

ANNUAL GUIDE TO THE  
the knot  
**50**  
BEST HONEYMOON SPOTS

Get ready, because our comprehensive list is going to kick your wanderlust into high gear. And if you and your fiancé can't narrow it down to just one destination, no worries—that's what anniversary trips are for! BY MARIDEL REYES AND NANCY RONES



**bora bora, french polynesia**

**WHY GO** This is what honeymoon dreams are made of: thatched-roof, over-water bungalows; crystal-clear turquoise lagoons; and swirling schools of colorful fish.

**WHERE TO STAY** For the ultimate romantic rush, head to the super-luxurious St. Regis Bora Bora Resort (from \$1,200, [StRegisBoraBora.com](http://StRegisBoraBora.com)) where you'll find the aforementioned bungalows as well as a romance concierge. Yep, they'll organize everything your heart desires, from a waiter sabering a bottle of champagne on your terrace at sunset to bespoke fireworks.

**WHAT TO DO** View the majestic Mount Otemanu, which towers above the main island, by bike or by boat, then explore the inner lagoon via submarine or with diving equipment. >>





### st. john, us virgin islands

**WHY GO** Unplug from the world on the most intimate of the three US Virgin Islands. St. John's untouched beauty—over half the land is a national park—will make you feel like you've escaped civilization.

**WHERE TO STAY** Caneel Bay is set on a private 170-acre peninsula amid a lush national park and seven jaw-dropping beaches (from \$459, CaneelBay.com). Opt for the Very Important Honeymooners package and you'll be welcomed with treats, like a six-inch cake that matches your original wedding cake (cool, right?).

**WHAT TO DO** Take a tour of the Annaberg Sugar Plantation and learn about the sugar making and rum distilling process. Or explore the unique three-mile underwater snorkel trail at Trunk Bay that includes informative plaques, so you can read details about all of the fish and fauna you'll admire as you swim on by.

### charleston, south carolina

**WHY GO** This Southern charmer is full of magnolia-tinged history, warm hospitality, stately homes, a handful of friendly beach communities and one of the most innovative restaurant scenes in America.

**WHERE TO STAY** Built around 1804, Zero George Street is the perfect pick for boutique hotel lovers (from \$349, ZeroGeorge.com). Couples who cook should sign up for the biweekly low-country culinary classes held in the Kitchen Carriage House, which has been lovingly renovated (keeping the original stucco, brick and heart pine floors).

**WHAT TO DO** Get cozy on a private carriage ride with Palmetto Carriage Works (\$135, PalmettoCarriage.com). Then head to Husk (HuskRestaurant.com) and share the local fire-roasted Rappahannock oysters (aphrodisiac, anyone!?), or say adios to that wedding diet and indulge in the house-made Sweetwater Valley cheddar pimento cheese, served with pickled ramps.



### paris, france

**WHY GO** Even if you've been before, the City of Light has a fantastic way of making you fall in love with it—and each other—all over again. From five-star hotels and dreamy side streets to decadent food and wine and iconic art and architecture, there are beaucoup reasons it's long been considered the world's most romantic city.

**WHERE TO STAY** No trip to Paris is complete without a shopping spree! Reserve a room in the elegant ivy-draped Le Pavillon de la Reine in the fashion-forward Marais district and you'll be steps from a chic mix of trendy boutiques and wonderfully eclectic vintage stores (from \$523, Pavillon-de-la-Reine.com).

**WHAT TO DO** Steal a smooch or two at Le Mur des Je T'aime (a wall that has "I Love You" written in 250 different languages) in the 18th arrondissement. Ooh la la!

### cayman islands

**WHY GO** Grand Cayman's beaches are dotted with mega-chain hotels and Little Cayman is super-sleepy, but Cayman Brac is wild, rugged and full of friendly locals—and few tourists. Located 90 miles northeast of Grand Cayman, the Brac attracts those seeking romance as well as avid divers, hikers and rock climbers.

**WHERE TO STAY** Each of Brac Reef Beach Resort's 40 rooms have views of the white sand beaches and crystal-clear blue ocean. The all-inclusive property offers snorkeling and diving on site at its fully equipped facility (from \$847 per person for a 7-night stay, BracReef.com).

**WHAT TO DO** Walk along the footpath to take in lunar landscapes and limestone cliffs as you make your way to the lighthouse at the tip of the island. Set up a free tour by emailing the Cayman Island Department of Tourism (bracdc@gov.ky). On weekends, mingle with locals at La Esperanza and enjoy live music.

### yarra valley, australia

**WHY GO** Lush Yarra Valley is a mere 45-minute drive away from the low mountains called Dandenong Ranges, but they're worlds apart. In the Valley, indulge in local wines and cheeses while enjoying the Instagram-worthy view. Then, explore the Ranges's fern glades, towering forests and artsy villages. Trust us—it's worth the 26-hour flight.

