

# ROMANTIC GETAWAYS

## The 10 best options for island honeymoons

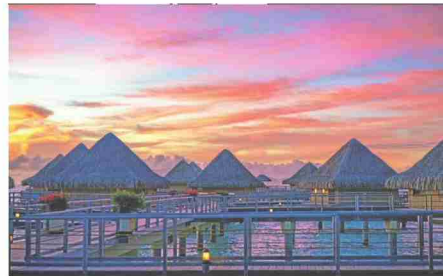
**CHRISTINA VERCELLETTO** | Tribune News Service

If you're trying to decide where to go for your post-wedding escape, a sun-splashed island can be a solid choice. But which one to choose? The ideal island for your newlywed getaway depends on your budget and how much time you have. But, whether you're simply looking for sand and scenery close to home, or seeking adventure on distant shores, we've got you covered with this list of the best islands for honeymoons:



### 1 Aruba

This petite island just off the coast of Venezuela has plenty to offer day and night. The alabaster sands and baby-blue waters of Palm Beach create the perfect honeymoon setting, or you can head to Arashi Beach for a bit more privacy and stellar snorkeling. The average year-round temperature is 82 degrees and Aruba sees the most sunny days per year of any Caribbean island.



### 2 Bora Bora

If you and your sweetheart want to splash out, a honeymoon to Bora Bora is a great pick. Jagged Mount Otemanu, rising about 2,400 feet above the sea, is the dramatic centerpiece of this French Polynesian island. The dormant volcano fans out to lush jungle and is ringed by a lagoon that's home to stingrays and colorful fish. Whether you're taking pics from afar, or hiking at its base, it's awe-inspiring.





### 3 **Bermuda**

Located 700 miles off the coast of North Carolina in the Atlantic, Bermuda is famed for its pink-sand beaches. Visitors here like to golf and have a proper afternoon tea — the latter owing to the fact it's a British territory. If strolling around flower-lined lanes, admiring historic architecture and riding around on a moped built for two sounds like your idea of a fun vacation, then Bermuda might be for you.



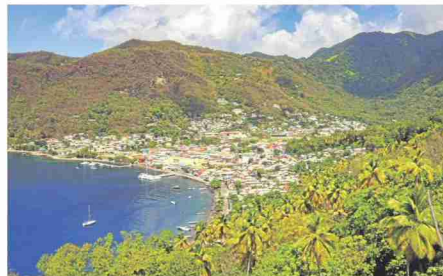
### 5 **Maui**

With spectacular scenery, top-notch restaurants, scenic snorkeling, opportunities to spot whales and sea turtles and luxury resorts, Maui is the arguably best Hawaiian island for honeymooners. Plus, it's noticeably less crowded than Oahu. Driving the famous Road to Hana, lined with waterfalls, black-sand beaches and rainbow eucalyptus trees, is full of surprises.



### 4 **Santorini**

White-washed homes dotting the hillside, ancient vineyards, a tangerine-tinted sunset over the sapphire-colored Aegean Sea and fresh seafood for days — sounds amazing, right? Santorini consists of two inhabited islands and a handful of islets, the site of a massive volcano eruption. You can tour Akrotiri, the excavation site of a 3,500-year-old town covered in ash.



### 6 **St. Lucia**

St. Lucia boasts both beautiful mountains and stunning beaches. It also sees fewer tourists than other Caribbean islands, so it's a solid pick for couples seeking a tropical getaway without crowds. Lounging on Sugar Beach and kicking back on a sunset cruise will prove irresistible. Segway tours and zip-lining over the rainforest at Treetop Adventure Park will keep couples busy.



## 7 Jamaica

For a laid-back (and fairly affordable) beach honeymoon, check out the Caribbean island nation of Jamaica. Great all-inclusive resorts abound here, including several with a lovey-dovey vibe, such as the Sandals and Couples properties. And after the stress of planning (and spending on) a wedding, the budget-friendly aspects of an all-inclusive can be enticing.



## 9 Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico is home to an appealing mix of lively nightlife, fascinating history and natural wonders such as the caverns in Rio Camuy Cave Park, the El Yunque National Forest and the bioluminescent bay in Fajardo. Another reason to put Puerto Rico on your list: After the devastating hurricane of 2017, it'll feel good to support their tourism industry.



## 8 Bali

New spouses dreaming of an exotic honeymoon might land on Bali, an island in the Indian Ocean. Staggered pagodas and grand temples dot the landscape. Exotic bird-watching tours, snorkeling excursions to coral reefs and dolphin swims are popular activities here. Kuta, one of Indonesia's more bustling tourist destinations, is the place to head for after-dark fun.



## 10 Maldives

Kick off married life in style by jetting off to the Maldives, an island nation of 26 atolls scattered in the Indian Ocean. A honeymoon to the Maldives doesn't come cheap or easy, but if you have the money and vacation days to spend, this destination will not disappoint. Scuba diving opportunities are stellar, especially at the shark-filled Fish Head and the Victory shipwreck.