

Pacific Romance

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



FIJI • TAHITI • VANUATU • COOK ISLANDS • NEW CALEDONIA
SOLOMON ISLANDS • TONGA • SAMOA • HAWAII • NORFOLK ISLAND • NIUE

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Listen to your heart.

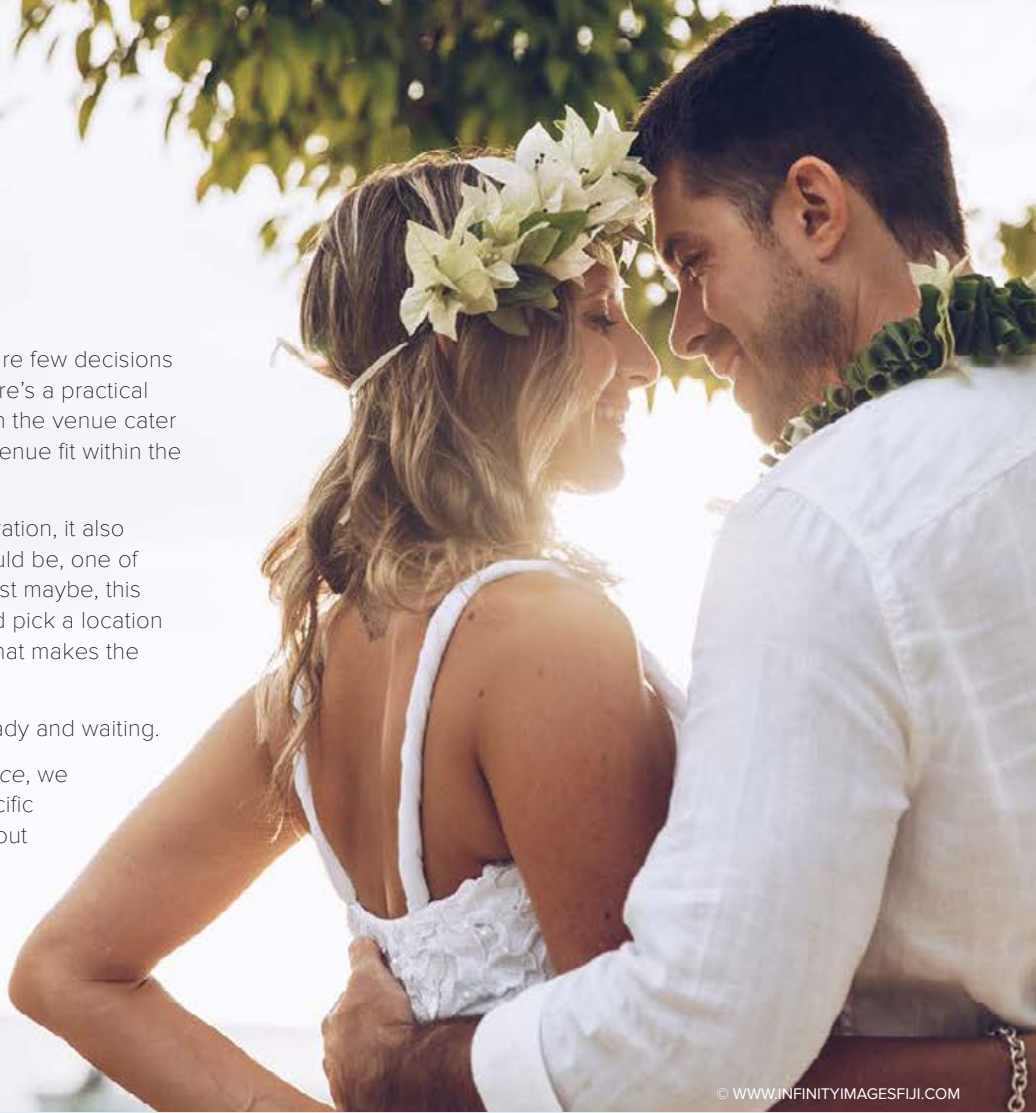
When it comes to planning a wedding, there are few decisions more important than choosing the venue. There's a practical side to picking the right one. For example, can the venue cater to the number of guests invited. And will the venue fit within the budget and so on.

While such questions warrant careful consideration, it also pays to remember that a wedding is, and should be, one of life's most memorable moments. So maybe, just maybe, this is the perfect occasion to listen your heart and pick a location because of its pure romantic magic. A place that makes the fairytale come true.

In the Pacific Islands these places are real, ready and waiting.

In our second annual edition of *Pacific Romance*, we take you on a journey through each of the Pacific Islands. Giving you insights and inspiration about dream weddings, honeymoons or romantic escapes in some of the most beautiful places in the world. The kind of places that would win any heart.

Matt & Fran



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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)
- Single Status Certificate or Certificate of No Legal Impediment

Find a *match* made in *heaven*

Very few destinations can match the sheer variety of romantic travel options that Fiji has to offer. In fact, they're literally endless. For couples planning a wedding, honeymoon or romantic getaway, having this vast amount of choice is a nice problem. And with some research and good advice, couples will find a match made in heaven.



THE TROPICAL ISLAND DREAM

Think romantic fairytale. Think secluded island, palm trees swaying and white sand beach. With this vision firmly in mind, it's no wonder Fiji's offshore islands draw so many couples in search of a special setting for their wedding, honeymoon or romantic reconnection.



THE MAMANUCAS

The most visited "offshore" islands in Fiji are the Mamanucas. Their handy location close to Nadi and Port Denarau is one reason for their popularity. Getting out and back is quick and simple. South Seas Cruises run a schedule of ferries every day, plus boutique operators like Sea Fiji and The Mamanuca Express provide personalised taxi-style transfers. If the budget can stretch a little further, jumping on board a Pacific Island Air seaplane or helicopter is the "rock-star" way to arrive.

Convenience is one factor with the Mamanuca Islands, but they also back it up with sheer beauty and a carefree island vibe. On-edge couples-to-be will find the stress evaporate. Honeymooners and romantic escapees can switch straight into relaxation mode.

Castaway Island Resort

When tourism first came to the Mamanuca Islands way back in 1966, Castaway Island was the first resort to be developed. I guess the amazing beaches were too hard to resist! Today, the magical spot is no less appealing. Couples love the privacy of the free-standing bures and the quiet "adults environment" pool with its swim-up bar. Plus there are dining and bar options aplenty.

Needless to say, the team at Castaway are masters in the art of wedding planning and they are dab hands at making a honeymoon special too. Being part of the Outrigger Hotels and Resorts, couples who tie the knot at the Outrigger Fiji Beach Resort on the Coral Coast can also take advantage of the Tropical Summer Dream Wedding Package, which includes a complimentary gift of three nights at Castaway Island.

Musket Cove Island Resort

Musket Cove Island Resort is another Mamanuca resort that has stood the test of time. Every wedding at Musket Cove is unique, personal and tailored to each couple. The resort also offers some unique places to hold the ceremony. These include The Coral Cay – a private palm

fringed lawn overlooking the marina, Malolo Lailai Beach – for a classic sand-in-your-toes ceremony and the Musket Wedding Chapel – with its handmade pews and frangipani-stained glass windows.

Musket Cove's kitchen team has built a fine reputation, so couples can rest easy knowing the cuisine is of the highest quality. And, to make organisation as easy as can be, Musket offers an inclusive package that covers accommodation, the ceremony and the reception.

Treasure Island Resort

There are some pretty amazing chapels in Fiji, but the Sigavou Wedding Chapel is one of the standouts. Glass on every side give the couple and guests a pure Fijian panorama – the type you see in the brochures or big-budget television ads. On Treasure Island it's all real and it's all just part of an all-encompassing romance offer that covers everything from proposal and engagement events, to renewal of vows, to the all-important honeymoon. Needless to say, the Treasure Island team will look after every detail, so a couple can relax and soak it all in.

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 bures 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.



TREASURE ISLAND RESORT CHAPEL



LIKULIKU LAGOON RESORT



Likuliku
LAGOON
FIJI

Just for Two



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Real Romance



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Choose from packages with a resort credit or for your honeymoon, indulge in a complimentary couples massage and a bottle of bubbles.

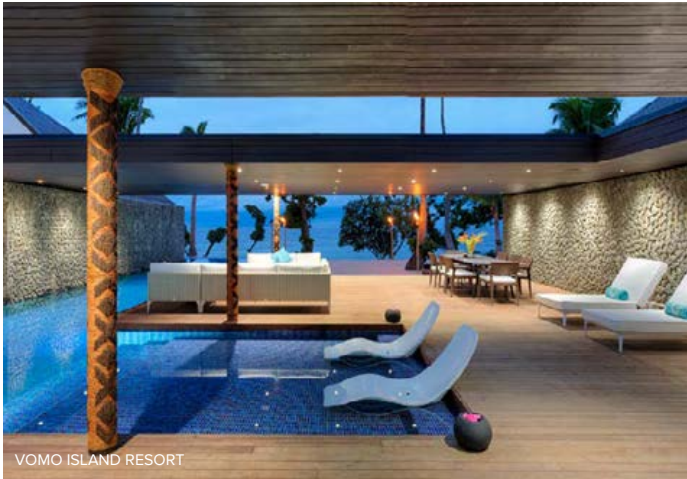
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VOMO ISLAND RESORT



YASAWA ISLAND RESORT AND SPA

Malolo Island Resort

Sitting around the headland from Likuliku, sister resort Malolo Island Resort is another fine spot to tie the knot. Known as the “island where the sun comes to rest”, it’s no surprise that sunset ceremonies on the beach are the most popular choice for couples. This boutique resort also has a fantastic kids’ club, which makes the whole experience easy for family and friends with little ones.

Vomo Island Resort

Five-star private island luxury? Sure it comes at a cost, but it’s reflected in the premium experience that guests enjoy. For a once-in-a-lifetime honeymoon destination, it’s pretty much perfect. Privacy, luxury, a flawless beach, magnificent sunsets. The food, which is all included in your room rate, is delectable – and the menu changes from day to day to ensure guests have plenty of variety.

The accommodation ranges from 28 superbly appointed villas (hillside and beachfront), plus there are four ultra-luxurious residences – the kind that Hollywood A-listers might run away to. Despite all this luxury, the resort is free of pretention – as the polished staff make sure guests feel the genuine, laid-back Fijian vibe.



THE YASAWAS

The Yasawa Islands sit a little further north of the Mamanuca Group, but in terms of tourism development they didn’t join the party until 20 years later. The first visitors to the Yasawas came via cruise ship, in fact land-based tourism didn’t begin until 1987. This relatively late development has had no adverse effects. In fact, it’s quite the opposite. It’s meant the Yasawas have remained authentic, real and thoroughly romantic.

In the Yasawas, local people still lead a simple life in small remote villages, adhering to traditional customs and basically doing what they have done for generation after generation. There are no roads, no shops, no banks and definitely no worries. In many cases, a majority of the staff at each resort come from the local village. Which means they have a sense of ownership that translates into a wonderful guest experience. For a couple seeking stunning scenery, a “getaway-from-it-all” fee, and personal service that goes over and above, the Yasawa Islands deliver in every way possible.

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 airconditioned 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



MANTARAY ISLAND 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.

Mantaray Island Resort

Who said paradise has to come with a hefty price tag? Mantaray Island Resort might not have the glitz and glamour of the more elite Fijian island resorts, but it’s glorious beachfront setting is as good as it gets. For honeymooning couples there are comfortable beachfront villas and a selection of well-priced bures. But the real draw is the laid-back atmosphere and the jaw-dropping surroundings. Just off the beach you snorkel over colourful coral reefs. You can stand-up paddleboard and kayak to your heart’s content, try your luck at handline fishing and partake in one of this areas main activities – snorkelling with manta rays in the nearby Mantaray Channel.

Paradise Cove Resort

If the stunning location of Paradise Cove wasn’t enough, the clever addition of a dedicated adults-only section has made this resort even more appealing for couples in search of romance. “The Cove” is only a very short walk from the resort’s main bar, restaurant and family pool, however this grown-ups refuge feels miles away. With two pools, a “boat” bar and a menu of delicious snacks to choose from, couples can quite happily stay there all day long. Plus the couple accommodation is all located around The Cove, too.

If you are a couple looking for that extra bit of privacy, the resort has four self-contained two-bedroom Beach Houses that sit across a small channel on a completely separate island. To access the main resort, guests simply pick up the phone and a boat will be there within a matter of minutes. Being a boutique resort, Paradise Cove is idyllic for intimate weddings, and of course honeymoons.

Romance

is just a dream away
at Musket Cove



Just steps from the pristine sands of Malolo Lailai in the Mamanuca Islands, Fiji. Sits the iconic Musket Cove, a four star island resort which blends the barefoot ambience of a tropical island with the warm hospitality and traditions of the Fijian people.

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A PLACE TO TRULY RELAX

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BE GRATEFUL FOR WHAT YOU HAVE.
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BE IN THE MOMENT.

WITH HAPPINESS ALL AROUND™

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RAIWASA
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DENARAU ISLAND

If the romantic brief is luxury with the ultimate of ease, the resort enclave of Denarau Island will tick both boxes. A new road bypass through Nadi has made access even quicker – with a good run between the international airport and Denarau only taking about 15-20 minutes. Romance travellers won't experience the sense of adventure of trekking to an outer island, but they will love Denarau's vibrant buzz. With so many resorts sitting side-by-side, there is always something going on. And couples can simply wander from resort to resort, sampling the numerous dining and entertainment options.

Sofitel Fiji Resort & Spa

The Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa blends its French origins with local Fijian flair – a romantic combination if ever there was one. Scale is no issue either. The resort can host weddings of up to 400 people. On the flipside, they are more than happy to cater to small intimate weddings. Regardless of the size, Sofitel's dedicated wedding planner will flawlessly execute a day that dreams are made of.

The resort also has a cute little beachside chapel. However, couples can choose from any number of picturesque locations around the property. With a variety of wedding packages and a very long list of optional extras, weddings can be tailored to virtually any requirement.

Sheraton Fiji Resort

Sitting amongst this string of Denarau resorts is the Sheraton Fiji Resort. Anyone who's taken a stroll along Denarau's beachfront boardwalk would have admired the Sheraton's beautiful beachside chapel – an iconic landmark on the Denarau landscape. Standing on its own point of land, the chapel offers couples and guests uninterrupted ocean views that are arguably the best on the island. Even though the setting is spectacular, it's not compulsory.

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.



Radisson Blu Resort

One of the most important decisions a couple can make is where the wedding will take place. The Radisson Blu Resort Fiji has those options comfortably covered. Sitting on 10 garden-like acres, the resort has a variety of wedding locations dotted around the property. A key location is the stunning Vei domoni lawn (meaning romance in Fijian) that holds up to 35 people, located beachfront with natural secluded surroundings.

The waterfall lawn is another popular spot, with the resort's large waterfall providing the beautiful backdrop. For couples who prefer an indoor wedding or reception, the resort's ballroom can cater for up to 100 people. And, needless to say, the resort has a banquet team, who can help you plan a flawless event from start to finish.

The Palms

Depending on how many people are in your party and how self-sufficient you want to be, apartment style accommodation can be the ideal solution. Sitting inside the vibrant hub of Port Denarau, the Palms offers 28 apartments and 10 studio rooms on three levels, most of which are self-contained.

The spacious one, two and three bedroom apartments and studio rooms, provide flexible accommodation choices for couples, friends and family. And because all the restaurants, bars and day trip operators are right on your doorstep, it's easy to make the most of your Fiji experience.

Rhum-Ba. The place to gather in Port Denarau

On the resort strip of Denarau, couples are spoiled for choice. But it's also good to mix things up. And the selection of bars and restaurants nearby at Port Denarau provide some brilliant alternatives to the resorts. The Rhum-Ba, located in the Denarau Yacht Club building, is a standout. It's a new, fresh and upmarket establishment that couples will love. As the name suggest, there's a mighty fine selection of rum – over 100 different varieties.

The Rhum-Ba also features an upstairs function area that is tailor-made for weddings. The open plan space has panoramic views of the marina and out across the water to the mountains. There is enough room to host 20 to 200 seated, or 350 standing (that's a big wedding). The Rhum-Ba team are also experts at transforming the space into a variety of themes. Be it tropical, classic 1930s or funky modern. Regardless of the choice, couples can be sure the occasion will be exceptional.

Make your Dreams come True



Choose your dream wedding setting from our private stunning Seaside Chapel to our reef lawn or Takali beach. Our range of Wedding packages and options for venues range from intimate gatherings to larger garden or beachfront venues or grand wedding banquets in our Ratu Makutu Events Centre or our stunning fully air-conditioned white marquee.

For further information contact us
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Shangri-La's

Fijian Resort & Spa
YANUCA, FIJI ISLANDS

Denarau goes adults only

Waitui Beach Club at Sofitel

Lying poolside next to a bunch of yahooping kids isn't all that romantic, so Sofitel Fiji resort decided to do something about it. They created the Waitui Beach Club, an adults-only haven that sits within the existing resort. Here you'll find couples and groups of friends lounging poolside, sipping on cocktails and sharing plates of tasty Pacific-inspired tapas. If you feel like a workout, there's a small gym inside. And at dusk you can take in a golden sunset while a DJ plays some chilled-out tunes.

Koro at Hilton Fiji Resort and Spa

The Koro adults-only haven at the Hilton Fiji Beach Resort embraces the same concept as Waitui. Access to all the regular resort facilities, but with the chilled-out vibe that's only possible when you keep kids at bay. Two spacious pools, daybeds, loungers, an extensive wine list and of course champagne, shared plates and cocktails. If you're a couple, there's a good chance your days in the public access area are over. The peace and quiet of Koro will be far more appealing.



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Have many special moments to remember in **Fiji!**

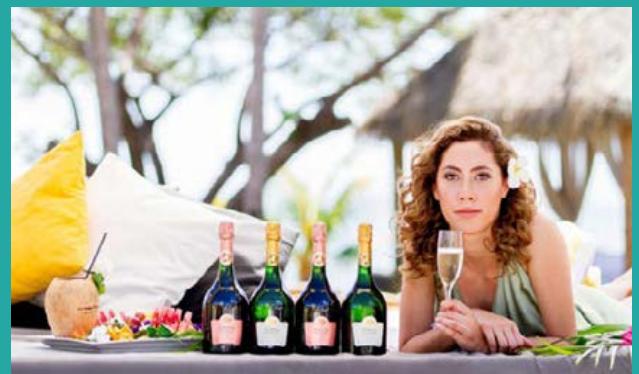


www.victoriawines.com.fj

Find the finest drops in Fiji

If you're coming to Fiji for romance, your celebration will no doubt include some liquid refreshments - whether that's having a few bottles of bubbles handy or a few cold beers to quench your tropical thirst. If indeed that's the case, then the friendly folk from Victoria Wines are the people to see.

Victoria Wines is Fiji's only dedicated wine importer and distributor. They offer an extensive selection of wines from France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Chile, Argentina, the United States, Australia and New Zealand. Plus they import a long list of beers, cider, spirits and liqueurs. They're basically a one-stop-shop for quality beverages. Plus they make the process easy. Couples can pick up 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. Now that's service.





YOUR SPECIAL DAY. YOUR SPECIAL WAY.

Spanning across 10 acres of pristine beachfront, lush tropical gardens with temperature controlled pools, Radisson Blu Resort Fiji is the epitome of island living. Marvel at nightly entertainment and experience six unique dining options paired with exceptional service.

With sparkling South Pacific seas as your wedding backdrop and a dedicated Wedding Coordinator, your special day at Radisson Blu Resort Fiji is guaranteed to leave you with a lifetime of unique memories.

STAY. PLAY. RELAX.

Radisson **BLU**
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DENARAU ISLAND

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CORAL COAST

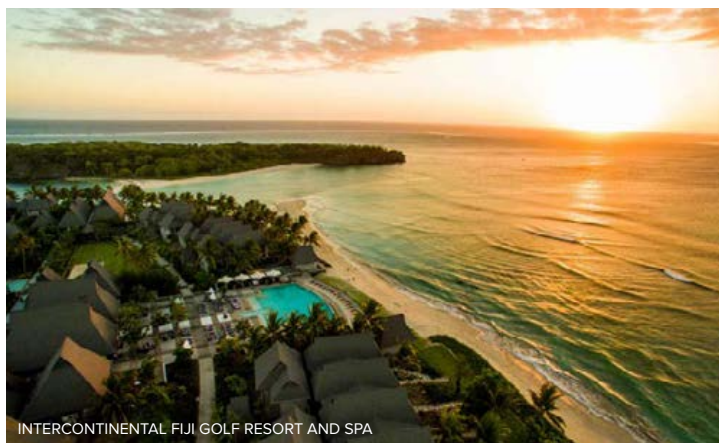
When you're staying in a large resort, there's a tendency to stay put. After all, they have everything you need "under one roof" – entertainment, dining, activities, pools, spas and more. Down on the Fiji's Coral Coast, around an hour-and-a-half-drive south of Nadi, there are plenty of properties that 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 romance. But as a destination, the Coral Coast has so much more to offer couples, wedding parties and honeymooners.