**WHERE TO STAY** In between the Yarra Valley and the Dandenong Ranges is Balinese Retreat, a private spa villa reserved for just one couple at a time—seriously, it's the ultimate private paradise. The insanely generous three-night honeymoon package includes a laundry list of luxuries, like a welcome bottle of champagne, one dozen roses and a lakeside Thai banquet dinner on the property's private lagoon (\$3,999 per couple, BalineseRetreat.com.au).

**WHAT TO DO** Soar over the Valley on a sunrise hot-air-balloon ride before touching back down for a champagne breakfast at one of the vineyards.

SHUTTERSTOCK



### lake district, england

**WHY GO** Look up idyllic in the dictionary and you just might find a picture of this scenic region in northwest England. With glittering lakes, the country's only bona fide forest and moody mist-ringed mountains, it's no wonder 19th-century Romantics like poet William Wordsworth flocked here for inspiration.

**WHERE TO STAY** Hidden at the end of a road is Lakefield Boathouse (from \$1,700 for a 7-night stay, LakefieldBoathouse.com), a cozy B&B on Britain's second-largest lake, complete with a private shoreline. Take the property's rowboat out for a romantic afternoon paddle.

**WHAT TO DO** Stop by for teatime and a stroll through the gardens at Rydal Mount, Wordsworth's impressive home that remains in the care of his descendants (RydalMount.co.uk).

### hangzhou, china

**WHY GO** Hangzhou was where Marco Polo discovered silk; today, West Lake's beautiful willow-lined banks, pagodas and mist-shrouded hills make you feel like you're walking into a classic Chinese painting.

**WHERE TO STAY** The Shangri-La Hangzhou sits on 40 acres of gardens and overlooks West Lake (honeymoon packages from \$375, Shangri-La.com/hangzhou).

**WHAT TO DO** The hotel can arrange for tickets to the Impressions of West Lake Show. Performers literally dance on water in this production from acclaimed film director (and creator of the 2008 Beijing Olympics Opening Ceremony) Zhang Yimou. Stop by the Longjing Tea Plantation to sample one of the world's finest brews and bring back samples as souvenirs.

GETTY IMAGES

### napa valley, california

**WHY GO** Want world-class French cuisine, internationally award-winning wineries and renowned spas, all set in a bucolic landscape? No need to go to Europe to find it—skip that transatlantic flight and head straight to Napa.

**WHERE TO STAY** Each room at the eco-chic boutique hotel Bardessono has a built-in spa table just begging you to order an in-room couple's massage. And that's not all—a spa butler arrives before the masseuse to draw your bath and toss in rose petals and your choice of bath salts (starting at \$450, Bardessono.com).

**WHAT TO DO** Raymond Vineyards's wacky wine blending experience includes black lights, crazy hats and reflective chrome cover-ups. They'll even keep your finished custom blend on file for future production.

### maldives

**WHY GO** This is the honeymoon you may have been envisioning since you were a kid—crystal-clear blue water, pristine white sands and ridiculously romantic over-water villas (à la the movie *Couples Retreat*). Actor and comedian Andy Samberg even honeymooned there recently with his wife, Joanna Newsom (see p. 128 for more!).

**WHERE TO STAY** Gili Lankanfushi Maldives is a quiet, romantic island in a glittering lagoon, and its villas come with dedicated butler service (from \$1,145, Gili-Lankanfushi.com). Pop champagne as you watch the sun set from a dhoni cruise and arrange for an exclusive dinner for two on One Palm Island.

**WHAT TO DO** Dive or snorkel at Baa Atoll, a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve, and you can make your way through a maze of Technicolor coral that is also visited frequently by whale sharks and hammerheads. Experienced divers will want to investigate nearby Addu Atoll, which contains the remains of the British Loyalty, a coral-covered 1940s oil tanker torpedoed during World War II. Overhead, world-class breaks, famous for their straight-edged precision, roll toward prime surf spots like Lohifushi, Sultans and Cola's. >>





### little palm island, florida keys

**WHY GO** Once you step foot on this serene, palm-fringed island, you'll be shocked that you're still in The States—perfect for passportless couples or those who aren't up for a long plane ride after their wedding.

**WHERE TO STAY** The island's only lodging, exclusive Little Palm Island Resort & Spa, promises privacy by the boatload. Surprise your groom by preordering off their amazing menu of arrival amenities—from a pitcher of the hotel's famous Gummy Slumber to a fancy caviar and champagne spread (from \$690, LittlePalmsIsland.com).

**WHAT TO DO** Indulge in a Madrugada water massage (the therapist stands in the ocean while you lie supported above the crystal-blue waters), and then dine in private by the glow of tiki torches, with your toes in the sand, at Harbor Point.

### aruba

**WHY GO** This southern Caribbean favorite isn't called "one happy island" for nothing: Besides wide expanses of sand, you'll soak in seemingly endless sunny days (it rarely rains), a hopping nightlife, and a variety of activities on land and at sea. You'll be one happy couple, that's for sure.

