

YOUR GUIDE TO WEDDINGS AWAY • HONEYMOONS • ROMANCE

ISLANDS

weddings & honeymoons

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ARUBA

Wind, Sun, & Sea

Island lovers reserve a special passion for Aruba. Perhaps it's the guarantee of always-sunny days and all those miles of powdery white beaches. Or perhaps it's the friendly Dutch welcome, the Euro-chic restaurants, designer boutiques, and Vegas-style casino action at night.

Or maybe it's just that Aruba is so easy to reach—four hours nonstop from New York or two and a half hours from Miami—even though it's just off the coast of Venezuela.

With its native character marked by cacti and divi-divi trees, Aruba may remind you of scenic Arizona. A parade of landscaped resorts lines the western coast, bordered by dazzling white sands and gentle sea. But over on the wild eastern coast, the land presents a lunarscape of gigantic jagged boulders pounded by relentless surf.

Intrepid honeymooners head here for rugged horseback rides and bone-jarring ATV safaris. If you need even more excitement, board the new *Thriller Aruba* for a high-power speedboat "cruise" that races the wind around the island.

Aruba is world-famous for another, more conventional, form of wind-driven challenge. Constant breezes power some of the best windsurfing in the world. You can get a feel for the sport with classes from Windsurfer's Village at Fisherman's Hut Beach, just past Palm Beach on the northwest coast.

For relaxation, perfect your tans on the island's renowned beaches or snorkel the clear waters offshore. Take lunch at Brisas Del Mar in Savaneta, an open-air seaside café serving just-caught seafood. And reserve a table for dinner at Marandi, Aruba's newest hot-spot restaurant, where you can dine by candlelight under the thatched roof or at a waterside table under the stars.

A final must for honeymooners: a visit to Charlie's Bar, a local landmark founded by two lovebirds many years ago. You might feel moved to add a personal memento from your honeymoon—a favorite baseball cap?—to the thousands left there by other couples.

Aruba's best beaches front dozens of upscale name-brand resorts and condos. For couples seeking a more intimate, European-style honeymoon, family-owned Bucuti Beach Resort provides a stylish couples-only retreat on a secluded 14-acre section of Eagle Beach. The resort recently opened 41 new beachfront suites ideal for honeymooners.