Intercontinental Fiji Golf Resort and Spa

For couple seeking a romantic recharge, the Intercontinental Fiji Golf Resort and Spa has a package specifically designed for just that. "Romantic Indulgence" provides space for quality time and includes an intimate adults-only breakfast at the signature Navo Restaurant, a romantic dinner under the stars and a "Cleopatra" ritual where you soak in a bath of rich milk and honey on your private terrace. For couples-to-be, the resort also has a team of dedicated wedding planners. Their mission is to bring together all the elements that will make a guest's wedding dream a reality. Like most resorts, they have a wide variety of wedding packages. And from there they can add the personal touches that will make the wedding truly memorable.

Yatule Resort and Spa

Just a stone's throw north of the Intercontinental (it's right next door), you'll find Yatule Resort and Spa, one of the Coral Coast's hidden gems. Sitting smack bang on the beautiful white sands of Natadola Beach, Yatule is a magic spot for weddings, and with just 36 bures on site, it has a quiet, laid-back feel that is so appealing. The Yatule staff are well-versed in wedding coordination and they'll take care of every detail to make the day special. Add in a perfect sunset, elegant surroundings, delicious cuisine and host of entertainment, and what you have is the perfect recipe for romance.



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. The resort is very popular for weddings and its glass-backed seaside chapel is easily one of the most impressive in Fiji. If a couple can time their ceremony just before sunset, they'll be rewarded with the glorious colours of a changing Coral Coast sky. From a planning point of view, the resort has a number of wedding packages that make organising a wedding simple, and the resort's event management team are on hand to make sure everything runs smoothly.

ROMANTIC REWARDS LIE FURTHER AFIELD

If you take the time to look outside the most popular parts of Fiji, there are some exceptional places to celebrate your special occasion. Here are a few of our top picks to get you started.

Nanuku Auberge Resort Fiji, Pacific Harbour

Nanuku Auberge Resort provides the magical combination that many couples are looking for - romance and luxury. The perfect venue for a romantic escape, an unforgettable honeymoon or a magical wedding experience, Nanuku offers intimate venues and a dash of international flavour. The beachside is idyllic. Picture this - vows at sunset on a pristine white sand beach, or maybe poolside by the light of flickering lanterns, or how about surrounded by frangipanis in the resort's lush tropical gardens. For couples who want to be in a world of their own, Nanuku provides private island weddings. The ceremonies are staged on the resort's private Nanuku Island, which is a short 20-minute boat ride away. Needless to say, the resort's dedicated team of wedding planners are always on hand, making sure romantic guests don't have to lift a finger. And once the wedding day is done, what better place to stay for a honeymoon.



NANUKU AUBERGE RESORT

Romance plus



The first all-villa boutique resort to be built on Fiji's main island of Viti Levu, Nanuku Auberge Resort Fiji offers the encapsulation of romance and luxury and provides the perfect venue for any couple looking for a romantic escape, an unforgettable honeymoon or a magical wedding experience in a heavenly location guaranteed to turn dreams into reality.

Named as one of the top 20 best resorts in the Australia and South Pacific region in the prestigious Condé Nast Traveler 30th annual Readers' Choice Awards, the resort's location on a white sand beach in the heart of the culturally-rich Pacific Coast presents guests with access to myriad activities ranging from golf, zip lining, white water rafting, Waterfall Terra Trekking, world-class surfing and cage-less bull shark diving.

Nanuku Auberge Resort, Fiji

nanuku.reservations@aubegeresorts.com
nanuku.aubegeresorts.com



Nanuku

AUBERGE RESORTS COLLECTION
FIJI



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Raiwasa Grand Villa, Taveuni

Hidden away amongst lush tropical rainforest and swaying palm trees, Raiwasa Grand Villa is an exclusive retreat that's tailor made for magical honeymoons. Located on the northern tip of Fiji's third largest island, Taveuni, the grand villa sits on three acres of beautifully manicured grounds.

Just a one-hour flight from Nadi, this island escape is just a hop, skip and a jump away. From the Grand Villa, couples will be treated to breathtaking views overlooking the Somosomo Strait, and pink and yellow-streaked skies, come sunset.

The villa has two separate master bedrooms, both with ensuite bathrooms that are fitted with luxurious honeymoon baths. Couples can choose from six dining locations throughout the property, each with its own sense of character and each meal prepared by two private chefs. And with a staff of 10, dedicated to every aspect of a couple's stay, this is a honeymoon with the most personal touch.

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 a full day. And take a gourmet picnic and champagne, too. Getting there is fairly straightforward.

There are numerous connecting flights between Nadi and Savusavu. 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.



NANUKU AUBERGE RESORT FIJI, PACIFIC HARBOUR



JEAN-MICHEL COUSTEAU RESORT, SAVUSAVU



RAIWASA GRAND VILLA, TAVEUNI

Matangi Private Island Resort, Taveuni

Matangi Private Island Resort sits about six kilometres off Taveuni's eastern coast. As the name suggests, privileged guests enjoy exclusive access to this 97 hectare horseshoe-shaped island. Like Taveuni, Matangi Island is home to a vast virgin rainforest.

The white sand beaches are exceptional. And there's plenty to keep a couple occupied with hiking, snorkelling, scuba diving and fishing on offer. Because the resort hosts a maximum number of 12 couples at any one time, privacy is a given. The resort also has a special Romance Package that includes a private picnic, a 30-minute tropical massage for two, and a private candlelit dinner for two with a specially designed menu.

Kokomo Private Island, Kadavu Group

Take a 45 minute seaplane or helicopter ride southeast of Nadi and you'll come to the Kadavu Group. Sitting on a small, perfectly formed island at the northern tip of the group, you'll discover Kokomo – a private island resort that delivers premium luxury, privacy, comfort and relaxation.

Guests can choose from the beachfront luxury residence, one of the four luxury hilltop residences, sitting among tropical rainforest with striking views of the lagoon, or opt for one of the 21 exclusive beachfront villas. Yes this luxury comes at a price, but for couples who do have the budget, this indulgent barefoot experience will make for a lifetime of memories. 🌺

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Paradise Bride

The independent planners

While many of the major resorts have in-house wedding coordinators, there are also a number of independent Fiji-based operators who can tailor your dream wedding, too.

The team at Paradise Bride is one of the premier planners in the Fijian market. They opened for business 15 years ago, so they have a vast knowledge of locations, wedding and reception styling and engagement events. And crucially, they know how to create an event that suits each couples style, without blowing their budget.

Being independent, Paradise Bride has the flexibility to “go anywhere”, rather than be restricted to options within a single resort. Apart from making the day memorable, the team of planning professionals make it stress-free.

Paradise Bride is also very picky about whom they work with. Only reputable suppliers who offer the highest quality products are partnered with, ensuring outstanding individual service for each spectacular celebration.

Whether it's exotic cocktails under the palm trees at sunset or a candlelit dinner on a white sandy beach, Paradise Bride helps couples toast their new life with a truly personal touch to the day!



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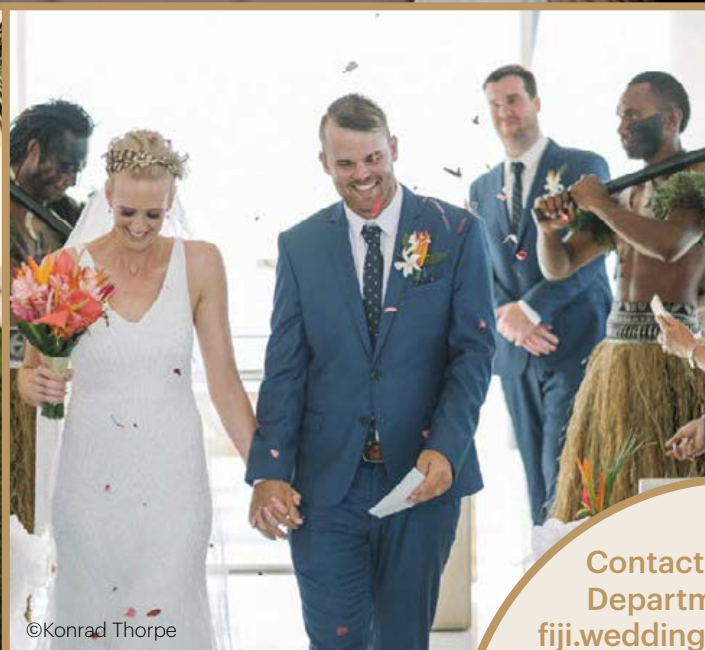
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PARADISE
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If you are after a true bucket list experience, what better way to have your wedding at one of the many options available at Sheraton Fiji Resort, Denarau and elope to Now Renewed Sheraton Resort & Spa, Heaven on Tokoriki Island - the Perfect place for your honeymoon combined.

The art of taming wedding day hair

Tropical climates can create a number of challenges for brides wanting the perfect wedding day “do”. *Pacific Romance* called in Denarau-based, Leanne Goff from Totoka Hair and Make Up to give our readers some handy tips for taming hair in the tropics.

Hair is extremely sensitive to humidity - the moisture in a humid climate can get into your hair and once it does, hair will revert to its natural shape. This means straight hair goes wavy and for curly hair, humidity turns it frizzy or even curlier. Taming the frizz can be a big job! So here are a few pointers on prepping your hair for your wedding day and some recommended styles if you're getting married in the warmer months (or if your hair hates humidity):

- Wash your hair the night before the wedding so that your hairstylist can work with clean, fresh hair that is completely dry.
- While hair is damp, add a lightweight oil to your hair to help control frizz. Blowdry your hair in a downwards direction to keep the cuticle smooth. Make sure it is COMPLETELY dry before you step out into hot, humid, and/or rainy weather, no questions - it needs to be 100 percent dry.
- If you really want to give yourself the best chance of success, spray on a humidity-resistant thermal protection spray and lightly straighten your hair after blowdrying.

Hairstyles that work well in humidity

- High bun/low bun
- Braided headband
- Fishtail braid
- Messy (or tidy) pony
- Headband and messy bun
- Half up braid or twist



Ask your stylist's professional opinion on whether they think a style will hold on to your hair, and take their recommendations!

Bula Bride *Inspiration at your fingertips*

The internet has made researching overseas travel fast and easy. But what happens when a couple is planning a wedding that involves photographers, make-up artists, hairdressers, caterers, videographers and entertainment, along with all the regular travel requirements like flights, accommodation and transfers? Sure, a couple could look through lots of different sites, and eventually find what they were looking for. Or they could just go to www.bulabride.com.

This online Fiji wedding directory brings together a comprehensive catalogue of quality wedding suppliers. And along with having all this information in one place, the site showcases real wedding stories that provide a bride and groom with all the pre-wedding inspiration they need. Go to www.bulabride.com





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Bula Bride



INFORMATION & INSPIRATION
WEDDING VENDORS

Bula Bride is Fiji's leading wedding directory and the best place to start when planning a wedding in Fiji.

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Fiji Marriott Resort, Momi Bay *Celebrating a new chapter*

Sitting on the tranquil blue waters of Momi Bay, Fiji Marriott Resort is a recent addition to Fiji's selection of luxurious five-star resorts. And it's quickly made a name for itself as an exceptional honeymoon and destination wedding retreat.

Putting elegance and authenticity at the heart of every wedding, Fiji Marriott Resort Momi Bay creates a fairy tale beginning to your happily ever after.

Whether a traditional wedding or one-of-a-kind celebration, Fiji Marriott Resort aims to exceed every expectation. As a starting point, couples can choose from three wedding packages, beginning with an intimate couple-only option, through to the grand Nuku Marau package that caters for a minimum of 50 guests. Within each package there are multiple options to choose from, such as creative menu selections and a variety of outdoor venues with mesmerising ocean views.

And of course, the couple and their guests can enjoy everything on the long list of resort facilities, such as the stunning over-water villas, three on-site restaurants, a fitness centre, the Quan Spa and a lovely infinity pool.



Nuku Marau Wedding Package

Fijian translation for Happy Sands

Cost of FJ\$39,999 includes:

- Five nights accommodation for bride and groom (Over-Water Bure)
- 60 minute couples massage
- Return transfers to Nadi International Airport for the bride and groom
- **Ceremony includes:** wedding planner, minister or celebrant, tapa aisle with petals, draped cabana, Fijian choir, floral bouquets, all legal documentation
- **Reception includes:** tables with linen, centrepiece with tea light candles, table settings, chair ties, fairy lights, pre-dinner canapés, four-hour beverage package and seafood buffet, three-tier wedding cake, Polynesian fire dancing, five-piece live band



Blue Lagoon Cruises

Sail away for a private island wedding

Picture this. A dreamy deserted island, fine white sand beach, palm trees gently swaying in the wind, and nobody in sight except for your husband or wife-to-be, and a group of your closest family and friends. This snapshot is the Blue Lagoon Cruises wedding experience - a fairy tale come true. There are real rewards for celebrating at sea. To begin with, privacy is unmatched, with couples tying the knot on Blue Lagoon's own beach on Nanuya Lailai in the Yasawa Islands. The other option is getting married on the *Fiji Princess* itself. Either way, the setting is spectacular and everything is taken care of by Blue Lagoon's smiling staff. Wedding functions are available on either four or seven night cruises for up to 68 very lucky guests, who will enjoy the romantic definition of sailing off into the sunset.



“Blue Lagoon Cruises makes the fairy tale come true.”



EXPERIENCE THE BEAUTY OF FIJI

Boutique small ship cruising through the Mamanuca & Yasawa Islands

To book your next cruise visit bluelagooncruises.com
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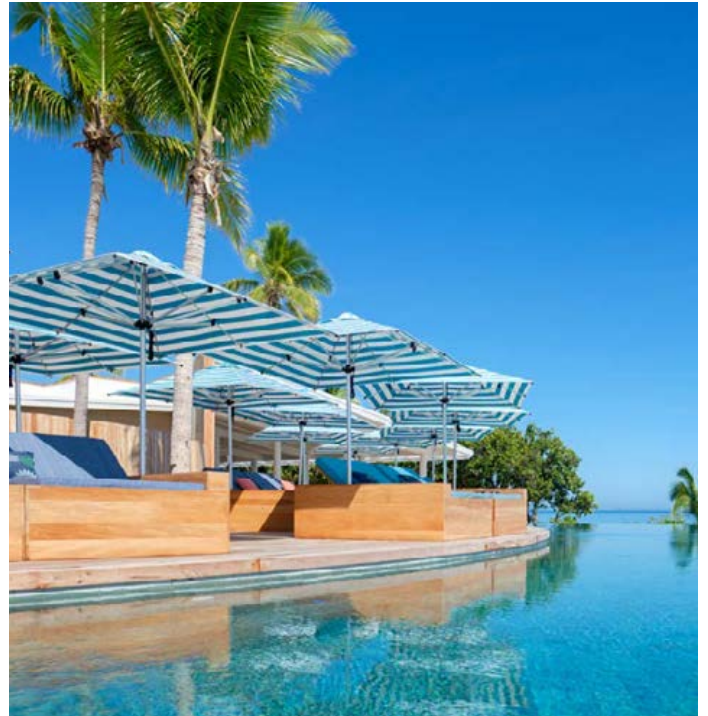
BLUE LAGOON
CRUISES

Malamala Beach Club

Make the most of the day after

After the build-up, organising and emotions of the wedding day, it's nice for a newly married couple to kick back and relax with family and friends the day after. And kicking back is what Malamala Beach Club does best. Sitting on its own stunning island, an easy 25-minute boat ride from Port Denarau, Malamala Beach Club has all the essential ingredients for a chilled out next-day wedding party catch-up.

There's a spacious infinity pool, sparkling white sand beach, crystal-clear waters, a delicious menu designed by renowned chef Lance Seeto, and tasty hand-made cocktails from Malamala's supremely skilled bar staff. As a way to spend quality time, there's not a lot more you could ask for. Apart from a new reason to come back the next day.



“Welcome to the world’s first island beach club.”

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BEACH CLUB
FIJI

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The promotional banner features a central aerial photograph of the Malamala Beach Club island, showing its white sand beach, palm trees, and buildings. The background is a deep blue sky. On the left and right sides, there are stylized, colorful illustrations of coral and tropical leaves. The text is centered and uses a clean, modern font. At the bottom, there is a red bar with white icons and text for booking, calling, and visiting a travel agent.

Plantation Island Resort

Anna Wilson, Wedding Specialist
Our Pacific, Auckland

Anna Wilson has over 20 years experience in the travel industry and she's an expert at making Pacific Island weddings and honeymoons happen. Based in Auckland with Our Pacific, Anna's mission is to take the stress out of booking, so couples can relax and enjoy the big occasion. We're sure you'll find her insights helpful.

Why do you suggest Plantation Island Resort as a wedding venue?

The list is pretty long! Firstly, it is affordable, the location in the Mamanuca Islands is amazing and the transfer connections make getting there easy. The unique sandbank where you can get married at low tide on a little sand island is spectacular and you even have the option to sky-dive in – making for an unforgettable entrance! There is also a huge range of accommodation options within the resort, which suits families, couples, or larger groups of friends wanting to share. Foodwise, everyone is well catered for, and the kids club and babysitting options mean the kids are entertained and the parents get a break to enjoy the festivities!

What do couples love about their wedding at Plantation?

The ease with which it all happens – almost everything is done before they get there. On arrival, couples have a quick meeting with the staff to go over the finer details, leaving them lots of time to relax with family and friends. They love the beachfront location for the wedding, the options for food and entertainment, and all the activities on offer.

Do you find having on-site wedding celebrants helps?

I do, I think it gives the bride and groom peace of mind. Should they need to change or alter things last minute, Miri or Api and their team are on hand to assist.

Any tips or tricks for a new bride or agent who hasn't booked weddings before?

If you aren't sure, definitely use a specialist. This is more than just a standard holiday – it's a once-in-a-lifetime moment. There are lots of things to consider and think about, so if you aren't sure, speak to someone who is! And let's not forget to relax and have fun with it, everything always works out in the end.



Anna Wilson



A REFINED BLEND OF LUXURY AND ULTIMATE CONVENIENCE

The Palms Denarau is Fiji's newest premier executive apartments and accommodation, conveniently situated on Denarau Island.

The Palms is located adjacent to the Port Denarau Shopping complex and just a walk away from the Marina Ferry Terminal, a gateway to outer Islands. The Palms offers 28 apartments and 10 studio rooms on three levels, most of which are self-contained. You can choose from either a 1, 2 or 3 bedroom spacious apartment or studio room each created with a modern sleek design and luxury.

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4 nights accommodation | Personal wedding coordinator | Wedding license processing | Beachside fijiian wedding bure venue | Church minister/celebrant | Private buffet & 3 hour beverage package for 30 people | 3 course candlelit romantic dinner | Wedding cake (based on 1 tier) | Seasonal tropical flower arrangements | Bouquet & button hole | Fijian warriors to escort the Bride

Why Choose Plantation Island Resort for your wedding?

- Stunning beach location & photo backdrop
- On-site wedding celebrants offering a one stop shop
- Easy access from the mainland & Nadi airport
- Range of wedding and accommodation packages to suit all budgets & family sizes
- Beautician, hair, cake & florist services all available onsite
- Activities that cater to all ages so friends & family have a holiday too
- Exceptional value for money

Reservations Contact Details

Email: wsc@raffehotels.com | Call: (+679) 6722444 | Website: www.plantationisland.com

Valid until 31st March 2019, subject to availability



Wedding Planner

Selai Lewaqere, Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa

Selai Lewaqere has been planning weddings at Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa for eight years. So who better to quiz on the subject! Selai shares her insights and some very handy tips.

How long do you require before booking a wedding?

The earlier the better! Sometimes we can get bookings one year in advance, which is ideal. If it's a last-minute booking, the latest we can accept is one week prior – provided the couple have all documents ready and a date is available.

How many weddings would you host each month?

It varies, but it can be anywhere from six to 18 per month.

What are some of Sofitel's unique wedding features?

It's a long list – exclusive adult-only beach club, in-house hair and make-up team, our own florist, one wedding per day, special wedding turndown on the wedding night, complimentary upgrade to a honeymoon suite on their wedding night, spa group discount, special group accommodation rates for wedding guests, a quaint, English-style chapel and five different wedding packages that can cater for two – 200 people!

