

FEBRUARY 2014 • ISSUE # 30

10 YEARS OF

EDGE

CINEMA'S  
ORIGINAL  
DRAG  
TERRORIST  
EXAMINED IN

# I am Divine

WARHOL  
TIME  
TRAVEL

BAWDY,  
BODACIOUS  
BRIDGET  
EVERETT





 KELSY CHAUVIN

# 5 Senses

## FIVE CITIES FOR LGBT WEDDINGS, HONEYMOONS AND ROMANCE

Same-sex marriage bells are ringing in a growing number of U.S. states and forward-thinking countries. But where should queers-in-the-know head for forthcoming nuptials or fabulously memorable honeymoons? EDGE suggests letting your five senses make the call.

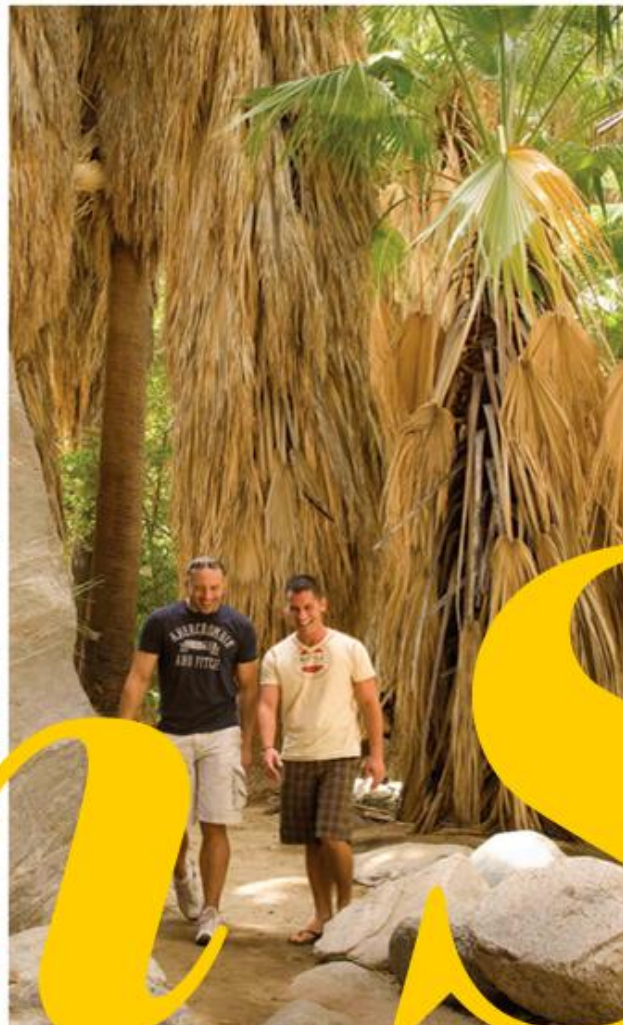


# *The Touch, the Feel of* **Palm Springs**

Few cities can boast the refreshing comfort of sunny Southern California like Palm Springs. With built-in romance thanks to its swaying palm trees, blue skies and warm breezes, the appeal becomes only more enticing knowing how incredibly gay-friendly the city really is.

Few cities go out of their way to welcome gay grooms and brides more than Palm Springs. The city's tourism bureau, through its Palm Springs Weddings website, makes it easy to find perfect venues, caterers, florists and tips for everything else you'll need to get hitched — right down to the city clerk's marriage-license application page. Though it may seem like a small gesture, a city that displays pictures of amorous same-sex couples throughout its Web pages gets extra points for joyful hospitality.

continued ➡





## Palm Springs continued

**DO:** Now that you've tied the knot (and are tied down), a flirtatious Dinah Shore weekend of clothing-optional same-sex resorts may be off the table. Consider grabbing your spouse and heading out for some scenic desert hiking or biking, or hitting the links at a perfectly landscaped golf course. New in 2014, Desert Adventures has launched the "Gay Icons of Palm Springs" tour, where you can check out the mid-century homes of gay icons and hear stories about the city's storied LGBT history.

**STAY:** With a welcome abundance of proud LGBT-friendly accommodations, newlyweds must first decide on their priorities: resort or hotel, shady gardens or sleek modernist style? Perhaps you'd prefer a men-only or women-only resort. The local standout is the Ace Hotel, which transformed the old Howard Johnson into a fashion-forward yet retro-modern treasure. It's got a spa, bike rentals, a chilled swimming pool, locally made and vintage decor, and all kinds of fun on-site events from top-DJ parties to weekly Sissy Bingo led by Linda Gerard, a self-proclaimed OWL (older, wiser lesbian).



