

sabi sand reserve, south africa

WHY GO Thinking safari? Brace yourselves for intimate encounters with the Big Five (among other animals) in this extraordinary reserve that's adjacent to Kruger National Park.

WHERE TO STAY Each of the eight suites at andBeyond Exeter River Lodge offers views of the Sand River, where a revolving door of wildlife wades in the water outside your private pool (from \$588 per person per night, all-inclusive, andBeyondAfrica.com).

WHAT TO DO Get up early for a 4x4 drive into the African bush. If that's not enough, go on a nocturnal safari to spy wildlife after dark. Take a short plane ride to Cape Town to snap pictures at Table Mountain and the Cape of Good Hope (often mistaken for Africa's southernmost point), and enjoy waterfront scenery over dinner at Cape Grace hotel (from \$546, CapeGrace.com). >>

Escape to one of these dream destinations and let the wedding high continue all the way through your honeymoon. BY NANCY RONES

THINKSTOCK



hawaii island, hawaii

WHY GO Boasting one of the most active volcanoes on Earth, a kaleidoscope of marine life, waterfalls, rain forests and the world's tallest sea mountain, the largest Hawaiian island (aka "The Big Island") is full of thrills.

WHERE TO STAY Starting with your tropical drink and lei aloha upon arrival, you'll feel pampered in Hawaiian hospitality at The Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows (from \$395, [MaunaLani.com](#)).

WHAT TO DO Take a helicopter tour over Kilauea volcano. Stargaze through the telescopes on Mauna Kea's summit, which rises 13,796 feet above the sea.

dominica, west indies

WHY GO This off-the-beaten-path spot, called the "Nature Island," is blanketed in national park land and is one of the least populated islands in the Caribbean—meaning more privacy and places for you to explore.

WHERE TO STAY The 180-degree views over mountain peaks and the sea from the Zabuco Honeymoon Villa at eco-luxe resort Secret Bay will make you feel like you're floating (from \$504, [SecretBay.dm](#)).

WHAT TO DO Paddle kayaks along the Indian River. Trek into Morne Trois Pitons National Park for a dip in the Emerald Pool.

jackson hole, wyoming

WHY GO With lofty neighbors like Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks, here's your chance to conquer cowboy country. Go in winter or summer—you'll enjoy pulse-raising experiences any time of year.

WHERE TO STAY The full-service outdoor concierge at the ultimate mountain retreat, Four Seasons Resort Jackson Hole, will grant your every wish (from \$299, [FourSeasons.com/jacksonhole](#)).

WHAT TO DO Spot elk, bears and more on a wildlife safari with the hotel's in-house biologist and naturalist. Go on a guided fly-fishing trip on the Snake River.

playa tambor, costa rica

WHY GO Experience the true splendor of nature's playground (and the resident monkeys) in this area on the Nicoya Peninsula that's untapped by tourism.

WHERE TO STAY Kick off your hiking boots at Tambor Tropical, an intimate boutique hotel where you can lounge around the mosaic-tiled pool or your suite's veranda. Grab suite number 8 for the best oceanscape (from \$160, [TamborTropical.com](#)).

WHAT TO DO Ride horses to a secluded jungle waterfall. Make like a bird and zip-line over the tree canopy.

queenstown, new zealand

WHY GO Nerves, schmerves. Dive headfirst into the "Adventure Capital of the World" for high-octane activities set against a breathtaking alpine landscape.

WHERE TO STAY In the center of town, Hotel St. Moritz Queenstown overlooks Lake Wakatipu and The Remarkables mountain range. Soothe overworked muscles in the outdoor cedar hot tub (from \$194, [StMoritzQueenstown.com](#)).

WHAT TO DO Free-fall together during a tandem bungee jump off the Kawarau Bridge. Navigate through narrow canyons on a high-speed jet boat ride.

cozumel, mexico

WHY GO Does plunging into water that's teeming with colorful sea life sound like your idea of heaven? Then there are two pairs of flippers with your names on them on this pretty, dive-centric island surrounded by world-renowned reefs.

WHERE TO STAY Amazing snorkeling happens right offshore at the grand, all-inclusive Cozumel Palace. When you've worked up an appetite, feast on a meal specially designed by the resort's chef for each honeymooning couple (from \$171 per person per night, all-inclusive, [PalaceResorts.com/cozumelpalace](#)).

WHAT TO DO Swim with dolphins at Chankanaab National Park. When you're ready for dry land, browse the arts and crafts market next to Cozumel's main square.



alaska

WHY GO Find your thrill among the dramatic glaciers and vast wilderness of the massive 49th state.

