

# HOTTEST *honeymoons*

Each year we create a list of the most amazing honeymoon locations in the world. Here are this year's winners. BY MARIDEL REYES

10 MOST  
*adventurous*

10 BEST  
*beaches*

10 MOST  
*romantic*

10 BEST  
*budget*

10 MOST  
*exotic*

10  
MOST  
*adventurous*

## *hayman island, australia*

**WHY GO** This private island resort located in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef may be far but it's totally worth it. (The cast of *Modern Family* was recently spotted filming there!)

**WHERE TO STAY** The staff at One&Only Hayman Island (from \$686, [OneandOnlyResorts.com](http://OneandOnlyResorts.com)) helps you schedule daily activities like snorkeling, diving charters, catamaran sailings and kayaking, as well as treatments at the resort's spa.

**WHAT TO DO** Ask about the Whitsunday Dream Tour, where you helicopter over the Reef (don't miss the spectacular Heart Reef) out to Whitehaven Beach for refreshments or Hook Island for some of the best inner-reef snorkeling. Explore the island up close on one of the resort's incredible hikes to Blue Pearl Bay or Dolphin Point. >>

One&Only  
Hayman Island

*The Knot*  
475

# MOST adventurous



## iceland

**WHY GO** Largely uninhabited, Iceland changes scenery every few minutes. You can go from volcanic, lunar-looking landscapes or grassy, green Middle Earth to shattering waterfalls and soaring geysers or massive Blue Lagoon hot springs.

**WHERE TO STAY** Chase the Northern Lights at the sophisticated and remote-feeling Hotel Búdir (from \$186, HotelBudir.is). It's only a few hours drive from the capital city of Reykjavik (which also has an airport) and is set at the edge of the Snaefellsjökull National Park with an imposing glacier at the center. Snaefellsjökull became well known when it was used as the "gateway to the center of the earth" in Jules Verne's famous book *Journey to the Center of the Earth*.

**WHAT TO DO** Head over to the picturesque Snaefellsjökull National Park to see some of nature's most beautiful creations, including two massive lava formations and a dreamy hidden waterfall. Then stop by the Blue Lagoon and dip in and out of the various pools and hot springs with your sweetheart. Don't miss the opportunity for an in-the-water couple's massage where you'll mix a bit of adventure with romance.

## galápagos islands, ecuador

**WHY GO** The bucolic Galápagos Islands provide an unparalleled wildlife experience and are home to animals and plants found nowhere else on Earth.

**WHERE TO STAY** The 14-room Pikaia Lodge (all-inclusive, 3-night exploration package from \$7,560, PikaiaLodgeGalapagos.com) is located on a giant tortoise reserve on Santa Cruz Island. A leisurely walk around the grounds will bring you face to face with a wild giant tortoise.

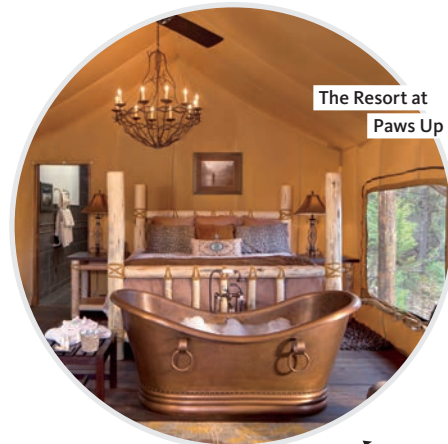
**WHAT TO DO** Go island-hopping on one of the hotel's private yachts and explore the surrounding locales. Or book a scuba diving trip—the Galápagos are one of the seven underwater wonders of the world.

## namibia

**WHY GO** You'll experience a quintessential African safari—imagine sleeping under the stars among red desert sand dunes, surrounded by a vast mountain range.

**WHERE TO STAY** Reconnect at the tranquil Sossusvlei Desert Lodge (from \$451, AndBeyond.com), located within the NamibRand Nature Reserve.

**WHAT TO DO** Each room at the lodge comes with a skylight above the bed, so you can stargaze while you relax. Or head to the observatory and ask the resident astronomer to point out the brightest and most gorgeous constellations. Want something a little more active for daytime? Go on a quad biking adventure or hike around the property—it will allow you to explore the breathtaking scenery.



The Resort at Paws Up

## greenough, montana

**WHY GO** Outdoorsy couples will swoon over the pristine Montana wilderness and all it has to offer—from horseback riding to river adventures and fly fishing.

**WHERE TO STAY** The Resort at Paws Up (all-inclusive from \$1,255, PawsUp.com) invented the "glamping" concept. Book a honeymoon tent (yes, a tent), complete with a gorgeous copper tub set in the middle—perfect for an indulgent soak.

**WHAT TO DO** Have an enchanting private candlelit picnic dinner at Cliffside Camp, where you'll be serenaded by sounds of the rushing Blackfoot River.

## vancouver island, canada

**WHY GO** Love sea sports? Landlubbers? This hot spot has something for you. Surrounded by mountains on the Pacific Ocean, this city offers tons of adventure.

