

Pacific Romance

YOUR GUIDE TO WEDDINGS, HONEYMOONS
AND ROMANCE IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS



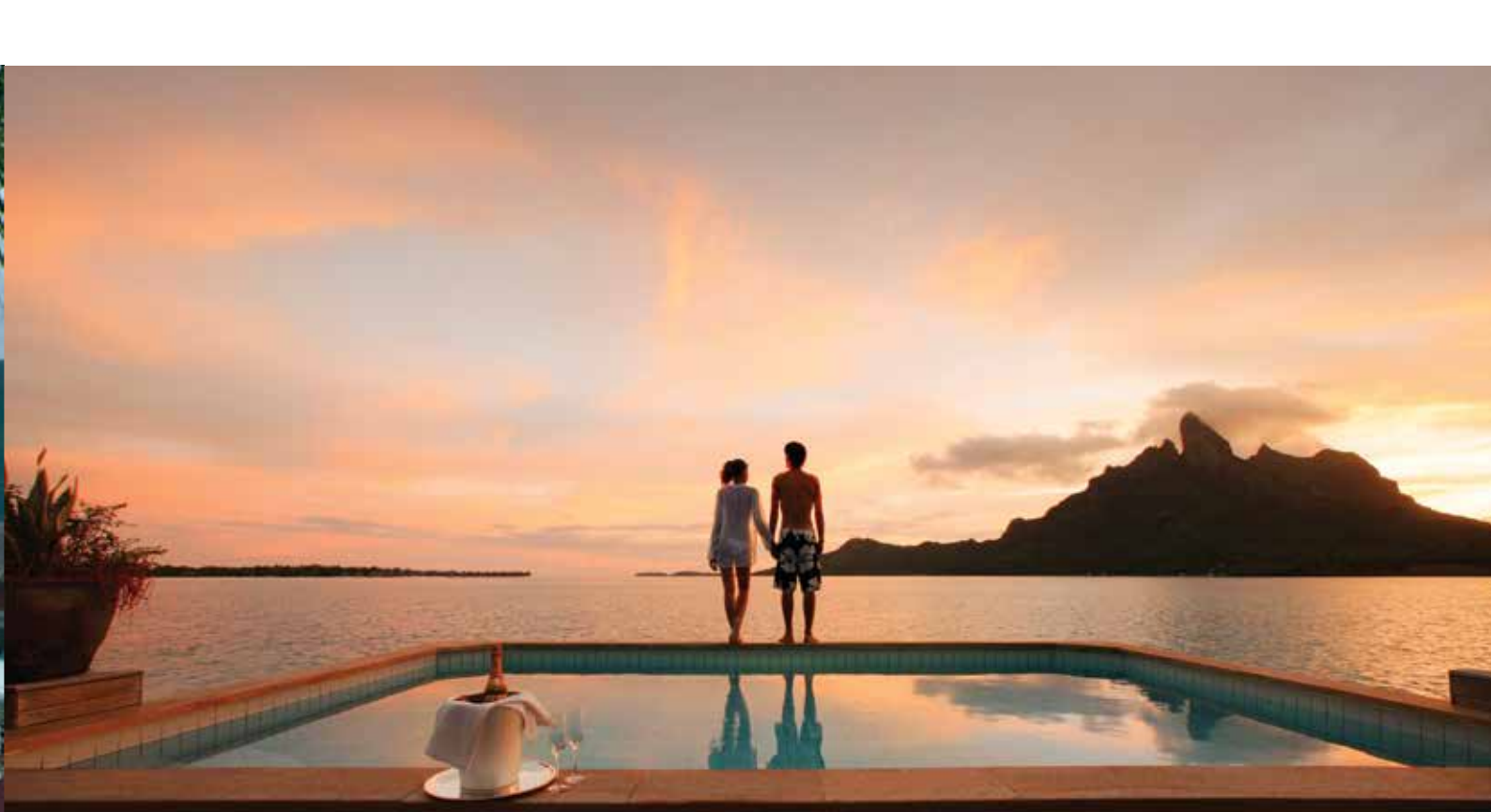
FIJI • TAHITI • VANUATU • COOK ISLANDS • NEW CALEDONIA • TONGA
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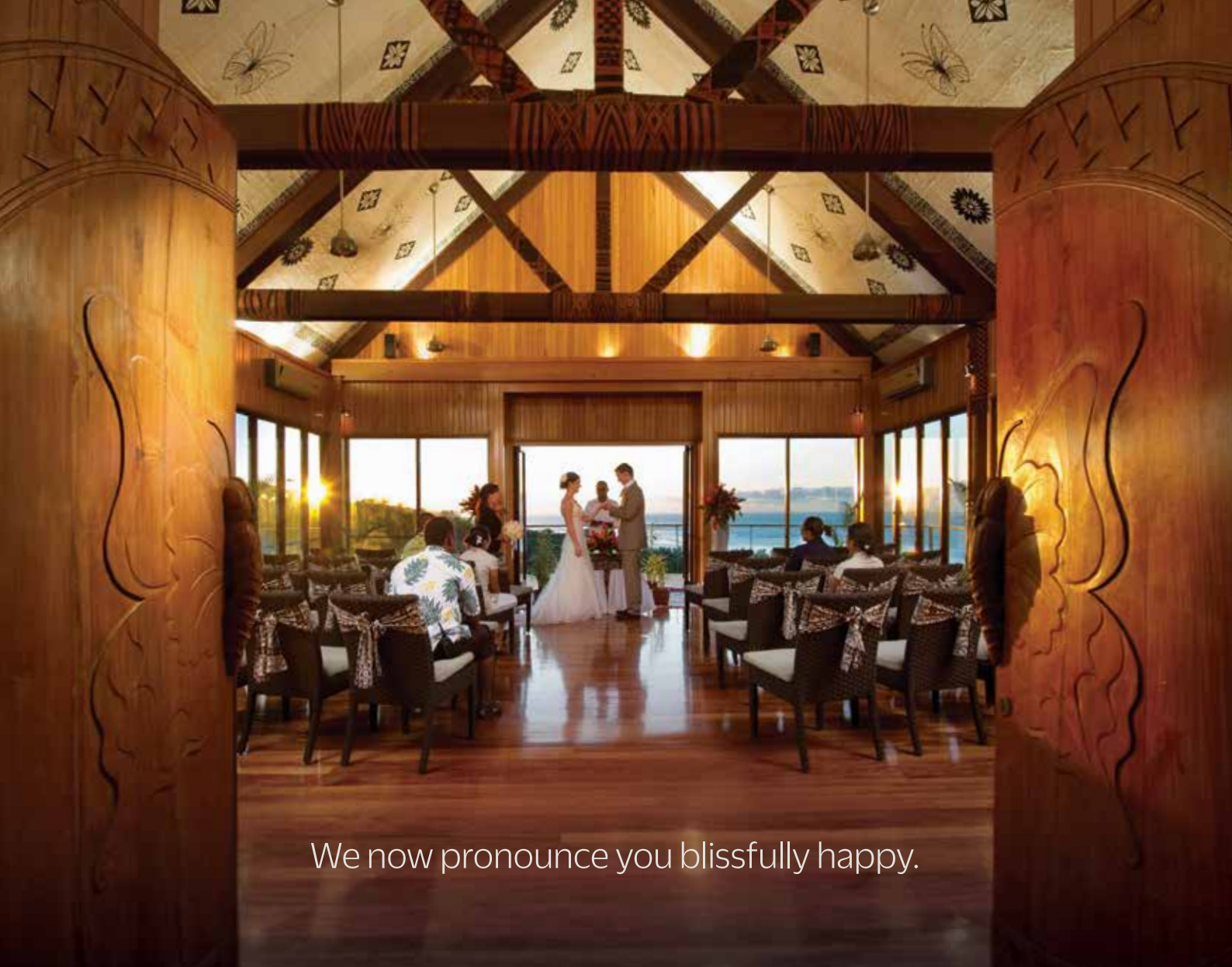
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Finding the one you love.

"Where's the best place to go in the Pacific?" It's a question that often comes my way, and when it does, I reply with the same answer. "It really just depends on what sort of experience you're after." With weddings, honeymoons or romantic getaways, I believe the same rule applies.

What is the best place in the Pacific for romance travel? Well, that all comes down to the style of wedding, honeymoon or romantic interlude you would like to enjoy. And let's face it, when you're planning one of life's most memorable events, you deserve to have it as close to perfect as possible.

Fortunately, there are an unbelievable amount of romance travel options in the Pacific. Inside our first edition of Pacific Romance we work our way through them - from under the radar islands like Niue and the Solomon Islands to the 'rock star' destinations like Tahiti and Hawaii.

We hope you're inspired by their beauty, diversity and infinite romantic possibilities. But most importantly, we hope you'll have more answers when you get asked the same question that we do.

Matt & Fran

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COVER: TOKORIKI ISLAND RESORT © ALLAN STEPHEN WWW.INFINITYIMAGESFIJI.COM

PUBLISHER

Fran McDermott
fmcdermott@xtra.co.nz
Mobile: 64 21 557 170

Island Media

11A Seaside Ave
Waterview, Auckland 1026
New Zealand
www.islandtime.co.nz

EDITOR

Matt Taylor
matt@islandtime.co.nz

ACCOUNTS

Lisa Watson
islandtimemag@gmail.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Fran McDermott, Matt Taylor
Fiona Taylor, Scott Lee
Mark Barratt-Boyes

COPY EDITOR

Mark Barratt-Boyes

DESIGN & PRODUCTION

MacWork Design & Print
Email: blair@macwork.co.nz
www.macwork.co.nz

PHOTOGRAPHY

Michelle Cheer : www.cheerweddingphotography.com
Allan Stephen : www.infinityimagesfiji.com
Mike Bhana : www.wildfilm.tv

ISSN 2382-1248 (Print) ISSN 2382-1256 (Online)

SOUTH PACIFIC NATIONAL TOURISM OFFICES

COOK ISLANDS TOURISM

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Email: nzmanager@cookislands.travel
Aus Ph: 61 7 5504 5488
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FIJI

Falling
head of over
heels in Fiji

A romantic couple is embracing on a sandy beach. The man is wearing a light-colored shirt and dark trousers, and the woman is wearing a white dress. They are standing near the water's edge. The background is a dense forest of palm trees and other tropical vegetation, with a steep, forested hillside rising behind them. The sky is clear and blue.

The hard part about picking Fiji as your romantic destination is deciding exactly where in the islands you should go. Quite simply the options are endless. In the end, it comes down to matching your personal tastes and budget with the right location and the right resort.

GOING OFFSHORE

THE MAMANUCAS

When Fiji's tourism industry took its first steps in the early 1960s the Mamanuca Islands were one of the first destinations to be promoted. Fifty plus years on, this stunning group of islands remain jewels in Fiji's travel crown. They also remain one of the "go-to" spots for weddings, honeymoons and romantic getaways.

There's a good chance you'll see the Mamanucas as your plane descends into Nadi. White water will be crashing on the outside reef. In the sheltered waters are islands big and small. That's them.

Getting out there is simple. South Seas Cruises have a comprehensive schedule of ferries running each day from Port Denarau. If you'd like to make the island transfer extra special, you can take the aerial route by jumping on board a Pacific Island Air seaplane or helicopter. It costs a bit more than the ferry, but for a one-off occasion, it's a brilliant option. And you'll have a whole new appreciation of the beauty below.

Apart from the allure of their sheer beauty, the islands of the Mamanucas are incredibly relaxing. As a couple you'll soon sink into the laid-back island vibe – in fact, it's impossible not to. Any pre-wedding stress will instantly disappear, and if you've come to honeymoon, any post-wedding fatigue will float away too!

WHAT'S THERE TO DO?

While different resorts will provide guests with different activities, they all have a few things in common. Watersports are always on the menu, and each resort will have a variety of non-motorised equipment that is free of charge to use. Snorkelling equipment, kayaks and stand-up paddle boards come as standard. Some resorts might even have small catamarans and windsurfers to cruise around on. Many operate their own diving operations offering everything from introductory courses right through to advanced dives for the scuba pros. Fishing is popular – and a great way for a groom and his mates to get away for a bit. And the Mamanucas are also home to some of the best surf breaks in the world. In most cases, the local resorts can organise transfers.

PLACES TO STAY

Likuliku Lagoon Resort

One of the Mamanucas' most awarded properties, Likuliku Lagoon Resort is a couples-only resort that was built for romance. From its stunning overwater burees to its first class spa and dining options, Likuliku is boutique Fiji at its best. If you're looking for an intimate wedding experience at the top end of the luxury scale, Likuliku has a number of packages to choose from, and they will also customise a wedding. And once the official duties are taken care of, Likuliku is set up for a dreamy honeymoon.

Malolo Island Resort

Sitting "just around the corner" from Likuliku, Malolo Island Resort is another top spot to tie the knot. The boutique resort is ideal for small, intimate groups. The resort offers a variety of superb locations for the ceremony, including the jetty, beach, lush gardens or poolside area. Plus couples can choose from either the Treetops or Terrace Restaurant to dine in. On top of that, the resort is home to a wonderful kids' club, which makes it easy for small family members to be part of proceedings.



TOKORIKI ISLAND RESORT



LIKULIKU LAGOON RESORT



MALOLO ISLAND RESORT

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Champagne on ice, tropical sunsets in the perfect island paradise and more are all included when you make the majestic Yasawa Islands in Fiji the backdrop for your wedding, honeymoon or renewal of vows. Packages can cater up to 68 guests and be tailored to suit your wishlist or budget. For information and reservations contact your travel agent or email info@bluelagooncruises.com bluelagooncruises.com



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Musket Cove Island Resort & Marina

Sitting on the island of Malolo Lailai is Musket Cove. Over the years its protected waters have made it a favourite with passing yachties, but it ticks the boxes for romantics too. In particular, the Makare Spa - a sumptuous standalone facility with five thatched treatment bures set amongst a lush private garden. The skilled staff provide pampering of the very highest order. Indulgent skin treatments, massages, wraps and the list goes on. In fact, many a bride-to-be has booked the Makare Spa for their hen's party – what more could a girl want!

Tokoriki Island Resort

Another jewel in the Mamanuca Island chain is Tokoriki Island Resort, which underwent a major refurbishment programme in 2016. If a room on the beach is non-negotiable, your prayers will be answered. All 36 of the resort's rooms are absolute beachfront. Honeymooners note - the resort is also adults-only, so there's zero chance of being disturbed by a bunch of boisterous children. The variety of wedding options is too long to list. But in essence, you can have everything from a traditional warrior escort to a Fijian choir to a professional videographer. If you want the dream Fijian wedding or honeymoon, Tokoriki Island Resort will make it happen.



Vomo Island Resort

Five-star private island luxury? Yes please. Vomo is the type of place you go when you want to spoil yourself. As a honeymoon destination, it's close to perfect. Privacy, luxury, a perfect beach, magnificent sunsets. The food, which is all included in your room rate, is delectable – and they change the menu from day to day to ensure guests have plenty of variety. The service is exceptional and delivered with a warm Fijian smile.

Castaway Island Resort

Castaway Island has all the ingredients for a memorable wedding. First and foremost you have a magical setting. The white sand, beautiful blue water and swaying palm trees are a true picture postcard version of paradise. Secondly, it has a wonderfully relaxed feel that will put everyone at ease and in the mood for celebrating. And while you could say a wedding is all about the couple, at a place like Castaway Island Resort it's as much fun for the guests, as there are lots of ways to immerse yourself in a Fijian island experience before and after a wedding.





Malolo
ISLAND • FIJI



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Sheraton Resort and Spa, Tokoriki Island

THE PLACE FOR THE PERFECT DAY

If you were to paint a picture of your dream tropical wedding it would probably go something like this - powdery white sand beach, swaying palm trees, crystal clear water, a light sea breeze, golden sunset, fine food and beverages, friendly service and first-class accommodation.

Welcome to Sheraton Resort & Spa on Tokoriki Island, the place that makes it happen.

A professional Sheraton wedding coordinator is your go-to person on site. Their mission – to create your perfect day. From organising ceremony venues to floral arrangements to sorting out all the paperwork, everything is done, so you can come to the resort and enjoy the moment. Specific wedding packages are available, but both can be tailored to suit.

And after you've tied the knot in front of family and friends, there is only one thing left to do. Stay right where you are for the honeymoon.





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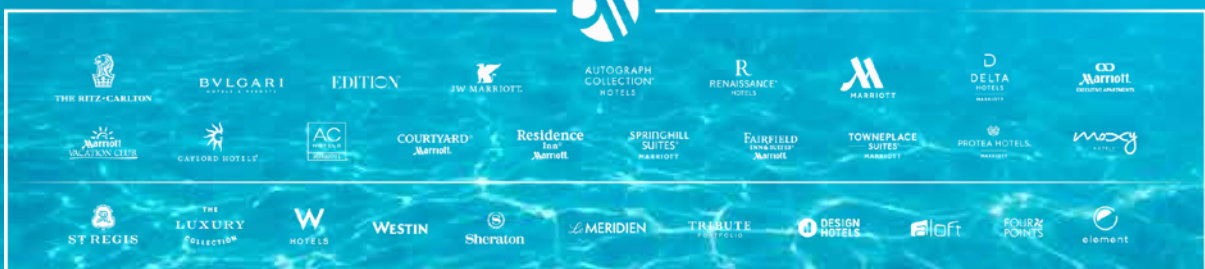
Now Renewed. Now Restyled. Now Relax.*

Discover the warm blue waters, white sand beaches, and natural tropical beauty of Sheraton Resort & Spa, Tokoriki Island Fiji. Encircled by coral reefs just 200 meters from the resort, the Mamanuca Islands are teeming with abundant marine life that can be admired while diving or snorkelling. Recharge and relax with nothing but the beach and tropical gardens surrounding you. Tokoriki Island is the private escape you always dreamed of.

Sheraton Resort & Spa, Tokoriki Island, Fiji reopened on January 25, 2017 following a comprehensive FJD\$25 million refurbishment. The resort has been transformed throughout, with the renovation comprising of all guest rooms, suites and public areas. Brand new guest facilities have also been added to further enhance the guest experience, including Sunset Bistro, a café-style dining venue, a Fijian cultural center, a games room and mini golf course bringing with it an elegant, island-inspired style and premium guest experience.

