 Click to Print[SAVE THIS](#) | [EMAIL THIS](#) | [Close](#)**Five Un-average Business Travel Hotspots**

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Forget your usual business trip itinerary. Spice up your next meeting by mixing work with pleasure at one of these growing business backdrops.

By: MATT ALDERTON

Most people hate business trips. Packed to the brim with delays, layovers, meetings and untold numbers of continental breakfasts, business travel is typically anything but "fun." A minor change in venue, however, can make a major difference in your mood. In fact, the right destination can quickly transform an otherwise headache-filled trip into a pleasant working vacation.



"There is a big trend that's linking the leisure and business travel segments," says Todd Scholl, marketing director for [ResorTime](#), a Carlsbad, Calif.-based company that connects travelers with discounted lodging at luxury resorts.

Companies like ResorTime—which have typically served leisure travelers exclusively—are beginning to see an upswing in customers who are traveling for work rather than play. As a result, Scholl says, meetings are taking place less often in first-tier travel hubs like Chicago, Boston, Dallas, Atlanta and New York—the top five business destinations so far this year, according to [Orbitz for Business](#). Instead, they're more and more often migrating to hot vacation spots like Las Vegas, Orlando and San Francisco.

"The top destinations for leisure," Scholl says, "are also becoming the top destinations for business."

If you're the type that dreads networking breakfasts in Dallas, lunch meetings in Washington, D.C., and overnight trips in Chicago, then it's time to tear a page out of the happier traveler's itinerary and book your next meeting, lunch or retreat in one of these flourishing destinations, where you can easily extend an ordinary business trip into a long, work-free weekend:

Las Vegas

Currently the seventh most popular destination for business travelers, according to Orbitz for Business, Sin City is attracting more business travelers every day, as there's no shortage of things to do—gambling, eating, live entertainment—when your afternoon meeting finally lets out.

Once you're done working, catch a [Vegas show](#), for example, or wash the work from your brain with a visit to one of the Strip's [world-class spas](#). For a convention calendar or information about local meeting facilities, contact the [Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority](#), which can offer you ["10 Business Reasons to Visit Las Vegas."](#)

Orlando

These days, Orlando is more than mouse ears. Florida's third largest city has always been its most popular tourist attraction. Now, however, it's trying to surpass the rest of the Sunshine State in business tourism, too. In fact, the same resorts that once were vying for family vacation dollars, including Disney and Universal Studios, are now also competing for folks' business budgets.

Even if you're not the theme park type, Orlando's worth a look. Its resort-style hotels can easily serve as full-service spaces for business meetings or lunches. And because the same hotels are home to world-famous swimming pools, golf courses and spas, post-meeting relaxation is never more than a few steps away. To find [meeting space](#) and [entertainment options](#) alike, contact the [Orlando/Orange County Convention & Visitors Bureau](#).

San Francisco

Home to Silicon Valley, as well as a smattering of chic bayside attractions, San Francisco is proving itself an ideal spot for tech-savvy professionals to do business. Here, free WiFi is as abundant as fresh fish and sourdough bread, making this an ideal place to do both business and pleasure.

Meet your colleagues and clients for lunch in Union Square or nearby Chinatown, retire to an afternoon meeting in the financial district and then spend your evening out on the town. Make a long weekend of your trip and cross the San Francisco Bay for an afternoon in Sausalito, or skip town for a Napa Valley wine tasting tour. Contact the [San Francisco Convention & Visitors Bureau](#) to find a local meeting space and save money when you book it with your [Visa](#).

Phoenix

Phoenix is catching on as a hotspot for travelers of all types and, along with Scottsdale, Ariz., captured a spot last year in Carlson Wagonlit Travel Associates' annual [Travel Trends Survey](#), which names the country's most popular travel destinations. Phoenix/Scottsdale was last year's sixth-most-popular locale, thanks to its year-round warm weather and its growing fleet of resorts, spas and golf courses.

Of course, the reasons people love to play in Phoenix are the reasons they love to work there, too. Spend the cool desert mornings on the golf course, the hot afternoons indoors working with A/C and the pleasant evenings enjoying a nice dinner or stress-relieving massage. Or, if you're the outdoor type, take advantage of the Southwestern landscape by working in a bike

ride, hike or mountain climb in between client meetings. Contact the [Greater Phoenix Convention & Visitors Bureau](#) for more information.

Honolulu

Hawaii is where you go for honeymoons, right? Sure. It's also a great place to go for business, though. What's not to love? There's surf, sand and sun—everything you need to relax sans suit and tie.


Don't worry, though. There's everything you'll need while you're still suited up, too. Whether you meet in Honolulu or somewhere else in the Hawaiian Islands, there are plenty of hotels—all with plenty of meeting space. So fly in for a few days—23 major airlines service Honolulu International Airport—get some work done and then reward yourself with cocktails and surfing lessons. Get all the information you need on doing business the island way by contacting the [Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau](#), which operates a Web site—[BusinessAloha.com](#)—especially for business-minded travelers.

Links referenced within this article

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