

HONEYMOON HOTSPOTS

From adventure-seekers and water babies to city slickers, there's a host of havens to head to when picking your glamorous post-wedding getaway



WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

DESTINATION: KENYA
LOCATION: SASAAB LODGE

Perched on a hill overlooking the majestic Ewaso Ng'iro river, this remote luxury boutique lodge oozes romance, from its secluded location to its Moroccan spacious stand-alone 100sqm Moroccan-style tented-villas complete with private plunge-pools.

The community conservancy that this 9-room space stands on has no other tourist occupants and at night you can't see a light on the endless horizon that reaches all the way to Mount Kenya – just the rare animals including reticulated giraffes, zebras, Somali ostrich, lions and leopards and of course the multitude of elephants that this area of Kenya, Samburu, is well known for.

Trips here are completely personalized – you can get up close and personal with the

animals on game drives into Samburu National Park (don't miss having a thrilling breakfast out in the bush), take an escorted walk by the river, learn more about the local nomadic culture via a trip to a nearby village or just take in the sunshine and lounge by the infinity pool (that's in addition to your private one).

But what truly makes this a once-in-a-lifetime experience is the sheer warmth of the staff. You are welcomed as one of the family with every detail remembered from how you like your morning coffee to what species you are most keen to spot on your safari.

THE STARS: Follow in the footsteps of Jessica Biel and Justin Timberlake who opted for a safari honeymoon.

Details: From AED1,755/ US\$478 pp per night full board, Tel: +254 725 675 830 thesafaricollection.com



WATERWORLD

DESTINATION: MALDIVES
LOCATION: TAJ EXOTICA RESORT & SPA

If you're looking for an unspoilt paradise, complete with white sand beaches and Instagram-worthy blue lagoons then this island should definitely be your port of call.

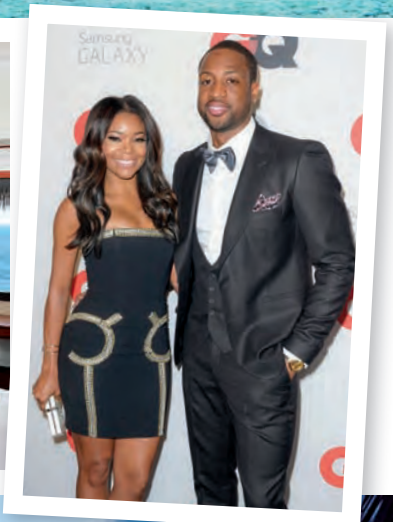
It's palm-thatched villas are ideal for water babies who want instant access to the beach; over-water or beach-side villas both lead directly to the endless blue. Those wanting temperature-controlled dips have the choice of an infinity pool or private plunge pools.

There are just 64 villas and

suites that dot the 56-acre island so there's lots of room for privacy. It's a special occasion so why not splash out and opt for a deluxe lagoon villa that has a tub perched against glass windows overlooking the endless horizon, while the 500sqm, two-bedroom Rehendi Suite has its own 12m pool for those really looking to push the boat out.

THE STARS: American actress Gabrielle Union and Dwyane Wade opted for a Maldivian honeymoon.

Details: 15-minute speedboat ride from Malé, Emboodhu Finolhu, South Malé Atoll, Tel: +960 664 2200, tajhotels.com



THE DEEP BLUE

DESTINATION: MALDIVES
LOCATION: JA MANAFARU

Seven restaurants, three main swimming pools, a house reef and a beautiful Oriental-style wellness pavilion that specializes in the most spoiling of treatments, all combine to offer up an 84-key, option that's located in the northernmost Maldivian atoll on a private 35-acre white sand island. The lush, dense vegetation creates an other-worldly, hugely private vibe; little signs explain all about the local flora and fauna; a nice touch!

You have the option of ocean-vista overwater villas or beach bungalows (some split-level) nestled amidst the tropical greenery that you can call home

for your stay in this paradise. Soothing creams tones mix with dark woods whilst every suite has its own pool and outdoor deck, swathed in privacy.

If you have cash to splash, the Royal Island Suite, awarded 'Indian Ocean's Leading Hotel Suite 2016' and 'Maldives' Leading Hotel Suite 2016' at the recent World Travel Awards even comes with its own private spa, bar and snooker table.

THE STARS: Singer Fergie and Josh Duhamel vacationed in the Maldives after their nuptials.
Details: From Dhs2,755/US\$750 plus tax, 75 minutes seaplane from Male, Haa Alif Atoll, Hoarafushi, Tel: +960 650 045 6, jaresortshotels.com





CITY SLICKERS

DESTINATION: MILAN, ITALY
LOCATION: MANDARIN ORIENTAL
 For shopaholics looking to indulge in some serious retail therapy mixed in with spectacular food and a heavy dose of culture, Milan is the perfect post-wedding pit stop. The only place to stay here? This plush, just-opened haven set in the heart of the city's Quadrilatero district in the midst of the most exclusive boutiques and a stone's throw away from La Scala.

Four 18th-century properties were painstakingly melded to create this five-star luxury hotel

which has become an A-list destination in its own right mixing the brand's Oriental hospitality with a very Italian soul and design.

This is a serious hotspot thanks to an always-buzzing bistro and bar – famous for its aperitivo and people-watching prowess – Michelin-starred restaurant and Feng Shui-designed sumptuous spa, complete with indoor swimming pool.

The unflappable concierge is able to magic up tickets to enter the Duomo – a short stroll away – as

well as impossible to get passes to take in Leonardo's The Last Supper and all the hardest-to-book restaurants. Spoil your other half and book the beautifully appointed Milano Suite that captures the character of this design-focused city. It's an ode to local interiors hero Piero Fornasetti, and is a showcase of all his original furnishings, with the added advantage of all life's creature comforts like Nespresso machines, custom-made Egyptian cotton linen and a decadent bathroom. **THE STARS:** John Legend and Chrissy Tiegen chose to spend time in Italy after their wedding. **Details:** Via Andegari, Tel: +392 8731 8888, mandarinoriental.com



WORDS: NATASHA FARUQUE. PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES, GPTRES ONLINE