



**ON THE MOON**  
OUT OF THIS WORLD HONEYMOONS

*Smith*  
Mr & Mrs Smith

KEY:

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## LIFE'S BETTER ON THE MOON

We get our cosmic thrills by sending couples to the moon – no, really. Forget space walks and sachet food, though: our couples can expect celestial massages, starlit dining and earth-shattering service... Because not only do we signpost the universe's most extraordinary hotel experiences, but we ensure the most stylish of landings at the ideal time of year, too. So for an out-of-this-world honeymoon, make contact with Mr & Mrs Smith.

Whether you want a few weeks of long-haul lounging or a minimoon in a romantic city, we can tailor a trip to your tastes, whatever the size of your budget.

It doesn't stop there – the Smith24 team is available around the clock to help prove that anything's possible on the moon.

Here, then, are a few hand-picked favourites – with some true tales from the moon – to begin your exploration.

The moon is closer than you think...

Smith

JANUARY



## KEEMALA PHUKET, THAILAND

FULL MOON ●

Perfect for	Village people; wannabe Hobbits; tribes in training.
When to go	January in Phuket = very little rainfall and lower humidity. It's sunniest from November to March but warm all year round.
Tales from the moon	'We loved our villa overlooking the rainforest – who wouldn't be wowed by swimming pools on stilts? Keemala's spa is amazing: eight treatment pods among the trees, plus a meditation cave. We had massages and tried raindrop therapies.'



## MATAKAURI LODGE QUEENSTOWN, NEW ZEALAND

MAXIMOON ●●

Perfect for	Rugged romantics; Jacuzzi junkies.
When to go	In January, Queenstown has a balmy summer glow. Winter (June to September) draws skiers to the icy slopes.
Tales from the moon	'We alternated between bed days and adventure days, trying kayaking, mountain biking and fishing. We loved our personalised tour of Lake Wakatipu on a swish 1930s yacht. Expect delicious food and wine: try truffle risotto and the award-winning pinot noir.'

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## AWASI PATAGONIA CHILE

MAXIMOON ●●

Perfect for	Peace-seekers; amateur Attenboroughs.
When to go	December–February is prime Patagonia time; it gets less crowded from late January.
Tales from the moon	‘It felt really special to know that people trek for days to see the Torres del Paine, yet we could spy on its dramatic peaks from our bed. Our private trips around the national park were like being guided by a brilliantly knowledgeable friend.’



**DAR ZEMORA** MARRAKECH, MOROCCO

MINIMOON 

<b>Perfect for</b>	Hollywood glamour on location; graceful gardens.
<b>When to go</b>	Beat the new year blues with a dose of Marrakech sun in February. Spring and autumn are warm but summer is truly sweltering.
<b>Tales from the moon</b>	'The rooftop Perla Suite – with its sweeping terrace, marble bath and open fireplace – is the epitome of romance. And don't worry about souk haggling; Lucia will give you a proper local's tour to meet the craftsmen – we got some beautiful souvenirs.'

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MARCH



## JICARO ISLAND ECOLODGE GRANADA, NICARAGUA

FULL MOON ●

Perfect for	Cool-hunting castaways; Tarzans in training; volcanic passion.
When to go	Visitors in March can leave their brollies at home – rainy season starts in May. Nicaragua doesn't really do cold.
Tales from the moon	'For a Bond-beating entrance, arrive by boat. We had dinner on the jetty: staff whisk you over, light a fire, serve the finest local fare, then leave you to it. This back-to-nature island base is as honeymoon-worthy as hotels get.'



## AMAN VENICE ITALY

MINIMOON 

### Perfect for

Directors and their muses; linguine-lovers; canalside canoodlers.

### When to go

Skip February's Carnival chaos and come in milder March. Autumn and winter are suited to red wine and polenta consumption.

### Tales from the moon

'Our room surveyed the canal, so we could relive our speedboat arrival. The secret garden is perfect for games of hide-and-kiss. Knowing your honeymoon hotel hosted Mr and Mrs Clooney's wedding adds a touch of glamour, too.'

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APRIL



## COQUI COQUI COBA RESIDENCE YUCATAN, MEXICO

FULL MOON ●

Perfect for	Spa-seekers; romantic recluses; Indiana Jones-ish types.
When to go	Catch the tail-end of high season in April when the sun-worshipping throngs disperse. February is Carnival time in nearby Cozumel.
Tales from the moon	'With its film-set scenery, this retreat-among-the-ruins will have you wondering if someone's going to yell "Cut!" at any moment. Thankfully, there was no such distraction, just lagoon views aplenty, a peaceful spa and plenty of long, lazy ceviche lunches.'