WHERE TO STAY Tackle Alaska by sea and land on a seven-day Princess Cruises glacier tour between Vancouver, British Columbia, and Whittier, Alaska, followed by three days exploring Denali National Park (from \$1,778 per person, all-inclusive, [Princess.com](#)).

WHAT TO DO After docking in Juneau, soar over five glaciers on a floatplane; land near Taku Glacier Lodge for a salmon feast. Ride the rapids of Nenana River in Denali.

interlaken, switzerland

WHY GO There's nothing neutral about this majestic Swiss resort town, where you can schuss down ski slopes, hike up mountains and glaciers, or sail across lakes.

WHERE TO STAY The historic Victoria-Jungfrau Grand Hotel & Spa is perfectly situated for exciting excursions, but its pièce de résistance is a 60,000-square-foot spa facility (from \$544, [Victoria-Jungfrau.ch](#)).

WHAT TO DO Go moonlight sledding on the Niederhorn. Paraglide over sparkling Lake Thun for unbeatable vistas.

st. vincent

WHY GO Get your eco-adventure on in this tropical paradise that's still relatively unknown—for now (a new international airport is in the works).

WHERE TO STAY The eager-to-please staff and oversize villas at all-inclusive Buccament Bay Resort will tempt you to stay forever (from \$1,365 per room per night, all-inclusive, [BuccamentBay.com](#)).

WHAT TO DO Search for the rare St. Vincent parrot on the Vermont Nature Trail. Check "Visit a black-sand beach" off your bucket list at Mount Wynne Beach. >>



st. lucia

WHY GO Here are the two of you lounging on the beach. In this shot, you're hiking through the rain forest. In this one, you're zip-lining near the famous Piton mountains. Plan on filling up a big photo album—this island offers plenty of ways to bond.

WHERE TO STAY The bold design alone makes Jade Mountain—poised high above St. Lucia's azure waters—worth the splurge. Walk along a sky bridge that leads to your infinity pool sanctuary. (Note: Rooms are aptly called “sanctuaries.”) With the sea-facing wall of your suite “missing,” you'll enjoy uninhibited vistas of the twin Pitons—even from bed (from \$950, [JadeMountain.com](#)).

WHAT TO DO Set off on a guided sailing trip aboard the resort's yacht. Check out the drive-through volcano (seriously!) or the pristine reefs on a scuba or snorkel excursion. Then reward yourselves at the spa with the Alchemy of Two treatment, a couples ritual that'll get you in the honeymoon mind-set (wink).

los cabos, mexico

WHY GO On the southern tip of the Baja California peninsula, desert terrain meets the Pacific. It's the ideal spot to unwind, but Cabo San Lucas's nightlife is nearby if you want to heat things up.

WHERE TO STAY At the adults-only Secrets Marquis Los Cabos, you'll be welcomed by a wow-worthy open-air lobby that frames the ocean. Greatness continues at this serene all-inclusive with two infinity pools that snake over the shoreline. Bonus: Rooms have pass-through cubbies where coffee and house-baked sweet rolls magically appear in the morning (from \$250 per person per night, all-inclusive, [SecretsResorts.com](#)).

WHAT TO DO Ride a camel on the beach (you *are* in the desert) with Cabo Adventures ([Cabo-Adventures.com](#)). Explore local culture and shops in the laid-back colonial town of San José del Cabo.

seychelles

WHY GO Follow the lead of royals Will and Kate, who chose this upscale archipelago of islands in the Indian Ocean—rumored to be the site of the Garden of Eden—for their honeymoon.

WHERE TO STAY You'll feel like you have royal titles at the exclusive nine-suite Le Château de Feuilles in Praslin. The hotel hands guests keys to rental cars for hitting the area's virgin white-sand beaches at their leisure, and on weekends, staffers take you via catamaran to a private island to sunbathe (from \$500, [ChateauDeFeuilles.com](#)).

WHAT TO DO Visit the lush forest of Vallée de Mai, believed to be the mythical Garden of Eden. Snooze in the sun and cool off in the turquoise water at one of Praslin's popular swimming beaches, Anse Lazio; when your stomachs start growling, grab some Creole cuisine at seaside eatery Bonbon Plume.

bora bora, french polynesia

WHY GO Fringed by swaying palms, Bora Bora's neon-aquamarine lagoon is so stunning, the postcard-worthy scene looks as if it's been photoshopped. Live the honeymoon dream in the island's signature lodging: overwater bungalows.

WHERE TO STAY The thatched-roof bungalows standing on stilts above the lagoon are anything but primitive at The St. Regis Bora Bora Resort. The property's air-conditioned “huts” have glass panels for watching the colorful fish swimming below and come with personal butler service (from \$1,316, [StRegisBoraBora.com](#)).

