Leisure > Travel

The Top 45 Honeymoon Destinations for 2024—and Beyond

Where to go, where to stay, and what to do for your trip of a lifetime.

BY LEENA KIM AND HANNAH SELIGSON PUBLISHED: OCT 9, 2023



ould there be a more romantic holiday than the honeymoon? For this reason it really requires thoughtful planning and a well-padded budget. And given you're only going to do it once (well, in theory at least), we're of the persuasion that a honeymoon should be a grand affair—why take one week when you can take off three? Why settle for one destination when you can combine multiple stops? Tanzania and Tuscany, perhaps. Or Patagonia and Fiji.

It's high-stakes, it can be stressful, but we're here to help. We've rounded up dozens of *T&C*-approved honeymoon destinations, plus the best places to stay in each. Have a thirst for adventure? Consider a 10-day trek across the Serengeti, on foot. Prefer to just sprawl out **on pristine sand** for a week? We've got a sampling of fabulous private islands around the world. Want to stay **close to home**? Honeymoon a la JFK and Jackie Kennedy in a delightful celebrity's refuge in Santa Barbara. Many more of our suggestions, below. Cue the wanderlust.

Santa Barbara, California



With its charming Spanish Colonial Revival architecture and balmy Mediterranean climate, Santa Barbara ranks high on the list for romantics who want a city-meets-beach escape that is also convenient to access. Plus, for oenophiles, there is picturesque, winery-strewn Santa Ynez Valley, less than an hour away. As for where to stay, there is nothing more romantic than San Ysidro Ranch, the gorgeously landscaped idyllic hideaway where JFK and Jackie spent their honeymoon, and where countless celebrities, from Winston Churchill to John Huston, have sought refuge.

San Ysidro Ranch BOOK NOW READ REVIEWS

Kohala Coast, Big Island, Hawaii



Hawaii and honeymoon are rather synonymous, but venture off the beaten path a little bit and head to Big Island, arguably the state's least commercialized—and most authentic—island. Adventures include helicopter tours, nighttime snorkeling to see manta rays, and, of course, the geological marvels of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Stay at the Mauna Kea Beach Hotel, a mid-century, open floor plan masterpiece from Laurance S. Rockefeller that features cantilevered stairways, a museumworthy collection of Asian Pacific Art, and a pretty slice of beach with sand as smooth as silk.

