

on location

secret-agent lands involve a lot of sultry weather, cloistered hideaways and slinky off-the-radar communcations. here are a few where 007 and his beautiful bond girls made their mark — and brought real excitement to wherever the world was not enough

BY J. ERIC ECKARD

Bikini-clad women, a rocket-firing cigarette and a vodka martini — shaken, not stirred — can mean only one thing.

Bond, James Bond, is back.

The best-known world traveler, Bond globe-trots on an unlimited budget from Her Majesty's Secret Service, living a life many can only dream about. But you don't need government financial backing and a license to kill to follow in Bond's footsteps.

In 007's newest adventure, *Quantum of Solace*, due out in November, Bond again journeys to exotic locales, seeking revenge for the death of his lover, Vesper Lynd, who was killed in the 2006 smash hit *Casino Royale*.

Gadgets and girls typically get the headlines when Bond surfaces on the big screen, but gorgeous backdrops also add to the super spy's allure. Looking back over 45 years of missions and mayhem, it's possible to retrace Bond's footsteps in some of the most colorful and glamorous settings in the world. The good thing is that you probably won't have to worry about being tortured in a North Korean prison (*Die Another Day*), nearly dis-



Far left: The newest James Bond hero, Daniel Craig, from *Casino Royale*, on location in the Bahamas. Left: Like his world traveling protagonist, novelist Ian Fleming departs from a flight in the late 1960s.

sected by a super-powered laser (*Goldfinger*) or almost bitten in half by a steel-toothed henchman (*The Spy Who Loved Me* and *Moonraker*).

In fact, the worst of your worries will be whether to schedule a massage before or after your swim, whether to order a '69 or '75 Bollinger, or how much to bet on your next hand of *chemin de fer*.

JAMAICA: DR. NO AND LIVE AND LET DIE

Bond, the most famous British secret service agent ever, was actually born in Jamaica. Bond's creator, Ian Fleming, wrote all 12 Bond novels and two short story collections at a private villa on the north side of the Caribbean island.

Fleming set several of Bond's adventures in Jamaica, including *Dr. No*, the first novel that made it to the big screen. A memorable movie moment was born when Bond (played by Sir Sean Connery) happens



Inset: London's famous Piccadilly Circus, where many a Bond car chase has taken place. Right: Pierce Brosnan and John Cleese on location in London filming *Die Another Day*.



upon Honey Ryder (Ursula Andress), wearing only a bikini and a knife, singing as she strolls out of the surf and onto the sand. His "just looking" line was the first in a long string of one-liners that has made Bond more charming over the years. If you visit this spot along the Jamaican coast, now called James Bond Beach, you might just be able to hear a rendition of "Underneath the Mango Tree."

In *Live and Let Die*, the Jamaica Swamp Safari outside Falmouth played the role of Mr. Big's crocodile farm in New Orleans. Founded by Ross Kanaga, who lent his name and performed stunts in the movie, the swamp safari is now called Swaby's Swamp Safari and still features the famous sign, "Visitors will be eaten."

Just a few miles west on A1, cobblestone streets give way to luxury at The Ritz-Carlton Golf & Spa Resort, Rose Hall, near Montego Bay. Guests there can choose from plenty of activities, including deep sea fishing. The hotel can set up a day of angling on the Caribbean sea, much like Bond himself did in *Live and Let Die*. Bond and Solitaire wander

past one of Jamaica's dozens of waterfalls near Rose Hall, and the region near the resort also was the site of Kanaga's poppy fields in the film.

You'll also find the White River on the north side of the island, where Bond, Quarrel and Honey used reeds to breathe underwater as they tried to escape the guards in *Dr. No*. The movie's scene in which the trio bathe in a small lagoon has turned Dunn's River Falls into one of the most visited waterfalls in Jamaica.

ISTANBUL: FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE AND THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH

With its cobblestone streets, massive mosques and exquisite archways and columns, Istanbul, Turkey, epitomizes the Old World. This ancient city straddles the Bosphorus Strait, making it the only metropolis sitting on two continents — Europe and Asia — and it has been the capital of three separate empires: Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman. It's also the site where Bond battles both the Soviets and SPECTRE in *From Russia with Love*.

In both 1963's *From Russia with Love* and 1999's *The World Is Not Enough*, Istanbul's history and architectural beauty are on display as Bond spars with his enemies. In the earlier film, Bond takes a tour of Hagia Sofia, which now is a museum and features a massive gold-topped dome. Hagia Sofia is just one of several architecturally breathtaking mosques that punctuate the Istanbul skyline.