WHAT TO DO Get a Polynesian Taurumi Massage at the resort's Miri Miri Spa, which includes a bonus coffee balm foot scrub. Go diving in the lagoon for giant manta ray and reef shark sightings.

st. john, us virgin islands

WHY GO With 60 percent of this tiny, barely developed island preserved under the national park system, you'll find yourselves smitten with nature—and each other.

WHERE TO STAY Located in the heart of Virgin Islands National Park, Caneel Bay, A Rosewood Resort strikes the perfect balance between luxury and the disconnected life (there are no phones or TVs in the 166 spacious rooms). But with seven pristine beaches, a world-renowned tennis facility and a range of water sports, you won't miss the *dings* of text or email alerts (from \$450, [RosewoodHotels.com/caneelbay](#)).

WHAT TO DO Among the ruins of an 18th-century sugar mill, share an intimate tiki-torch dinner under the stars. Meander along Honeymoon Beach (if only for the name of it alone).



colchagua valley, chile

WHY GO Drown in world-renowned vino and fascinating history and culture in Central Chile's beautiful winemaking region. Get ready to swill some mighty fine vintages and even make your own new blend.

WHERE TO STAY In Santa Cruz (one of the major towns in the area), check in to the charming Hotel Santa Cruz. The on-site restaurant, Los Varietales, has to-die-for Chilean cuisine (from \$220, [HotelSantaCruzPlaza.cl](#)).

WHAT TO DO Hop a horse and carriage to explore the vineyards at Viu Manent Winery ([ViuManent.cl](#)). And in addition to sampling the unique varietals, bike through the hilly groves of Las Niñas Winery ([VinaLasNinas.cl](#)) and horseback ride at Viña La Playa winery ([LaPlayaWine.com](#)).

the dalmatian coast, croatia

WHY GO Even as more tourists discover this picturesque stretch along the craggy Adriatic Coast, the old-world villages and islands of Croatia haven't let go of their authentic flavor or romantic appeal.

WHERE TO STAY Over its nearly 100-year history, the five-star Hotel Excelsior Dubrovnik has played host to an array of glitterati, including Queen Elizabeth and Elizabeth Taylor. Just steps from Old Town, its locale can't be beat (from \$130, [ALH.hr](#)).

WHAT TO DO Walk along the extensive stone walls that once protected historic Dubrovnik—a venerable open-air museum with forts, towers and churches. Ferry to Lokrum Island, known as the “Island of Love,” where you can climb up to Fort Royal Castle for stellar photo ops.

napa valley, california

WHY GO Welcome to heaven, wine lovers and foodies. And when you need to detox from all the gastronomic pleasures, this scenic region's top spas rival its wineries.

WHERE TO STAY Open your room's French doors at the Provençal-inspired Auberge du Soleil and the idyllic views of olive groves will shake off any residual wedding stress. Luxe spa treatments and a Michelin-starred restaurant are just two ways this place goes above and beyond (from \$600, [AubergeduSoleil.com](#)).

WHAT TO DO Eat dinner inside an antique dining car as you chug through vineyards on the Napa Valley Wine Train ([WineTrain.com](#)). Or scope out the scene from above during a hot-air balloon ride.

samaná peninsula, dominican republic

WHY GO The privacy you'll get in this under-the-radar spot on the country's northeast coast is just what you'll need after a family-and-friend-filled wedding weekend. The waterfalls, pristine beaches and secret coves won't hurt either.

WHERE TO STAY At Balcones del Atlántico, A RockResort, you can stretch out on a gorgeous strip of sand that's nearly a mile long. When you're ready to mingle, the old fishing village of Las Terrenas is just minutes away (from \$399, [BalconesdelAtlantico.RockResorts.com](#)).

WHAT TO DO Hike or horseback ride to breathtaking El Limón Waterfall. If you're winter honeymooners, go whale-watching (humpback whales breed off the coast of the Samaná Peninsula). >>



paris, france

WHY GO The cafés, the art, the language, the food, the famed Seine...there's a reason so many romantic movies are set in the City of Love—whoops, we mean Light.

WHERE TO STAY The Hôtel du Louvre is a true study in Parisian grandeur, and the views can't be beat. Each side of the building faces a different cultural landmark: the Louvre museum, Palais Garnier, Comédie-Française (the state theater) and Place du Palais-Royal (from \$435, [HotelduLouvre.com](#)).

