

Brides

The Getaway/ROMANTIC BEACH ESCAPES



Costa Rica's
Latitude 10,
on Santa
Teresa Beach



Belize's 25-room
Turtle Inn,
owned by Francis
Ford Coppola

↘ Belize

MATACHICA

Ambergris Caye

Looking for an urbane take on the tropics? Matachica's 26 candy-colored thatched-roof cottages are outfitted with Frette linens, mosaic tiles, and a hammock-slung patio. The lobby channels that same cool attitude with its pillow-strewn floor (they call it a lounge) and soundtrack of world beats. And then there's the delish breakfast. We're obsessed with the banana-chocolate-chip pancakes! From \$195; matachica.com.

(cont. from p. 320)

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TURTLE INN

Placencia

This Francis Ford Coppola-owned Caribbean retreat—Reese Witherspoon honeymooned here—takes its design cues from Asia. Cottages are decked out with Japanese baths and hand-carved Balinese wooden doors, and the spa is staffed with Thai therapists who offer the best massages this side of Bangkok. Just outside is the world's second-largest barrier reef, where you can snorkel with rays or, in the spring, dive with 60-foot whale sharks. From \$299; coppolaresorts.com.

↘ Costa Rica

CALA LUNA

Tamarindo

This 20-room retreat overlooking the Pacific is all about indulgences (private candlelit dinners at surf's edge, couples' massages on the sand or en suite, poolside sun beds and cabanas). Book a spin on the resort's 27-foot power boat and you can spend the day snorkeling and sunning on the deck before the captain drops you off for a picnic on your own private beach. From \$295; calaluna.com.

LATITUDE 10

Santa Teresa

Spread over a patch of remote tropical jungle and hammock-dotted sand on Costa Rica's Pacific side, this ecofriendly resort—no trees were felled to build it—has just five almond-wood *casitas* with four-poster beds and unreal open-air bathrooms. (You'll shower under a tree canopy.) There's plenty to do, too, from surfing to zip lining to tidepool fishing. But no one will blame you if you just nap by the infinity pool as howler monkeys play above. From \$210; latitude10resort.com.

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