**MOST ROMANTIC MOVE:** Rediscover your youth with the couple's package at the Ace's Feel Good Spa, where together you can experience seaweed body wraps, side-by-side Swedish massage and detoxifying facials.

**PAIRS WELL WITH:** Los Angeles is just a two-hour drive away through the rugged San Jacinto Mountains. There has never been a better excuse than this drive to rent a convertible, sport some sexy shades and cruise through the warm desert air. If you start in L.A., Palm Springs is the perfect respite where you can unwind poolside. Heading westward from Palm Springs, enjoy easing back into the cosmopolitan glamour of La-La Land.

[Visit Palms Springs](#)[Palms Springs Pride](#)[The LGBT Community Center of the Desert](#)[Palm Springs Weddings](#)[Desert Adventures](#)



# A Taste of Boston

It's a city famous for sports, education, history (including a storied LGBT past) and tea – but restaurants? One must assume the nickname “Beantown” suggests a conspicuously bland culinary culture. But Boston has proven in recent years that its gastronomic delights can heartily compete with fellow fine-dining capitals like New York, Chicago and Los Angeles.

Boston has been a prime destination for gay men and women to get hitched since Massachusetts broke the legal same-sex-marriage barrier in 2004. This friendly, photogenic city is home to dedicated gay-wedding-planning services like 14 Stories and romantic gay-owned venues like Jamaica Plain's charming Taylor House Bed & Breakfast. For those seeking a more spiritual venue, the “open-hearted” and rainbow-proud First Church Boston welcomes gay nuptials. Or roll your way into a truly memorable wedding by renting out Milky Way Lounge and Lanes for ceremonies and celebrations in a decked-out bowling alley.

continued ➡➡





## Boston continued

**EAT:** With new and inventive restaurants cropping up across Boston, head across the Charles River to Cambridge for a bite of something terrific at Puritan & Company. Its menu is heavy on locally sourced ingredients, with creative variations like swordfish pastrami and chicken-fried quail. Also on the Cambridge side of town is Harvest, home to an outstanding seafood menu as well as Executive Pastry Chef Brian Mercury, who will help make your honeymoon even sweeter. Inside downtown Boston's Fairmont Copley Plaza hotel, settle into the beautifully outfitted OAK Long Bar + Kitchen, which serves top-notch New England classics like clam chowder and Yankee pot roast alongside uncommon treats like wild-boar sausage and roasted octopus.

**DO:** The term "Boston marriage" – a historic term for two financially independent women living together – is one indicator of the city's longtime progressive ways. Thanks to Boston's History Project and its remarkably comprehensive book *Improper Bostonians*, gays can learn about well-to-do ladies who embodied Boston marriages, and about "Gay Times Square," the origins of GLAAD and the *Gay Community News*, as well as other fascinating tales of the city's LGBT history. Visit the History Project's office in the Back Bay to learn more, and look out for a new LGBT walking tour to potentially launch in 2014 by the Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau.



**MOST ROMANTIC MOVE:** May 17, 2014, will mark the 10th anniversary of the first marriage license issued to a same-sex couple in the United States. So for romance sprinkled with a little sentimental politics, a mid-May wedding in Boston can make a grand statement.

**PAIRS WELL WITH:** Provincetown, of course. Take a three-hour drive around the arm of Cape Cod (or, in summer months, cruise from Boston to P-town aboard the 90-minute fast ferry) to one of the world's most queer and romantic destinations.

Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau

Milky Way Lounge and Lanes

Puritan & Company

Harvest

OAK Long Bar + Kitchen

**TAP A  
LINK**  
FOR MORE  
INFORMATION



# Good Scents in Memphis



Between its legacies of barbeque and rock 'n' roll alone, one could argue that Memphis is a great city for engaging nearly all the senses, all the time. But it's the olfactory appeal of Blues City that inspires newlyweds to breathe in a unique destination wedding or romantic honeymoon.

A spring or summer visit comes with warm air filled with honeysuckle and magnolias, and fresh aromas from the local Wonder Bread-Hostess Cake bakery in the heart of town. If you're planning a commitment ceremony (since same-sex marriage is not yet legal in Tennessee), officiants from Rainbow Ceremonies or Distinctive Commitment Ceremonies are happy to help.