What do you enjoy most about your job?

The variety. It's amazing how couples have such different ideas of how they'd like their wedding set up. And of course I love playing my part and being personally involved with this special moment of their lives – their wedding day.

What's the biggest challenge of your job?

Like anywhere, wet wedding day weather can make things a challenge – although we do have alternate indoor venues for more than 80 guests if need be.

What are the Top 5 things a planner needs to find out from a couple?

1. Wedding date
2. Number of guests attending
3. Number of rooms required - to ensure we have rooms available
4. Wedding theme
5. Dietary requirements

What are some of ways you can personalise a wedding?

It really comes down to making a connection. We meet and greet couples on arrival, call them by their first names, give them our business cards with a plate of chocolate, a bottle of bubbly and a welcome card. And just bend over backwards to make them feel like they are the most important guests at the resort.

What is the best advice you would give a couple?

Book a year in advance and book all-inclusive packages, as that will minimise stress and the amount of planning they need to do.

What makes Fiji a great place to get married?

"It's where happiness finds you"! For New Zealand and Australian couples, Fiji is close, and there are plenty of direct flights. Then you've got the sunshine and warmth, the friendly people and a feeling of being at a home-away-from-home.

What's your key tip to avoiding wedding day stress?

Just relax and enjoy your day, the wedding coordinator is there to bear all the stress! Don't worry too much about the weather as that's beyond our control. And just be yourself.



L-R: EVLINE KUMAR - WEDDING COORDINATOR, PRANEEL LAL - BANQUET OPERATION MANAGER
SELAJ LEWAQERE - BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE – INSPIRED WEDDINGS





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REAL LIFE WEDDINGS

Kimberly Thomas and Jean-Claude Jardim

Outrigger Fiji Beach Resort, Coral Coast

In early November, Kimberly Thomas and Jean-Claude Jardim tied the knot at Outrigger Fiji Beach Resort on Fiji's Coral Coast. *Pacific Romance* quizzed the newlyweds on their wedding experience and they were happy to share their thoughts, insights and tips.

What inspired you to have a Pacific island wedding?

We wanted tropical warm weather and the beach!

What made you pick that specific resort?

We liked what the Outrigger Resort had to offer. They had some amazing deals, but above all else, the initial contact with Darshita was amazing. We hoped this would transfer across to all the staff – and it most certainly did.

What were some of the advantages of getting married in the islands?

It was so beautiful, everything was done for us and the staff went above and beyond anywhere I have ever been.

Did your resort provide you with a wedding planner?

Yes, they most certainly did.

How did you find that experience?

Wowweee, I could go on and on but I'll try and keep it short! Darshita listened to what we were dreaming of and then she put the wheels in motion. When we arrived, Va arranged absolutely everything, making sure the day was something you see in the movies! Basically, we found the experience incredible and they arranged EVERYTHING!

Did you stay on the same country for your honeymoon?

We enjoyed a mini-honeymoon at Castaway Island in the Mamanuca Group - which was amazing. However, we are planning another extended honeymoon at a later date!

What were some of the special Pacific Island touches?

You just can't beat the people, they make your day and the holiday that little more magical! Plus the beautiful, fresh flowers. And the food!



Top 3 Pacific Wedding Tips

1. Booking a good resort is worth every cent.
2. Make sure you're comfortable with the resort's wedding planner – they are the key to making it all happen.
3. Google loads of photos and send them to the resort, most of the time, they will do everything they can to bring it to life.



Pacific Island Air *The perfect proposal or special celebration*

If you're going to "pop the question" or treat someone special, why not do it in grand style with a helicopter flight out to a private beach club, where a "Marry Me" or "Happy Birthday" banner just happens to be waiting on the sparkling white sand!

This wow factor experience is available through Pacific Island Air who have created a special romance package that includes a spectacular 15-minute flight from Nadi or Denarau to the world's first private island Beach Club – Malamala.

Chilled champagne on arrival, a beachside cabana with butler service, FJ\$100 food and beverage vouchers and the use of all non-motorised water sports is sure to get the stamp of approval.

A 45-minute boat ride at 4.15pm or 5.15pm takes you back to Port Denarau with South Sea Cruises, then a complimentary drop-off to your hotel concludes this fabulous, unforgettable package.



Love at first flight.

Take the love of your life to the world class romantic retreat of Malamala Beach Club Fiji. Recently featured on The Bachelorette Australia.

Are you a romantic at heart, looking for that perfect proposal idea or just wanting to spend quality time with that special person in your life? Then a day trip to the fabulous new Malamala Beach Club Fiji is exactly what you are looking for.

Imagine laying in your private beach side cabana enjoying sumptuous food with butler service, surrounded by exquisite crystal clear waters, you really will fall in love.



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TAHITI



© HILTON MOOREA



Le Sud Pacific à la Française

Tying the knot

Both spouses must be at least 18 years old and not currently married. The couple cannot be related by direct lineage or 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.



BORA BORA © WINDSTAR TAHITI

From its lustrous black pearls to its jagged, mossy green peaks, technicolour corals and marine life, French Polynesia offers one of the world's most romantic destinations.

Honeymooners will rapidly identify with traditional Tahitian culture, which revolves around a philosophy known as “aita pea pea”, or “not to worry”. Tahitians are generous and friendly, and their oral legends are as colourful as their pareu garments.

The traditional way for a romantic couple to leave their mark is to carve a heart into the trunk of a large tree and add their names and perhaps a date, knowing that people who shelter under the tree will see it for decades to come.

Honeymooning couples who stay at the Four Seasons Resort Bora Bora in French Polynesia can mark their love in another, uniquely natural way, this time underwater.

Imagine snorkelling together in the Ruahatu Lagoon Sanctuary, a private, turquoise lagoon which only resort guests can access. The sanctuary is filled with unicorn fish, spotted pufferfish, clownfish, more than 100 other species of marine life, and a fragile but thriving coral garden which is crucial to the health of the ecosystem.

Under the guidance of the resort's marine biologist, Denis Schneider, the couple can make their own special contribution to the garden by learning how to graft bits of coral so they grow large enough for planting and, eventually, become a permanent part of the lagoon. They can swim away content with knowing they have left a symbol of their love behind to bloom.

After the dive, they can acknowledge their accomplishment with a glass of champagne, and receive a framed photograph of themselves swimming amid the extraordinary marine life.

Bora Bora is only one of the islands in the magical archipelago of French Polynesia. It's too expensive to get married there, and it's a long way for guests to fly to, but one look at an image of these tropical islands is often enough to inspire couples looking for a romantically luxurious honeymoon destination.

There are world-class resorts, including brands not found elsewhere in the South Pacific, such as the Four Seasons and also St Regis. The setting is magical, sleeping and relaxing on an over-water bungalow with the ocean sighing just below, beckoning guests to dive in.

PLANT YOUR FEET IN PAPE'ETE

The island of Tahiti is the first stop for most, and a stroll through the energetic capital of Pape'ete is a lively introduction to French Polynesian life.

Take a trip by car or local transport to the village of Puna'auia to the Museum de Tahiti et des Iles, which is dedicated to conserving the archaeology and history of Tahiti, and learn about French Polynesian environment, history, culture and social life, then enjoy a stroll around the Atea Gardens.

And if you're in Pape'ete in the four weeks from June 22, you won't be able to avoid being caught up in the excitement of the Heiva Festival, which celebrates Tahitian culture.



© HILTON MOOREA



MANAVA BEACH RESORT & SPA MOOREA

Traditional bands play live music featuring the vivo, a nasal flute made of bamboo, and pu, or conch shells. There are singing competitions completely in the local language, reo ma'ohi, with its unique tones and harmonies, traditional sports like outrigger canoe races, archery and spear tossing, and of course Tahitian dancing, where every hip and hand move helps tell a story.

Tahiti's beaches of black sand provide a stark contrast to the surrounding hues of vivid blue and mossy green, but it's easy to find some shade for a lazy afternoon, or walk around the public market, Le Marche, and buy some handicrafts, fresh fruit or a pareu, the wraparound skirt or sarong worn by many locals.

Staying with the black theme, Tahiti's lustrous black pearls not only complement most women's clothing and complexions, but they are also a great memory jogger. Look out for them in the pearl boutiques around Pape'ete and in many of Tahiti's resorts.

Jeep Safaris will take you deep into the lush rainforest, for close-up views of the island's four highest peaks, along with waterfalls and old Polynesian monuments, before returning to the coast to watch seawater explode through holes in the reef at the Tiarei Arahoho Blow Hole.

As the sun sets, carry on the informality by ordering food from one of the many roulottes situated on the waterfront. The aromas wafting from these mobile caravans are irresistible as their cooks fry, steam or grill thin-crust pizzas, hamburgers, crepes or waffles long into the evening.

A popular national dish is poisson cru, or ia ota, which consists of raw tuna or other fish marinated with lime juice and soaked in coconut milk,

along with onions, lemons, tomatoes and other local produce. Tasty freshwater shrimps, called chevreffes, are also tasty and popular.

But the real attraction of the cuisine around the islands is the fine dining in the resorts and restaurants, with beautiful sea views during the day and a wonderful ambience at night, complemented by a high level of service from attentive staff.

Dinner is often a gastronomic experience, with mouthwatering menus that may combine tuna with wasabi, shrimp with foie gras gravy, or vanilla sauce over grilled mahi mahi, which were all on the menu recently at Le Coco's.



MOOREA FOR ROMANTICS

The island of Moorea is a mere 30 kilometres or a short, fast ferry ride or flight from Pape'ete. The excitement grows as you near the island, and the hazy silhouette on the horizon takes a more distinctive shape. Eight dynamic mountainous peaks rise from its glassy lagoon, while two bays split the northern shore.

Picnics on one of the many motu are popular for honeymooning couples, or at the other end of the scale, try skydiving for an exhilarating experience.

It's easy to rent a car and discover the local villages and beaches, or take the inland roads to one of the island's pineapple plantations. There are also Jeep tours, or ride tandem on an all-terrain vehicle and learn about Tahiti's natural vegetation or gaze out from a lookout.



For your relaxing vacation on Moorea
Hotel – Bars – Restaurants – Activities



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PLACES TO STAY

Sofitel Moorea la Ora Resort

The Sofitel Moorea la Ora Resort reflects Tahitian hospitality infused with French style, with rooms overlooking the garden and the beach, as well as over-water bungalows.

The gastronomic restaurant, K, overlooks the lagoon, for an intimate and romantic setting, while Pure, the hotel's main restaurant, has an expansive deck for al fresco dining, and live entertainment every evening. Vue is the more informal poolside spot for cocktails and light meals. The wellness centre, Le Spa, is a tranquil retreat with a range of treatments.

Hilton Moorea Lagoon Resort and Spa

Kayaks and jet skis are two ways to get around on the water at the Hilton Moorea Lagoon Resort and Spa, which is located on a beach between the two northern bays, so couples can enjoy both the sunrise and the sunset. The spacious bungalows are set among the exotic flower gardens or suspended over the lagoon, or guests can gaze out over the edge of the infinity pool. The two restaurants serve traditional Polynesian and international dishes, while the over-water Toatea Bar is ideal for engaging in a French crepe.

L'Hotel Les Tipaniers

Situated on the northwestern coast of Moorea is L'Hotel Les Tipaniers, at the mouth of Opunohu Bay. It's unpretentious but comfortable bungalows are situated only a few steps from the beach. Some of the bungalows by the beach or the garden have their own kitchen for couples who wish to maintain their independence while they explore Moorea.

The two restaurants offer a wide selection of dishes, including French and Italian. Among the most popular are the lamb with goat's cheese, or the home-made, nourishing vegetable soup.

Manava Beach Resort and Spa

Guests staying at the boutique Manava Beach Resort and Spa have plenty of options for romance and relaxation. You can have a sunset cruise with cocktails on board a comfortable catamaran, or cruise out to the lagoon and swim with rays and multi-coloured fish. Each over-water bungalow has a deck, while each garden bungalow has its own private plunge pool.

The Mahanai restaurant has a refined ambiance, and is noted for the pastry chef's desserts, while the Matiehani Bar Lounge is the place to be on weekend evenings to sip wine and enjoy good music. Massage, or taurumi, is an integral part of Tahitian life, and the Manea Spa carries on the tradition with its special solar-heated pool for aquatic massage, known in Tahitian as rumiavai.



WEDDING CULTURAL TRADITION © HILTON MOOREA



L'HOTEL LES TIPANIERIS



TIKEHAU PEARL BEACH RESORT



MANAVA BEACH RESORT AND SPA

Take a deep breath and dive into
your next romantic getaway!



Hilton

MOOREA LAGOON
RESORT & SPA



LUXURY ON BORA BORA

Bora Bora is further out from Pape'ete. Its isolation, rugged mountain chain with Mt Otemanu as the highest peak, simply adds to its mystique and attraction for honeymooners looking for the ultimate escape.

You will feel relaxed moments after arriving at the airport after the 60-minute flight from Pape'ete, as you will be greeted with a smile and a fragrant lei placed around your neck before you step onto the boat which will transport you to your resort.

Visitors can enjoy almost every type of water activity, from snorkelling among the coral to parasailing, kayaking and paddleboarding, or hire a little boat and make your own way around the lagoon.

There are some great snorkelling spots, some of them within the resorts, but one favourite is known as the "lagoonarium", a natural aquarium where you can snorkel under the supervision of marine wildlife guides. But those who are cautious about going under the water have another option.

The Bora Bora Aqua Safari Helmet Dive has special helmets for people to put over their head with their own air supply, so they can walk carefully, on the ocean floor and watch all the marine activity going on around you.



PLACES TO STAY

St Regis Bora Bora

For those who really want to get married here, regardless of the cost, St Regis Bora Bora has not only a breathtaking location but also a team to help make everything happen.

The Bridal Boutique has a wide selection of wedding attire, and has developed a partnership with the Polynesian designer Hani Haring, who will work in advance with brides who wish to customise their own wedding dress.



Four Seasons Resort Bora Bora

Diners at the Four Seasons Resort Bora Bora are spoiled for choice. The menu of the Aarii Moana, set within a soaring thatched roof, has a strong focus on seafood, including spiny lobster, yellowfin tuna cooked on Bora Bora's volcanic stone, or green curry mahi mahi. The Fare Hoa Beach Bar & Grill has an informal beach club setting and a range of top wines from France, the Napa Valley, Italy and New Zealand.

The walkway to The Spa is redolent with the scents of sandalwood, frangipani and tiare, while many of the treatments include native monoi oil, tamanu, vanilla and honey.

Sofitel Bora Bora Marara Beach Resort Hotel

Not many resorts have seven names in their title, but the Sofitel Bora Bora Marara Beach Resort Hotel also has a long list of attractions. Two of them are its own Eco Lagoon Tour, where couples can swim with rays and sharks, then calm down over a Polynesian barbecue picnic.

And just two minutes away by private shuttle is the resort's own private island, not just a tiny motu but a wild botanical garden of lush plants with a panoramic view of the lagoon. The Latitude 16 restaurant offers local specialties cooked in an authentic Tahitian oven, while the Hurricane has more informal dining and poolside snacks.



HAUMUANA CRUISES



BEYOND THE FRINGE

Further out from Pape'ete, on the fringes of French Polynesia, are other islands for honeymooners who want to escape far off the beaten track and delve deep into Tahitian culture and history.

The islands of Raiatea and Taha'a, which share a common lagoon, were the starting points for Polynesian seafarers heading for New Zealand and Hawaii. Huahine is the former home of Tahitian royalty and has numerous ancient marae, or meeting places, while Rangiora's lagoon is the second biggest in the world and has some of the best diving and snorkelling in French Polynesia.

There are opportunities to meet stingrays and harmless lagoon sharks, kayak or paddleboard on crystalline lagoons, or experience a pearl farm or a vanilla plantation.

The *Haumuana* has a guest limit of 24, attended to by 13 crew, so it's a very intimate form of cruising. There are two cruising options, each lasting four days, each with plenty of time for excursions. Honeymooners can enjoy picnics on virgin white sand, or arrange to be dropped off on a deserted atoll for the afternoon.

Every crew member on the *Haumuana* is proud of their tradition and culture, and will happily pass on their knowledge and skills of weaving leaves in baskets, traditional dancing, songs and drumming techniques, or how to paint on a pareu.



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TAHITI

MOOREA

TIKEHAU

BORA BORA

TAHA'A

RAIATEA



For a different experience again, the *Aranui 5* has a dual role, as she offers all the comforts of a cruise ship but also operates as a supply ship on her 14-day cruises. All the 254 passengers dine together, then relax in two lounges, four bars or around the pool with a glass of Tahiti's Hinano beer, or listen to guest lecturers describe Tahitian life and history.

Her 254 passengers have ample shore time while cranes transfer cargo, and they can try fishing, riding on horseback, tours of local villages and schools, or go bird-watching.

Sailing on the *Wind Spirit*, with her sheets free to catch the trade winds, is an exhilarating experience for her passengers, including snorkelling down to select their own black pearl in Raiatea. Popular highlights include exploring Fakarava, a biosphere reserve where some of the animal species are found nowhere else on Earth, and a private feast on a beach with fire-dancers providing the entertainment.

And for couples who want to be totally independent, there is always the option of chartering a cruising yacht, and sailing to one of over 100 islands with Dream Yacht Charters Tahiti

They have a fleet of seven monohulls, and 20 spacious catamarans, all based in Raiatea, carefully chosen for its location away from noisy, crowded main towns.

The yachts range in size up to the spacious Lagoon 620, which can comfortably sleep up to 12 people in six cabins.

Couples can rent a cabin with ensuite and share the experience with only a few others, rather than hundreds, while the professional crew handles the sails and the chef prepares the meals, which may be a mahi mahi caught right off the stern an hour or so earlier!

On a crewed yacht charter you are the only guests on board, and are free to decide your itinerary with the captain, while your hostess prepares your meals.

If one or both of you are competent sailors, the ultimate is a bareboat charter, where it's just the two of you, sailing free and easy to the places you've both dreamed of, charting your own course around the islands of French Polynesia while you map out your own future. 🌸



Wedding Planner

Nelly Grange, We Do Tahiti

How long have you had this company ?

I started the company in February 2014, so it's almost been four years.

What sort of lead-in time do you require to get married in Tahiti?

For those wanting to get married legally in Tahiti, ideally they'll start the paperwork process four-six months before the planned wedding date; everything must be received in Tahiti 45 days before the wedding (at the latest) so this is not something you can plan last-minute. If you'll just be having a celebratory ceremony, there is no lead-in time really but the earlier the better to ensure the availability of your favourite vendors on your date, and for me to have enough time to write your personalised ceremony. I did write ceremonies on very short notice on a few occasions though, when couples have simply fallen in love with the place and decided to marry on the spot!

How many weddings do you do a month?

This can vary as there are slow months and busier ones, but I try to do no more than four-six a month in order to be 120 percent into each one! I exclusively do personalised and never do the template ceremonies you'll be offered in the resorts, so that requires a lot more planning / writing / coordinating time and energy. I'll always do my best though to accommodate every inquiry.

What are the unique things you can offer?

I am not a magician but I strive to offer anything my couples envision for their special day. It can be a unique location (up the Belvedere lookout in Moorea, in the middle of the Blue Lagoon in Rangiroa, places no one got married at before, I am always up for a challenge) or unique entertainment for the wedding reception (think *Cirque du Soleil* acrobat pouring Champagne into the guests' Champagne flutes from the air).

What are the main benefits of getting married in Tahiti?

It's beautiful everywhere you go! The people and the wedding vendors I am working with for my couples are amazingly talented, friendly and welcoming, and of course the French savoir-faire (aka food and wine!).

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Reading my couples' love stories (I am not overly romantic but who doesn't love a good love story?) and taking part in their special day. People in love and making the most of their trip to Tahiti.

What's the biggest challenge of your job?

Being kind of lost in the middle of the Pacific... Shipping goods to Tahiti is extremely costly so we need to work with what we have. Forget about those very delicate flowers you see all over Pinterest, we're under a tropical climate so we have some limitations in terms of what we can do. This forces us to think outside of the box and different, which is also a good thing.

What are Top 5 things a planner needs to find out from a couple?

1. The location (island) where they'll hold the wedding
2. The planned wedding date
3. Their ideal budget for the day
4. The style of event they're after
5. The size of the event (approx. number of guests)



What are some of ways you can personalise a wedding?

There are many ways, but the most important part in my opinion is the ceremony! This is often left to chance (you know, those template ceremonies I talked about...) while this is what the day is about! You don't want to find yourself being embarrassed by what is being said (whether the ceremony is performed by a resort staff or by uncle Joe) and want the ceremony to be about you, and to reflect who you are as a couple. Other areas that can be personalised are how you make your guests feel welcome to Tahiti, and of course the design / styling of your event.