Book one of our family or romantic holiday packages and come and indulge all senses during your holiday in Fiji.

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<http://www.sheratontokorikiisland.com/specialoffers>





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THE YASAWAS

To the north of the Mamanuca Group you'll find the remote, but equally beautiful Yasawa Islands. In the Yasawas, land-based tourism didn't kick off until 1987. For many visitors, this late development has been a blessing, as it's helped the islands maintain a genuine authenticity and an atmosphere of pure escape.

So if your idea of romance involves getting away from the mainstream, this is a place to do it. In the Yasawas, local people still lead a very simple life in small remote villages, adhering to traditional customs and basically doing what they have done for generations. There are no roads, no shops and no banks. It's all about living off the rich bounty that Mother Nature has provided them. And as a visitor, you can immerse yourself in this serene simplicity too.

HIGHLIGHTS IN HEAVEN

Sawa-I-Lau Caves

The breathtaking Sawa-I-Lau Caves are a Yasawa must-do for couples. These limestone formations have been slowly carved out over thousands of years of wave action and are hidden away inside a little island. When you're swimming in the water looking up as the sun rays peek through, the feeling is very cathedral-like and one most visitors will never forget. A number of resorts offer this guided tour.

UNDERWATER WONDERS

Nearly all the resorts have their own in-house diving operation and the ones that don't can always call in an off-site operator when needed. The crystal-clear waters are characterised by swim-throughs and canyons and a substantial population of (friendly) sharks and rays. Other popular sites include the Ethel Reef wreck, which is the wreck of a steamship that went down in the early 1900s, a winding canyon at

Whiskeys Reef, and Turtle Rock, home to stingrays, sharks, and one of the best places in Fiji to see turtles.

PLACES TO STAY

Yasawa Island Resort and Spa

Sitting at the very top end of the Yasawa's accommodation options is the pure luxury of Yasawa Island Resort. With just 18 traditionally thatched beachfront bures hidden among the palm trees, privacy is guaranteed. Each bure is fully air-conditioned and comes with a long list of features such as an outdoor shower, an expansive deck with daybeds, a separate living space, and of course, unbelievable ocean views. Guests also have exclusive access to 11 private beaches – which are perfect for those romantic picnics. Another feature of the resort is guest rates that include all meals, non-alcoholic beverages, all motorised and non-motorised watersports, activities, trips and tours – the cost of diving, fishing and spa treatments is excluded.

Paradise Cove Resort

At less than four years old, Paradise Cove Resort is a relative newcomer to the Yasawas. It also has one of the island chain's most unique set-ups. The resort actually sits on two neighbouring islands that are separated by a gorgeous 300 metre stretch of water. On the 'main' island you have the core facilities and a selection of bungalows and villas, plus the decadent Paradise Suite. Meanwhile the 'other' island has four self-contained 2 bedroom Beach Houses, but it's also a kid-free zone that makes it extremely attractive to couples and honeymooners in search of peace. To access the main resort, all you need to do is pick up the phone and a boat will be with you in a matter of minutes. Being a boutique resort, Paradise Cove is idyllic for intimate weddings, and they have a special honeymoon package that comes with a beachside candlelit dinner and a sumptuous couples massage.



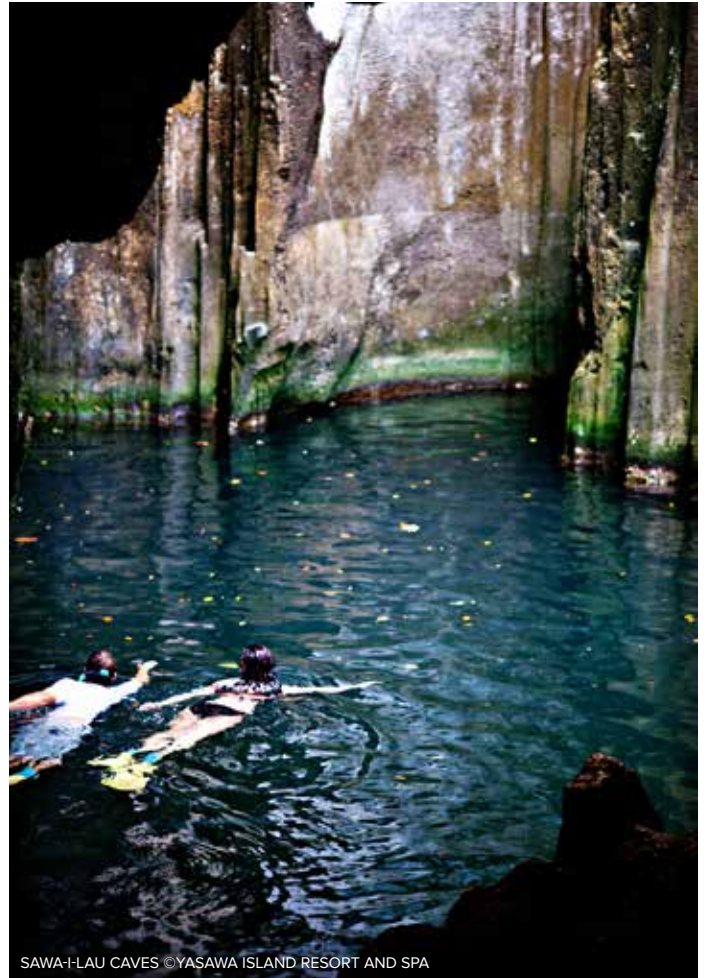
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PARADISE COVE RESORT



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SAWA-I-LAU CAVES ©YASAWA ISLAND RESORT AND SPA



Hideaway Heaven.

Tucked away in a quiet corner of the Coral Coast, Fiji Hideaway Resort & Spa is one property that lives up to its name. Guests come here, and keep coming back, for its lovely laid back atmosphere. A place to hide away and recharge the batteries? It sure is.

Hideaway has an on-site wedding coordinator, matching the wedding experience to a couple's tastes, their budget and the size of their party. A variety of 'off-the-shelf' packages provide a great starting point, with extras being added as requested.

Special honeymoon packages are also available, and they come with nice touches like guaranteed ocean views, massages, extra late check-out and a private dinner party for two! With that kind of proposal, why wouldn't you want to hide away.

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Find the finest drops in Fiji

If you're coming to Fiji for romance, there's a good chance you'll need some liquid refreshments during your stay - whether that's having a few bottles of champagne handy or a few cold beers to quench your tropical thirst. If indeed that's the case, then Victoria Wines are the people to see.

They import wines from France, Italy, Chile, Argentina, the United States, Australia and New Zealand. Plus they import a selection of beer - including Kiwi favourites like Steinlager, Steinlager Pure, Mac's Gold and Speights. They also have cider, spirits and liqueurs. And if that isn't enough, Victoria Wines import yummy cheeses from Italy and Australia. They're basically a one-stop-shop. You can pick up your orders from their stores in Nadi Town, Port Denarau or Suva, or they'll deliver free in those areas if the order is over \$100, or for a small charge if it's under.

Look your best on the day

Every bride wants to look her best on the big day and having the right hair and make-up goes a long way. That's where Totoka Hair and Makeup come in.

The Denarau-based company is owned by New Zealander, Leanne Goff, a Servilles-trained hairdresser, colourist and stylist. Totoka provides mobile hair and make-up services all across Fiji - including making a special trip to outer islands like the Mamanucas.

Weddings on the water

Not all the action at Denarau takes place on the land. If you want a wedding a bit out the box (and have fewer than 40 people in your party), you can charter the beautiful Bel'Mare motor yacht which is operated by Adrenalin Fiji out of Port Denarau. At 26 metres in length, it comes with all the mod cons like a dining saloon, air-conditioning and a captain's lounge. The charter options range from two hours for a wedding and cocktails, right up to the wedding and reception cruise which is a seven-hour affair. The charter rates include the vessel hire and crew, which is a captain, engineer, chef and steward. And depending on the length of charter, and the seas conditions, you have plenty of cruising options as at your disposal.



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DENARAU ISLAND

If you're thinking Fiji romance, the resort enclave on Denarau Island has everything you could possibly ask for. And it comes with the added convenience of being an easy 20 minute drive from Nadi International Airport. With so many resorts sitting side-by-side, there is always a buzz of people, so if you like busy, and lots going on, this is the place to be. The side-by-side layout also means you can sample the dining and bar options from any of the other resorts – it's just a matter of going for a stroll or doing the rounds on the open-air Bula Bus.

PLACES TO STAY

Sheraton Fiji Resort

Regarding visitor numbers, the resorts of Denarau Island are certainly among the most popular in Fiji. And naturally, they are among the most popular spots to get married. Sitting amongst this string of resorts is the Sheraton Fiji Resort. The resort is famous for its beautiful beachside chapel that offers wedding groups uninterrupted ocean views. If you'd like something a bit less formal, you can always pick a beach wedding set-up for a casual barefoot style. Or you could go the other way and have a formal ballroom wedding. Quite simply the choice is yours, and the Sheraton Fiji is there to make it all happen.

Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa

One of the advantages of getting married at a large resort is that they can handle large numbers. In the case of the Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa, they can host weddings of up to 400 people – which is perfect if you have a big family and lots of friends! On the flipside, the resort is more than happy to cater to small intimate weddings. And big or small, their aim is to tailor each ceremony and reception to a couple's desires. That's all handled by a wedding coordinator. The resort also has a

cute little beachside chapel. However, you can choose any number of picturesque locations around the property. It's really up to you.

Hilton Fiji Beach Resort and Spa

Stretching along 1.5 kilometres of Denarau waterfront, the Hilton Fiji Resort and Spa is another top spot to tie the knot. To begin with, you'll have a dedicated wedding planner who can look after every detail – from organising accommodation and choosing the menus, right through to the small details, like what kind of flowers there'll be and how the table should be set. A sunset wedding on the Hilton's wide lawn is a popular choice, or go for the elevated sunrise deck or the spacious beach. And to make sure every bride and groom feel special on their big day, the resort will only ever accept one wedding per day.





SHANGRI-LA FIJIAN RESORT AND SPA

THE CORAL COAST

When you have resorts that provide such a wide range of eating and entertainment options, it's easy for romance travellers to arrive and then stay at the resort until it's time to go back home!

On Fiji's Coral Coast, an hour and a half south of Nadi, there are a number of properties that fit this description - such as the Outrigger Fiji Beach Resort, The Warwick Fiji, Shangri-La Fijian Resort and Spa and the InterContinental Fiji Golf Resort and Spa. Each one is well-versed in the art of planning weddings and providing the all-important honeymoon. But as a region, the Coral Coast has so much more to offer couples, wedding parties and honeymooners.

NATADOLA BAY

Looking for the perfect pre or post-wedding activity? A groom and his mates can drop into Natadola Bay and play 18 holes on this highly acclaimed par 72 championship golf course. The course snakes its way through rolling hills and along a picture-postcard coastline and its Pacific blue backdrop. The course has excellent facilities to match with a Pacific inspired clubhouse, bar, a pro-shop that has everything you'll need for a round and a driving range to get some practice on before you start!

PLACES TO STAY

Outrigger Fiji Beach Resort

Set amongst 18 hectares of swaying palm trees, Outrigger Fiji Beach Resort offers a range of flexible wedding packages which can be designed to suit. The resort prides itself on its traditional Fijian ceremony, with the bride and groom wearing authentic Fijian dress, and the bride receiving a four-person warrior escort. The resort has also created a magnificent wedding chapel Bure Ni Loloma (House of Love) sits atop Lomalagi Hill and gives the couple and guest panoramic sea views. And of course, you can choose from a lush garden or beach setting too.

Shangri-La Fijian Resort and Spa

Swing off the main Coral Coast road, drive over a short causeway and you'll come to Yanuca Island, a private island that's home to the Shangri-La Fijian Resort and Spa. Here it's all about that magic combination of privacy and luxury. The resort's seaside wedding chapel is the most popular spot to get married – who wouldn't want to tie the knot against



HIDEAWAY RESORT AND SPA

a backdrop of sweeping sea views. Being a larger resort, they have an in-house event management team. So with regards to any planning, you'll have peace of mind knowing the experts will take your worries away.

Hideaway Resort and Spa

Hideaway Resort and Spa on the Coral Coast is another great spot to tie the knot. The secluded setting and relaxed atmosphere provide the perfect backdrop for romance. The Fiji Hideaway Resort and Spa has also designed and built a traditional Fijian bure to give couples an authentic Fijian wedding experience. Hideaway's most popular wedding packages are the Garden Wedding, which is ideal for small gatherings, and the Paradise Wedding which is designed for groups of 20 or more. Plus they have a Renewal of Vows Package. Regardless of which option is picked, Hideaway can make the occasion one to remember.



OUTRIGGER FIJIAN BEACH RESORT

Love is in the air

You land at Nadi International Airport. You both collect your bags and stroll across to the Pacific Island Air terminal. After an easy check-in, you board a waiting helicopter and are whisked you away to the island of your choice. Flying over sparkling blue seas, coral reef and a passing pod of dolphins, you land at your desired destination. Exhilarated, excited and in the perfect frame of mind to start a romantic adventure.

This in a nutshell is the Pacific Island Air experience. A highly professional air charter business that can take couples to virtually any destination in Fiji, in the comfort and safety of its fleet of helicopters, seaplanes and aircraft.

Getting from A to B isn't the only service that Pacific Island Air can provide couples in search of romance. They also have a variety of amazing scenic flights – which are a great way for couples to discover the beauty of Fiji. And for something extra special, Pacific Island Air can even create the ultimate romantic escape – dropping couples onto a private island for a day they will never forget.

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After all the excitement, emotion and drama of your wedding, your own private island for the day would be a most welcome present.

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A THOUSAND REASONS TO GO THE EXTRA MILE

When comes to romance travel in Fiji, the world is your oyster. If you take the time to look outside the most popular parts of the Fiji, there are some exceptional places to celebrate your special occasion. Here are a few top picks to get you started.

Nanuku Auberge Resort, Pacific Harbour

Under an hour's drive from Suva, the Pacific Harbour is known as the adventure capital of Fiji. We're talking shark-feeding dives, ziplining, whitewater rafting, four-wheel-drive adventures, world-class surfing and the list goes on. The area is also home to Nanuku Auberge Resort, a real tropical oasis that's a haven for those in search of romance.

Boasting one of the most picturesque and romantic venues in the South Pacific, couples will be enchanted by the ambience of Nanuku Auberge Resort. Think beautifully manicured gardens, stunning views of nearby Beqa Island and a pristine white sand beachfront.

Without a doubt, the most romantic of all Nanuku's amazing accommodation choices – and the very best venue for two on a romantic getaway – is the Vunikau Penthouse (it means treehouse). Perched dramatically on a volcanic outcrop overlooking the pristine waters of Beqa Lagoon, the Vunikau Penthouse is the ultimate location for a honeymoon or luxury couples escape. It offers a mix of traditional Fijian design and relaxed contemporary luxury with a private sun deck, plunge pool, a spacious indoor living area, kitchenette and a master king bedroom connecting to a luxury ensuite bathroom with dual granite vanity, separate rainfall shower and soaking spa tub. Bliss!

Jean-Michel Cousteau Resort, Savusavu

Vanua Levu is sometimes thought of as Fiji's second island. Even though it doesn't generate the same kind of attention as Viti Levu, its top resorts can match any in Fiji. Jean-Michel Cousteau Resort Fiji is one of them. Sitting on the site of a former coconut plantation that overlooks Savusavu Bay, Jean-Michel Cousteau Resort is a boutique resort of the highest standard and a superb romantic getaway for honeymooning couples or those seeking an intimate wedding destination that's just a little off the beaten track. Wedding packages can be tailored to suit. Their Honeymoon Point Reef Bures offer the definition of secluded tropical luxury. And the resort even has a private island a few hundred metres away, where couples can strand themselves for either a half-day or full day. And take a gourmet picnic and champagne too. Getting there is fairly straightforward. There are numerous connecting flights between Nadi and Savusavu. And when you arrive in Savusavu, a driver will be there to meet you and whisk you away to the resort, which is only 20 minutes away.

Qamea Resort and Spa, Qamea Island

How do you find pure romantic seclusion? Fly to Nadi. Catch a connecting flight to Taveuni Island. Then travel by road to a remote beach where a waiting boat will whisk you to the adults-only Qamea Resort and Spa in less than 10 minutes. Yes, it's a journey, but it's worth it. To paint the picture, Qamea is home to 17 luxuriously appointed beachfront villas and bures, all air conditioned and all built in traditional Fijian style. They have a beautiful spa on-site, and they run their own diving operation. When it comes to weddings, they have three packages to choose from. These can be customised – the on-site wedding co-ordinator will look after all the arrangements. On top of that, Qamea has a honeymoon bonus which includes a bottle of sparkling wine, 30-minute massages and a gift pack of oils and lotions. 🌺



NANUKU AUBERGE RESORT



JEAN-MICHEL COUSTEAU RESORT



QAMEA RESORT AND SPA

Tying the knot

The legal age to wed in Fiji is 18 years.

An application for a marriage licence must be made in person to the nearest Registrar Office or District Court in Fiji at least three working days prior to the marriage.

Please note, weddings may not be performed on Sundays or public holidays.

The wedding couple will need to provide the following:

- Original birth certificates
- Valid passports
- Divorce papers (if applicable)
- Death certificate (if previous spouse is deceased)



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One word... *Heaven*



There are 15 words in the Fijian language meaning Heaven and 'Yasawa' is the first.

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NANUKU AUBERGE RESORT, PACIFIC HARBOUR



Island Romance



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PARADISE COVE RESORT

Offering unsurpassed luxury in an unforgettable location and private houses to plunge pool villas - experience Fiji at its best.



OCTOPUS RESORT

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Dreaming of a South Pacific Island Wedding ...

Unique tropical weddings and honeymoons are a specialty of Nautilus Resort on Rarotonga's white-sanded Muri Lagoon. Wed in tropical gardens, on the beach – even on a private island. What comes next ranges from privacy for two to celebrations for 150 that include the entire resort and with menus and entertainments to impress.

Professional event planners design themed events, create special menus and organise just the right entertainment. Brides and their grooms can simply relax and enjoy this treasured time with family and friends, assured their big day will be a dream come true.

