

NEW YORK®

WINTER 2014/SPECIAL ISSUE

Weddings

Make History

In FDR's old house, a printing factory, a post office, and other venues to remember

Gowns You Can't Stop Looking At

And a few little stunners for City Hall

Proposing in Zero Gravity

And other wild ways to pop the question

PLUS
Go Ahead, Invite the Kids

How to feed, preoccupy, and tame your littlest guests

The
ESSENTIAL GUIDE
for

New York Brides

THE BEST
Caterers
Event Planners
Stationers
Photographers
Hairstylists
Florists
D.J.'s and Bands

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(continued)

From Aisle to Isle

Islands where you crazy kids can kayak with beluga whales, bathe in a cenote, or just lie out by the infinity pool.

BY ASHLEA HALPERN



THE BRANDO St. John, French Polynesia

THE BRANDO is a luxury resort on the island of St. John, French Polynesia. The resort features a variety of accommodations, including private villas and a large infinity pool. The resort is known for its stunning views of the ocean and its proximity to a variety of outdoor activities, including kayaking and snorkeling. The resort is also known for its excellent food and service.

PHOTOGRAPH: COURTESY OF THE VENDOR



middle-of-nowhere **Yellowknife** in Canada's Northwest Territories to uninhabited Somerset Island in Nunavut, some 500 miles north of the Arctic Circle. The joy, of course, in being so far off the map is getting up close with Mother Nature. In the course of a weeklong "Discovery" safari (from \$7,338 per person, all-inclusive; arcticwatch.ca), comb the tundra for polar bears; kayak among icebergs, belugas, and seals; rumble ATVs along the shores of the **Northwest Passage**; hike trails littered with prehistoric fossils; and catch char in gorgeous **Inukshuk Lake**. Trips only occur in June, July, and August (Hello, midnight sun!), but book months in advance; in typical ends-of-the-Earth fashion, the lodge only accepts 26 guests at a time.



ENVIROFREAK FANTASY
Santa Cruz Island, the Galápagos

◆◆ Like visiting the Eiffel Tower or climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro, a trip to

THRILLER DOWN UNDER
Queenstown, South Island, New Zealand ⚡

◆◆ Both the North and South Islands of New Zealand are famed for their natural wonders, but Queenstown is the de facto adrenaline capital of Middle Earth. Here, you can bungee jump with **AJ Hackett** (bungy.co.nz), hurtle on a jet boat through the **Shotover River Canyon** (shotoverjet.com), or 'copter over mind-bogglingly beautiful **Milford Sound** (flynz.co.nz). If spending your honeymoon with your stomach on the floor doesn't appeal, tour the wineries of **Central Otago** and grab a table at **Rata** (ratadining.co.nz), helmed by Michelin-star chef **Josh Emett**. Whatever you do, book yourself into **Aro-Ha**. (from \$3,605 per person; aro-ha.com) or the **Matakauri Lodge** (from \$505; matakaurilodge.com). The former is an all-inclusive wellness retreat incorporating Vinyasa yoga and vegetarian cuisine. The latter is situated on the banks of the alien-blue **Lake Wakatipu**. Of the dozen suites, eight are stand-alone cottages with terraces.

the Galápagos is a bucket-list endeavor. Thanks to the all-inclusive **Pikaia Lodge** (from \$3,230 per person for three nights; pikaialodge.com), you can now check out the protected marine reserve in eco-conscious fashion. Opening this October on a slip of land between two extinct volcanic craters, the 14-room resort is the first carbon-neutral accommodation here, powered entirely by solar and wind energy. Its restaurant, meanwhile, emphasizes local ingredients. There's a yacht and wet suits for day tours and separate live-aboard options for more remote dives, plus guides to walk you through whatever marine life (mantarays, giant tortoises, sea lions) you might encounter along the way.



ANTI-IBIZA
Minorca, Spain

◆◆ The hordes can have glossy Majorca and party-central Ibiza. Minorca is the dark horse of Mediterranean escapes—the smallest,

sleepiest, and arguably most special of the **Balearic Islands**. (The whole place is a UNESCO biosphere reserve.) Settle into one of six rooms at **Hotel Ses Sucreres** in central **Ferrieres** (from \$116; hotellsucreres.com), a converted 1844 manor house with walls displaying contemporary art and daily breakfasts of pastries and jam. There are no TVs, which is just as well: Order a picnic basket, grab two bikes, and pedal to one of Minorca's countless beaches (**Cala Mitjana**, **Son Saura**, and **Binigaus** are all stunning). If you tire of cycling, motorbike your way from villa to villa or bump along the ancient **Camí de Cavalls** trail on a horse (cavallssonangel.com). Or just head back to Ferreries and toast your savviness at avoiding tourists over a pair of pomadas (Minorcan gin with lemonade).