**WHERE TO STAY** Fronting gorgeous Palm Beach, The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba opened last year and is pretty much the definition of posh. Have breakfast alfresco every morning—all 320 rooms come with balconies with partial or full ocean views (from \$449, RitzCarlton.com/aruba).

**WHAT TO DO** During the day traverse rugged terrain via Land Rover before refreshing together in the Natural Pool (DePalmTours.com). Before sunset, head downtown to Oranjestad's Pinchos Grill & Bar (PinchosAruba.com), a casual but über-romantic, above-water eatery that's located along a picturesque pier.

### barbados

**WHY GO** Rihanna's beautiful birthplace offers more than 70 miles of sun-drenched beaches and a warm blend of English, African and West Indian influences that separates it from more vanilla seaside spots.

**WHERE TO STAY** At Little Good Harbour, one of the last family-run oceanfront hotels on the west coast of Barbados, you'll find casually luxurious cottages and warm and attentive staff who will make you feel right at home (from \$310, LittleGoodHarbourBarbados.com).

**WHAT TO DO** A must-hit on Fridays? Oistins Fish Fry, where you'll hang with locals and chow down on tuna, marlin and mahi-mahi. Dinner starts at 7 p.m., but go early (grab a cab—it's about a 45-minute drive) for a chance to feed the turtles.

### riviera maya, mexico

**WHY GO** From many US cities, a quick flight lands you on the powder-soft beaches of this lush stretch outside Cancun. Amenity-packed lodgings provide creature comforts while eco-parks, historic ruins and water sports keep you as busy as you want to be.

**WHERE TO STAY** An antidote for post-wedding stress, the chic adults-only Iberostar Grand Hotel Paraíso sits on a large strip of sand and exudes tranquility. For a little variety, stroll over to four neighboring Iberostar hotels, where Grand Hotel Paraíso guests have full access (all-inclusive from \$247 per person, Iberostar.com).

**WHAT TO DO** Visit Tulum, and go way (way!) back in time as you marvel at ancient Mayan ruins—not to mention one of the area's most breathtaking beaches.



### yasawa island, fiji

**WHY GO** Plenty of places call themselves "paradise," but this far-flung South Pacific island that's home to epic white-sand beaches is the real deal.

**WHERE TO STAY** Yasawa Island Resort and Spa is this destination's sole sanctuary for visitors. We're obsessed with their exotic beachfront *bures* (thatched-roof bungalows); book the secluded honeymoon bure that they call *Lomalagi*. The translation? "Heaven" (from \$1,800 including food and most activities, Yasawa.com).

**WHAT TO DO** Pack a lunch, snorkel gear and a walkie-talkie and have the staff leave you on a deserted island for the afternoon. For more aquatic sightseeing, visit the Blue Lagoon caves.



### harbour island, bahamas

**WHY GO** Go with "something blue" for your wedding, but try "something pink" for your honeymoon. The iconic blush-colored sands and mostly car-free streets (golf carts are big) on this upscale Out Island will shift you right into vacation mode.

**WHERE TO STAY** You'll dig the boho-glam vibe and the sherbet-colored cottages at the Pink Sands Resort (from \$495, PinkSandsResort.com).

**WHAT TO DO** Shop at the Straw Market, where, yes, you can buy straw hats and bags, but also decorative conches and handmade jewelry. Take a cooking class with the resort's chef, who specializes in local cuisine like Caribbean Pepperpot (a take on gumbo).

### nantucket, massachusetts

**WHY GO** Does your ideal date include time spent strolling hand in hand? You'll do plenty of that in this quaint New England town—while breathing the freshest salt air ever.

**WHERE TO STAY** Set between the calm Nantucket Bay and the livelier Atlantic Ocean, The Wauwinet has two private beaches. Amenities include a boat to ferry you to town (from \$595, Wauwinet.com).

**WHAT TO DO** Bike to Cisco Brewers (CiscoBrewers.com) for a tour and, of course, beer samples. Go four-wheeling to the island's remote northwest tip, where you can climb the Great Point Lighthouse and scope out seals (tours led by The Trustees of Reservations, TheTrustees.org).

### crete, greece

**WHY GO** The largest of the Greek islands has major eye candy: picturesque fishing villages, mountains and beaches. Be sure to bring an extra memory card for your camera.

**WHERE TO STAY** Carved into a hillside over the Aegean Sea, Daios Cove Luxury Resort & Villas is a chic escape where you can laze along a crescent-shaped beach. Water skis, speedboats and luxury yachts (with a skipper!) are all available (from \$365, DaiosCoveCrete.com).

**WHAT TO DO** Visit The Palace of Knossos, first excavated in the early 1900s. Sip ouzo at a taverna in the port city of Agios Nikolaos.

### kauai, hawaii

**WHY GO** This tropical locale makes our list every year—and for good reason. Dramatic cliffs, insane sunsets, beaches that suit every mood and activity, and a friendly aloha spirit keep honeymooners coming back to get lei'd!