Whats is the best advice you would give a couple?

Trust a wedding professional to guide you through the planning process. Planning a wedding isn't easy, so planning it from afar isn't any easier.

What makes Tahiti a great place to get married?

As I said above, it's beautiful everywhere, and you have a great variety of landscapes / backgrounds for your photos. Beach, mountains, nature, forest... it's very colourful and there are lots of activities available to make your destination wedding and vacation memorable.

Do you help with honeymoon plans too? If so, where would you recommend a couple to go to?

I've been in Tahiti for over 15 years and have been lucky to travel to most of its islands so I am always happy to make recommendations to my couples on where to stay, depending on what they enjoy most. I am not booking travel arrangements though, just planning weddings!

What's your key tip to avoiding wedding day stress?

Trust a wedding professional to handle the day and to take all the wedding stress off your shoulders. When you have a good wedding day time-line in place, there's no room for any stress at all.

What is the best time of the year to get married in Tahiti?

I would say any time, as Tahiti is very beautiful year-round, but I don't take weddings myself in January and February, which are the summer months when it's hotter and very humid (it can be rainy as well).

Do you have any memorable unique wedding stories you can share? Too many that come to mind as they're all unique and memorable, all in their own way. But you can read lots of Tahiti wedding stories on my blog (<https://www.wedotahiti.com/tahiti-weddings-blog/>)

VANUATU

Natural *charm*

HOLIDAY INN RESORT



On the edge of the Pacific Rim of Fire sits the very special country of Vanuatu, home to more than 80 lush islands, postcard-ready white sand beaches and a fascinating ancient culture where the majority of people still live a village lifestyle. Its warm climate, stunning natural surrounds, ease of travel and beautiful simplicity provide the perfect location for romantic escapes and weddings.

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



TAMANU ON THE BEACH



WARWICK LE LAGON RESORT & SPA



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IRIKI ISLAND RESORT & SPA



WELCOME TO NATURE'S PLAYGROUND

Port Vila on the island of Efate, is the commercial centre of Vanuatu and the first touchdown for visitors. Surrounded by a beautiful natural harbour and with stunning views from its lush hillsides, the capital hums with locals going about their business and tourists exploring its fantastic choice of French-inspired eateries and shopping. It is also Vanuatu's centre for adrenalin enthusiasts – with parasailing, ziplining, kayaking, surfing and jet boating just some of the many experiences on offer.

While Port Vila has more than enough to offer in the natural beauty department, with its acclaimed diving sites and marine sanctuaries (snorkelling the marine sanctuary on Hideaway Island is a treat!) those wanting to go further afield for more remote activities and sightseeing opportunities can do so easily with day trips from the capital.

Vanuatu is home to many active volcanoes. A short plane ride from Port Vila is Tanna Island, where visitors can experience the natural fireworks of Mt Yasar. It takes just 45 minutes to hike the mountain on foot, or those wanting a more chilled-out adventure can park their four-wheel-drive just minutes from the crater rim. All will be rewarded with the spewing of hot magma skyward every few minutes.

Diving and snorkelling enthusiasts will find their paradise on Espiritu Santo Island (Santo). Just a 10-minute boat ride from Port Vila, the island's rich World War II history has left a playground of wrecks to explore. Million Dollar Point offers tonnes of dumped surplus army equipment (Jeeps, plane parts) ready for an underwater investigation.

As well as being a natural oasis, Santo has a fascinating history. During the war, the pretty island was home to 40,000 US troops, who used the island as a base for supplies and recovery. Alongside rich ecosystems, with coral that teems with vibrant marine life, is a wealth of wreckages for snorkellers and divers to explore.

The most famous is the *SS President Coolidge*, the world's biggest, most accessible wreck. The US luxury liner was being used as a troop ship during World War II, when she struck a mine and sank, killing about



5000 people. Experienced divers can visit the stern at 60 metres where you can see the ship's letters, propeller and rudder.

As well as diving, visitors can hike to war remnants, kayak or cycle the coast, explore caves and experience unique vegetation and wildlife.

A favourite for visitors is to paddle a traditional outrigger canoe to spectacular blue holes, where they can swing from giant banyan trees into the freshwater spring. Santo has some of the best accessible beaches. Champagne Beach is a must with its soft white sand and turquoise water.

In terms of accommodation for weddings, honeymoons and romantic getaways, there are plenty of options in Vanuatu. They range from large brand name resorts to beautiful boutique properties – the only difficulty is choosing which one to stay in.

PLACES TO STAY

Breakas Beach Resort

For an award winning adults-only resort, try Breakas Beach Resort just 10 minutes from Port Vila on Pango Peninsula. This intimate getaway prides itself on its "feet in the sand" philosophy and offers a number of packages for exclusive wedding ceremonies on its private beach. Breakas is also perfect for a couples retreat or honeymoon escape with its 63 beachfront fares offering a charming alternative to classic hotel accommodation.

Relax the afternoon away with a massage at the beachfront spa, followed by a dip in the 22-metre infinity pool, which drops away into the ever-changing outlook of the Pacific Ocean. Then indulge in one of life's most relaxing romantic activities – dinner served under the stars. Famous for its "La Table sur La Plage", guests can enjoy the resort's carefully crafted meals alfresco, while taking in the positive ions of the lapping waves.

Iririki Island Resort & Spa

Just a three minute ferry ride from Port Vila is Iririki Island Resort & Spa where seclusion and convenience meet. The resort specialises in wedding planning and can cater for functions of up to 200 people in its luscious tropical setting.

Featuring a new wedding cabana, the resort offers eight types of accommodation, from penthouses and stylish ocean view apartments to waterfront bungalows and humble island fares to suit a variety of wedding guest needs.

Those on a romantic getaway or honeymoon can enjoy the romantic Azure Restaurant with views of Port Vila Harbour, indulge in a private balcony dinner with mesmerising sunsets or sip cocktails in the four-tier swimming pool. For the ultimate relaxation, Iririki offers rejuvenating spa treatments from atop the peak of the island. Bliss.

Ten minutes' drive from Port Vila's Airport is the idyllic Holiday Inn Resort, which boasts 148 rooms, two pool areas, a golf course, multiple bar areas and a veranda restaurant

Holiday Inn Resort

The Holiday Inn Resort Vanuatu "Tugeta" Wedding Package includes a warrior escort on a traditionally decorated wedding canoe, a personal wedding coordinator and a minister or celebrant with all the necessary documentation. The happy couple and up to 20 guests can also enjoy an hour of celebratory canapes and drinks as part of the deal. In addition to the wedding package Iririki offers guests and brides specials at its "Namele Day Spa" which features indulgent massages in its lagoon-side massage cabana.

Tamanu on the Beach

For a hint of the Caribbean in a stunning, secluded hideaway, just 20 minutes drive from downtown Port Vila, there's Tamanu on the Beach. Home to a picture postcard stretch of private white sand beach, this is the kind of resort that makes lucky couples feel like they're a million miles away from anywhere. With sand between the toes and waves on the doorstep, Tamanu is an ideal choice for a romantic getaway or wedding.

Guest can relax in the comfort of one of 15 modern, Caribbean-style luxury villas. On top of that, the resort offers Vanuatu's only purpose built wedding chapel on the beach. Which means couples have a tough choice - get married on one of Vanuatu's finest white sand beaches, or in a stunning beachfront wedding chapel. Either way, the day will be wonderful.



The Moso

The Moso is an adults-only retreat for intimate boutique honeymoons and romantic getaways, with only 10 guests staying at any one time. With personalised service, guests can put their feet up and let the valet cater to their needs. A romantic getaway package at this delightful escape includes a sunset cruise with sparkling wine, a cheese platter, a candlelit dinner on the beach with a bonfire, two full body massages plus transfers.

Just a five-minute boat transfer from the mainland, The Moso has a day spa, bistro and bar, a freshwater swimming pool, overwater hammocks and a private beach. Accommodation choices include two beachfront villas, a garden villa and two private plunge pool villas with outdoor bath tubs (aromatherapy dip anyone?). There is also a king-bedroom beach house. And for those who prefer a little more activity, scuba diving and snorkelling, deep-sea fishing and explorations to turtle sanctuaries and volcanoes can be arranged.

The Havannah

Back on the mainland is an adults-only resort on the Havannah Harbour. While The Havannah Resort is only 10 minutes from the hustle and bustle of Port Vila, it feels worlds away – and operates at village pace. The harbour is a beautiful playground for diving, snorkelling, fishing, kayaking, stand up paddleboarding and sailing, or swim in the split-level unity pool.

Overlooking Efate's premier white sand beach, The Havannah is a family owned business with six Waterfront Villas, 10 Lagoon Pool and Garden Villas, and two Deluxe Waterfront Villas. Guests can eat in the Harbourside restaurant or choose from many private dining settings – either way you'll be getting innovative French and Asian-influenced food. Delish.

The Havannah caters for weddings big and small – guests can invite friends and family or enjoy a small, personal ceremony for two. Couples can choose to marry on the beach or in the tropical gardens and the

local villagers will ensure the wedding has traditional Melanesian touches. The indulgent wedding package includes body treatments, pampering for the bride, champagne for the special moments, wedding bouquets, floral decorations and a three-course dinner for two on the beach. A wedding coordinator and venue set up is also included.

Aore Island Resort, Santo

Overlooking the crystal-clear waters of Espiritu Santo is a beautiful base for exploring and experiencing the island. Aore (pronounced Ow-Ree) Island Resort is a welcoming boutique escape on the quiet, nature-rich island.

The studio bungalows at Aore Island Resort are adults-only and are available either on the beachfront or set back in lush tropical gardens. The resort has its own private marine sanctuary where visitors can swim with tropical fish just metres away from their bedrooms.

The Aore Day Spa offers a tranquil place to relax and unwind in traditional Melanesian style. The spa staff are all experienced in the Melanesian healing art of massage.

The resort offers a unique diving experience – it works closely with selected local operators to offer a variety of options from a fun shore dive to multiple boat dives on world-class wrecks and untouched outer reefs. The service is ideal for couples and small groups, catering for a variety of interests and experience. The resort also provides diving guides and scuba courses for first-timers.

Couples wanting to marry at Aore can choose a bespoke wedding experience tailored to their needs with an in-house wedding planner on hand. The resort can cater for large wedding parties with exclusive use of the resort, smaller groups or just the special couple. There are a number of locations in the resort for a picture-perfect wedding – choose from the garden, the beach or the newly renovated Nakamai (restaurant and bar). 🌸

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The Havannah
VANUATU

REAL LIFE WEDDINGS

Nicole and Jarrod Katene

Warwick Le Lagon Resort & Spa, Port Vila

Just a five minute taxi ride from Port Vila, is Warwick Le Lagon Resort & Spa, situated on more than 70 acres of tropical gardens bordering the sparkling Erakor Lagoon. The resort has a reputation for appealing to families and couples because of its variety of accommodation, eateries and facilities. It has more than 140 rooms including over-water villas, pool villas and bungalows, and a choice of three restaurants and bars including a swim-up pool bar. The resort also offers conference and events centres, a kids club and the Oasis Spa with five therapy rooms.

This was just the ticket for Nicole and Jarrod Katene, who had their wedding there in October. The couple had attended a cousin's wedding in Fiji a few years earlier and fallen in love with the idea of an island wedding. With family in both Australia and New Zealand, Vanuatu was a convenient meeting point and with capacity to accommodate their 60 guests, Warwick Le Lagon Resort and Spa was ideal. "Guests didn't have to leave the resort, and we could show off the culture we fell in love with when we first visited Vanuatu," says Nicole.

"We had the ceremony overlooking the water and the reception was on the sand under an open marquee. It was unexplainable, like a fairy tale! Getting married so close to the sand and water really set the tone for the wedding - giving it a romantic but vibrant seaside-atmosphere where we were truly able to immerse ourselves in the beauty of the island."

The couple organised the accommodation and wedding directly through the resort, and while the couple says having an Island wedding required some extra organisation and a change of pace, it was well worth it for the benefits.

Nicole says the wedding planner at the resort was an enormous help. "I honestly could not have planned it without her, we both built a great relationship and what was achieved was definitely beyond my expectations, including special touches that were unique to Vanuatu."

IMAGES COURTESY OF WWW.GROOVY-BANANA.COM



These included a cultural band, native flowers and "the amazing people of Vanuatu, who are just so lovely".

Instead of a honeymoon, Nicole and Jarrod stayed at the resort an extra week with their immediate friends and family. "We wanted to relax and spend quality time together before we went our own ways."

The couple says the wedding was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. "My husband and I cannot praise the island of Vanuatu and Warwick Le Lagon Resort and Spa enough. We are so proud it was an epic experience to remember for a lifetime. If we could do it all over again we would."

CAPTURING THE SPECIAL MOMENT

There to capture Nicole and Jarrod's special moment were resident photographers Gaëlle Méheut and Benoît Heurtault (or Gaga and Ben) from Groovy Banana. The duo's approach to photography is to capture each magic moment as it unfolds.

"We will be there for all major milestones of the day, including the crazy dance moves of the groom, but we are also looking for all those simple moments in between, when people are truly themselves," say the couple who left their jobs in France a few years ago to move to Vanuatu.

Gaga had lived on the tropical island for a time as a child and Ben and Gaga, who now have two children of their own, are settled in Port Vila ready to capture both still and moving images of your tropical wedding story.

www.groovy-banana.com

A romantic wedding scene featuring a bride and groom in a tropical setting. The groom, wearing a light blue shirt and khaki pants, stands with his arms around the bride. The bride is wearing a white lace wedding dress and has a white flower in her hair. They are standing in a field of tall green grass with yellow flowers. In the background, there is a traditional building with a thatched roof and palm trees under a bright sky.

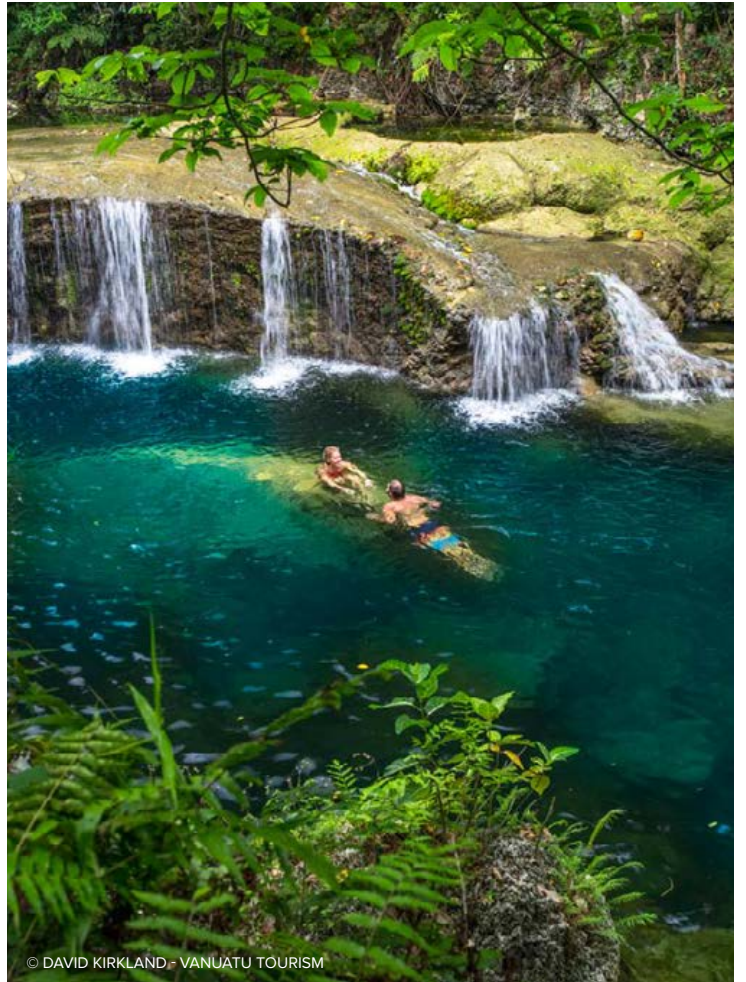
Nicole's top five tips for an island wedding:

1. Visit the location first
2. Decide on a budget
3. Have a wedding planner
4. Send out the invitations early, I sent mine out 14 months prior to the day
5. Do your research on suppliers

“My husband and I cannot praise the Island of Vanuatu and Warwick Le Lagon Resort and Spa enough. We are so proud it was an epic experience to remember for a lifetime. If we could do it all over again we would.”



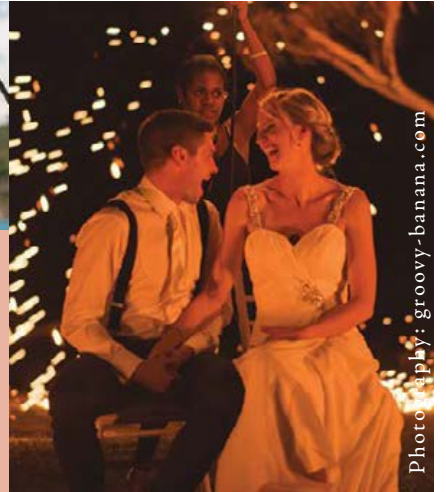
CHAMPAGNE BEACH, SANTO



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HOLIDAY INN RESORT



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VANUATU

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Book today through your preferred wholesaler.

Wedding Planner

Erinah Kalo

Holiday Inn Resort Vanuatu

How long have you had this role at Holiday Inn Resort Vanuatu?

1 year six months

What sort of lead-in time do you require to get married there?

We prefer approximately two months' notice, as wedding documents must be lodged with local Vanuatu authorities three weeks prior to the wedding date. This isn't usually a problem, as most couples book well in advance, but we have been known to create amazing events with short notice too.

How many weddings do you do a month?

We host at least two weddings a month, which is wonderful. We receive about three wedding inquiries per day for 2018 and even 2019, which is exciting!

What are the unique things your resort can offer?

- The Wedding Cabana located on the shore of the lagoon is the perfect location for a romantic ceremony. Our chief can escort the beautiful bride by a traditional canoe laden with tropical flowers to the cabana where she and her husband-to-be exchange vows. It's an amazing experience.
- Our Overwater Villas situated on our very own private Erongo Private Island. The villas have direct access to the lagoon from the private balcony and our resident chef can deliver breakfast by traditional canoe for guests to enjoy while overlooking the water.
- Family Suites - Our Family Suite has been designed with kids (big and small) in mind. This vibrant 56 square-metre room combines a King Room with a banyan tree house-themed room for kids.

What are the main benefits of getting married at a resort?

All things are taken care of, from the early stages of planning, right through to the very last detail on the big day. We have the experience, knowledge and the resources to make sure the day is special and unique. All the wedding party need to do is to relax and leave the rest to us.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

To plan and be organised. I also love meeting so many incredible couples, each with their own style and thoughts of a dream wedding. Seeing the bride and groom react to all the details come together on the wedding day makes me so happy to be a part of their special day.

What's the biggest challenge of your job?

When we have to make a call on Plan B! That day when the weather does not play ball and we have to change the original confirmed plans. However, we always have a Plan B up our sleeve and ensure that the couple still has the most amazing day. There is a solution to all challenges!

What are Top 5 things a planner needs to find out from a couple?

1. Their expectations and what they'd like their day to be, how they'd like it to feel.
2. Beach or garden ceremony? What is the picture they have in their minds?
3. The budget and estimated number of guests
4. The wedding date to ensure there is availability
5. Why us and why Vanuatu as their wedding destination. That helps us add the personal touch to their day.



What are some of ways you can personalise a wedding?

Each couple has their own style and dream. It is my job to find out what these are and to make it become reality, based on what is available here in Vanuatu.

What is the best advice you would give a couple?

Planning a destination wedding and choosing the destination can sometimes be difficult. First you need to select a destination, then you need a wedding planner who knows that destination and knows what is available that can be tailored to your needs, to ensure expectations are met. Vanuatu is the most amazing destination for your dream wedding.

All couples need to do is get in touch with me and, as the wedding planner, I will ensure your day is perfect here at Holiday Inn Resort Vanuatu. We believe a once-in-a-lifetime occasion deserves an idyllic destination where everything can be taken care of. We bring you, family and friends together to seal the love shared, and host an event where everyone can relax, enjoy and have fun!

What makes Vanuatu a great place to get married?

Vanuatu is between a two or three-hour flight from New Zealand and Australia. It is a tropical paradise with white sandy beaches, crystal blue waters, tranquil surrounds that will create a nice backdrop for your special day. You will be amazed by the photos which will create lasting memories! It is also the ideal place for guests to relax and have a holiday – using your wedding day as the best excuse ever!

