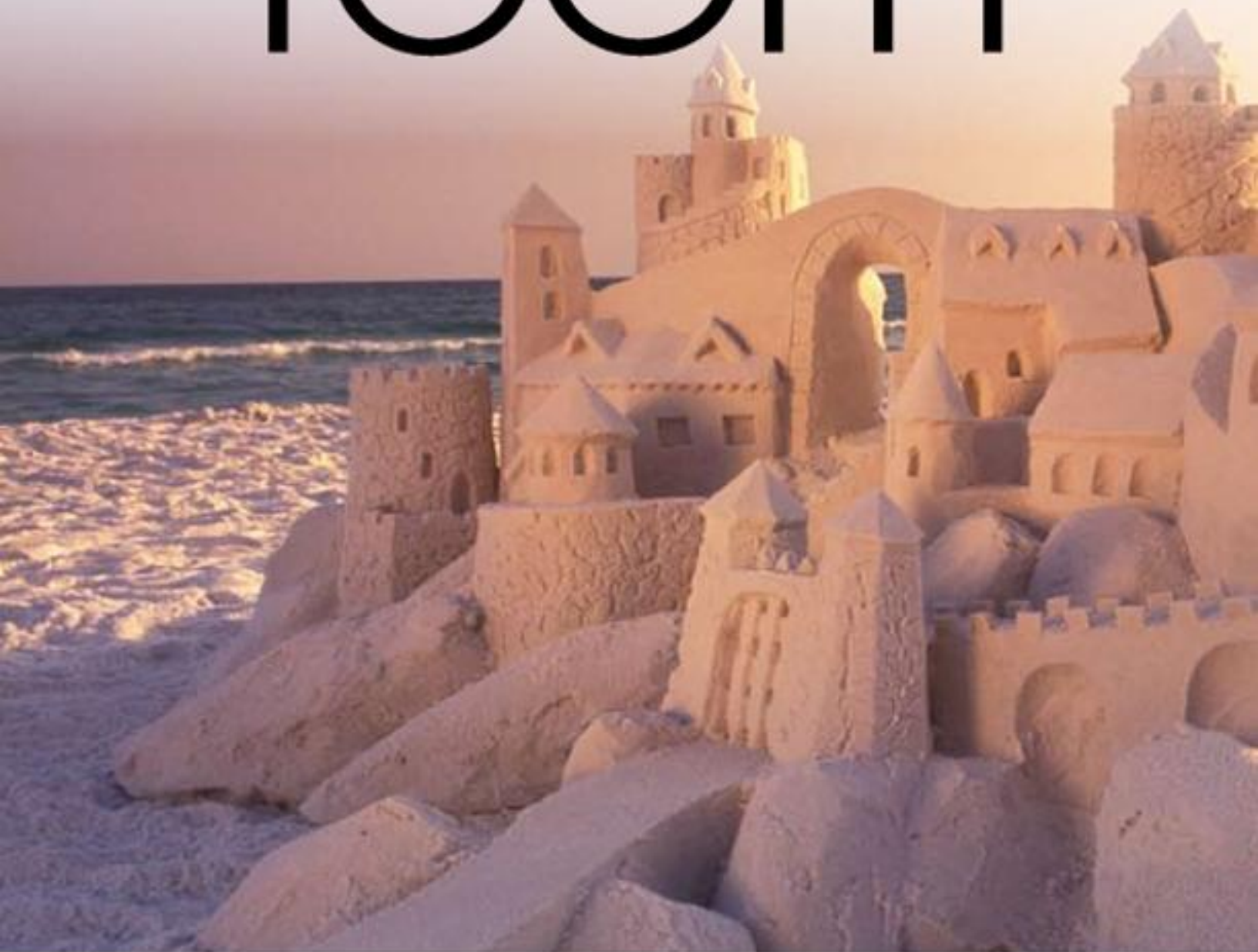


room



Check into Northwest Florida's accommodations for vacation experiences that are a day at the beach.