**WHERE TO STAY** Expect postcard views and excellent snorkeling at the sophisticated St. Regis Princeville on the North Shore. Leave room in your budget for a meal at Kaua'i Grill, a to-die-for restaurant created by celebrity chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten (from \$450, StRegisPrinceville.com).

**WHAT TO DO** Skim across Hanalei Bay in a stand-up paddleboard lesson, or get eye-popping views of the island via helicopter.

### cayo espanto, belize

**WHY GO** This teeny, super-chic one-resort private island, located off the coast of mainland Belize, lets you focus solely on your newly minted spouse and completely escape from reality.

**WHERE TO STAY** Separated by dense mangroves, each of the seven island-style beach villas on Cayo Espanto has a dock over the turquoise waters, a plunge pool (except the over-water villa), and a house attendant. Meals are tailored to your specific tastes (all-inclusive from \$1,495, APrivateIsland.com).

**WHAT TO DO** At your villa, indulge in a side-by-side coffee scrub spa treatment. Afterwards venture out to scuba dive along the world's second-largest barrier reef (and unlike the one in Australia, this one is just two hours by plane from Miami). >>





### livingstone, zambia

**WHY GO** Livingstone is home to the thundering Victoria Falls, one of the world's seven natural wonders and part of the Zambezi River. Neither of you will ever forget the moment you lay eyes on the largest stretch of falling water on the planet. **WHERE TO STAY** Nestled on the banks of the Zambezi River, just upstream from the falls, luxury lodge Tongabezi is the perfect place to set up camp. But this is hardly roughing it—because honestly, who wants to rough it for their first trip as a married couple? Each of the six rustic-chic houses is set apart, with either super-stunning views of the water or a beautiful private garden and cozy secluded terraces where honeymooning couples can romantically dine under the stars (all-inclusive from \$589 per person, Tongabezi.com). **WHAT TO DO** From May through mid-November, take a guided dip in the Devil's Pool, which sits on top of the Falls. You'll swim out to a natural rock formation on the outer edge—where it only *feels* like you're about to go over. Even better, time your trip to the full moon to witness a lunar rainbow.

### fraser island, queensland, australia

**WHY GO** Some couples can't wait to simply veg out on a beach for two weeks post-festivities. We totally get that. But if that's so *not* you and your soon-to-be-spouse, head to this unbelievably gorgeous sand island—the world's largest—and get up close and personal with kangaroos and dingoes, go off-roading or trek through rainforests just off the east coast of Australia. **WHERE TO STAY** Eco-certified Kingfisher Bay Resort spans the edge of a delightful white sand beach, seamlessly blending into the surrounding trees and mirror lakes (from \$188, KingfisherBay.com). **WHAT TO DO** While you're Down Under you can cross one more thing off your YOLO list—whale watching. From August through October, thousands of humpback whales migrate to the warm waters of the world-famous Great Barrier Reef. On their way south, they rest and play with their calves in nearby Hervey Bay. Sign up for the resort's package (\$379) and get a front-row seat to the show, plus three nights accommodation that includes breakfast.

### marrakech, morocco

**WHY GO** Between the rolling desert, carriage rides through ancient, bustling markets, exotic belly dancers and snake charmers, this enchanting North African city will make you feel like you've been transported to an epic movie set. **WHERE TO STAY** The magical La Mamounia has been captivating VIPs for decades. Today, Hollywood stars like Jennifer Aniston, Orlando Bloom and Gwyneth Paltrow flock here for its opulent art-deco-meets-Moorish style. Check into the Baldaquin Suite, outfitted with a showstopping canopy bed and artwork depicting traditional Moroccan brides (from \$790, Baldaquin suite from \$3,040, Mamounia.com) and be sure to stroll the property's 20-acre garden. **WHAT TO DO** After a 90-minute car ride to the village of Imlil in the Atlas Mountains, either trek or take a donkey ride up to the hilltop Kasbah du Toubkal (KasbahduToubkal.com). Your efforts will be rewarded with stunning views of Jbel Toubkal—the highest mountain in North Africa—and authentic Moroccan fare at the kasbah's rooftop restaurant.