Mauna Kea Beach Hotel BOOK NOW READ REVIEWS

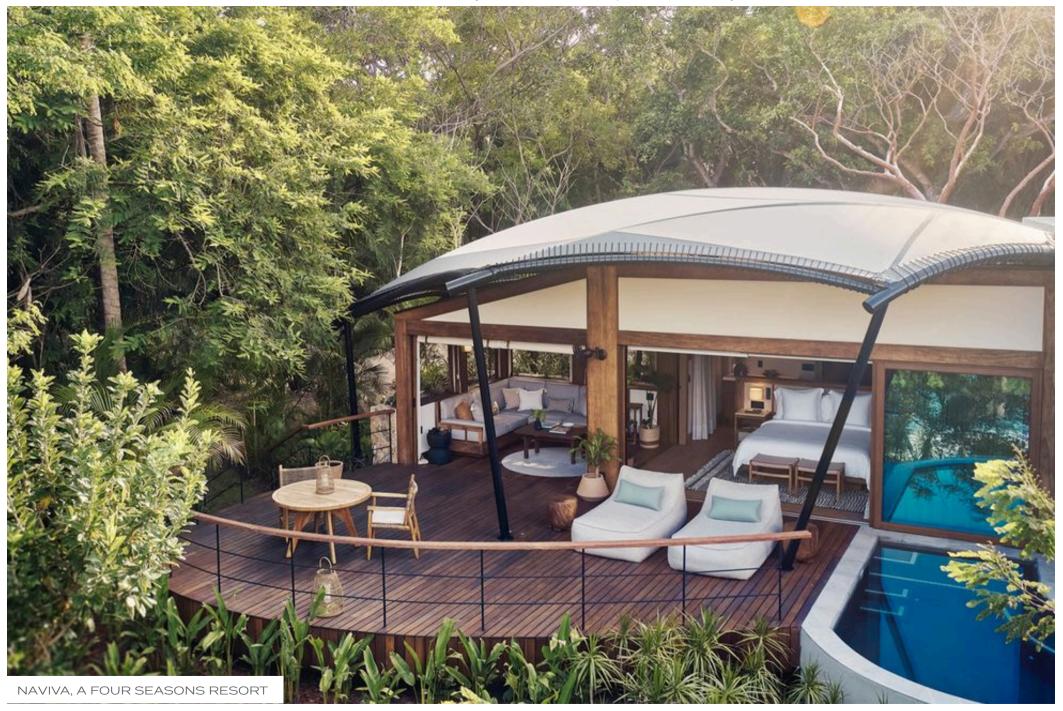
Big Sur, California



A land of sweeping views known for its mind-body-soul getaways and retreats, Big Sur has towering redwoods, whimsical meadows, and the most dramatic vistas of the Pacific coastline. To indulge in the quintessential Big Sur experience, head to the Alila Ventana Big Sur, where you can really soak it all in, whether from its infinity-edge hot tub, or the clothing-optional Mountain pool, or the Japanese hot baths. And for the utmost in privacy, be sure to spring for one of the standalone houses.

Alila Ventana Big Sur Book Now READ REVIEWS

Punta Mita, Mexico



This 1,500-acre coastal peninsula in the Riveria Nayarit, on the west coast of Mexico, is an oasis of wellness and indulgence, all topped off with a wild and untamed feel—barefoot luxury at its finest. Four Seasons was first to stake claim to the region, opening a resort here in the late '90s. It recently expanded its footprint—albeit without really leaving much of a footprint—with Naviva, a collection of just 15 luxury tents sprinkled throughout a forest overlooking the ocean. This is about as romantic and ultra-private as you'll find in Nayarit, and best of all? It's adults-only *and* all-inclusive.

