

New moons: TRAVEL TRENDS

Don't want a traditional getaway? Here are some alternatives for an unforgettable experience...

The ecomoon

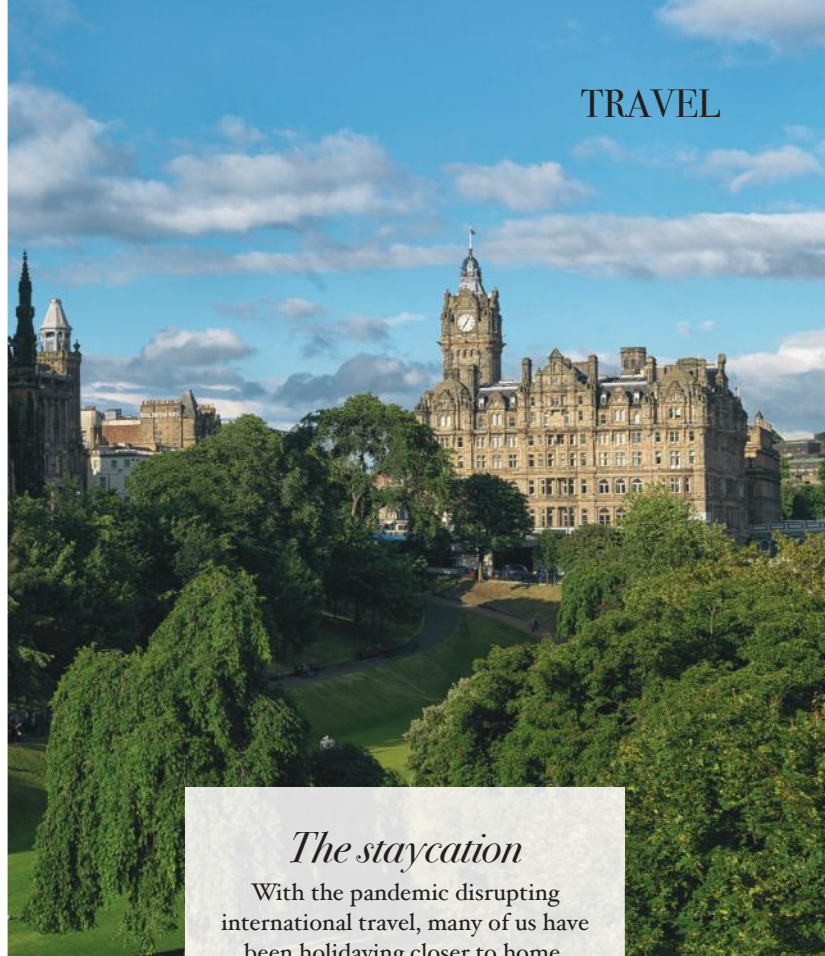
Sustainability has become a talking point in recent years and we're loving the host of eco-luxe resorts that have sprung up across the globe. Whether it's through conservation initiatives, offsetting carbon, refusing plastic or operating with renewable energy, there are many hotels that are perfect for a guilt-free, environmentally friendly honeymoon. The best part? Being an eco-advocate doesn't mean sacrificing on luxury or feeling limited by your options. For somewhere to go, we love Maslina on the Croatian island of Hvar. Not too far from home, this five-star resort is driven by its respect for the environment. Here, you'll find a luxury hideaway that was built with the planet in mind – from its low-intrusive, sustainable design to its on-site organic garden that provides seasonal ingredients for its restaurant. Stay from €300 per night. maslinaresort.com





The familymoon

For newlyweds who have children, a familymoon is a wonderful alternative to a couples-only retreat. Rather than a stressful experience, a well-planned family getaway gives you the chance to spend quality time together after months of hectic wedding planning. With plenty of resorts offering child-friendly facilities, you'll be spoilt for choice when deciding where to go. One of our favourite spots? The all-inclusive Turtle Beach by Elegant Hotels – located on Barbados' Platinum Coast. Here, you'll find a tropical Caribbean paradise with all the amenities you need to keep everyone happy – so while you're soaking up the sun and sipping on rum punch, your kids can immerse themselves in a choice of fun-filled activities. There's plenty you can enjoy together, too; from beach cricket and snorkelling to tours of the local area. Stay from £225 per night. all-inclusive.marriott.com



The staycation

With the pandemic disrupting international travel, many of us have been holidaying closer to home. Across the UK there are so many incredible places to visit, and with luxury hotels aplenty, a staycation can be ideal for your honeymoon, too. Whether you fancy a beach retreat or a city escape, there are options that are perfect for an unforgettable trip – and better still, they come without the high costs of flying overseas. If you want to treat yourself to a swanky hotel, we particularly love The Balmoral in Edinburgh. Ideally located in the heart of the capital, this prestigious property has everything you need for a romantic city break. As well as a dedicated concierge to help you plan your dream Scottish escape, The Balmoral is home to the famous Michelin-starred Number One restaurant – perfect for raising a glass and celebrating married life!