WHAT TO DO Once you check the must-dos off—Louvre, Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe—head to the Left Bank's Latin Quarter to admire the Luxembourg Gardens and people-watch at a café.



koh phangan, thailand

WHY GO Escape to this leafy island in the glimmering Gulf of Thailand for a sun-and-sand destination that's far-flung and full of culture.

WHERE TO STAY Beneath soaring coconut palms, Anantara Rasananda Koh Phangan Villa Resort & Spa sits on remote Thong Nai Pan Noi beach. Experience the resort's open-air teakwood spa suites set in the middle of the jungle (from \$256, Anantara.com).

WHAT TO DO Climb aboard the resort's boat bound for Ang Thong National Marine Park. Explore nearby mystical jungle temples.

aruba

WHY GO You won't feel tethered to your resort on this friendly island with wide expanses of "sugar" (local speak for the soft, white sand Aruba is known for) and lots of activities. Long surfside walks will lead you past oceanfront restaurants and showcase the array of water sports available.

WHERE TO STAY The upscale Tradewinds Club on the top floor of Palm Beach's Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino is like a boutique hotel inside the main hotel and gives you access to a private strip of sand (from \$384, TradewindsClubAruba.com).

WHAT TO DO Savor a toes-in-the-sand candlelit dinner at the Marriott's romantic Simply Fish restaurant. Snorkel along the clear, super-shallow waters at Baby Beach.

rosemary beach, florida

WHY GO Simple luxuries abound in this idyllic beach town (complete with a quaint Main Street and sandy footpaths) along the emerald waters of the Florida Panhandle. The Caribbean-esque beach has Appalachian quartz sand that stays cool in the heat.

WHERE TO STAY The town's individual lodgings showcase the styles of the West Indies; Charleston, South Carolina; and Florida's own St. Augustine. Book a cozy carriage house with a catalog-worthy interior (from \$172, RosemaryBeach.com).

WHAT TO DO Rent bikes (the main mode of transport here) and cruise along the scenic 30A trail. Take a joint tennis lesson on Federer-caliber courts at the Racquet Club (RosemaryBeach.com).

maui, hawaii

WHY GO With 30-plus miles of beaches—there's black sand and white sand, active zones and secluded areas—it won't be hard to find your perfect spot.

WHERE TO STAY At the indulgent Grand Wailea, sack out in your beach cabana or go wild in the hotel's activity pool, where you can swing into a Tarzan pool, swim through grottoes and ride in a water elevator (from \$369, GrandWailea.com).

WHAT TO DO Learn to ride the waves (legend has it that surfing was born in Hawaii). Catch the sunrise from Haleakala volcano, Maui's highest peak. Rent a car and drive Hana Highway, 52 winding miles framed by jungle- and waterfall-covered cliffs. >>



kennebunkport, maine

WHY GO Enjoy the salty air New England-style. You've got the ocean, along with a cute town, vistas of rocky coastline, lighthouses and fresh seafood.

WHERE TO STAY The Tides Beach Club is housed in a turn-of-the-century Victorian inn that's undergone a contemporary-coastal makeover. Relax on Goose Rocks Beach and let the hotel's "Beach Tenders" grab you comfy chairs and a cooler filled with drinks (from \$179, TidesBeachClubMaine.com).

WHAT TO DO Hang out in Dock Square, a lively seaside village. Head over to The Tides' sister property, Hidden Pond, to roast marshmallows at the nightly bonfire.

the exumas, bahamas

WHY GO Just miles from the hubbub of Nassau, this less developed archipelago of cays and islands has blinding-blue waters and pink-hued sands; when Hollywood producers need an island backdrop, this is where they come calling.

WHERE TO STAY Nestled along a crescent-shaped beach cove on Great Exuma, Sandals Emerald Bay is a sophisticated, all-inclusive oasis. You'll have seven restaurants, an 18-hole Greg Norman-designed championship golf course, a heavenly spa, and an array of daily activities *and* nightly entertainment all at your disposal (from \$823 per person per night, all-inclusive, Sandals.com).

WHAT TO DO Snorkel in the famous Thunderball Grotto, a marine cave that's one of the most-filmed reefs in the world. For a quirky but signature local experience, feed the cute swimming pigs on Major Cay.

vomo island, fiji

WHY GO Your main reason for choosing this tropical island in the South Pacific: total escapism. Arrive in style by helicopter.

WHERE TO STAY Luckily, Vomo Island Resort is everything you could want, since it's the island's only lodging. The spacious rooms have a rustic-chic bent—spot-on for two newlywed castaways (from \$956 per night, all-inclusive, VomoFiji.com).