Then pamper yourself in Polynesian-inspired 1, 2 or 3 bedroom Beachfront villas with their own salt-water plunge pool and choose to dine a la carte at our Pacific-Rim restaurant or at the casual Beach Bar overlooking an infinity pool and the lagoon.

res@nautilusresortrarotonga.com | nautilusresortrarotonga.com



FAST FACTS

- Absolute Beachfront – family friendly
- All Ares (villas) have plunge pools
- Dedicated wedding co-ordinator
- Thalgo Spa and full concierge service



MURI BEACH RESORT MURI BEACH RAROTONGA

Cool, boutique and Rarotongan Beachfront ...

The eco-friendly Muri Beach Resort promises to make your tropical-wedding promises into memories to treasure forever. A personal Wedding Co-ordinator, will guide you through our pre-arranged Wedding Plans; from a flower-decked beachfront site or pristine sands with coconut palms and Muri Lagoon as a stunning background or sail to the getaway splendour of a lush uninhabited island . . .

Every detail is included, from registering the marriage, choosing a celebrant, organising flowers, finding the right music and providing your Certified Marriage Certificate.

But don't think a big budget is necessary. We'll happily arrange a wedding day for only the two of you, or to give over the entire resort so you are surrounded by loving family and friends on your Big Day. Cocktails for just a few, snacks by the pool, a sit-down banquet that includes local entertainment and music? We will do it all, so all you must do is count your blessings.

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FAST FACTS

- Family friendly
- Your choice of apartments, 1 and 2 bedroom villas
- Big budgets not necessary



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Share the leisurely pleasures of your bungalow's own sitting area and private terrace, which complement Super king beds and a luxurious bathroom, perhaps enjoying an intimate tropical breakfast or other meals delivered by room service until 9pm. Private wi-fi, Tv and free DVD library. Special Vanuatu treats available too, from tropical flowers to delicious picnic packs.

A few steps away, find a gym, tennis court and Mangoes Restaurant, famously serving luscious seafood and island specialties. Most bungalows have a private pool, so you never have to share. But you can share couples massage or candle-lit dining for two in a romantic *fare*.

mangoes@vanuatu.com.vu | mangoesresort.com



FAST FACTS

- Child free, 18 years+
- 29 bungalows and 13 swimming pools
- 10-minute walk to town
- A la carte restaurant

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RESORT & RESTAURANT



SINALEI REEF RESORT SAMOA

Tropical beach-wedding dreams come true ...

... at the adults only, Sinalei Reef Resort, Samoa.

Choose intimate vows under a fragrant floral arch way on the sparkling beach or a statement ceremony including a bridal canoe procession across the lagoon with chanting Samoan warriors and conch-shell blowing.

Whatever your style, we provide a bouquet, flowers for the bride and groom's hair, linen-clad chairs for the ceremony, take care of all the formal requirements and include a dedicated Co-ordinator, guaranteeing every wedding flows without a hitch.

If 30 or more guests share your day we can follow-up your Sinalei wedding ceremony with a reception that offers a tropical buffet, a two-tier wedding cake and a five-day FREE Honeymoon stay*.

Sinalei Reef's locally sourced fresh produce perfectly complements our unforgettable lagoon location, where lush palm-jungle fringes a white beach and turquoise-blue waters, steps away from luxurious eco-chic villas. *T&C apply.

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FAST FACTS

- Absolute Beachfront
- Spa, Golf course & VIP status for returnee guests
- Winner 2016 Best Luxury Beachfront Resort, Samoa – Luxury Travel Guide



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Set right on the absolute beachfront of the famed pearl white sands and blue waters of Muri Beach, 5 star Te Vakaroa Villas is a remarkable luxury gated haven, offering unsurpassed views of Muri Lagoon and beyond the reef to the South Pacific Ocean.

When it comes to your wedding day, choosing Te Vakaroa means 'exclusive use', this sets the mood immediately... your choice of ceremony; beachfront, oceanfront, or a vaka to a private island. Your wedding will be luxurious, special, intimate and memorable. Our professional wedding coordinators are fast gaining a reputation as being second to none as regards to 'tailored top end' wedding co-ordination. Specializing in both ceremonies and receptions, we can design your dream island wedding at Te Vakaroa Villas on the beach. Whether you desire a casual occasion or prefer something more formal, we will ensure the planning and arrangements for your special day will be completely hassle-free.

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FAST FACTS

Absolute Beachfront
Award winning architectural design
Exclusive use



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There's also dining at acclaimed Mangoes restaurant, where the very best produce from Vanuatu's land and sea is served in sumptuous style. Superb free-form infinity pool with overwater cabana plus gym and tennis courts, too. Dine in, dine out, stay put, cook in, Terraces' luxurious tropical honeymoons are different every day. What a great start.

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FAST FACTS

Villas have plunge pools
Newest luxury accommodation
Spectacular lagoon views



TAHITI

Pure indulgence



LE MERIDIEN TAHITI

If any destination has built its reputation on the promise of romance, it is the islands of Tahiti. World-class resorts sit on, and over, sparkling waters. Dramatic volcanic peaks frame picture postcard vistas. A vibrant French-Pacific culture adds a fascinating allure. There's a multitude of activities to enjoy. And from there the list of reasons goes on and on.





INTERCONTINENTAL TAHITI RESORT AND SPA

Everyone has a different idea of what the perfect romantic escape should entail. In Tahiti, there is no need to worry. Because, quite simply, there is something to suit any taste – regardless of how demanding that taste may be! Whether you're looking for top class hotels, a relaxing cruise vacation, land or water-based adventures, or authentic cultural experiences, your romantic expectations will be exceeded.

FIRST STOP PAPEETE

Tahiti-Faa'a International Airport in Papeete is Tahiti's gateway. Some romance travellers treat Papeete as a brief stopover before they head to outer islands like Bora Bora and Moorea. But it does mean they miss out on what is a fabulous destination in its own right.

Papeete has a mixture of Polynesian, French, Italian and Chinese influences – a real melting pot of cultures in a glorious South Pacific setting. Its sophisticated hotels, picturesque setting, bustling harbour and cosmopolitan town centre are complemented by a variety of adventurous activities and cultural experiences.

As far as "must do's"? Every couple should make their way to Place Vaiete down on Papeete's waterfront for some superb casual dining from the popular roulottes (caravans and food trucks). There are dozens to choose from, and they serve everything from pizza to hamburgers to crepes. They often have live music on the weekends too.

The Papeete Market (Marche de Papeete) is another sight to pencil into your itinerary. Here you'll have the chance to pick up local handicrafts, like sarongs, shell jewellery and woven knick knacks. And if you're peckish you can snack on a selection of traditional Tahitian cuisine.

If you happen to be in Tahiti in August, you might be lucky enough to catch the world famous Billabong Pro surfing contest – which isn't necessarily the most romantic activity in the world – but it's easily one of the most impressive.

PLACES TO STAY

Le Meridien Tahiti

Situated 15 kilometres from Papeete and 10 kilometres from the airport, Le Meridien Tahiti was built back in 1998 and fully renovated in 2011. The resort boasts an exceptional beachfront location making it a top spot to cool down in the tropical heat, plus the resort has an unusual sand-bottom pool. Foodie couples will love the cooking lessons with a resort chef every Saturday!

InterContinental Tahiti Resort and Spa

If you're on your way to an outer island, or staying in Tahiti, the InterContinental Tahiti Resort and Spa is another great place to base yourself. The Papeete location is superb, only two kilometres from the airport and city shopping. The setting is also fantastic - imagine a lush 12-hectare tropical garden, surrounded by clear blue seas. And off in the distance you'll spot the soaring volcanic peaks of Moorea.

BEAUTIFUL BORA BORA

Bora Bora is a destination that should be on everyone's bucket list. Known as the Pearl of the Pacific, its turquoise lagoon, low-lying motu (small islets), dazzling white sands and dominant volcano make the island a romantic dream.

If you're after the classic over-water bungalow experience, this is your nirvana! What could be more romantic than diving off your private swimming platform into the warm, crystal clear waters and then lazing on a sun-drenched deck that looks back toward Mt Otemanu. And of course, you'll be waited on hand-and-foot by some of the South Pacific's best-trained staff.

It doesn't get much better. In fact, there's only one issue with picking Bora Bora as a place to get married or honeymoon - you'll never want to leave.



©RODOLPHE_HOLLER



ST. REGIS BORA BORA ©DANEE HAZAMA



©TIM-MCKENNA

GETTING OUT THERE

Yes, Bora Bora's resorts are amazing. Yes, you could quite happily spend your entire stay without leaving any of them. But no, you shouldn't just fly and flop (or get married and flop). Because why would you come to one of the most beautiful places on earth and not spend at least some time exploring it.

Here are a few activities that couples will love:

Snorkelling

It doesn't matter where you go in Bora Bora, you'll have some amazing underwater experiences. Simply grab a snorkel and flippers and immerse yourself in the warm clear waters. A popular spot is Anau, where you can snorkel alongside friendly manta rays.

Parasailing

Who wouldn't want a birds-eye view of Bora Bora! The local experts are Bora Bora Parasail. They'll hook you up on a tandem sail, so you can enjoy the flight together.

A slice of history

It's hard to imagine a more peaceful place than Bora Bora, but following the bombing of Pearl Harbour, the island became a US supply base with up to 6000 troops stationed there. On a half-day tour you can see what remains of the coastal guns and visit other historical and cultural sites.

Take a hike

If you're a "power" couple, you could always tackle the hike up Mt Pahia. At around 660 metres high (that's double Auckland's Sky Tower), it's a serious five-to-six hour walk, and a guide is essential. If that sounds like hard work (and it is), there are easier walks you can choose from.

"Most Romantic Cruise Line"
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PLACES TO STAY

Bora Bora is blessed with premium resorts – many of them recognised as among the very best in the South Pacific, if not the world. Here's a few to get you started.

Four Seasons Bora Bora

Ask any couple what they remember about a trip away, and you'll often hear "service". With this in mind, Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts have made sure it's an area they excel in. In Bora Bora they've recruited a mix of local talent and highly experienced French staff to offer genuine standout service.

As you might imagine, they make romance their top priority. In fact, they describe their lush, tropical lagoon setting as one of the most romantic spots in the world. And who could really argue. If you have fewer than 40 guests, you could always consider tying the knot on the resort's catamaran. And if you'd prefer an indoor venue, the enchanting Aherenoa Chapel has jaw-dropping views directly across to Mt Otemanu.

St. Regis Bora Bora

Another premium spot is The St Regis Bora Bora. In short, it's sensational. The general design on a low-lying motu, the immaculate landscaping, the artworks and Easter Island-style statues, the swimming pools and beaches, the restaurants, the standard of service and the attention to detail in every aspect of the hotel are all incredibly impressive. But the great thing is, it's sophisticated without being pretentious, upmarket yet still casual.



Wrap it all together and you have yet another dream wedding or honeymoon destination. They have bridal managers who can ensure a bespoke wedding experience. To complement these managers, the resort also has a Bridal Boutique where you can personalise your special day, for example, creating your own menu and table settings. Plus they even have wedding dresses.

Sofitel Bora Bora Marara Beach Resort

Sitting on the eastern side of the main island, Sofitel Bora Bora Marara Beach Resort offers guests a different experience from the resorts located on the smaller surrounding motu (islets). You'll still enjoy the same stunning garden setting, pure white sand beach and classic overwater experience, but you'll also have access to a host of Bora Bora's local attractions, including the town of Vaitape and the famous Bloody Mary's restaurant.

When it comes to weddings, the resort's motto is "your wedding as per your wishes". Essentially couples "work" hand-in-hand with Sofitel's wedding co-ordinator to create a wedding that reflects their personal passions – and then it is all brought to life in this stunning Bora Bora location.

MAGICAL MOOREA

Moorea is only a 10-minute flight or an easy 40-minute ferry ride from Papeete. As soon as you arrive at Port Vaiares you can sense the laid-back ambience of Moorea. The town is nowhere near as developed as Papeete and the locals seem relaxed, enjoying the quiet life on their own piece of paradise.



Moorea is certainly a paradise for romantics, with its clear, aqua lagoons, white sandy beaches, vibrant green gardens and the backdrop of Mount Tahiea, which soars to its summit of 1115 metres.

GETTING OUT AND ABOUT

On Moorea, romance travellers should apply the same theory we recommend on Bora Bora – get out and explore together! Hiking is a good place to start. With such beautiful scenery, hiking is a favourite activity for many visitors. It pays to take a guide, as many of the most adventurous tracks are not particularly well marked. Recommended walks include 3 Coconut Tree Hill (which now has only has one tree), Mou'a Pata and 900-metre Mount Rotui. All offer river crossings, jungle walks and incredible vistas.

Lovers of water-based activities are spoilt for choice. Motorboats, jet skis, paddleboards and kayaks are all available for hire, along with fishing and diving charters and excursions. And don't miss the shark and ray feeding at the Intercontinental, and the Moorea Dolphin Centre gives guests the opportunity to get up close to these beautiful creatures.

Getting around is easy on Moorea, and it's impossible to get lost, as there is only one road running around the island. There is good public transport, or you can rent a car, scooter or bicycle. Quad-bike tours and four-wheel-drive safaris are available to access more remote spots. Moorea is spotlessly clean, with no litter or graffiti. The gardens are well kept and bountiful and fresh fruit is available from road-side stalls around the island.



HILTON MOOREA LAGOON RESORT & SPA



Reservations : ☎ : +689 40 50 84 45 - @ : res@spmhotels.pf

www.spmhotels.com

PLACES TO STAY

Sofitel Moorea la Ora Beach Resort

Supreme comfort. Exceptional pampering. That in a nutshell is the beautiful Sofitel Moorea la Ora Resort. The waterfront setting is home to one of the island's best white sand beaches. And being on the eastern side of Moorea, it's just a few easy minutes from the airport and ferry dock.

In true Tahitian tradition, the So Spa provides couples with an extensive range of treatments, including a signature three-hour treatment. If you're planning a honeymoon, why not book the largest overwater bungalow on Moorea (83 square metres), or maybe a Horizon View Overwater Bungalows with exclusive features such as private check-in, dedicated 24/7 concierge and priority seating at the restaurants. Either way, you'll both be in heaven.

Hilton Moorea Lagoon Resort and Spa

If you're searching for top-end luxury on Moorea, the Hilton Moorea Lagoon Resort & Spa is your first stop. It's the only five-star resort on the island, and it comes with a magic location between two spectacular bays at the top of the island.

This prime position also makes for unrivalled sunrises and sunsets, which couples can take in from Toatea Creperie and Bar, French Polynesia's only overwater eatery and bar. You might spot a black-tip shark swimming past too! When it comes time for some serious pampering – pop into Moorea Lagoon Spa - an eco-friendly, beachfront spa that uses the fresh island ingredients - like coconut, coffee, vanilla, ginger and coconut oil – and specialises in couple's treatments.

Manava Beach Resort and Spa - Moorea

If your romantic requirements include pure comfort and the convenience of a great location, it's hard to go past Manava Beach Resort and Spa. Sitting on the sun-soaked northern side of Moorea, the resort is only 15 minutes from the main wharf and 10 minutes from the airport. Plus it's just a short walk from the village of Maharepa, which means couples can get a real taste of local life and enjoy delicacies like the delicious bakery-fresh pastries. The resort offers a variety of accommodation choices from hotel-style garden view rooms right through to premium over-water bungalows. It is also home to a number of romantic escapades like starlit dinners, honeymoon dinners and sunset cruises. 🌸

Tying the knot

Eligibility

- Both spouses must be at least 18 years old.
- Neither spouse can be currently married.
- The couple cannot be related by direct lineage.
- The couple cannot be French nationals or residents of France
- The bride and the groom must each choose a witness who must be 18 years of age or older (if the chosen witness is not present, the mayor's office can provide a witness).

Required documents

- The "Marriage of Foreign Citizens in French Polynesia" application must be completed.
- A letter signed and dated by both future spouses, addressed to the mayor of the commune chosen for the marriage ceremony.
- A copy of both spouses' passports.
- A certified copy of both spouses' birth certificates.
- A "Certificate of Non-Marital Status" ("Certificat de Celibat") signed by a lawyer, translated into French and legalised by the French Consulate.
- Proof of residency for both of the future spouses (a utility bill or any bill noting names and physical address will suffice). A photocopy of bills for both spouses is acceptable.



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Find your happy place

Some years ago Vanuatu was named the happiest place on the planet. It would be easy to dismiss such a grandiose title, but when you visit the Vanuatu, you really can sense a joy in the people. They have a natural cheerfulness and a wonderful sense of humour. So if you're planning a wedding, honeymoon or a romantic escape, who better to make it happen than the happy people of Vanuatu.







PORT VILA. WEDDING OPTIONS APLENTY

There are some fantastic properties in and around Port Vila, and they have everything you require for a memorable wedding celebration.

The recently re-opened Holiday Inn Resort Vanuatu certainly ticks the box. Whether you're looking to say "I do", are planning a honeymoon or are simply searching for a romantic getaway, Holiday Inn is your one-stop destination.

The Resort Ceremony Cabana, with Erakor Lagoon as a backdrop, provides the perfect tropical setting for exchanging vows. From there you can celebrate your union with an intimate dinner, relaxed poolside party, or feel the sand between your toes with a beach wedding reception under the swaying palms or marquee, where dinner or cocktails can be enjoyed. Or if you'd prefer a more formal affair, the Erakor Ballroom can cater for up to 160 guests. The resort can even organise a traditional Vanuatu wedding experience, where the bride is brought to their ceremony by traditional canoe to the sound of a conch shell being blown by a Melanesian warrior!

Breakas Beach Resort is another property that's well set up for weddings. The spectacular Pacific Ocean backdrop provides the perfect venue, particularly in the early evening, when the sun is setting and the heat of the day is starting to pass.

Breakas has a number of different wedding packages to choose from. A floral wedding arch, French champagne, traditional warrior welcome

and tropical leis are just a few of the standard inclusions.

To create a more personal touch, it's just a matter of talking through your preferences with Breakas wedding co-ordinator.

And if the happy couple chooses to stay on at the resort for their honeymoon, Breakas has a special honeymoon package which includes a sunset cruise on Port Vila Harbour, a special in-room flower arrangement, a yummy tropical fruit basket and a room upgrade option.

