

CONDE NAST

# BRIDES

## HONEYMOON GUIDE

2016/17

**The 100 best honeymoons in the world**  
THE SEXIEST BEDROOMS, SUBLIME TROPICAL BEACHES & SLICK CITY STAYS  
Every one is *BRIDES APPROVED*

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

Turquoise  
The Turquoise Holiday Company

# Triple-hop WONDERS

AFTER ALL, ONE GORGEOUS HOTEL ISN'T NEARLY ENOUGH...

## Trip one CALIFORNIA ROAD TRIP



### 1 Calistoga Ranch

Napa Valley, USA

**IT MAY BE ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S MOST LUSTED-AFTER CELEBRITY HAUNTS** (Lady Gaga, Bono and Mick Jagger have all checked in), but even if you were staying next to her ladyship herself, you won't know it. That's because this luxurious hotel, set on a 157-acre estate in a dramatic canyon, is also one of the most discreet. Each of the 50 cedar and shingle freestanding lodges are scattered around the resort and hidden by dense foliage – meaning you're more likely to glimpse a deer than a fellow guest. Inside, suites are vast, with bedrooms and living areas decorated in taupes and creams, and furnished in natural textures. But this is the Golden State so you'll want to spend time outdoors, and Calistoga has provided decks with an outdoor fireplace, the softest sofas and hot tubs. Mid afternoon, indulge in a lakeside treatment in the Auberge Spa, before dining at the chic lakeside restaurant. **WOW FACTOR** One of Napa's best wineries is close – the Frank Family Vineyards, owned by Hollywood power-player Rich Frank, whose credits include *Pretty Woman*. **GO** A one-bedroom suite costs from £506 per night; calistogaran.chalobresorts.com

