

# ...And Away We Go!

First comes love, then comes marriage, then comes the vacation of a lifetime. To choose an unforgettable honeymoon destination, start by thinking about when you can get away and for how long. (If you have only a precious few days off, you probably don't want to spend them on 15-hour flights.) Then consider these questions: Do you want to head someplace new, or revisit an old favorite? Chill on the beach, trek major mountains, or explore a vibrant city? These stellar locales will awaken your wanderlust, and our planning tips will get you there with ease. Let the countdown to your bon voyage begin.

TEXT BY BROOKE PORTER KATZ



## Seek the Sun

Jet to one of these laid-back, balmy locales to keep the party going—or have the ocean all to yourselves.

### Bahamas

**WHERE TO STAY:** Baha Mar, on Nassau's sparkling, 2.5-mile-long Cable Beach (above). It's so close to the airport, you'll blink and be in your bikini. It has three properties (and price levels). Book the most palatial, **Rosewood Baha Mar**, and hit the SLS Baha Mar's airy Sky Bar for cocktails. Or tack on a 2.5-hour ferry ride to claim a secluded stretch of Harbour Island's famous pink beaches. **Coral Sands'** freshly renovated cottages have deep soaking tubs and porches that kiss the sand.

**THE DETAILS:** Rosewood Baha Mar, from \$595 a night, [rosewoodhotels.com](http://rosewoodhotels.com). Coral Sands, from \$370 a night, [coralsands.com](http://coralsands.com).

### Australia

**WHERE TO STAY:** The remote Whitsunday Islands, off the northeastern coast of Queensland along the Great Barrier Reef. **Elysian's** 10 villas are peppered between the Coral Sea and the rainforest. It's solar-powered and eco-friendly, but you're hardly roughing it, with A/C, an Ayurvedic spa, and a restaurant cooking local produce and rock lobster. Jump into unparalleled diving and snorkeling, or enjoy the aqua water from above: kayaking or, from July to October, spotting humpback whales migrating with calves.

**THE DETAILS:** Elysian, from \$830 a night for 2, all-inclusive, [elysianretreat.com.au](http://elysianretreat.com.au).

### Mexico

**WHERE TO STAY:** Zihuatanejo, a Pacific Coast surfer mecca. The **Thompson Zihuatanejo** is at the center of its best swimming beach, with a full-service setup (thatched-umbrella palapas, custom cocktails), and plunge pools for many of its 56 rooms. Twenty miles north, on quiet Troncones Beach, is the intimate **Lo Sereno**. Its earth-toned rooms face the ocean or the striking black infinity pool, and have private patios. Amble onto the main terrace for surreally beautiful sunsets.

**THE DETAILS:** Thompson Zihuatanejo, from \$299 a night, [thompsonhotels.com](http://thompsonhotels.com). Lo Sereno, from \$240 a night, [losereno.com](http://losereno.com).

# Get Off the Grid

These extreme outdoor escapes are also supremely luxurious. Travel light, like true explorers: All your essential gear (lofty shearling blankets, world-class wine lists) is already there.



## Alaska

**WHERE TO STAY:** In a swirling snow globe near the summit of Denali, North America's tallest peak. The five-suite **Sheldon Chalet** (above) has panoramic windows, so you get screensaver-esque views whether you're curling up in your furry-pillow-topped king bed or feasting on sweet local oysters and king crab in front of the fireplace. From September to April, the Northern Lights electrify the sky. Catch them at night, then rise ready to rappel, snowshoe, sled, and sauna in the Last Frontier's coziest corner.

**THE DETAILS:** Sheldon Chalet, from \$3,150 per person a night (3-night minimum), all-inclusive, [sheldonchalet.com](http://sheldonchalet.com).

## Belize

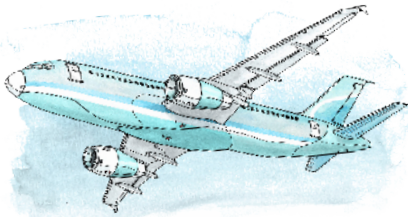
**WHERE TO STAY:** Ambergris Caye, the country's largest island, or the Placencia Peninsula farther south. Both offer laid-back excursions (kayaking, paddle-boarding) far from the crowds. On Ambergris, **Matachica's** 30 thatched-roof palapa rooms were just redone by the duo behind the cool Canadian accessories line Want Les Essentiels. At the Coppola family's **Turtle Inn**, on Placencia, book one of 25 rustic villas or Coral Caye, a private isle where you can have your own butler and chef.

**THE DETAILS:** Matachica, from \$244 a night, [matachica.com](http://matachica.com). Turtle Inn, from \$349 a night (\$1,899 for Coral Caye), [thefamilycoppolahideaways.com](http://thefamilycoppolahideaways.com).

## Bolivia

**WHERE TO STAY:** The first five-star digs in the Uyuni Salt Flats, an other-worldly expanse of white-salt desert studded with epic rock formations and flamingos (yes, flamingos). **Kachi Lodge** arrived in May as if from outer space, with six dome-style guest rooms and hyperlocal cuisine from Gustu, Noma cofounder Claus Meyer's outpost in the capital, La Paz (which is an easy hour-long flight away). Spend your days exploring the wide-open space by bike and—since the sky is inky black and there's an on-site telescope—stargazing into the night.