**WHERE TO STAY** While known for its stunning beaches, surfing hot spots and outdoor adventures, the district of Tofino on Vancouver Island is the most exciting from November through February. At The Wickaninnish Inn (from \$240, WickInn.com), cuddle up to the sounds of powerful roaring waves from the comfort of your room. Each guest room features a fireplace, private balcony and view of the ocean or beach. The sounds of the wind and waves can be hypnotizing, creating a magical mood.

**WHAT TO DO** Stay active during the day, hiking, biking or sailing, and head to the heart of the city at night for a cosmopolitan scene. And don't miss an opportunity to heat things up in the hot springs in nearby Maquinna Marine Provincial Park, which is only reachable by boat.

## papagayo peninsula, costa rica

**WHY GO** With the recent expansion of the Liberia airport, access to this part of the country has become much easier. And now couples even have their pick of luxe, modern lodgings to go with the unblemished beach and rain forest adventures.

**WHERE TO STAY** The new Andaz Peninsula Papagayo Resort (from \$450, Papagayo.Andaz.Hyatt.com) combines modern and precolonial design and offers both mountain and ocean vistas.

**WHAT TO DO** Try your luck in the waters with the hotel's "How to Surf Costa Rica" guide created by twin brothers Alex and Mike Faherty, the surf enthusiasts behind clothing line Faherty Brand. Then take a two-hour day trip to the most innovative zip-lining course at Rio Perdido.

## dominica

**WHY GO** Dubbed "nature island" because of its vast rain forests, which occupy more than half of this Caribbean locale, Dominica also boasts Morne Trois Pitons National Park and the world's second-largest hot lake of its kind, aptly known as Boiling Lake.

**WHERE TO STAY** Book one of only six private villas and bungalows at the eco-luxury boutique resort Secret Bay (from \$452, SecretBay.dm), which is nestled into a cliff overlooking the Caribbean Sea. (Yes, it's as dreamy as it sounds.)

**WHAT TO DO** A visit to the Waitukubuli National Trail is a must at this hiker heaven. With 14 different paths stretching 115 miles, there's a trail for every experience level, from novice to seasoned trekker. Then soothe your legs in one of the island's many natural hot lakes.

## st. lucia

**WHY GO** From black-sand beaches to the wooded peaks of the Pitons, this Caribbean gem isn't short on breathtaking landscapes. Also noteworthy are its vast cocoa plantations and charming Creole villages.

**WHERE TO STAY** Each of Ladera Resort's suites (from \$450, Ladera.com) has only three walls, with an open fourth wall facing a spectacular, Instagram-worthy view of the Pitons and the sea, connecting you with nature but still allowing complete privacy for you and your new spouse.

**WHAT TO DO** Take a piece of your honeymoon home and preorder a handcrafted bed, carved with your names or initials, which will be in the suite upon arrival and shipped to your home the day you depart. The beds are customized by the hotel's on-site local craftsmen.

## sedona, arizona

**WHY GO** Romance seekers have flocked to Sedona's alluring red rocks for years for the ultimate spa, wellness and outdoor adventure.

**WHERE TO STAY** Nestled in a canyon within Sedona's red rocks, Mii amo (all-inclusive, 3-night journey package from \$2,520, Miiamo.com) offers an experience grounded in Native American traditions. Enjoy spa treatments themed around moon phases, walks to the "Vortex" energy center and even a meditation labyrinth.

**WHAT TO DO** Book the Inner Quest, a 60-minute treatment where you're wrapped in a blanket—mimicking the warmth of a sweat lodge—while sweetgrass is burned. >>



ICELAND: THINKSTOCK; NAMIBIA: SHUTTERSTOCK

SHUTTERSTOCK

# 1 BEST beaches

## *koh tao, thailand*

**WHY GO** Why settle for one breathtaking beach when you can experience a dozen? Rent a motorbike and search for your favorite with your partner.

**WHERE TO STAY** The adults-only resort Koh Tao Bamboo Huts (from \$212, KohTaoBambooHuts.com) features 19 huts perched on rocks at the edge of the sea. All look out on the water, plus have an indoor and outdoor balcony and pavilion. You can also book one with a private swimming pool and Jacuzzi fit for two.

**WHAT TO DO** Relax on the property's serene private beach, or get certified in scuba diving at the nearby dive center and take your new skills for a test-drive.

## *aruba*

**WHY GO** Nicknamed "One Happy Island" for its prime location outside the hurricane belt and average temperature of 82 degrees year-round, this country clocks the most sunny days in all of the Caribbean.

**WHERE TO STAY** Each room at the recently opened Ritz-Carlton Aruba (from \$399, RitzCarlton.com) has a private balcony. Book one overlooking the Caribbean Sea for truly beautiful vistas.

**WHAT TO DO** Although this hotel and most others are located on Palm Beach—Aruba's most famous—venture out one day to Arashi Beach for pure white sand and unforgettable snorkeling. Then, try your luck at the resort's 15,000-square-foot casino.