Do you help with honeymoon plans too? If so, where would you recommend a couple to go to?

Here with us at Holiday Inn Resort Vanuatu! After the big day, kick back and relax in your Overwater Villa, with your own private beach, with the full service of the resort just a short stroll or phone call away.

What's your key tip to avoiding wedding day stress?

Stay organised. I help with that.

What is the best time of the year to get married in Vanuatu?

We are definitely a year-round destination. But guests find it most comfortable from April to October, when temperatures average 18° to 28° Celsius.

Do you have any memorable wedding stories you can share?

Deana and Michael's wedding on November 3, 2016. See the Great Wedding Destination story on the resort's website.

Sarah and Mitchell, 29 March 2017

"We had our wedding at Holiday Inn and stayed for a week. It was amazing, we had the best time and would recommend it to anyone. Thanks to Erinah and Benjamin for looking after us." - Sarah, Facebook review.

There's more to do in Vanuatu



© 2016 Skyline Photos



Romance here!

Only 3 hours away, you can experience incredible fishing and scuba diving, adventuring on a live volcano, witness land diving, ...or just laze on a paddleboard and enjoy.

Book now!



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Air Vanuatu

COOK ISLANDS

Heart and Soul



AITUTAKI BEACH WEDDING ©KIRKLANDPHOTOS



The Cook Islands provides a romantic experience that goes beyond warm tropical sunshine and spectacular natural scenery. This is a place where couples can immerse themselves amongst a hospitable community. This is a place where locals go about daily life with a relaxed “island time” attitude and visitors are welcome to join in. It’s what makes a romantic experience in the Cook Islands real and rewarding.

Tying the knot

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

- 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.



REAL ROMANCE

In some South Pacific destinations, the wedding experience, honeymoon or romantic getaway very much revolves around the resort or hotel a couple stay in. Sometimes a couple might never even leave the resort. Which is fantastic if that's the kind of wedding or honeymoon they're wanting. After all, the best romantic travel is the romantic travel that suits a couple best. In the Cook Islands there are numerous magical resorts that are perfect for weddings, honeymoon and romantic escapes. They have expert event planners, wonderful venues, first class food and beverage options and exceptional accommodation.

However, one of the charms of visiting the Cook Islands is being able to get out and about and have a taste of local life. Like strolling down to a village café and grabbing a bite to eat, or pulling up a bar stool and chewing the fat with a few characters at a local bar like Trader Jack's. Or grabbing a scooter and taking your own tiki tour - pulling into secluded beaches, off-beat art galleries or anywhere else that catches the eye.

For the couples getting married, the "big day" will naturally be the highlight of any trip, but in the Cook Islands there is so much more to take in. And that goes for the couple and all their friends and family.

RAROTONGA FUN FOR COUPLES

1. Scooter

A couple can hire a scooter and explore the island at their own pace.

2. Hike

For a challenge walk up The Needle with Pa, a local legend and tour guide.

3. Snorkel

Plunge into the calm, clear waters of Muri Lagoon.

4. Island Night

Take in this rich Polynesian cultural performance with distinctive dance, drumming, and dress.

5. Shop

Rub shoulders with locals at the Punanga Nui Markets.



©KIRKLANDPHOTOS



©KIRKLANDPHOTOS



PUNANGA NUI MARKETS; RAROTONGA ©KIRKLANDPHOTOS



PLACES TO STAY

Te Vakaroa Villas

The award-winning Te Vakaroa Villas has long set the standard for boutique properties in the Cook Islands. Sitting on a prime, absolute beachfront location on Muri Lagoon, Te Vakaroa has six luxury villas and a “no children under 12 policy” that ensures the kind of peace and quiet that romantic couples appreciate so much.

For small wedding groups, there’s also the option of securing exclusive use of the entire property for a private ceremony and reception. All six villas must be booked for a minimum of 30 room nights and the maximum number of guests is 20.

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.

Crystal Blue Lagoon Villas

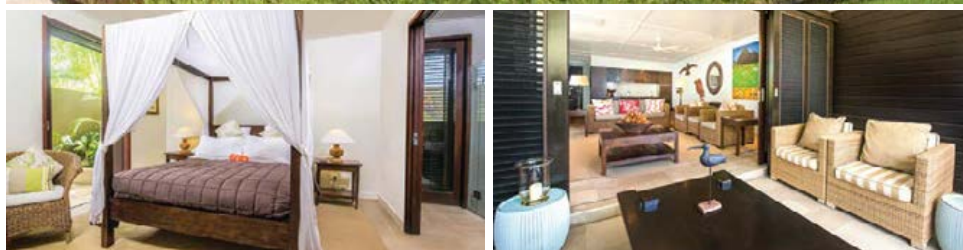
What better place to celebrate a new life together, than Crystal Blue Lagoon Villas, one of the Cook Islands’ newest properties. The beautiful boutique property opened in April 2015, offering four luxury villas, each with two bedrooms and two bathrooms and a full designer kitchen.

Just a few steps from the sands of Muri Beach, Crystal Blue Lagoon Villas is an idyllic setting for a stylish wedding. And being a smaller property, booking the entire property for exclusive use is a great option.



- All villas absolute beachfront
- Heated jacuzzi and large pool
- No children under 12
- Complimentary breakfasts
- Complimentary Sky Pacific TV
- Complimentary 120mgb WiFi
- Complimentary snorkel equipment and all non-motorised water sports eg kayaks
- Gated property with a maximum of 18 guests
- Fruit platter and a bottle of wine on arrival

AWARDED TRIPADVISOR’S CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE 2012/2013/2014/2015/2016/2017



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NAUTILUS RESORT © JUSTINE FLANAGAN. TIPORO PHOTOGRAPHY

Nautilus Resort

Yet another magnificent property on the Muri beachfront, Nautilus Resort ranks as one of the islands' very best. Opened in late 2014, the resort has all the essential ingredients for romance – luxurious accommodation that mixes modern amenities with Polynesian-inspired design, one of the island's finest dining experiences, polished service and of course, the magic of a Muri beachfront location.

It's really no surprise the property is popular for weddings. Their on-site Weddings and Event Planner and the team of wedding and function coordinators can take care of every last detail. The resort also offers a variety of stunning reception venues, such as a poolside marquee, a beachfront marquee, the resort restaurant or a private dining room overlooking the lagoon.

Muri Beach Resort

The sister resort of Nautilus, Muri Beach Resort share the same prime beachfront location and high standard of service, but with a different style of accommodation. Here it's all about practical self-contained units and apartments. This makes it the perfect place for wedding couples to host a group of family and friends. And of course, all the details are taken care of by a personal on-site wedding coordinator.

Sands Villas

For small wedding groups, Sands Villas offers the chance to take over an entire property! Its three private three-bedroom villas overlook the lush gardens and the glorious Titikaveka Beach. Together, the three villas can sleep up to 18 people.

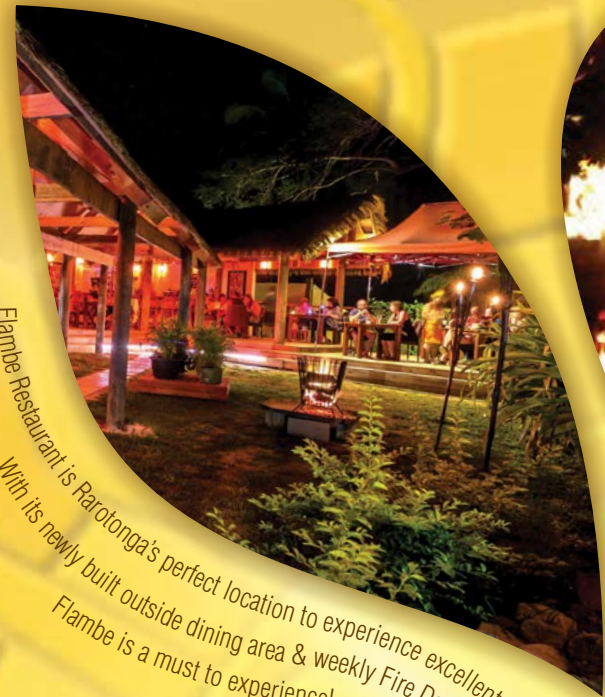
Plus a couple and their wedding party enjoy all the benefits that come with self-contained accommodation. Although this is very much an independent-style wedding option, the property can provide a planner to assist with the occasion.



MURI BEACH RESORT



SANDS VILLAS



Flambe Restaurant is Rarotonga's perfect location to experience excellent service and food. With its newly built outside dining area & weekly Fire Dances, Flambe is a must to experience!



Our magnificent Island Night Buffet and Dance Show is every Thursday night at our beautiful Oceans Beachfront Restaurant, located directly on the beach where our guests can eat breakfast lunch & dinner beside the ocean. Located on the Western side for magnificent sunsets!



Crown Beach

RESORT & SPA
RAROTONGA ~ COOK ISLANDS

36 individual villas situated on 5 acres of tropical gardens

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Crown Beach Resort & Spa is known for their outstanding Weddings & Events.



Contact us today for available packages and prices.



Book at our onsite spa for massages, manicures, pedicures, facials, body wraps, scrubs & more!



Enjoy one of our luxurious beachfront, garden, or private pool suite villas. All sumptuously decorated, with spacious king bedrooms. Our beautiful adults only resort offers you the peace and quiet you need to refresh and reconnect with loved ones.

Palm Grove Resort

Just past Turoa Beach, in the Vaima area on Rarotonga's southern coast, Palm Grove sits in a pocket of peace and tranquillity. The quiet, laid-back atmosphere is perfect for low-key weddings, which can be fully planned by their on-site coordinator.

The resort offers two wonderful location options – on the white sand beach or across in the resort's lush tropical gardens. 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.

Manuia Beach Resort

Manuia Beach Resort is yet another southern coast resort. The beautiful boutique resort sits within a private piece of Rarotongan paradise. Being a smaller resort, the vibe is very chilled, ie, it is the ideal spot for stress-free wedding. A personal wedding coordinator will ensure everything goes according to plan.

A romantic sunset service on the beach is a romantic favourite. And of course this will be followed by a delicious meal, drinks, music and dancing till the early hours. A number of set packages are available. However, every wedding can be tailored to suit.

Crown Beach Resort and Spa

With 5 acres of lush tropical gardens on Rarotonga's romantic Sunset Coast, the Crown Beach Resort offers a spectacular wedding location. Fringed by an exclusive 100-metre picture-perfect white sandy beach on the edge of Rarotonga's pristine lagoon, couples can exchange vows against a backdrop of the Pacific Ocean.

This dream scenario is assured by the resort's wedding planning experts, who can create a fully customised event, or put together a special occasion from one of many set wedding packages.

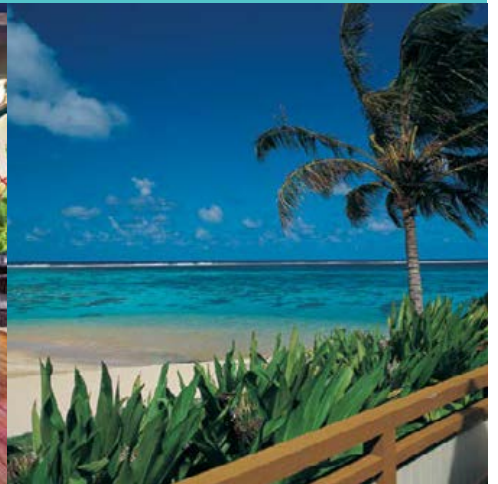


PALM GROVE RESORT



CROWN BEACH RESORT AND SPA

Welcome to Palm Grove, your private piece of paradise!



Beachfront and garden bungalows
Onsite restaurant and bar
Personal wedding co-ordinator
Rarotonga's quiet southern coast

Palm Grove
R A R O T O N G A

PO Box 23, Rarotonga, Cook Islands p: +682 2002 e: beach@palmgrove.co.ck www.palmgrove.net

discover the romance of the Cook Islands


the
edgewater
— RESORT & SPA —
RAROTONGA

Dreaming of a romantic island wedding with friendly Polynesian hospitality and the sweet smell of frangipani in the air? Say 'I do' at one of the most romantic places on earth. With a range of superb accommodation options and great wedding packages to suit all budgets, The Edgewater Resort & Spa is the perfect place to celebrate your romantic destination wedding - from intimate ceremonies with close family and friends to large scale events and lively receptions. Whatever you're looking for, Edgewater's team of event planners will ensure your Cook Islands wedding is enjoyable and stress-free.

THE TIPANI WEDDING PACKAGE - FROM NZD\$1699

* FREE Tipani Wedding Package

If your guests book 35 paid room nights in any room categories and receive our Tipani Wedding Package FREE

* 50% off Tipani Wedding Package

If you book 5 nights or more in any room category and receive 50% off our Tipani Wedding package.

ALL-INCLUSIVE 5 NIGHT WEDDING PACKAGE for \$NZ6299 for 30 people *Our all inclusive wedding package features:*

CEREMONY:

- The Services of your Personal Wedding & Reception Planner
- Marriage License & Certificate
- Services of a Celebrant or Minister
- Tropical Flower Bouquet for the Bride and Neck garland (Neck Ei) or Buttonhole for the Groom
- Decorated Beachside Ceremonial Archway
- Complimentary Bottle of Bubbly to Celebrate
- Wedding Gift from The Edgewater

RECEPTION:

- Mouth-watering Island BBQ Buffet Menu for 30 close family and friends
- 3-Hour Beverage Package for 30 close family and friends
- One-tier Wedding Cake
- Fully Decorated Wedding Reception Venue

BRIDE & GROOM'S ACCOMMODATION:

- 5 Nights in a Beachfront Deluxe Suite @ The Edgewater Resort & Spa
- Return airport-resort transfers for the Bride & Groom
- A His & Hers 30min Aromatherapy Massage or a Picnic Hamper for two (your choice)



*Quote 'ALL INCLUSIVE' for more information: email weddings@edgewater.co.ck, or contact your travel professional.
www.facebook.com/edgewaterresortandspa

www.edgewater.co.ck

Edgewater Resort and Spa

Very few Cook Islands resorts can match the experience and professionalism of the Edgewater Resort & Spa's wedding team. Being one of the island's large resorts, they're well-practised in making this special time, as enjoyable and stress-free as possible. Taking all the headaches away and leaving couples to enjoy their special moment.

The resort offers three wedding packages – Tipani is simple and intimate, Jasmine adds extra inclusions such as a string band, canapés, sunset cocktails and photography packages, plus the resort has an all-inclusive Group Wedding package that covers a beautiful ceremony, a reception for up to 30 people and the bride and groom's accommodation.



EDGEWATER RESORT AND SPA



EDGEWATER RESORT AND SPA



EDGEWATER RESORT AND SPA



*Experience the magic of Manuia
... in a truly romantic beachside location*

From quality accommodation – each room with an outdoor shower – to superb island cuisine in our 'toes-in-the-sand' restaurant, with cocktails on the beach at sunset... the holiday of your dreams is waiting for you here.


Manuia
BEACH RESORT
RAROTONGA

For enquiries: **phone (682) 22461** | email: rooms@manuia.co.ck | www.maniuia.co.ck 

Honeymoon in Paradise



- Absolute Muri Beachfront Location
- 4 spacious air-conditioned 2 bedroom/ 2 bathroom villas
- Superb attention to detail
- Fully equipped designer kitchen
- A breakfast starter hamper upon guests arrival
- Uninterrupted views of the lagoon
- Infinity Pool
- Spa / Jacuzzi

- Daybeds
- Starter Wifi voucher
- Private outdoor Living space
- BBQ for each villa
- Complimentary kayak hire vouchers available
- Complimentary use of snorkelling equipment
- 8 restaurants within a 2-10 minute walk
- No children under 12
- Perfect for honeymooners

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Crystal Blue Lagoon
LUXURY VILLAS
RAROTONGA · COOK ISLANDS

www.crystalbluelagoonvillas.com

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www.tevaranui.co.ck



- Village Tour
- Spectacular Over Water Night Show with Buffet Dinner
- Weddings & Events

Ikurangi Eco Retreat

South Pacific weddings don't have to be all glitz and glamour. At the Ikurangi Eco Retreat, couples can wed in the peace and tranquility of lush tropical gardens - with an eco-conscious edge.

The resort can arrange a wedding planner to make sure all the wedding details are put in place. And what better place to stay after the special day, than in one of Ikurangi's luxury safari tents which come complete with super king-sized beds, private outdoor showers, luxury waffle robes and daily tropical breakfasts.

IMAGES ©TURAMA PHOTOGRAPHY



IKURANGI ECO RETREAT

Rarotonga's
award-winning property



AITUTAKI – ONE HOUR TO HONEYMOON HEAVEN

In the Cook Islands, couples get the best of both worlds. Step off the plane in Rarotonga and you're in wedding heaven. We're talking about a beautiful mountain backdrop, a stunning coastline and any number of properties that are well-practised wedding professionals. But if Rarotonga is the first stop for weddings, Aitutaki is the next stop for honeymoons.

Under 60 minutes flight time 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

Etu Moana

Imagine saying "I do" on a beach created by thousands of years of warm winds and gentle waves. Picture a far away South Pacific island where a couple can immerse themselves in paradise and the purest joy of life. This is the unforgettable experience of getting married at Etu Moana on Aitutaki.

The picture postcard, boutique resort has the expertise and passion to arrange everything to make a Cook Islands wedding dream come true. Whatever a couple desires, Etu Moana will create that perfection with a personal touch.



ETU MOANA



PACIFIC RESORT AITUTAKI © ANTHONY ABICAIR

FUN FOR COUPLES

1. Cruise

Taking a cruise on this lagoon is an absolute must for any couple.

2. Pamper

There are some amazing spas on Aitutaki – pick one and be treated to a couples massage.

3. Get wet

Snorkelling, kayaking, whale watching, spear fishing, bone fishing, SUP, diving – it's all awaits in Aitutaki.

4. Kitesurf

Like a shot of adrenalin? Aitutaki is a mecca for kite surfers and the local kite school can teach the basics.

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, it's the only one on a private island and the only property with over-water bungalows in the Cook Islands. As a wedding location, it's hard to imagine anything as pretty as the resort's palm-fringed champagne sands, all topped off by glorious sunsets over the lagoon. Wedding bliss, honeymoon heaven – a couple wins either way.

Pacific Resort Aitutaki

Very few Cook Islands resorts can match the recognition received by Pacific Resort Aitutaki. Over the years, the resort has picked up a string of international awards – all a reflection of the quality experience on offer. Here honeymooning couples can enjoy a premier stay in spacious beachfront bungalows, or gorgeous 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.

Your little piece of paradise on Aitutaki

Join us at our Award Winning Boutique Resort for your Romantic Getaway. Allow our personal touch to help ensure your stay with us is perfect. The unique hideaway for your wedding, honeymoon or simply spending valuable time together.

www.etumoana.com 

Marc and Jayde Floyd

Nautilus Resort and Spa, Rarotonga

What inspired you to have a South Pacific island wedding?

Great weather. And the chance to get away from our normal environment.

What made you pick the Cook Islands?

Proximity to New Zealand, the same currency and language – which made everything easy for us and all the guests.

What made you pick the Nautilus?

We wanted a boutique location with an intimate feel. Plus it is beautifully set out and has a new, modern feel.

What were some of the advantages of getting married in the islands?

It's super relaxed, the weather is warm and the islands provide a unique experience for everyone.

Did your resort or wedding venue provide you with a wedding planner? If so, how did you find that experience?

Yes they did and the experience was fantastic. Our flight was delayed so we ended up arriving a day later. But our planner had everything sorted for us when we arrived.

Did you stay on the same island for your honeymoon?

No, we popped across to Aitutaki.

What did you love most about getting married in the islands?

It felt like a really relaxing holiday!

What did your guests love most about your wedding in the islands?

The location and the weather.

What were some of the special touches that you could only get in the islands?

The island culture is so relaxed and genuinely friendly. And of course the tropical surroundings are amazing.

IMAGES COURTESY OF JUSTINE FLANAGAN. TIPORO PHOTOGRAPHY

Top 5 Island Wedding Tips

1. If you're patient you can get some great afares.
2. If time allows, consider taking a trip to check out the island locations and get to know the areas.
3. Picking a place with an experienced organiser makes life a lot easier.
4. Consider pre-booking accommodation for guests early to make sure everyone is close by.
5. Talk to others for good recommendations and photographers (that's what we did and we had the best experience).



