

# SUN TRAVEL

## LITTLE BITS ABOUT TRIPS

### Mid Winter Bivver a blast of chilly fun, food

GRAND FALLS-WINDSOR, N.L. — The Mid Winter Bivver festival, running Feb. 19-20 in central Newfoundland's Exploits Valley, combines snowmobiling with culinary experiences.

An all-day 150-plus-km trek along forest trails is combined with food highlights including seafood chowder, Jiggs dinner fritters, curry and chips with mushy peas, roasted cod with mussel chorizo sauce, and Newfoundland berry shortcake.

A "foragers feast" five-course dining and wine pairing event is followed by live local entertainment at the Bivver Give'r Dance.

See [midwinterbivver.com](http://midwinterbivver.com).

For non-Newfoundlanders who may be wondering: Bivver means to shiver, according to one definition in the *Dictionary of Newfoundland English*.

### Pepsi on the menu

NEW YORK — PepsiCo's quest to make soda pop edgy has brought it to one of the great restaurant towns of the world, where it will open its own joint with cuisine "inspired by the exploration of the kola nut."

The opening of the "Kola House," in New York City's trendy Meat Packing District, set for this spring, comes at a time when people are cutting back on pop consumption. Both Coca-Cola Co. and PepsiCo Inc. have been attempting to reframe colas as something more premium.

Pepsi and other drinks made by PepsiCo will be served at the restaurant. The company promises a "full artisanal menu from a rising resident executive chef" that would include dishes "inspired by the kola nut."

— The Associated Press

## CALLING ALL BIRD BRAINS: Winter eagle spotting

LINCOLN, Nebraska (AP) — The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission says winter and early spring are the best times to see eagles in large numbers. Favoured sites include Sutherland Reservoir near Sutherland, Harlan County Reservoir near Alma, and below Gavins Point Dam near Yankton, S.D. Lake Ogallala and Lake McConaughy near Ogallala also are top viewing sites.

# Reservations for romance

## Valentine getaways set the mood for love

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Whether you're looking for a romantic Valentine's escape, a naughty getaway or the perfect spot to pop the question this February, hotels, resorts and attractions across North America have packages to seduce travellers. We list 10:

### 1. Montreal

Turn up the heat this year with the saucy Provocateur getaway from Le Germain Hotel Montreal. The boutique hotel has teamed with lingerie brand L'Agent by Agent Provocateur for this package, which takes guests to L'Agent at La Maison Ogilvy for a personalized lingerie shopping session. At the hotel, couples enjoy champagne, candles and rose petals in their suite, an in-room dinner created by the hotel's chef and a couple's massage. From \$850. See [legermainhotels.com](http://legermainhotels.com).

### 2. Niagara Falls

Once considered the honeymoon capital of the world, Niagara Falls is still a romantic weekend escape, especially in February. The Romance package at the Embassy Suites Niagara Falls — Fallsview includes accommodations in a two-room suite, a cooked-to-order breakfast, a \$100 credit for the in-hotel Keg Steakhouse & Bar, chocolate-dipped strawberries, champagne and rose-petal turn down. See [embassysuitesniagara.com](http://embassysuitesniagara.com).

### 3. Calgary

The Westin Calgary's super "Suite" Valentine's Day package includes accommodations, in-room

breakfast for two, champagne and strawberries. From \$289 per night with code LOPKG1. Want more? The Extra Suite package adds dinner for two at the chef's table in the hotel's Essence Restaurant. From \$799 per night with code LVPKG1. Visit [westinocalgary.com](http://westinocalgary.com).

### 4. Vancouver

The Rosewood Hotel Georgia has romantic treats for couples. Junior suite accommodations, breakfast for two, sparkling wine, hand-dipped chocolate strawberries and rose-petal evening turn down are all included in the Luxury Romance deal. From \$899, see [rosewoodhotels.com](http://rosewoodhotels.com).

### 5. Victoria

Fall in love again with Magnolia Hotel & Spa's Romancing Victoria deal, which includes a bottle of prosecco, chocolate truffles and the services of a Romance Concierge, who can help couples make the most of a west coast weekend. From \$239, see [magnoliahotel.com](http://magnoliahotel.com).

### 6. New York City

The skating rink at Rockefeller Center is an iconic attraction and a memorable spot for a marriage proposal. This Valentine's Day, the rink has three VIP Engagement on Ice packages, all of which include ice time, a romantic skate and a glass of champagne. Couples choose a song to skate to. From \$350, see [therinkatrockcenter.com](http://therinkatrockcenter.com).

### 7. Florida

Find S'more Love at the Sandpearl Resort in Clearwater Beach. The

hotel's new package — with accommodations, breakfast, a s'mores kit to use at the beach firepits and a couples' massage or two 50-minute spa treatments — is perfect for romance. From \$437 per night. Book using code SMLOVE. Visit [sandpearl.com](http://sandpearl.com).

### 8. Chicago

Take your sweetie to Chicago for an even sweeter treat. Fairmont Chicago, Millennium Park's Romantic Escape includes accommodations and in-room chocolate treats such as strawberry tuxedos, dark chocolate, pistachio and mascarpone cannoli, and chocolate and lavender eclairs. From \$189 US per night. Romantic extras — such as a Kama Sutra kit with honey dust and massage oil (\$25) — can be added. See [fairmont.com/chicago](http://fairmont.com/chicago).

### 9. California

Enjoy romance in Sonoma wine country with a stay at Alexander Inn. Guests receive a split bottle of Alexander Valley Vineyard's popular Sin Zin 2012 Zinfandel wine, a split of sparkling wine, flowers and chocolates. Available Feb. 12-14 only. From \$249, see [thealexanderinn.com](http://thealexanderinn.com).

### 10. Dominican Republic

The Paradisus Palma Real in lovely Punta Cana is an ideal spot for romance. The resort's Valentine's Day package includes couples' spa treatments, dinner for two on the beach, turn-down service with champagne, roses, chocolate or strawberries, and couples paddleboard yoga session. From \$588 per night, see [paradisus.com](http://paradisus.com).



Romancing the rink: New York City's Rockefeller Center has three VIP Engagement on Ice packages for Valentine's.

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