# Memphis continued

**DO:** Music lovers can sniff out truly amazing history in this welcoming Mississippi River port, famously called the birthplace of both rock 'n' roll and the blues (as well as their love child, soul music). From Sun Studios – where Elvis Presley recorded his first song – and Stax Records, to the Rock 'n' Soul Museum and ever-bustling Beale Street, it's impossible to visit Memphis without savoring the sweetness of American musical history.

**EAT:** There is no experience that embodies Memphis more than digging into a barbeque platter, nor any shortage of places to inhale all manner of smoky deliciousness. Locals may not agree on which restaurant is the best, but many recommend Central BBQ, where most days the line extends past the front door (and with good reason), while Tops Bar-B-Q has served up traditional slow-cooked pit barbeque since 1952. But Memphis is a city with a big appetite, so follow your nose to many outstanding restaurants serving old-school or new-wave dishes. Head to the Cooper-Young gay-leaning neighborhood for some of the trendiest spots of late.

**STAY:** With a busy downtown that sees a fair share of convention traffic, it's easy to find a hotel room for any budget. But there is only one place to mark an occasion as special as a lifelong commitment: The Peabody. Maybe it's the prestigious architecture or its perfect location a few blocks from Beale Street, or it could just be the famous ducks that waddle through the lobby for their daily swim in the hotel's fountain. The Peabody is a national classic and an attraction all its own. Plus, who can rival a four-star hotel that boasts the clothier Lansky's, where Elvis himself once shopped?

**MOST ROMANTIC MOVE:** A ride on one of the city's vintage streetcars will lend some nostalgia to your lovers' holiday, so climb aboard the Madison Avenue line and exit near Sun Studios. A short walk north will send you into Victorian Village, named for its stunning architecture. There you'll find the converted three-story mansion now housing the Mollie Fontaine Lounge, where couples can relax on a love seat with fine cocktails, complemented by the smooth stylings of local blues musicians.

**PAIRS WELL WITH:** Graceland, located a short drive from downtown Memphis, is the ultimate local side trip. Some might argue that no trip to Memphis is complete without a visit to this fascinating time-capsule estate left behind by the King. Graceland may even evoke a sense of carpe diem for your newly wedded life together.



**TAP A  
LINK**  
FOR MORE  
INFORMATION

[Official Guide to Memphis](#)

[Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center](#)

[Distinctive Commitment Ceremonies](#)

[Rainbow Ceremonies of Memphis](#)

[Graceland](#)



# Mexico City Sights

Home to an astounding population of nearly 20 million people in its greater metropolitan area, Mexico City is something to see. The capital city has a notably large LGBT community, hosts the country's biggest Pride parade every June, and lately has seen a substantial civic investment in beautifying and activating the city's public spaces.

Elected officials took their liberal agenda to the next level in 2009, signing same-sex marriage into law two years after civil unions were legalized in 2007. The result is a vibrant out-and-proud gay and lesbian community that welcomes the chance to host weddings and pop the celebratory bubbly for honeymooners. Zona Rosa is the city's main "gayborhood" (and home to the Pride parade route along Paseo de la Reforma), marked by its pink cobblestones and freewheeling attitudes.

continued ➡





# Mexico City

continued

**DO:** Head to Alameda Central, the city's sprawling central park, to view some of the city's beautifully landscaped grounds and fountains, as well as the Museo Mural Diego Rivera just west of the park. There you can behold one of the artist's most cherished works, "Dream of a Sunday Afternoon in the Alameda," which managed to survive the 1985 earthquake and subsequently had a museum built around it. The Alameda has undergone a nearly \$20-million renovation that serves as a lush, green respite in the middle of buzzing Mexico City traffic. Don't miss a visit to the marvelous, century-old Palacio de Bellas Artes, the first national theater of Mexico, with gorgeous Art Nouveau and Art Deco details.

**EAT:** One of the trendiest neighborhoods is Condesa-Roma, home to scads of queers who flock for the cute cafes, boutiques and clubs. Head to the charming Rosetta restaurant for sophisticated dishes that combine Italian and traditional Mexican flavors. But plan ahead: The restaurant's modest size and reliable popularity make it hard to get a table.

**STAY:** There are scores of affordable and gay-friendly accommodations throughout Mexico City, from Zona Rosa to Condesa-Roma and beyond. But feast your just-married eyes on the Camino Real in the mucho-cosmopolitan Polanco district. The hotel opened its mod doors in 1968, and today serves as one of the most eye-catching and colorfully sleek hotels in the city.



