

the knot

SUMMER 2015

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HOTTEST *honeymoons*

Each year we create a list of the most amazing honeymoon locations in the world. Here are this year's winners. BY MARIDEL REYES

10 MOST
adventurous

10 BEST
beaches

10 MOST
romantic

10 BEST
budget

10 MOST
exotic

MOST adventurous



iceland

WHY GO Largely uninhabited, Iceland changes scenery every few minutes. You can go from volcanic, lunar-looking landscapes or grassy, green Middle Earth to shattering waterfalls and soaring geysers or massive Blue Lagoon hot springs.

WHERE TO STAY Chase the Northern Lights at the sophisticated and remote-feeling Hotel Búdir (from \$186, HotelBudir.is). It's only a few hours drive from the capital city of Reykjavik (which also has an airport) and is set at the edge of the Snaefellsjökull National Park with an imposing glacier at the center. Snaefellsjökull became well known when it was used as the "gateway to the center of the earth" in Jules Verne's famous book *Journey to the Center of the Earth*.

WHAT TO DO Head over to the picturesque Snaefellsjökull National Park to see some of nature's most beautiful creations, including two massive lava formations and a dreamy hidden waterfall. Then stop by the Blue Lagoon and dip in and out of the various pools and hot springs with your sweetheart. Don't miss the opportunity for an in-the-water couple's massage where you'll mix a bit of adventure with romance.

galápagos islands, ecuador

WHY GO The bucolic Galápagos Islands provide an unparalleled wildlife experience and are home to animals and plants found nowhere else on Earth.

WHERE TO STAY The 14-room **Pikaia Lodge** (all-inclusive, 3-night exploration package from \$7,560, PikaiaLodgeGalapagos.com) is located on a giant tortoise reserve on Santa Cruz Island. A leisurely walk around the grounds will bring you face to face with a wild giant tortoise.

WHAT TO DO Go island-hopping on one of the hotel's private yachts and explore the surrounding locales. Or book a scuba diving trip—the Galápagos are one of the seven underwater wonders of the world.

namibia

WHY GO You'll experience a quintessential African safari—imagine sleeping under the stars among red desert sand dunes, surrounded by a vast mountain range.

WHERE TO STAY Reconnect at the tranquil Sossusvlei Desert Lodge (from \$451, AndBeyond.com), located within the NamibRand Nature Reserve.

WHAT TO DO Each room at the lodge comes with a skylight above the bed, so you can stargaze while you relax. Or head to the observatory and ask the resident astronomer to point out the brightest and most gorgeous constellations. Want something a little more active for daytime? Go on a quad biking adventure or hike around the property—it will allow you to explore the breathtaking scenery.



The Resort at Paws Up

greenough, montana

WHY GO Outdoorsy couples will swoon over the pristine Montana wilderness and all it has to offer—from horseback riding to river adventures and fly fishing.

WHERE TO STAY The Resort at Paws Up (all-inclusive from \$1,255, PawsUp.com) invented the "glamping" concept. Book a honeymoon tent (yes, a tent), complete with a gorgeous copper tub set in the middle—perfect for an indulgent soak.

WHAT TO DO Have an enchanting private candlelit picnic dinner at Cliffside Camp, where you'll be serenaded by sounds of the rushing Blackfoot River.

vancouver island, canada

WHY GO Love sea sports? Landlubbers? This hot spot has something for you. Surrounded by mountains on the Pacific Ocean, this city offers tons of adventure.

WHERE TO STAY While known for its stunning beaches, surfing hot spots and outdoor adventures, the district of Tofino on Vancouver Island is the most exciting from November through February. At The Wickaninnish Inn (from \$240, WickInn.com), cuddle up to the sounds of powerful roaring waves from the comfort of your room. Each guest room features a fireplace, private balcony and view of the ocean or beach. The sounds of the wind and waves can be hypnotizing, creating a magical mood.

WHAT TO DO Stay active during the day, hiking, biking or sailing, and head to the heart of the city at night for a cosmopolitan scene. And don't miss an opportunity to heat things up in the hot springs in nearby Maquinna Marine Provincial Park, which is only reachable by boat.