

## **The Best Romantic Escapades for Honeymooners on a Budget**

While not every couple has the luxury of an unlimited wedding budget, we are certain that all brides and grooms deserve to live out the honeymoon of their dreams. And no, we're not talking about five star hotels, endless pampering sessions and business class flights to the destination of your choice. If you're on a budget, there are still a fantastic range of romantic escapades that you can whisk you and your beloved away on. And best of all, they won't break the bank.

### **Cozumel, Mexico**

Just a stone's throw away from its far pricier American neighbour, Mexico is a mecca for travellers on a budget. Cozumel is one of the country's most resplendent gems, and also happens to be one of the most undeveloped islands in the Caribbean Sea. Famous for its scuba diving, the nearby Arrecifes de Cozumel National Park is a wonderful place to explore what lies beneath. The Mesoamerican Reef is brimming with wildlife, Museo Subacuático de Arte's submerged sculptures are nothing short of fascinating while Chankanaab eco park is a great place to get up close and personal with dolphins, manatees and sea turtles. Best of all, luxury hotels and resorts and ultra-affordable, which means you'll be able to score a sea view honeymoon suite without the eye watering price tag.

### **Ireland, Europe**

Want to honeymoon in Western Europe? Rather than blow the budget on chic cities such as Paris, Vienna and Rome, metropolises such as Dublin offer incredible value for money. This means you can wine, dine and romanticise for a fraction of the cost. The Emerald Isle's stunning west coast is home to postcard perfect scenery, with rolling green hills, ruined castles and charming villages making for the perfect amorous setting. Historic bed and breakfasts are a great accommodation option, while swoon worthy thatched-roof cottages with Atlantic Ocean views are oh so dreamy.

### **Cambodia, South East Asia**

As soon as you step foot in Cambodia you'll be overwhelmed with a sense of exoticism. Your cash stretches as far as the eye can see, with stunning jungle lodges unlocking access to a myriad of unspoiled virgin forest, rare orchids, birds of paradise, rainforest animals and more. If a floating thatched room with high-end amenities and a breath-taking sense of tranquillity is your idea of a honeymooner's paradise, this one's for you! If you feel like venturing further afield, the towering temples of Angkor Wat await...

## **Oahu, Hawaii**

Hawaii is a quintessential honeymoon destination, however it does have a reputation of being a little pricey. That said, with a little imagination you can still soak up the laid back vibes by opting for one of the cheaper islands. Forget Maui and Kauai, and instead set your sights on Oahu, an equally beautiful island boasting calm waters, sultry weather and a lively entertainment scene. Honolulu has hotels to suit every budget, with plenty of north shore beaches offering ocean side bungalows for an ultra-chill, low key honeymoon.

## **Mendocino, California**

For stateside lovebirds the Mendocino Coast is a budget savvy way to get a taste of the Emerald Isle, without leaving the USA. The ruggedly beautiful rugged coastline is peppered with picturesque beaches, while the surrounding hills are strewn with colourful wildflowers. Who knew that this honeymooner's heaven existed just four hours north of San Francisco? Day trips to local wineries are a given for Pinot Noir lovers, with Pacific Rim Oysters making for the perfect romantic meal.

## **Hvar, Croatia**

Another European destination without the sky high price tag, Hvar is home to some of the continent's most stunning beaches. The Adriatic island is a delight for sun seekers, while history buffs will fall head over heels for the medieval architecture. Its world famous lavender fields make it intrinsically romantic, and best of all, honeymooners will be able to score a beautifully restored historic hotel for less than US\$100 a night.

## **Cruises**

Sailing has a reputation for being pricey, but with the right approach you can score a wonderfully affordable après wedding deal. Big name lines are always having sales, with prices often starting at under US\$100 per person, per night. Considering the fact that this includes all meals, accommodation and amenities, cruising can be a fantastic option for cash strapped love birds. Choose from a myriad of destinations and itineraries, from whirlwind weekend voyages to the Mediterranean, seven day sailings to South East Asia, multi-month expeditions around the world and more. Plus, you'll get to channel your inner Jack and Rose on the bow. What could possibly be more romantic than that?

*Tags: Honeymoon destinations, honeymoon inspiration, honeymoon ideas, cruising, Hvar, Croatia, Mendocino, California, Oahu, Hawaii, Cambodia, South East Asia, Ireland, Europe, Cozumel, Mexico*