Another top spot for a wedding celebration is Warwick Le Lagon, one of Vanuatu's premier large resorts. Like the previous properties, they have a range of wedding packages. You can start with the Tropical Escape, which is a simple and intimate celebration for the bride and groom. Or step up a level to the Island Elegance package, which is a stylish ceremony and cocktail reception for 10 guests. And then there's the Le Lagon Dream, a lavish celebration that includes a ceremony and reception for 20 guests.

With the influx of cruise ship visits into Port Vila, Le Lagon has also created an exclusive Cruise Ship Wedding package for day-tripping passengers who want to tie the knot - this includes return transfers for the wedding group and day use of a Garden View room.

The iconic Iririki Island Resort and Spa also specialise in weddings. When you have an entire island at your disposal, you have a multitude of venue options to choose from. With capacity for up to 200 guests, Iririki can cater to even the largest of weddings. And with the new multi-million dollar renovation of the entire resort now complete, guests can make the most of the new and improved facilities.

There's more to do in Vanuatu



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THE HAVANNAH



HIDEAWAY ISLAND RESORT

THE BEST OF BOUTIQUE

While Vanuatu's larger resorts provide a wealth of exceptional facilities and accommodation options, Vanuatu also has a variety of first-class boutique properties that are ideal for couples seeking a more intimate atmosphere.

Villa 25

With only three villas, Villa 25 couldn't get much smaller! But the stunning beachfront setting inside the gated community of Dream Cove offers a level of peace and privacy that is very hard to match. Being such a small property, there is no commercial kitchen pumping out meals. Instead, guests have a full kitchen in their modern villa - all you need to do is pick up supplies from the local supermarket or open-air produce markets.

Otherwise, the restaurants and cafés of Port Vila are only five minutes drive away. And if cooking seems like a chore, Villa 25 can organise a local chef to come in and cook for you.

The Havannah

Half an hour north of Port Vila you'll find The Havannah, an award-winning adults-only getaway. Sitting on a private headland on the

serene Havannah Harbour, the resort caters to a maximum of 34 guests, i.e., it's nice and quiet. They are also romance professionals.

In fact, they've created an extra special Romantic Indulgence package just for couples who want to spoil themselves. This package includes a bottle of Louis Roederer champagne on arrival, a one-hour couples massage, a romantic three-course dinner on the beach or private jetty, and a private picnic on a secluded beach with a bottle of wine (of course). Bliss!

Hideaway Island Resort

If your romantic getaway has to squeeze into a tighter budget, Hideaway Island Resort is a charming little property that provides a lovely tropical setting for an affordable price. Just a few minutes boat ride from the beach at Mele Cove (10 minutes north of Port Vila), this resort has long been a favourite spot for divers who have easy access to a sheer underwater wall that's 80 metres from shore. Even if you're not into diving, the snorkelling is fantastic. Plus the chilled-out vibe will have you both on "island time" in next to no time! If you're staying on a Friday, make sure you take the ferry back to the Mele Bay Beach Bar and watch their famous Fire Show which starts at 7pm. It's easily one of the best live performances in Vanuatu.



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Hideaway Island Resort and Marine Sanctuary is a small coral atoll that's about as close as you'll get to an unspoiled island paradise.

Surrounded by clear turquoise water, coral reefs and thousands of fish, this tropical island resort is custodian of a protected marine sanctuary. Accommodation on Hideaway Island has been built in an ecologically friendly manner; situated amongst the original tropical trees & foliage. The bungalows and Villas are situated on low-bank oceanfront. The Coral reef surrounding the island is ideal for snorkeling or scuba diving right from the shore or you can relax on the beach or poolside and enjoy the view of beautiful Mele Bay.



HideawayIsland
 Resort & Marine Sanctuary
 Port Vila • Vanuatu

“At around 50 minutes flight time from Port Vila, the island of Santo is just a quick hop away – but it feels like another world.”



SANTO. BE SEDUCED

Organising a “two flight wedding” isn’t impossible, but it does add a level of complexity and cost – with extra flights, extra accommodation and extra transport just some of the necessary additions. But for a travelling couple on a honeymoon or romantic getaway, going off the beaten track is very appealing and very simple. In Vanuatu, this where Santo comes in!

At around 50 minutes flight time from Port Vila, the island of Santo is just a quick hop away – but it feels like another world. If you think the Efate is quiet, which it is, get ready for another level of laidbackness!

Santo has a selection of excellent boutique properties that are ideally set up for couple quality time. And the island is home to one of the South Pacific’s best beaches, caves and stunning blue holes. What more could you ask for on a romantic adventure? Not much!

CHAMPAGNE BEACH

About 45 minutes north of Luganville, Santo’s main town, is Champagne Beach. Picture warm, translucent water, powdery white sand and offshore islands in the distance, all surrounded by dark green tropical rainforest. It’s magic. And if it were anywhere else in the world, it would be crammed with resorts, shops, cafés, restaurants and thousands of people. But in Santo, the crowd factor is non-existent – except during cruise ship visits – which you plan for anyway.

So simply pack a hamper, throw in some towels and a bottle of champagne and get ready to enjoy one of the best days at the beach you’re ever likely to have.

BLUE HEAVEN

Santo is also famous for its blue holes, and there are several of them dotted along the eastern coast. One of the best is the Matevulu Blue Hole. It’s signposted from the main road, and the short drive inland just happens to be along one of the old military airstrips. Like Champagne Beach, it’s a wonderfully peaceful place to spend time together.

MATEVULU BLUE HOLE © DAVID KIRKLAND, VANUATU TOURISM



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PLACES TO STAY

Aore Island Resort

A 10 minute ferry ride from Luganville, you'll find Aore Island Resort, a beautiful boutique property nestled in a lush, tree-lined bay.

Staying here is a real escape. It's a chance to wind down, enjoy the incredible natural surroundings and enjoy each others company, without the everyday distractions you get back home.

The resort's Sunrise Bungalows provide comfort and privacy and you can choose from a beachfront location where you walk down the steps and straight onto the sand, or you can pick a serene tropical garden setting. And in the open air restaurant, you'll both enjoy fresh local cuisine – including Santo's famous beef and seafood delights.

Moyyan House

This adults-only boutique property on the East Coast Road north of Luganville is home to six luxurious fares and a picture-postcard location with a glorious white sand beach.

You couldn't pick a better place to relax. Or get pampered. Moyyan House has a day spa with a full menu of treatments. 🌿



AORE ISLAND RESORT © SIMON BAUMFIELD



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Tying the knot

Getting married in Vanuatu is a straightforward process. However, it's a process that's best started a few months ahead. First, an Intended Marriage Form needs to be filled out – the resort's wedding coordinator will be able to pass this on to you – and then this form needs to be lodged with the Vanuatu government at least 28 days prior to the wedding day. From there a couple will need to be in Vanuatu at least three working days prior to the wedding.

Plus the following will also need to be provided:

- Birth certificates and valid passports
- Divorce papers (if applicable)
- Death certificate (if a previous spouse has passed away)
- One witness for each person to prove your identity



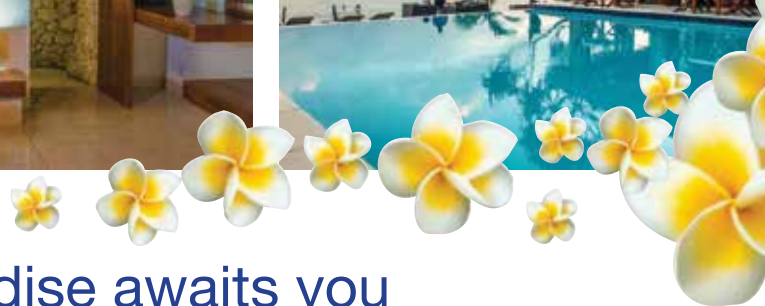
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COOK ISLANDS



TE MANAVA LUXURY VILLAS & SPA

Real romance

From the second you step off the plane, The Cook Islands will seduce you with some of the South Pacific's most spectacular natural scenery. But while these surroundings provide the perfect backdrop for anyone contemplating a tropical wedding, honeymoon or romantic getaway, there's a realness to the Cook Islands experience that makes this destination just that little bit different.



Indeed, one of the charms of visiting the Cook Islands is being able to get a taste of local life. Like strolling down to a village café and grabbing a bite to eat, or pulling up a pew and having a yarn with a few characters at a local bar – Trader Jack’s instantly springs to mind! Or grabbing a scooter and taking your own tiki tour - pulling into secluded beaches, off-beat art galleries or anywhere else that catches your eye.

If you’re getting married, the “big day” will naturally be the highlight, but in the Cook Islands there is so much more to do that can make the entire trip extra special for everyone.

FIRST STOP RAROTONGA

All flights from New Zealand to the Cook Islands land in Rarotonga and any couple in search of romance will be spoilt for choice. The island boasts some seriously romantic escapes. Beautiful beachfront resorts providing every possible convenience, boutique adults-only luxury, self-contained apartment style accommodation and private guesthouses are all great options and fit most budgets.

PLACES TO STAY

Rarotongan Beach Resort & Spa

Sitting on the sugar white sands beside luminous Aro’a Lagoon (the Lagoon of Love) is the iconic Rarotongan Beach Resort & Spa. The wedding set-up is first-class. Imagine a couple-to-be being bathed in the golden glow of the setting sun, feet in the sand, hearts beating fast, a harmonious strum of an island serenade in the background.

After a champagne toast, dine by candlelight in the private thatched gazebo on the sands or the grand silk-lined marquee and be entertained by an island string band, fire dancer, DJ or full island dance troupe.

Your options are almost endless, and the resort has a variety of wedding packages at different price points. Or you can simply tailor a package to suit.

Manuia Beach Resort

Along the same stretch of coast you’ll also find Manuia Beach Resort, a beautiful boutique resort that sits quietly on a private piece of Rarotongan paradise.

The vibe here is extremely relaxed which makes it a great place to re-connect or tie the knot. The resort specialises in intimate beach weddings and romantic breaks. A personal wedding coordinator will ensure your day goes off exactly how you’d imagined it. A romantic sunset service on the beach, followed by a delicious celebratory meal and drinks, music, dancing and merriment till the early hours! Set packages are available. However, every wedding can be tailored to suit.

On top of all that, Manuia Beach Resort has earned a reputation for the quality of its in-house activity programme. These activities include free on site scuba diving lessons, a free guided island tour, plus they can organise fishing charters – which is the ideal distraction for a groom and his mates!

The worn-down volcanic pyramid provides a stunning backdrop to an island that boasts some serious romantic escapes. Beachfront resorts, holiday homes and guesthouses are all great options and can certainly fit most budgets.



MOANA SANDS HOTEL AND VILLAS



MANUIA BEACH RESORT

Moana Sands Hotel and Villas

Heading further east, you'll come across Moana Sands Hotel and Villas, another fine wedding friendly resort, boasting yet another fine beachfront location – a common theme in the Cook Islands.

Its white sand, blue lagoon combination is what dreams are made of. And importantly, they have a highly professional wedding management team who make the entire process as stress-free as possible. From the first email right through to the post wedding follow-up, they'll provide an open line of communication, ensuring every little detail is right.

Palm Grove Resort

Just past Turoa Beach, in the Vaima area on Rarotonga's southern coast, you'll find a little pocket of peace and tranquillity at Palm Grove. Super cute and laid back in every sense of the word, the property provides fully coordinated weddings with two wonderful location options – on the white sand beach or across in the resort's lush tropical gardens. Either way, you will have made an excellent choice!

This resort is a hidden gem, and with a private dining area seating up to 40 people in its Yellow Hibiscus restaurant, it's an excellent choice for small romantic weddings.



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Sands Villas

If your party is an even smaller group, you may want to “take over” an entire property! In that case consider Sands Villas, a private slice of heaven on Titikaveka Beach. Its three private three-bedroom villas overlook the lush gardens and the glorious beach and together they can sleep up to 18 people. Although this is an independent style wedding option, the property can still provide a planner to assist with the occasion.

Pacific Resort Rarotonga

Rarotonga’s southern coast is home to some of the island’s best beaches, in particular, the stretch of white sand along Muri Lagoon. Here you’ll find more romantic options dotted along the shoreline.

A long-time favourite at the luxury end of the market is the Pacific Resort, Rarotonga. This full-service resort is home to 64 studio rooms, suites and two and three-bedroom villas. With the lagoon right on your doorstep, most activity takes place along the beachfront.

Te Vakaroa Villas

For Muri Beach luxury that’s a little more boutique, there’s Te Vakaroa Villas. With just six villas and a no children under 12 policy, Te Vakaroa is the ideal spot for peace and privacy, couples looking for a relaxed, romantic getaway or newlyweds on a honeymoon escape.

Muri Beachcomber

For those who want to enjoy a prime Muri location at a friendly price, the laid back Muri Beachcomber is a top choice. The property has 16 sea view units, two garden units, a two-bedroom family garden unit and three luxury watergarden villas, so there’s something for everyone. Plus it’s seconds from the shops, cafés, restaurants, deli, bakery and other eateries in Muri village, and of course, your absolute beachfront position puts you steps from the sand.



MURI BEACH



TE VAKAROA VILLAS

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ROMANTIC ADVENTURES

Exploring Avarua is a must. If you're travelling by car or scooter, simply find a park in the middle of town (there are plenty to choose from) and go for a wander – everything is within easy walking distance. There are enough shops for those wanting some retail therapy – keep a look out for the famous black pearls from the smaller islands of Manihiki and Penrhyn. There are also plenty of cafés and restaurants to tempt the tastebuds.

Avarua sits on the northern side of Rarotonga, but everything else is close by. The coastal road that circles the island is only 32 kilometres long, so even with a 50 kilometre per hour speed limit, you'll do the circuit in under an hour!

Scooters are certainly the transport of choice for locals and visitors alike. Apart from being great fun to ride, at around \$20 a day they're

a cost-effective way to see the sights. A bit of breeze through the hair is also quite refreshing in the tropical heat – note: crash helmets are optional but highly recommended.

Dotted all around the island are a variety of cafés, restaurants, bars and shops. So when you feel the need, simply pull over and stop for a bite, beverage or browse. Keep a lookout for Charlie's Café, which is set up in an old shipping container and pop into The Moorings Café, which has a reputation for making the Cook Island's finest sandwiches! And if you feel like a dip, you can stop at any number of beaches – chances are you could have it to yourselves.

If you're looking for a fun way to see the island, Tik-e Tours tuk-tuk offer a unique experience. Their Lap of the Island Tour is an excellent way to see the sights and get your bearings. You can also hire your own tuk-tuk and take a personal guided tour. They even transform into Cook Island style wedding limos!



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AITUTAKI LAGOON RESORT AND SPA

AITUTAKI – ONE HOUR TO HONEYMOON HEAVEN

If Rarotonga is the first stop for weddings, Aitutaki is next stop for honeymoons. Less than one hour's flight from Rarotonga, Aitutaki is home to around 2000 permanent residents and a world-famous coral lagoon. If you want peace in paradise, this is pretty much it.

As you'd expect, snorkelling and boat trips exploring the lagoon are a must-do for romance seekers, and there are some other interesting sights on land, including local marae and some fascinating coral-walled churches.

Having said that, the best thing about Aitutaki is being able to do absolutely nothing. Sleep in, swim, snooze in the afternoon, kick back with a cocktail, on Aitutaki, there is no rush. This is a place to relax and enjoy each other's company, which is just what this remarkable part of the world was created for.

PLACES TO STAY

Aitutaki Lagoon Resort and Spa

If you're after a true bucket list experience, Aitutaki Lagoon Resort and Spa could not be more perfect. It's the only resort located directly on this spellbinding lagoon, and it's the only private island resort and the only one with overwater bungalows in the Cook Islands.

Pacific Resort Aitutaki

Another resort on Aitutaki's A-list is the award-winning Pacific Resort Aitutaki. It has 27 spacious beachfront bungalows and villas, hidden among lush tropical gardens. Indeed, this is a luxury retreat of the highest order. Rooms are finished to a very highest standard and guests enjoy a level of service to match.



PACIFIC RESORT AITUTAKI

SIGNING IS SIMPLE

Getting married in the Cook Islands is also easy from a legal point of view. As a general rule most South Pacific nations require a 30 day wait before the marriage, but in the Cook Islands couples can marry three days after landing in the country. If that isn't quite quick enough, couples in a hurry can pay a small fee to waive this residency requirement! Otherwise, the legal side of a Cook Islands marriage is straightforward. The only paperwork needed are birth certificates (in English), original passports and any Decree Absolute (divorce documents), if this applies. 🌸

Tying the knot

The legal requirements of getting married in the Cook Islands are straightforward, but there are a few things that Kiwis should take note of:

- If a bride or groom is under the age of 21 they will need written parental consent.
- An application for a marriage licence must be made in person to the Registrar of Marriages at least three working days before the wedding, New Zealanders cannot apply for a licence before they arrive.
- Applicants for a wedding licence must produce a passport, and if divorced, a copy of the Decree Absolute.



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Where glorious mountain peaks melt into elegant white sand beaches, the little paradise of the Cook Islands is home to Pacific Resort Hotel Group. Whether you are looking for a wedding or honeymoon here in utopia; we offer the Cook Islands largest range of services & experiences for your romantic escape . . .



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A magical. Mix

New Caledonia is a place where French food, language and customs have blended with laid-back island-style living. For honeymooners and other romance travellers, this seductive mix provides an experience to remember.





SHERATON DEVA

NOUMEA. THE COSMOPOLITAN CAPITAL

With a population of around 90,000, Noumea is by far the largest urban centre in New Caledonia. It remains the hub for most holidaymakers – and for good reason – it’s a fabulous seaside city with plenty for a visiting couple to see and do.

DINNER FOR TWO

Romance and good dining go hand-in-hand. Well, you’ve come to the right place. As you’d expect, Noumea has a bounty of choices when it comes to eating out. One of the best in town is Au Petit Café on Avenue des Freres. A walk up the hill from the Municipal Markets, this cute little café/restaurant is owned by Gabrielle Levionnois, who known for his creative use of fresh, seasonal ingredients.

Around the gorgeous Citron Bay and Anse Vata Beach, you’ll find cafés, restaurants and bars sitting side by side. For a seafood feast try L’Astrolabe, a lovely restaurant that looks out across Citron Bay.