**MOST ROMANTIC MOVE:** Frida Kahlo lived a hard life, but no one can say she didn't make the most of the cards she was dealt. Head to her visually captivating Blue House in the Distrito Federal to see how she created a haven of colorful bliss that stands today as one of the world's most intimate and visually marvelous museums.

**PAIRS WELL WITH:** Quintana Roo on Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula – home to Cancun, Riviera Maya and Playa del Carmen – recently made same-sex marriage legal. What better side trip from Mexico City than a gay-welcoming district boasting some of the country's most scenic beaches?

[Visit Mexico](#)

[Mexico City LGBT Guide](#)

[Museo Mural Diego Rivera](#)

[Camino Real Polanco](#)

[Museo Frida Kahlo](#)

**TAP A  
LINK**  
FOR MORE  
INFORMATION



# Now Hear *Vancouver*

Wedding bells are ringing and you're headed to Vancouver, the verdant metropolis of British Columbia that has enjoyed legal same-sex marriage since 2003. (Gay marriage was legalized across Canada in 2005.) This humble-yet-happening city of 600,000 residents is among Canada's most gay-proud cities, with its annual midsummer Pride festival drawing as many attendees as the entire citywide population.

It's hard to imagine a city more welcoming than Vancouver, where locals are so eager to share the best parts of their city that introductions may soon lead to a personal guided tour. For brides and grooms, arranging a memorable ceremony can be as easy as hiring one of a bevy of wedding planners, such as Viva Las Weddings and Two Dears and a Queer. Or you can take the super-easy route and pay a local marriage commissioner about \$80 to do the hitching as simply as you like. If it's a dreamy honeymoon you seek, plan on some quality outdoors time by day with fun, gay nightlife to follow.

continued ➡➡





## Vancouver continued


**DO:** Calling all live-music fans! Vancouver remains quite the hotbed of indie music. Great bands like the New Pornographers, the Organ (featured on *The L Word*), Mother Mother and Hot Hot Heat first got their grooves on here. Pick up a copy of the *Georgia Straight* weekly paper for tips on who's performing during your stay. If you're an interactive type, consider a little karaoke or sing-along at the Biltmore Cabaret, Numbers Cabaret, or the Railway Club, where you can also hear live music nightly.

**EAT:** You can tempt your taste buds in all sorts of ways in delectable Vancouver, but few cities serve up such an impressive array of Asian eateries. It's hard to go wrong with a trip to Chinatown, where you'll find the best seafood, dim sum and other Chinese staples at virtually any hour of the day or night. But just west of Chinatown is the original Guu (one of several locations), serving traditional Japanese tapas, called *izakaya*, like kimchi fried rice, yaki udon, and an array of succulent sashimi.

**STAY:** Though Commercial Drive – aka “The Drive” – is a hub of LGBT activity, Davie Street is where much of Vancouver's gay nightlife takes place. It serves as a main artery through downtown, lined with gay-centric restaurants and clubs that always keep the DJ booths warm.

To stay near the action, book your honeymoon suite in nearby Yaletown at the Opus Hotel. Among the city's most fashionable accommodations, the property stands out for its sleek decor and tech-friendly amenities (think iPad loaners).

**MOST ROMANTIC MOVE:** Hop aboard a tiny 12-passenger Aquabus ferry from the north shore of False Creek to Granville Island, where you and your significant other can stroll through the lovely public market, duck into one cute shop after another, and ultimately cozy up at Edible Canada – a charming bistro exclusively serving B.C. and Canadian food and drinks.

**PAIRS WELL WITH:** There's nary a more beautiful city than B.C.'s capital, Victoria. From Vancouver, hear the ferryboats sound their departure across the Strait of Georgia on your way to one of the world's most British cities outside of Great Britain. And, of course, no trip to Victoria would be complete without the grand ritual of afternoon tea at the Fairmont Empress. 



**TAP A  
LINK**  
FOR MORE  
INFORMATION

[Gay-Friendly Vancouver](#)

[Vancouver Pride Society](#)

[Viva Las Weddings](#)

[Two Dears and a Queer](#)

*Kelsy Chauvin is a writer, photographer, and marketing consultant based in Brooklyn, New York. She specializes in travel, feature journalism, art, theater, architecture, construction and LGBT interests.*