## *rio de janeiro, brazil*

**WHY GO** The beachgoers here are so "tall and tan and young and lovely" that Rio became immortalized in the song "The Girl From Ipanema." Stepping out onto the city's iconic beaches—ringed by jagged mountains, with the buzz of vendors and foot-volley players and the sight of itchy-bitsy bikinis—will have you humming.

**WHERE TO STAY** The majestic Belmond Copacabana Palace (from \$497, Belmond.com) has been the go-to hotel for the rich and famous for more than 90 years.

**WHAT TO DO** Guests of the hotel may arrange for a private sunrise picnic at the iconic Christ the Redeemer statue—before the usual hordes of sightseers arrive.

## *florida keys, florida*

**WHY GO** The Florida Keys contain more than 1,000 islands stretched over 100 miles. The most famous is Key West, the favorite vacation spot of the kings of Spain and literary types like Ernest Hemingway (who had a home there) and Tennessee Williams.

**WHERE TO STAY** The Marker Waterfront Resort (from \$279, TheMarkerKeyWest.com) just opened last winter and is the first new hotel built in Key West's historic Old Town in 20 years (and it's a luxe one at that!).

**WHAT TO DO** Rent bikes and pedal around Old Town, filled with 19th-century architecture. Head to Mallory Square around dusk to witness the nightly sunset celebration and watch street performers as the sky turns a pretty, fiery hue.

## *maui, hawaii*

**WHY GO** The island's clear waters, tropical sunsets and lush greenery make Hawaii a no-brainer for a romantic getaway. New luxury resorts on Maui mean the island is suddenly buzzworthy again (for the record, we never stopped loving it).

**WHERE TO STAY** Staff at the all-suite Montage Kapalua Bay (from \$775, MontageHotels.com) can arrange snorkeling trips and dreamy horseback rides along the beach. And each suite has its own balcony.

**WHAT TO DO** Watch the sunrise while wrapped in a blanket at the top of Haleakala Crater, or gaze at the sunset as you cruise along the Kihei coastline. Instant romance.

## *fiji*

**WHY GO** The islands that make up Fiji are surrounded by coral reefs resulting in warm lagoons and beautiful coral beaches.

**WHERE TO STAY** Likuliku Lagoon Resort Fiji (all-inclusive from \$875, LikulikuLagoon.com) on Malolo Island is the only resort in Fiji with overwater thatched-roof bungalows that are built in traditional Fijian style with local materials.

**WHAT TO DO** Stroll along quiet nature trails that lead to spectacular views of the Mamanuca Islands. Visit the nearby village and immerse yourself in the rich culture and explore ancient sites.



## *ibiza, spain*

**WHY GO** There's more to Ibiza than the infamously wild, up-all-night parties. Just a few miles from the throbbing city center, you'll find sleepy hill villages, lush forests, rolling orchards and hippie-chic farmhouses, perfect for couples looking for a little R & R.

**WHERE TO STAY** The new Hard Rock Hotel Ibiza (from \$222, HRHIbiza.com) boasts the longest stretch of palm-fringed beach on the island, plus a spa and two restaurants from a Michelin-starred chef.

**WHAT TO DO** Take a 30-minute boat ride to the more mellow island of Formentera to find unspoiled, hidden beaches where the waters are a beautiful turquoise blue and bathing suits for you and your new spouse are sometimes optional.

## *little cayman, cayman islands*

**WHY GO** The smallest and least developed (read: tranquil) of the three Cayman Islands, Little Cayman has a population of about 170 people—meaning that most of it is basically uninhabited beach bliss.

**WHERE TO STAY** Snag a one-bedroom villa with its own ocean panorama at The Club at Little Cayman (from \$350, TheClubatLittleCayman.com) and lounge on the property's secluded beach or cuddle up on a beachfront hammock.

**WHAT TO DO** Venture to remote South Hole Sound lagoon for a just-you-two swim. Or row your love boat out to tiny, deserted Owen Island to behold nature in its most pristine form. You'll feel like you're the only two people in the world.

## *punta del este, uruguay*

**WHY GO** The once-sleepy fishing village is now the St. Tropez of South America, attracting international socialites, millionaires and celebrities. Latin pop star Shakira, Argentine polo champion Nacho Figueras and British novelist Martin Amis have all been spotted vacationing here.

**WHERE TO STAY** Nautical leaning, The Grand Hotel (from \$260, PuntaGrand.com) just opened on Brava Beach, one of Punta del Este's most beautiful beaches, and is nearby the shopping areas.

**WHAT TO DO** Take a trip to nearby José Ignacio for a more laid-back, boho beach scene. Or hop on a daily boat tour to visit Isla de Lobos's colony of sea lions. In the summer, ask about the many music festivals featuring world-class performers.

## *st. barts*

**WHY GO** This island is one of the most upscale destinations in the Caribbean and its French background provides an elegant appeal similar to the French Riviera.

**WHERE TO STAY** All the suites and villas at the intimate Le Sereno (from \$702, LeSereno.com) have private terraces and gardens—and most have an ocean view.