Another unique place to dine while in Noumea is L’Entrecote 360, the revolving restaurant that sits atop the Ramada Plaza. The views are amazing (as you can imagine) and it takes about 45 minutes to do a “circuit”, so you have plenty of time to take in the view from every angle.

A LITTLE ADVENTURE

For a fun day trip, jump on a water taxi and head to Ile Aux Canards (Duck Island), a stunning little spot about a kilometre off Anse Vata Beach. The atmosphere is superbly laid back, and the snorkelling is top notch with crystal-clear water and loads of colourful fish meandering their way through the coral. Local company Plages Loisirs run taxi boats from their base half way along Anse Vata Beach.

PLACES TO STAY

Le Meridien Noumea

Sitting at the far end of Anse Vata Beach, Le Meridien has one of Noumea’s top locations. Step outside, and you’ll both be lying poolside. Take a few more steps, and you’ll be swimming in crystal clear waters or dining at the beachside La Fare. The restaurant and bars offer plenty of places for a couple to relax. The service is impeccable; the surroundings are lush and the all-important beds are by all accounts the most comfortable in Noumea!

Chateau Royal Beach Resort & Spa

Chateau Royal is another fine accommodation choice, particularly for couples wanting an apartment style option. If you want beach time, it’s right on your doorstep. If you want some great dining and entertainment, it’s all under one roof. Plus the ladies will love treating themselves in the Spa Aquatic.

Sheraton Deva

Around two hours drive north up the coast from Noumea, you’ll find Sheraton Deva, New Caledonia’s newest resort. The location is a beautiful, unspoilt wilderness set between the UNESCO-listed lagoon and the nearby Deva Hills. With 13 kilometres of white sandy beach, finding peace and privacy is easy. Facilities include an impressive swimming pool, a Deep Nature Spa, and an 18-hole championship golf course.

Escapade Island Resort

If you want romance, how about sleeping over a crystal clear lagoon! Then book an over-water bungalow at Escapade Island Resort on Maitre Islet, a tiny droplet of an island 20 minutes by boat from Noumea. Its transparent blue waters are home to a multitude of brightly coloured fish, turtles and other reef life. The hotel features 44 garden and beach bungalows located amid lush vegetation, and 25 signature over-water bungalows. The sunset is to die for.



THE OUTSTANDING OUTER ISLANDS

Off the main island of Grand Terre, New Caledonia has more (exceptionally picturesque) islands, and they are all within fairly easy reach of the mainland. Prepare for white powdery sand, iridescent waters and a pace of life that couldn't be more relaxed.

ILE DES PINS (THE ISLE OF PINES)

Eighty kilometres southeast of Noumea you'll find the Isle of Pines. It's a slice of peaceful paradise. It is possible to visit the island for a day trip, but the locals recommend a stay of three days. You're guaranteed quality couple time, but along the way you can spend time on the flawless white sand beaches like Kuto Bay or Kanumera Bay, go scuba diving in the crystal clear waters, sail on an outrigger, explore the forest by horseback or hire a scooter and cruise the island. And of course, there's always the option of doing next to nothing. Which is one reason why couples love coming back.



PLACES TO STAY

Le Meridien Ile des Pins

One of the top picks is Le Meridien Ile des Pins, a luxury, boutique property sitting on the white, white sand of Oro Bay. The service here is impeccable - as you would expect from a Le Meridien property. The cuisine is also exceptional, with famous French-inspired flavours mixing with the freshest local produce.

Hotel Oure Ile des Pins

Kanumera Bay provides the picture postcard setting for the Hotel Oure Ile des Pins. Protected by a rocky cape and facing the west, the hotel enjoys a prime position with breathtaking sunset views. The Kanumera Restaurant and Bar is the perfect place to enjoy island cuisine specialities, including the famous Isle of Pines lobster. Relax in La Banian bar located next to the restaurant, sip a drink poolside or on the beach.

**IN 2017
SAY 'OUI, JE LE VEUX'**

New Caledonia, only a few hours away, is the perfect destination for the most memorable wedding or luxurious honeymoon. From the cosmopolitan chic of Noumea, to the heavenly charm of the Isle of Pines, New Caledonia has an abundance of venues and romantic locations to make your day truly special. With same sex marriage legal in New Caledonia, what are you waiting for? 2017 is the year to say "oui, je le veux" (yes, I do).

Start planning, visit NewCaledonia.travel

THE LOYALTY ISLANDS. FURTHER OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

For next level isolation, visit the small but breathtakingly beautiful Loyalty Islands of Lifou, Ouvea and Mare. Don't expect to stay in a big resort and have loads of shops and restaurants at your fingertips - they simply don't have them. And that's the charm of the Loyalty Islands. They haven't been touched by mass tourism. Accommodation is in small resorts or there's the option of local home stays - which gives couples the chance to experience local life first-hand.

LIFOU. BREATHTAKING BEAUTY

Secluded beaches, rugged coastal cliffs and a rich Melanesian culture are the real highlights. The pure, white sand of Peng Beach is close to perfection. Underground limestone caves like the Grotte les Joyaux (the Jewels of Luengoni) have rock pools to explore, and between July and September, you may even glimpse a passing humpback whale.

OUVEA. A WORLD HERITAGE WONDER

Ouvea is a stunning island with 25 kilometres of perfect white sand. The surrounding reef and its marine life are so impressive they're on UNESCO's World Heritage list. Needless to say, this haven for divers - and those in need of extra adrenalin, can go shark watching, which is one of the most popular attractions on the island.



Aircalin. The romance begins in the air.

Why not start your honeymoon the way you mean to go on! Step onboard Aircalin and you're immediately immersed in a French experience. Cabin crew greet you with a friendly "Bonjour", flight announcements are in French and English. It's a fantastic way to get into the swing of things.

The flight up to Noumea is quick. At two hours and 20 minutes you've got time to squeeze in a rom-com and a few glasses of fine French champagne. And if you'd like to splash out, Aircalin also offer a business class option - which equals more space and more goodies like a delicious three-course meal and your own entertainment tablet.

MARE. WHERE THE ROAD TAKES YOU

Even compared to Lifou and Ouvea, Mare is undeveloped as a tourist destination. For instance, the island is devoid of road signs, so hiring a local guide to show you around is important, unless you just want to see where the road takes you. Rugged cliffs, stunning beaches and sunken pools characterise the landscape of Mare. There are also some great walks, including the coastal track to Shabadaran. 🌸

Tying the knot

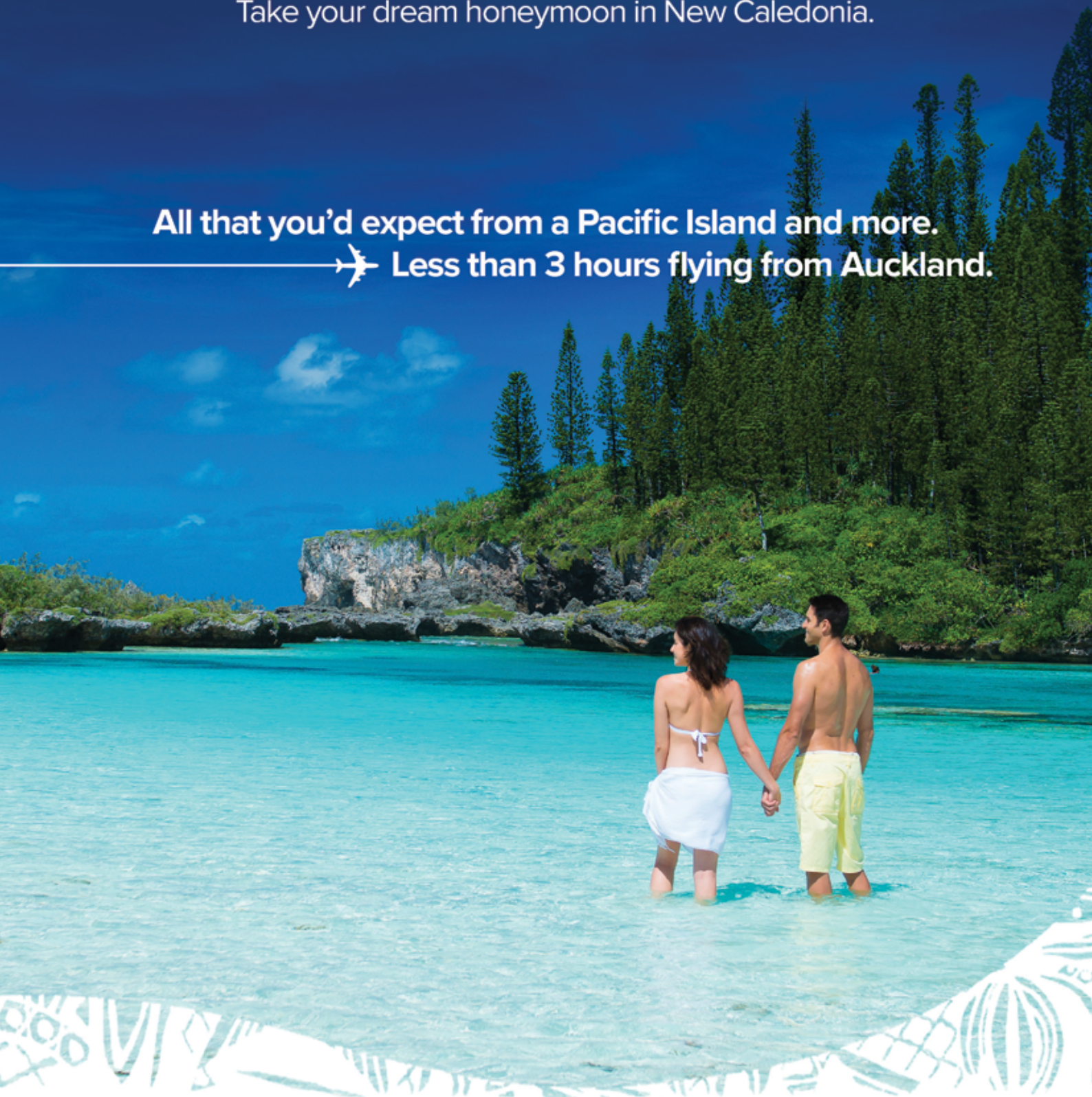
In 2009 a change in policy meant that couples visiting New Caledonia could hold a civil wedding ceremony. Applications can be made to the Noumea City Authorities - this can be done via an email to the Townhall Records Authority. Proof of civil status and a certificate of residence is required. An officially approved translator (French-English) will be present at ceremony. After the ceremony, a certified transcription of their marriage certificate then needs to be taken to the consulate of their own country.

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THE KINGDOM OF TONGA

Welcome to the
Friendly Islands



There's no doubt that Tonga flies under the radar when compared to some of its higher profile South Pacific neighbours. But in a nutshell, that is one of the best reasons to go there for a honeymoon or romantic getaway.

When Captain Cook passed through the Tongan archipelago in 1773 he got it right when he described them as "The friendly islands". That trait has survived, even blossomed over the years, and today Tongans are still very hospitable and easy going. Visitors are warmly welcomed and genuinely befriended as the Tongan people proudly show off their homeland and share their passion for their culture and traditions.

Tonga certainly has something for couples in search of a romantic getaway, particularly those with a healthy sense of adventure and those who are happy to bypass large international resorts. Indeed there are numerous places and experiences that will rejuvenate, enthral, entertain and spoil.

EXPLORING NUKU'ALOFA

If you're staying in or around Nuku'alofa, visiting nearby Pangaimotu Island is a must. Just 10 minutes by boat from Fuaa Wharf in Nuku'alofa, Pangaimotu is fun to visit and is the home of Big Mama's Yacht Club. Big Mama's is one of those South Pacific gems. A huge falé (hut) built in the traditional Tongan style, it has a sand floor, open sides, a collection of well-loved wooden furniture, floral tablecloths, a semi-circular bar and huge decks.

A favourite haunt of yachties, the roof and walls are covered in nautical flags and sailing paraphernalia. Greetings from sailors from every corner on the earth are scrawled on the walls. It just oozes character, and has no doubt seen its fair share of wild nights. And if you partake, hey, you can always sleep in the next day!

HEADING NORTH TO VAVA'U

No visit to Tonga is complete without a trip to Vava'u Group further north. Flying into Vava'u it is easy to see why it is known as Tonga's most scenic region. Thirty-four islands and a labyrinth of reefs stretch as far as the eye can see. Limestone cliffs drop straight into deep blue water. White sandy beaches fringe the islands where yachts sit quietly at anchor in the turquoise water. It's a bit like the Bay of Islands of New Zealand, except with palm trees and a temperature that's 10 degrees warmer.

Each year from June to November over 500 private yachts head to Vava'u, now recognised as one of the world's great cruising destinations - right up there with the Bahamas.

A myriad of deep channels, waterways, encircling reefs and secluded anchorages make it a safe and sheltered cruising ground. Abundant fish life, clear water with visibility of up to 50 metres and one of the best harbours in the South Pacific – the aptly named Port of Refuge – complete the picture. In short, it is paradise.



Tying the knot

Couples must apply by letter to the Principal Immigration Officer for permission (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PO Box 821, Salote Road, Nuku'alofa, Tongatapu, Kingdom of Tonga). This process can be completed within two days or less.

Documents required

- Photographs and a photocopy of passports are required to be submitted with the application
- Certified copies of birth certificates are required for both participant
- If necessary, death certificate of spouse
- If divorced, a copy of the Decree Absolute
- An affidavit of no impediment to get married
- An affidavit stating they have no criminal record.

Several operators offer yachting experiences from a few hours to a week or more. Couples can share a scheduled trip, hire a boat and skipper, or experienced sailors can enjoy a bareboat charter. Various designs and sizes of boats are available.

Whale watching in Vava'u is another must-do adventure for visiting couples. Vava'u is recognised internationally as being one of the easiest locations in the world to get close to these impressive mammals. Each year from June to November several species of whales, including the majestic humpbacks, come to Vava'u to breed.

Several operators offer trips of various lengths to swim with the whales and sightings are almost guaranteed. To ensure the whales are not harassed or disturbed while breeding, all the operators are licensed and monitored. Some operators offer underwater hydrophone systems to record the whale song, which is a great souvenir to take back home.

'EUA – THE ECO EDGE

If you'd like to take your romance even further off-the-beaten track, 'Eua is the place for true adventurers and eco-tourists. Often referred to as the forgotten island, 'Eua is the least developed in the Kingdom of Tonga. While infrastructure and visitor facilities are minimal, the island offers spectacular diving and the chance to see truly unspoilt natural beauty.

It is home to the largest national park and the largest tract of virgin rainforest in Tonga. It is also the only place in the world where you will find the magnificent koki or red-breasted musk parrot.

A nature-lover's paradise, 'Eua offers hiking, bush walks, horse riding, whale watching and diving. Easily accessible from Tongatapu it is only an eight-minute flight (the shortest commercial flight in the world) or a 2.5 hour boat trip.

While there are several guesthouses on 'Eua, the most reliable one with a restaurant is The Hideaway. The Hideaway is rustic, mostly built in the traditional falé style but it has six new modern falés that are comfortable and have hot showers. Meals consist of whatever was caught that day and fresh vegetables.

A short path leads down to the coral coast where you will find a traditional falé. From June to November you can sit in the shade, drink in hand, and watch humpback whales frolic only 200 metres from the shore. And in a nutshell, that's pure Tonga.



© KINGDOM OF TONGA, JAMES BLACKWOOD



'EUA ISLAND

PLACES TO STAY

Fafa Island Resort

If your idea of a dream honeymoon or romantic getaway is a Robinson Crusoe-style experience, Fafa Island Resort is a top pick. Set on the private 8 hectare island are 13 Tongan-inspired falés, including two special Honeymoon falés. There are no televisions, radios or telephones in the falés and no motorised water sports, which helps create an even more relaxed vibe. The glorious, white sand beach is amazing, you can stroll one of the many island walks, pamper yourself with a Polynesian massage, or maybe just spend the day lazing around in a hammock. And if you ever want to head into Nuku'alofa, it's only a 30 minute boat ride away.



Tongan Beach Resort

Located in the stunning Vava'u Island group, the Tongan Beach Resort offers couples a superbly laid back atmosphere in a stunning beachfront location (180 metres of beachfront to be exact). It's boutique, with 12 tidy guest rooms that are all just a few metres from the water's edge.

The resort can also organise a special honeymoon excursion – dropping a couple on a private island for a day of exploration, relaxation and a packed picnic lunch. 🌺



SAMOA





Let the
story
unfold

The islands of Samoa are made for romance. Volcanic peaks and deep green valleys run down to a coastline of white beaches and secluded bays. Tropical flowers bloom. Waterfalls spill into rivers that carve their way through the countryside. There is very little tourist clutter. Next-to-no stress. Which all makes Samoa a splendid place to celebrate love or reinvigorate romance.

In Samoa, romance travellers will have no trouble finding a resort that fits their requirements. Most properties are masters at planning weddings. And nearly all are well-versed in catering to couples in need of quality time away. But regardless of where you choose to rejoice or recline, you'll never be too far from the activities and adventures that make Samoa so unique.

NATURE'S PLAYGROUND

Kicking back on a deserted beach or lazing poolside with a cocktail - they're both a tonic for any couple. But when a small slice of adventure is thrown into the mix, romance travel becomes a lot more stimulating. For the more extreme; surfing and scuba diving are a good place to start. On a softer note, there's excellent hiking, kayaking and cycling, plus a host of cultural experiences.

The water is a magnet for most visitors to Samoa, and in this regard, the To Sua Trench is a standout. You'll find this giant swimming hole on the southern coast of Upolu. Access to water is via a wooden ladder - it is high and quite steep, but most couples will be confident enough to negotiate the descent and climb back up.

An underground trench links the water hole to the ocean, so there's a gentle roll, and the unusual mix of fresh and sea water creates random warm spots. But what makes the experience is the view up - with the rock, lush foliage and blue sky creating a stunning vista. Simply lie back and soak it all in.

A little further down the southern coast of Upolu is Lalomanu Beach. Its classic "swaying palm trees, white sand" set-up makes it one of the best beaches in Samoa. If you're on a tight budget, local accommodation options like Litia Sini Beach Resort, Taufua Beach Fales and Taufia's Beach Bungalows will suit you down to the ground. If you're staying in one of the up-market resorts somewhere else on the island, jump in a car and take your time cruising down the coast - it's a lovely drive to Lalomanu and well worth the effort when you get there.