**THE DETAILS:** Kachi Lodge, from \$2,280 a person for 2 nights, [kachilodge.com](http://kachilodge.com).



**OUR EXPERTS:** John DiScala, [JohnnyJet.com](http://JohnnyJet.com) founder; Benét Wilson, [The Points Guy](http://ThePointsGuy.com) credit-cards editor and aviation writer.

## THAT'S THE TICKET!

Finding low fares is a breeze if you plan ahead and follow these pointers.

1

### BE FLEXIBLE

Get familiar with Google Flights' "explore" filters: Key in dates or an ideal month or trip duration, then scan the world map to see the best fares and dates to go literally anywhere on earth.

2

### KEEP TABS

Set price alerts on Google Flights, Yapta, or Skyscanner six months out for international, three for domestic. Aim to book four to five months out for international, or one to two for domestic.

3

### BOOK À LA CARTE

Going someplace remote? Save by buying two separate tickets, says DiScala—New York City to London Heathrow, then Stansted to Sardinia, for example. Allow ample time between flights in case of a snafu.

4

### PLAY WITH POINTS

You may be able to use them toward seat upgrades or bag fees as well as tickets, Wilson says. Some credit cards also offer a free companion pass once a year, lounge access, or Global Entry/TSA PreCheck fee credits.



# Hit the Town

Energy, culture, food, shopping: These metropolitan playgrounds will blow you away, whether it's your first or fifth visit.



## Paris

**WHERE TO STAY:** The boho-cool 7th arrondissement, or the posh, quieter 16th, near the Tour Eiffel. The 7th's **J. K. Place Paris** makes a dreamy pied-à-terre, with the Musée d'Orsay steps away (*salut*, Monet!); the 16th's sleek, Philippe Starck-designed **Brach Paris** is an oasis of blond wood and marble with a panoramic roof garden. When you visit the Louvre, flag modern brasserie Astair (above) for lunch; it's set in a romantic arcade a lovely stroll away.

**THE DETAILS:** J. K. Place Paris, from \$890 a night, [jkplace.paris](#). Brach Paris, from \$482 a night, [brachparis.com](#).

## New York City

**WHERE TO STAY:** The beating heart of Manhattan. Ian Schrager's **Times Square Edition** brings serious style to the tourist junction with its edgy House of Yes cabaret and plant-filled, see-and-be-seen Terrace restaurant. It's mere blocks from Rockefeller Center, Central Park, and Hudson Yards. Or, if you're laying over en route to Europe, book the retro-mod **TWA Hotel**, at John F. Kennedy International Airport, and watch jets take off from the infinity pool.

**THE DETAILS:** The Times Square Edition, from \$380 a night, [editionhotels.com](#). TWA Hotel, from \$249 a night, [twahotel.com](#).

## Tokyo

**WHERE TO STAY:** The pick of Princess Diana, U.S. presidents, and James Bond (in *You Only Live Twice*): the iconic **Okura Tokyo**, a short cab ride from Harajuku's shopping and the Meiji Shrine gardens. In 2015, there was a global outcry when its Japanese-modernist main wing was demolished. Redone as a sleek tower, it is still a time warp inside, from the hushed lobby, with replicas of the original Okura paper lanterns, to its traditional guesthouse-style rooms.

**THE DETAILS:** Okura Tokyo, from \$540 a night, [theokuratokyo.jp](#).

### ENLIST A TRAVEL AGENT

This might sound old-school, but it's a smart move for a major trip when you want every step to be seamless.

An adviser can book airfare (and put you on the best route and in the most comfortable seats for your dollar), hotel and restaurant reservations, and local guides totally free of charge—as well as net you extras, like free room upgrades and breakfast. Plus, if anything goes awry, says DiScala, he or she can call the airline or hotel directly for you to fix it pronto.



## THE IT LIST

Top travel experts tip us off to the most incredible destinations on their radar.

### SOUTH AMERICA

**INSIDER PICK:** **Puro Vik**, in Chile's Millahue Valley, "a set of romantic glass houses on the hillside," says Knowmad Adventures' Jordan Harvey.

### EUROPE

**INSIDER PICK:** **Masseria Torre Maizza**, in Puglia, Italy. It opened in May 2019 and "is surrounded by lush green fields and ancient olive groves," says Kristen Corey Pike of KK Travels Worldwide.

### AFRICA

**INSIDER PICK:** **Magashi Camp**, in Akagera National Park, Rwanda, "is in the country's first private conservancy," says Teresa Sullivan of Mango African Safaris. "You'll see endangered black rhinos, hippos, crocs, and the resident pride of lions."

### ASIA

**INSIDER PICK:** The "Edenic" **Azerai**, on an island in Vietnam's Mekong Delta, says Andrea Ross of Wild Frontiers. "You're moments from floating markets and boats serving noodle bowls."

### NEW ZEALAND

**INSIDER PICK:** **Lindis Lodge** (above), on the South Island, will delight outdoor enthusiasts and luxury lovers, says Camelback Odyssey Travel's Cassandra Bookholder. The stretch of the Ahuriri River out front is one of the world's best fly-fishing spots.