Rooms feature deluxe bedding with a menu of different pillow types, wooden furniture, and metallic accents. The resort offers special experiences that are available to Tower guests, including a personal butler who can easily arrange every service, from an airport transfer to a dinner reservation. Hook & Cook is a hands-on experience that allows you to fish on the shore alongside chef Luis Gonzalez; he'll turn any fresh-caught fish into a sensational ceviche. Take a tour of the surrounding bay by boat and see the famous Arch of Cabo up close and personal, then jump in the water and snorkel with tropical fish. Enjoy a beachfront clam bake or get a lesson in stargazing. Prefer to chill poolside? You can do that, too, and order a round of spicy margaritas with the freshest, most scrumptious guacamole you'll ever taste.



Chaise lounges at the adults-only pool

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KONA KAI RESORT & SPA (OPPOSITE) AND PUEBLO BONITO PACIFICA (THIS PAGE)