NAUTILUS RESORT MURI BEACH RAROTONGA

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 one, two or three-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 coordinator
- 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 Coordinator, 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.

res@muribeachresort.com | muribeachresort.com



FAST FACTS

- Family friendly
- Your choice of apartments, one and two bedroom villas
- Big budgets not necessary



Wedding Planner

Veronica Kairua

Pacific Resort, Rarotonga

Veronica Kairua has been part of the Weddings and Events Team at Pacific Resort Rarotonga for three years. She's loved every minute of it and she's also happy to share her insights with *Pacific Romance*.

What lead time do you require to get married there?

The Cook Islands Ministry of Justice office requires a bride and groom to be on the island at least three full working days prior to their wedding. If three full working days is not given, a \$75 waiver fee must be paid.

How many weddings do you do a month?

Each month varies, however we host between 65-75 weddings per year.

What are some of the unique things your resort can offer?

A stunning wedding location, hospitality and service like no other. We love to go above and beyond for our brides and grooms and offer the best experience possible.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Being part of the biggest day of a couple's lives is an amazing feeling! It is extremely rewarding to me that they have chosen to have their wedding with you and have laid their trust in you to make their day perfect, is simply beautiful.

What's the biggest challenge of your job?

Having to say goodbye to a couple! After corresponding with them, and building a friendship leading up to the big day, then seeing them leave, has always been a sad part of my job. But I am lucky that most come do back for their anniversary!

What are Top 5 things a planner needs to find out from a couple?

1. How many guests will be attending their wedding.
2. The vision couple have for their set up (both ceremony and reception).
3. Locations they wish to secure for their ceremony and reception.
4. What plans they have for the entertainment and any additional items they wish to incorporate.
5. What their budget is - so that I can do my best to accommodate them by creating an all inclusive grouping of our best packages to suit them.

What is the best advice you would give a couple?

Learn how to agree to disagree. No two people agree on everything, and that is perfectly okay. It is very important to allow each to be heard so you can talk through any situation together as a team. Whether it is planning your wedding or a personal matter.

What's your key tip to avoiding wedding day stress?

Leave everything to myself and my team, we handle everything with care and are extremely organised professionals who have an impeccable record with hosting successful weddings. If you do need us we are there for you.



Veronica Kairua



PACIFIC RESORT, RAROTONGA



PACIFIC RESORT, RAROTONGA



Rarotonga's most dreamed about beach villas!

3 x three bedroom quality, serviced villas
each sleeping up to six.
A genuine family beach retreat...

www.sandsvillasrarotonga.com

Sands Villas
RAROTONGA 

NEW CALEDONIA

A table for two

New Caledonia is a natural choice for weddings, honeymoons and couple escapes with its beautiful environment, balmy weather and humming cosmopolitan centre with a French influence ever present in its rich dining culture. As well as the lively cosmopolitan centre of Noumea, New Caledonia is home to stunning outlying islands such as Lifou, Ouvea and Ile des Pins, which some say rival the most beautiful beaches in the world.

NOUMEA © STÉPHANE DUCANDAS / NCTPS



Tying the knot

In 2009 a change in policy meant that couples visiting New Caledonia could hold a civil wedding ceremony. Applications are made to the Nouméa City Authorities at least six months in advance, via an email to the Townhall Records Authority. There are several legal documents required such as proof of civil status, a Certificate of Residence, passports and birth certificates to name a few. An officially approved translator (French/English) will be present at the ceremony. After the ceremony, a certified transcription of their marriage certificate then needs to be taken to the consulate of their country.



LE MÉRIDIEN NOUMEA RESORT & SPA



LE ROOF, NOUMEA © TERRES DE LUMIÈRE / NCTPS



© OLIVER STREWE / NCTPS

NOUMEA

Noumea is the charming cosmopolitan capital, with close to 100,000 people who call it home. A relaxed city on a peninsula surrounded by a beautiful bay, it offers a vibrant French-inspired dining scene and fabulous shopping. It remains the hub for most holidaymakers because as well as its natural beauty it offers so much to see and do.

French wine, macaroons, fine cheese, escargots – French food is a true recipe for romance. New Caledonia is a celebrated foodie haven with a unique fusion of French and Island flavours to be found in the bounty of romantic restaurants here. From fine dining to Parisian-style bistros, to the local markets, Noumea will not disappoint in its offerings.

The newest addition to Noumea's restaurants is "So Food" on Lemon Bay, which has fused local and Mediterranean influences to create something delightfully unique - try a savoury tuna or beef tartare cut to order.

One of Noumea's most famous restaurants is Au P'tit cafe, on Avenue des Freres, and for good reason. This cafe has no menu, instead four new dinners and desserts are on offer each week to suit the seasons and to keep the chefs' creativity at its best. The one thing that does stay the same is the passionfruit cheesecake – and locals will tell you this is an outstanding choice!

For a dining experience with a view, visit Le Roof, a restaurant serving New Caledonian/French-style seafood fare in an over-water bungalow. You may just see dolphins swim by while you dine.

For a true Parisian café experience, head to Chez Toto in Noumea's Latin Quarter. The bistro serves quality French cuisine - cassoulet, lamb shanks, crème brûlée and even escargots in a classically chic setting.

La Pirogue in the Chateau Beach Resort and Spa in Mauritius is the place to go for seafood in Noumea. With views to the lagoon and garden, couples can enjoy a romantic taste of the Pacific, such as prawns and pineapple in rum and coconut milk.

Fancy staying in or enjoying a picnic on the beach? Take a trip to the markets or fine food stores in Noumea and pick from French wines, patés, terrines, foie gras, duck cassoulets and of course an array of French cheeses. And be sure to pick up a selection of Patrick Morand's famous chocolates from his boutique store in the Latin Quarter for dessert. Moselle Market, beside the marina at Port-Moselle, is Noumea's biggest and you'll find your souvenirs there too.

Be sure to visit Noumea's bakeries (boulangeries) and patisserie – the bread is wonderful, and the croissants, macaroons and eclairs are mouth-watering.

ILE DES PINS

The Ile des Pins is a peaceful escape, less than hour plane ride from Noumea. Nicknamed the "island closest to heaven," this is a popular honeymoon destination for good reason. There are no Instagram filters needed at Kuto, Oro, Upi and Kanumera Bays. Their pure white sand and turquoise water has to be seen to be believed. Collecting



jaw-dropping romantic memories here is easy - visit the highest point of the island, N'ga Peak, for a stunning view, ride together on a floating outrigger canoe or swim in the natural seawater pool near Oro Bay, which has been created by a simple barrier of rocks. You can take a day trips to Ile des Pins from Noumea, but locals recommend at least three days to experience the island's magic. Be sure to try the Ile des Pins' famous snails - Escargots de l'Ile des Pins. They live in the forest and are farmed by the locals. You can only consume this delicacy on the island.

THE LOYALTY ISLANDS OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

For couples who want to leave the common tourist route and visit an area relatively untouched by tourism – the Loyalty Islands is the place to go. Visitors won't find shopping or large fancy resorts here. Instead they'll discover a true example of traditional Melanesian culture, and the pristine untouched natural beauty of an island that was formed from raised coral-covered in dense scrubland. Accommodation is in the form of smaller resorts, many with traditional huts, or there is the option of home-stay accommodation with locals.

Lifou

This is the largest of the Loyalty Islands and one of the most dramatic landscapes in New Caledonia, with the steep coral cliffs, long stretches of white sand beaches (the most famous is Chateaubriand), small coves,

limestone caves and grottos. Spend time together on the outstanding beaches, check out the vanilla plantations, and visit Lifou's immense cave - Grotte Jila, where locals used to hide during tribal wars.

Enjoy hikes inland through the lush tropical forests that have formed on a vast plain that used to be a lagoon. Diving couples will want to explore the sites off the coast of the Hunete tribe's land.

Ouvea

This beautiful atoll of Ouvea is a World Heritage site confined by a series of reefs and islets called the Pléiades. Only 35 kilometres long and less than 40 metres wide in some places, there is only one road on the island which winds along the lagoon, shaded by palm trees.

Couples can hire a scooter and explore this paradise, where the pristine waters are dwarfed by the majestic Lékinny Cliffs. The lagoon is home to abundant wildlife, and is a wonderland for kayaking, snorkelling and swimming. Formed by an atoll that tipped over, it is partly underwater.

Maré

Maré is the highest of the three islands – with steep cliffs and dense forest. Visitors will discover little sand coves nestled between impressive rocky headlands such as the legendary Warrior's Leap in Wakone. Snorkel among multi-coloured fish, take in the delightful spectacle of the beaches and explore the Petheon and Meduy Caves.

Maré is "untouched", even by Loyalty Island standards, and couples who want to immerse themselves in the island and its people will discover a rich culture and history.



PLACES TO STAY

Le Méridien Noumea Resort & Spa

Overlooking the crystal clear waters of Anse Vata Bay and just a few minutes from the town's vibrant centre is Le Méridien Noumea Resort & Spa. Walk out your front door into the large swimming pool, surrounded by tropical gardens, and then straight on to the beach where you can swim, kayak, snorkel or paddleboard. This is a water lover's delight. Also on the doorstep is the starting point of the Pierre Vernier track, the famous Caledonian jogger's highway, for those who fancy a scenic run. Alternatively, opt for a lie down and make the most of the onsite spa with a couples massage.

Couples getting married are offered expertly prepared catering and dedicated wedding staff with a smorgasbord of venues. There is the charming beachside La Chapelle, a unique octagonal building with arched stained glass windows for ceremonies of up to 40 guests. For bigger weddings there's Salon Lapérouse, which accommodates 250 people, with a dance floor and floor-to-ceiling windows. For outdoor affairs, Le Faré is a beachfront restaurant with a thatched roof. It accommodates up to 100 guests for dinner and dancing as the sun sets over the bay.

Sheraton Deva Spa & Golf Resort, Bourail

Between a World Heritage-listed lagoon and the Deva Hills is the Sheraton New Caledonia Deva Spa & Golf Resort, a sprawling resort that offers 13 kilometres of white, sandy Pacific beach - plenty

of space to relax in privacy. The spacious resort has 180 rooms, three restaurants, a 900 metre swimming pool and an 18 hole golf course, should you fancy a leisurely game. Couples can choose from the outdoor terrace, poolside area or resort gardens for a dreamy wedding ceremony, followed by a reception at the elegant ballroom. There are sophisticated food, beverage, music, venue and accommodation wedding packages on offer.

Le Méridien Ile des Pins

Le Meridien Ile des Pins is simply a quintessential Pacific paradise. Nestled in the heart of the New Caledonia Barrier Reef, a World Heritage site, this stunning private island resort overlooks the beautiful Oro Bay Beach. Couples can stay in one of only 48 luxurious rooms and suites, and eat at the exceptional La Pirogue Restaurant, which blends French and Melanesian cuisine for exotic flavours in a beautiful indoor/outdoor setting overlooking the sea and pool. This is the dream setting for a honeymoon or couples escape, with luxurious panoramic bungalows and the indulgent Deep Nature Spa.

Hotel Oure Ile des Pins

Hotel Oure Ile des Pins sits on the beachfront of Kanumera Bay, the jewel in the Ile des Pins' crown. The 30 spacious natural bungalows fit beautifully into the natural landscape. Couples can choose from a beachfront villa with spectacular ocean views, or take the tranquillity of a lush tropical garden villa. For romantic dining, eat at the elegant Kanumera Restaurant. Try the freshly caught fish and famous Ile des Pins lobster, then watch the spectacular sunset of this west-facing property poolside with an exotic cocktail. Bliss. 🌸



LE MERIDIEN ISLE OF PINS



LIFOU © P. DANDEL / NCTPS



MARE



MARE

nouvelle calédonie
Pacific heart

**IN 2018
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? 2018 is the year to say "oui, je le veux" (yes, I do).

Start planning, visit NewCaledonia.travel

Authentic Adventures

If you are looking for a couple's escape to a Pacific destination that has retained its pristine, unspoiled natural state, waters that teem with sea life and the privacy of vast, uninhabited beaches, the Solomon Islands are for you. Here you will find a private escape, a diver's nirvana and a bird watchers' paradise. The Solomon Islands is warm all-year-round, with an average temperature of about 27 degrees.

A couple is seen from behind, sitting in a bright yellow motorboat on a clear blue ocean. The man is at the helm, and the woman is seated next to him. The boat has a black canopy and a Yamaha 15 HP outboard motor. In the background, there are small islands and a blue sky with white clouds. A large, stylized red circle with white text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Tying the knot

There have been discussions around amending the current Solomon Islands Matrimony Law – to allow overseas couples to conduct religious marriages in the Solomon Islands and have their weddings legally recognised in their country of origin – but at time of printing, this law remains the same. Civil unions are permitted and recognised internationally, however they can only take place in Honiara.



A RICH HISTORY

For a place so untouched – the Solomon's has a rich history with one of the highest concentrations of World War II wrecks in the world. Some of war's fiercest battles took place in the Solomon's, where strong resistance from Australian and American forces pushed the Japanese back.

The battle sites have had minimal interference and visitors find rusting tanks and Jeeps as well as caves that were used as hiding places and observation points.

Couples who want an historic underwater adventure will find ample opportunities. The ships, submarines and aircraft that are submerged here serve as artificial reefs, attracting coral and fish and offering a fascinating underwater museum to explore. You don't have to go far from the capital to experience it – try the aptly named Iron Bottom Sound, just off Honiara, where some of the wrecks are also shallow enough to be snorkelled.



THE DIVING PARADISE

The Solomon Island's waters are home to an abundance of coral and tropical marine life and have been nominated as one of Oceania's seven natural wonders. Located within a wider area known as the Coral Triangle, the reef is made up of 500 species of hard and soft corals and the water is a spawning ground and migratory route for reef fish, dolphins, rays, sharks and marine turtles.

Maravo is the largest saltwater lagoon in the world and many of its islands are uninhabited; couples will find the peace and privacy of the often deserted beaches a total treat.



FATBOYS RESORT © FRANCO BANFI

Munda and Roviana Lagoon are also popular. Inside the Roviana Lagoon, which is enclosed by a chain of barrier reefs and islands, adventurous couples can visit the Cave of the Kastom Shark, where a small, freshwater pool leads into two large connected chambers.

For those couples who love to dive, or who want to learn to dive, a handful of beautifully located resorts provide an idyllic doorway to undersea ventures like you will get nowhere else.



PLACES TO STAY

Tavanipupu Private Island Resort

For a premium island delight visit Tavanipupu Private Island Resort in Marau Sound, just a 25-minute plane ride from Honiara. Couples will find a tropical paradise with manicured lawns, lines of coconut palms (leftover from its days as a coconut plantation) and spacious bungalows in a coconut grove overlooking the beach.

The restaurant is renowned for its fresh seafood, and the resort offers fabulous snorkelling, fishing, diving and swimming opportunities. The resort is a popular spot for honeymooners and couple's escapes, and hosted one of the world's most famous duos - The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge (William and Kate).

Evis Resort

On the lagoon side of Nggatirana Island is Evis Resort, one of the Solomon's newest properties. The tree-lined luxury beach resort in Nono Lagoon is made up of beachside bungalows with a bar and restaurant at its centre. The island has 15 hectares of conservation land, which couples can walk the "round the island trail", enjoying the birdlife and forests. There is kayaking and snorkelling gear available and day trips to Vangunu Island, which has easy access to premium diving and snorkelling sites, including Penguin Reef, Rapichana Point and Hele Bar.



A DIFFERENT KIND OF PARADISE

One of the most beautiful unspoiled locations on the planet comprising a vast group of 992 breathtaking tropical islands, the Solomon Islands is the perfect place in which to enjoy a truly memorable wedding ceremony, the perfect honeymoon or a romantic getaway for two. Feel the spirit of adventure, and enjoy your own special piece of paradise and discover a culture with a welcoming smile.

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UEPI ISLAND RESORT ©KIRKLANDPHOTOS

Vangunu is home to Gerbera's village Zaira, one of the most remote places on earth. Zaira offers great food and friendly smiles to visitors and you may also see turtle eggs hatching during your visit. After a day soaking up the sun and sea, return to Evis Resort's restaurant and enjoy a meal inspired by both French and lagoon fare.

Fatboys Resort

Fatboys Resort is located on Babanga Island, a tropical hideaway for couples wanting a relaxing beachside escape. The resort has five waterside bungalows with wide verandas, and couples will wake to seductive views of the islands and the sound of waves lapping the sand. The accommodation, made from traditional leaves and local hardwoods, fits beautifully into the landscape.

A stand-out feature of the resort is its restaurant and bar, located along the private jetty, 100 metres out over the reef. Enjoy a drink and a plate of fresh crayfish while you watch tropical fish swim beneath you. Delightful. 🌺



TAVANIPUPU ISLAND RESORT ©KIRKLANDPHOTOS



SOLOMONS DIVING ©KIRKLANDPHOTOS

THE KINGDOM OF TONGA

A kingdom for couples



VAVA'U © KINGDOM OF TONGA



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 participants
- 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.



TONGA TONGATAPU © KINGDOM OF TONGA - JAMES BLACKWOOD

Tonga is the destination for couples who want a truly secluded tropical escape, with only 40 out of its 146 islands inhabited. The beautiful Kingdom is warm all-year-round, but the temperatures rarely reach above 35 degrees, and trade winds from the east provide cooling breezes in the late afternoon and evening while you relax together, overlooking the turquoise ocean.

Despite Tonga's isolation you will not be lost for romantic adventures here. Tonga is one of the few places in the world you can still swim with the whales. Many are mothers with calves so great care is taken not to intrude. There are a number of providers who will do whale swimming tours but be sure to use licensed operators, so you know your guides are using sustainable practices, fully trained tour guides and correct equipment.

Then there is the world-class sailing, diving and snorkelling. While you cruise around the warm water you may just do so with the soundtrack of whale song and be joined by sea turtles, manta rays, tuna, marlin and wahoo, and whale sharks.

Those wanting a rustic adventure can camp overnight on deserted beaches or stay in a simple island village in the company of locals. Others who want more creature comforts can opt for the kingdom's boutique resorts and eco lodges which offer a stunning environment to relax and rejuvenate.

TONGATAPU

Tongatapu, home of the capital city of Nuku'alofa and residence of Tonga's Royal Family, is a great springboard for your Tongan adventure and offers a host of activities to begin your couple escape.

Enjoy the rugged beauty of the Anahulu Caves and then stand together on black volcanic rocks to witness the Mapua 'a Vaea blowholes, which spout water along six and a half kilometres stretch of wild coastline. Spectacular.

Visit Tonga's own "Stonehenge" - the Ha'amonga Trilithon. These three giant limestone slabs are too large to have been moved by mortals, so folklore has it the trilithon must have been made by the demigod Maui. Then continue the wonderment by heading to the north of Tongatapu, where you can watch the resident pigs heading out for a swim at low tide. It's all truly otherworldly.

VAVA'U GROUP

Your escape to Tonga's paradise is not complete without heading to the Vava'u Group, a tropical oasis of 61 islands with deserted beaches, coral gardens, transparent lagoons and some of Tonga's must-do attractions.

Join a local skipper and enjoy the sheltered yachting playground that attracts sailboats from around the world. Once on board, you can visit hidden coves and atolls or take part in game-fishing for mighty blue marlin.

Snorkelling or diving is bliss in these crystal-clear waters. The beauty is visible up to 30 metres, and visitors can explore shipwrecks, sea caves and the abundant underwater life.

Sharing a tropical holiday with your loved one is special, but sharing the warm waters of Vava'u together with gentle humpback whales is extraordinary. Vava'u is one of Tonga's most popular whale swimming destinations from June to November, when whales come to care for their newly-born calves.



VAVAU ISLAND CRUISING

EUA

For an entirely different landscape, take a seven-minute flight from Tongatapu to Eua, an island millions of years older than the rest of the Tonga group. The eco-paradise is home to steep limestone cliffs, caves and waterfalls. Hike in Tonga's biggest national park, breathe in the fresh air of lush rainforest and be sure to listen out for the call of the koki, Eua's rare red-breasted shining parrot. For divers the highlight of visiting Eua is one of the Pacific's largest underwater caverns, which is a natural amphitheatre.

PLACES TO STAY

Fafa Island resort

This exclusive beach resort is situated on an 18 acre palm covered atoll, surrounded by a marine-reserve coral reef, just a 30 minute boat ride from Tongatapu. Stay in one of the 13 traditional Polynesian fales, all made from natural materials. Couples will love the honeymoon, deluxe and superior fales which are located just steps away from the private beach with views out to sea. Visitors can also take a day trip from the main island and enjoy lunch at the resort and a day snorkelling and swimming on the private island.

The Hideaway

This rustic but beautifully located accommodation on Eua has 10 rooms surrounded by lush green forest. Couples will love the six ocean-view rooms which look out to the vast blue sea, and enjoy soaking up the scenery on The Hideaways ocean-front viewing deck, the perfect place to take in the visiting whales or the sunset, with a drink in hand.

