

# OFF THE LOT

LOOKS + CREATIONS + CRAFT



## HOLIDAY SNAPSHOT

MAKE YOUR OWN SCENE IN FAMILIAR FOOTSTEPS.

By Kate Tremills

As we approach the depth of winter, it's hard to resist fantasizing about the next vacation. For most people, that means a hot climate or lying prone on a cruise. But film folks are a different breed. We don't just love movies, we want to go where they were inspired, shot and set. Sometimes, we even want to vacation like we're stars. If that's you, consider this the ultimate guide to the places film-lovers go to soak in that movie magic.



### **Gone with the Wind — Atlanta**

Traveling to the South is like stepping back in time. For lovers of one of the greatest epics, Atlanta holds the key to movie heaven. Several museums pay tribute to *Gone with the Wind* and its author, Margaret Mitchell, from the Road to Tara Museum, with Scarlett's dresses and the collection from Herb Bridges, author and collector regarded as the world's leading authority on *Gone with the Wind*, to the *Gone with the Wind* Tour to the Margaret Mitchell Museum containing memorabilia from the movie set. True fans fill their days with re-enactments, filming locations and the birthplace of the original story. Scarlett and Rhett never fade away in Atlanta.

### **Casablanca — Africa**

The fact that *Casablanca* was filmed in Florida doesn't keep its fans from traveling to the place that inspired the story. When a movie-lover arrives in Morocco, her first question is always about *Casablanca*. The city has moved on from WWII, but it still holds much of the mystique portrayed in the film: streets filled with camels, veiled women and beautiful mosques. Go into any

piano bar in the fancier hotels and you'll discover they play the film's music all night long. *Casablanca* fans don't travel to Africa for the sets; they travel for the real experience.

### **The Bridges of Madison County — Iowa**

Some books capture the imagination of their audience like no other. Once Meryl Streep and Clint Eastwood brought the story to the screen, Madison County, Iowa, changed forever. Fans flocked to bridges and to the farmhouse used as Francesca's home. Tours of the house were available until a recent fire destroyed the location, but the loss hasn't stopped the flow of visitors. Capturing the magic of the romance is as simple as strolling through the covered bridges. Like the characters, film-lovers travel to Iowa to feel the beauty and the potential of Madison County.

### **The Lord of the Rings — New Zealand**

No fervor holds a candle to the adoration fans have for *The Lord of the Rings*. New Zealand has responded to that spirit in full force. Boasting dozens of tours, *LOTR*-lovers can visit filming locations via bike, car, boat or helicopter. Name a setting from the films and a tour guide will take you there. Fans can even visit the goldsmith who made the "one ring to bind them all." In fact, there are enough options to keep dedicated *LOTR* followers busy for weeks. With enough money and enough time, you can re-live all the rustic majesty of the trilogy.

### **Under the Tuscan Sun — Tuscany**

In all great romances, the true magic lies in the location. Mirroring the experience of Diane Lane, film lovers can explore Tuscany by bike, through cooking and, of course, by visiting the village of Cortona. Tours take fans through the little towns to enjoy the views and savor the Tuscan cuisine. In fact, several of the tours cater specifically to single women, with one sweeping them off their feet in L.A. and landing them in Italy. Sumptuous and romantic, Tuscany cannot help but fulfill the fantasies of anyone who adored the film. You need barely make an effort to be immersed in this full-bodied culture.