Minutes away from the Hagia Sofia museum is The Ritz-Carlton, Istanbul, which overlooks the Strait. Its architecture, too, combines influences from the city's previous empires into its luxurious design.

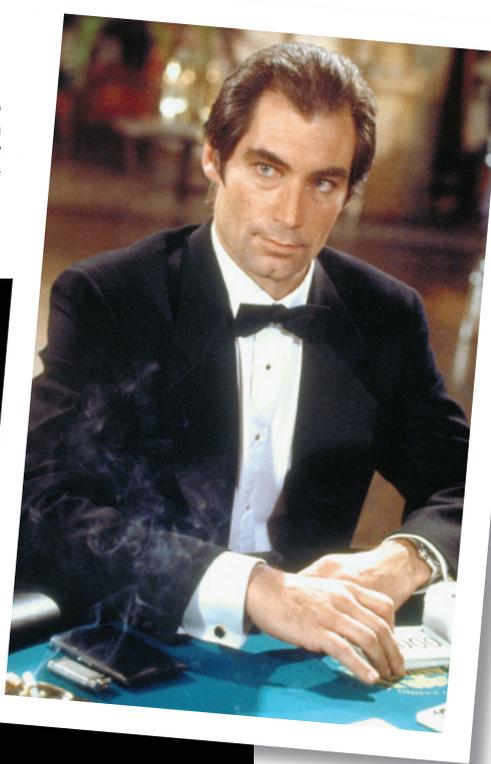
Underneath the centuries-old city, Bond poled his way by small boat through the Basilica Cistern (Yerebatan Sarnici), which was built in A.D. 532 to supply water to the Great Palace of Byzantium. In the 1990s, wooden walkways were built and lighting was added, but the cistern still provides an eerie setting as visitors wind their way through 336 stone columns. See if you can spot the column adorned with Medusa's head upside-down. In *From Russia with Love*, Bond took a slow ferry across the Bosphorus, and today's ferry rides still afford views of Topkapi Palace, the Blue Mosque, the Golden Horn and the Maiden's Tower, which was featured in *The World Is Not Enough*.

Although you'd be hard pressed to find a Bond-issue poison-dart pen, the Grand Bazaar (Kapali Çarşı), Turkey's largest covered market, offers a seemingly infinite supply of Turkish carpets, handcrafted pottery, glazed tiles and copper wares. Smaller, more intimate street-side markets clog the streets of Istanbul and are reminiscent of Bond's escape from the Russian consulate after stealing a top-secret decoding machine: the Lektor.

Bond's getaway continued as he boarded the legendary and luxurious Orient Express at the Sirkeci train station. Today's one-way trip from Istanbul to Venice, Bond's planned escape route, will cost upward of \$12,000 for a private cabin next year. Battling an assassin with a garrote in his watch might cost extra.

The best-known world traveler, Bond globe-trots on an unlimited budget from Her Majesty's Secret Service, living a life many can only dream about.

Inset: Timothy Dalton starred in two Bond films. This from a scene in *License to Kill*. Below: Mexico City where scenes for that movie were filmed.



LONDON: GOLDFINGER, THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH AND TOMORROW NEVER DIES

London plays a major role in most Bond movies, where Bond's home base, M16, is headquartered. And some of the sites around the city stood in for other parts of the world, such as RAF Northolt doubling as Kentucky's Bluegrass Field, in *Goldfinger*, and Somerset House appearing as St. Petersburg, Russia. London Taxi Tour offers outings to many of the more recognizable sites in 007 film history, as well as Fleming's birthplace.

True Bond fans can catch glimpses of Big Ben, London Bridge, the Tower of London and the Millennium Dome, just as Pierce Brosnan did in the exciting boat chase scene on the Thames River in *The World Is Not Enough*. Although moving at much slower speeds aboard a cruise ship, you'll be able to picture Bond's Q Boat firing rockets, traveling underwater and jetting through the city streets of London.

After a short drive to Stoke Park Club just outside London, golfers can tee up where Bond battled villain Auric Goldfinger on the links. Upon discovering Goldfinger cheating, Bond switches balls on his opponent and wins the match. Afterward, Goldfinger's bulky Korean henchman, Oddjob, beheads a statue in front of the club with his deadly bowler hat. The statue still is there — with its head intact. And one of the club's downstairs bars has a distinctive Bond theme to it.