11 HOURS, 30 MINUTES

### 2 The Scarlet Huntington

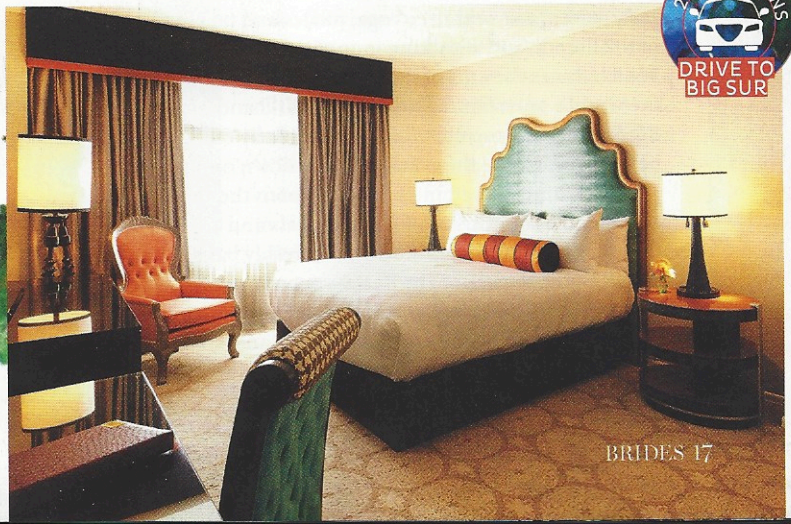
San Francisco

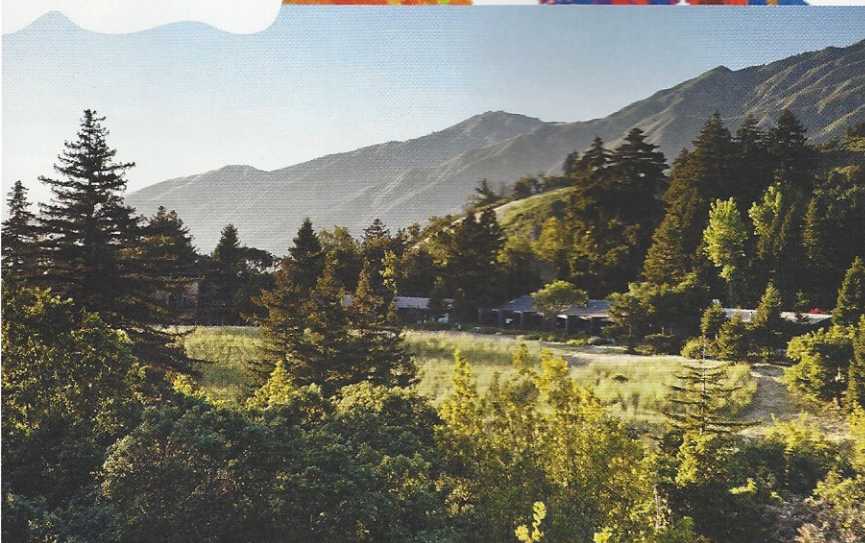
**IT'S HOME TO FACEBOOK, UBER AND DOZENS OF DOTCOM MILLIONAIRES**, but San Francisco is not all about the modern. From its pastel Victorian townhouses to its historic parks and military forts, this is one of the U.S.'s prettiest and most historic cities. One hotel to successfully merge its youthful, tech-savvy vibe and old-world charm is The Scarlet Huntington, which opened last year after a \$15 million overhaul. Perched on top of Nob Hill, in the city's most majestic old neighbourhood, at first glance it's all bright

and bold Asian-influenced design. But look again and you'll notice period touches have been preserved, from the '30s mail chute to the wrought-iron work in the lobby and the original crystal chandeliers. Foodies and historians alike will love the Big 4 Restaurant, which serves popular American classics in a gentleman's club-style atmosphere. Ask to be served by waiter Ron – as well as tending to your every need, he's something of a living guidebook, and knows *everything* you'll ever need to know about this fair city.

**WOW FACTOR** Wait until you catch sight of the Golden Gate Bridge – and drive over 1.7 miles of it. Open-air sports car essential.

**GO** A double room costs from £265 per night; thescarlethotels.com →



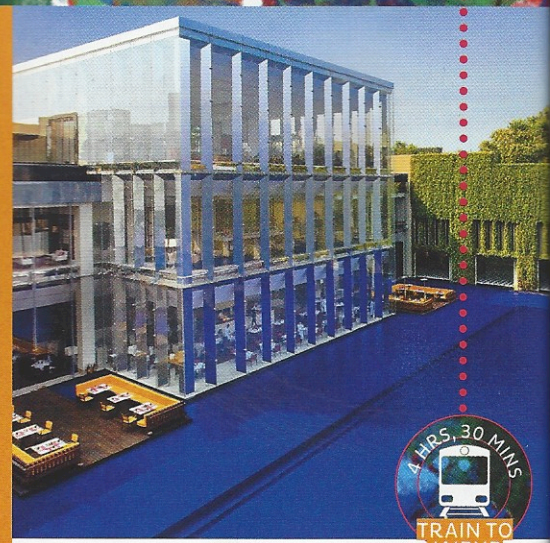


## 3 Ventana Inn & Spa Big Sur

**THE WORD 'EXCLUSIVE' MAY CONJURE UP VISIONS OF STUFFY SUIT-AND-JACKET COMBOS**, but the dress code at this über-glossy hideaway hotel is strictly 'bathrobe'. And you'll be wearing your super-soft robe *a lot*, whether it's to wander up to the two outdoor pools (if you're shy beware: at one, swimsuits are optional) and the Japanese baths, or simply to stroll to any of the hammocks scattered around the 243-acre property perched on a cliff overlooking the Pacific. That's not to say that your days are going to be languorous – far from it. Forget that lie-in: things start early at Ventana, with free yoga, pilates and tai chi classes at 8am in the library, and a walking tour of the surrounding parkland. Which leaves the afternoon for you to get out and explore one of the world's most famous coastlines. Wild and insanely beautiful, Big Sur's 85-mile stretch (only accessible by car) has to be seen to be believed. Come the evening, settle down on your private deck, glass of Quintessa red in hand, and watch the sun set in a blaze of pink, to a soundtrack of chirping bats and crickets.

**WOW FACTOR** Eating a breakfast of freshly baked breads, fruit and coffee on the terrace at The Restaurant at Ventana, surrounded by hummingbirds, butterflies and the purest ocean views we've seen.