### willemstad, curaçao

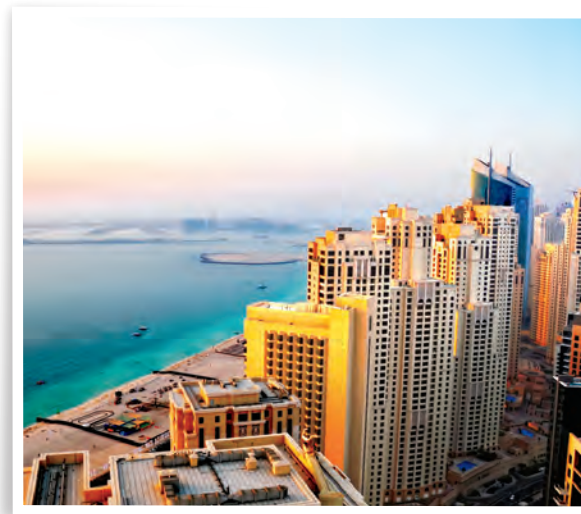
**WHY GO** This new southern Caribbean country—it won independence from the Netherlands Antilles in 2010—will be packed pronto: It's just-about hurricane-free, has great diving and its charming capital city, Willemstad, is a UNESCO World Heritage site. So go earn your bragging rights—we bet none of your friends have been yet. **WHERE TO STAY** Hotel Scharloo is a 200-year-old mansion that's been converted into a 20-room inn. Snag a top-floor suite for prime views of the harbor and the Floating Market, where vendors dock their boats to showcase their goods (from \$80, HotelScharloo.com). **WHAT TO DO** Head about 16 miles north of the capital to Christoffelpark. Once there, you can sign up for a 4x4 tour of the preserve and explore dramatic limestone cliffs and stalactite- and stalagmite-covered caves.

### grand baie, mauritius

**WHY GO** This dreamy island nation lies east of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean, and pairs white sand beaches, rare birds and volcanic mountains with a warm mix of French, Indian and Creole cultures. **WHERE TO STAY** The intimate Hotel 20°Sud's 35 plantation-inspired rooms are tucked within a coconut grove by the water's edge (from \$295, 20DegresSud.com). **WHAT TO DO** Take a catamaran to Île Plate for snorkeling and a barbecue in the stylishly half-renovated 19th-century Governor's House.

### istanbul, turkey

**WHY GO** East meets West in Istanbul, which has been bridging both the continents and cultures of Europe and Asia for centuries. History buffs will go gaga over ancient buildings while city slickers will love its cosmopolitan vibe. **WHERE TO STAY** Situated in the trendy Nisantasi shopping district, the Park Hyatt Istanbul-Maçka Palas is a 90-room Italian art deco palace. Book a spa suite with private terraces, private hammams (Turkish baths) and rain showers (from \$325, Istanbul.Park.Hyatt.com). **WHAT TO DO** Stroll hand in hand with your new hubby along the Bosphorus strait—the waterway dividing Europe and Asia—and marvel at the Adriatic shoreline, Ottoman palaces and traditional wooden villas.



### dubai, united arab emirates

**WHY GO** Dubai is over-the-top glamour. An intriguing combo of ancient civilizations and modern luxury, the entire city is dripping with opulence. Want to see the world's tallest building (until China's Sky City opens this year), an artificial island shaped like a palm tree and one of the largest shopping malls on earth (with an indoor ski park!)? It's all here. **WHERE TO STAY** Don't want to wander too far from your honeymoon suite? We don't blame you. With a private beach, theaters, more than 40 restaurants and bars, a spa and shopping—all connected by nearly two miles of waterways and landscaped gardens—the Arabian-inspired Madinat Jumeirah is a city unto itself, so you'll never have to leave (from \$319, Jumeirah.com). **WHAT TO DO** It's almost a crime to visit the desert without taking a spin on a camel. Book the guided desert tour from Viator (from \$85, Viator.com) and you'll get that ride as well as the chance to sandboard down a dune and dine under the stars while watching a traditional *tanoura* dance performance.

### mustique, the grenadines

**WHY GO** This tiny Caribbean hideaway, which is between St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the West Indies, is the epitome of “private island” chic. **WHERE TO STAY** Don't plan to shell out megabucks for a private villa or guest house? Cotton House is a prime place to mingle with the well-heeled locals (from \$550, CottonHouse.net). **WHAT TO DO** Stars like Mick Jagger and Johnny Depp have partied at the unpretentious Basil's Bar (BasilsMustique.com). Recreate your first dance on the open-air dance floor or sip a tropical cocktail on the wooden deck as waves lap below.

### kerala, india

**WHY GO** Kerala, on the southwestern coast, is where India slows to a lazier pace. You'll find miles of serene beaches, a year-round tropical climate and (bonus!) a great exchange rate that will stretch your dollar. **WHERE TO STAY** Originally built in 1755, the Malabar House sits in the heart of historical Fort Cochin, steps from the area's famous Chinese fishing nets that dot the waterfront (from \$205, MalabarHouse.com). **WHAT TO DO** Take the hotel's private houseboat to Lake Vembanad and day-cruise through the backwaters, where you'll explore the labyrinthine-like network of waterways and get glimpses of rural life.

### seychelles

**WHY GO** Dubbed the “islands of love,” this archipelago of 116 islands in the Indian Ocean, about 1,000 miles off the coast of Kenya, is where Will and Kate reunited after a brief split—and later returned for their honeymoon. **WHERE TO STAY** Get the royal treatment at über-private North Island, where the Duke and Duchess stayed for 10 days after they got hitched (all-inclusive villas from \$3,500 per person, North-Island.com). Paparazzi not included. **WHAT TO DO** Follow William's lead and get your scuba on at the North Island and Silhouette Island dive sites. The best months to take the plunge are from March to May and September to November—when the water is calmest and visibility is best. >>





### galapagos islands, ecuador

**WHY GO** On this remote, otherworldly archipelago 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador, gain the rare opportunity to get up close and personal (no glass partitions!) with a bevy of land and marine animals, such as sea turtles, sharks and the famous blue-footed boobies (aka native seabirds).