Open until March 2009 at the Imperial War Museum in London, the "For Your Eyes Only" exhibit celebrates the centenary of Fleming's birth and focuses on the man who created the world's greatest secret agent. The exhibit features the "blood-splattered" shirt worn by Daniel Craig in *Casino Royale*, prototypes for Rosa Klebb's switchblade shoes in *From Russia with Love* and Goldfinger's (Gert Frobe) golf shoes.

PORTUGAL: ON HER MAJESTY'S SECRET SERVICE

Bond spent much of 1969's *On Her Majesty's Secret Service* along the coast of Portugal, wooing Contessa Teresa "Tracy" di Vincenzo, whom he ultimately married but was unable to save from assassins. The film opens with 007 driving along the stunning coastline from Lisbon to Cascais. He saves Tracy from an apparent suicide and then helps her escape two thugs who mysteriously appear and attack Bond. Of course, 007 also escapes and reunites with Tracy at her hotel.

A drive from Lisbon to Cascais today would take you



past high cliffs, colorful rock formations by the water and tiny seaside towns, where you can stop for quick bite along the way. Nearby, Casino Estoril, the largest gaming facility in Europe, apparently was Fleming's inspiration for the Casino Royale in the novel by the same name.

In *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, Portugal serves as a romantic location where Bond and Tracy ride horses through the forest, take walks through beautiful gardens and stroll along white sandy beaches. They fell in love somewhere among the lush green vegetation and white chalky cliffs in the Arrábida Natural Park along the coast between Setúbal and Sesimbra. Tracy met her tragic end on a road leading up to the same park.

Near Cascais and Sintra, you can find another romantic setting: the Sintra-Cascais Natural Park, with its exotic plants, water mills and numerous fountains. It's also home of the Penha Longa Hotel, Spa & Golf Resort, a Ritz-Carlton resort. The resort is just minutes from Guincho Beach, where Bond first met Tracy and the world was introduced to George Lazenby, who played 007 only once. After Tracy (Diana Rigg) sped away in her Ford Mustang, Lazenby as Bond mugged for the camera and said, "This never happened to the other fellow."

Inset: The recognizable Brandenburg Gate in Berlin. Right and below: Roger Moore on location in Berlin filming a tricky scene in *Octopussy*.



BAHAMAS: THUNDERBALL, FOR YOUR EYES ONLY AND CASINO ROYALE

In the early 1960s, the Bahamas was relatively unknown to most Americans. Only those with old money, such as the Astors and Vanderbilts, vacationed here extensively. But no one could argue that 1965's *Thunderball* played a role in putting this 700-island archipelago on the map. Swimming with sea turtles, sharks and bad guys; playing baccarat at a Bahamas casino; and dining on conch chowder and champagne, James Bond helped turned this group of islands into a haven for visitors who wanted to travel like a secret agent without the danger.