## G ROUGH ROME, ITALY

MINIMOON 

### Perfect for

Ancient wonders; Baroque beauties; flights of Fellini fancy.

### When to go

The Eternal City's countless treasures are a year-round draw, but swerve crowd-filled summer with a Roman holiday in April.

### Tales from the moon

'Our suite balanced Rome's bygone grandeur and artistic modernism beautifully. One evening we were treated to dinner *à deux* at a nearby private palazzo, cooked by a Cordon Bleu-trained chef and taken on a city-surveying terrace – *la dolce vita* indeed!'

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MAY



## BAROS THE MALDIVES

FULL MOON ●

Perfect for	Wannabe Ariels and Neptunes; Jacques Cousteau and co.
When to go	The Easter rush eases off by May; unsurprisingly, there's never a bad time to honeymoon in paradise (aka the Maldives).
Tales from the moon	'Make the most of Baros' expert dive team by spending a day underwater. We loved our Water Pool Villa with its four-poster day bed and steps leading to the lagoon. Don't miss private-island picnics and trips on the glass-bottomed kayak.'



## HÔTEL CRILLON LE BRAVE PROVENCE, FRANCE

MINIMOON 

### Perfect for

Budding Van Goghs; wine-splashed sybarites

### When to go

Spring and autumn are perfect: warm weather; fewer crowds. May is a riot of flowers, and September sees the grape harvest.

### Tales from the moon

'Our suite – Room 33 – was honeymoon perfection: lashings of space spread across two levels, plus a pair of roll-top bath tubs for sociable sudsing. We won't forget our indulgent wine- and cheese-tasting sessions in a hurry...'

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JUNE



**TSALA TREETOP LODGE** GARDEN ROUTE, SOUTH AFRICA

FULL MOON ●

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Perfect for	Back-to-nature bliss; among-the-leaves lazing.
When to go	Guaranteed rays and verdant valleys – June is postcard perfect. July–November is best for whale-spotting nearby.
Tales from the moon	‘When we did manage to drag ourselves away from our canopy-surveying, plunge-pool-toting suite, we visited some national treasures at Knysna Elephant Park and went sampling around the Winelands – the perfect honeymoon location.’

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## FINCA CORTESIN MARBELLA, SPAIN

MINIMOON 

### Perfect for

Spoiling surrounds; fit-for-royalty pampering.

### When to go

With 320 days of sun, there's not much in the way of bad weather. June, though, guarantees a summer scorch with fewer crowds.

### Tales from the moon

'Glamorous grounds, stylish suites and food to fall in love with – we were sat at the table right next to the open kitchen at Kabuki Raw so we could watch Señor Olarra in action as he prepared an unbelievably good Japanese feast.'

JULY



## POST RANCH INN BIG SUR, CALIFORNIA

FULL MOON ●

Perfect for	Rocky romances; fiery nights; spa aaahs.
When to go	Big Sur summers are lovely – a bit foggy in the mornings, clearing by the afternoon. Spring and autumn hardly disappoint, mind.
Tales from the moon	‘What better way to kick off married life than by cruising down the single-lane Highway 1 with the top down? It’s one of the country’s most dramatic drives. Don’t skip surf and turf at Post Ranch’s restaurant and floral treatments at the spa.’



## SIX SENSES DOURO VALLEY SAMODAES, PORTUGAL

MINIMOON 

### Perfect for

Grape-smudged smooching; alchemical romances; spiritual highs.

### When to go

On summer Saturdays, flit between Régua and Tua on a steam train. Autumn and winter are for cycling and hiking (or red wine and fires).

### Tales from the moon

'We loved meeting local winemakers on our winery tour; stomping grapes was another highlight. Thanks to our wellness workshop at the Alchemy Bar, we'll be bottling our own lotions and potions back home. Be bold and try aerial yoga.'

