

# THE Honeymoon PERIOD

Our guide to choosing a honeymoon that suits you, your other half and of course, your budget...

*Rivini, Santorini*

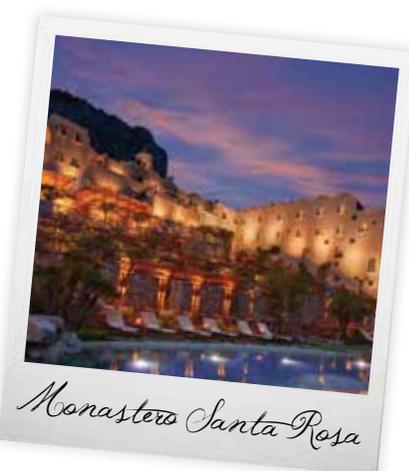
The whole idea of a honeymoon has seen a shift in recent years. Multi-trip destinations are more of a thing, activity holidays aren't frowned upon and shock horror the temperatures don't have to be above 30 degrees. Traditionally honeymoons were a way for a couple to finally be alone together, so secluded destinations were sought out. But with the marriage age rising, more couples have lived and holidayed together for years before their wedding and with honeymoon-style destinations like the Maldives becoming more affordable with package holidays, some of these locations have already been visited and newlyweds are looking for something a little different. That's not to say one or both of you don't have 'do nothing on a beach for two weeks' at the top of your priority list, but couples are beginning to go for more sensible options over an impressive sounding resort name. If compromising on just one location is putting more stress on the holiday planning than the wedding, opting for a multi-trip honeymoon is the best bet to keep you both happy.

**In an ideal world it wouldn't matter where you went as long as you're together, right?** But let's be realistic, cold hard cash is being spent after the financial stress of the wedding, time off work might be limited and it may be your only break away so it needs to be as close to perfect as possible.

Sensible doesn't have to mean no fun, just the right trip for both of you and the right kind of hot. Not all honeymoons need to be long-haul for a guaranteed getaway from the stress of the last few months, there are some great options closer to home. We've got something for all tastes and budgets to tickle your fancy but if time is limited, flick over to our 'mini-moon' destination guide (page 124).

