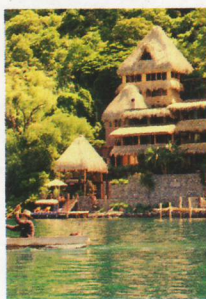


IF I COULD
GO
ANYWHERE...
Well-Traveled
Tastemakers on
Their Favorite
Escapes

Simon Spurr
Designer, SPURR

Laguna Lodge

Lake Atitlán
Guatemala



✈ La Aurora (GUA)

📦 From \$225

📅 November–April

👉 www.lagunalodgeatitlan.com



“After the insanity of our wedding, which happened to fall just after New York Fashion Week, my wife and I were ready to flee the city. For our honeymoon, we holed up in this seven-bedroom eco-lodge on Lake Atitlán in Guatemala. Everything about the place is straight out of a dream. Our room was right on the lake, with a view of the three volcanoes to the south, and **all you had to do was walk down a few steps to dangle your feet in the water.** We’d wake up in the morning as the sun came up and have breakfast alone on the veranda. The coffee—which they grow locally—was the smoothest and richest I’ve ever had. At night, when the buzz had finally worn off, we’d have drinks on the dock or at the lakeside bar and watch the most surreal sunsets I’ve ever seen—pink and vivid and misty—as the sun dropped behind the tops of the volcanoes. But the real magic is that the rooms are completely off the grid: no TV, no Internet, no buzzing from your BlackBerry. It’s just you and her—exactly how it should be.”

EXPERT TIP #5



Embrace the Unfamiliar. Tempting as it is to take her someplace where you feel like an expert, nobody wants to be spoon-fed experiences, and you don’t need the pressure that comes with playing guide. Discover something new together. Plus, she may hate your favorite bar.



✈ Portland (PDX)

📦 From \$140

📅 May–September

👉 www.acehotel.com/portland

➡ The Ace is so laid-back it barely admits to being a hotel. Sure, there’s the dude who hands you a room key, and sure, he’ll accept your money when you go—but other than that, it feels like some benevolent, bearded, well-caffeinated commune that just happens to have a lobby hangout with a Stumptown Coffee on one side and a great bar and restaurant (Clyde Common) on the other. The Ace is a reflection of its place—*as easy and likable a city as you’ll find*, offering much in the way of comforts and pleasures and demanding little in the way of complexity or cultural distractions. City and hotel say: Relax. Get a room with a record player, a living area, a claw-foot tub. Wander downstairs for a plate of charcuterie and the bar’s signature barrel-aged Negroni. Have a plan for all the great restaurants you’re going to hit and then scrap it. Be lazy, throw on some vinyl, stay inside. It’s that kind of hotel. And it’s Portland, so there’s probably rain and not one damned place you need to be.—A. S.



CENTER: COURTESY OF JUSTINE KAHN. BOTTOM: SUSAN SEUBERT.