



Ideas + Etiquette

# 50 Best Places to Honeymoon in 2015

Each year we create a list of the most amazing, idyllic honeymoon destinations in the world. From far flung exotic locales like Sri Lanka, Marrakesh and Maldives to beautiful beaches and budget-friendly options -- we have suggestions for any and every type of honeymoon. See our list of the 50 best destinations below!

By Maridel Reyes











of aquamarine you've ever seen), which is only accessible via boat or by foot. **10 Most Exotic Honeymoons Most Exotic: Myanmar** PHOTO BY THINKSTOCK WHY GO: Where does the couple who has been everywhere go for their honeymoon? Myanmar. Up until recently, this Southeast Asian country was shrouded in secrecy and closed off to the outside world. WHERE TO STAY: Belmond (from \$2,520 for a 4-day journey, Belmond.com) just added a second river Belmond Orcaella cruiser to its existing Myanmar route. WHAT TO DO: Visit ancient temples and marvel at places untouched by globalization. For wow-worthy selfies, take a hot air balloon ride over the plains around Bagan. Search hot honeymoon spots by style: 10 MOST ADVENTUROUS HONEYMOONS 10 BEST BARGAIN HONEYMOONS Most Exotic: Panama City, Panama PHOTO BY THINKSTOCK

WHY GO: This Central American nation has the best of everything: tropical rain forests, beautiful mountain vistas, two coasts for Caribbean- and Pacificstyle beaches, more than 1,000 islands, a sophisticated capital city, a vibrant nightlife, full-service resorts, exotic off-the-beaten-path getaways and historic sites. Seriously, what more could you possibly ask for?

WHERE TO STAY: The newly opened American Trade Hotel (from \$279, AceHotel.com) occupies a beautifully restored landmark building, providing the perfect mix of local culture and modern luxury. Book one of the top floor "Panorama" rooms for floor-to-ceiling windows that offer 180-degree views of Casco Viejo, Panama City and Panama Bay.

WHAT TO DO: Spend a day on expansive Gatun Lake where you may come face-to-face with monkeys and other wild animals. Get your blood pumping with an intense hike to the top of 650-foot Cerro Ancón or take an afternoon to explore the historic streets of Casco Viejo. At night, slip into the hotel's Danilo's Jazz Club for world-class music with an intimate atmosphere.



## Most Exotic: Marrakesh, Morocco

PHOTO BY THINKSTOCK

WHY GO: Rock stars and fashion designers have been going to this North African city for decades to find inspiration. You'll feel like you wandered onto a movie set complete with snake charmers, belly dancers, horse-drawn carriage rides and an extensive maze of markets.

WHERE TO STAY: Less than 10 minutes from the airport and the ancient Medina, the sultry and sumptuously appointed Selman Marrakech (from \$424, Selman-Marrakech.com) offers a view of the Atlas Mountains.

WHAT TO DO: Visit Yves Saint Laurent's former home and gardens and stop by the Galerie "Love"—a collection of all of the designer's collage posters with the word "love" scrawled on each one.

#### Most Exotic: Sri lanka

WHY GO: Marco Polo described Sri Lanka as one of the finest islands of its size in the world. Located just south of India, it's an up-and-coming destination for Europeans—and is now catching on around the globe.

WHERE TO STAY: The River House (from \$280, The River House.lk) in Sri Lanka's southern province is a river-crossed, jungle-strewn, ocean-side escape. Book the spectacular Menik Suite with its plunge pool for two—seriously sexy.

WHAT TO DO: Hang out at the hotel's pool, ensconced within the jungle greenery. It feels wonderfully private, except for the monkeys swinging from the trees.

## **Most Exotic: Dubai, United Arab Emirates**

PHOTO BY THINKSTOCK

WHY GO: Get the best of both worlds: Enjoy a taste of the glamorous city life for a few days and then head out to the desert for tranquility and romance.

WHERE TO STAY: You'll feel like royalty at Al Maha, a Luxury Collection Desert Resort and Spa (from \$817, Al-Maha.com). Settle into your ultraluxurious tent accommodations, equipped with a private pool and wood deck.

WHAT TO DO: Indulge in a sunset camel ride that takes you to the crest of a dune, where you'll pause for champagne, snacks and fruit as the light changes.

#### Most Exotic: Maldives

PHOTO BY THINKSTOCK

**WHY GO:** This remote Indian Ocean archipelago greets honeymooners with white-sand beaches, crystal-clear waters, atolls and secluded resorts.

WHERE TO STAY: Niyama Maldives (from \$857, Niyama.Peraguum.com) has it all—no, really. Just a few of the highlights include a coral nursery, an underwater nightclub, a restaurant reachable only by boat and a spa where you can book a couple's massage.

WHAT TO DO: Join the resort's resident marine biologist and explore the underwater world during a nighttime snorkel tour. As the sun sets, you'll observe feeding corals catching plankton and see the micro marine life glow in the dark.



### Most Exotic: Cappadocia, Turkey

PHOTO BY THINKSTOCK

WHY GO: Located less than four hours from Turkey's capital city, the wind-carved landscapes of Cappadocia are otherworldly.

WHERE TO STAY: Argos in Cappadocia (from \$200, ArgosinCappadocia.com) is on the site of an ancient monastery with rooms that have been restored from the remains of underground tunnels and caves.

WHAT TO DO: Whether it's high up in a hot air balloon or on foot or horseback, there is a ton of ways to explore Cappadocia's magical valleys full of caves and rock formations, or "fairy chimneys."

#### Most Exotic: Udaipur, India

PHOTO BY THINKSTOCK

**WHY GO:** Known as the Venice of the East, this city of palace-like hotels sits on the picturesque Lake Pichola.

WHERE TO STAY: The Oberoi Udaivilas, Udaipur (from \$835, OberoiHotels.com) overlooks pristine water and lush gardens.

WHAT TO DO: Honeymooners receive a traditional welcome with a showering of rose petals, plus a complimentary 30-minute couple's massage.

#### Most Exotic: Kyoto, Japan

WHY GO: Compared with the frenetic energy of Japan's capital city Tokyo, Kyoto moves at a languid pace. Relax and reflect at hundreds of shrines and temples or stroll through peaceful traditional gardens.

WHERE TO STAY: Take a private boat ride to the picture-perfect Hoshinoya Kyoto (starting at \$516, Global. HoshinoResort.com) that's perched on the calm Ooi River.

WHAT TO DO: Visit during the spring or fall. In spring, the cherry blossom trees are in full bloom, while fall reveals a beautiful mix of classic autumn colors. Before it gets dark, enjoy a leisurely walk around Gion, past machiya (wood townhouses), teahouses and the Shirakawa canal.

## Most Exotic: Machu Picchu Pueblo, Peru

PHOTO BY THINKSTOCK

WHY GO: If you want adventure, look no further. Peru is home to some of the world's greatest sites (Andes, Cloud Forests, Machu Picchu Citadel), making it truly the trip of a lifetime.

WHERE TO STAY: Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel (from \$249, Inkaterra.com) is set on 12 secluded acres at the base of Machu Picchu and offers all the luxury amenities, as well as a vow renewal ceremony performed by a local shaman.

WHAT TO DO: A sunrise trek is totally worth the early morning wake-up call. Insider tip: The first trainload of tourists arrives around noon, but before that, the place is all yours. It's just you, the mysterious and mist-covered ancient city and some resident llamas. The city of Cusco is also a popular pit stop for tourists heading to Machu Picchu, but it's still full of authentic Peruvian charm.