

## Honeymoon

### FOUR FUN ISLANDS YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF

THESE QUIET TYPES ARE PERFECT FOR A LOW-KEY HONEYMOON

#### Grenada

**THE SCENE** Couples love to stroll Grand Anse Beach and sip yum rum punches, flavored with locally grown nutmeg.

**HOT HOTEL** We heart Laluna's in-room plunge pools. Doubles from \$365 (low season) and \$495 (high season), [laluna.com](http://laluna.com).

#### Dominica

**THE SCENE** Adventure seekers come to hike lush green highlands that haven't changed much since Columbus stopped by.

**HOT HOTEL** The new Rosalie Bay Resort is a posh base for exploring. Doubles from \$185 (year-round), [rosaliebay.com](http://rosaliebay.com).

#### Bonaire

**THE SCENE** On this sandy strip that's rich with reefs, everyone is either diving or talking about diving.

**HOT HOTEL** Scuba right off the beach fronting the Dutch colonial-style Harbor Village Beach Club, then decompress in the spa. Doubles from \$275 (year-round), [slh.com](http://slh.com).

#### Cooper Island

**THE SCENE** This one-resort island is a haven for sailboats, whose crews often stop over for a drink.

**HOT HOTEL** Kayak, snorkel, or relax at the Island Beach Club. Doubles from \$275 (high season), [cooperisland.com](http://cooperisland.com).

• **STAY** If you need a little nightlife (and we really mean a little—Belize is pretty sleepy), settle down on the coast's largest isle, Ambergris Caye. We dig **Matachica's** sleek casitas and its lobby-lounge, where peeps groove to world beats. Doubles from \$195 (low season) and \$250 (high season), [matachica.com](http://matachica.com).



Reese tripped to Belize's Turtle Inn (it's owned by director Francis Ford Coppola) for her honeymoon with Jim Toth.

### beachin' in Belize

THE CARIBBEAN COAST OF THIS CENTRAL AMERICAN GEM GLITTERS WITH STARS WHO CRAVE TOP-NOTCH RESORTS AND A LAID-BACK VIBE

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• **EAT** Delish ceviche and garlicky stone-crab claws make for a killer meal at Ambergris Caye's beachfront **Capricorn**. Dinner for two, \$120.

• **SWIM** Venture out from Ambergris Caye to **Shark-Ray Alley**, a place inside the barrier reef where you can snorkel or dive with nurse sharks and stingrays. (Matachica can hook you up with a tour operator.) The finned ones are friendly, we swear! Excursion for two, \$120. —E. W.

• **RINK** Our idea of a perfect afternoon: Serving up a few volleyballs, then throwing back shots of local rum at **Mangoes**, just outside Placencia. Drinks for two, \$6.

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### BRAIDS, BEADS & BANANA BOATS DO'S AND DON'TS FOR DEALING WITH BEACH VENDORS

• **DO** get your hair braided, immediately. That way, no one will pester you about it for the rest of your stay. On the downside, braids may mark you as someone willing to consider any other offer.

• **DON'T** forget that what's shopping and fun for you is a livelihood for the vendor. So say no whenever you want, but never with anger or disrespect. Unless it's a time-share salesman.

• **DO** ask your concierge to recommend resort-preferred vendors for big-ticket items, such as boat excursions. Then ask other guests to rate the concierge's

picks. The bigger the disparity, the more likely the recommendation is based on a kickback.

• **DON'T**—unless you want to risk extending your visit indefinitely—buy drugs. Period. And despite what some of the more hopeful vendors will tell you, weed is a drug—even in Jamaica.

• **DO** remember that the real value of buying trinkets like beads and bracelets is in the fun of interacting with the locals. So bargain with abandon, but don't be too stingy with your wallet. That said, no conch shell is worth \$20. —B. P.



• **GO TO** [BRIDES.COM/HONEYMOONS](http://BRIDES.COM/HONEYMOONS) FOR MORE CARIBBEAN ESCAPES, AND FOLLOW @BRIDES\_TRAVEL ON TWITTER.

JANUARY 2012  
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 89  
 instant ways to control your costs  
 BEAUTIFUL WEDDING STYLES FOR long hair, short hair, your hair  
 GORGEOUS FLOWERS for less \$\$\$  
 Unforgettable PARTY IDEAS