“Kicking back on a deserted beach or lazing poolside with a cocktail - they’re both a tonic for any couple. But when a small slice of adventure is thrown into the mix, romance travel becomes a lot more stimulating.”



© DAVID KIRKLAND/SAMOA TOURISM



© DAVID KIRKLAND/SAMOA TOURISM



© SINALEI RESORT AND SPA

Another great way for couples to explore Samoa is by bike. It's an inexpensive, eco-friendly sightseeing option, and you'll get to see a different side of the islands. With family-owned markets dotted along the main roads, there are plenty of places to have a pit stop of refreshing coconuts and other fresh fruit. And there are also fresh water swimming pools along the coast. The main roads are well-paved, give or take a few potholes. Helmets and other safety gear can be hired, and many resorts provide bikes. Organised cycle tours are also available.

SOUTH COAST OF UPOLU

Along the southern coast of Upolu, you'll find some of Samoa's very best resorts. Each one tucked away off the main south coast road, proudly laying claim to a private slice of Samoan paradise.

PLACES TO STAY

Return to Paradise Resort

Return to Paradise Resort is named after Return to Paradise Beach, which takes its name from the 1953 film that starred Hollywood icon Gary Cooper. Access to the resort is via a short private road that runs along the coast and then cuts through lush rainforest. So when you reach the property, you feel like you've come to a secret spot.

Indeed, one of the main attractions of Return to Paradise is its secluded location. You're not in a resort that's sitting side by side a whole lot of others. There are no neighbouring villages. It's just you and your partner being surrounded by a spectacular seascape, sparkling white sand beaches and meticulously maintained gardens.

It's idyllic as a wedding venue or honeymoon location. Plus the resort has a wedding planner who will take all the stress out of the occasion. On top of that, the resort can cater for up to 450 guests, if you want to go all out!

Sinalei Resort and Spa

Heading east along the south coast road, you come to Sinalei Resort and Spa – a property that's long set a benchmark at the luxury end of the market. Set across 14 immaculately groomed hectares that feature stunning tropical gardens, a sheltered lagoon beach and a nine-hole pitch and putt golf course, Sinalei offers a real adults-only escape.

As you might expect, weddings are a speciality. Couples can choose from one of four "set" packages – although there is an endless array of extra options available too. After – ceremony canapés, conch shell blowing, floral centre pieces and a village string band, are just a few!



© DAVID KIRKLAND/SAMOA TOURISM



SALETOGA SANDS RESORT AND SPA

Saletoga Sands Resort and Spa

If you want peace of mind that your wedding will happen without a hitch, you can leave everything in the capable hands of Gavin and Lou Brightwell, the Kiwi owner/managers of Saletoga Sands Resort and Spa. The couple haven't just built this beautiful resort, they've built a hospitality team who pride themselves on their friendly, first-class service.

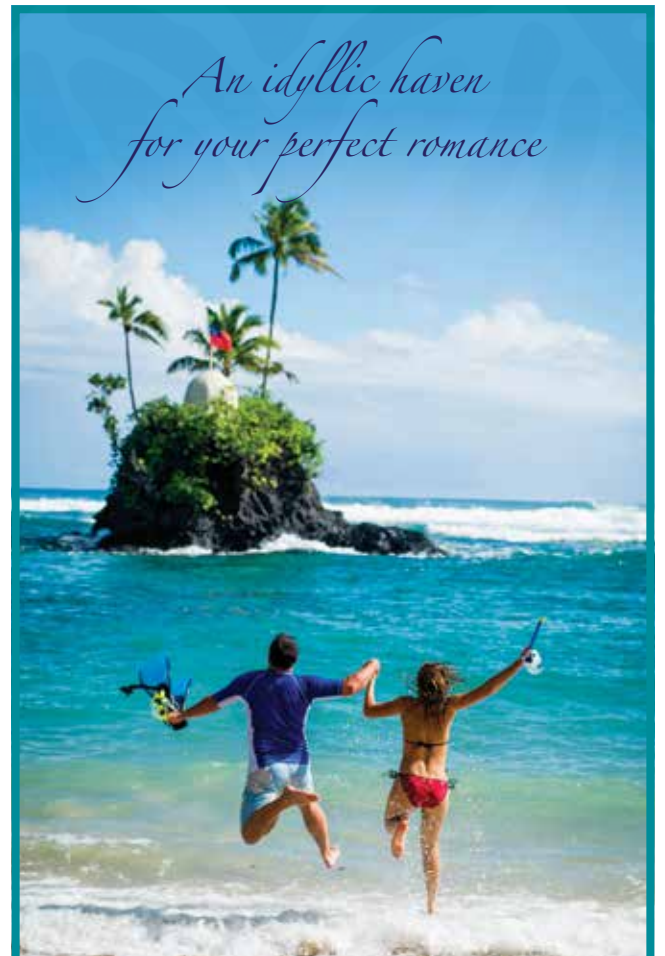
The resort regularly hosts weddings, and they can cater for everything from small and straightforward, right through to large and elaborate. A dedicated in-house wedding coordinator can make the whole experience simple, and along the way, they'll make recommendations that fit with a couples personal tastes.

Ceremony venue options include the resort's purpose-built chapel, a beautiful beach wedding or The Sunset Falé which sits on the end of a jetty that stretches out across the water. Saletoga Sands has four set packages. However, they also have an extensive list of extras that includes everything from a traditional kava ceremony to a serenading string band. In other words, you'll get what you want.

Seabreeze Resort

Just a few minutes drive from Saletoga Sands is the award-winning Seabreeze Resort. When you wind down into the resort, you'll be greeted by a secluded horseshoe-shaped cove, welcoming staff, swaying palm trees and picture postcard ocean views. This peaceful slice of paradise is made for intimate weddings.

The private beach is the most popular venue for a ceremony. Otherwise, you can set up next to the pool. From either spot, it's just a matter of strolling over to the Seabreeze's impressive dining pavilion that runs along one side of the bay. And you can rest easy knowing the food is top quality – Seabreeze just happens to be home to one of the island's best kitchens.



An intimate, retreat exclusively for adults nestled in a private secluded bay: the perfect recipe for a truly romantic holiday, honeymoon or wedding celebration.



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The icing on the cake? Seabreeze has created an amazing Honeymoon Suite – which they affectionately call the “Point” House. Sitting above a rocky outcrop on one corner of the cove, the suite is surrounded by water on three sides. From the inside, there are ocean views from every angle. On the outside, you can laze on the spacious deck, which has super-comfy daybeds or cool down with a dip in the private plunge pool. Yes, it’s indulgent, but it’s worth every minute.

Aga Reef Resort

Drive another 10 minutes along the coast towards Lalomanu Beach and you’ll come to Aga Reef Resort. Sitting at the foot of lush cliffs, the resort has a very impressive backdrop. On the other side, the ocean stretches out as far as the eye can see.

A great spot to get married? Yes. A lovely spot for a honeymoon? Indeed. If marriage is your primary objective, the resort has three packages to choose from. Each one features a different ceremony location – beach, pool, or Aga Reef’s own island that you access via

the resort’s man-made causeway. Whichever location you settle on, you’re guaranteed a romantic setting.

Sheraton Aggie Grey’s Resort

Sitting just a few minutes away from Faleolo International Airport, Sheraton Aggie Grey’s Resort has long been a favourite with visitors to Samoa. In a nutshell, it has everything you could need - a lovely beachfront setting, fantastic dining options, an exceptional spa and golden sunsets.

The resort can also provide everything you could need for a wedding. Like a fabulous choice of venues, such the resort’s private pier, a tropical garden, the turquoise lagoon or a 100-year-old chapel that’s constructed from coral. It’s just a matter of talking through the options with your wedding coordinator and then matching your tastes with your budget. Regardless of what happens, the special moment will be an experience you, your family and other guests will always remember.



AGA REEF RESORT



TAUMEASINA ISLAND RESORT

“Regardless of what happens, the special moment will be an experience you, your family and other guests will always remember.”



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APIA'S NEW TWOSOME

When it comes to romance travel, it's Samoa's southern coast resorts that initially spring to mind. But with the reinvention of the iconic Sheraton Aggie Grey's Hotel and Bungalows, and the completion of the very impressive Taumeasina Island Resort, Apia has two first-class options.

Sheraton Aggie Grey's Hotel and Bungalows

The multi-million dollar refurbishment of Sheraton Aggie Grey's Hotel and Bungalows has breathed new life into these historic premises. Yet, when you step inside, you can still sense the rich history. For couples in search of a relaxing and regal place to stay, it's hard to top.

Taumeasina Island Resort

With the grand opening in mid-2016, Taumeasina Island Resort has a relaxed island feel but is still just a few minutes from downtown Apia. It's also a superb spot for weddings. The resort has a dedicated wedding coordinator who can guide couples through every step. And size is no issue, as the resort can comfortably cater for up to 350 guests.

Packages range from the very simple to more elaborate affairs that include seven nights accommodation, a Samoan choir, escort by a

Samoa chief, bridal styling, facials, massages and the list goes on and on. Plus there are three magnificent ceremony venues – two beachside options and the signature Vasa Wedding Chapel that overlooks the water.

SAVAII. A STEP BACK IN TIME

Because all international flights land at Faleolo International Airport on Upolu, it's only natural that most visitors limit their stay to the one island. Unfortunately, that means missing out on the untouched, unspoilt serenity of Savaii.

Locals say Savaii is like Upolu from 30 years ago. In other words, it's very laid back. And for many, it is the version of Samoa they prefer. Visiting the island is easy. The inter-island ferry leaves from Mulifanua Wharf, about 10 minutes from the airport, and arrives at Salelologa within an hour.

Salelologa is the main town, so it's the best place to buy food and drinks, rent a car and get any other supplies you might need for your romantic escape. The local market is also a good place to stock up on fresh food.



Savaii is the largest of the Samoan islands and home to some stunning scenery. Active couples will love the Tafua Peninsula Rainforest Reserve - a nature lover's paradise where lush rainforest meets the rugged, lava-streaked coast with its sea caves, sea arches, blowholes, flora and fauna. Look out for the fruit bats. The reserve has some terrific walks, including a hike up to the Tafua Savaii crater.

It also has some fascinating historical sites such as the Tia Sua Ancient Mound, also known as the Pulemelei Mound. The stone pyramid, which is more than 12 metres high, is considered to be the largest ancient structure in Polynesia. It's located on Letolo Plantation, close to the Olemoe Falls on the southeastern coast.

Savaii is also home to some magnificent waterfalls, including the Afu Aau Falls, which is hidden in thick rainforest. The falls crash into a natural swimming pool, making it a great spot for a relaxing dip. Access is via a 20-minute walk, or you can get right up to the pool in a four-wheel-drive vehicle.

When the swell is hitting the southwestern coast, the Alofaaga blowholes put on a brilliant show as the sea forces its way into the blowholes and shoots up to 30 metres high. The locals sometimes throw coconuts into the holes, which are blasted into the air like they've been shot out of a cannon. The entrance to the blowholes is at the Taga village.

PLACES TO STAY

Le Lagato Resort and Spa

Enchanting. Idyllic. And somewhere a little different. Le Lagato may be a bit off the beaten track, but when you're saying "I do" against the backdrop of Le Lagato's crystal clear lagoon, you'll know the effort of getting to Savaii was worth it.

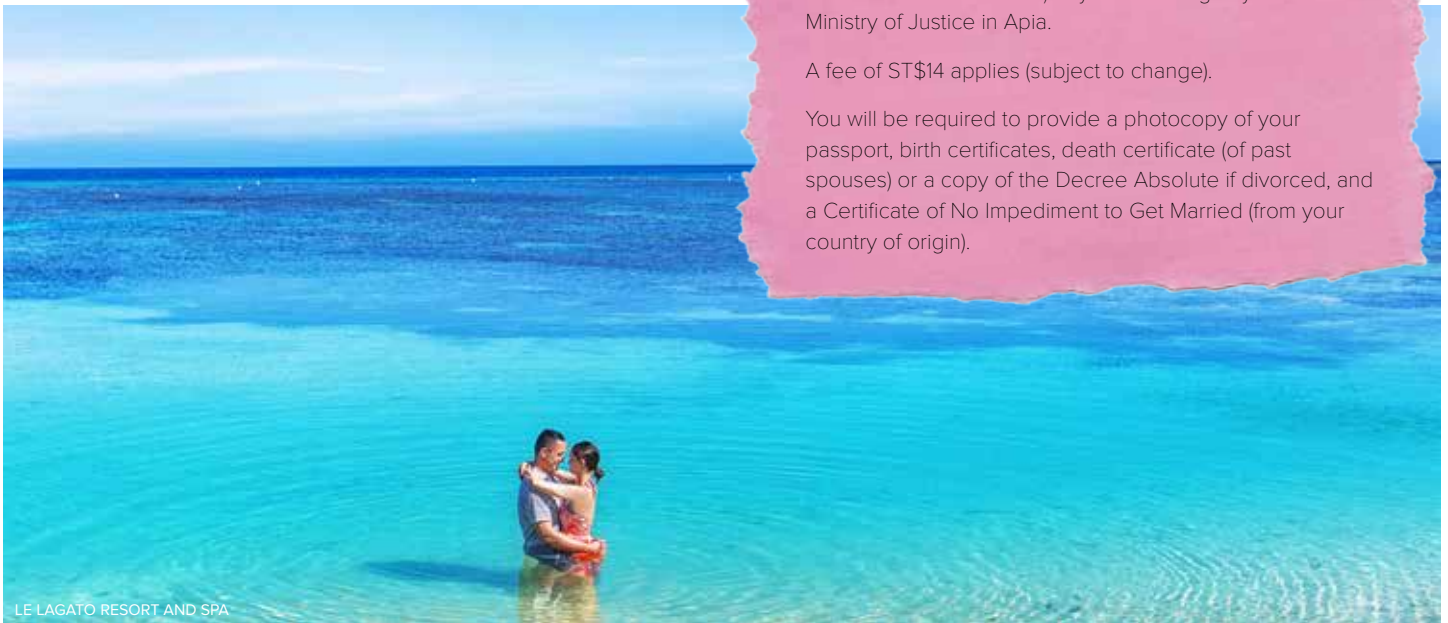
Again, they'll provide a wedding coordinator to handle all the details, so the day goes off without a hitch. And there's a choice of wedding packages that come with a whole host of extra options. But what you'll remember is the magic of Savaii, its peace and its sheer beauty. 🌿

Tying the knot

Marriages in Samoa are legally recognised worldwide. To marry in Samoa, you will need to fill in an application for a marriage licence at least 14 days prior (but no more than three months in advance) to your wedding day with the Ministry of Justice in Apia.

A fee of ST\$14 applies (subject to change).

You will be required to provide a photocopy of your passport, birth certificates, death certificate (of past spouses) or a copy of the Decree Absolute if divorced, and a Certificate of No Impediment to Get Married (from your country of origin).



LE LAGATO RESORT AND SPA

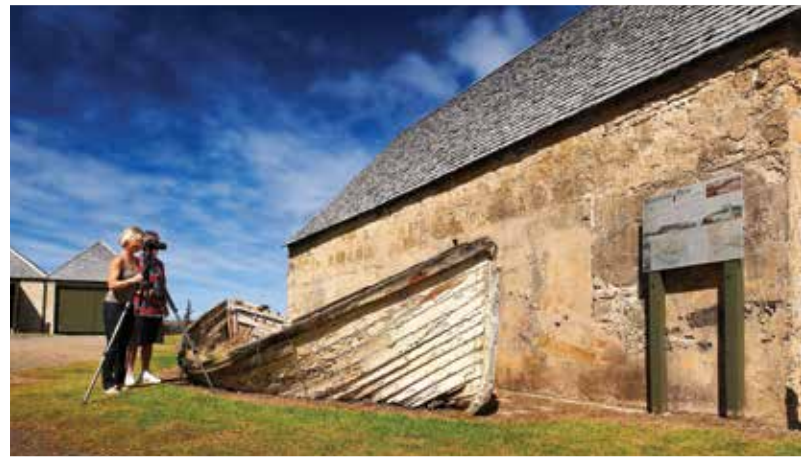
Samoa at its finest...

Picture perfect location, sumptuous food & attentive service
– perfect for a relaxing romantic escape

www.agareefresort.com

NORFOLK ISLAND

Tiny island offers plenty of variety



Tying the knot

People intending to marry on Norfolk Island must file a "Notice of Intended Marriage" one month prior to the intended date of marriage. The notice must be completed by both bride and groom, witnessed by an appropriate person.

First marriage for both bride and groom, provide:

- Birth Certificate
- Fee for marriage and lodging Notice of Intended Marriage \$200
- 2 Witnesses must be present at ceremony
- Second marriage for either part, must also provide:
- Proof of termination of previous marriage, namely, decree absolute or Death certificate

The notice can be faxed to the Registry Office (Fax Int+ 6723 22403) BUT you must bring the original copy to Norfolk with you.



For a different taste of the Pacific, try a few days on Norfolk Island, where history, outdoor recreation and a small local population with its own dialect blend together to make a perfect spot for couples who seek a more temperate kind of romantic holiday.

At around two hours flight time, Norfolk Island is our closest our South Pacific neighbour. Despite being so close, this small emerald isle offers a unique experience for romance travellers. According to the latest census, the local population numbered just 2,210 people. As you can imagine it's pretty quiet. Having said that, most visitors are surprised by the abundance of things to do and see. And not to mention eat - the island has a smorgasbord of around 35 cafés and restaurants!

For those planning a wedding there are a myriad of options too. Many of the boutique accommodation providers offer wedding packages that are designed to take the stress out of planning the event.

Set amongst lush gardens, Tintoela Luxury Retreat has a fantastic wedding package that includes a personal wedding consultant, airport greeting and transfer, bottle of champagne on arrival, wedding celebrant and witnesses, marriage document and fees and a three course candlelit dinner for two. Plus photography, massages, make-up, a wedding cake and other extras can be added in too. For the accommodation, you choose from two lovely cottages or an 'islandstyle' homestead.

Shiralee Executive Cottages are another boutique property that cater to weddings. They can organise a ceremony at any location on the island, and their package covers a professional wedding celebrant, registry fees, assistance with personal vows.