DIXIE-FIED HAMPTONS
Southern Outer Banks, North Carolina

◆◆ Think of North Carolina's Crystal Coast and its quaintly named townships (**Salter Path**, **Pine Knoll Shores**, etc.) as a less pretentious, more genteel Southampton. In this neck of the barrier islands, the looming beachfront mansions (a.k.a. "sand castles") are the stuff of legend. Can't fill eight bedrooms? No problem. Beach bungalows

PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY OF THE VENDORS



abound; book one by the week via **Emerald Isle Realty** (emeraldisle.realty.com) or **Bluewater Vacation Rentals** (bluewaternc.com). The goings-on are as chill (bird-watching on **Carrot Island**, strolling the dunes at sunset) or thrilling (shipwreck diving, parasailing, jet-packing) as you choose. The two nonnegotiables: tucking into a catch-of-the-day plate at **Amos Mosquito's** in **Atlantic Beach** (amosmosquitos.com), and Instagramming a couple thousand photos of your newlywed selves at **Core Banks'** iconically checkered **Cape Lookout Lighthouse**.

ARABIAN EXPLOIT
Socotra, Yemen

◆◆ No, the U.S. State Department does not want you visiting Yemen right now. And no, Socotra isn't for everyone. But for daring newlyweds willing to fly into Sana'a and then

skip over to **Hadibo** (a village that is home to the island's only airport), an experience like no other awaits. To-yemen founder **Mohammed Hareth** has been running private tours to this speck of land in the **Arabian Sea** since 2007. He offers a choice of two all-inclusive packages: "Comfort" (from \$510 per person for four days; to yemen.com) and "Adventure" (from \$390 per person for four days). In the former, you travel via 4x4 with an English-speaking guide and hole up in conventional accommodations; in the latter, it's all camel rides, sandboarding (the desert version of snowboarding), and camping out under the stars. Both packages include three meals a day, plus airport transfers and entrance fees. On the itinerary: visits to pristine (and virtually tourist-free) beaches like **Dilisha** and **Qalansiyah**, a whirl through an unspoiled forest of dragon-blood trees on the **Dixam Plateau**, and plenty of interactions with Socotris, including the opportunity to cook local food.



EUROPHILE RETREAT

Île de Ré, France 🏠

◆◆ Paris is so ... predictable. Why not honeymoon as the well-heeled Parisians do by joining the scores of French who descend upon this three-mile-wide sliver of land off the coast of La Rochelle? Golf at **Les Portes en Ré**, queue for ice cream at **Le Martinière**, and boutique hop in the capital of **Saint Martin de Ré**. For an unbeatable photo op, climb the rickety stairs of the **Vue Panoramique Depuis le Clocher de L'Église**. Another 257 steps await at **Saint Clément des Baleines**, one of France's tallest and most powerful lighthouses, which overlooks the wooded dunes of Plage de la Conche. At night, bed down in **Villa Clarisse** (from \$288; villa-clarisse.com), a white-washed 18th-century house with four rooms, five suites, and gardens galore. Swim in the heated pool or venture out on two wheels. The island is home to over 60 miles of designated bike lanes and more than enough beaches (**La Couarde**, **Trousse Chemise**) to get you tanned and tired.

NEW ENGLAND ESCAPE

Mount Desert Island, Maine

◆◆ Though it's the largest island off the coast of Maine, its year-round population is about 10,000. Visit in winter for snowmobiling, dog sledding, and ice fishing, or save the honeymooning till summer, when galleries in downtown **Bar Harbor** open and you can make use of the adults-only infinity pool on the roof of **West Street Hotel** (from \$169; theweststreethotel.com). To keep busy, sign up for rock-climbing lessons with **Acadia Mountain Guides Climbing School** (acadiamountain



guides.com) or take your pick of hiking trails in Acadia National Park, home to the highest summit on the Eastern Seaboard (that'd be the 1,532-foot-tall **Cadillac Mountain**). Make the trek in the wee hours before dawn and you'll be among the first people in the U.S. to catch the rising sun.

PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY OF THE CRYSTAL COAST TOURISM AUTHORITY (NORTH CAROLINA); COURTESY OF THE VENDORS (REMAINING)