

# *Island* ESCAPES

Here's why a luxurious beach getaway is the honeymoon  
you've been dreaming of...



Velaa Private Island is the perfect place to relax in the sun and enjoy quality time together



**B**eaches and honeymoons go hand in hand. The traditional island getaway offers everything you could want for a romantic holiday – breathtaking scenery, beautiful weather and dreamy accommodation. It delivers the ultimate relaxing escape, where you can enjoy quality time together in a peaceful setting far from the stresses of everyday life.

Around the world, there's an amazing choice of islands to welcome in married life in style. Each destination promises an unforgettable getaway where you can explore colourful underwater worlds, sunbathe on powder-white sands and raise a glass while you watch the sunset in paradise.

### LUXE HIDEAWAYS

If you're looking to splash out on a once-in-a-lifetime escape, the beach honeymoon ticks the right boxes. Most islands offer pristine five-star accommodation, but not many can compete with the Maldives. A picture-perfect haven, the Maldives is the epitome of honeymoon bliss, with its secluded beaches, turquoise seas and abundance of lavish resorts.

For an exotic escape surrounded by

nothing but sparkling sea vistas, the Maldives is the right place! Resorts here are often on their own private island and accessible only by seaplane or boat – which means you'll quite literally be on a remote tropical island in the middle of the Indian Ocean.

Perfect for those after pure R&R, the Maldives boasts sensational resorts such as Velaa Private Island and Emerald Maldives Resort & Spa, which come complete with butlers, world-class spas, private pools and overwater villas. All-inclusive is also the standard and, unlike in other destinations, you generally won't leave your resort – something which probably won't be an issue when you're staying in heavenly surroundings!

### NATURAL PARADISE

The Maldives is an incredible option for barefoot luxury and absolutely delivers if you want a postcard-worthy honeymoon. But, if you want more to see and do, you might also want to consider somewhere like the Seychelles. As another Indian Ocean hotspot, the Seychelles is an ultra-romantic destination that's loved by many famous faces – including the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, who had their honeymoon there in 2011.

Comprised of 115 scattered isles, the Seychelles offers similar levels of

Emerald Maldives Resort & Spa delivers postcard vibes – you can bet your friends will be envious!



Bora Bora has an amazing choice of overwater bungalows similar to those found in the Maldives



Island hopping adventures are a great idea in destinations like French Polynesia



privacy and has some of the world's best beaches, including Anse Source d'Argent, which is one of the most photographed in the world. As well as this, you'll also find lush nature reserves, glittering marine parks and stunning natural landscapes – meaning your honeymoon can be filled with exploration trips to discover everything these beautiful islands have to offer.

If you want a choice of smaller resorts, the Seychelles will hit the right notes for you, too, with its exclusive beachside hotels and back-to-nature retreats. On the largest island of Mahé, we particularly love Anantara Maia Seychelles Villas which has 30 private villas all with dazzling views. Head slightly further afield and you'll find Four Seasons Resort Seychelles at Desroches Island – a gorgeously rustic hideaway that's also home to the rare Aldabra giant tortoise.

### FARAWAY ESCAPES

With endless incredible places to stay, it's easy to see why sun-soaked getaways are so popular. Yet while many honeymooners dream of relaxing on a remote island, a quiet beach break isn't for everyone. If that's you and you're worried that an isolated escape might leave you restless, island hopping could be a perfect alternative.

Although not usually as common in the Maldives, island hopping makes a fab itinerary in the Seychelles if you want to split your time between a few luxe resorts. And if you're lucky enough to have several weeks off? Far-flung

French Polynesia's tropical islands are filled with dramatic, breathtaking scenery



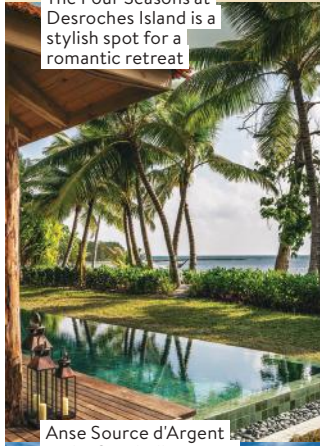
French Polynesia needs to be one of your options for a bucket list adventure that's mixed with beachside bliss.

Often compared with the Maldives as the ultimate honeymoon destination, French Polynesia gives you signature overwater bungalows, but also the opportunity to travel between islands. In addition to the famous isles of Bora Bora, Tahiti and Moorea, there's a host of others you can visit in French Polynesia, with boat transfers and inter-island flights making it easy to explore.

Whether you travel around or opt for a single base, we promise you won't be disappointed! Renowned as one of the most beautiful locations in the world, French Polynesia guarantees an utterly magical honeymoon that will make all your friends and family jealous. You'll also have the chance to take part in hiking trips, vibrant cultural excursions and adventure activities, so you won't be lost for things to do.

Not surprisingly, French Polynesia has an impressive choice of loved-up retreats, too, including the super swanky St. Regis Bora Bora Resort. Despite being notoriously expensive, budget-friendly options are also possible with Airbnbs and guesthouses sprinkled across the islands – perfect for a more authentic experience.

The Four Seasons at Desroches Island is a stylish spot for a romantic retreat



Anse Source d'Argent in the Seychelles is one of the world's most famous beaches

