

COSMOPOLITAN

Bride



YOUR
32-PAGE
GUIDE
TO THE
PERFECT
'MOON

The Great Escape

Dream beaches, hottest hotels & jet-set buys



SE
LAN

WHERE IN THE WORLD CAN WE...

...share some of the most breathtaking, beautiful and romantic experiences honeymooners can imagine? Allow us to make a few suggestions

1 CRUISE SECLUDED CANALS AND COVES

Shed the breakneck pace of daily life on a private houseboat ride along the backwaters of Kerala, a coastal Indian state with a labyrinth of waterways. You'll catch fresh fish (cooked up for dinner on-board by a private chef), glide under jungle palms and glimpse sleepy villages from the breezy deck of an authentic bamboo rice barge. But never fear, amenity lovers – there's an air-conditioned bedroom and en-suite bath. *Nine nights in Kerala, including one night on a houseboat (excluding flights), from £908pp, Kerala Travel Centre (keralatravelcentre.co.uk).*

2 TOAST YOUR LOVE HIGH IN THE CLOUDS

Soar through the sky and take in 360-degree views of Sri Lankan paddy fields and tea plantations in a hot-air balloon while you clink glasses. Or, for those with loftier ambitions, tie the knot in mid-air. *Hour-long group excursions, £106pp; champagne rides for two, £590; and in-flight wedding packages from £2050, Reef Villa & Spa (reefvilla.com).*

3 SWIM ABOVE THE SKYLINE

This April, the Ritz-Carlton Hong Kong became the world's tallest hotel – with the world's highest infinity pool. Located (mind-bendingly) on level 118, it offers panoramic views of the skyscraper-filled metropolis that will leave you breathless even before you take the plunge. *Deluxe rooms from US\$770 per night (ritzcarlton.com).*

4 SNUGGLE UP IN A WILDERNESS RETREAT

Style meets substance at Australia's Wildman Wilderness Lodge, where

elegant cabins (decked out with leather furnishings, air-con and iPod docks) and spacious safari tents are built with an eco-friendly ethos. From your cozy corner of the Mary River wetlands, you'll spot buffalo, eagles and night herons, not to mention spectacular sunsets.

Two nights in Darwin, three nights and meals at Wildman Wilderness Lodge, seven nights in Port Douglas and four days' car hire, plus flights with Qantas, from £2950pp, Bridge & Wickers (bridgeandwickers.co.uk).

5 ENJOY THE RUSH OF A WATERFALL

Adventurers should blaze a trail to Guyana, an English-speaking Caribbean gem on the north coast of South America that has yet to be overrun by tourists. With breathtaking stretches of rainforests and savannahs, it's also home to the thundering Kaieteur Falls – five times higher than Niagara Falls and a world wonder the two of you won't soon forget. *14-night highlights of Guyana tour, including a visit to the falls (excluding international flights), from £3230pp, Journey Latin America (journeylatinamerica.co.uk).*

6 EXPLORE ANCIENT LEGENDS

Roman, Greek and Egyptian influences combine to create a dazzling cultural mosaic in Cyprus, with year-round sun thrown in for good measure. Visit the temple to Aphrodite, the goddess of love: who better to bless your honeymoon? In Amathus, wander through early Christian basilicas in Kourion or see the site where Richard the Lionheart is said to have crowned his wife Queen of England in 1191. Le Méridien Limassol Spa & Resort is the perfect luxe outpost to explore from. *Seven nights, including flights and breakfast, from £917pp, Olympic Holidays (olympicholidays.com).*

7 MAKE AN ENTRANCE BY SEAPLANE

Inject your island arrival with a heavy dose of glamour. The Beach House Maldives provides A-list-style seaplane transfers from the international airport to the resort, so you can jet in from above while taking in postcard-worthy panoramas of paradise. *Seven nights including breakfast, flights, seaplane transfers and spa and restaurant credits, from £3620pp, Elegant Resorts (elegantresorts.co.uk).*

8 TASTE THE HEART OF PROVENCE

Veggies straight from the garden and village-market ingredients get the Alain Ducasse treatment at the Hostellerie de l'Abbaye de la Celle, a 10-room inn and restaurant in the heart of vineyard country. While away lazy days in the pool or under the chestnut trees, then dine on fresh flavours including baby fennel, artichoke, pressed duck and Mediterranean sea bass. *Menu starting from €45, double rooms from €250 per night (abbaye-celle.com).*

9 POUR THE FINEST AFTERNOON TEA

Warm scones, finger sandwiches, 17 varieties of tea... there's no better place to indulge in this English institution than The Ritz London – and no better excuse than a first night, minimoon or stopover in the capital en route to the airport. *Afternoon tea in The Palm Court, from £40pp (theritzlondon.com/tea).*

10 FEEL LIKE A PRINCESS

Travel back in time, Tuscan-style, in a fortified castle that dates from 1000AD. Castello di Castagneto is filled with centuries-old heirlooms and treasures, >



14 SIP COCKTAILS AT SUNSET

Savour a colourful concoction from above the tree line – mesmerising desert on one side, the Pacific Ocean stretching out to the horizon on the other – in the stylish Sky Bar atop Mexico's new Hotel Guaycura. We're particularly fond of the hip deck furniture.

Four-night romance package, including breakfast, spa treatments, dinner and a sunset picnic, from US\$1339pp (guaycura.com).

15 WATCH DOLPHINS FROM YOUR BEACH BLANKET

Who needs HD when you have a view like this? Soak up the sun at Watego's Beach on Australia's Byron Bay, where dolphins get so close, you swear you could reach out and touch them. Later, foodie delights await in the al fresco dining room at Rae's on Watego's, a romance-guaranteed hotel in this surfer's nirvana.