**WHERE TO STAY** Island-hop on a Sanctuary Retreats's seven-night Galapagos cruise. The cruise line's M.V. Eclipse holds just 48 passengers, allowing for highly personalized service on board and during naturalist-led excursions (deluxe stateroom from \$6,650 per person, SanctuaryRetreats.com).

**WHAT TO DO** The massive Galapagos Tortoises are like celebs around here. On Santa Cruz Island, have red-carpet run-ins with tortoises from the world-famous Charles Darwin Research Station as well as in the highlands of Santa Cruz, where a naturalist will lead you by foot in search of face-to-face encounters with these magical creatures in the wild.

### greenough, montana

**WHY GO** Enveloped by the rustic beauty of Blackfoot Valley, the unbridled wilderness in this western Montana town will coax out your repressed inner cowgirl, or boy. Yee-haw!

**WHERE TO STAY** Glamping on a huge cattle ranch in a safari-style tent at The Resort at Paws Up is a far cry from traditional camping. A jetted tub, master bathroom with heated floors and a camping butler (who builds nightly bonfires) come with Tango Point, the tricked-out honeymoon tent at Pinnacle Camp (Tango Point with meals and transfers from \$1,675 per night for two, PawsUp.com).

**WHAT TO DO** At Paws Up, join real-life ranch hands for an authentic cattle drive, or try your hand at fly-fishing on the legendary Blackfoot River.

### st. lucia

**WHY GO** There's more to this island of emerald vistas than just good looks. Beaches, rainforests, coral reefs, the iconic twin Piton mountains and a "drive-in" volcano will rev up adventure-seekers' motors.

**WHERE TO STAY** With a million-dollar view of the two peaks, Anse Chastanet Resort strikes a perfect balance between romantic and active-minded. Miles of on-site hiking trails, snorkeling and scuba right off-shore, and a daily schedule of excursions will keep your hearts pounding (from \$355, AnseChastanet.com).

**WHAT TO DO** Cycle through the jungle with Bike St. Lucia. Take a mud bath at the smoldering Sulphur Springs—the gunk is said to make you look younger. At the very least, it's good for a laugh with your guy.

### lake placid, new york

**WHY GO** It's a year-round playground, but this Adirondack Mountain locale has mastered cold thrills—they hosted the Olympic Games twice.

**WHERE TO STAY** There's no shortage of king-size featherbeds, stone fireplaces or charm at the arts-and-crafts-style Lake Placid Lodge. Splurge on The Owls Head cabin—it'll be totally worth it when you're heating up in the hot tub on the private porch (lodge rooms from \$799 and Owls Head from \$1,200, LakePlacidLodge.com).

**WHAT TO DO** With a professional driver and brakeman onboard, bobsled down a track used by actual Olympians. Take a chair lift and an elevator for a birds-eye view of the Olympic ski jump. (Trust us: It's higher than it looks on TV.)



### spitsbergen, norway

**WHY GO** Norway's magical winter wonderland inspired Disney's recent blockbuster flick, *Frozen*. In real life, you'll find an arctic blast of adrenaline-pumping activities and gorgeous wildlife (why, hello there polar bears!).

**WHERE TO STAY** Book the cozy Radisson Blu Polar Hotel Spitsbergen for the chance to sleep in the world's northernmost full-service hotel; it's about 825 miles from Santa's stomping grounds (from \$328 including breakfast, RadissonBlu.com/hotel-spitsbergen).

**WHAT TO DO** Bundle up and snuggle up as a team of Alaskan huskies leads you on a dogsledding expedition past glaciers and fjords.



### sedona, arizona

**WHY GO** The dramatic red rock formations that dominate this artsy city in Arizona's high desert are your canvas for diversions. Day trips to the Grand Canyon are easily doable too—it's just about a two-and-a-half-hour drive.

**WHERE TO STAY** Enchanting L'Auberge de Sedona is widely revered as a romantic hideaway (they offer evening stargazing, creekside massages and outdoor cedar showers); take in panoramic vistas of the crimson rocks from the new Vista Suites (from \$469, LAuberge.com).

**WHAT TO DO** Off-road through Red Rock country on Pink Jeep Tours's Broken Arrow tour (prepare to white-knuckle it down the "Road of No Return"). Visit The Hike House to get matched up with your ideal hiking path (TheHikeHouse.com).

### la romana, dominican republic

**WHY GO** Recently, a newly built highway has slashed travel time to this southeastern coast of the Dominican Republic from two major airports, so it might not stay a hidden gem for long. Get there now while the beautiful beaches and athletic attractions are still less tourist-trampled than other tropical areas of the country.