## EUROPE

**The picture perfect destination, minus the travel hours**  
European locations are often overlooked



*Monastero Santa Rosa*

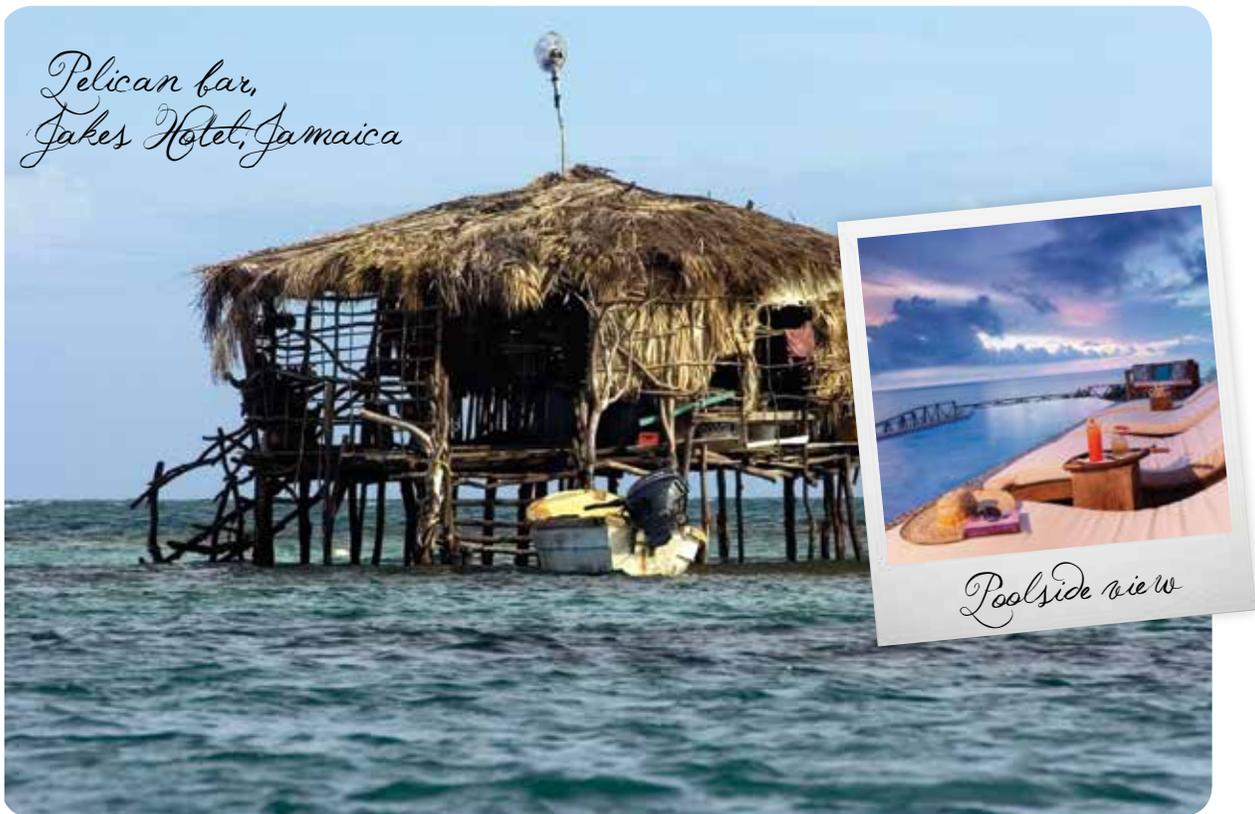


*Monastero Santa Rosa*

when considering honeymoon destinations, but with shorter (and cheaper) flights, the convenience of not having to change currency and stunning scenery, European destinations are giving the traditional hotspots a run for their money.

Italy's iconic Amalfi Coast has been the honeymoon destination of choice for celebrities since the fifties and it's still in the top ten places to honeymoon in the world. Kim Kardashian, Reese Witherspoon, Jamie Oliver and Lauren Conrad all chose the lure of the stunning coastline and beaches, good food and wine, and *la dolce vita* to celebrate their romance.

The Monastero Santa Rosa Hotel & Spa is a restored 17<sup>th</sup>-century monastery built into a cliff side providing breathtaking views over the Gulf of Salerno and with only 20 rooms and suites it's the perfect secluded spot for honeymooners. The hotel boasts an award-winning spa where you can



unwind in the labyrinth of historic spaces or else you could kick back by the heated infinity pool or seek shade in the landscaped gardens...there isn't an area of this place unworthy of a Kodak moment. Just a 20-minute car or boat ride away you'll find some of the most scenic towns including Positano, Amalfi and Ravello.

**Rooms from €400 B&B, see [monasterosantarosa.com](http://monasterosantarosa.com).  
Fly to Naples with Aer Lingus [aerlingus.com](http://aerlingus.com).**

**Also in Europe...**

Santorini is that picture-postcard Greek island, famous for its white-washed buildings and Aegean blue sea where you'll feel a million miles from home after less than five hours flying. The Kirini Suites and Spa have a dramatic cliff side location and are only a few minutes walk from pretty old cobbled streets of Oia. The sea-view suites are carved into the rock face with private terraces, but head to the patio bar for unobstructed views of spectacular

sunsets from this perfect vantage point, while sipping a cocktail. Taking a visit to the hotel's own wine cellar is a must and make sure to have dinner in one of the traditional Greek restaurants in the old town.