WHAT TO DO Have the hotel arrange a *really* private picnic at nearby Vomo Lailai, a completely deserted island. Sip cocktails at The Rocks Bar—it's only open from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. for the sunset.

grand cayman, cayman islands

WHY GO This Caribbean island's epic swath of pristine sand, Seven Mile Beach, is just part of the allure. "Easy-to-reach" and "every water sport under the sun" are also among its selling points.

WHERE TO STAY The classy Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman is the epitome of barefoot luxury. One hint at the unparalleled service: Use the resort's "coconut phones" to order tropical libations or to make spa or restaurant reservations from your lounge chair (from \$599, RitzCarlton.com).

WHAT TO DO Grab a raft and float on the blue sea. Snorkel with stingrays at Stingray City (don't worry—they don't really sting).

providenciales, turks and caicos

WHY GO Absent of cruise ship crowds or a raucous nightlife, this serene spot lets calm, turquoise water (perfect for sailing and snorkeling) and soft-as-a-baby's-bottom sand take center stage.

WHERE TO STAY Grace Bay Club commands 1,100 feet of the island's top beach. Enjoy ocean views from your canopied daybed on the sand or while sipping cocktails at the 90-foot Infiniti Bar (from \$895, GraceBayResorts.com).

WHAT TO DO Tee off together at Provo Golf Club, one of the Caribbean's top courses. Sail to Little Water Cay to see the island's infamous rock iguanas. >>



riviera maya, mexico

WHY GO If you want to sink your toes into foreign—but not *too* foreign—white sands, this stunning region (where English is widely spoken, direct flights from the US abound and US dollars are often accepted) on Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula is your answer.

WHERE TO STAY Bordering the jungle and gleaming Maroma Beach, the intimate Maroma Resort and Spa is pure decadence. Don't miss the hotel's twice-weekly "Noches de Cantina," a themed dinner that celebrates Mexican cuisine and music (from \$575, MaromaHotel.com).

WHAT TO DO Check out the Mayan ruins of Tulum. Back at the hotel, play dirty at the Kinan Spa's healing mud bar. For nightlife, check out Cancún's beachside bars and clubs.

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ubud, bali

WHY GO With scenes of terraced rice paddies as your backdrop, this highland community and cultural haven on Indonesia's "Island of Gods" will transport you to another world.

WHERE TO STAY The peaceful Chedi Club at Tanah Gajah is the former estate of an art collector—each villa features Balinese pieces from his collection. One-bedroom pool villas have pools that are big enough for a proper swim (1-bedroom pool villas from \$555, [GHMHotels.com](#)).

WHAT TO DO At the hotel, attend a performance of the traditional Kecak dance followed by a Royal Balinese Dinner. See locals showcase their ritual dances, ceremonies and handicrafts. Also, visit the Sacred Monkey Forest, a nature reserve and temple complex that's swarming with friendly long-tailed macaques.



st. barts, french west indies

WHY GO On this très chic and très French island brimming with yachties and jet-setters (and celebs!), you'll have to keep reminding yourselves that you're in the Caribbean—not the Côte d'Azur.

WHERE TO STAY Decorated in a French-colonial style, your spacious cottage at the exclusive Hôtel Le Toiny has a private entrance, panoramas of the bay of Toiny and a red mailbox flag that serves as a "Do Not Disturb" sign. Try the French cuisine at the property's Restaurant Le Gaiac (from \$720, [LeToiny.com](#)).

WHAT TO DO Circle the island by sailboat to peruse your options for sunbathing. St. Barts has 14 beaches, each with a unique draw. For snorkeling and swimming, try St. Jean and Grand Cul-de-Sac (which is reef-protected). For privacy, hit Saline. To check out an unparalleled natural collection of seashells, visit the aptly named Shell Beach. And when you've had enough sun, shop the boutiques of Gustavia for souvenirs.

machu picchu, peru

WHY GO Discovering the Incan ruins of the "Lost City" is so much better when you're with your partner in crime.

WHERE TO STAY Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge is the closest hotel to the ruins—so you can easily arrive earlier and stay later than other tourists (from \$975, all-inclusive, [SanctuaryLodgeHotel.com](#)).

WHAT TO DO Climb up Huayna Picchu for insane views of the ruins. Relax with an aromatherapy treatment at the lodge.

istanbul, turkey

WHY GO At the intersection of Europe and the Middle East, Istanbul offers both a modern section and the mystical mosques and palaces of former empires in Old Town.

WHERE TO STAY At the Ciragan Palace Kempinski Istanbul, cozy up in a waterfront palace that once lodged Ottoman sultans (from \$510, [Kempinski.com](#)).