**WHERE TO STAY** Sporty couples (and high-profile peeps like Beyoncé) get their game on at classy Casa de Campo, a sprawling property that feels like its own city. Navigate your golf cart (each room gets one!) to the resort's marina, private beach, tennis club, equestrian center or one of the championship golf courses (elite suites from \$775, CasadeCampo.com.do).

**WHAT TO DO** At Casa, hit the links on the Caribbean's numero uno course: Pete Dye's Teeth of the Dog. Or, get your sea legs back with a sailing lesson at the on-site school.

### chiang rai province, thailand

**WHY GO** Get ready to overload your Facebook page with "like"-worthy photo albums taken in this misty, jungle-clad area known as the Golden Triangle—it's where Thailand, Myanmar and Laos all intersect. Hill-tribe villages and elephant camps are not-to-be-missed highlights.

**WHERE TO STAY** At the Four Seasons Tented Camp Golden Triangle, mingle with elephants (after training with the *mahouts*—the local elephant experts), guzzle sundowners at the open-air Burma Bar, and snooze in air-conditioned tents (all-inclusive 4-night adventure package from about \$9,600 per couple, FourSeasons.com/goldentriangle).

**WHAT TO DO** Greet the day by hopping on your gentle giant for a sunrise trek (your usual morning yoga class will seem so boring now—sorry!). Then, hike up to the hill-tribe village of Doi Sa-ngo for an amazing view of the mighty Mekong River and paddy fields.

### tofino, british columbia

**WHY GO** Go way beyond your basic beach vacay—on Vancouver Island you can also explore temperate, lush rainforests and catch up with black bears and whales.

**WHERE TO STAY** The woodsy-elegant Wickaninnish Inn seamlessly blends with the centuries-old forests that surround it (rooms with ocean views from \$450, WickInn.com).

**WHAT TO DO** Take a surf lesson on Chesterman Beach, Canada's surf capital. Join a tour to the Hot Springs Cove (a group of thermal hot springs); then hop a scenic floatplane to get back (Jamies.com).

### cappadocia, turkey

**WHY GO** Your honeymoon is no time for been there, done that: Make it extraordinary in this mystical region of central Turkey that's famous for ancient underground dwellings and a landscape studded with volcanic-rock cones nicknamed "fairy chimneys."

**WHERE TO STAY** Only pure imagination could've transformed an ancient monastery, caves and underground tunnels into Argos in Cappadocia, an incredible boutique hotel. Venture deep into the sanctuary's caves for Turkish wines (including ones from the hotel's vineyards) at SEKI's cellar (from \$270, ArgosinCappadocia.com).

**WHAT TO DO** Float above the "Valley of the Fairy Chimneys" in a hot air balloon. Or, for a more interactive experience, horseback ride through the ethereal landscape. >>





### orlando, florida

**WHY GO** It's not just for kids anymore: Mickey Mouse's home has plenty of adult-size diversions—from a wide variety of upscale restaurants to a selection of swank nightclubs. Plus, the various themed resorts (think: the safari-inspired Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge) are a close second if you can't make it to your dream destination due to time or money limitations.

**WHERE TO STAY** Live it up NOLA-style at Disney Port Orleans Resort-French Quarter, where you'll wander hand in hand through darling cobblestone streets, complete with picture-perfect gas lamps, charming wrought-iron balconies and fragrant wrought-iron balconies and fragrant blooming magnolia blossoms. (The only things missing are the Mardi Gras beads flying through the air and raucous parties.) Take a free 20-minute riverboat ride to Downtown Disney (from \$162, WaltDisneyWorld.com).

**WHAT TO DO** Swim with bottlenose dolphins, adorable otters and inquisitive rays and take an underwater walking tour (no scuba experience required) at Discovery Cove (DiscoveryCove.com).

### hilton head, south carolina

**WHY GO** With pro-worthy golf courses, sailing, miles of sand dunes, shopping and deep-sea fishing, this might be America's most versatile island escape.

**WHERE TO STAY** Whether it's the golf greens, the surf or the sand that you and your new spouse seek, you'll easily find your outdoor bliss fix at the Hilton Head Marriott Resort & Spa (from \$149, Marriott.com).

**WHAT TO DO** Take a ferry to remote and rustic Daufuskie Island, where fresh salty sea breezes and ocean mist make the towering palms and Spanish-moss-covered live oak trees dreamily sway. Stop by Dye's Gullah Fixins for true Southern fare, from fantastic fried chicken to the local low-country boil (DyesGullahFixins.com).



### hanoi, vietnam

**WHY GO** Asia's grand old dame has ancient history, French Colonial flair, a thoroughly modern point of view, and let's not forget those authentic street vendors famous for delicious, bracingly fresh cuisine. Be adventurous and taste it—you won't be disappointed.

**WHERE TO STAY** The contemporary and friendly hotel 6 on Sixteen does boutique on a budget the right way—it's swathed in rich textiles, ethnic art and locally made furniture (from \$65, Tet-Lifestyle-Collection.com).