**WHAT TO DO** Pack a picnic basket, swimsuits and beach towels and head to the insanely beautiful Colombier beach (the water is the most gorgeous shade of aquamarine you've ever seen), which is only accessible via boat or by foot. >>



Le Sereno

# 10 MOST romantic

## paris, france

**WHY GO** Paris is synonymous with romance. It's a combination of the architecture, the food and the art that makes this city so special.

**WHERE TO STAY** When you stay at the elegant Hotel Plaza Athénée (from \$819, DorchesterCollection.com), splurge on a three-night Suite Life package and you'll be greeted at the airport, escorted through customs and then chauffeured to the hotel. Does the place look familiar? The property was the backdrop for Carrie and Big's reunion in the last season of *Sex and the City*.

**WHAT TO DO** The travel guides will talk about going to the Musée d'Orsay, the Louvre and the Eiffel Tower—all definitely worth your time. But this is your honeymoon, so you also have to tie a ribbon (locks are discouraged now) on the Pont des Arts bridge, which symbolizes your committed love to one another.



## sonoma, california

**WHY GO** World-class wine, delicious food and unsurpassed scenery—what's not to love about this pretty locale?

**WHERE TO STAY** Forestville's Farmhouse Inn (from \$595, FarmHouseInn.com) just added cozy-chic barn rooms to its wooded grove. For the "In-Room Somm" program a sommelier will customize a wine tasting that will be brought right to your room. Cheers!

**WHAT TO DO** Guests at Farmhouse Inn get exclusive access to wineries not normally open to the public, such as Kistler and Kosta Browne. You'll also want to indulge in the local fare—these California chefs were doing farm-to-table long before it was a trend.

## bora bora, french polynesia

**WHY GO** It's the stuff honeymoon fantasies are made of: crystal-clear waters, picturesque mountains and a coral reef swirling with colorful fish. No wonder it was recently voted one of the best islands in the world by US News and World Report.

**WHERE TO STAY** The Four Seasons Resort Bora Bora (from \$919, FourSeasons.com) is located on a coral reef that encloses a turquoise lagoon. Swoon!

**WHAT TO DO** Charter a helicopter to take you around towering Mount Otemanu, then touch down on a neighboring island for a tour of a black pearl or vanilla bean farm.

## orkney, scotland

**WHY GO** Indulge in all your *Downton Abbey* daydreams at this northern archipelago off the coast of Scotland with green-topped islands and sandstone cliffs.

**WHERE TO STAY** The family-run Kirkwall Hotel (from \$143, KirkwallHotel.com) is located in a storybook-perfect Victorian building that overlooks Kirkwall's historic harbor and is steps from shopping.

**WHAT TO DO** Take a day trip and stand in awe at the Neolithic Ring of Brodgar, an ancient and eerie ring of standing stones, northeast of Stromness. Experts still don't know how the stones were brought here or what the circle means. With the weather moving in and the water lapping at the shore, it makes for a supernatural sight.



## bali, indonesia

**WHY GO** There's a reason its nickname is the "Isle of the Gods." Even before the hit book and movie *Eat, Pray, Love*, the island had been a magnet for romance seekers for its mist-shrouded temples, beautiful mountain vistas and vivid arts scene.

**WHERE TO STAY** A recent filming locale for ABC's *The Bachelor*, The Mulia, Mulia Resort & Villas (from \$380, TheMulia.com) fronts Nusa Dua coastline, which is famous for white-sand beaches and calm blue waters.

**WHAT TO DO** Arrange a trip to Pura Luhur Uluwatu temple. Located atop a cliff rising 200 feet above the Indian Ocean, it has one of the most unforgettable sunset views in the world. Then, stay for the mesmerizing nightly *kecak* dance performance.

## venice, italy

**WHY GO** Italy has long been a favorite honeymoon location for newlyweds. After all, nothing says "amore" quite like a gondola ride through the Grand Canal as you sail past historic buildings.

**WHERE TO STAY** The just-opened (read: stylish and modern) JW Marriott Venice (from \$437, Marriott.com) is located on a private island with stunning vistas of Piazza San Marco. Pretend you're Hollywood royalty (like Amal Alamuddin and George Clooney) as you take the complimentary 15-minute ferry ride to Venice.

**WHAT TO DO** Take a romantic, leisurely stroll around Piazza San Marco to feel the true scale of the enormous domes of the Basilica di San Marco or the beautiful and ornate details of Palazzo Ducale. Then, escape the sights and sounds of the city with a dreamy boat ride to one of the unspoiled islands nearby.

## harbour island, bahamas

**WHY GO** Chances are you've never seen anything like this pink-sand paradise. Plus, it's loved by boldface names like designer Diane von Furstenberg, Mick Jagger, Bill Gates and supermodel Elle Macpherson, so it must be amazing!

**WHERE TO STAY** Tingum Village Hotel has just 19 airy one-bedroom suites (from \$140, Hotels.com). Each room opens to an outdoor patio or balcony, perfect for early-morning (or late-night) lounging.