Naviva, a Four Seasons Resort BOOK NOW

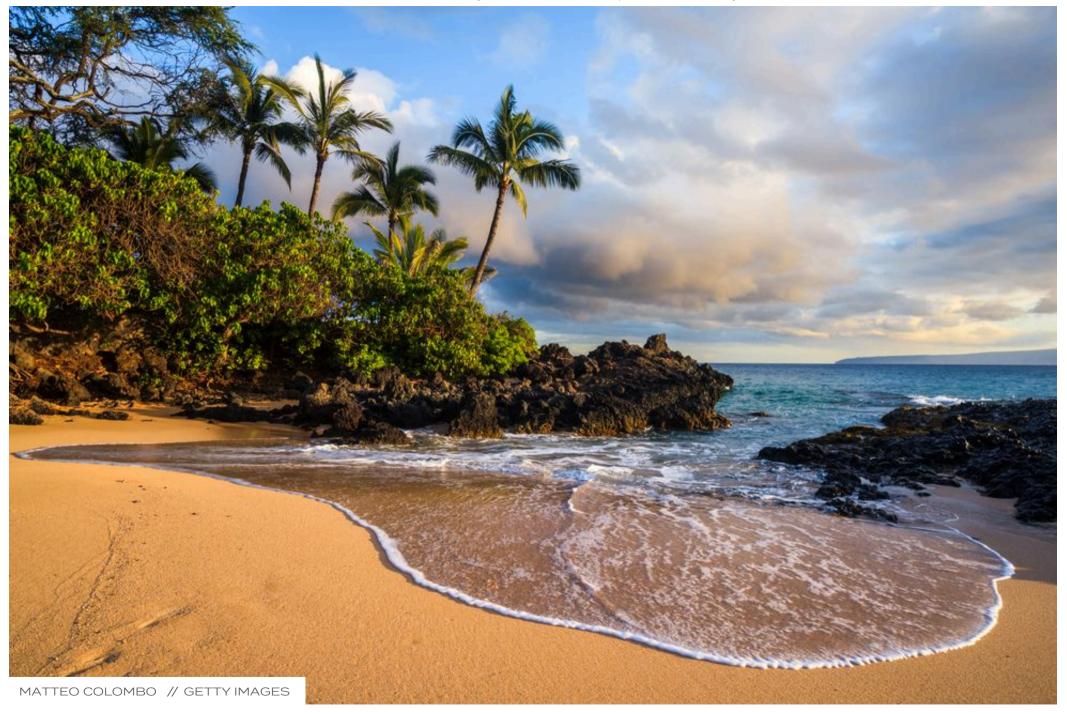
Lake Como, Italy



Riva cruises, delicious pasta, ambling strolls through postcard perfect villages, lounging by a fresh saltwater pool that floats in the lake... Isn't this what a honeymoon is supposed to be? Set against the dramatic scenery of the Alps, Lake Como and its picturesque towns (Cernobbio, Bellagio, Varenna among them) have long served as a chic and polished refuge for Milanese elite (and George Clooney). For a *dolce vita* experience like no other, the answer is always the exquisite Villa d'Este, the grandest dame here.

Villa d'Este book now read reviews

Maui, Hawaii



Want to show your <u>support for Maui</u> after the devastating Lahaina wildfire? Go! The island is made for honeymooners, with a polished but relaxed vibe, and enough fantastic culinary options to eat at a different restaurant every night (not to mention all the shopping!). Add in gorgeous beaches, rainforests, and whale watching during certain times of year, and you'll get a holiday that has pretty much everything. Soak it all in at Hotel Wailea, an adults-only Relais & Château that is all suites and overlooks three Hawaii islands.

Hotel Wailea BOOK NOW READ REVIEWS

Pacific Harbor, Fiji



Remote, tranquil, and surrounded by crystal clear water, Fiji is the ultimate destination to decompress post-wedding. It's also a haven of luxury properties, many with their own private island—what's more romantic than being alone in the middle of nowhere? Nanuku offers guests the option of renting out its exclusive two-acre private island, located just a 25-minute boat ride away from the main property.

Nanuku Resort Fiji

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Bora Bora, French Polynesia



Known for its scuba diving and protected coral reefs, Bora Bora in French Polynesia is another remote, castaway-type destination for honeymooners who want to get away from it all—and who are up for a big splurge. The Conrad, located on a private cove on the island of Motu To'opua, boasts the longest stretch of white sand beach in Bora Bora—and possibly the most legendary sunsets in the world.

Conrad Bora Bora Nui BOOK NOW READ REVIEWS

Nova Scotia, Canada



For those looking for a slightly out-of-the-box honeymoon, the coast of Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia is just the place. Home to two of the top 100 golf courses in North America, honeymooners also have access to world-class biking, hiking, and sunset boat tours. It's also a seafood heaven, offering an abundance of first-rate lobster, crab, salmon, and naturally farmed local produce. Book a room at Cabot Cape Breton, a a secluded 72-room luxury resort with 19 oceanfront villas along the stunning coast of Cape Breton Island.

Cabot Cape Breton BOOK NOW READ REVIEWS

The Azores, Portugal



Just a 5 hour flight from NYC lies a group of nine islands in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean that teem with untapped nature for gourmands and adventure enthusiasts alike. The best way to experience this relatively undiscovered destination is through Azores Getaways, a customizable tour operator. They have a diverse list of packages, from food and wine tours to ambitious itineraries for those who want to travel to all nine islands in one trip. The best part? Booking will be headache-free as the packages all include accommodations, roundtrip flights, and airport transfers.

