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Beautiful...*



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exotic BELIZE

Nap in a hammock. Unwind in a hookah lounge.
Explore beach and jungle. Exchange rings in a stunning setting.
And lodge in an air-conditioned treehouse.
Belize is a haven for romance.



photos:
Victoria House



*Destination
Weddings*



*Romantic
Honeymoons*



*Memorable
Anniversaries*

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AMBERGRIS CAYE BELIZE

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Perhaps you yearn to dive, or get incredible spa treatments, or zip-line through the jungle, or sip sparkling wine together in a hotel room that is decorated like no other. Couples have experiences unusual and indulgent in Belize, where resort owners make their facilities one-of-a-kind. The destination is ripe with sweet spots ideal for personable weddings and heavenly honeymoons.

Maruba Resort Jungle Spa is many things, among them a hip boutique hotel with eclectic decor and cutting-edge lobby music, a hookah lounge and a spa that specializes in the Exotic Couples Mood Mud Massage. Yet if you honeymoon here, you'll notice the warm and attentive service most of all. "Every single person who served and assisted us during our stay did so with the utmost professionalism," said one recent visitor, who noted on TripAdvisor.com that she was glad to be greeted by name when she was picked up from a bus station. "We were treated like we were the only guests and that we were special," gushed another, who added that the staff "was kind and gave us just enough space." In total, she reported, "This is a totally mind-changing place, one of beauty and peace."

What did these two exuberant travelers adore? "Every single area, every corner, is kept up and impeccable," one noted. "No words could give it justice. The pools, the spas, the mineral baths, the spa rooms, the checkerboard ... every last ounce of the property is amazing, and amazing

doesn't describe it enough. ... Our junior suite was the size of a small home. The decor throughout ... is incredible with intricate Maya statues — everywhere you turned it was incredible."

Meals are worth the trip, the alumni agree. "The food and service hands-down exceeded that of some of the top restaurants in the United States," one guest wrote on TripAdvisor.com. Another? "The food was outstanding. Nicky [who owns Maruba with his wife, Melanie] is such a great chef." And the activities? Maruba offers everything from exploring the Maya rainforest to snorkeling the largest reef in the Caribbean.

If you're looking for an entirely different kind of honeymoon, one of natural beauty and just-right service, of new experiences and creature comforts, book your vacation. 011-501-225-5555, maruba-belize.com

Assuming that the idea of a honeymoon is to celebrate your union by getting away from it all and be alone together in a blissful environment, **Hamanasi Adventure & Dive Resort** is clearly an ideal choice. Newlyweds often lodge in Hamanasi's treehouses, secluded retreats in breathtaking surroundings — and we mean secluded. Each of the resort's 11 air-conditioned treehouses is fully surrounded by trees so you'll feel as if you're in a world of your own, and they're in coastal littoral forest, one of the world's most endangered ecosystems. Belizean hardwood was used to make all the furniture. In three deluxe

treehouses you'll even find a kitchenette/bar area, a living room, a bedroom with a draped king-size bed, and an enormous bathroom with a his-and-her dual-head shower. Outdoors, you'll spend lazy days on the expansive wraparound porch, napping in the hammock, sipping cocktails on the lounge chairs and soaking in the good life in your personal Jacuzzi tub. The only things missing are telephones and televisions, and you'll be thankful for their absence.

The treehouses are part of a Belizean eco-resort that is in fact the first beachfront property to have Green Globe certification. Hamanasi is repeatedly recognized for its exceptional service and was a Top 10 pick of TripAdvisor's Travelers' Choice Award for Best Service in the World.

Weddings here are loaded with tropical flowers, from the arched walkway to the boutonniere, and honeymoon packages are incredible. You'll receive three meals a day, a bottle of champagne and a floral turndown your first night, matching bathrobes to use during your stay, and adventures such as barrier reef snorkeling, a Maya history tour or a jaguar preserve tour. As a highlight, you'll receive a three-course dinner on the beach, by the pool, in your room or on your terrace ... your choice. Add on a private sunset cruise with wine or a private waterfall hike with picnic lunch. 877-552-3483, hamanasi.com

If your dream wedding is intimate, relaxed and exotic, head for **Victoria House**. Located just two miles south of San Pedro Town, you'll enjoy the serenity, gorgeous landscaped grounds, four pools and genuinely friendly service for which this gem is renowned. Victoria House is a small luxury resort with only 42 rooms, ranging from hotel-style accommodations to private villas. Victoria House hosts, on average, just two or three weddings per month, ensuring personalized service and attention.

At Victoria House your wedding will be truly special. Its wedding coordinator will handle all the details, including paperwork, flowers, photographer, reception, rehearsal events, meal planning, wedding cake, ceremony location and more. Start your new life together with the sand between your toes, under the gently swaying coconut palms or under the thatch-roof palapa at the end of a private 300-foot pier. It's your day, it's your choice!

A favorite of many honeymooners are the Casitas, thatch-roof cottages featuring an oversized patio and Maya hammock for one or two. Another fabulous option is the Rainforest Suite, located right on the beach. This lovely freestanding unit offers exceptional views of the Caribbean Sea and the barrier reef from your own private wraparound veranda. During your stay, the guest-service staff can arrange a romantic beach picnic for two, private dinners on the beach, scenic sunset sails or relaxing couples massages.