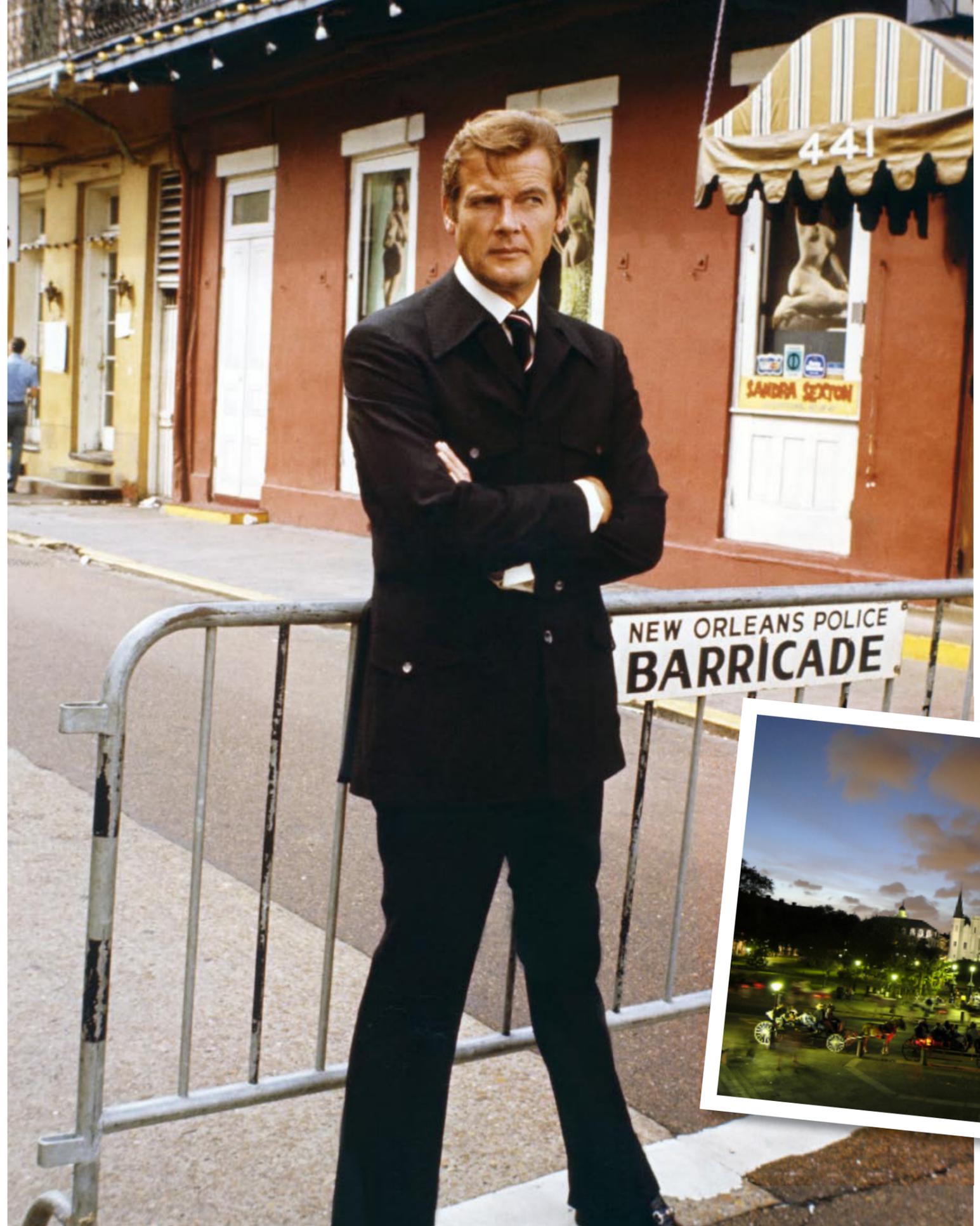
Thunderball Grotto near Staniel Cay, where part of Bond's first Bahamian adventure was filmed, is a snorkeler's dream. Beautiful staghorn and elkhorn coral stands highlight this 25-foot-deep reef and provide a colorful backdrop to the tropical fish waiting for swimmers. You might even find a few large sea turtles, just like Bond did when he was scouting underwater for information on his *Thunderball* nemesis, Emilio Largo.

Bond never fed sharks by hand — but if a little danger gets your blood pumping, many of the islands offer dives in which you can swim with the sharks while they're being fed by a divemaster. Volunteers can also play the role of shark feeder, donning the divemaster's shoulder-length chainmail glove for protection.

Bond producers have made six trips to the Bahamas over the years for underwater scenes, not only in *Thunderball* and *For Your Eyes Only* but also in *The Spy Who Loved Me* and *The World Is Not Enough*. Cave and wreck diving — such as in *Thunderball* — still are popular pastimes in the Bahamas, and two more ways to emulate Bond during a trip to the islands. You can recreate Bond's helicopter ride with CIA agent Felix Leiter with some chartered island-hopping of your own. If Bond had had the time, he might have even taken in some bonefishing or sailing.

A trip to the Bahamas around the holidays is a perfect chance to enjoy the islands' culture and heritage during Junkanoo, Bahamas' version of Mardi Gras and Carnival. One of Bond's missions coincided with the annual festival, and he hid inside a parade float during a chase scene in *Thunderball*. Most Junkanoo revelers enjoy the colorful costumes and gyrating dancers from benches and safer vantage points along the extensive parade routes. Junkanoo celebrations are held on Paradise Island, The Exumas, Grand Bahama Island and The Abacos.

Connery, the first and arguably the best Bond in the series and now a resident of New Providence Island, said he moved to the Bahamas just for the golf. Championship golf courses designed by the likes of Robert Trent Jones Jr., Tom Weiskopf, Dick Wilson and Donald Steel dot



Left: Roger Moore, the one actor to star in the most James Bond films, 7, on location in New Orleans filming "Live and Let Die." Inset: Jackson Square in New Orleans.



many of the islands. Connery has been seen playing rounds at The Abaco Club on Winding Bay, a Ritz-Carlton–managed club. Wonder if the cart girls ask him if he wants his vodka martini shaken, not stirred?