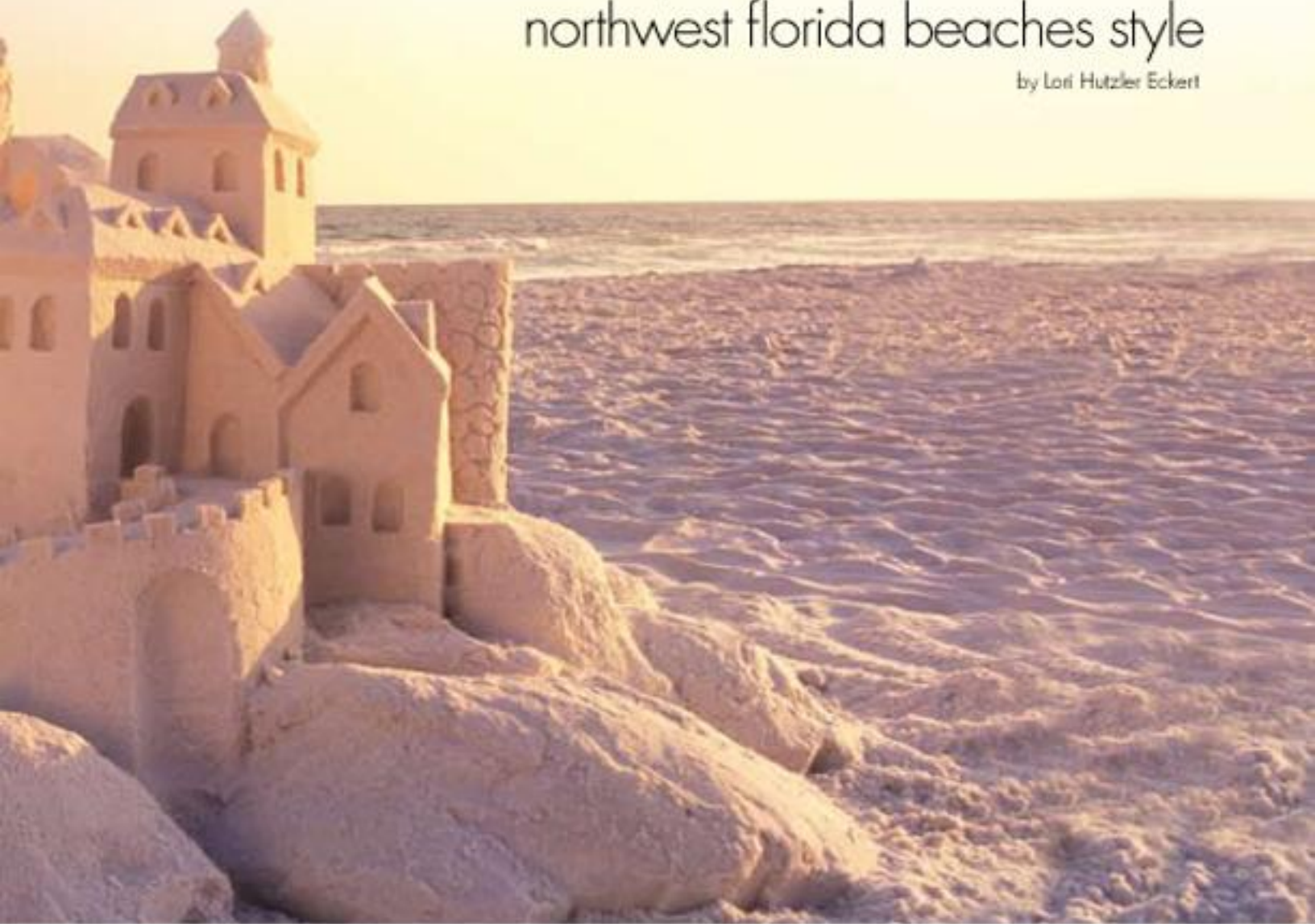
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hether you are looking for a romantic retreat, family friendly trip or a group getaway, Northwest Florida's Gulf Coast has your vacation in the (beach) bag.

service

northwest florida beaches style

by Lori Hutzler Eckert



The area, which features dozens of beaches across a curving coastline that flows along the Gulf of Mexico, offers accommodations to fit any vacationer's vision of paradise. Including hotels, condos and private homes, from quaint and casual to lavish and luxurious, there are more than 80,000 rental options in the area.

For families, Northwest Florida is a natural fit. With outdoor fun to be found at the numerous parks, beaches and other attractions, kids of every

age can hit the surf, links or trails. But after a day of adventure, it is ideal to return to a condominium or house, complete with a kitchen and washer and dryer.

Seaside, South Walton, an 80-acre, iconic town-center community, caters to every visitor's agenda, but it is a top pick for families. With multiple awards to its credit, this cottage-filled town offers a professional theater company with various children's shows; dining options, including a promenade lined with converted airstreams selling savory snacks and



PANAMA CITY BEACH



sweet treats, and movie night in the expansive amphitheater.

Jon Ervin, director of public relations and marketing for the Cottage Rental Agency Seaside, says the 250 rental options, starting at \$175 per night, create a "home away from home" in the quaint neighborhood setting.

Ervin adds, "The Cottage Rental Agency provides the care you would expect from a nice hotel, including housekeeping, onsite maintenance, front desk, concierge and more. And once you are here, there really is no reason to leave, as shopping, dining, entertainment and more are within just a short walk or easily reached by the Seaside Transit."

Other family-focused vacation options can be found at Seahaven Beach Resorts, in Panama City Beach. Surf, sand and sun are plentiful at this expansive gulf-side destination. The resort, with more than 500 rental units, allows families to customize their getaway with accommodations

that range from plush penthouses to budget-friendly rooms at three lodging options, including the Origin Condominium, Seahaven Beach Hotel and America's Best Value Inn.

And for the family on the go, beach hopping is easy when booking through Sterling Resorts. With more than 1,200 units and homes across Northwest Florida, visitors can pick locations in Destin, South Walton and Panama City Beach to experience all the area has to offer. Whether seeing the Gulf Coast by road trip or picking one location, Sterling offers vacation specialists, online and by phone, to assist in planning the perfect getaway.

If your vacation is a destination for a group getaway, the Northwest Florida Beaches also offers lodging options that cater to weddings, reunions and meetings.

Bay Point Golf Resort & Spa, the only full-service resort in Panama City Beach, features 40,000 square feet of event space, including ball rooms, board rooms and outdoor catering venues.