WHAT TO DO Tour the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia and Topkapi Palace. Try out a Turkish bath, a can't-miss local experience.

miami, florida

WHY GO Once you hit the energetic restaurants, nightclubs and ethnic neighborhoods, you'll quickly discover that this Florida hot spot moves to a Latin beat.

WHERE TO STAY Go for glam at the new W South Beach, a hip beachfront retreat (from \$529, [WSouthBeach.com](#)).

WHAT TO DO Eat your way through the city's melting pot with a culinary walking tour ([MiamiCulinaryTours.com](#)). Discover Cuban heritage in Little Havana.

ambergris caye, belize

WHY GO This low-key Central American gem gets exotic both above *and* below sea level, with ancient Mayan ruins, miles of jungle and the world's second-largest barrier reef.

WHERE TO STAY The candy-colored casitas at the adults-only Matachica Resort & Spa face the beach and barrier reef (from \$195, [Matachica.com](#)).

WHAT TO DO Hit top dive sites: the Great Blue Hole and Hol Chan Marine Reserve. Try to spy a jaguar on a jungle tour.

lanai, hawaii

WHY GO Romantically rugged Lanai, the smallest of the populated Hawaiian islands, offers incredible attractions and activities steeped in Hawaiian lore. Forget fast food, traffic lights, nightclubs, shopping malls and raucous tour buses—this low-key island is perfect for couples seeking unspoiled surroundings and posh digs. Speechless awe is not uncommon as you hike the spectacular trails, wander the surreal lava rocks and dive the amazing reefs.

WHERE TO STAY While the cliffside Four Seasons Resort Lana'i at Manele Bay ticks the "knockout beach" box, the hotel also embraces its cultural side. Think: lei making, hula lessons and talks with island elders (from \$395, [FourSeasons.com/manelebay](#)).

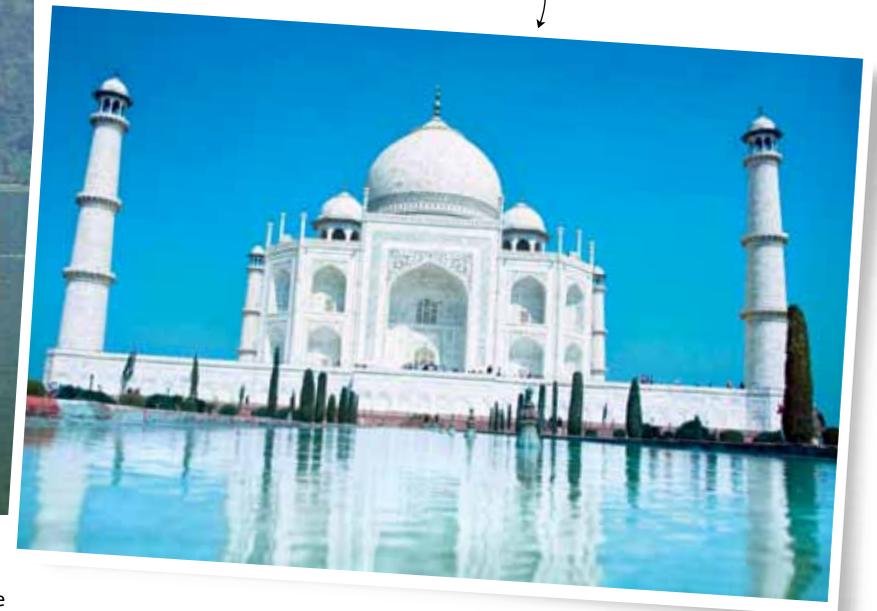
WHAT TO DO Take a 4x4 to Shipwreck Beach, where you'll see a hulking tanker that's been stranded since the '40s and petroglyphs on the trail to Kukui Point. Watch the sunset near legendary Sweetheart Rock. Or just relax. The beauty of this island is that there's not *too* much to do.

jaipur, india

WHY GO A land of ancient forts and palaces of Maharajas (Sanskrit for "great kings") past, the capital city of Rajasthan will transport you back in time...and to a jewelry lover's paradise.

WHERE TO STAY Pamper yourselves at the opulent former residence of the prime minister at the Taj Jai Mahal Palace, a luxe (and then some) resort where peacocks roam about the expansive lawns. At this regal abode, honeymooners receive a welcome cake—and glimpses at Indian traditions, including open-air folk dancing (from \$225, [TajHotels.com](#)).

WHAT TO DO At the Taj Jai Mahal Palace, join in on a game of elephant polo or be fawned upon during an extravagant five-course feast for two in the palace gardens. Don't miss tours of the magnificent Amber Fort and City Palace.



rio de janeiro, brazil

WHY GO If you've been working hard for that wedding-ready figure, here's your chance to flaunt a teeny-tiny bikini. This famed Brazilian city sizzles with white scene-y beaches and a raring nightlife.

