



luxe for less

Globetrotting A-list honeymoon style doesn't have to come with a hefty price tag, as these clever getaways prove

BOUTIQUE CHIC SRI LANKA

We love seaside escape The Vila Bentota, around two hours' drive from capital Colombo. Sri Lanka's first boutique hotel, it's been around since the Seventies and tons of stars have checked in and blissed out, including fashion supremo Stella McCartney. There are only 15 rooms and suites, all individually furnished; suite five is our tip for honeymooners thanks to its silver and ivory décor, terrace with ocean view and private location on the outer edge of the property. The Vila Café is a newly built pavilion restaurant with standout gourmet dishes like lemongrass and ginger chicken. A coconut grove lawn leads down to a perfect strip of golden beach, or there are two swimming pools if you don't fancy a dip in the ocean.

Seven nights including flights, breakfast and transfers, from £1340pp, Ampersand Travel (ampersandtravel.com).

A coconut grove leads down to a perfect strip of golden beach



PRETTY IN PROVENCE FRANCE

The beautiful retreat of Crillon Le Brave is tucked away in a quiet part of Provence. Made up of seven medieval houses on the top of a hill, it has panoramic views of the surrounding vineyards, lavender fields and majestic Mont Ventoux. You'll be enchanted by the cobbled alleyways, hidden courtyards leading to terraces and stylish suites featuring giant freestanding baths. There's even a mini-spa using Cowshed products for a spot of pampering. When (or if) you want to venture into the outside world, the hotel has bikes you can borrow to reach the surrounding picturesque villages full of antiques markets.

Five nights from £529pp (crillonlebrave.com). British Airways flights to Marseilles from £118pp (britishairways.com).

LAI-D-BACK & LUXURIOUS

Go short-haul for chic and cheap in Provence (left), or for something a bit more rustic, head to the Andaman Islands for an eco-friendly escape.



NO SHOES, NO NEWS ANDAMAN ISLANDS

Travellers-in-the-know have been raving about these beautiful islands off the coast of India for a while, yet they still remain an unspoilt secret paradise of deserted golden beaches, volcanoes with forested slopes and pristine coral reefs. The place to stay is Barefoot at Havelock, with its wooden cottages, most without a phone, TV or internet – so you can literally switch off. There's a tiny conical thatched restaurant serving mainly Indian dishes and a bar, but other than that it's all about relaxation, kayaking through the mangroves or tracking down the world famous swimming elephants (they use their trunks like a snorkel!).

Rooms from £70 per night, i-escape (i-escape.com). Flights to New Delhi, from £475 (airindia.com). Ferry to Havelock from Port Blair, £33.