

# REAL weddings & HONEYMOONS

MARTHA STEWART

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# Next Great Escapes

A new twist on a popular European city. The latest foodie getaway in South America. An undiscovered Mexico beach escape. (Yes, it does exist!) These eight spots around the world have caught our eye for a variety of exciting reasons—and each one is guaranteed to deliver an unforgettable honeymoon experience you won't find anywhere else.

TEXT BY KATHRYN O'SHEA-EVANS

Relaxing in the pool at the new Sonesta Ocean Point Resort in St. Maarten

COURTESY SONESTA OCEAN POINT

## THE TROPICAL SAFARI

## GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

Why Go Now Until recently, the best way to explore this fiercely protected archipelago—located about 620 miles west of Ecuador—was on a cruise. But the modernist, sustainably built Pikaia Lodge ([pikaialodgegalapagos.com](http://pikaialodgegalapagos.com); three-night packages from \$7,950 for two) changed all that, offering a three-day combined land-and-sea experience, complete with its very own yachts to explore the surrounding islands. Here's what you can expect.

**DAY 1** → Check in and immediately hit your private plunge pool (available in pool suites, for \$600 more), which overlooks the verdant and volcanic landscape—and likely a few wandering resident tortoises. Afterward, fuel up on quinoa croquettes, octopus carpaccio, and Andean fruit cheesecake in the restaurant; tomorrow's a busy day.

**DAY 2** → Over the next six hours, you'll explore jagged lava tunnels, stare into the cavernous Los Gemelos sinkholes, and meet 800-pound tortoises at Rancho Las Primicias. Be sure to book a predinner Shamanic massage back at the lodge: The spa's got a rainmaker stick—and the staff knows how to use it.

**DAY 3** → It's yacht time! On the docket? Spotting the locals—meaning blue-footed boobies, marine iguanas, and fur seals—sunning themselves on South Plaza Island. Then you'll chillax in the onboard Jacuzzi or your private cabin while sailing the crystalline Pacific waters. Next up: Santa Fe Island, to snorkel with sea lions and wander a prickly-pear-cactus forest.

**Best time to go** It's a year-round destination, but you'll see more fish (and possibly mating blue-footed boobies) when the water is cool—June through November.

**Getting there** 26 hours from New York City, with two stops; 22 hours from Los Angeles, with two stops. Plus local ferries.

WILDLIFE WISH LIST  
What You'll Spot

**Galápagos Giant Tortoises**  
These four-foot-long herbivores can live to be way older than your nana (more than 100 years!).



**Blue-footed Boobies**  
Females seek out mates with the bluest feet—a sign of va-va-voorn vigor.



**Galápagos Fur Seals**  
You'll spot harems of up to 40 ladies for every plush male.



**Magnificent Frigate Birds**  
Puffing your chest out is normal for guys, but these males do it with a candy-apple-red inflatable throat pouch.



**Galápagos Penguin**  
They're monogamous—and always wedding-ready in their black tie. Cutest Birds Ever.



Pikaia Lodge

LEFT: COURTESY, PIKAIYA LODGE; RIGHT FROM TOP: ALAMY; ANDRE DUTEL/ALAMY; ANNE HILLEN/COBBIS; JOHN SULLIVAN/ALAMY; STEFANO BATERNA/ALAMY