

TRAVEL

Palm Springs' Lost World

by David Brewer

Another day looking out and seeing chinchilla grey; however, it really is 78, clear and sunny in Palm Springs. After a wonderful weekend in P.S., I really do feel evil for telling you how sunny and warm it is just 2½ hours away by air. We stayed at the New Lost World Resort. This semi-rustic oasis located next to the Rancho Las Palmas (Marriott's offering) is just a little bit of heaven in Death Valley — four swimming pools (one nude), two jacuzzi, saunas, paths, horses, hot air balloons, disco (Hmmm), Bogart's Piano Bar with a person who used to play at the Surftides 10 years ago — remember, Sebastian's? Dining room and patio dining, and all is done very tastefully. Those of you who may remember it from even a few months ago would not recognize it now, many thousands of dollars and good plans have turned this back into a classy resort. Will Rogers, Roz Russell and some other prominent and famous have used this jewel of the desert as home. At present there are 80+ rooms. Included in those 80 are suites that you could entertain an army in (and some did... no names I can mention in this article). But all accommodations start at \$35 (depending on season) all the way to the

deluxe suite for \$105, troops not included.

New Lost World sits in the center of the newest development of the Coachella Valley, just blocks away from the New Town Center — Palm Springs' latest and most fashionable shopping center. And just blocks away from: College of the Desert and the famous Rancho Mirage "restaurant row."

It's a quick trip from the Resort to the Tram... the bars, or even up the mountain to Sugar Loaf for hang gliding or just a scenic outlook.

One of the great things is that men and women can co-mingle with respect for each others' feelings and tastes. During the Dinah Shore weekend golf tournament each summer rooms are filled to capacity with beautiful women lying in the sun and each others' arms. The security and seclusion within the grounds is superb. And for the sleazy, Al Parker and friends will be filming his new porno movie in April, yes, understudy positions are available, but limited.

I.G.T.A. NEWSFLASH! The new organization I.G.T.A., International Gay Travel Association had an organization meeting in Palm Springs last weekend. The point of IGTA is to focus in on gay organizations, hotels, guest

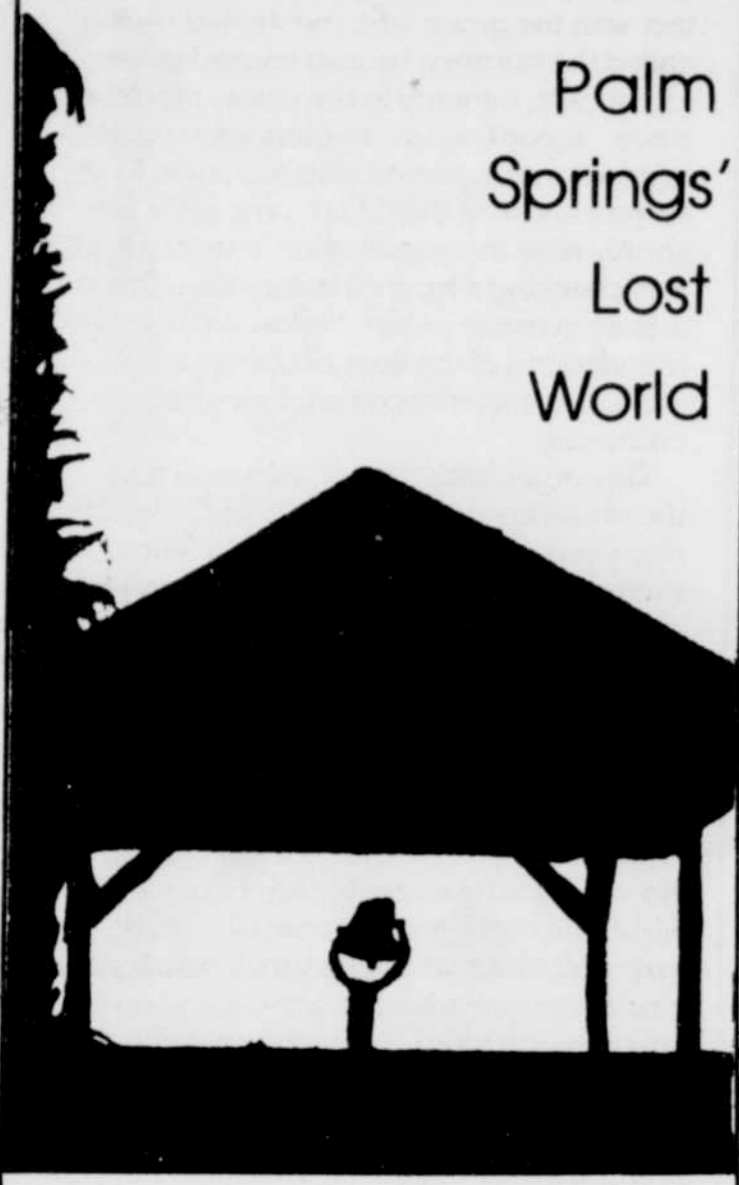
houses, travel agencies, etc., and to establish a workable network to efficiently cater to the needs of gay clients in an efficient manner. The next major meeting will be in April in SFO, more to come in another article regarding the benefits to you and me.

SPECIAL NOTES:

This Holiday season — please reconfirm those reservations at least 72 hours prior to your departures. I have found in the old trusty computer United, Alaska, Air California and some others due to heavy computer use and the Airlink in Chicago, airline reservations are being cancelled and changed to unrecognizable conditions — be safe and call.

All in all, I think that this has been fun and I hope a helpful column dedicated to you, the gay and lesbian traveler. I look forward to adventures in the upcoming year and hope that we can organize some fun outings for all of us. So, if you have any suggestions, please write and we will see what we can come up with.

NEXT: Well, I will tell you how Hawaii was for Christmas when I return — let's be serious — who want's to return from paradise?



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