Azores Getaways BOOK NOW

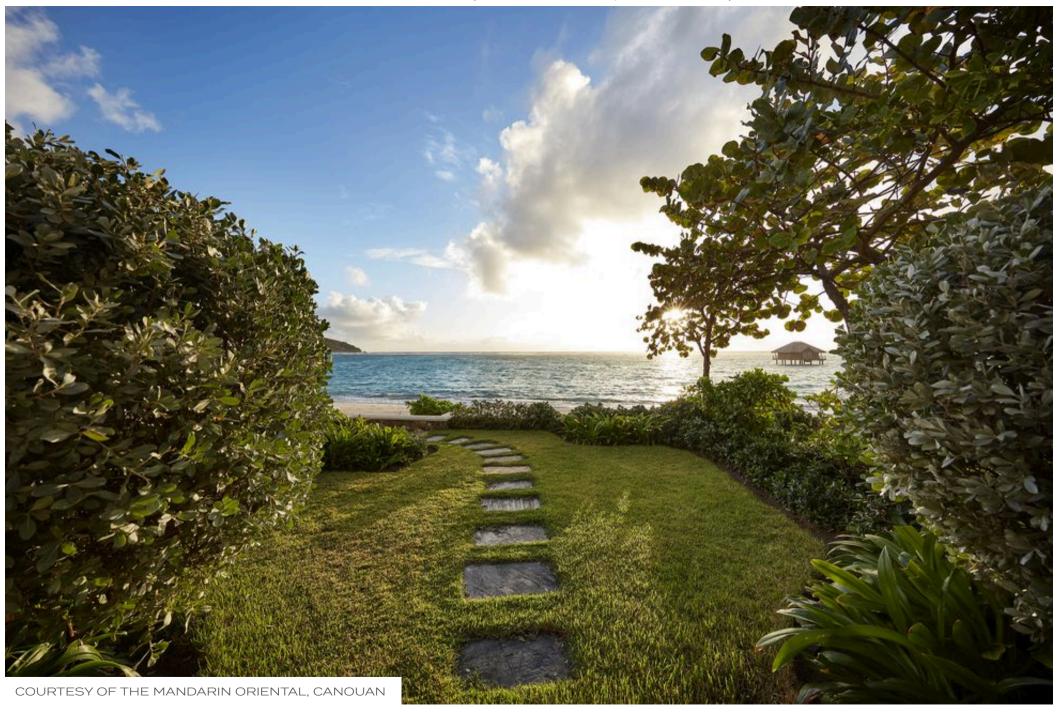
Lord Howe Island, New South Wales, Australia



This crescent-shaped, World Heritage-listed island is the ultimate getaway, with fabulous weather and the honeymooners' holy grail: seclusion. Just 400 visitors are allowed at any time, meaning Lord Howe Island really will be like your very own slice of paradise, one that also happens to have the world's most southerly coral reef at its doorstep. Stay at the Capella Lodge, a luxe retreat with just nine contemporary island-styled suites inspired by the carefree spirit of an authentic Australian beach house.

Capella Lodge Book Now READ REVIEWS

Canouan, The Grenadines



A still somewhat undiscovered part of the Caribbean, Canouan is an unspoiled tropical island offering excellent golf, tennis, deep sea fishing, and sailing. There's good reason why Mandarin Oriental chose Canouan for its first resort in the Caribbean. The all-suite hotel features top-of-the-line Italian design, private butlers, and plenty of options for romantic outings, from private beaches to uninhabited islands.