WALK THROUGH HISTORY

Wandering around the 250 hectares of the Kingston and Arthurs Vale Historic Area, which became a World Heritage site in 2010, is a great way for couples looking for a gentle holiday. For they will have time together to explore and muse over how the convicts came to build the solid but picturesque Georgian barracks and other buildings. Walking down the streets and across the small stone bridges is a treat.

GETTING OUT AND ABOUT

However you like spending your days, there are plenty of options on Norfolk. Try your hand at archery, fishing, pistol shooting and clay target shooting, bowls or tennis. Cycle along the roads and trails, paddle a kayak around the coast, or have a game of golf, either the mini or the regular version. There are numerous pleasant walks through the national park and the botanical gardens.

LOCAL VARIETY

Back on Norfolk, make time for shopping, because there is much more variety than you might expect. Luxury goods like knitted garments, jewellery and watches, perfume, shoes and local crafts, and local chocolates are all on sale at duty-free prices.

The Sunday market is the place to browse for produce and artisan food, including honey, cheeses and local wine. and is also a great place to meet and chat to locals.

Don't be surprised if you can't quite understand them, because they speak in a local patois, a blend of 18th-century English and Tahitian. "Wylie" means tangled up, a "hillli" is a lazy or dopey person, and you may overhear someone say "Lubbe side is," meaning "Leave it where it is," to a child or friend.

WINING AND DINING

Norfolk's restaurants and café menus are full of fresh, locally sourced paddock-to-plate produce, The island even has its own breed of cattle, the Norfolk Blue, raised on 100 Acre Farm and served at the their own restaurant in a range of prime cuts.

Menus at places like Bailey's Restaurant, Hilli Restaurant and Café and La Perouse also reflect Norfolk Island culture. Or join in the fun of the Fletcher's Fate Mystery Dinner, a fish fry-up, the Sound and Light Show or a progressive dinner, trying different courses at private island homes.

There is an Emerald Isle in the northern hemisphere, but Norfolk Island easily qualifies as the southern equivalent.

STAR STRUCK

If you love star-gazing, Norfolk's isolation, over 1000 kilometres from the nearest city, and lack of street lights, means the Milky Way is spectacular on a clear evening, with cliff tops, ridges and hilltops providing wonderful vantage points. In fact, on any fine evening, locals and visitors will stop to admire the sunset or light up a wood-fired barbecue.

There is an Emerald Isle in the northern hemisphere, but Norfolk Island easily qualifies as the southern equivalent. 🌸

HAWAII



The state of aloha

Aloha is a symbol of Hawaii. The word means hullo or goodbye, love and affection, or the breath of love, where both people in the relationship are equally important. And the islands of Hawaii are the ideal place to nurture those emotions.





LAHAINA, MAUI. © HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY (HTA) / TOR JOHNSON

Any day you lie on the sand of Waikiki Beach on the Hawaiian island of Oahu you'll see surfers and outriggers riding the waves, rows of hotels and shops across the road, and thousands of swimmers and sunbathers relaxing together. Despite all this, the wide arc of Waikiki remains one of the most romantic beaches on earth, with Diamond Head pushing its massive silhouette high into the sky as a backdrop.

Countless beaches around the Pacific offer honeymooners solitude and escape – the 3.2 kilometres of Waikiki are for couples who love the beach but also lots of choices for dining, shopping and entertainment.

It pays to remember that Waikiki is in fact eight beaches in one – each with a slightly different atmosphere. To mention just two, Royal Hawaiian Beach is the place to climb onto an outrigger and surf the waves back to the beach, hire a board from a surf shack, or kick through the surf on a bogie board.

San Souci Beach is popular with the locals as it's away from the hotel strip and adjacent to a quiet park. This beach is also good for snorkelling, as there is a reef about 50 metres offshore.

Before you make up your mind, stroll along the promenade, the Waikiki Beach Walk, a hub for live music, nightlife, dining and shopping. If you can, time your visit to take in the storytelling moves of hula dancing every Tuesday evening, or hear some of Hawaii's best musicians

perform on the outdoor plaza stage during the monthly Na Mele Sunday Showcase.

Energetic couples who walk up the hill past San Souci Beach will be rewarded with panoramic views around the corner. The old Waikiki International Market Place has recently had a major makeover, but the giant banyan tree is of course still there.

The big shopping attraction is the Ala Moana Mall, with its 300 or so shops and restaurants, and now there's a new Ewa wing, with over 60 new shops, and a Japanese food village that resembles the old part of Kyoto.

PLACES TO STAY

Moana Surfrider

To start at the beginning, the Moana Surfrider, the first hotel on Waikiki, opened its doors in 1901. It's still there, as part of the Westin chain, though the three surrounding hotel tower blocks rather dominate the original building.

When it's time to wash off the salt and rejuvenate, the Moana Lani Spa is ideal for couples, with special rooms for two, and enticing treatments, including a lomilomi ola, Hawaii's traditional healing massage refined over generations. The old hotel sits over a natural spring, 'Apuakehau, which now provides water for the spa.



KILAUEA, HAWAII ISLAND. © HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY (HTA) / TOR JOHNSON



HANA, MAUI. © HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY (HTA) / TOR JOHNSON



TURTLE BAY RESORT, OAHU

Kahala Hotel and Resort

A highlight of the Kahala Hotel and Resort is private and romantic dining overlooking the ocean, or in your hotel room’s lanai, an open-sided patio with a roof. Many wedding proposals have been made here, and many a romance has blossomed. Hoku’s, the hotel’s signature restaurant, is known for its fusion of Hawaiian, Asian and European flavours.

A massage at the Kahala Spa always starts with the ritual of ho-omaka, a relaxing foot massage, followed by treatments such as Hula Hands, where four hands make dancing movements across the body. There are special couple treatments, and bridal or birthday parties can also be reserved.

Waikiki Beach Hotel

Located on the quiet, Diamond Head side of Waikiki Beach for a more mellow atmosphere. Tiki’s Grill and Bar is a well established place to dine, with its casual atmosphere and outdoor setting. The kitchen sources many ingredients from local farmers to ensure diners enjoy fresh, tasty Pacific Rim dishes.

Embassy Suites

If the beach is too much salt and sand, the Embassy Suites’ new swimming pool complex is a great alternative. There’s a new heated pool and a whirlpool spa. The spacious sun deck has comfortable

recliners, cabanas, tables sheltered by big umbrellas and a covered pavilion. Guests also enjoy complimentary wi-fi, omelettes made to order, evening hors d’oeuvres and cocktails.

HEADING NORTH

Many couples find all they need in Waikiki, but the North Shore’s attractions extend way beyond the towering waves of renowned surf breaks like the Banzai Pipeline, or beaches like Waimea Bay and Sunset Beach.

You can spend an afternoon, especially during the northern winter between November and February, watching the surfers being dumped from nine-metre waves. For the rest of the year, the beaches along the coast are benign swimming and picnic spots.

Art galleries, vintage surf shops and famous Matsumoto’s Shave Ice Shop help define the town of Haleiwa, the gateway to the North Shore. Numerous restaurants are set in plantation-era buildings.

The privately owned Waimea Valley has world-class botanical gardens, historic sites and a waterfall, plus a cultural centre with music, storytelling by local kupuna and traditional games and crafts.



WAILEA, MAUI. © HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY (HTA) / TOR JOHNSON



HAWAII ISLAND. © HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY (HTA) / TOR JOHNSON



KAPALUA © HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY (HTA) / TOR JOHNSON



KAANAPALI BEACH HOTEL, MAUI

MAUI

Driving along a winding road on a tropical island may not sound romantic, but the 80 kilometre stretch known as the Road to Hana is more than just a great drive, especially in a convertible. It doesn't sound far, but allow for an overnight stay in Hana if you want to take in all the sights along the way like the Keanae Botanical Gardens, the Waikamoi Ridge, Puohokamoa Falls and the Oheo Pools.

And while you're in the mood, drive up to the visitor centre for Maui's highest mountain, Haleakala in the early morning and climb to the 3000 metre-high summit to watch the spectacular sunrise. Stay a while once you're there, as there is horseback riding and tramping trails.

Lahaina Harbour is the departure point for whale-watching charters from January to the end of April. At the height of the season more than 1000 whales swim off the coast, so a close encounter is virtually guaranteed. If you're lucky, a whale may swim right next to both of you and you can put on your masks and watch it swim by.

The town of Lahaina started out as a whaling settlement back in the 1800s, and today it bustles with bars, restaurants, shops and galleries. The second largest of Hawaii's islands (Hawaii itself or The Big Island takes the prize), the main resort areas are Kaanapali, Kapalua and Wailea.

Kaanapali features regularly on any list of America's best beaches. It is Maui's original resort area, with over seven resorts to choose from. Whalers Village is an upmarket, open-air complex with dozens of shops and restaurants.

PLACES TO STAY

Westin Maui Resort & Spa

Some of Maui's best marine life is just off the beach in the front of the resort. Among all the myriad reef and fish species you may spot a

sea turtle swimming languidly by. Professional instructors can teach couples who want to learn scuba diving, and photographers will record your diving experiences.

The variety of pools, decks, gardens and lawns makes it easy for couples to find their own space for a few hours. The Waialele Lauau is an authentic Polynesian experience, complete with fire torch dancing and thundering drums. The huge Heavenly Spa includes two suites for couples, or they can choose the outdoor cabana. The local product is Hualani, made from pineapples and passionfruit.

Kaanapali Beach Hotel

As an alternative to cocktails by the pool, this classic hotel resort offers a 2.5 hour romantic dinner cruise off the coast of Maui, with views back to the West Maui Mountains and the sunset. The stewards serve food and drinks, a musician adds to the ambience, and there is dancing after dinner. There are also lomilomi massages at the spa, and Sunday brunch at the Tiki Terrace Restaurant.

Kapalua is another planned resort area with numerous pristine beaches. But it has fewer resorts than Kaanapali and they all blend into the landscape. Kapalua Bay, Napili Bay and Oneloa Bay all have postcard settings with snorkelling, swimming and lazing.

The Ritz-Carlton Kapalua prides itself on offering surprises to its guests, whether it's the championship standard of its two golf courses to Jean-Michael Cousteau's Ambassador's of the Environment campaign to protect the marine environment, or new flavours in the resort's six restaurants. Many of the chefs' ingredients are grown from the resort's sustainable organic gardens. Dining options include The Banyan Tree and Kai Sushi.

Couples can also enjoy a private dinner by the pool in their own cabana, or on the lawn overlooking the beach. The staff also take great care to maintain the Honokahua sacred site adjacent to the resort, where local Hawaiians conduct ceremonies and protocols.



NORTH KOHALA, HAWAII ISLAND. © HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY (HTA) / TOR JOHNSON



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Tying the knot

A couple must obtain a marriage license when they arrive in Hawaii. This can be done from a marriage license agent (there are many agents on each island and they can be found online or this an appointment can be arranged by your wedding coordinator). Note: you have to appear in person to obtain the marriage license. As a rule, there is no waiting period for your license, it is granted on application.

Other requirements:

- Bride and groom need to be over the age of 18 years – otherwise a birth certificate and written consent from both parents, a legal guardian or a family court judge is required.
- Proof of age – Passport, Drivers license or Birth Certificate.
- If either partner has been married before, a divorce decree is required.
- Once the marriage license is obtained, you have 30 days to get legally married in Hawaii.



WAILUA, KAUAI. © HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY (HTA) / TOR JOHNSON

LUXURY IN THE SOUTHWEST

The mountainous peaks of Haleakala National Park provide a natural barrier to the wet weather that sweeps in from the east across Maui, ensuring Wailea has some of the island's most reliable sunshine. Situated on the southwestern coast, Wailea is the site of some Maui's most luxurious five-star resorts. The beaches are just as good, as they are excellent for swimming and snorkelling, or relaxing with a good book.

Four Seasons Resort Maui

One of the best experiences couples can take home with them from the resort is learning basic massage techniques from an expert while they are enjoying the treatment. Each person receives 50 minutes of instruction, producing a treat for one another.

They can book one of the private sanctuaries nestled into the hillside, with ocean views, with a personal steward to respond to their requests, including food and beverages. The resort also provides "scooter snorkelling", where you save your energy by steering an electric dive propulsion vehicle to zip through the delights of the Wailea Reef.

Waldorf Astoria Grand Wailea

It's easy to never leave the resort and spend the day in the epic 600 metre-long pool area consisting of nine individual pools on six different levels, connected by a river that carries swimmers along whitewater rapids and gentle currents.

The Fishpipe is the world's first rotating barrel ride. A new and unique water ride for up to three people at a time. Ninety seconds in the Fishpipe is said to feel like going down a mile-long water slide.

THE BIG ISLAND

Want to add a little glow to your romance? You can try it with gold, or head to the island of Hawaii, known as The Big Island, and the Volcanoes National Park.

Rivers of bright orange lava pulse vividly against the recently cooled black rock before striking the ocean with the sizzle of a million steaks. The park is one of the state's most popular visitor attractions, with the focal point being Kilauea, one of the world's most active and accessible volcanoes.

The Crater Rim Road, which circles the caldera, or crater, passes several of the top attractions in the park, including Devastation Trail, Jagger Museum, Thurston Lava Tube, and the visitor centre, along with several viewpoints over the volcanic landscape. The lava tube is accessed from the eastern section of Crater Rim Road down a short trail that leads through a forest. The 150 metre tube, which is illuminated, was formed by lava cooling at different rates as an eruption took place. It's a short but romantic walk.

The drive west leads to the Kona Coast, home to Hawaii's renowned Kona coffee and the quaint town of Holualoa. It's worthwhile touring around the coffee mill to see how the beans are processed, then sipping a cup to experience the rich aroma and flavour. Holualoa is also a popular art centre, and cute little galleries and boutiques sell paintings, ceramics and handcrafted woodwork.

Mauna Kea Beach Hotel

Conservationist and businessman Laurance D Rockefeller built Hawaii's first resort, the Mauna Kea Beach Hotel in 1965 on what he considered to be a perfect stretch of sand. Fifty years later it's still tops for romantic couples, with its mix of leisure sports like golf and tennis combining with beach activities and relaxation.

The Copper Bar, known for its wide use of copper plate, is a popular gathering place, with its wide views of Kauna'oa Bay. The rooms retain the original space and elegance, including a spacious balcony, with digital connectivity. Private, romantic dining is a specialty, and the four-course menus can be enhanced with Hawaiian entertainment, stargazing and a conch shell blower. 🌸



WAIKIKI, OAHU. © HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY (HTA) / TOR JOHNSON



WAIKIKI, OAHU.
© HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY (HTA) / TOR JOHNSON



HONOLULU, OAHU. © HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY (HTA) / TOR JOHNSON



HALEAKALA, MAUI. © HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY (HTA) / MAX WANGER

Kaua'i - Planned to perfection

The locals say that if you're not in love when you come to Kaua'i, you will be when you leave! Kaua'i is a Cupid's playground, tailor-made for romance. Kaua'i's allure as a romantic destination has proven itself time and again.

For would-be couples, Kaua'i has many experienced wedding coordinators who are unflappable in planning the details. There are also independent licensed wedding consultants, available through an organisation of professionals on the island. The planners know the island, the process, the locations, and the details.

What about the marriage license, officiant, lei, flowers, photography, entertainment, rehearsal dinner, reception? The wedding coordinator is the go-to person who gets everything sorted – their mission is to make sure all the details worked out before the couple's arrival, so the time spent on Kaua'i is stress-free.

GETTING READY

Kaua'i resorts often offer wedding and honeymoon packages that are lavish and wide-ranging. Head-to-toe pampering is the norm. The independent Kaua'i Wedding Professionals Association can also be helpful - www.kauaiwedpro.com.

Weddings held in public settings require a state or county permit, depending on the location. A resort wedding planner or independent professional planner can obtain the permit for you. Marriage licenses are a must, also obtainable by a professional planner.



WHAT THE HEART WANTS

Beauty to share with your beloved. From majestic cliffs to dream beaches to infinite shades of blue and green, it's all here on Kaua'i.

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KAUAI. © HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY (HTA) / TOR JOHNSON

WHERE TO SAY, "I DO"

Some couples favor sunrise, others the blazing sunset. Some opt for a boat cruise, others a tropical waterfall. Possible venues for Kaua'i weddings are as numerous as the island's beauty spots, limited only by access and the imagination.

At a 30-acre tropical garden in east Kaua'i's Coconut Coast, couples can exchange their vows on the banks of a river revered for its cultural sites. The tropical garden is on the banks of the 21-mile Wailua River, a silky smooth waterway favored by Hawaiian royalty and now a scenic favourite of Hollywood filmmakers.

The gardens of the Garden Isle are natural locations for weddings. A guided tour of Limahuli Garden in Hā'ena, in the shadow of the mountain named Makana, made famous as "Bali Hai" in the movie *South Pacific*, is a great way for a couple to connect with nature. On the south shore of Kaua'i, a tour of the Allerton Garden brings a cocoon of beauty on this most beautiful day.

Na'ina Kai Botanical Gardens, on the north shore in Kīlauea, has a range of romantic environments within its 240 acres: garden, waterfall lagoon, beach and meadow, and hardwood plantation. There's also a maze to

entertain the party after completion of the ceremony. The garden's non-profit foundation supports many community and environmental efforts.

With more than 50 miles of white-sand beaches, weddings and honeymoons are naturally beach-bound. State and city beach parks are abundant (permit required), and most of the resorts located on the shoreline have their own ocean settings to suggest and the coordinators to plan them.

PEERLESS PAMPERING

Resort settings are romantic and offer every possible amenity. In addition to full-time wedding coordinators, resorts have facilities and services for the receptions and private dinners that are part of the celebration. Banquet rooms and services, outdoor settings and gazebos, festive lū'au or a quiet beach—the wedding choices can be customised.

Wedding packages often include a honeymoon suite, complimentary champagne or sparkling wine upon arrival, and a festive welcome of flower petals and special amenities. An oceanside couples massage before or after the wedding will relax and rejuvenate.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Romance Redefined



©KIRKLAND PHOTOGRAPHY



Who said romance had to be five-star resorts, fancy restaurants and people waiting on you hand and foot? In the Solomon Islands, you'll find a destination that happily breaks this mould. Indeed it's a place made for couples who much prefer their travel raw and real, rather than glamorous and glitzy.