Tongan Beach Resort

The Tongan Beach Resort offers a great mix of a laid-back escape with convenient resort facilities. It has a restaurant and bar and guestrooms only metres from the water edge. With just 12 rooms, this boutique resort offers a warm, personal experience that caters for couples, escapes and honeymoons. Each room has its own private covered balcony to relax on. 🌺



Fafa Island Resort



Tongan Beach Resort

SAMOA



TAUMEASINA ISLAND RESORT

The islands of Samoa are
made for romance

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).

“Beautiful Samoa” is the catchphrase used to promote the islands of Samoa to the world. It’s a simple description, but it’s also very accurate. Indeed, Samoa has a flair for the dramatic. Mountainous volcanic peaks rise above lush green valleys. White sand beaches and secluded bays dot spectacular coastlines. Tall waterfalls spill into rivers that carve their way through the countryside. For romance travellers, Samoa’s stunning landscapes provides the perfect backdrop to celebrate love.

UPOLU – ADVENTURES ABOUND

Let’s get this straight. There’s absolutely nothing wrong with lazing poolside or flopping on the beach. In fact, it’s good for the soul. But if a couple picks Samoa for their romantic adventure, they should at least set aside some time for adventure.

Taking a plunge into the To Sua Trench on Upolu’s south coast is a must. This giant swimming hole is on the southern coast of Upolu among tropical gardens that are meticulously maintained by the local landowners. To access this surreal swimming hole requires climbing down a high ladder. Some might find the descent a little scary, but if you go slowly there’s nothing to worry about. Once at the bottom, it’s just a matter of diving in and enjoying the view back up.

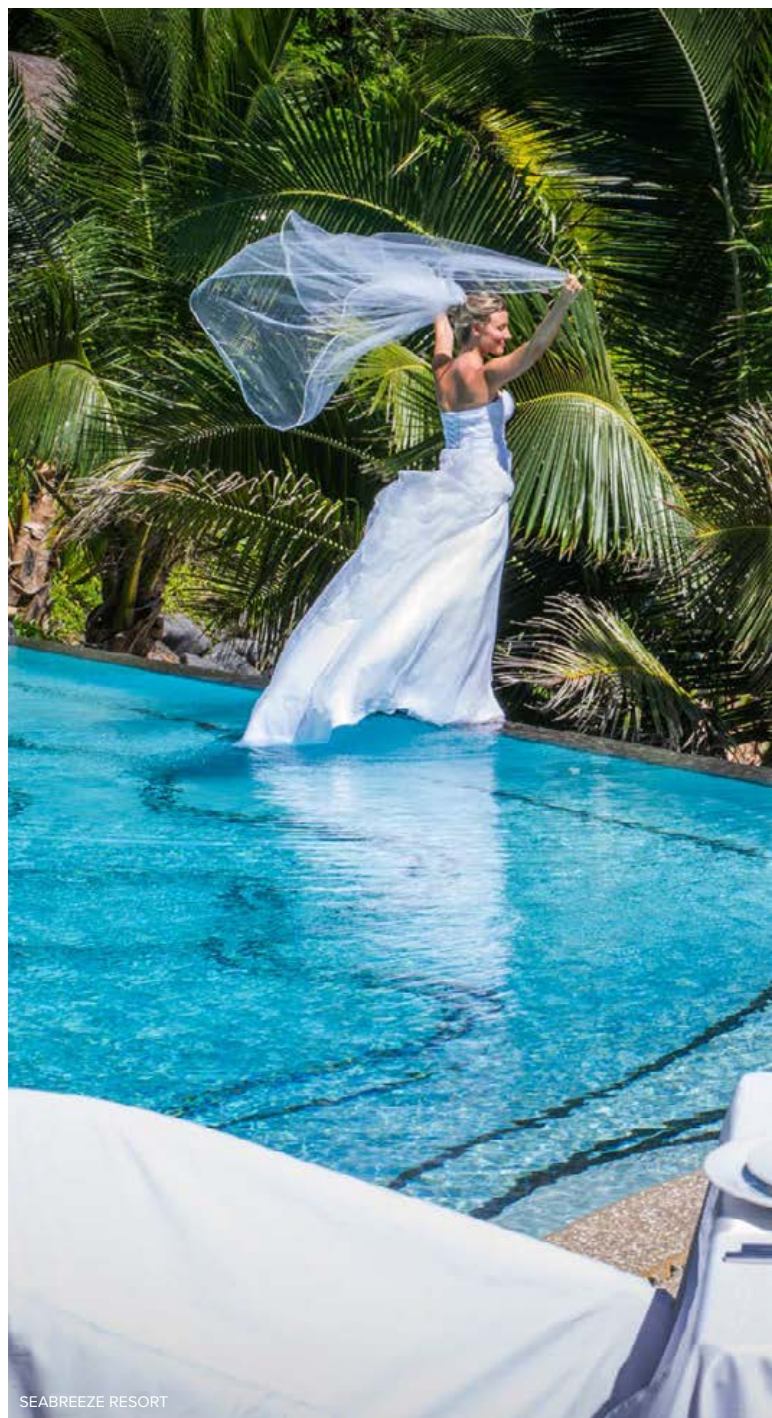
Exploring Samoa by bike is also loads of fun. And because couples aren’t whizzing by in a car, there are plenty of chances to soak up the local culture while you’re sightseeing. There are numerous family-owned markets dotted along the main roads, selling fruit and local produce. Simply park the bike, put the feet up and savour the taste of a coconut that’s been cut fresh that morning. Along the coast there are plenty of swimming holes too, so packing the togs is a must.

SAVAII – WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

With Faleolo International Airport being located on the “main” island of Upolu, it’s only natural that many romance travellers stay there, and don’t make the trip across to the neighbouring island of Savaii. Which is a shame, because Savaii is home to some pure, unspoilt serenity.

For overseas visitors, Upolu will seem pretty cruisy. But in comparison, Savaii is even more laid-back. Some locals describe Savaii as Upolu from 30 years ago. For some visitors, 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.

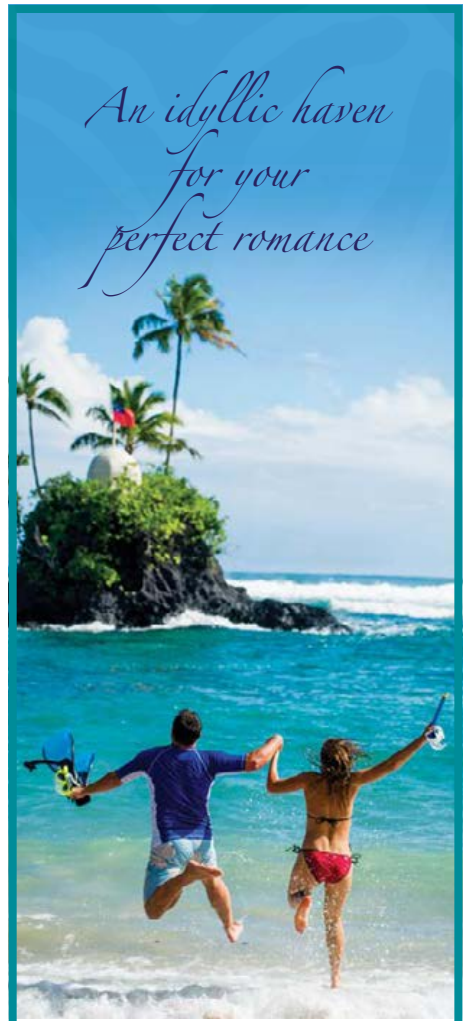


Savaii is the largest of the Samoan islands and home to some stunning scenery. Active couples will love the Tafua Peninsula Rainforest Reserve - a nature-lover’s paradise, where lush rainforest meets the rugged, lava-streaked coast with its sea caves, sea arches, blowholes, flora and fauna.

The reserve has some scenic walks, including a hike up to the Tafua Savaii crater. 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.



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PLACES TO STAY

Return to Paradise Resort

Tucked away on a secluded, private beach, Return to Paradise Resort is the sort of place where couples can feel like they're in a world of their own. There are no other resorts nearby. The nearest village is a kilometre or so down the road. Instead, you are surrounded by spectacular blue ocean, a picture-postcard beach and meticulously maintained gardens.

This peace, quiet and picturesque setting makes Return to Paradise a wonderful wedding venue or honeymoon spot. The resort staff are well-practised at planning weddings too, and the facilities can cater for anywhere up to 450 guests. Couples can pick from three wedding packages, or they can have a totally bespoke wedding experience. It's just a matter of talking through the options with the resort's wedding coordinator.

Sinalei Resort and Spa

In Samoa, Sinalei Resort and Spa has been synonymous with a high quality couples experience, because they get the details right, year after year after year. The vast natural setting – 14 hectares worth - is always carefully maintained. Picture 29 villas set among lush tropical gardens with a sheltered lagoon beach framing your view. 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, oral centrepieces and a village string band are just a few! Add in some serious spa indulgence and a quiet adults-only atmosphere and you really do have a delicious recipe for romance.

Saletoga Sands Resort and Spa

When Kiwi couple Gavin and Lou Brightwell fell in love with this stunning southern coast setting, they committed themselves to creating a spectacular resort to match. And so they went ahead and did so from the ground up. Since opening up in 2014, Saletoga Sands Resort and Spa has earned a fine reputation. 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 each couple's personal tastes.

Seabreeze Resort

The award-winning Seabreeze Resort is another property that offers that attractive combination of privacy, luxury and peace. Sitting down a short driveway off the main south coast road, Seabreeze hugs the edge of a pretty little horseshoe shaped bay. It's a setting made for weddings. The private beach is the most popular spot. And after the ceremony, guests can mosey over to Seabreeze's impressive dining pavilion that runs along one side of the bay.

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The resort has created what is arguably Samoa's most romantic room. The Honeymoon Suite – affectionately known as the “Point” House, which sits 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.

Aga Reef Resort

Drive further along the southern coast towards Lalomanu Beach and you'll come to Aga Reef Resort. The backdrop is impressive. On one side you have steep “Jurassic Park-like” cliffs covered in lush tropical foliage. On the other side, the vast Pacific Ocean stretches out as far as the eye can see. With a setting like that and fantastic service to match, the resort has become a sought-after wedding destination.

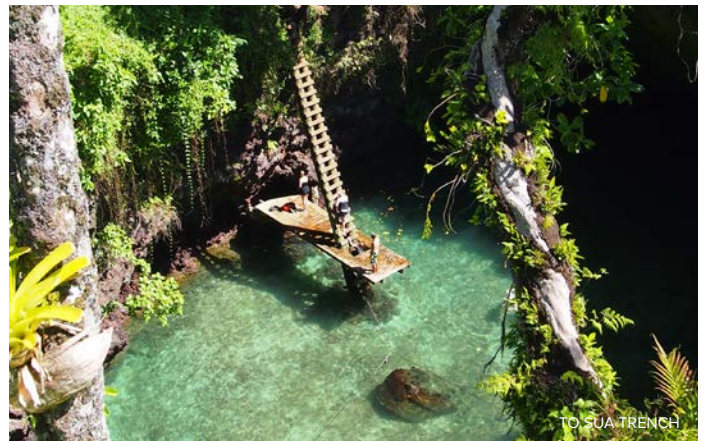
Couples can choose from three packages. Each one features a different ceremony location (beach, pool or Aga Reef's own island) and a list of features that include a floral arch, flower leis, the all-important wedding cake, decorations and the essentials, like a wedding celebrant.

Sheraton Samoa Aggie Grey's Resort

Sitting just a few minutes away from Faleolo International Airport, Sheraton Samoa Aggie Grey's Resort has long been a favourite with visitors to Samoa. In a nutshell, it has everything a couple could need - a lovely beachfront setting, fantastic dining options, an exceptional spa and golden sunsets. The resort can also provide everything a couple could need for a wedding. Like a fabulous choice of venues, the resort's private pier, a tropical garden, its turquoise lagoon or a 100-year-old chapel constructed from coral. It's just a matter of talking through the options with the wedding coordinator. Regardless of what happens, the special moment will be an experience to remember.



SHERATON AGGIE GREY'S RESORT



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Taumeasina Island Resort

When Taumeasina Island Resort opened in mid-2016, it provided a real shot in the arm for Apia, and Samoa in general. The resort's wide variety of services, the extensive accommodation offer and its overall build quality have made it one of the standout resorts in Samoa. Despite being just a few minutes drive from downtown Apia, the resort has a relaxed island feel, which makes it 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.



Le Lagato Resort and Spa, Savaii

Enchanting. Idyllic. And somewhere a little different. Le Lagato may be a bit off the beaten track, but any couple saying "I do" against the backdrop of Le Lagato's crystal clear lagoon, will know why 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 a couple will remember is the magic of Savaii, its peace and its sheer beauty. 🌺



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Jim and Wendy Dixon

Saletoga Sands, Samoa

Jim and Wendy Dixon had two years to plan the party of their lives, and with the help of everybody at Saletoga Sands their wedding experience exceeded their expectations. "From the welcomes to the singing farewells, we have never seen so many tears of happiness from ourselves and our guests. It was the most special time of our lives and I really don't think we could top it!"

What inspired you to have a South Pacific island wedding?

The climate for sure, but also the relaxed, laid back vibe of the islands.

What made you pick Samoa?

Among all the South Pacific islands, Samoa is our favourite (of all the islands we have been lucky enough to visit) - the people make it.

What made you pick that specific resort or other wedding venue?

We looked into and visited many resorts and locations and Saletoga had the biggest range of accommodation to suit our guests, from budget through to luxury.

How many guests did you have?

We were lucky enough to have 50 friends and family join us.

What were some of the advantages of getting married in the islands?

A very relaxed approach, and having a week-long party with our guests - not just an afternoon!

Did your resort or wedding venue provide you with a wedding planner?

Yes Lusi was awesome!! Organised everything from the menu, decorations, celebrant and extras that we wanted, as well as a bus tour the day before for everyone on a local bus, a cultural show as part of our wedding, and everything else that was needed over the week that we were there. We couldn't recommend Lusi enough.

What are your Top 5 tips?

1. Relax and understand what island time really means
2. Trust your wedding planner
3. Go local with culture, food and dance
4. The bus tour the day before was a great call as everybody got to know each other before the big day
5. Go with the flow - it all works out in the end

What did you love most about getting married in the islands?

Sharing the Samoan influence with our guests

What did your guests love most about your wedding in the islands?

Apart from the beautiful tropical setting, we think the cultural show and fire dance display.

What were some of the special touches that you could only get in the islands?

The special love from the locals. We were made to feel so special for the whole time we were there and our guests were treated exactly the same.

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Wedding Planner

Fatima Lam

Taumeasina Island Resort, Samoa

How long have you had this role at Taumeasina?

Since June 6, 2016. The resort opened on the July 1, 2016.

What sort of lead-in time do you require to get married there?

At least two weeks due to documentation.

How many weddings do you do a month?

We boast an average of seven weddings a month, but November this year alone took us to nine weddings!

Unique things your resort can offer?

Taumeasina Island Resort in itself is a unique place with its modern structures embedded on an isolated island with pristine waters and alluring lush gardens within the vicinity of Apia (the capital).

What are the main benefits of getting married at a larger resort?

Some of the benefits are that you have a lot of spaces to choose from for your ceremony, and you have a lot of beautiful areas to take photos without having to go somewhere else.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

The look of satisfaction and joy on my bride and groom's faces on their wedding day especially after the ceremony.

What's the biggest challenge of your job?

During the planning and the meetings, you are only liaising with the wedding couple, but come the wedding day, the whole family seems to know what's best for the couple.

What are Top 5 things a planner needs to find out from a couple?

1. What is their budget
2. How do they envision their wedding deco to look like
eg. theme colours
3. How many people do they plan to invite
4. Is there anyone else involved in the planning eg relatives
5. Time of the reception

What are some of ways you can personalise a wedding?

We have a string band serenade the wedding guests with Samoan love songs while they wait for the bride to arrive. We have also had our warriors dressed in traditional attire with their clubs escort the bride down the aisle.

Best advice you would give a couple?

Always tell your planner exactly what you want, to avoid any misunderstanding on the wedding day.



What makes Samoa a great place to get married?

Samoa is a great place to get married because of its tropical weather all-year-round. Personally, I would choose a beach wedding, because the sound of the distant waves creates a romantic ambience.

Do you help with honeymoon plans too? If so, where would you recommend a couple to go to?

We do assist with honeymoon planning and would recommend Savaii simply because of its simplicity and serenity.

What's your key tip to avoiding wedding day stress?

Always take notes, have a checklist ready for what you need to do and tick off every time a task is completed.

What is the best time of the year to get married in Samoa?

The best time to get married in Samoa is July to October as it is cooler in those months.

Any memorable wedding stories you can share?

Just recently we had a very small and intimate wedding party of 20 people. The couple, who reside in Australia, were both tying the knot for the second time and left everything to us to organise and execute. We had the warriors escort the bride whilst our three-man string band serenaded her.

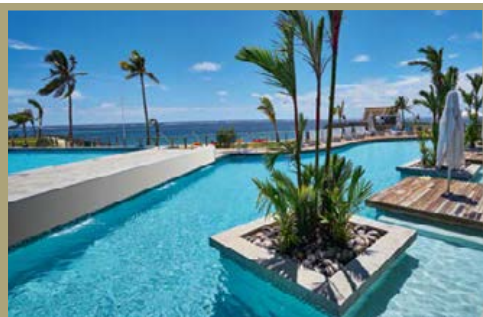
The most memorable part of the wedding for me was when the bride was getting ready to walk down the aisle and we played a song requested by the groom. When the song played, instead of walking, she turned to me and asked in tears whether I knew the significance of the song and I said yes. She played that song for him when they first met some eight years ago. The groom was so ecstatic that he announced to everyone that finally he was married to his Samoan Princess!

Taumeasina Island Resort


Escape to paradise

Experience true 4.5 star quality at Taumeasina Island Resort, Samoa. Indulge in fabulous food, luxurious spa treatments and great service all in a pristine island location. Surrounded by a beautiful blue lagoon and framed by emerald green mountains, Taumeasina offers the perfect setting for a tropical honeymoon, romantic escape or your dream wedding. Share your special day with family and friends or marry in an intimate ceremony with just the two of you. The island offers a number of spectacular venues where you can exchange vows surrounded by a sparkling lagoon, white sand beach and lush tropical gardens. Our professional team, including your own wedding coordinator will tend to every detail to make your destination wedding in Samoa the most seamless and unforgettable day, surpassing your expectations.
www.taumeasinaislandresortsamoa.com

We invite you to be inspired by our bespoke wedding packages designed with love.



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Romance

around every corner

Tying the knot

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

- 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 licence or birth certificate.
- If either partner has been married before, a divorce decree is required.
- Once the marriage licence is obtained, you have 30 days to get legally married in Hawai'i.

Hawai'i has become much easier for romantic travellers to visit – with the number of flights going up and the price of flights coming down. But while this improved access has been a catalyst for putting Hawai'i firmly back on the map for New Zealand travellers - the variety, quality, service and sheer beauty of the Hawai'ian Islands will no doubt keep visitors coming back for more.





OAH'U ©HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY (HTA)

For romance travellers, Hawai'i has everything you could possibly want in a getaway. There are so many wonderful options at a couple's fingertips, the biggest issue is deciding what to do, and what to see next time!

The best way to start narrowing things down is by looking at each of the four main islands – Oah'u, Maui, Hawai'i (The Big Island) and Kaua'i. They are all amazing, but each one has its own distinct character and hero attractions. Most couples won't have time to visit every island, so it's best to make a list of priorities and then match the island(s) to suit.

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆ OAH'U

The home of Honolulu and the famous Waikiki Beach, Oah'u provides visitors with a mix of natural beauty and the buzz of modern entertainment.

The one-and-only Waikiki Beach is as famous as beaches come. Because it's such an epicentre for tourists, visiting couples will have to share the sun, sand, shopping and entertainment with streams of other people. The great thing is, there is plenty to go around.

Serious shoppers will have to tear themselves away from this retail nirvana. If not, the consequence is a seriously dented credit card! A host of famous chefs have also set up shop in and around Waikiki – with Japanese and Asian fusion restaurants leading the way. Accommodation options are also endless – it's just a matter of picking something that fits. For a slice of luxury, Moana Surfrider and Halekulani are two standout options. And for a retro-surf feel, The Surfjack Hotel and Swim Club is one of the coolest places around.

For an "outer-island" experience (while staying on Oah'u), head for the North Shore. This dramatic coastline is best known for its towering winter waves, but outside the surfing season, the area offers safe swimming and plenty of places for a picnic. Couples should also call into the surfing town of Haleiwa and check out the art galleries, vintage surf shops and Matsumoto's Shave Ice Shop.