**WHAT TO DO** Visit postcard-perfect Pink Sands Beach and settle in among the three-mile stretch of sand and turquoise waters. Above the beach, join the jet-set for an open-air lunch at Sip Sip (the fresh menu changes daily). Then shop for a flowy caftan or other souvenirs at India Hicks's Sugar Mill Trading Co. shop.

## cape town, south africa

**WHY GO** Can't decide on what kind of honeymoon to take? Cape Town has you covered: glamorous beaches, big-city buzz, wild landscapes, and easy access to wine country and some of the world's best safaris.

**WHERE TO STAY** The über-stylish and secluded Atlantic House (from \$137, AtlanticHouse.co.za) is set in trendy Camps Bay and has only five en-suite rooms for the ultimate privacy and romance. Throw open the doors to your elevated wood deck for an "Is this real life?" view.

**WHAT TO DO** Go to the ends of the earth with your honey and take a 90-minute drive to Cape of Good Hope and Cape Agulhas, located in the most southern parts of the African continent. On the way back, stop at Boulders Beach to visit the famed colony of warm-weather penguins.

## savannah, georgia

**WHY GO** Get lost in the city's slow-paced serenity—it's the perfect antidote to any lingering wedding planning stress. Cozy inns and local restaurants flourish around the tree-shaded historic district.

**WHERE TO STAY** The Mansion on Forsyth Park (from \$189, MansiononForsythPark.com) offers a top-notch art collection, a cooking school, spa, an outdoor relaxation pool and a popular restaurant on-site. You'll be forgiven if you have honeymoon withdrawal when you leave.

**WHAT TO DO** Take a charming horse-drawn carriage tour around the squares. Or drive 30 minutes to kayak among dolphins off Tybee Island.



## santorini, greece

**WHY GO** This small volcanic island is known for its seriously gorgeous sunsets and pristine whitewashed villas.

**WHERE TO STAY** Reserve the Perivolos hotel's (from \$465, Perivolos.gr) Perivolos Suite—its cliffside terrace provides an Instagram-worthy view of the Aegean Sea.

**WHAT TO DO** Even couples who get antsy after an hour of beach time will find lots to explore. Take a scooter to the red- and black-sand beaches, check out ancient sites—like the newly reopened Bronze Age settlement of Akrotíri (oftentimes called "Minoan Pompeii")—visit wineries, go hiking and stop in the many boutiques. >>



# 10 BEST budget



Sparrows Lodge

## palm springs, california

**WHY GO** This West Coast destination has always been hip. From the 1940s to the 1970s, actors and musicians like Marilyn Monroe, Frank Sinatra and the rest of the Rat Pack were regulars. This desert oasis was also super-popular with architects. Today, their mid-century modern masterpieces are the hallmark of this retro-fun city.

**WHERE TO STAY** Newly restored hipster boutique hotel Sparrows Lodge (from \$115, SparrowsLodge.com) has barn-style rooms with redwood walls, pebbled floors, butterfly chairs and even horse troughs as bathtubs. Most rooms have private terraces, or you can mingle with other guests by the lively pool or outdoor fire pit.

**WHAT TO DO** Make a reservation at The Purple Room, one of the city's original supper clubs (Sinatra used to hold court there). Soak up the atmosphere and enjoy live entertainment over a martini and snacks at a stage-side table or at a ringside seat at the famous bar.

## whitehouse, jamaica

**WHY GO** Jamaica is known for being home to a slew of super-luxurious all-inclusives, which means you get a five-star honeymoon experience without breaking the bank.

**WHERE TO STAY** All rooms at Sandals Whitehouse (all-inclusive from \$234, Sandals.com) face the beach, and the resort is nestled into a 500-acre nature preserve. Couples who book a stay receive a free honeymoon package, which includes a bottle of chilled sparkling wine, special turndown service and breakfast in bed.

**WHAT TO DO** You already took the plunge—now go deep with your hubby and learn to scuba dive (for free). Sandals includes certification, gear rental and diving in the resort fee.

## québec city, canada

**WHY GO** Ooh la la! You'll feel like you're in Paris, from the romantic cafés to the charming cobblestone streets and fashionable boutiques—just without the international flight fare.

**WHERE TO STAY** Auberge Saint-Antoine (from \$239, Saint-Antoine.com) is ideally situated at the heart of Québec City's Old Port and across from the St. Lawrence River. It's also a few steps from the fortifications, museums and bustling streets of the historic Quartier Petit Champlain.

**WHAT TO DO** The hotel can arrange for a personal photo shoot around the Old City with a professional photographer and turn the images into a gorgeous coffee table book you'll treasure forever.

## buenos aires, argentina

**WHY GO** It feels like Europe, but with a Latin American twist—and it costs far less.

**WHERE TO STAY** Pull the old-fashioned elevator gate and ascend to Bed and Breakfast Ada & Valentyn (from \$75, BedandBreakfastBuenosAires.com), a lovely inn with high ceilings, wood floors and vintage furniture that has been painstakingly restored by the owners.

**WHAT TO DO** Take in the tango, Argentina's famed dance that's been described as "making love in the vertical position" (yow!) at a nearby dance hall.