**GO** A double room costs from £495; [ventanainn.com](http://ventanainn.com). For more information about road trips, go to [visitcalifornia.com](http://visitcalifornia.com)



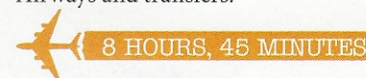
## 1 The Oberoi ..... Gurgaon

**AFTER A LONG-HAUL FLIGHT, INDIA CAN COME AS SOMETHING OF A CULTURE SHOCK.** And having navigated streets clogged with beeping cars, chickens, dogs and petrol fumes, stepping across the threshold of The Oberoi hotel comes as a wonderfully welcoming surprise. This set a new benchmark for urban hotels in the country when it opened in 2011 in the district of Gurgaon, 30km from New Delhi. This particular part of the city is seeing a resurgence, with huge shopping malls and plenty of cool new restaurants to explore. But as you're likely to stay less than 48 hours before you head to romance-filled Rajasthan, you *will* just want to hang out at the resort, which is a huge destination for local lovers looking to spoil each other (the hotel even recently had a proposal in its Burberry shop). Indulging yourselves could not be easier.

Make use of the round-the-clock butler, and be sure to visit the handy 24-hour spa for a frangipani body wrap to cure any jet lag (it also does great treatments for men). Once you're settled in, seek out the sleek retail space where brands such as Jimmy Choo and Roberto Cavalli are mixed in with a contemporary Indian art gallery, a blow-dry bar and a patisserie with baked treats. To top it off, slip back to your suite and loll in the lap pool (no laps needed).

**WOW FACTOR** Book dinner under the stars at restaurant Threesixtyone°. You'll eat on a floating teak-wood deck over the *huge* water feature lit with fire torches (above).

**GO** Greaves India ([greavesindia.com](http://greavesindia.com)) offers three nights from £1,050 per person, B&B. Includes return flights with British Airways and transfers.



## 2 Suján Rajmahal Palace Jaipur

**THIS NEW OPENING IN RAJASTHAN'S CAPITAL CITY IS EVERY BIT AS PALATIAL AS IT SOUNDS** (it was once the home of the Maharaja). And yet, don't expect to be overwhelmed with grandiosity; the staff are experts at making anyone feel part of the (astounding) furniture. The design is one of its most talked-about features, and there's bonkers wallpaper everywhere – turquoise and pinks with geometric versus floral and paisley patterns (such as in the drawing room, right). Each of the 14 rooms is entirely different. There's the Queen Elizabeth II suite (she's stayed here) with more muted, pale-blue tones, or choose the Maharani's apartment with plush purple-velvet chairs, art-deco prints and a bed so big there's even a step up to it. Want a great recommendation? Sip a gin and tonic in The Polo Bar followed by dinner in restaurant 51 Shades of Pink (yep, it's *very* pink, this is the Pink City after all), then head out to view the magnificent Amer Fort lit up in all its glory.

**WOW FACTOR** Sightsee a little differently on a balloon safari. Take off from the cricket ground, fly over the fort, swoop over temples and eventually glide above the Aravalli mountain range (skywartz.com).

**GO** Greaves India (greavesindia.com) offers three nights from £1,275 per person, B&B. Includes flights with British Airways.



