

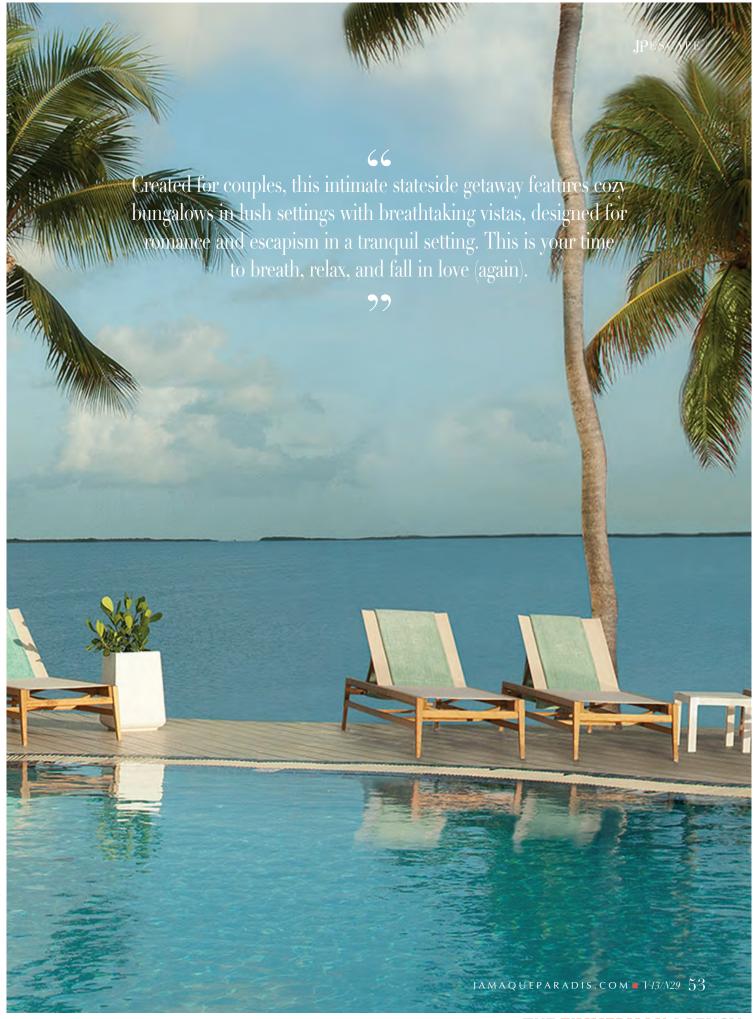




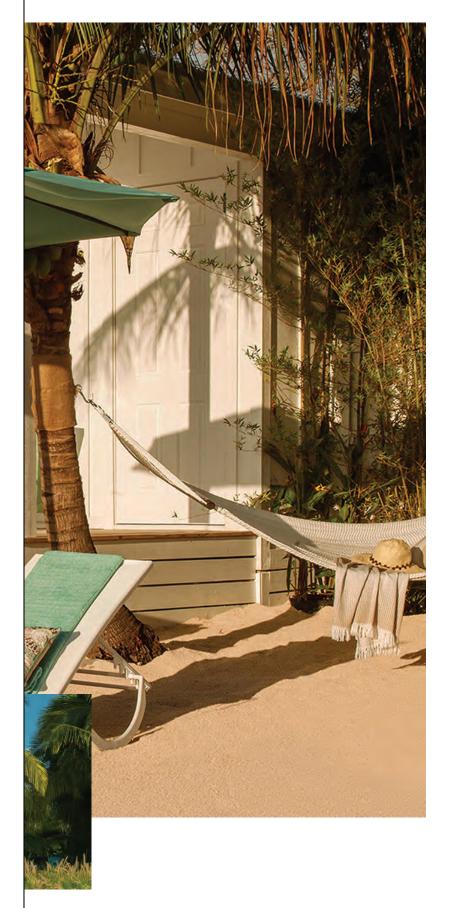
THE Z!MMERMAN AGENCY

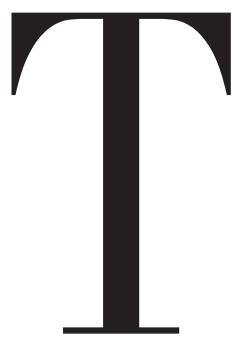


THE Z!MMERMAN AGENCY









The Bungalows Resort, located at the start of the Florida Keys is also an ideal gateway to an archipelago of over 100 miles of highway connected cays, deep water fishing, and the mangroves of the Everglades, making for adventure-filled holidays for outdoor enthusiasts.

With a choice of either an ocean fronting or garden bungalow, we chose the latter for its seclusion and lush tropical foliage. Its enclosed setting has an outdoor shower and soak tub along with wooden deck making it perfect for lounging in the day and romantic candle lit dining at night.