WHERE TO STAY With 23 floors crowned with a rooftop pool, the Caesar Park Rio de Janeiro Ipanema Hotel hovers over trendy Ipanema Beach. Paparazzi alert: Madonna and Elton John have both stayed at this chic hotel (from \$493, [Caesar-Park.com](#)).

WHAT TO DO Get up close to the colossal Christ the Redeemer statue, one of the new seven wonders of the world. Shake what you've got at one of the city's samba schools. It's not often that you can combine a city vacation with a trip to the beach, so take full advantage with a stop at Ipanema Beach, which is adjacent to the famed Copacabana. Cool off with caipirinhas in one of the many bars lining the promenade.

barbados, west indies

WHY GO More than an impossibly beautiful island getaway, this Caribbean wonder melds its English, African and West Indian roots for a personality, cuisine, musical style and even lingo all its own. Here, afternoon tea and cricket matches mix with spicy food, gorgeous beaches and stunning sunsets for a stress-free escape.

WHERE TO STAY The essence of warm, elegant Barbadian hospitality beckons on the island's western shore (or "Platinum Coast") at Sandy Lane. This stately resort doesn't miss a detail: Beachfront services include reserved seating, sorbet delivery, Evian misting and sunglass cleaning (from \$1,190, [SandyLane.com](#)).

WHAT TO DO Stop in at one of the super-laid-back rum shops to "lime" (local speak for "chill out") with new Bajan friends and spiked punch. Swim in the crystal-clear waters alongside sea turtles. >>



buenos aires, argentina

WHY GO The 24/7 energy in this pulsating South American city is contagious. Dine on freshly grilled meats, tango through the streets and explore the many neighborhoods, with architecture spanning from Spanish Colonial-style buildings to quaint tin houses painted in every color imaginable.

WHERE TO STAY A deluxe room at the ultra-welcoming Rooney's Boutique Hotel will score you a private balcony à la *Evita*'s "Don't Cry for Me Argentina" act. Besides a buffet breakfast and a prime locale, Rooney's gives nightly tango lessons at no charge (from \$140, [RooneysBoutiqueHotel.com](#)).

WHAT TO DO Let the guides from BA Free Tour (yep, it's free!) show you around the city and residential areas ([BAFreeTour.com](#)). Scoop up tickets for a concert or ballet at the famous Teatro Colón.

walt disney world, florida

WHY GO The commercials don't lie—you'll trade reality for a magical world of fun and romance. Sure, you'll be married, but that doesn't mean you can't act like a couple of kids again. *Psst...* grab a special button from a Vacation Planning Booth that announces "I'm on my honeymoon" and you'll get the royal treatment from staffers.

WHERE TO STAY Disney's Port Orleans Resort – Riverside transports you to simpler times on the Louisiana bayou, where horse-drawn carriages clop along the pathways and southern charm (and hospitality) shines (from \$159, [Disney.com](#)).

WHAT TO DO While you're bouncing around the parks with your bride and groom mouse-ear hats (just go for it), visit the Italy Pavilion in Epcot for an *amore*-filled trip to "Venice." In the Magic Kingdom, reserve spots at the Tomorrowland Terrace Fireworks Dessert Party to indulge in sweets along with a fabulous vantage point for the evening sky show.



reykjavík, iceland

WHY GO It's not as frigid as you might think in Iceland's capital city, where the warm Gulf Stream winds tame brisk temps (really). Other pleasant surprises: There are lots of flights going there, a hopping arts and nightlife scene, and experts predict particularly brilliant views of the northern lights through 2013.

WHERE TO STAY A former printing factory turned chic contemporary hotel, CenterHotel Skjaldbreid is located right off the main shopping street, with walkable access to stores, cafés and the city's main historic sights (from \$75, [CenterHotels.com](#)).

WHAT TO DO Gawk at the city below from the tower of the famous Hallgrímskirkja church. Travel just outside the city to the Blue Lagoon geothermal spa, where you can get massages while floating on cushy rafts in the mineral-rich waters.

treasure beach, jamaica

WHY GO The trip to this laid-back fishing village on the South Coast takes longer than the more touristy zones, but the payoff is so worth it: rustic, unspoiled surroundings, a chance to mingle with locals, and low-key lodgings with low-key rates to match.

WHERE TO STAY With a cool bohemian vibe, Jakes Hotel is the opposite of a cookie-cutter Caribbean resort. Each airy room and cottage is tricked out in funky décor, and the friendly staff treats you like family (from \$95, [JakesHotel.com](#)).