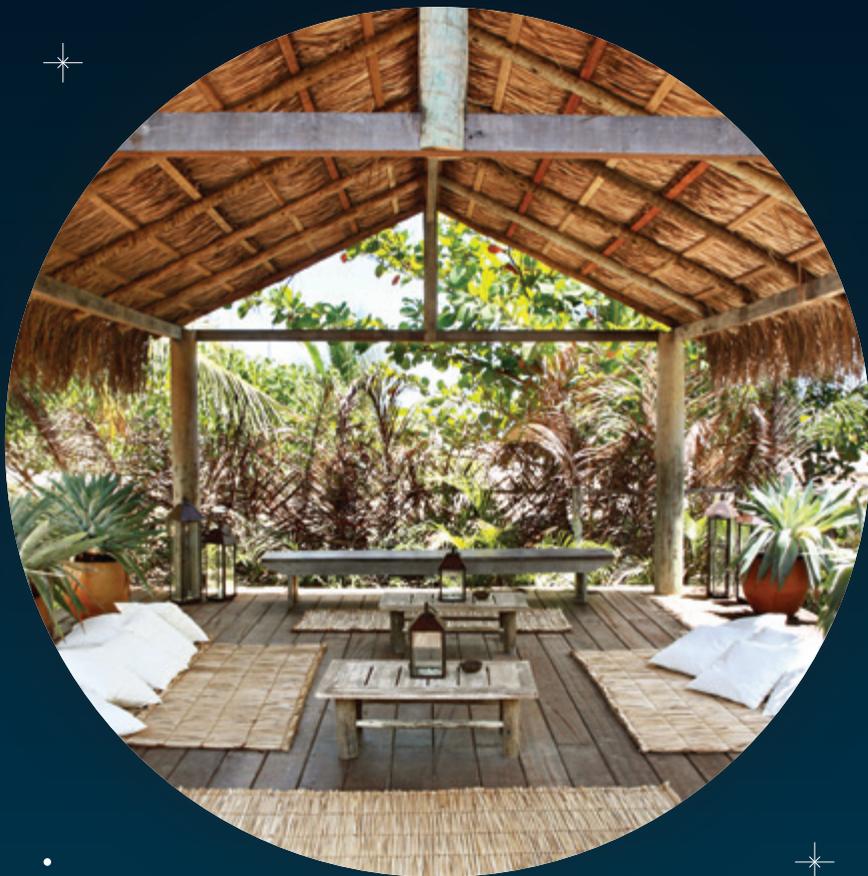
AUGUST



## ALILA VILLAS SOORI BALI

FULL MOON ●

Perfect for	Sun-kissed sanctuary; temple-touring tranquillity.
When to go	Bali bustles in balmy August but the volcanic-sand shores and jade-green rice paddies of Tabanan offer welcome respite all year.
Tales from the moon	‘We were treated to an oh-so-romantic meal on the shores of the black-sand beach, perfectly timed so we caught the evening exodus of local fruit bats in all its glory.’



## UXUA CASA BAHIA, BRAZIL

MAXIMOON ●●

### Perfect for

Paradise with personality; boho beach life.

### When to go

Bahia's winter is sunny and sedate, and you won't have to jostle for beach space. For Carnival fun, visit between December and February.

### Tales from the moon

'The treetop Casa da Arvore suite – fringed by jungle, with an outdoor hot tub, hammock and a thatched veranda – might just be the most heart-stealing hideaway on earth.'

SEPTEMBER



## MONASTERO SANTA ROSA AMALFI COAST, ITALY

MINIMOON 

Perfect for	Errant monks and nuns; budding Bardots; Salerno seductions.
When to go	Skip the July and August hordes by heading here in September, when cooler days mean more exploring, less queuing.
Tales from the moon	‘We could have spent our entire honeymoon in the hotel’s indulgent spa and brilliant restaurant, where Alain Ducasse protégé Christoph Bob regularly rustles up culinary magic. The gardens at this 17th-century monastery are very beautiful.’



**101 HOTEL** REYKJAVIK, ICELAND

MINIMOON 

<b>Perfect for</b>	Alien landscapes; elf encounters; husky-loving heroes and heroines.
<b>When to go</b>	You might get lucky and spy the famous Northern Lights in September (also visible October–March). Summer means near-eternal sunshine.
<b>Tales from the moon</b>	'Honeymoons don't have to involve lying on sand. We went skidooring, husky-sleighing and geyser-watching; we also saw the Northern Lights, which were even more thrilling than we'd hoped. Spend some time in 101's sci-fi-style restaurant and mini spa.'

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OCTOBER



## SIX SENSES ZIGHY BAY MUSANDAM, OMAN

FULL MOON ●

Perfect for	Adrenalin addicts; off-the-beaten-track-ers.
When to go	To make the most of the adventures on offer, you'll want to avoid the height of summer – October to April is the perfect window.
Tales from the moon	'There aren't many places where you can arrive by speedboat, 4x4 or paraglider... Once you've landed, prepare to have your breath taken again and again by the bay-view bedrooms, the cliff-carved restaurant, the private stretch of beach, the countless excursions...'



## TREEHOTEL NORRBOTTEN COUNTY, SWEDEN

MINIMOON 

### Perfect for

Big kids; aspiring Ewoks; woodland wanderers.

### When to go

October gives you a forest full of autumnal hues and you won't need so many thermals. For snow-based fun, aim for winter.

### Tales from the moon

'Treks through lush forest, husky-drawn sled rides, rustic Nordic cuisine, a peek at the Northern Lights – all that, and you get to repair to a giant, top-notch treehouse after your exertions. This place is beyond unique and makes for amazing memories.'