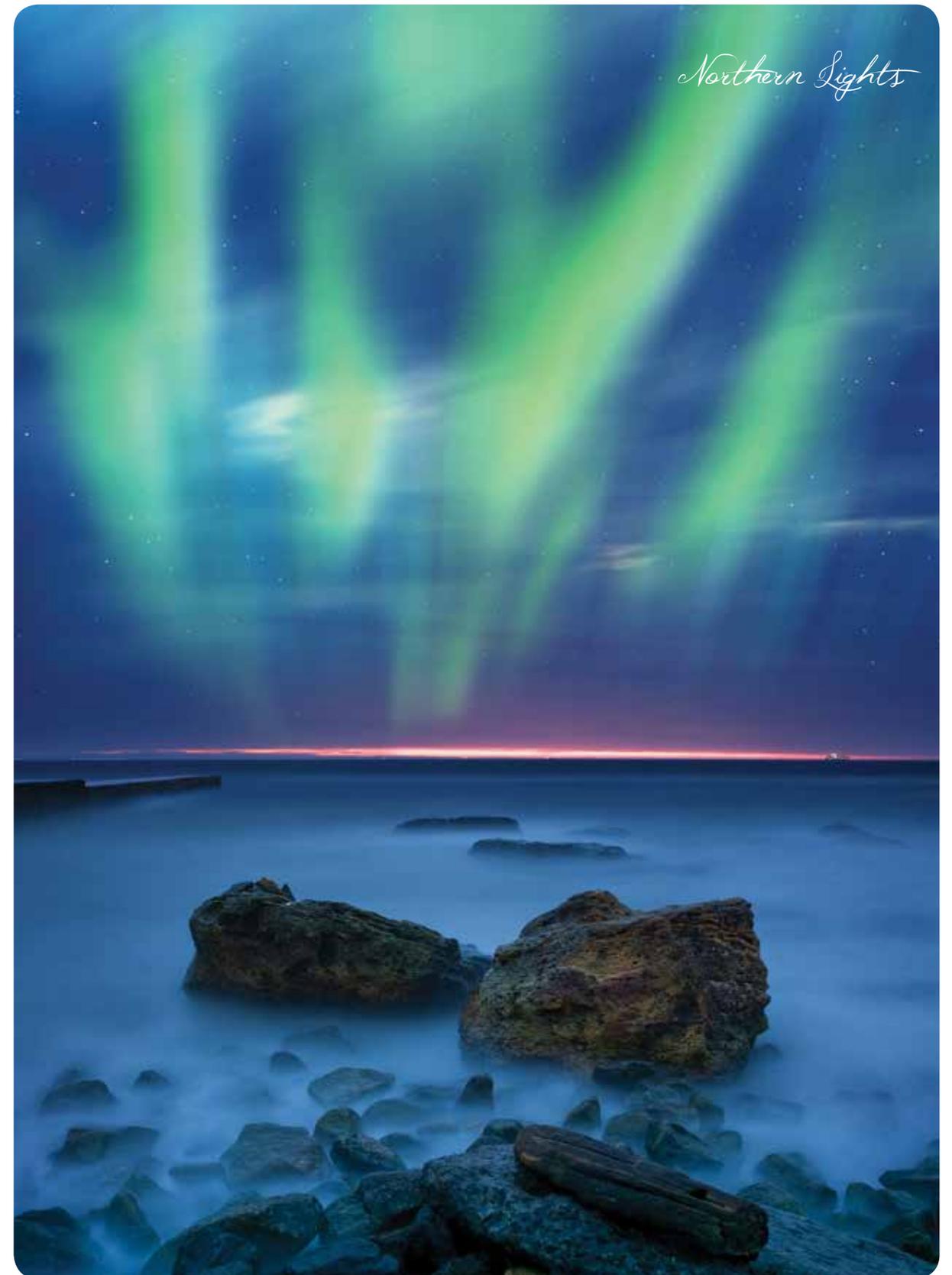
**See [scottdunn.com](http://scottdunn.com) for details.  
Fly from Dublin via London City Airport with British Airways or if you're on a tighter budget, visit [abbeytravel.ie](http://abbeytravel.ie) for package holidays.**

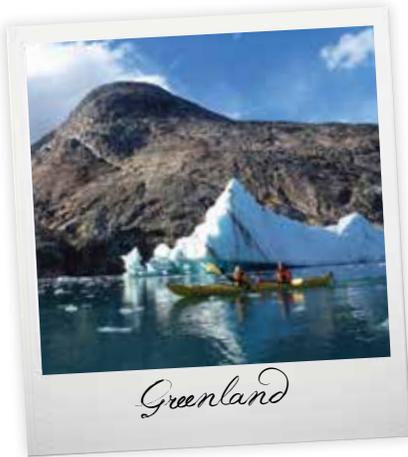
**FURTHER  
AFIELD**

**Further afield for laid back lovers**

Jamaica plays host to some amazing honeymoon destinations where you can mix blissed out beach vibes with river safaris or even go chasing waterfalls. At Jakes Hotel they can organise hiking or biking, fishing and cooking or even have a lesson in tantric yoga. For those who can't sit still and want to maintain their active lifestyle while on holidays, start the day with TRX hung from the rafters

of the wooden platform extending out into the sea, before taking a picnic to the beach to refuel after a snorkelling session. If raising a rum punch is as much activity as you can handle, you'll love the Pelican bar (named as one of the best beach bars in the world every year) which is accessed via a 20-minute boat ride. It's quite literally situated in the sea, so expect fresh fish caught and cooked on site and settle into the slow tempo of Jamaican life playing dominoes and drinking Red Stripe beer. All of the accommodation is unique, with much more of a village feel than that of staying in a resort. The Octopussy suites have built in sunroofs for stargazing and the eclectic villas all have access to their own private beaches. **See [jakeshotel.com](http://jakeshotel.com).  
Falcon Holidays and Thomson begin direct non-stop flights to Jamaica departing Dublin weekly from June 2016 for six weeks on Thomson Airways Boeing 787 Dreamliner, see [falconholidays.ie](http://falconholidays.ie) or call 1800453545 for holiday packages.**





Greenland

in Greenland. Adventure lovers won't get bored on this two week wilderness voyage where you'll see the world's fastest moving glaciers and have the opportunity to go Tundra hiking and kayak in the fjords. You'll also go whale watching and see Arctic wildlife, plus of course the famous *Aurora Borealis* the spectacular light show from September to April. Greenland experiences midnight sun in the summer months, so choose what time of year you want to travel based on which natural phenomenon you want to see in the sky. See [quarkexpeditions.com](http://quarkexpeditions.com) for more.