MIAMI: GOLDFINGER

Relaxing poolside in Miami for a massage sounds perfect. Bond did it in *Goldfinger*, and you can, too. Enjoy a relaxing lanai rubdown at either The Ritz-Carlton, Key Biscayne or The Ritz-Carlton, South Beach. Just don't expect to find a gold-painted woman in your hotel room afterward.

Moments before the audience is introduced to Bond receiving his spa treatment from a beautiful woman (naturally), filmgoers catch a glimpse of an indoor ice skating rink. Miami has plenty of indoor rinks, including Kendall Ice Arena, which features two large rinks allowing visitors to escape the Florida heat.

Miami also doubled as Louisville, Ky., in some of the *Goldfinger* scenes. And although the KFC restaurant on 119th Street and Arnold's Royal Castle on Seventh Avenue, a Miami dining landmark, are shown only briefly in the movie, a quick drive past them might be a worthy side trip for diehard Bond fans.

NEW ORLEANS: LIVE AND LET DIE

Voodoo, tarot card readings, boat rides, alligators and jazz all play huge roles in the appeal of both New Orleans and actor Sir Roger Moore's first appearance as 007. Get your adrenaline pumping on an airboat ride in one of the many bayous around New Orleans, reminiscent of the famous speedboat chase in *Live and Let Die*. You'll pass huge cypress trees covered with Spanish moss and plenty of alligators. The Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Reserve, where many of the chase scenes were filmed, is partially accessible via a 65-passenger boat tour.

If you're driving, take Interstate 10 north of the city and cross Lake Pontchartrain on Highway 11. You'll pass the Irish Bayou on the right and spot Miller's Bridge on the left, where police set up a water blockade to stop Bond.

Although there is no Fillet of Soul in New Orleans' French Quarter, the film's funeral procession was shot at the corner of Dumaine and Chartres streets. Dumaine intersects the city's more famous Bourbon Street, where you can find plenty of blues bars and jazz clubs, including Fritzel's on Bourbon Street or the French Quarter Bar inside The Ritz-Carlton, New Orleans on Canal Street. If you order a couple of Sazeracs, make sure your table doesn't disappear into the floor or your booth doesn't spin into the wall as they did in *Live and Let Die*.

Live and Let Die played up New Orleans' supernatural and mystical background, introducing Bond girl Solitaire as a seer who reads tarot cards. While Bond tricks Solitaire into bed, Baron Samedi's voodoo connection provides a more sinister tone to the movie. Just up Dumaine Street, you'll find the New Orleans Historic Voodoo Museum, which offers tours of the more mysterious sites in the city.

BERLIN: OCTOPUSSY

The most famous border crossing in Cold War history — Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin — appears in just one of the Bond spy movies: 1983's *Octopussy*. Roger Moore as Bond crosses the border to track down a circus of female acrobats, passing the famous guard post into East Berlin. With the fall of the Soviet Union and the Berlin Wall's destruction in 1989, Checkpoint Charlie has become an even more popular tourist attraction. Its museum documents the thousands of escapes from East to West, many that would have made even Bond proud.

Of course, a spy movie without a chase scene really wouldn't be much of a spy movie. *Octopussy's* top-shelf action sequences include German police chasing Bond as he rushes to stop a nuclear disaster. The car chase was filmed south of the city, on the Automobil Verkehrs und Übungs Strasse (an old motor sports and car testing track, better known as AVUS), which now is part of the Autobahn A115.