## tulum, mexico

**WHY GO** The city of Tulum has a lot going for it: It's an hour and a half from the airport in Cancun, it's home to an ancient Mayan village, and it won't break a budget already strained from paying for a wedding. Oh, and did we mention the amazing beaches?

**WHERE TO STAY** Book a Sea Front or Jungle View room with an outdoor jet tub at the adults-only Mi Amor hotel (from \$375, TulumHotelMiAmor.com). The modern, luxury resort also features a 24-hour concierge to organize your stay and a poolside restaurant from a famed New York City chef.

**WHAT TO DO** Take a break from beach bumming to tour the ruins of the pre-Columbian Maya walled city. But make sure you still bring your bathing suit: A staircase nearby leads down to a slice of beach where you can swim and sunbathe.

## nantucket, massachusetts

**WHY GO** The island is a favorite summer vacation spot of successful politicians and CEOs, but couples on a budget can still enjoy its beachside ambience.

**WHERE TO STAY** The eight-room Sherburne Inn (from \$105, SherburneInn.com) bed-and-breakfast is hidden away on a quiet one-way street in Nantucket's historic district and has been charming visitors for more than 140 years.

**WHAT TO DO** Book a seal cruise or a whale-watching excursion for some on-the-water fun. Then get away to Great Point for a secluded picnic for two on the beach. The only others around? Maybe just some seagulls and a fisherman off the coast, far in the distance.

## palawan, philippines

**WHY GO** It's the country's final frontier—an unspoiled province of jaw-dropping waterscape scenery and tropical beauty.

**WHERE TO STAY** Save green and be green at Sheridan Beach Resort and Spa (from \$137, SheridanBeachResort.com), an eco-resort nestled between mountain ranges and the West Philippine Sea.

**WHAT TO DO** Kayak the Puerto Princesa Underground River, a navigable underground river and one of the new Seven Wonders of Nature in the world.



## vieques, puerto rico

**WHY GO** The island has a charmingly laid-back atmosphere that's hard to find elsewhere. Case in point: There are no traffic lights, and its beaches are quiet and unspoiled by high-rise buildings. Although the island is about 21 miles long, there's no shortage of beaches. The idyllic paradise boasts around 40!

**WHERE TO STAY** The newly opened design hotel El Blok (from \$180, ElBlok.com) will make you do a double-take with its playful and oh-so-modern aesthetic.

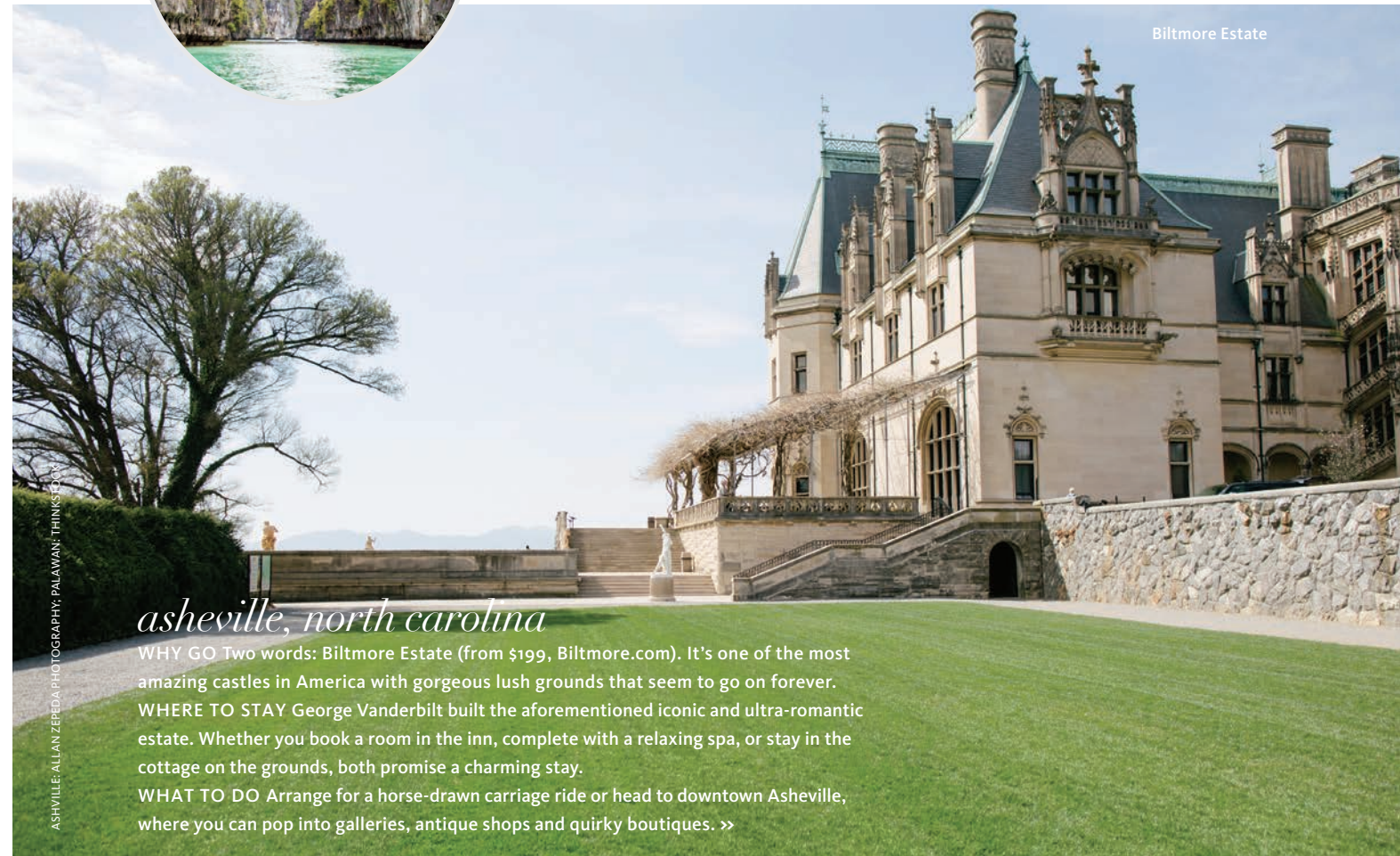
**WHAT TO DO** Check out the natural neon light show at Puerto Mosquito in the bay off the southern shore of the island. Each gallon of water holds more than 700,000 bioluminescent microscopic organisms that glow blue-white when they are disturbed—either by a kayak paddle or your limbs when you dive in for a leisurely swim.

