

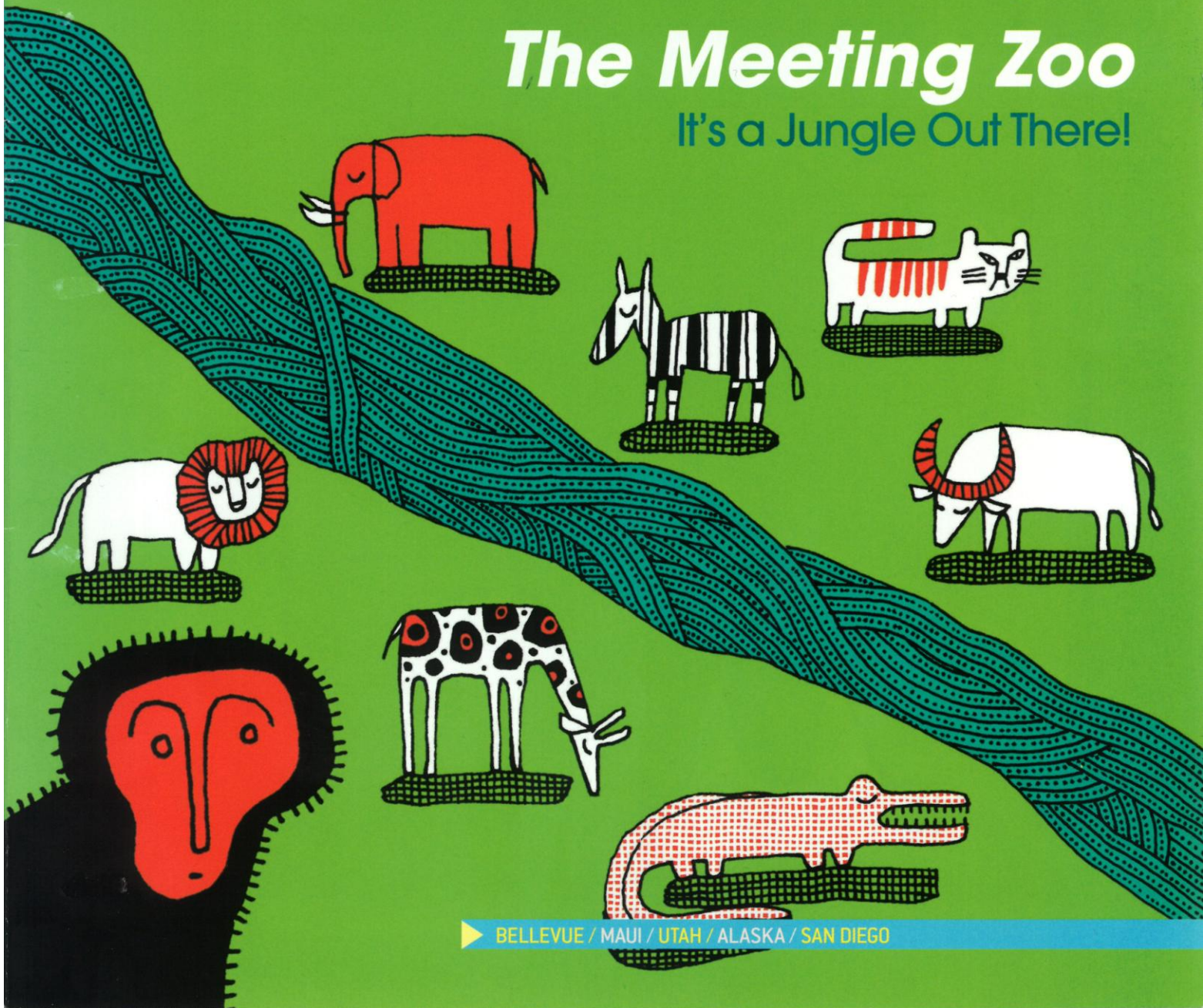
Smart meetings

The Intelligent Way to Plan in the Western Region

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The Meeting Zoo

It's a Jungle Out There!



▶ BELLEVUE / MAUI / UTAH / ALASKA / SAN DIEGO



Above, Hotel Teatro, Denver; below, Encantado, An Auberge Resort, Santa Fe, N.M.

later, and the entire event was put on at a fraction of the cost of a resort.

Hernbroth echoes this sentiment and says, “Is the benefit of cancelling a retreat worth what you are giving up? If it’s just the money, you can do a retreat on the cheap.” He suggests using any place that simply hosts people—museums, libraries, unique venues. Also look into the resources that your company or client has available. He hosted a recent senior level meeting on the company’s pontoon boat, and it was definitely a change of pace.