MAGNIFICENT MAROVO LAGOON

The Solomon Islands provides a natural wonderland for couples to explore. One of its gems is the Marovo Lagoon. More than 100 kilometres long, this stunning expanse of water is the largest saltwater lagoon in the world.

Several guesthouses and eco-lodges are dotted along its edges, each one accessible by banana boat, the most common form of transport in the Solomons.

The largest property is Uepi Island Resort, which gives water-loving couples instant access to a huge variety of spectacular snorkelling and diving spots, and an underwater world fizzing with sea life.

Another place where couples can rest their head is the aptly named Wilderness Lodge located the Gatokae end of the lagoon. The accommodation is simple, all your meals are included, and they have an array of activities, including spearfishing, free-diving, snorkelling, scuba-diving and hiking.

STEP INTO A SLICE OF HISTORY

During the Second World War, the Solomon Islands were in the centre of strategic supply lines for the Allies and became a staging point for future Japanese expansion into the South Pacific. The result was six months of some of the war's most vicious battles.

As a couple, you don't have to be big history buffs to be moved by the incredible bravery of the islanders, who risked their lives to be the ears and eyes of the allies, or saddened by the lives lost by so many men on both sides.

The islands are littered with war relics, both underwater and on land. Many remains have been collected at the Vilu War Museum, a clearing in the jungle. There are a couple of 75mm field guns captured from the Japanese and an assortment of aircraft, including Corsairs and Wildcats, all bearing the wounds of battle or an abrupt return to earth. It is also home to plaques commemorating the service of the Americans, Australians and New Zealanders who fought there.

DIVERS' PARADISE

Getting out into nature is the name of the game for visiting couples and one of the very best reasons to come to the Solomons is for the diving. If you're not qualified or don't have any prior diving experience, there's no need to worry. Local operators run introductory courses that will have both of you descending to 18 metres in next to no time.

The hundreds of sunken wreckages from the war battles strewn throughout the waters of the Solomon Islands, along with the circulation and convergence of intense sub-tropical ocean currents, have shaped and created amazing underwater terrain, creating spectacular experiences for both snorkellers and divers.

As well as the artificial reefs of ships, aircraft and landing barges, there are gigantic caverns, passages, ledges, pinnacles and coral reef gardens to be explored in sites ranging from shallow lagoons to drop-offs in excess of 600 metres.

Average visibility is about 15 metres, and the average water temperature is about 27 degrees Celsius. This pristine and magical underwater playground is home to an abundance of reef fish, turtles, squid and bigger fish such as sharks, barracuda and eagle rays, and has opportunities for both novices and experienced divers.



Tying the knot

While there have been discussions about the possibility of amending the current Solomon Islands Matrimony Law - to allow overseas couples to marry in the Solomon Islands and have their weddings legally recognised in their country of origin - at time of printing, this law remains the same.

WATCH THEM FLY

If you're thinking romance, watching birds probably isn't the first thing that springs to mind. But for nature lovers, the Solomon Islands is considered one of the richest endemic bird areas in the world. About 65 bird species are found nowhere else on the planet. There are a number of local bird-watching operators and many international tours for enthusiasts to choose from.

The fearful owl, the steel blue flycatcher and the chestnut-bellied imperial pigeon are some of these peculiarly named birds that couples are likely to spot in their natural, largely untouched forested habitat.

PLACES TO STAY

Tavanipupu Island Resort

Situated in Marua Sound, a 30-minute flight east of Honiara, Tavanipupu is considered the Solomon's most luxurious resort and a top spot for couples. Pristine bungalows, jetties and manicured lawns compliment beautiful natural surrounds, exuding opulence and understated luxury. The resort is also famous for hosting the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge (Wills and Kate).

There is so much for active visitors to do, including fishing and diving, boat trips to deserted islands, village visits and bike tours. Kayaks and

stand-up paddleboards are available at the main beach, and you can even test your skill in one of the native dugout canoes.

All that exercise needs fuel, and the resort prides itself on local seafood. Lobster, prawns, mud crabs and fish are all accompanied by fresh vegetables from the resort's gardens.

Fatboys Resort

Anywhere with a hammock in the bar has to be pretty cool, right? After a 10-minute boat trip from the Nusa Tupe airstrip, it's immediately evident that this is a special place.

The main bure is built over the water and accommodates the reception area, office, kitchen, restaurant, a horseshoe bar and a seating area. Constructed from local hardwood with a traditional thatch-style roof, Fatboys is one of those gems found in the tropics that screams relax!

A quiver of surfboards slung under the roof, a stack of fishing rods in the corner and a deck piled high with windsurfers, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards hint at things to do, once you're 'tired' of all that relaxing.

The private quarters are a collection of beachfront and hilltop bures, all with ceiling fans, mosquito nets and verandas. Couples can book the Honeymoon Bungalows, which have an ensuite bathroom with hot water, a queen-size bed and large over-ocean verandas that boast panoramic ocean views. There's not much more you could ask for! 🌸



TAVANIPUPU ISLAND RESORT



© MIKE BHANA WWW.WILDFILM.TV

CRUISING

Cruise to your heart's content



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LE PONANT



EMERALD PRINCESS
SALT RESTAURANT



© BLUE LAGOON CRUISES



So there you are, on the top deck of your cruise ship, standing hand-in-hand with a glass of champagne each, making a toast to your future as your home port slowly fades into the horizon.

Shipboard weddings and honeymoons have had international appeal since the first cruise ship was launched in 1900. (We'll mention the Titanic now to get it out of the way.)

Cruise ship itineraries cover almost every coastline around the world these days, but few regions can match the romantic appeal of the South Pacific, whether it's the Melanesian culture of the Solomons or the American/Polynesian mix of Hawaii.

And the distance between the islands should be seen as an advantage. If the ship visits a different port every day, life on board is similar to being in a large hotel or resort. But the mood changes after three continuous days at sea as you bond with other passengers and everyone develops their own daily routines to match the ship. It gives you and your partner all the time you need, with experiences to cherish, and no need to think about repacking a suitcase or getting to an airport.

With such a wide range of ships and itineraries available in the South Pacific, couples should first choose between the ship and the destination.

TAKE YOUR PICK

Is the ship itself the main attraction? If so, look for one that suits your style – a huge variety of options on board to cater for every possible taste, or a ship where passengers don't expect to have their entertainment and diversions delivered on a plate, so to speak, but are more inclined to keep themselves amused.

Or do you want to explore the islands themselves. In which case, the choice again is to select one island group, perhaps Tahiti and the Marquesas or Fiji, or a ship on an international cruise, where you may traverse the vast Pacific Ocean.

Whichever option you decide, most itineraries have at least one or two ports you know you will never visit again, or even their own island or beach, where passengers are free to roam.

The days of fixed dining times are disappearing, as more ships offer exclusive restaurants where couples can dine for a small extra charge, or more casual options where they can enjoy French, Italian, Japanese or Mexican cuisine.

Being married on board is a wonderful experience, especially when the captain conducts the service in his dress uniform, perhaps in the chapel or in a secluded area tastefully decorated for the occasion. A wedding coordinator on board will take care of all the arrangements.

But check with the shipping company first, as a wedding service may not be available on all cruise lines and only on some ships.



FIJI PRINCESS © BLUE LAGOON CRUISES

CUNARD

Because its magnificent ships are registered in Bermuda, Cunard's captains on the Queen Victoria, the Queen Elizabeth and the Queen Mary can all conduct wedding ceremonies at sea in an atmosphere of classic British elegance and charm.

Their Pacific voyages traverse the ocean, and special ports of call may include the kingdom of Tonga, Hawaii and Tahiti, or isolated outposts such as Easter Island or Pitcairn Island.

The wedding packages include the licence and other paperwork, recorded music, a beautiful meal in a restaurant set aside exclusively for the wedding party, and a White Star bellman to escort the bride to the ceremonial room. The caveat (and I bet you thought I was going to write caviar!) is that weddings can only take place on sea days and on cruises lasting at least seven days.

PRINCESS

The wedding chapel or the library are the choices for a wedding, depending on the Princess ship, and the captain will perform the legal ceremony.

Another option is for the ceremony to take place on land in an exotic location, perhaps on a beach or amid a lush garden filled with the heady scent of frangipani. A local officiant will perform the vows, and there will be a wedding breakfast set up nearby.

If there are non-sailing guests, they can board the ship for the ceremony and the wedding breakfast while the ship is in port.

Before the magic moment, the bride and groom can prepare themselves at the Lotus Spa, with a shampoo, makeup and hair styling for her, and a deep shave and grooming treatment for him.

If their honeymoon is on the Emerald Princess or the Sun Princess, they can enjoy a degustation menu at the Share by Curtis Stone Restaurant.

PONANT

Cruises on Ponant are comparable to a luxurious expedition to an exotic destination like Tufi in Papua New Guinea, Easter Island, Fakarova in French Polynesia, Wallis and Futuna, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands.

Passengers will travel to remote villages, where experienced guides will pass on their knowledge of the local culture, history and geography. Shore excursions may include a day on a private island, a folkloric presentation, or an off-road jungle safari.

Life on board is also adventurous, with a "French touch" in the attentive personal service, the décor, the cuisine and wines. Honeymooners can celebrate their wedding or civil union with special arrangements.

Ponant's ships are all moderately sized, including the three-masted sailing ship Le Ponant, and from June 2018 they will be joined by the first of four new sisterships.

WINDSTAR

Honeymooners on board the Wind Spirit literally go sailing, as her four masts provide a huge spread of white sails to drive the ship along in the trade winds of French Polynesia. Her longer itineraries providing overnight stops at Raiatea and Bora Bora, and avoiding the stress, delays and extra costs of flying and hotel accommodation.

The islands are never more than a few hours sailing from each other, and local encounters include fire dancers and a Tahitian feast.

Passengers can try paddling, kayaking, waterskiing and other activities from the "marina" at the stern. Each passenger is provided with their own snorkelling gear for the voyage, or they can learn scuba diving.

The Wind Spirit offers her 148 passengers two main restaurants for dining, in an open seating arrangement. Or they can reserve a table at Candles and dine under the stars.



ARANUI 5



QUEEN ELIZABETH 2



WINDSTAR



© BLUE LAGOON CRUISES

“Being married on board is a wonderful experience, especially when the captain conducts the service in his dress uniform.”

ARANUI 5

Combining a freighter with a cruise ship seems an unlikely mix, but it works for the Aranui 5, which has up to 254 passengers on board as she follows the paths of Paul Gauguin, Robert Louis Stevenson and Thor Heyerdahl on her regular 14-day circuit of French Polynesia, transferring freight and produce.

While the crew are busy, passengers disembark either at the dock or by a small craft or tender to spend from a few hours to overnight exploring villages and towns, investigating archaeological sites, snorkelling or relaxing on the beach. Back on board the 126 metre ship there is a dining room serving fresh island dishes with typical French flair, lounges and bars, a fitness room and a swimming pool, and watch traditional dances such as the otea or the aparima.

BLUE LAGOON CRUISES

As the 55 metre Fiji Princess edges nearer the beach during a stopover on her cruise around the Yasawa and Mamanuca islands, her 68 passengers often wonder where she will anchor. The problem is solved when a thick hawser is looped around a large coconut tree, which creaks a couple of times, then takes the strain.

Her small size creates a very relaxed atmosphere on board, and couples may be lucky enough to join the captain for an afternoon snorkelling among some of the Pacific’s most colourful and pristine coral reefs. Other highlights may include swimming with majestic manta rays, or climbing down into the sacred Sawa-I-Lau caves and swimming through to a secret dark cavern. The cabins on board are comfortable and cool, the food is delicious and fresh, and the crew are all musical. Join them to sing the Fijian song of farewell, Isa Lei.

P&O

The introduction by P&O of the Pacific Explorer in June 2017 is proof that the South Pacific is a favourite destination for honeymooners, and couples who want to be married at sea, or renew their vows or their commitment to each other.

The celebrations on the five ships already in the fleet begin from the moment the couple arrives at the wharf. The ceremony takes place in an attractive venue on the ship, all recorded by digital still photography or video. The wedding party can then adjourn to a special table, or reserve the entire Salt Grill by Luke Mangan for themselves.

Many couples might be content to stay on board to enjoy the ships’ bars, restaurants and lounges, or enjoy a degustation dinner. If they do decide to venture on to land, there are the French Loyalty Islands, canoeing in Vila, Vanuatu, the company’s own Mystery Island, or the rare opportunity to experience the culture of the Trobriand Islands. ❁

NIUE



Niue may not be the first place that springs to mind when picking a place to let romance blossom. But for active, outdoor people who are happy to use their own initiative, Niue is a gem that has loads to offer.



LAUS GETAWAY



© MIKE BHANA WWW.WILDFILM.TV



Romance on the rock

This 260 square kilometre block of raised coral atoll, known as The Rock, is raw, natural and untouched. There are no rivers or lakes, and its centre is not a jagged peak but a plateau – the remnants of the original lagoon. The lack of rivers, i.e. sediment also means that the water clarity is exceptional – making for amazing snorkelling and scuba diving for couples.

The upshot of all this geological upheaval is that there are numerous spectacular caves and chasms, such as at Avaiki, which has stalactites and stalagmites attesting to its age.

If couples visit at low tide, there is a wonderful swimming cave to the north of a main cave which is perfect for a sunset swim together and to dream of the first settlers, who paddled into Avaiki in their canoe.

The impressive Matapo Chasm is the perfect place for a lovers' leap. Climb up the sides of the canyon and jump into the water, where another surprise awaits. The water is warmer the deeper you go, as the top layer is cool rainwater, with the warm seawater below!

POOLS OF DELIGHT

The aquamarine pools on the coast at Limu have so much action going on under the water. It's like swimming through a giant aquarium stocked with butterfly and trigger fish, schools of mesmerising parrot fish, small eels and sea snakes, colourful octopus and bright sponges and anemones.

Old rainwater mixes with salt water to create a distinctive oily shimmer, and the flat surrounding rocks make relaxing places for sunbathing or a leisurely picnic. The pools are always open and can be enjoyed at any state of the tide.

Between July and October, humpback whales may venture as close as 20 metres from the shore as they nurse and raise their calves in the warm water, and their booming calls are enough to waken some light sleepers.

Many couples will be happy to clamber through other caves and formations around the coast of Niue or inland, but some of the best are on private land, or require a guide to take you along the passages and make sure you stay safe.

If you insist on lying on a sandy beach, Niue has some small coves such as Hio Beach, accessed down a steep path.

For some evening entertainment, go hunting for the large coconut crabs known as uga, whose pincers are indeed strong enough to open coconuts, so treat them with respect. The crabs come in red, blue and purple shades, and the cooked crab meat is a sweet and tasty treat for your special dinner together.

Cycling enthusiasts have a choice of mountain bike tracks around the island, through some of Niue's 15 villages which house its 1612 residents, or tropical green rainforest.



“The impressive Matapo Chasm is the perfect place for a lovers’ leap. Climb up the sides of the canyon and jump into the water, where another surprise awaits.”

PLACES TO STAY AND EAT

Scenic Matavai Resort is one of the prime places for honeymooners to stay in Niue, and its large deck cantilevered over the rocks provides a great viewpoint for watching any offshore action. It will come as no surprise that the Dolphin Restaurant and Bar specialises in seafood, but there is also prime ribeye steak or pork belly prepared with a Niuean honey and soy glaze.

As well as being a memorable honeymoon destination, Niue also provides wedding packages that include all the paperwork and a marriage celebrant, plus lots of options like a Niuean dancer, and lots of floral arrangements.

The boat-shaped outdoor baths at Lau’s Getaway are perfect for two people to top-and-tail amid a cloud of foam and bubbles. Both the villas have their bedrooms downstairs, leaving the top floor as an open lounge.

Guests of the Namukulu Cottages and Spa can either make their own meals or enjoy the dining room, cool off in the pool, or relax in the spa. The wifi is free, as are the mountain bikes and snorkelling gear. Children younger than 12 years of age are not accepted.

Not all of Niue’s restaurants are open every night, so make a call in advance to be sure. Ota, or raw fish salad, is a local speciality, along with uga crab.

The Vaiolama Café and Bar is fully licensed, with an elevated terrace that catches the balmy evening breeze, while Kaiiika Sushi combines Japanese cuisine with New York pizza.

Okioki Mai Café at Tamamautoga Beach is a popular local spot, but for many couples, the dining highlights are the fiafia feasts hosted by a different local village family each week. 🌺

Tying the knot

The Notice of Intended Marriages Form must be filled out and signed with minimum 3 (working) days notice.

You will be required to provide:

- A formal letter from both Bride and Groom stating they have never been married before.
- Certified copy of Birth Certificate and Passport documents from each person
- Divorce Documents if appropriate - to show proof of dissolve of marriage

Contact Niue Secretary to Justice Department during working hours.

Mrs Noora Marsh

Ph 00 683 4351 or noora@niue.nu



Say "I Do" in Niue



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SCENIC
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ROMANCE IN PARADISE

Credit: Kama Catch Me Photography

Fiji is a place of breathtaking natural beauty, an amazing destination of unique cultures, idyllic landscapes and home to some of the warmest and most welcoming people in the world. Our 333 islands are a treasure trove of natural wonder and beauty. With exotic wedding destinations and romantic escapes we have a little something for everyone. We have connected the Pacific for over 65 years and continue to be the airline that connects the world to our beautiful home, Fiji. With Fiji Airways, your special break begins as soon as you step on board. Our genuine Fijian warmth adds the touch of family to your special day from the moment you board our airline to the moment you depart home for home. Enjoy a taste of Fijian high life when travelling in Business Class. Get Premium Check-In, access to business lounge facilities, award-winning wines and menu, personal in-seat entertainment, all in the comfort of your angled lie-flat seat, complete with pillow, blanket and duvet. Providing unequalled access to Fiji and beyond through our hubs in Suva and Nadi, we offer world class service in both Business and Economy class. Fiji has never been more accessible, with our upgraded fleet of new Airbus A330 aircraft, and convenient flights direct from New-Zealand to our home up to 18 times a week. Our aircraft feature personal IFE screens with entertainment on demand, in-seat power, full meal and beverage service, all in the natural, warm ambience of our cabin. Fiji Link is the official domestic carrier of Fiji, offering domestic flights to eleven exciting destinations.

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