NOVEMBER



## EMIRATES ONE&ONLY WOLGAN VALLEY AUSTRALIA

MAXIMOON ●●

Perfect for	Discerning bushcrafters; wildlife spotters.
When to go	The cooling climate of the Blue Mountains makes for a refreshing mid-summer retreat. Here, Yulefest is literally Christmas in July.
Tales from the moon	'We came for some true R'n'R, and this place delivers in very big spades. We could've lost days to the soothing spa, but we did at least manage some starlit swims in our private pool, some wallaby watching, and a horse ride through the beautiful bushland.'



## SONEVA FUSHI THE MALDIVES

FULL MOON ●

### Perfect for

Befriending dolphins; inciting Instagram envy.

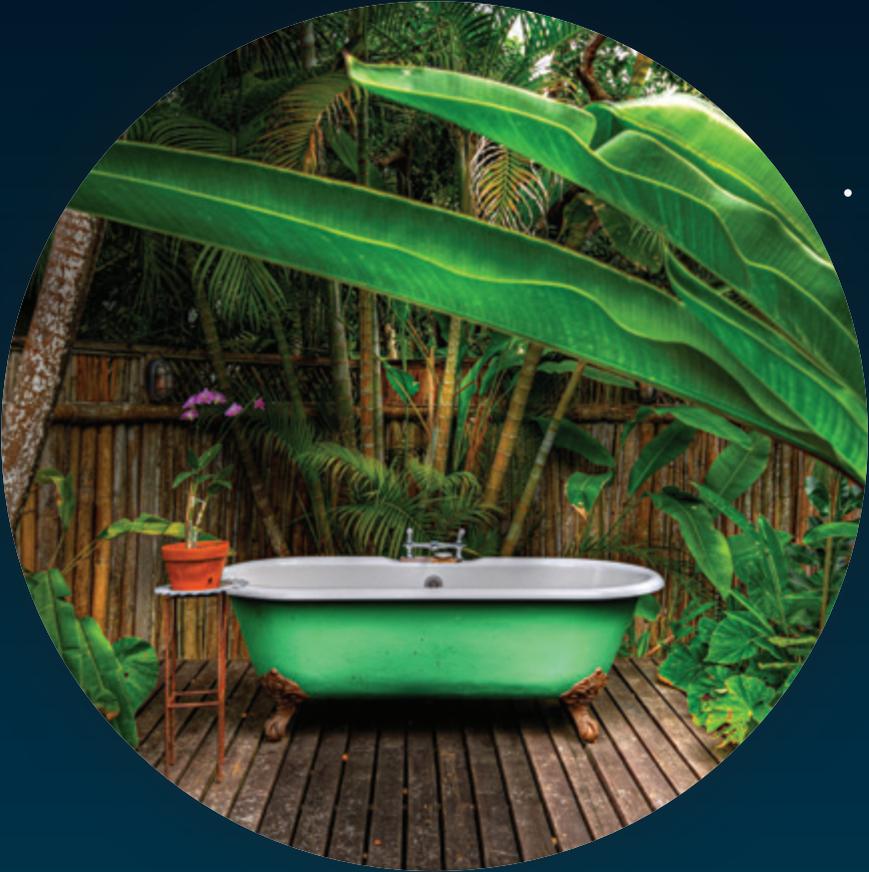
### When to go

There's never really a bad time – even in monsoon season (May–October), you shouldn't expect more than a few days' rain.

### Tales from the moon

'In a honeymoon full of "best bits", our desert-island picnic stood out. We were dropped off with a hamper; at the touch of a button, staff picked us up. The hotel has telescopes so you can stargaze and spy on Jupiter.'

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## GOLDENEYE HOTEL & RESORT JAMAICA

FULL MOON ●

Perfect for	Bond villains (and their cats); buffalo soldiers; irie idlers.
When to go	Bypass the end of hurricane season (November) and enjoy calmer skies. Rainy season (May and October) is also a popular time to visit.
Tales from the moon	'Magic moments included galloping on horseback through the waves at Chukka Cove, before cooling off with a refreshing swim and a long, lazy lunch on the sand. Ian Fleming wrote bestsellers here; we were too lazy to lift a pen.'



**CLIVEDEN** BERKSHIRE, UK

MINIMOON 

Perfect for	English elegance; tradition with a twist.
When to go	As splendid as these green acres look bathed in summer sun, there's something particularly charming about a dusting of December snow.
Tales from the moon	'We felt like the stars of our own romantic novel in these grand surrounds: the miles of rolling countryside; the chandelier-lined André Garrett restaurant; the marble bath tub; champagne cocktails by the roaring fire...'

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