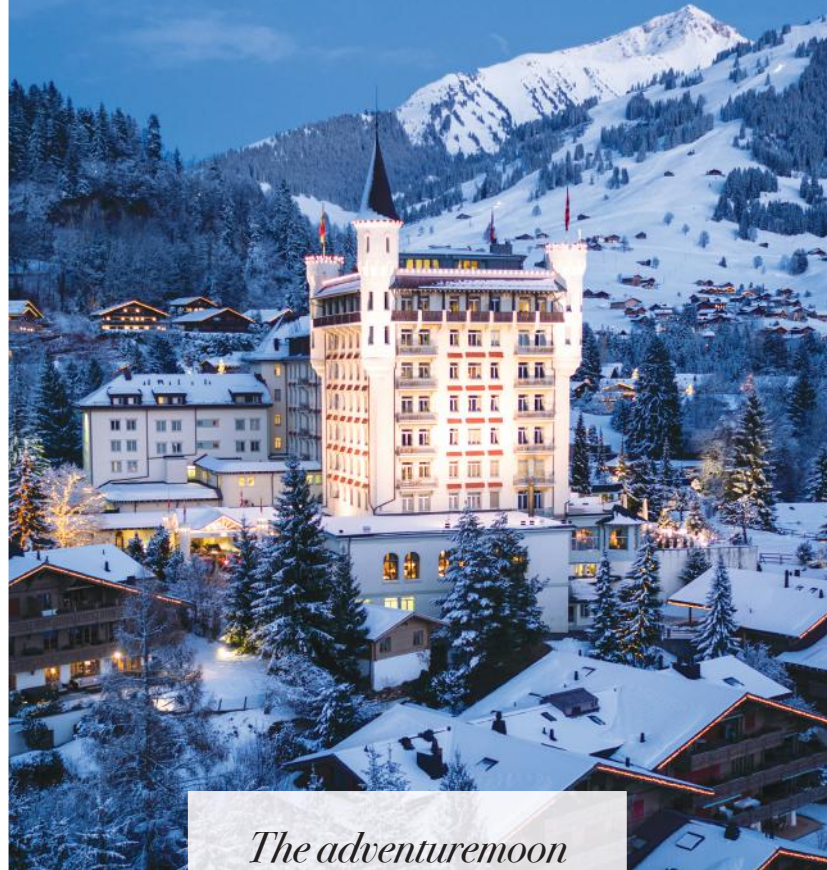
Rooms start from £180.
roccofortehotels.com





The buddymoon

It may seem strange, but many couples are ditching the traditional honeymoon and opting instead for a holiday with their closest friends. Known as the buddymoon, this is a great choice if you want a social getaway and the chance to extend your celebrations past the big day. If you're after a once-in-a-lifetime experience, the picture-perfect Raffles Maldives Meradhoo recently opened its Royal Residence – an idyllic six-bedroom villa that offers the ultimate hideaway for couples celebrating with their friends. This lavish option delivers everything you'd expect from a honeymoon in the Maldives – think butler service, signature spa treatments and private boat trips. The difference? You get to enjoy these special moments surrounded by all your favourite people. The residence can accommodate up to 15 guests and can be booked from £13,700 per night. rafflesmaldives.com



The adventurymoon

After many months stuck at home, an active escape is an appealing choice for your honeymoon. And adventuremoons offer exactly that. From epic wildlife encounters to adventure sports, hiking and exploring, these unforgettable trips are all about making the most of your first holiday as a married couple. Don't want to travel too far? A honeymoon in the Alps should be high on your list. Here you'll find a host of things to do including skiing, snowboarding and dog-sledding in winter, to river rafting, rock climbing and horse riding in summer – all of which can be enjoyed alongside breathtaking views. For somewhere to stay, Gstaad Palace in Switzerland offers a romantic, fairytale setting. With its five-star facilities, this luxury resort is the perfect place to kick back after a memorable day in the mountains. Rooms start from around £420 per night. palace.ch

