



{ HOW TO - }

PLAN THE honeymoon

Your first holiday as husband and wife shouldn't be to a run-of-the-mill destination. PRACHI JOSHI highlights six offbeat escapes



Move over Maldives. Honeymoons are no longer about just lounging at a beach resort or running off to the hills. Millennial honeymooners are looking for truly experiential travel—everything from an adventure safari to a gourmet getaway is on the cards. Here's how to escape reality in style.

▼ FOR THE OUTDOORSY SOULS

The new safari honeymoon goes beyond ticking off the Big Five sightings in Kenya or South Africa. Namibia, with its spectacular ochre-coloured dunes and private game reserves, is the latest "It" destination. Stay at the newly-opened eco-luxe Hoanib Valley Camp (naturalselection.travel), deep in north-western Namibia, where you can track rhinos, elephants, and giraffes. Spend some time with the local Herero people and learn more about giraffe conservation in the region. Then, retire to your private veranda, a G+T in hand as you take in the stark beauty around you.

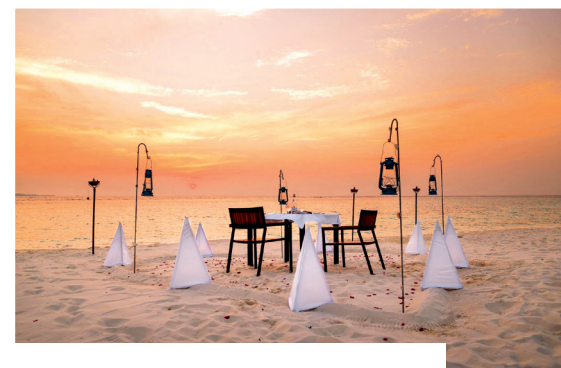


◀ FOR THE BEACH LOVERS

If you absolutely need a dose of vitamin sea, head to the "Hawaii of the southern hemisphere". Réunion Island may be a speck in the Indian Ocean, lying in between the more popular Madagascar and Mauritius, but there's a plethora of beach adventures awaiting you. Go snorkelling or diving (travel.padi.com) to explore the coral reefs or go kayaking to meet the resident sea turtles, or even try a sunrise session of stand-up paddleboard yoga. The Lux* Saint Gilles (luxresorts.com) is the only five-star hotel on the island, and it comes with direct access to the biggest protected lagoon on Réunion.

▲ FOR THE GOURMANDS

Melbourne may be a foodie's delight, but South Australia is a real epicurean heaven. At Jacob's Creek in the Barossa, you can sample some of Australia's best wines and also make a bespoke wine at their blending bench (jacobs creek.com). Go strawberry picking at Beerenberg Farm (beerenberg.com.au) and explore Hahndorf, the oldest German settlement in Australia. Don't miss the 150-year-old Hahndorf Inn (hahndorfinn.com) where you can sample authentic Bavarian cuisine and learn to make apple strudel. >



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◀ FOR THE COUNTRY LOVERS

Take in the scenic English countryside and striking North Yorkshire Moors, aboard a steam train ride that sets off from

the quaint market village of Pickering (nymr.co.uk). You can drive around the Yorkshire Dales with pit stops at charming towns, or explore medieval castle ruins like the 12th-century Middleham Castle or the 14th-century Bolton Castle (boltoncastle.co.uk). Stop by at the Wensleydale Creamery (wensleydale.co.uk), where you can sample a variety of specialty Yorkshire cheese. We recommend Real Yorkshire Tours (realyorkshiretours.co.uk) for private driving tours.

▶ FOR THE GLAMPERS

Want to be one with nature without roughing it out in the wild? Go glamping under the stars. In the heart of the Swiss Alps are 18 luxurious, futuristic domes. Book a cool Pod Suite at WhitePod (whitepod.com), a year-round destination where you can go hiking and biking in the summer and sledding and skiing—on private ski slopes—in the winter. Taste local seasonal cuisine like potato rosti, fondue and Swiss cheese at Restaurant Les Cerniers, and indulge at the in-house spa.



FRIENDS LIKE FAMILY

What if you don't have a common travel personality? A "buddymoon" (yes, it's a thing) with your closest pals might just be the answer.

We spoke to Travel Oyster to give us the low-down on where to go and what to do.

Hamilton Island in Australia is perfect for adventure seekers. Take a helicopter ride over Heart Reef and then go diving to see the Great Barrier Reef.



See Machu Picchu in style, aboard the luxurious Belmond Hiram Bingham train from Cusco, and experience the glamour of a bygone world.



Party animals: head to Budapest. Have a local "sparty" experience at the Széchenyi thermal bath and then hit the ruin bars to dance the night away. Traveloyster.com



▶ FOR THE ROAD TRIPPERS

Roll the top down as you drive around the Isle of Skye in Scotland. You never know what's around the corner—the millennia-old volcanic rocks feature carved-out formations like the Old Man of Storr and the enthralling seaside cliff of Kilt Rock. Work up an appetite with a short hike and then have a picnic complete with local haggis, shortbread, and Scottish tablet (a type of fudge) in the undulating plateaus of the Quiraing. Don't miss the legendary Talisker Distillery (malts.com) for a single malt tasting or swing by for a pint at the award-winning Seumas' Bar at the foot of the Cuillins (sligachan.co.uk). If you just want to sit back and let someone else do the driving, hop on a tour by Wow Scotland (wowscotlandtours.com) for an entertaining jaunt.