Rooms from AUD\$600 (raes.com.au). Quote Cosmo Bride when booking to save 10% (subject to availability).

16 TAKE A CREATIVE COOKING LESSON IN PARADISE

With a personal chef as your guide, venture into Thai markets and learn to cook up the raw materials into an unforgettably authentic meal. Then, as a reward for all your hard work, staff will transform an idyllic outdoor location (think verdant riverbank) into a private dining area where you can feast on the fruits of your labour and sip a well-earned glass of wine. It's just one of the holiday-making experiences at The Sarojin Thailand. From spa treatments to excursions and adventures, your imagination's the limit.

From US\$178 per room, per night, including all-day à la carte breakfast (sarojin.com).

17 RUB SHOULDERS WITH GIRAFFES

Add a touch of quirky flair to your African honeymoon with a few nights in Kenya's beautiful Giraffe Manor, where the resident herd of Rothschild giraffes will literally pitch up for tea in the garden or peek in your bedroom window (good news: they're friendly and you can feed them from your hands). The elegant

while the stunning vistas of the countryside and Tyrrhenian Sea are pure romantic bliss (ditto the private access to lush pine groves and sandy beach below). Overnight stays and tours are available, as is venue hire for a destination wedding. *Price on application (castellodicastagneto.com).*

11 SPY ON BEAUTIFUL BABY TURTLES

Packed with natural marvels, the Seychelles island of Praslin is ideal for spotting just-hatched Hawksbill and green turtles. Every nesting season (October to February), turtles are drawn to the thick vegetation on the Constance Lémuria Resort beach, where a dedicated turtle guide will help you watch these newborns taking their first steps into the turquoise lagoon. Don't forget your camera.

Rooms from £212pp per night, including breakfast (lemuriareSORT.com).

12 RIDE OFF INTO THE SUNSET

Get your gallop on at Rancho Lorilar, a western-style riding ranch in the Dominican Republic. It won't be easy, but drag yourself away from the beach and sign up for an excursion on trails that take in charming villages, dramatic mountains and lush rainforest. Stop to eat at an authentic Dominican restaurant and take a dip in a secluded lagoon before you call it a night. *Rides from US\$50pp (lorilarranch.com).*

13 SLEEP IN A HANGING BED

Design junkies can OD on cool at the New Majestic Hotel in Singapore's Chinatown. Each room is unique with features akin to art installations, including mural-decorated suites with gravity-defying hanging beds. Sweet dreams are made of this! *Rooms from £132 per night (newmajestichotel.com).*

Thirties mansion has six safari-glam bedrooms decked out in colonial style, with dramatic four-poster beds and antiques as a matter of course.

Rooms at Giraffe Manor from US\$460 per night. Five-night Safari Teaser package, including one night at Giraffe Manor, from US\$3520pp (excluding international flights), The Safari Collection (thesafaricollection.com).

18 LIVE ON THE EDGE... OF A VOLCANO, THAT IS

Hotter-than-hot honeymoon island Saint Lucia is also home to the world's only drive-in-volcano, La Soufrière, where you can cruise up to within a few hundred feet of the steaming pools at the top, park and hike the rest of the way. Boutique couples-only resort Rendezvous is a dreamy retreat to make your honey-home. *Guided tours to the volcano, US\$2pp; rooms at Rendezvous start from £110pp per night (theromanticholiday.com).*

19 CREATE YOUR OWN GRAND TOUR

Culture-craving couples can make like the privileged classes of yore and romp through the Italian capitals, taking in architecture, art, great food and plenty of passion along the way. The Sina collection of four and five-star hotels includes an 18th century palace in Florence; a historic palazzo on the Grand Canal in Venice; an elegant hideaway in Rome just steps from the Eternal City's most iconic landmarks; and other luxe locations. Book The Grand Tour of Italy package and you can mix and match destinations to build your ideal itinerary. *Five nights in a double room, including breakfast, from €1500, Sina (sinahotels.com).*

20 HIDE AWAY UNDER THE RAINFOREST CANOPY

Immerse yourselves in the legendary Amazonian jungle of Peru, where you'll brush past medicinal plants, spy rare bird species and get your pulse racing on river excursions. Family-run Hacienda Concepcion incorporates a thatched-roof lodge and locally crafted décor as well as seven cabanas – just right for an extra bit of honeymoon seclusion.

Two nights full-board, including round-trip

transport, excursions to the canopy walkway and Inkaterra butterfly house, and a trip to Lake Sandoval (excluding international flights), from US\$280pp, Inkaterra (inkaterra.com).

21 WRAP YOURSELF IN ROSE PETALS

Melting honey, orange infusions, sweet roses – the sensual ingredient list on the spa menu at Marrakesh's La Mamounia hotel reads like a recipe for romance (which could explain why this retreat has a whole host of awards to its name). Indulge in a private hammam (Moroccan bath), blissful massage or delicious scrub, or book in for 45 minutes of hydrating, rose-scented heaven. *Rooms from around £390 per night (mamounia.com).*

22 TAKE A TROPICAL TRIP TO THE CINEMA

No one would blame you for hiding out in your suite at Carlisle Bay Antigua (they all have ocean views, outdoor day beds, a daily delivery of fresh fruit and enviable entertainment centres with DVD players), but it'd be a shame to skip a trip to the luxury private screening room – the first in a Caribbean hotel. Sink back into an Italian leather seat and soak up the magic of a silver-screen classic or popcorn blockbuster, reliving those early cinema dates before the two of you knew your own love story would have a Hollywood-worthy ending. *Suites from US\$425 per night (campbellgrayhotels.com/carlisle-bay-antigua).*

