

CONDÉ NAST

# BRIDES

## HONEYMOON GUIDE

2014/15

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# The **TRIPLE** *spectaculars*

FANCY A ROAD TRIP THROUGH NORTH AMERICA? HOW ABOUT AN INDIAN OCEAN ESCAPEDE, OR AN AUSTRALIAN TREBLE? WE'VE GOT THE TOP THREE-STOP GEMS...

## CANADA TO USA

### 1 Fairmont Banff Springs, Canada

**IF THE IDEA** of honeymooning on a deserted Indian Ocean island turns you off, this North American three-stop may be just the thing. Fairmont Banff Springs, perched amid the Canadian Rockies, is an imposing chateau located in the heart of Banff National Park, an Unesco World Heritage site. Yes, this hotel is big, but that doesn't mean it's impersonal. The service is second to none, and the rooms; well, you can have anything from a cosy castle nook to spacious suites with sweeping views of the never-ending

mountains. The choice of activities on offer is mindblowing – first-class skiing, canyon ice walks, dogsledding, snowshoeing, ice fishing and curling in winter, but there are also summer activities galore, like hiking in the mountains and kayaking on the lake. Spend a day or two exploring the postcard-perfect town of Banff before heading north on the breathtaking Icefields Parkway (looming mountains, vast glaciers and Icefields) for the 143-mile journey to the small town of Jasper. Once there, an ideal way to take in the scenery is from the back

of a horse, but don't be fooled by the common mischievous guides' yarn explaining how the perfect blue waters of the lakes are drained each winter so that the bottom can be painted.

**WOW FACTOR** Lolling about in the famous Banff hot springs. These soothing natural waters have brought travellers to the area for centuries.

**GO** A double room costs from £180 (fairmont.com/banff-springs).

**FLIGHT TIME** 9.5hrs from the UK



HIRE A CAR FOR  
YOUR ROAD TRIP  
TO THE USA

# Three stops

VAIGACH I.

## SOUTH AFRICA TO LA RÉUNION

### 1 Cape View Clifton, Cape Town, South Africa

**TUCKED AWAY ON** South Africa's stunning Cape Peninsula, with the shimmering Atlantic on one side, Twelve Apostles mountain range on the other, and four unspoilt beaches below, Cape View Clifton's location from its luxe terrace (above) is unsurpassed. But step into this boutique B&B and you'll find the views inside are just as breathtaking – each of its five rooms and two self-catering apartments appear to have leapt from the pages of an interiors magazine. The suites are decorated in muted taupes, silvers, and whites, and finished with adorable Colonial extras that hint at owner Jess Latimer's Durban heritage. If you manage to drag yourself outside, visit the designer boutiques, hip restaurants, and party-ready clubs at the V&A Waterfront, while no visit to Cape Town is complete without a swim with the penguins at Boulders Beach. But to catch the spectacular sunsets, head back to the hotel and enjoy the view from your terrace.

**WOW FACTOR** Taking a ride up Table Mountain (via a mildly terrifying cable car ride) for those views of the city below.

**GO** A Junior Suite costs from £210 a night, B&B (capeviewclifton.co.za).

**FLIGHT TIME** 11.5hrs from the UK



### 2 India House, South Africa

**WANTING A LITTLE** honeymoon seclusion, but a beach isn't your bag? India House is the answer. This gorgeous cottage, in the Bainskloof Valley, part of an Unesco World Heritage Site, is just 90 minutes' drive from Cape Town – but it feels like a new world. Step through the bright turquoise door (imported from Gujarat, India, and from which the cottage gets its name) and the inside (above right) is cool white and cheerfully modern. A nice touch is the dozens of candleholders built into the

house's walls, so you can create that perfect romantic vibe. Looking to cool off? (Summers here get hot!) Head to the crystal-clear pool, or even take a dip in the river next to the cottage.

**WOW FACTOR** Try your hand at horseback riding through the region's stunning vineyards – and stop off for a glass along the way.

**GO** Perfect Hideaways (perfecthideaways.co.za) offers a night's stay from £197.



### 3 LUX\*, Ile De La Réunion

**BEACH IN THE SEYCHELLES** or Maldives still not taking your fancy? Then hotfoot it from SA to the lesser-known (but no-less-special) Réunion Island. Discovered by the French, and now home to a diverse blend of cultures, it's often compared to Hawaii, due to its verdant flora, fantastic surf, volcanic landscapes and tumbling waterfalls. This colonial-style hotel is the only five-star resort on Réunion. Its villas are Creole-inspired, with turquoise accents that reflect the lagoon beyond. The beach restaurant is well placed to view migrating whales in the winter months. For the more adventurous,

deep-sea-fishing trips can be arranged. There is a fitness centre on site, as well as a spa treatment room, and massages can be enjoyed in discreet garden gazebos, too. As evening falls, sink into a comfy beanbag with a box of homemade popcorn to watch films on a screen stretched between two palm trees.

**WOW FACTOR** A day trip to the lunar landscape of Piton de la Fournaise, a live volcano, is not to be missed. Take a jumper – it gets very cold 2,500m above sea level.

**GO** A double room costs from £142 (luxresorts.com). →