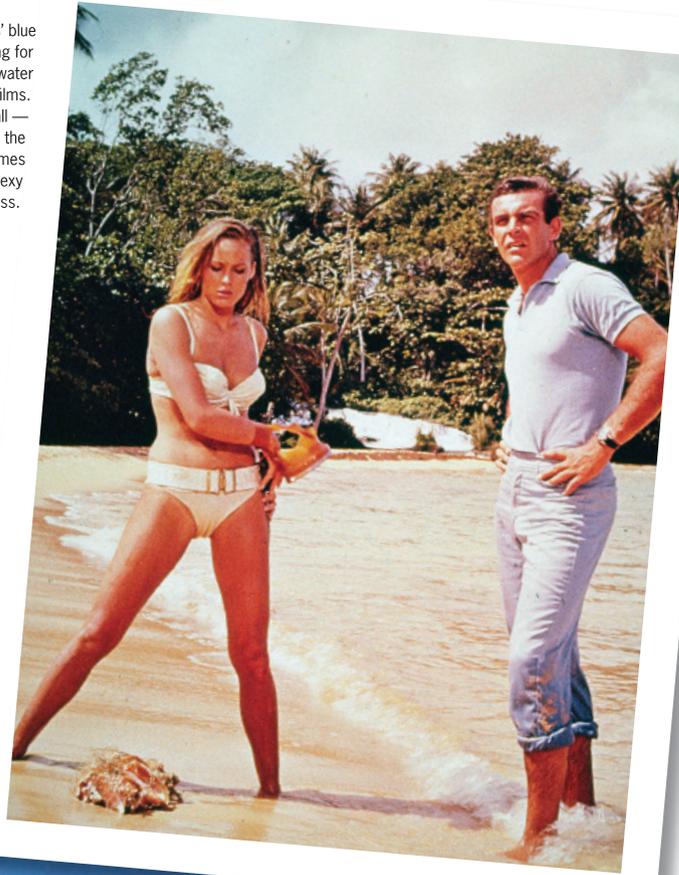
Bond eventually tracks down Octopussy's traveling circus at a fictional U.S.

Air Force base, dons a clown costume and saves the day by disarming the nuclear bomb. Although there probably won't be any human cannonballs or atomic warheads, Synfunia can stand in for the circus during a present-day trip to Berlin. The Cirque du Soleil–style show features jugglers and breathtaking aerial acts and relies on humor and slapstick to entertain audiences.



Far left: Sintra, Portugal. Inset: George Lazenby and Diana Rigg on location in Portugal where they filmed *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, in which the confirmed bachelor was married for the only time in the series.

Lower left: The Bahamas' blue waters were the perfect setting for creating the exciting underwater scenes from many Bond films. Inset: The one that started it all — *Dr. No* — filmed on location in the Bahamas starring the first James Bond, Sean Connery, and his sexy love interest, Ursula Andress.



Once separated by the Berlin Wall and in major disrepair, Potsdamer Platz has become a vibrant city center and features The Ritz-Carlton, Berlin. With its picturesque high-rise design, the hotel is a fitting anchor for this re-emerging section of Berlin.

A ten-minute taxi ride from the hotel will take you to Kurfürstendamm ("Ku'damm" for short), Berlin's famous shopping district, which makes a cameo appearance in *Octopussy*. Today's visitors can make a stop at KaDeWe, the largest department store on continental Europe, for an Omega Seamaster, Bond's watch of choice in recent movies, or a pair of Church's "Presley" shoes worn by Bond in *The World Is Not Enough*.

MEXICO CITY: LICENCE TO KILL

Just a short drive from the landmark Angel of Independence Monument, where a Ritz-Carlton hotel is expected to open in 2010, step back in time to 1989's *Licence to Kill*. This time, actor Timothy Dalton, as Bond, battles an evil drug lord, Franz Sanchez, who tried to kill Bond's CIA buddy, Leiter, by feeding him to a hungry shark. Leiter survives, and Bond travels to "Isthmus City," played by Mexico City in the film.

El Correo Central, or the Main Post Office, played the Banco de Isthmus, and El Teatro de la Ciudad stood in for Sanchez's headquarters. El Teatro de la Ciudad, or the City Theatre, features an exquisite 1,500-seat auditorium and a wide variety of shows and concerts. The post office was built around the turn of the 20th century and is one of the most beautiful buildings in the country.

Casino Español restaurant, was turned into the Casino de Isthmus City, where Bond played blackjack. The 95-year-old landmark housed in a former private mansion features European-style banquet halls and is known for its Valencian paella, baked goat and snails à la Bilbaína.

About 30 miles west of the city, Centro Ceremonial Otomí in Temoaya was the Olimpatec Meditation Institute, the front for Sanchez's drug lab in *Licence to Kill*. Its cone-shaped buildings and main edifice were built recently in celebration of the Otomí people, an indigenous group from Mexico. It was "destroyed" when it blew up during Bond's escape from Sanchez's drug lab. Today, it hosts cultural events for the area.

While fighting evil for queen and country, Bond's expeditions have taken him around the world. And *Quantum of Solace* also is expected to showcase more exotic settings — from Panama to Peru and from Chile to Italy.

So, get your passports ready, but leave behind any exploding pens or booby-trapped briefcases. Even without the gadgets and the guns, you still can follow in 007's footsteps — and live to tell about it. ●