Set on some 12 acres of beach front, the bicycles assigned to our bungalow were perfect for exploring this all-inclusive adults-only oasis. Our first treat on property was to cycle to the spa with its Asian themed treatments and black bamboo growing in a Zen garden. I drifted in and out of sleep during my aromatic massage, then headed to the rejuvenating Himalayan Salt Therapy Room with vents blowing fine salt particles on me from the amber coloured back lit blocks of salt to nourish my skin with trace elements.

 $\begin{array}{c} (T) \text{ Garden bungalow outdoor} \\ \text{Shower and deck;} \\ (C\text{-}R) \text{ couple enjoying beach sunset;} \\ (B\text{-}L) \text{ bungalows drone;} \\ (B\text{-}R) \text{ tiki bar} \end{array}$









56 V13/N29 ■ JAMAQUEPARADIS.COM





ack in the bungalow we lounged the late afternoon away in our soak tub with flutes of champagne in hand until the stars began to show above as the sun fell away and dusk settled over the horizon. For dinner that evening we headed to the Beach House, a 2 storey thatched roof building housing the main dining area, with the Living Room common area on the upper level where we had pre dinner cocktails. We capped the evening at the fine dining Bogie and Bacall's where we savoured a 6 course seafood meal with a selection of our favourite wines.

Returning to our bungalow by golf cart, the property was illuminated with the soft glow of lights along the pathways, swaying palm trees, and Zen themed statues, making for a romantic setting to finish our evening.

The next day, waking up to brilliant sunshine, we started our day with breakfast at Fish Tales restaurant with its sweeping views of the ocean that beckoned to us with its cobalt blue and rippling waves. Checking with the snorkel shop we had a wide range of sea ventures to choose from: the John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park; Spiegel Grove - sunken ship to explore; Harry Harris Park and Beach; Crocodile Lake National Wildlife Refuge; and the Everglades National Park. We chose a snorkelling trip on a power boat which took us past mangroves and bird-filled islets near Islamorada and Duck Key (that's about mid away to Key West), until we reached the captain's favourite underwater playground. Here we donned our snorkels, goggles and fins then dived into the clear azure water, to view a marine wonderland of corals, fish, and sea wrecks. Lunch and sunbathing followed on the deck of our boat as we cranked up the volume to our favourite hits, singing along as we made our way back to the Bungalows Resort on a leisurely route to enjoy scenic coastal vistas and beautiful homes dotting the cays.

Drunk from the sun during the day's outing, on returning to the Bungalows Resort we cooled off in our outdoor shower and slipped into fluffy bathrobes and slippers while downing refreshing cider and fizzies stocked in our room's mini bar and fridge. With lots of fun pictures to share with kids and family eager to know details of our long weekend break, we selected the best highlights of the day's outing and uploaded to our Instagram accounts which started a chain of oohs and ahhs and like comments.



ulling ourselves away from the digital chatter, we headed for a toes in the sand dining experience at Sea Señor beachfront restaurant with its zesty Mexican cuisine under a canopy of pepper lights and swaying palm tree fronds. Here we dined on ceviche, fresh catch of the day, finishing with a Mexican chocolate mousse.

The following morning we greeted sunrise on a beachfront facing lawn with a series of stretches and poses, then after a light breakfast we hit the gym fitted with Peloton equipment. After all that exercise our senses were elevated, and the air smelt saltier, the skies looked bluer, and the ripples of the ocean waves more playful, enticing us back to the beach and water.

Selecting a pair of kayaks we paddled the calm bay waters while hugging the coast line, eventually catching up with S.S. Rum Runner, the Resort's Tiki boat — a motorised floating bar — which sails offshore to nearby cays stocked with lots of beverages on board, accommodating about 6 guests at a time. The bartender offered us some of his signature rum punch. We cheered his guests on board and then continued our paddling to a nearby cay, home to dozens of egrets.

Back on land, and having built up an appetite at sea we headed to Largo Larry's food truck on the Resort for a hearty serving of burgers, fries, and ice cream, which we enjoyed in a pillow filled cabana by the secluded Zen swimming pool.









This our final evening called for a special treat. We joined a barbecue dinner with live music on Coconut Beach at the far end of the Resort. With tables and chairs on the sandy shore, the starry night was filled with the smell of succulent roasted pork and grilled steaks, which we washed down with draught beers and finished off with grandma's apple pie. Looking into each other's eyes we broke into smiles then laughter, as the setting took us back to our youthful high school days where we attended county fairs in the summer on long balmy nights. As the music picked up with a honky tonk beat, this was our cue to hit the dance floor to relive our youth — and we did! bungalowskeylargo.com JPN29/19