Mandarin Oriental, Canouan BOOK NOW READ REVIEWS

Nevis

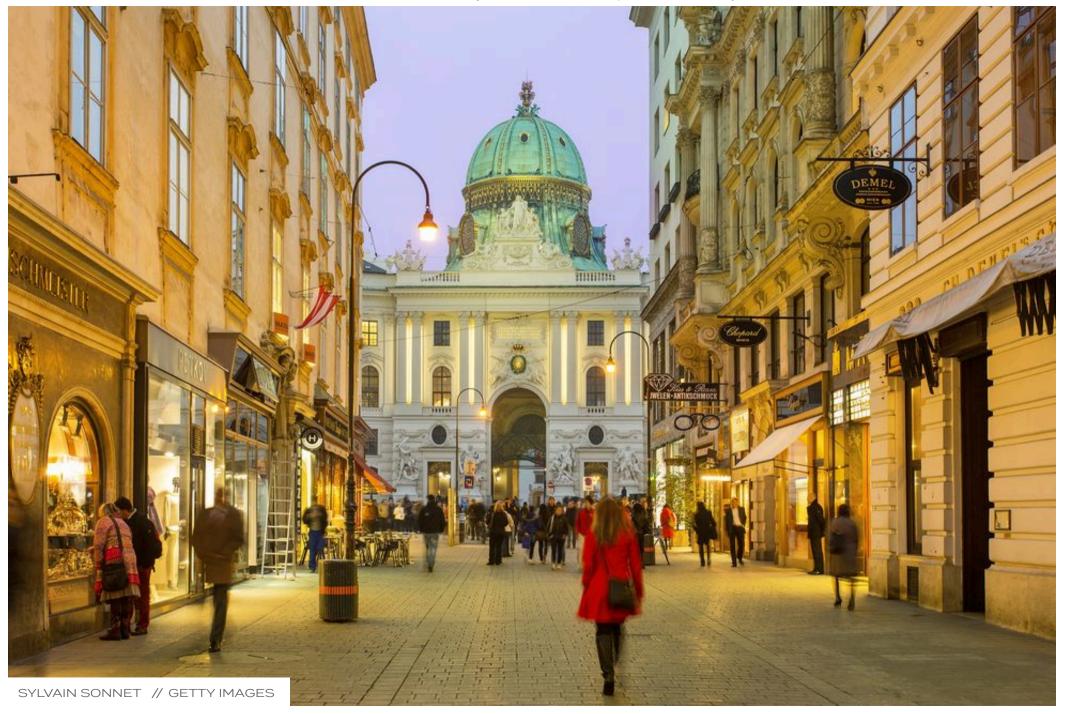


COURTESY OF GOLDEN ROCK INN

Charming and very low-key, Nevis is known for its slow, relaxed pace, crystal clear waters, and white sand beaches. But for a bit of a change to the typical Caribbean escape, there's Golden Rock Inn. Designed by the architects of the famed Aman resorts, the intimate 11-room property is nestled within lush gardens and has serious art world cred: it's owned by **Brice and Helen Marden**. There are hiking trails, exceptional views, and gourmet food, all set against the jungle chic backdrop of this higheraltitude part of Nevis.

Golden Rock Inn BOOK NOW READ REVIEWS

Vienna, Austria



When it comes to old world romance, nowhere quite compares to Vienna. Home of Mozart and Klimt and seat of the Habsburg dynasty, the Austrian capital is a veritable nexus of world-class art, music, food, architecture, and history. Marvel at the Art Nouveau masterworks on display at the Belvedere Museum, which turns 300 this year, and contemplate what life was like for the Hapsburg rulers, who summered at Schönbrunn Palace. Where to stay? A Rosewood recently opened in town, taking over a former 19th-century neoclassical bank building.

Rosewood Vienna Book Now READ REVIEWS

Tanzania



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For true adventure-seeking couples, head to Tanzania for a 10-day, 62-mile expedition on foot across Serengeti National Park. This isn't about five-star accommodations: there are no lodges, no roads, no crowds, and no smartphones. It's only walking, fresh cowboy coffee, long lazy lunches, journal-writing, photo-snapping, cold Tanzanian lagers at sundown, hearty meals of curries and stews, storytelling around burning campfires, stargazing, and sleeping in a tent to the sounds of hooting owls rustling grass. Not for the faint of heart, surely, but arguably what some would call Africa at its best.

The Great Serengeti Traverse

BOOK NOW

Santorini, Greece



Santorini has long been an iconic honeymoon destination—and for good reason. The inimitable sunsets, the infinity edge pools overlooking the impossibly blue Aegean Sea, the ancient volcanic landscapes, all coalesce to create a magical atmosphere. While Oia is touted as the most romantic town on the island, Imerovigli's perch atop Santorini's highest cliff means you'll get the best sunset views. Splurge on the villa at Auberge Resorts' Grace Hotel, which comes with a private swimming pool, its own spa and hammam, a personal chef, and outdoor fireplace. It's your honeymoon after all.

