

The ESCAPE

THE JOURNEY BEGINS

Bazaar travels the globe to bring you the most breathtaking honeymoon options on the planet

THE TROPICS

SEYCHELLES North Island

Nestled within the 'inner' islands of the Seychelles, North Island is stamped with a royal seal of approval following William and Kate's own honeymoon spent here in 2011. It's also an exquisite wilderness sanctuary with an unspoilt, tropical backdrop and 11 opulent villas separated out for privacy across the powder-white sand. We recommend 'Villa 11' (the largest, and most VIP), where your own private butler is ready to serve. However, should you wish to see another soul, the scenically-located health spa, gym, library, dive centre, and pool, are each a short walk away on the Western side of the island...

From Dhs17,178 a night; North-island.com

Best for
**PRIVATE
LUXURY**

Taj Exotica Resort & Spa, Maldives



MALDIVES

Taj Exotica Resort & Spa

Encircled by clear blue waters of one of the largest lagoons of the Maldives, this is a magical, and convenient (a 15-minute ride by private luxury speedboat from Malé International Airport), way to experience one of the world's most idyllic locations. The island's natural beauty is apparent at every turn. We suggest you make use of an ultra-romantic private Ocean Suite, each with its own oversized plunge pool and set on the beach, with access to the lagoon only a few metres away. Relax on the private veranda, and take a tropical outdoor shower in your private walled garden before you head out to dinner. Bliss.

From Dhs3,370 a night; Tajhotels.com

Avani Quy Nhon, Vietnam



VIETNAM

Avani Quy Nhon

Catch the right kind of jungle fever and opt for a truly tropical stay in Vietnam at Avani's Quy Nhon location, which is set on a private sandy beach and across from two uninhabited islands ready to explore, conveniently belonging to the resort. Dramatic, cliff-hugging coastal roads, mountains and beaches are all on its doorstep, whilst on the inside we recommend you take advantage of the resort's 'honeymooners only' decadent bath ritual offer, which can be set up in your own room.

From Dhs695 a night; Avanihotels.com

Alila Manggis, Bali



Best for
ASERENE
STAY

BALI
Alila Manggis

Secluded, stylish and sitting against a beautiful shoreline backdrop, Alila's haven in East Bali even boasts its own coconut grove. The boutique resort is nestled between the coast and Mount Agung, with one of the most beautiful palm-fringed pools we've ever seen. Spend a day diving with your new spouse before retiring to a Seaside Suite with the ocean in view, complete with your own private sundeck for those days when you don't feel like socialising. This is for newlyweds on the search of serenity.

From Dhs900 a night; Alilahotels.com

WORDS: ELLE TIMMS. PRICES APPROXIMATE

Corinthia London



Best for
CHIC
NIGHTS

ENGLAND
Corinthia
London

Those looking to explore the city of London following their nuptials would do well to hideaway in one of Corinthia's glamorous penthouse suites. As per *Bazaar's* wont, the Actor's Penthouse offers a clear view across London and a beautiful terrace to watch the sun go down over its dramatic skyline, plus it's decked out with one of the best bathrooms for two we've ever seen. We also insist you make time for the hotel's *Espa Life*, fast becoming one of the city's most exclusive and in-demand spas – ask for the therapist Angel and experience a fabulously relaxing massage following a day of sightseeing a deux with your hubby. Trust us. Penthouses from Dhs26,000 a night; Corinthia.com

CITY BREAKS

The Conrad, Dubai



UAE

The Conrad Dubai

Happily merging the luxurious benefits of private beach club (thanks to Puro Beach Urban Oasis on its rooftop terrace) and bustling cityscape views (across to the city's famous Downtown area, Burj Khalifa included) Conrad Dubai offers honeymooners a variety of exciting daytime activity. Whether you're looking for a 'romantic and private' or 'cultural discovery' experience, the hotel's concierge service will arrange it in a heartbeat – from skydiving out of a plane over Palm Jumeirah to a trip for two to the coastline of nearby Musandam in Oman. Its Royal Suites are also amongst the largest in the city up on the 46th floor, and provide all you could ever wish for on a luxurious escape away from reality following your big day.

From Dhs4,500 a night; Conraddubai.com

Marriott Marquis, Doha



QATAR

Marriott Marquis

Centrally located in the bustling West Bay district (only 30 minutes from the new Hamad International Airport), Doha's Marriott Marquis boasts panoramic views of the Arabian Gulf and glittering skyline at once, and is the perfect base from which to explore the exquisite arts and culture scene of Qatar. Whilst it's a great choice for honeymooners wishing to discover the city, it's also a worthy wedding venue contender too, special services tailored to make it just right. From complimentary valet parking for wedding guests, to discounted suites for family and friends, bride and groom can also opt for a pre- or post-wedding photoshoot on its helipad. Surely one of the most glamorous ways to remember your day...

From Dhs1,000 a night; Marriott.com



Velaa Private Island, Maldives

MALDIVES

Velaa Private Island

Upon arrival at the impressive boutique Velaa Private Island, located on the northern atoll of the Maldives, honeymooners are welcomed with an equally jaw dropping 24-carat gold plated bracelet featuring the resort's signature tortoise charm. And if that's not enough to 'wow' you, its special package for newlyweds also treats you to a 60-minute Asian-inspired massage for couples, designed to rejuvenate the most travel-weary, and wedding planned-out pair. As for accommodation, out of the 45 villa options you simply have to take the thatched-roof, Romantic Pool Residence with never ending Indian Ocean views (above) – we're yet to find a more luxurious, secluded way to spend a much needed vacation. And relax...

