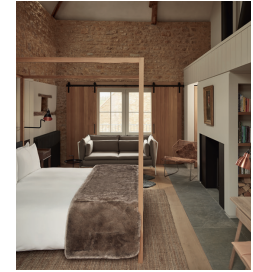


eco honeymoons

Honeymooners, travelling consciously doesn't have to come at the cost of luxury – trust us. Find out just how you can have the best of both worlds at our three eco-stays of the moment



PHOTO: Affirm Studio



**T**he hand-thatched palapa roofs of La Valise Tulum sit starkly between the Mexican jungle and sea – acting as a middle ground in which guests of this private resort transition from one realm of natural beauty to another. The juxtaposition is a sight to behold and rather telling of the biodiversity native to these shores. Set within this frame of wonder, it only makes sense that this eleven-bed, adult-only (yay!) oasis of a getaway has an inspired fervour to protect the environment. Single-use plastic is banned, waste is composted and everything that can be recycled will be. Mindful details abound from menus that embrace locally-sourced ingredients to a supply reef-friendly sunscreen. And, as a guest, you will sign the Tulum Pledge promising to leave this paradise better than when you found it. This stay really is as good for the planet as it is for your soul.

**the knowledge**

**WHERE** Tulum, Mexico  
**PRICE** Prices from \$523 USD a night  
**WEBSITE** [lavalisetulum.com](http://lavalisetulum.com)

For the conscious newly-weds who want to explore as much as they want to relax, La Valise is the place to go. Start your day with a touch of adventure exploring ancient Mayan canals before heading back to base and calming down with a meditative breath-work session before dinner

**D**oes anything scream luxury getaway more than two weeks on a private island? How about if that island was owned by Marlon Brando? The Brando (we weren't kidding!) is an eco-resort of 35 villas stretching across the fine white sands of Tetiaroa. Since acquiring the island in 1966, the film icon has been keen to preserve the wildlife of this French Polynesian haven. And Brando hasn't just talked the talk, no, this hospitality hero is certainly walking the walk as the resort has nearly hit carbon neutral status. Renewable energy sources keep the island alive for guests and include innovative systems such as an air conditioning that "harnesses the cold of the ocean depths to provide low-energy, highly efficient cooling." Sustainability may reign but this is at no sacrifice to the guest experience as the rooms and service are as faultless as its eco-credentials.

**the knowledge**

**WHERE** Tetiaroa, French Polynesia  
**PRICE** Prices from €3,300 for a villa for two  
**WEBSITE** [thebrando.com](http://thebrando.com)

Showcasing a shade of blue that must only be native to the sparkling lagoon of Tetiaroa, the waters here are just calling to be explored. You can snorkel, kayak, paddle-board, try deep sea fishing or take a scuba lesson. And, from mid-July to mid-Oct you can even go whale-watching

**I**t looks like the humble staycation is here to stay as more and more newly-weds are swapping honeymoons abroad for shorter breaks closer to home. Luckily, the UK is aglow with romantic bolt-holes and Bridgerton-worthy estates ready and waiting for couples to check-in to. But sat atop our minmoon wishlist is The Newt in Somerset. Embodying English countryside charm at its finest, this Georgian estate stands out for the love it has for its land. Its gardens are as beautiful as they are productive, growing more than 350 types of fruits, veggies and herbs to feed guests and the farm shop, while dropped apples from the orchard are pressed into a cyder to make Somerset proud. The latest addition to this country gem is the Farmyard, a former dairy that has received a rustic awakening at the hands of architect Richard Parr – and wow, farm life has never looked so good.

**the knowledge**

**WHERE** Somerset, UK  
**PRICE** The Farmyard starts from £950 for two nights  
**WEBSITE** [thenewtinsomerset.com](http://thenewtinsomerset.com)

If you're arriving straight after your wedding, we suggest heading to the spa immediately! Here you'll find an indoor-outdoor pool, a sauna, steam room, a traditional hammam and gym. Treatments come highly recommended and include stress relieving sessions like couples' mud therapy