## rovinj, croatia

**WHY GO** Dreaming of an Italian honeymoon but interested in getting more for your money? Look no further than Rovinj, where pastel homes line narrow winding streets and an active fishing port provides great people watching.

**WHERE TO STAY** The sleek Hotel Lone (from \$163, LoneHotel.com) is a chic seaside property overlooking Zlatni rt forest park. Each of the modern rooms (think: black-and-white décor, glass walls and stone details) includes a spacious terrace.

**WHAT TO DO** The historic town center is completely contained within an oval peninsula. Take a walk on the seaside promenade along the harbor to browse shops and check out a variety of bars and restaurants. Or enjoy the pleasant shade of their native trees and explore the grounds on foot or by bike.



Biltmore Estate

## asheville, north carolina

**WHY GO** Two words: Biltmore Estate (from \$199, Biltmore.com). It's one of the most amazing castles in America with gorgeous lush grounds that seem to go on forever.

**WHERE TO STAY** George Vanderbilt built the aforementioned iconic and ultra-romantic estate. Whether you book a room in the inn, complete with a relaxing spa, or stay in the cottage on the grounds, both promise a charming stay.

**WHAT TO DO** Arrange for a horse-drawn carriage ride or head to downtown Asheville, where you can pop into galleries, antique shops and quirky boutiques. >>

# 10 MOST exotic

## myanmar

**WHY GO** Where does the couple who has been everywhere go for their honeymoon? Myanmar. Up until recently, this Southeast Asian country was shrouded in secrecy and closed off to the outside world.

**WHERE TO STAY** Belmond (from \$2,520 for a 4-day journey, Belmond.com) just added a second river Belmond Orcaella cruiser to its existing Myanmar route.

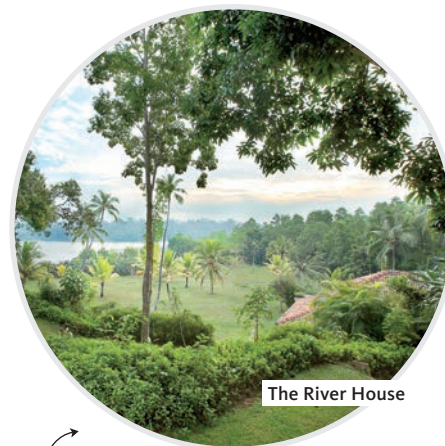
**WHAT TO DO** Visit ancient temples and marvel at places untouched by globalization. For wow-worthy selfies, take a hot air balloon ride over the plains around Bagan.

## panama city, panama

**WHY GO** This Central American nation has the best of everything: tropical rain forests, beautiful mountain vistas, two coasts for Caribbean- and Pacific-style beaches, more than 1,000 islands, a sophisticated capital city, a vibrant nightlife, full-service resorts, exotic off-the-beaten-path getaways and historic sites. Seriously, what more could you possibly ask for?

**WHERE TO STAY** The newly opened American Trade Hotel (from \$279, AceHotel.com) occupies a beautifully restored landmark building, providing the perfect mix of local culture and modern luxury. Book one of the top floor “Panorama” rooms for floor-to-ceiling windows that offer 180-degree views of Casco Viejo, Panama City and Panama Bay.

**WHAT TO DO** Spend a day on expansive Gatun Lake where you may come face-to-face with monkeys and other wild animals. Get your blood pumping with an intense hike to the top of 650-foot Cerro Ancón or take an afternoon to explore the historic streets of Casco Viejo. At night, slip into the hotel’s Danilo’s Jazz Club for world-class music with an intimate atmosphere.



