

TOP TRENDS

Get cruising. More honeymooners are heading to sea for cruises on luxury vessels and smaller yachts for intimate sailing, either in Australian waters or tropical islands overseas.

Stay in one spot. Newlyweds are heading to a single, romantic destination for two weeks, rather than exploring a lot of countries in the same amount of time.

Shorter 'moons. Honeymooners are time-poor and are choosing to visit romantic spots close to home. The Whitsundays are a popular choice, allowing Australian couples to get away from the hustle and bustle.

Two in one. Couples are choosing to marry away and continue on with their honeymoon at the same location, sharing the experience with close family and friends.

Go wild. Eco-adventure tours and safaris are big with newlyweds who want a honeymoon with a difference. Instead of lazing by the pool, they're eating dinner with the wildlife.

TOP 10 OVERSEAS HONEYMOON DESTINATIONS

1. French Polynesia

Stay in the over water bungalows of Bora Bora or snorkel in Rangiroa. See tahiti-tourisme.com

2. Thailand

By far one of the most requested honeymoon destinations. Great values abound plus fantastic food, beaches and shopping. See tourismthailand.org

5. Fiji

Forever the idyllic honeymoon hotspot for its stunning beaches and luxurious to budget-conscious accommodation, not to mention great hospitality. See bulafiji.com

4. The Maldives

With the opening of Taj Coral Resort and Makunudu Island Resort, the Maldives is now affordable. See visitmaldives.com

5. Mauritius

White sand beaches and romance abounds here. All hotels on Mauritius offer wedding and honeymoon packages. See www.mauritius.net

6. Hawaii

Hawaii will always be a true honeymoon hotspot. If you're into surfing, it's a must-go. See Gohawaii.com

7. Cook Islands

A honeymoon haven for those who dream of going to Tahiti but can only afford Thailand prices. See Cook-island.com

8. Malaysia The duty free capital has one of the world's most beautiful resorts, Tanjung Rhu Resort & Spa. See tourism.gov.my

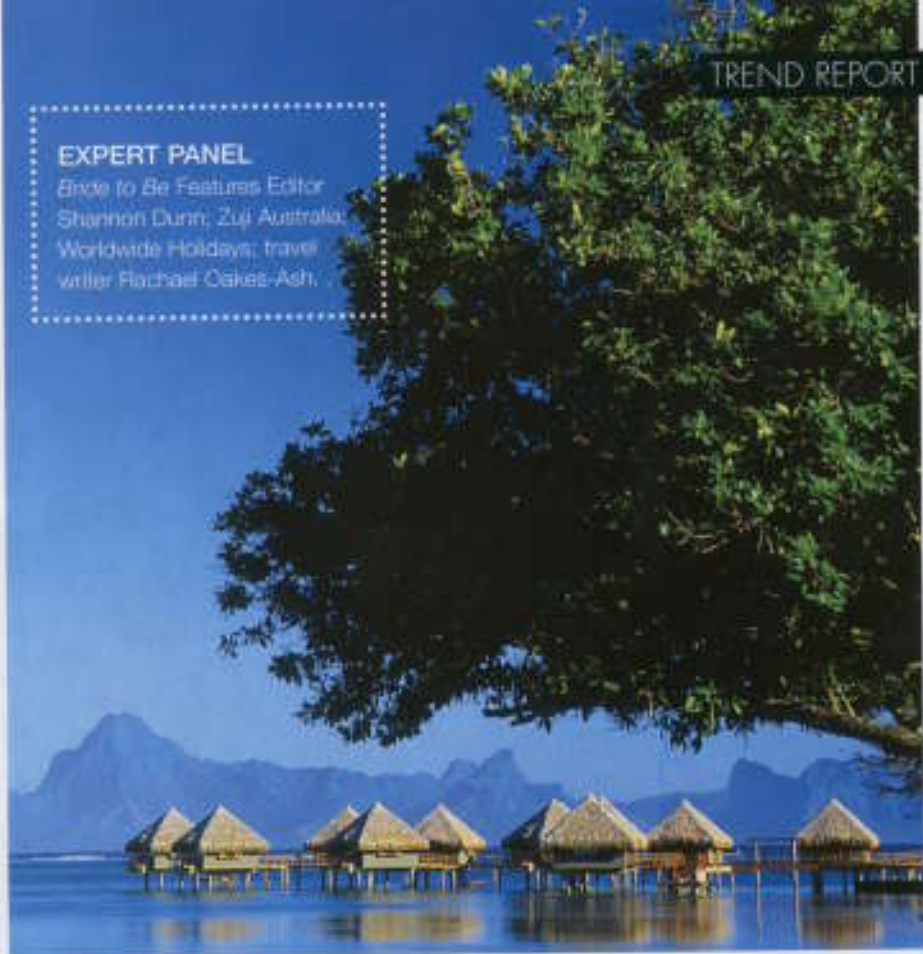
9. Vanuatu Close to home and full of romance. See vanuatu.net.vu

10. Italy

Gelatos, fashion, romance and stunning countryside. See italytourism.it

EXPERT PANEL

Bride to Be Features Editor
Shannon Dunn, Ziji Australia
Worldwide Holidays; travel
writer Rachael Oakes-Ash



HONEYMOONS

TOP 10 AUSTRALIAN HONEYMOON DESTINATIONS

1. Bedarra Island, Qld

If it's good enough for our Bec and Lleyton then it's good enough for us. Sixteen villas on a secluded five-star island. Bliss. See voyages.com.au

2. At one with nature

Go for Arnhem Land's Seven Spirit Bay Wilderness Lodge with its 220,000ha of tropical wilderness (see selecthotels.com) or head for Cradle Mountain Lodge (voyages.com.au). Tasmania's World Heritage-listed Cradle Mountain National Park.

3. Hayman Island, Whitsundays

Five restaurants, swim-in swim-out guest suites, white sand beaches and a rock star white leather boat so you arrive in style. See Leading Hotels of the World at lhw.com

4. Remote Romance

Sleep under the desert stars next to the majesty of Uluru at Longitude 131 (see slh.com.au) or head to El Questro a luxury homestead in the Kimberley's that is set on a 400,000ha filled with outback gorges. See voyages.com.au for more details.

5. Thala Beach Lodge, Port Douglas

Singer Natalie Imbruglia married rocker Daniel Johns on Thala Beach and then partied at Ospreys Restaurant. Gotta love the private chopper pad. See slh.com.au

6. City sensual

Melbourne's The Prince Hotel in St Kilda for its urban style, renowned Circa Restaurant, hip Mink Vodka Bar and Aurora Spa. See Luxe Hotels at luxehotels.com

7. Sydney's Shangri-La Hotel Impeccable service and lush living. See shangri-la.com

7. Capella Lodge, Lord Howe Island

With a view so breathtaking it will be hard to know where to look: at your gorgeous new hubby or the Lord Howe lagoon of many blues? See lordhowe.com

8. Spa seduction

Azabu's five suites are elevated above natural forest in Byron Bay for a forest getaway. Add the Aveda Day Spa for tired bridal tootsies. See azabu.com.au

9. Life Time Retreat, Kangaroo Island

Three houses, one private beach, a shearing shed converted into a Bedouin boudoir come sundown and a private dining room inside a fig tree. See life-time.com.au

10. White weddings

Let it snow - all the better for cozy cuddling. In Victoria choose the chic Huski Lodge at Falls Creek. The resort always has great snow and the fab Endota Day Spa at Huski ensure luxe ski-in spa-out action. Call 1300 652 260 or see huski.com.au
At Thredbo in New South Wales check into the recently refurbished Denman for pure winter magic. See thedenman.com.au