**Fly from Dublin to Reykjavik with Wow Air, see [wowair.ie](http://wowair.ie).**

## BUCKET LIST

**One to tick off the must-see list**  
For those with a bucket list that avoids words like sun and beach, a trip further north may be more your thing. Take in the stunning natural display of the Northern Lights on an Arctic expedition

## CASE STUDY

Irish newlyweds Corina and Anthony have just returned from their multi-trip destination honeymoon in San

Francisco, Las Vegas and Hawaii. Here, they give us a sneak peak at their gorgeous holiday snaps, the best bits, plus how and why they planned this particular holiday.

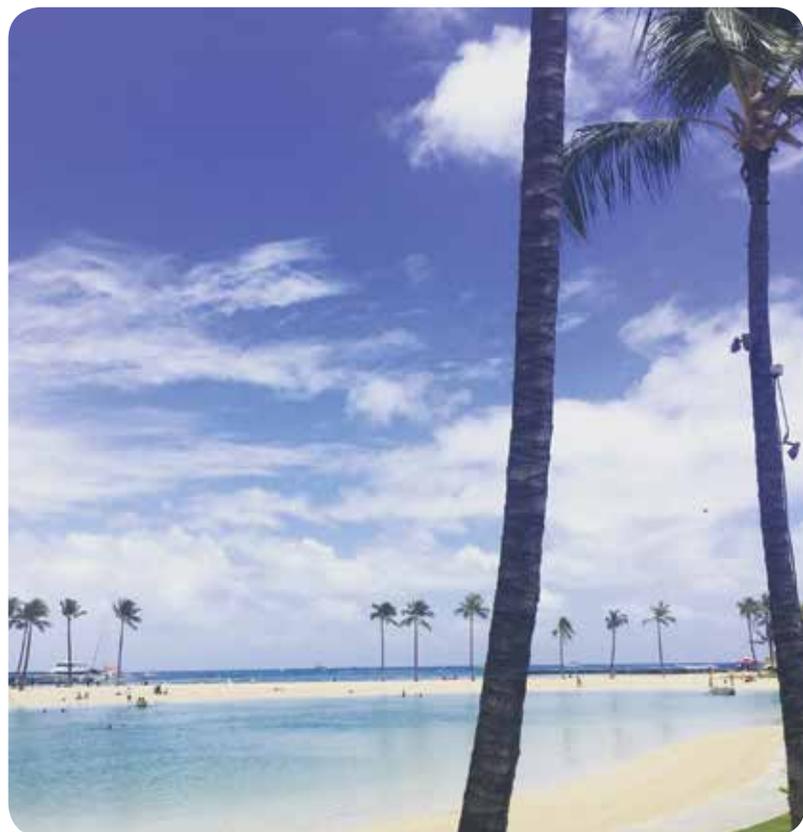
"We always wanted to visit the west coast of the States, and travel a bit from there", says Corina. "But it's way too far to travel for just a week, so we went for three weeks and three different experiences: namely city (San Fran to catch



Corina and Anthony



Las Vegas



Hawaii Beach



San Francisco

up with family there), party (Las Vegas) and relax (Hawaii, my dream destination)."

Anthony says, "San Francisco was a cool town to visit, there's a lot of history there and I love the whole bay feeling." But it was Vegas that blew him away. "We LOVED it! It has the best restaurants and service we've ever had, hands down. I would recommend it to anyone who's into dining out. We also caught a Mariah Carey show, it was amazing to see her in a small venue so close up. We stayed in a beautiful suite in the Wynn Hotel which I particularly liked, life is too short to stay in an average hotel." He

continued, "Hawaii was everything that I expected and more. Amazing seafood restaurants, incredible shopping and let's not get started on how beautiful the beaches are... straight off a postcard."

Corina shared with us the memories that will stay with her forever. She said, "In typical clichéd honeymoon fashion, we swam with dolphins, it was such a fun thing to do together. I really wanted to have the typical 'I'm on honeymoon' moment and checking in to the Wynn hotel ticked that box with its incredible lobby and stunning suite. Having the different experiences from place to

place made it feel like a super long holiday with so many memories and it was fantastic to see so much in a relatively short period of time."

The organising was left to Anthony. "To be honest, I found it very easy to organise. I booked everything through the helpful staff in Trailfinders ([www.trailfinders.ie](http://www.trailfinders.ie)). We paid for everything in advance, so there were no unexpected surprises."

**Fly Dublin direct to LA non-stop with Ethiopian Airlines, flights 3 times a week from €609, [ethiopianairlines.com](http://ethiopianairlines.com) or to San Francisco with Aer Lingus, [aerlingus.com](http://aerlingus.com).**