The River House

## sri lanka

**WHY GO** Marco Polo described Sri Lanka as one of the finest islands of its size in the world. Located just south of India, it’s an up-and-coming destination for Europeans—and is now catching on around the globe.

**WHERE TO STAY** The River House (from \$280, TheRiverHouse.lk) in Sri Lanka’s southern province is a river-crossed, jungle-strewn, ocean-side escape. Book the spectacular Menik Suite with its plunge pool for two—seriously sexy.

**WHAT TO DO** Hang out at the hotel’s pool, ensconced within the jungle greenery. It feels wonderfully private, except for the monkeys swinging from the trees.

## dubai, united arab emirates

**WHY GO** Get the best of both worlds: Enjoy a taste of the glamorous city life for a few days and then head out to the desert for tranquility and romance.

**WHERE TO STAY** You’ll feel like royalty at Al Maha, a Luxury Collection Desert Resort and Spa (from \$817, Al-Maha.com). Settle into your ultra-luxurious tent accommodations, equipped with a private pool and wood deck.

**WHAT TO DO** Indulge in a sunset camel ride that takes you to the crest of a dune, where you’ll pause for champagne, snacks and fruit as the light changes. >>



Al Maha, a Luxury Collection Desert Resort and Spa

# MOST exotic



## *cappadocia, turkey*

**WHY GO** Located less than four hours from Turkey's capital city, the wind-carved landscapes of Cappadocia are otherworldly. **WHERE TO STAY** Argos in Cappadocia (from \$200, ArgosinCappadocia.com) is on the site of an ancient monastery with rooms that have been restored from the remains of underground tunnels and caves. **WHAT TO DO** Whether it's high up in a hot air balloon or on foot or horseback, there is a ton of ways to explore Cappadocia's magical valleys full of caves and rock formations, or "fairy chimneys."

## *udaipur, india*

**WHY GO** Known as the Venice of the East, this city of palace-like hotels sits on the picturesque Lake Pichola. **WHERE TO STAY** The Oberoi Udaivilas, Udaipur (from \$835, OberoiHotels.com) overlooks pristine water and lush gardens. **WHAT TO DO** Honeymooners receive a traditional welcome with a showering of rose petals, plus a complimentary 30-minute couple's massage.

## *maldives*

**WHY GO** This remote Indian Ocean archipelago greets honeymooners with white-sand beaches, crystal-clear waters, atolls and secluded resorts. **WHERE TO STAY** Niyama Maldives (from \$857, Niyama.Peraquum.com) has it all—no, really. Just a few of the highlights include a coral nursery, an underwater nightclub, a restaurant reachable only by boat and a spa where you can book a couple's massage. **WHAT TO DO** Join the resort's resident marine biologist and explore the underwater world during a nighttime snorkel tour. As the sun sets, you'll observe feeding corals catching plankton and see the micro marine life glow in the dark.

## *kyoto, japan*

**WHY GO** Compared with the frenetic energy of Japan's capital city Tokyo, Kyoto moves at a languid pace. Relax and reflect at hundreds of shrines and temples or stroll through peaceful traditional gardens. **WHERE TO STAY** Take a private boat ride to the picture-perfect Hoshinoya Kyoto (starting at \$516, Global.HoshinoResort.com) that's perched on the calm Ooi River. **WHAT TO DO** Visit during the spring or fall. In spring, the cherry blossom trees are in full bloom, while fall reveals a beautiful mix of classic autumn colors. Before it gets dark, enjoy a leisurely walk around Gion, past machiya (wood townhouses), teahouses and the Shirakawa canal.



## *marrakech, morocco*

**WHY GO** Rock stars and fashion designers have been going to this North African city for decades to find inspiration. You'll feel like you wandered onto a movie set complete with snake charmers, belly dancers, horse-drawn carriage rides and an extensive maze of markets. **WHERE TO STAY** Less than 10 minutes from the airport and the ancient Medina, the sultry and sumptuously appointed Selman Marrakech (from \$424, Selman-Marrakech.com) offers a view of the Atlas Mountains. **WHAT TO DO** Visit Yves Saint Laurent's former home and gardens and stop by the Galerie "Love"—a collection of all of the designer's collage posters with the word "love" scrawled on each one.

## *machu picchu pueblo, peru*

**WHY GO** If you want adventure, look no further. Peru is home to some of the world's greatest sites (Andes, Cloud Forests, Machu Picchu Citadel), making it truly the trip of a lifetime. **WHERE TO STAY** Inkatererra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel (from \$249, Inkatererra.com) is set on 12 secluded acres at the base of Machu Picchu and offers all the luxury amenities, as well as a vow renewal ceremony performed by a local shaman. **WHAT TO DO** A sunrise trek is totally worth the early morning wake-up call. Insider tip: The first trainload of tourists arrives around noon, but before that, the place is all yours. It's just you, the mysterious and mist-covered ancient city and some resident llamas. The city of Cusco is also a popular pit stop for tourists heading to Machu Picchu, but it's still full of authentic Peruvian charm.