The Surfjack Hotel & Swim Club

This classic, beach culture-inspired property has quickly made a name for itself as one of Waikiki's hottest hotel destinations. The vintage Hawaii themed decor mixes with classic, laid-back Hawaiian-style music. And artwork sourced from local artists brings this Hawaiian heritage to life.

Turtle Bay Resort

An easy 60 minute drive from the hustle and bustle of Waikiki, Turtle Bay Resort on Oahu's North Shore, provides couples with a place of pure Hawaiian sanctuary. Its 850 acres of open spaces includes miles of hiking trails, horseback riding, two championship golf courses, along with every water-based activity a couple could ask for.



OAH'U ©HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY (HTA)



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.

The drive west leads to the Kona Coast, home to Hawaii's renowned Kona coffee and the quaint town of Holualoa. Taking a tour around a coffee mill is fun. Couples will see how the beans are processed, and of course they can experience the rich aroma and flavours. Holualoa is also a popular art centre, with funky galleries and boutiques selling 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.

Four Seasons Hualalai

With seven swimming pools, five spa pools and direct access to a gorgeous Big Island beach, Four Seasons Hualalai is a Hawaiian honeymoon favourite. Add in a first-class spa that provides luscious in-room massage treatments (yes, they'll bring the table to you) and you have honeymoon heaven.



MAUI – THE VALLEY ISLE

A couple could easily spend their entire holiday on Maui. The West Maui and South Maui beaches are as good as you'll find anywhere. There are world-class resorts around every corner. Haleakala National Park provides 10-out-of-10 romantic sunrises and sunsets. And Maui is also home to some of the world's most abundant whale-watching waters.

So, where to start. The whale-watching season runs from December to May, with the peak months from January to April. Lahaina Harbour on Maui's West Coast is the launching point for numerous whale-watching charters – during the busy months more than a thousand whales can cruise off the Lahaina Coast, so the chances of a close encounter are excellent. Lahaina Town was a whaling town back in the 1800s. Today the main street is bustling with visitors enjoying the many bars, restaurants, shops and galleries.

Not far from Lahaina is Kaanapali Beach, which is regularly voted as one of America's best. The stunning stretch of sand is home to various resorts, including the Kaanapali Beach Hotel, which boasts an 11 acres of gorgeous tropical gardens, glorious ocean views and a multitude of dining options. There are also plenty of activities for couples to enjoy – such as a sunset cruise with cocktails, a full dinner cruise and Hale Huaka'i Stand Up Paddleboard lessons. The resort even has an Elvis: Burn'n Love show that celebrates the time Elvis spent in Hawai'i.

Seeing the sunrise from Haleakala (Maui's highest peak) is another highlight that any couple would love. Capturing this memorable view requires driving up to the visitor centre and climbing to the summit to watch the spectacular sunrise. It's also worth staying on afterwards and hiking some of the trails, or riding some of the trails on horseback.



Kaanapali Beach Hotel

Kaanapali Beach is a stunning stretch of sand that is home to various resorts, including the Kaanapali Beach Hotel, which boasts an 11 acres of gorgeous tropical gardens, glorious ocean views and a multitude of dining options.

The resort offers plenty of activities for couples – such as a sunset cruise with cocktails, a full dinner cruise and Hale Huaka'i Stand Up Paddleboard lessons. The resort even has an Elvis: Burn'n Love show that celebrates the time Elvis spent in Hawai'i.

Hotel Wailea

For couples who really want to treat themselves, there's the Wailea Hotel. Set on 15 acres overlooking the sea, this romantic adults-only sanctuary is home to 72 luxury suites. Each one is spread out across the expansive grounds to ensure privacy. In short, it's the perfect Maui escape for honeymooners and couples in search of a romantic getaway.



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KAUA'I

Sitting at the top of the Hawaiian chain, Kaua'i is a paradise for couples who love getting among nature. Here lush rainforests thrive, valleys and mountains have been weathered into spectacular forms, rivers snake their way across the countryside, waterfalls burst with life, and there's even a Pacific version of the Grand Canyon. It's no wonder Hollywood producers filmed *Jurassic Park* and *Pirates of the Caribbean* against this backdrop.

The mountainous interior and sheer cliffs of the North Coast have made it impossible to build a road circling the island – in fact, only around 10 percent of the island is accessible by car. This may sound like a hindrance, but for couples, it's actually a blessing, as it means much of this beautiful countryside is reserved for hikers, bikers and kayakers.

The 18 kilometres long Kalalau trail along the Na Pali Coast is Kaua'i's most famous hike and it's considered one of the very best in America. It runs from Ke'e Beach and goes through deep green valleys and along towering sea cliffs, before ending in the Kalalau Valley. Most hikers will break the journey into two sections with an overnight camp at the half way point. The steep terrain does make this a challenge. However, the pay-off is world-class views and a memory you'll never forget.

The other way to see Kaua'i is by helicopter. In fact, taking a mind-blowing aerial tour of Kaua'i should really be compulsory for any couple. Companies such as Blue Hawaiian Helicopters operate out of the island's main airport in Lihue.

With rock music playing in your headphones, the pilots whisk you away for a 50 minute highlight package that includes the Waimea Canyon, Na Pali Coast, Bali Hai Cliffs, Hanalei Bay and Mount Waialeale – one of the wettest places on earth! Once again the scenery is simply amazing, plus the tour gives you a snapshot of the entire island and ideas of where to go to once you're back on land.

Kaua'i was once the domain of sugar barons, but while the plantations are no longer in operation you can still experience this rich history at Kilohana Estate on the outskirts of Lihue, Kauai's biggest town.

The beautiful old mansion house has been converted into a museum, plus it has an open courtyard where visitors can sit down and enjoy lunch, dinner or Sunday brunch.

The estate is also home to the tasting room and shop for the locally made Koloa Rum. This boutique distillery was only established in 2009, but has gone on to win numerous national awards. Needless to say, a sampling session is a must.

With fewer than 70,000 residents on Kaua'i, the pace of life couldn't be more relaxed. And because tourism development arrived here later, the visitor experience remains authentic. Indeed, this is a place where couples can enjoy the laid-back local lifestyle surrounded by the glory of a natural wonderland.

St Regis Princeville

This exquisite five-star property is considered one of Hawaii's best. Sitting on the shores of Hanalei Bay, couples can expect butler service and just about every other luxury you can imagine.

Honeymooning couples should book the signature Couples Hanalei Bay Ritual - a treatment that includes a ginger grass bamboo exfoliation, yuzu algae shower, silk oil massage and a luxurious pedicure.

Sheraton Kaua'i Resort

Sitting on 20 glorious oceanfront acres on Po'ipu Beach, Sheraton Kaua'i Resort offers couples an unforgettable experience.

Apart from the resort's stunning natural attractions, couples can enjoy first-class dining at the RumFire and Lava's. And the resort is an easy walk from the local shopping at Po'ipu village. 🌸



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Wedding Planner

Julie Aragaki, Owner, The Best Hawaii Wedding Oah'u, Hawai'i

Julie Aragaki manages a team of wedding designers who plan, coordinate and direct weddings at the most beautiful wedding chapels on Oah'u. They also provide these services for the reception and pre/post-wedding activities for the guests. Julie shares her insights *Pacific Romance*.

How long have you had this role?

The Best Hawaii Wedding was launched in June of 2016. As the owner of this company and Hawaii Bride & Groom Wedding Style Magazine, I have been in the wedding industry since 1990 in many roles.

What sort of lead-in time do you require to get married in Hawai'i?

The more the better, but we have planned a wedding in 18 hours!

How many weddings do you do a month?

We plan around 15 weddings a month.

What are some of the unique things you can offer?

Private locations, beach weddings, beautiful chapels, fire knife dancers, ukulele players and fireworks!

What are the main benefits of getting married in Hawai'i?

There is so much – but I'd have to say beautiful beaches, mountains, great outdoor activities, intimate, great shopping and dining.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

The people. I love being part of one of the most special days in their life. We become friends for life.

What are Top 5 things a planner needs to find out from a couple?

1. Budget
2. Style
3. What's really important to the individual
4. Guest count
5. Major concerns

What are some of ways you personalise a wedding?

We can personalise anything, it just comes down to finding out what a couple are dreaming of – and then making that happen.

Best advice you would give a couple?

Have fun. The people who are relaxed about everything tend to have a better wedding.

What makes Hawai'i a great place to get married?

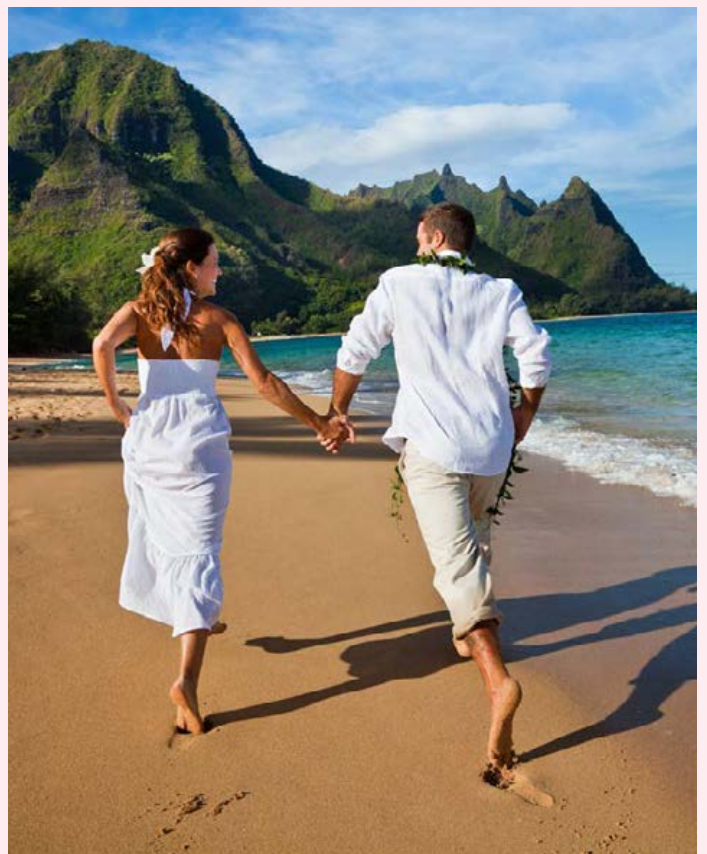
The aloha spirit, beauty of the island and its multicultural people make Hawai'i very unique.

Do you help with honeymoon plans too?

We make suggestions but not reservations. If you have the time, visit all of the islands. Each is so unique and has something different to offer.



Julie Aragaki



What's your key tip to avoiding wedding day stress?

Don't worry about the details. Trust in your planner!

What is the best time of the year to get married in Hawai'i?

Anytime is wonderful in Hawai'i.

Any memorable unique wedding stories you can share?

We just did a wedding from New Zealand who had their original wedding taken away. Just knowing we made a difference in someone's life is amazing.

NORFOLK ISLAND



With kilometres of picturesque walking trails on protected national park land, a turquoise lagoon, lush rolling hills, fascinating wildlife, a unique local dining scene, and luxury accommodation Norfolk is a peaceful escape for a romantic adventure or wedding.

Five of the 35 square kilometre Island is protected national park land, and wandering among the stately Norfolk pines, you may come across white terns, red tailed tropic birds and the green parrot - one of the world's rarest birds.

Dine privately on a hilltop overlooking the ocean while being served a traditional fish fry for two, wander the pristine beaches and relax in the warm climate - Norfolk mixes country charm with seaside relaxation.

Our closest Pacific neighbour, with a population of under 2000 people, the current custodians of Norfolk Island are descended from the British mutineers and their Polynesian companions, who famously sailed the stolen *HMS Bounty* to Pitcairn. The language is English, but some locals speak a unique dialect of the mutineers and their Tahitian wives.

DINNER FOR TWO

Norfolk Island has become a food-lover's destination with its fresh fish, succulent beef and pork as well as boutique products like coffee, honey and local cheese. It offers a true farm-to-table experience with almost all the fruit and vegetables being grown on the island.

Local specialities include banana pilhi - a savoury slice made with green bananas, coconut bread, and mudda, which is green banana dumplings in coconut milk.

For scenic dining visit Bedrock Café, a hidden paradise 10 minutes out of town. Feast on local produce and the spectacular ocean views, and wander through the beautiful gardens. Bedrock Cafe also offers cheese platters and wine, pamper packages and the Bedrock boutique fish feast - an intimate cliff-side dining experience with Bounty descendants with traditional island seafood fare.

For another distinctive Norfolk Island experience, try Island Nectar's traditional island degustation-style dinner. Here, local host Binky will take diners on a taste journey through the Norfolk culture by preparing traditional dishes around a communal table. If couples prefer dinner for two, Island Nectar can prepare an island-style picnic hamper.

For something special, try high tea at the Forrester Court, a multi-award winning property on the cliffs overlooking the beautiful Cascade Bay, or visit la Perouse for a romantic candlelit dinner and innovative seasonal meal overlooking the hotels' gardens.

ISLAND ACTIVITIES

Norfolk Islanders celebrate their history and one of the must-do activities on the island is to visit the Georgian buildings and ruins that make up the convict site, which is the oldest in Australia and a World Heritage site. Wander around the beautiful stone buildings in the sunshine or visit at night for the "ghost tours" and live performances.

If you are inclined to a round of golf, Norfolk Island offers the world's only gold course on a World Heritage site. The nine-hole course offers stunning views from every hole.

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, and be 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
- Two witnesses must be present at the ceremony
- Second marriage for either party, 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.

The beaches on Norfolk Island are a delight. Visit Emily Bay Lagoon, and relax under Norfolk pines, and swim in the protected reef where you can calmly enjoy the coral and its colourful sea life.

About six kilometres from Norfolk Island is a small pile of basalt that has risen from the ocean floor – this is Phillip Island and it is home to thousands of whale birds, black noddies, and large masked boobies. It's a beautiful place to visit for a walking tour and to get up close to its remarkable bird life.

For some of the best views of Norfolk Island, take a kayak tour around some of the island's most spectacular coastlines. You'll see giant basalt and sandstone formations, visit sea caves and cruise through natural rock arches.

PLACES TO STAY

There are a range of charming locations to marry on Norfolk Island, including luxury cottages and homesteads. For the ceremony there are sweet local churches, as well as incredible scenic locations.

Forrester Court Clifftop Cottages

For an all-inclusive romantic holiday or wedding with five-star accommodation, the luxurious Forrester Court Clifftop Cottages are the ticket. The boutique waterfront location is set on 16 subtropical acres of beautifully landscaped gardens with an on site wedding planner, and a permanent cliff-top marquee. Whether it is an intimate Wedding for two or 200, a special anniversary or a honeymoon breakfast on the beach a custom package can be designed. With cottages overlooking Cascade Bay and views to Bird and Elephant rock, the private self-contained cottages are a stunning getaway with personalised service.

Tintoela Luxury Retreat

Tintoela homestead and cottages are located on three acres of manicured hilltop land with sea views and lush tropical gardens. The boutique accommodation is comprised of one and two-bedroom cottages and a six-bedroom homestead. Tintoela means sweetheart in Norfolk's language and this getaway is true to its name. Located near town, stunning beaches and walking trails, the architecturally designed property offers choices for honeymoons, couple escapes and weddings with accommodation for up to 20 people. 🌿

Between a *rock* and a *happy place*

Tying the knot

The Notice of Intended Marriages Form must be filled out and signed with minimum three (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 Justice Department during working hours.
Ph 00 683 4351 or noora@niue.nu



As far as romantic destinations go, Niue doesn't dominate the headlines like some of its more glamorous South Pacific neighbours. Neither does it want to. Niue is proud to be low-key, and that's the way couples love it.

Affectionately nicknamed "The Rock", this picturesque piece of raised coral is home to people who will welcome you like you're one of the family. They'll wave to you every time you drive past. They'll sit down and have a yarn while you're eating their fresh seafood at a local café. This is one of the beauties of romantic travel on Niue. It's 100 percent real.

For couples after glitz and glamour, sorry, you've come to the wrong place. But those searching for a destination that offers peace, quiet, outdoor adventure and the chance to immerse yourself in a genuinely hospitable South Pacific community, Niue does quality time like few others.

GO AT YOUR OWN PACE

With a population that sits somewhere around 1500 people, Niue is quiet, even by South Pacific standards. Despite the superbly laid-back vibe, there are more than enough activities to keep a couple occupied. And you can simply do things at your own pace. Often without another person in sight.

Stroll to the cathedral-like Matapa Chasm (one of the island's many swimming holes) for a snorkel and there's a good chance you'll have the place to yourself. The locals will joke - "man it was busy today, I went for a swim and there was one other person!" The funny thing is, they're not kidding.

Unless you come from a really remote part of New Zealand, this peace and quiet feels foreign. But for "townies" it doesn't take long to get into Niuean mode. My advice - just kick back and embrace the pace of Niue life. You'll love it.

DIVE ON IN

Being a raised coral atoll, there are no rivers or lakes, and its centre is a plateau – the remnants of the original lagoon. No rivers or lakes also means no sediment in the water, which means that the water clarity is exceptional – making for amazing snorkelling and scuba diving for couples.

Couples can just grab a rental car, a map and go exploring. All the main swimming holes, caves and chasms are clearly signposted and are often just a minute or two from the main road.

Highlights include the Avaiki Cave. If couples visit at low tide, there is a wonderful swimming cave to the north of the main cave, which is perfect for a sunset swim. The aquamarine pools on the coast at Limu are also a must-visit. It's a natural swimming pool filled with warm, gin-clear water. Dive in and you'll find it's like swimming through a giant aquarium. There are sunshades and a few picnic tables, so it's a great place to pack a picnic and just snorkel, snack and hang out in the sun.



DINING DELIGHTS

Kaiika

Kaiika is a Japanese lover's dream. On top of these fine raw ingredients, they also employ a top-class sushi chef direct from Tokyo! The menu consists of a mouthwatering mix of nigiri, sashimi, sushi, chirashi and tempura.

Hio Cafe

Drive north from Alofi for 15 minutes and you'll spot a red shipping container overlooking the sea. That's the Hio Café - the brainchild of Victoria Lakatani. Victoria and her husband returned to Niue after many years working in Sydney and Dubai. Along with the yummy eats, it's a great spot to watch the world go by.

Vaiolama Cafe & Bar

Located in Alofi, Vaiolama matches spectacular sea views with delicious, fresh food. The café offers a full range of espresso coffees, yummy tropical smoothies, shakes, home-made cakes, pastries, delicious sandwiches and more.

Washaway Cafe

You heard of BYO, Well the Washaway Café has invented SYO - serve your own beer, wine and spirits! No kidding, thirsty patrons slip behind the bar, choose (and pour) what they want from the fridge and then write it down in a book. When you leave, a staff member tallies your total and you pay. The self-service angle adds to the laid-back atmosphere.

FUN FOR COUPLES

Whale watching – Watch the Humpbacks from July to October

Mountain biking – There are numerous tracks across the island

Caving – Explore Niue's natural limestone caverns

Diving / snorkelling – With its gin-clear water, Niue is made for getting wet

PLACES TO STAY

Scenic Matavai Resort

Sitting high above the sea on Niue's southwestern coastline, Scenic Matavai Resort is the island's largest and best-known property on the island. As soon as you arrive, you'll be drawn to the sweeping ocean views.

The resort has been designed so guests can make the most of them. Sit back in your room. Enjoy the view. Sit down for breakfast. Enjoy the view. Lie by the pool. Enjoy the view.

If you're planning a large wedding in Niue, the resort's new function centre is purpose-built for such occasions. It has flexible floorplans that cater for up to 140 guests.

The talented team in the kitchen are experts at creating delicious seafood dishes and the local delicacy of uga or Pacific coconut crab.

Lau's Getaway

There are some excellent boutique options available for couples. Lau's Getaway (just along the road from Scenic Matavai Resort) consists of two bright blue villas that sit on a cliff edge overlooking the ocean. You can spot them from miles away!

Their sweeping views are incredible and during the whale season you'll have the best seat in the house. Their signature feature is a private bathtub located on the deck – think hot bubbles, sunset and cold bubbles ie, a nice bottle of Champagne.

Namukulu Cottages and Spa

At the other end of the island is the Namukulu Cottages and Spa. Set in beautiful, park-like grounds, couples have a choice of six cottages, each with expansive decks.

Namukulu also has a swimming pool, plus the Matapa Chasm and Limu Pools are just a few minutes away too. Plus they have a day spa for some essential getaway pampering. 🌸

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TRUTH

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