WHAT TO DO With six miles of sandy beaches, this is *the* spot for postwedding R&R. Sunbathing, swimming, snorkeling and bodysurfing are among the top activities. Chill poolside at Dougie's Bar, where you can play backgammon with locals and sip on the signature rum punch (don't bother asking—Dougie won't give you the secret recipe). When you can't relax no more, mon, take a cooking class.

new orleans, louisiana

WHY GO Serving up decadent amounts of unbelievable food, soulful music and intimate mystique, the boisterous Big Easy is the perfect after-party.

WHERE TO STAY A room in the Hermann House Courtyard at the Dauphine Orleans Hotel provides a peaceful respite from the revelry of Bourbon Street, one block over. Splash into the hotel's pool to recharge your nightlife-loving batteries (from \$129, [DauphineOrleans.com](#)).

WHAT TO DO Devour the cheap eats at two New Orleans institutions: Have a crawfish po'boy at Johnny's Po-Boys ([JohnnysPoBoys.com](#)) and inhale beignets coated in powdered sugar from Café Du Monde ([CafeDuMonde.com](#)). Go on a walking, steamboat or bus tour. Themes include literary notables, vampires and voodoo haunts. For a highbrow tour of antebellum mansions, take the St. Charles Streetcar to the Garden District. >>



las vegas, nevada

WHY GO This over-the-top town is best known for its glitzy casinos, but the imaginative dining, shows and attractions will help keep you occupied, whatever your budget.

WHERE TO STAY The Strip's Tropicana Las Vegas has undergone a total tropical-glam redux. Its sprawling pool club has "beach" festivities by day and then turns into a sultry eatery at night (from \$99, [TropLV.com](#)).

WHAT TO DO See some of the "freebie spectacles" along The Strip: The Mirage's erupting volcano, the pyrotechnic "Sirens of TI" show at Treasure Island and the dancing fountains outside the Bellagio. For a one-of-a-kind happy hour, bundle up in loaner parkas on a deerskin-covered couch at the Minus5 Ice Bar, where everything, including your vodka glass, is made of ice ([Minus5Experience.com](#)).

phu quoc, vietnam

WHY GO Vietnam's largest island in the Gulf of Thailand, Phu Quoc is still dominated by dirt roads, pepper (the spice) plantations and untamed forest, but it's predicted to become one of the area's next hot spots (so go now, while the crowds—and prices!—are still manageable).

WHERE TO STAY Along with Long Beach Resort's meditative grounds (think: flora, ponds, footbridges), its delish Indo-Asian-Euro restaurant, Lang Toi, gets rave reviews (from \$170, [LongBeach-PhuQuoc.com](#)).

WHAT TO DO Climb the 29 steps to Cau Temple for a bird's-eye view of the sea and bustling Duong Dong Market in the distance; from your perch, catch the bobbing lights of squid fishermen in their boats just after sunset.

santa fe, new mexico

WHY GO With deep Native American roots and a location high in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, this artsy, southwestern city has an organic brand of beauty and character that stands alone.

WHERE TO STAY The adobe-style facade and cozy southwestern décor are tip-offs that the 134-room Inn and Spa at Loretto is loyal to the traditional local culture. Sit by a crackling fire in The Living Room restaurant and order from the lounge menu (try the buffalo sliders, yum!) (from \$119, [InnatLoretto.com](#)).

WHAT TO DO Hit the canyon trails by foot or on horseback ([BrokenSaddle.com](#)). Browse the Native American crafts around the Palace of the Governors.

puerto rico

WHY GO No passport necessary to visit this happening island, where you'll be seduced by the gorgeous beaches, historical sights, rain forests and casinos.

WHERE TO STAY Nightlife is hot at the chic beachfront El San Juan Resort & Casino, where you'll get your fill of Latin music and dancing (from \$159, [ElSanJuanResort.com](#)).

WHAT TO DO Explore the cobblestoned streets of historic Old San Juan. Check out wildlife and cool off in a waterfall on a day trip to El Yunque Rainforest.

montreal, canada

WHY GO There's no shortage of affordable and adorable B&Bs and small inns in this dynamic bilingual city with charming French flair.

WHERE TO STAY Le Petit Hôtel sits in the middle of Old Montreal, so you'll have the boutiques, galleries, restaurants and nightlife all at your fingertips (from \$155, [PetitHotelMontreal.com](#)).

WHAT TO DO Wander down to the Old Port for a day cruise along the St. Lawrence River ([BateauMouche.ca](#)). On land, watch street performers at Place Jacques-Cartier, or picnic at Mount Royal Park.



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