**WHAT TO DO** At the Temple of Literature, Vietnam's first university established in 1076 (see, old!), you can stroll through the formal gardens and gaze at low-slung pagodas, dangling red lanterns, pavilions and a statue of Confucius.

### montreal, quebec

**WHY GO** Talk about having a joie de vivre: North America's own "Paris" has all the allure of a super-sexy French retreat—minus the long-haul flight and expense, of course. And it comes with a completely unique spirit of fun and a passion for hosting all kinds of festivals for celebrating honeymooners.

**WHERE TO STAY** Cozy yet elegant, the Auberge Bonaparte is set in ultra-quiet cobblestoned Old Montreal and is within walking distance of all the major historical sights, including the Notre-Dame Basilica that dates back to 1824 (from \$140, Bonaparte.com).

**WHAT TO DO** Soak up a magical view of the Old Port as you cruise along on the glass-roofed Bateau-Mouche. Dinner sailings with live entertainment are offered; be sure to take in the sights on the open-air terrace (BateauMouche.ca).

### dublin, ireland

**WHY GO** This city is easily walkable, rich in old-world history and brimming with art, culture and some of the warmest (and chattiest) people you'll ever meet—just pop into one of Dublin's many popular pubs and you're guaranteed to have a memorable conversation with the local lads and lasses.

**WHERE TO STAY** In a city full of tradition, the sleek Hampton Hotel exudes a bold, modern polish. After a long day sightseeing, grab a drink at the stylish bar, then curl up together in front of the large fireplace in your room (from \$129, HamptonHotel.ie).

**WHAT TO DO** Dating back to 1198, The Brazen Head is Ireland's oldest pub—and it still knows how to throw a party. (It makes a cameo in James Joyce's *Ulysses* too.) Crowds still pack the joint nightly to hear some of the city's best traditional live music and down a glass, or more, of Irish whiskey.



### jackson hole, wyoming

**WHY GO** Cheap thrills abound in this action-packed and budget-friendly western destination. In winter, it's all about their legendary ski slopes, but nonskiers can partake in snow tubing or sleigh rides through the National Elk Refuge. In summer, hike your hearts out in nearby Yellowstone National Park.

**WHERE TO STAY** Rustic Snake River Lodge & Spa is famous for its mountain views—and honeymoon specials. Go in the summer for the lowest rates (from \$179, SnakeRiverLodge.com).

**WHAT TO DO** From spring until early fall, hop on the Jackson Hole Aerial Tram for an awe-inspiring, more than 4,000-foot vertical trip to the top of Rendezvous Mountain.

### jamaica

**WHY GO** JetBlue and other low-cost airlines fly direct to Jamaica, making this island escape within easy reach. Come for soul-stirring reggae, jerk chicken, rugged cliffs, blue lagoons and very laid-back locals.

**WHERE TO STAY** For a hippy-chic vacation, book a beachside cottage at Jakes Hotel. Relax without phones, TVs or Internet, then take an on-site painting or yoga class (from \$95, JakesHotel.com).

**WHAT TO DO** Stop at a roadside jerk shack, serving some of the Caribbean's best—and cheapest—bites, and wash them down with a local Red Stripe beer.

### montenegro

**WHY GO** A European honeymoon isn't out of reach, even if you're on a budget. Not far from emerging hot spot Croatia, Montenegro offers similar charms—like white sand beaches on the Adriatic Sea and medieval villages—at a fraction of the price.

**WHERE TO STAY** Most rooms at the sleek Hotel Aurel have a large private balcony with city and courtyard views (from \$135; Hotel-Aurel.com/en).

**WHAT TO DO** In the capital city of Podgorica, step back in time by about 600 years and get lost in the maze of streets of the Stara Varos neighborhood, which feels like a busy Ottoman Turkish trading town.

### buenos aires, argentina

**WHY GO** European style meets Latin flair in this cosmopolitan city. But beyond the designer boutiques, ritzy neighborhoods, colonial cafés and outdoor markets lies a surprisingly affordable city.

**WHERE TO STAY** Lovingly restored to its original 19th-century splendor, the boutique hotel Racó de Buenos Aires fits right in with the neighborhood's other historic sights (from \$100; RacodeBuenosAires.com.ar).

**WHAT TO DO** Take a seductive tango lesson or just twirl the night away at one of Palermo Viejo's trendy nightclubs.

### st. martin, british virgin islands

**WHY GO** On the Dutch side—known as St. Maarten—party it up at the many casinos and nightclubs. For a more genteel vibe, chic shopping and fine dining, the French side—known as St. Martin—rules.

**WHERE TO STAY** All the rooms at the Radisson Blu Resort Marina & Spa overlook a lush green nature reserve (from \$227, RadissonBlu.com/resort-stmartin).

**WHAT TO DO** While in Marigot, the capital of the French side, stop by the gallery of contemporary impressionist painter Roland Richardson and bring home the ultimate keepsake. Feeling daring? Bare it all at one of the island's clothing-optional beaches.

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