## Trip two RAJASTHAN, INDIA

## 3 Raas Jodhpur Jodhpur

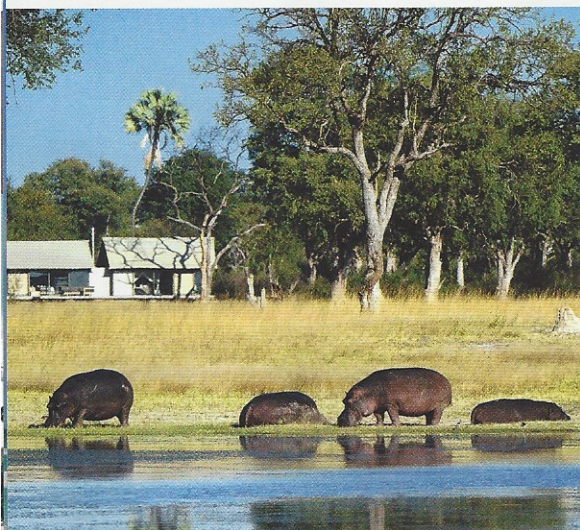
**JODHPUR, RAJASTHAN'S SECOND CITY, WILL THRILL JUST AS MUCH AS JAIPUR**, but it's also a significant downsize and easier to navigate on foot, especially if you stick to the old walled city... Enter Raas Jodhpur, impeccably situated within these walls and with electric views of the ancient Blue City. A glorious courtyard space has a pool, white-clothed tables on a pretty terrace (left) and a rooftop bar ablaze with lanterns – it's all calm and cosseted from the sinewy streets around. A mix of old meets new, the property is built around an 18th-century *haveli*, with trendy design touches that are almost a tad '70s LA. Head to your duplex suite (book early, there are only four), then look out on to turquoise buildings before gazing up and realising you're in the shadow of the Mehrangarh Fort, as the sound of the call to prayer echoes from a nearby mosque.

**WOW FACTOR** Book a pre-dinner champagne walk for two at the fort with museum curator Mr Karni Jasol.

**GO** Greaves India (greavesindia.com) offers three nights from £975 per person, B&B. Includes flights with British Airways →

## LINKWASHA CAMP

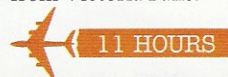
*Hwange  
National Park,  
Zimbabwe, Africa*



**THIS CAMP ONLY OPENED IN MAY 2015 AND HAS ALREADY SET THE BAR IN HIGH-END LUXURY.** Expect just seven superbly designed tents situated around a covered, but open, airy communal space, stuffed with sleek furniture, and surrounded by panoramic views of the bush. Mornings are an early affair with a flurry of blankets, steaming coffee and excitement as you set off for your first game drive. Anticipate seeing elephants galore, lions, hyenas, water buffalo, hippos, giraffe, zebra – the lot. And if you're lucky, you might get to glimpse an African wild dog (there are only about 2,500 left). After a snooze and snack, why not scare yourselves silly with a walking safari; you *will* feel like David Attenborough. Come evening, the best spot for truly jaw-dropping sundowners is on a platform above a watering hole, with hundreds of thirsty elephants drifting towards you.

**WOW FACTOR** Listening to some of the legendary tales from the brave guides at Linkwasha; you'll be quaking in your boots.

**GO** Africa Odyssey ([africaodyssey.com](http://africaodyssey.com)) offers three nights from £1,640 per person, all inclusive. Includes flights from Victoria Falls.



## JAWAI LEOPARD CAMP

*Rajasthan, India*

**WITH A HUSBAND AND WIFE TEAM AT THE HELM**, local villagers trained up as drivers and nomadic herdsman roaming the land, it's hard to imagine a more authentic place. Part of the Suján Luxury collection (a cluster of unique, family-owned properties), this isn't your typical safari. You won't see the big five here, but you will see leopards – and get a fully immersive cultural experience. You can join in street games with the locals in village tours, hike temple trails, go on cycle trips and even visit a Unesco-protected fort. But the shy big cat is firmly at the centre of it all and the guides are fantastic – try to bag Vedant if you can as his knowledge of the animals is unmatched. The camp states it has a one-in-three-drive-sightings rate, but we saw three leopards within a 24-hour stay, including an awesome night drive. The interiors are all monochrome prints, and stainless steel, contrasting wildly to the dusty yellow, scrubby landscape. All of the hallmarks of a luxury camp are here (hello, free laundry and ludicrously soft beds with fluffy hot water bottles), but what really makes this place is its staff. Lengthy nights spent chatting around the campfire pass as if you've found long-lost friends...

**WOW FACTOR** A guaranteed front-row seat for the leopard action –and unlike many camps, you won't see another 4X4.

**GO** Greaves India ([greavesindia.com](http://greavesindia.com)) offers three nights from £2,099 per person. Includes flights and transfers →