From Dhs5,000 a night; Velaaprivateisland.com



Parrot Cay by Como, Bahamas

BAHAMAS

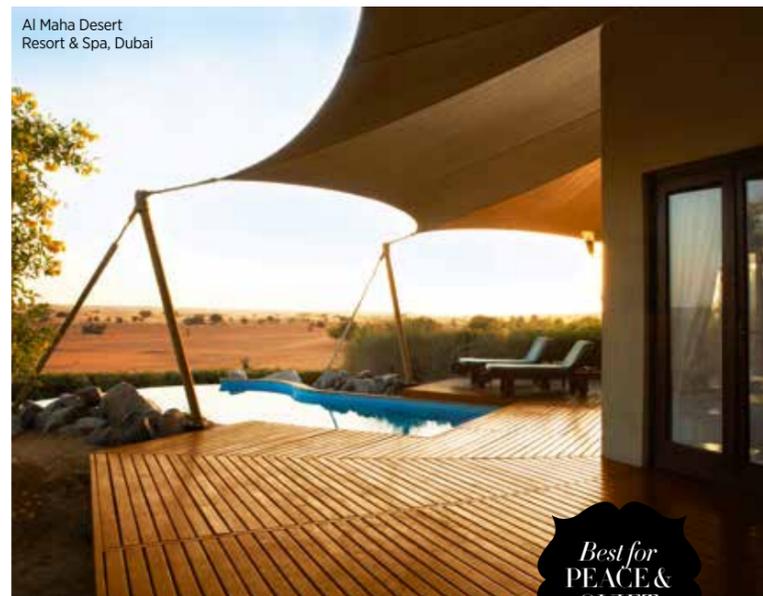
Parrot Cay by Como

Located on what was once a wild, uninhabited island, and is now a glistening whitewashed wellness retreat, this resort is a gem within the colourful Caribbean. It's a well-known destination du jour for the honeymooning A-list, and the private Caicos isle's boutique hotel boasts an air of minimalist cool, not to mention a mile of totally unspoilt beach... With holistic therapies on offer for couples, plus yoga classes for two, a stay in one of its private residences on a separate part of the island called 'Rocky Point' provides a butler service and unparalleled views out to sea. Pure luxury.

From Dhs2,500 per night

*Best for
PEACE &
QUIET*

PRIVATE RETREATS



Al Maha Desert Resort & Spa, Dubai

UAE

Al Maha Desert Resort & Spa

Those seeking pure and simple time alone can find just that at Dubai's exclusive private villa and nature reserve, Al Maha, just a short drive from the city. Once you arrive, a 4x4 will whisk you away to a peaceful sand-surrounded sanctuary. There's even the option to never leave your suite, with a butler who will happily set up dinner on your secluded terrace each night, next to the private pool. You needn't see another soul for days. That said, should you feel like venturing out, the resort has morning wildlife spotting excursions, a luxurious pool for all guests and a luxe spa to mix things up.

From Dhs3,500 a night; Almaha.com

MOROCCO

Royal Mansour

If traditional luxury is your preference, the Royal Mansour in Marrakech is where to head. The breathtakingly beautiful location is now offering an exclusive dinner for two at its French restaurant, Le Grande Table Francais, followed by a half-day spa experience for two in a private suite, and a complimentary extra night for newlyweds. There are frequent excursions on offer, too. Take a night off from your 'riad d'honneur' (the most exclusive and luxurious room option) for luxury Bedouin camping. Dreams come true under the stars.

From Dhs4,749 a night; Royalmansour.com

*Best for
ACTIVE
COUPLES*



Royal Mansour, Morocco

TO EXPLORE



Blanket Bay Lodge, New Zealand

NEW ZEALAND

Blanket Bay Lodge

Once the thrill of your wedding day is done, where next to seek some excitement? We say travel to one of the furthest places on Earth imaginable, and visit the beautiful Blanket Bay Lodge in New Zealand. Nestled amidst rugged snow-capped peaks of the Southern Alps, on the shores of Lake Wakatipu, the lodge aims to celebrate the 'art of pure relaxation', however for those wanting a little more adventure, heli-skiing, fly fishing and hiking are also on the menu. Opt for a chalet suite, each with its own snugly living room and open fireplace for pure romance at the end of an energetic day. Back to nature heaven for adventurous newlyweds.

From Dhs2,192 a night; Blanketbay.com



Royal Livingstone, Zambia

ZAMBIA

Royal Livingstone

The Royal Livingstone wilderness sanctuary is a hidden gem on the banks of the Zambezi River, just a few metres from Victoria Falls, where the five-star destination has created bespoke 'Water Retreat Experiences' as an alternative post-wedding break. Its spa is also currently offering aqua-inspired treatments, and guests can swim in the Devil's Pool at the edge of the falls, should they dare. Potentially one of the most dramatic honeymoon episodes you'll ever have, but think of the memories you'll be making...

From Dhs2,000 a night; Livingstone-hotels.com

WORDS: ELLE TIMMS. PRICES APPROXIMATE