Grace Hotel, an Auberge Resort Book Now READ REVIEWS

Mauritius



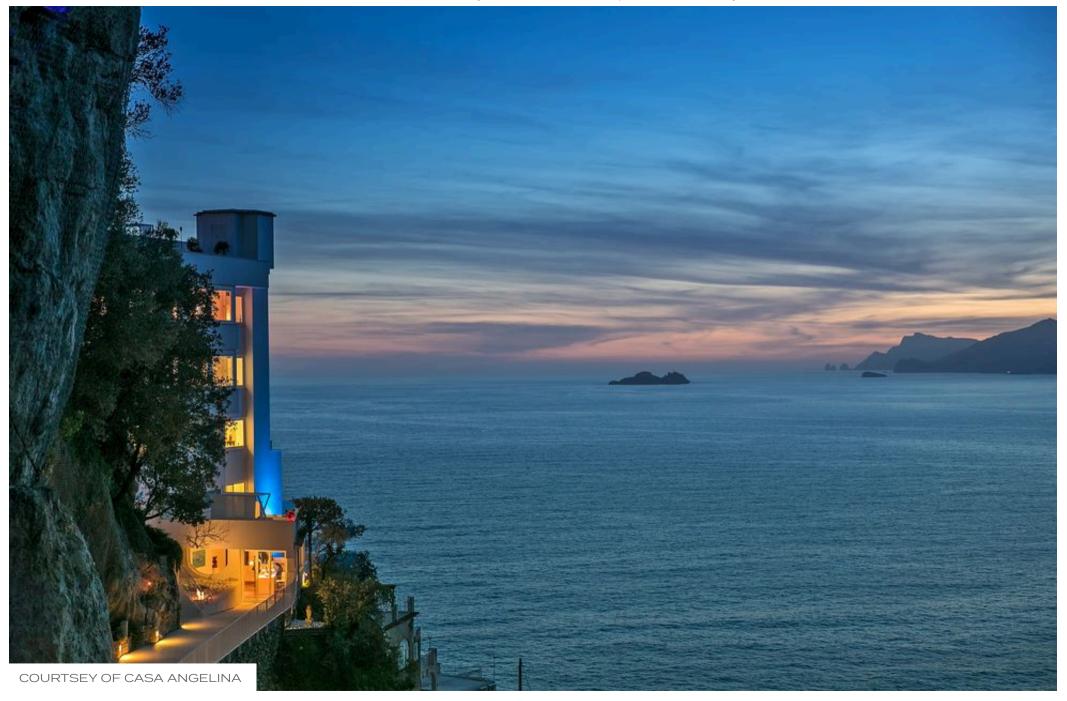
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COURTESY OF ONE & ONLY

Located in the Indian Ocean, the island of Mauritius is known for its secluded and exclusive vibe, incredible beaches, and numerous reefs. Embodying all of this is the One & Only Le Saint Geran. Located on a vibrant coral reef, the hotel has modern, lush interiors, every kind of water sport imaginable, and world-class dining. Bottom line: you'll never want to leave.

One & Only Le Saint Geran BOOK NOW READ REVIEWS

Praiano, Italy



Located next to the more well-known Amalfi Coast destination of Positano, Praiano is a rustic and quaint Italian seaside town that is still—as much as anything on the Amalfi Coast can be—under the radar. For peak romance, stay at the adults-only Casa Angelina: dramatic cliffs, a chic pool club, and floor-to-ceiling windows make it an ideal destination for honeymooners who are seeking the glamour of the Amalfi Coast, with fewer crowds.

Casa Angelina Book Now READ REVIEWS

Mallorca, Spain



Just a short flight from Madrid or Barcelona, Mallorca is a dreamy island of rippling hills, olive and lemon trees, cobbled villages, and, of course, the Mediterranean Sea. Do as countless artists, writers, and celebrities have done and alight in the charming and chic town of Deià. As for where to stay? It's hard to beat the Belmond La Residencia. Think romantic, candlelit dinners among olive groves with views of village and sea, an award-winning spa, picnics on ancient terraces reached by donkey, the list goes on.

Belmond La Residencia BOOK NOW READ REVIEWS

Abu Dhabi, UAE



On the outskirts of Abu Dhabi lies the world's largest sand desert: the aptly named Empty Quarter. It's the perfect expanse where couples can dine by the dunes, traverse miles of open land by camelback, and generally feel like the only two souls on earth. The luxurious Qasr Al Sarab is the place to make this Arabian fairy tale come true—consider it a palatial oasis right in the heart of the desert.

Qasr Al Sarab book now read reviews



LEENA KIM

Editor

Leena Kim is an editor at *Town & Country*, where she covers travel, jewelry, education, weddings, and culture.



HANNAH SELIGSON

Freelance Writer

Hannah Seligson is New York City-based writer who covers gender, culture, and social media trends whose work has appeared in *The New York Times*, The Daily Beast, and *Rolling Stone*, among other publications.

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