A Change of Scenery

The destination of the retreat is a major player in its success or failure. “Getting out of the Dilbert-cubicle world with the same walls, same potted plants and same carpeting, is a benefit. Creating a disconnect for your brain is healthy,” Hernbroth says. He compares the change of environment to the feeling you got as a child going on a field trip. “[Attendees] might say things or think things that they wouldn’t think to say or think to think in their offices. I always thought I learned more on a field trip,” he says.

The change of venue is like a physical signal for a shift in mentality. “You are going to that destination and going to that meeting for one purpose—to focus on what that group needs to get done,” The Arrangers’ Marsh says.



Retreat Retreats

Once you have a retreat on the books and an arsenal of tips for success, you have to find a venue. Whether you are looking for bright lights and a big city, the deep blue waters of the Pacific Ocean or a tranquil refuge, the West has you covered. Here are a few suggestions to get the creative juices flowing.

OCEAN INSPIRATION

L’Auberge Del Mar (laubergedelmar.com): Recently renovated, this 120-room oceanside property is across the street from Del Mar Plaza and offers six meeting rooms, most with connecting terraces and cutting-edge A/V.

Balboa Bay Club & Resort (balboabayclub.com): Located in Newport Beach, Calif., this 160-room resort offers many intimate meeting spaces along the bay in addition to short-term, full-service apartments with bay views for a more private conference.

Casa Kalika (casakalika.com): A 10,000-square-foot private villa in Punta Mita, Mexico, Casa Kalika has space for up to 12 guests and features 180-degree ocean and golf course views, and an infinity pool. In-house staff take care of the details, allowing your group to get down to business.

Estancia La Jolla (estancialajolla.com): Set in beautiful Torrey Pines, Calif., Estancia offers luxury accommodations, high-tech event spaces and on-site activities such as golf clinics, hosted by Torrey Pine golf pros and Iron-Chef team buildings to unite your upper management.

La Valencia Hotel (lavalencia.com): This historic retreat overlooks the Pacific Ocean in La Jolla, Calif. It features 113 upscale guest rooms and a fully wired boardroom for up to 22 guests that features a private restroom and wet bar.

The Lodge at Torrey Pines (lodgetorrey.pines.com): This Craftsman-style, oceanfront resort offers 170 guest rooms and a handful of event spaces set on the famous Torrey Pines Golf Course, where your execs can take advantage of the guaranteed tee-time program.

Shutters on the Beach (shuttersonthebeach.com): Right on the beach in Santa Monica, Calif., with the sound of the waves crashing, this historic, white-rimmed property is perfect for small meetings. Groups can also meet next door at their sister property, the European-style Casa Del Mar.

Sooke Harbour House (sookeharbourhouse.com): A “natural” meeting place found on Vancouver Island, B.C., this 28-room, sustainably minded property affords inspiring views of the ocean. It features many small meeting spaces and innovative, seasonal Pacific Northwest cuisine that has caught the attention of the likes of Anthony Bourdain.



Shutters on the Beach, Santa Monica, Calif.

IDEA OASIS

Encantado, An Auberge Resort (encantadoresort.com): Built up against the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in Santa Fe, this wellness-focused resort features 65 casitas, a spa, fine dining, plus a boardroom for your high-level meeting.

Tubac Golf Resort & Spa (tubacgolfresort.com): Situated on the historic 500-acre Otero Ranch in Tucson, Ariz., this property offers top-notch golf, scenic desert views and great meeting space, including the Otero House, where your execs can meet in privacy.

The Westin Mission Hills (westinmissionhills.com): Calling the mountains of Rancho Mirage, Calif., home, the Westin offers 512 rooms and two championship golf courses, tennis courts, three swimming pools and basketball courts.

CREATIVE REFUGE

Cedar House Sport Hotel (cedarhousesporthotel.com): This hip, European-style, boutique property features 42 guest rooms and a small event center (perfect for your execs) surrounded by the outdoor recreation options North Lake Tahoe is known for.

Hotel Corque (hotelcorque.com): The Hotel Corque is a chic boutique property located in Santa Barbara’s wine country, with modern amenities, beautiful indoor and outdoor meeting spaces and complimentary breakfast.

Hotel Teatro (hotelteatro.com): Inspired by the arts, this Denver boutique hotel has creative accents from theatrical performances decorating its understated spaces and many cozy meeting venues.

The Lodge at Sonoma, A Renaissance Resort and Spa (thelodgeatsonoma.com): This yellow-hued property offers 182 high-tech guest rooms outfitted with either a balcony or a garden, wine seminars and the Raindance Spa, recently ranked the Number Seven Spa in America as rated by the readers of *Condé Nast Traveler*, for post-session relaxation.

The Lodge Resort & Spa at Cloudcroft (thelodgere-sort.com): Set in the rolling hills of southern New Mexico, and surrounded by the Lincoln National Forest, this 59-room lodge offers endless outdoor recreation and meeting venues like the Crystal Room.