Sun worshippers may enjoy relaxing beside one of the crystal-clear pools or on the 600-foot

manicured beach, gazing at the waves breaking just offshore on the reef.

The Victoria House restaurant, Palmilla, is a romantic, air-conditioned retreat offering a wide variety of freshly prepared seafood such as grilled Caribbean lobster with pineapple-citrus butter (in season). You'll find the full-service Admiral Nelson's Beach Bar a delightful place to relax after your day's adventures. 800-247-5159, victoria-house.com

Some resorts are referred to as hideaways because they're quiet and away from crowds, but **St. George's Caye Resort** brings the concept of a romantic escape to a whole new level. This adults-only property is situated on a private island. There's beach, there's shade ... and you. Sincerely friendly employees devote themselves to pampering guests of the 12 thatch-roof cabanas, each a rustic-looking air-conditioned oasis filled with contemporary amenities — except for the tempting hammock on every verandah.

With its mix of luxury and nature, St. George's Caye is an ideal destination for romantic escapes, including honeymoons. You can enjoy one another's company, make new friends at the laid-back restaurant and lounge, and enjoy water sports at your whim. The staff will even tailor a honeymoon package to make you happy. Ask about private dinners for two served in special settings, for example.

The St. George's team anticipates your needs from the moment you arrive. A representative

will greet you at the airport and transport you by speedboat the seven miles to St. George's Caye. You'll be shown to your freestanding cabana, where coffee, tea and freshly squeezed fruit juices will be brought to your veranda every morning. During the day, you're welcome to continental breakfast, lunch and a three-course dinner, which changes nightly. You might feast on Caribbean lobster plucked from the sea, fish Veracruz-style with a savory sauce or a Belizean beach barbecue. Save room for the housemade desserts.

Spend your days lounging on the sand or in a hammock, diving, snorkeling, cave tubing, zip-lining or exploring Maya ruins. Nonmotorized water sports such as kayaking and windsurfing are included. The staff will plan any adventure you request.

Be sure to indulge in treatments at the full-service spa. You can get massages side by side, or even take a lesson so you'll be able to better massage one another. Now *that's* romantic. 800-813-8498, gooddiving.com

This is the ultimate in escapist weddings: **Turneffe Island Resort** is a private island. Only the resort resides on the island, so you will truly escape the workaday world for your wedding or honeymoon. Have a quiet ceremony anywhere on the island you choose — sand, pier, boardwalk, even in your private villa set among native trees. Or rent out the entire resort and have the island to yourself. Imagine the two of you and 38

guests indulging in a week of uninhibited bliss on a gorgeous piece of paradise bordered by the Caribbean Sea!

Whether your wedding is intimate or larger, the friendly Turneffe Island Resort staff will make your event extra special. Packages keep pricing in line. For a ceremony with up to four guests, you'll receive all the legal work, the minister, a bouquet, a groom's buttonhole, a decorated arch, a cake and even a special dinner table for the celebration.

Make Turneffe Island Resort your own and the deal is even more tempting. You'll take over all eight cabanas, four duplexes and eight lodge rooms, and you'll have Turneffe's yachts, fishing boats and dive boats at your disposal. Guests will gather around the freshwater pool and post photos on the resort's computer for friends back home to see. You'll be fed hearty meals three times a day and served nibbles before dinner each evening. One night, the two of you will be served a private champagne dinner on your ocean-view porch.

Your days at Turneffe Island Resort will be idyllic. Lazy meals, incredible dive excursions and unlimited snorkeling, all in a down-to-earth setting — rustic woods, thatch roofs, towering palms — with modern-day comforts that give a contemporary twist to the "Hemingway feel." 713-236-7739, turnefferesort.com

Ready for a wedding and honeymoon like none you've ever experienced? Belize is calling your names. 🌸



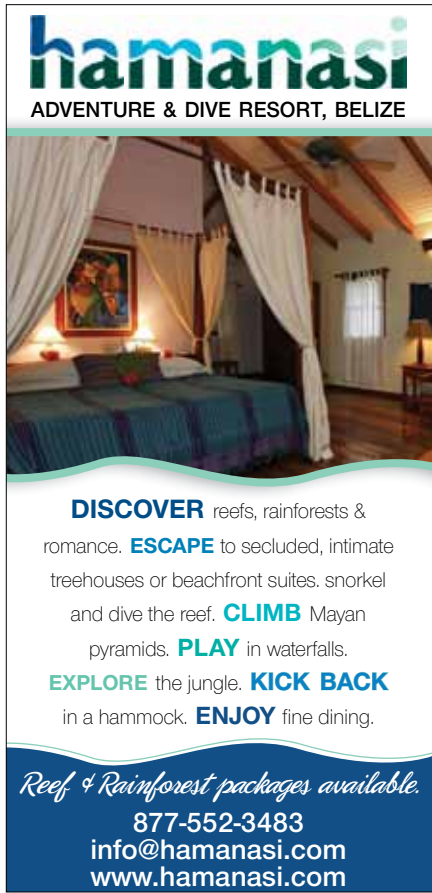
Maruba resort jungle spa

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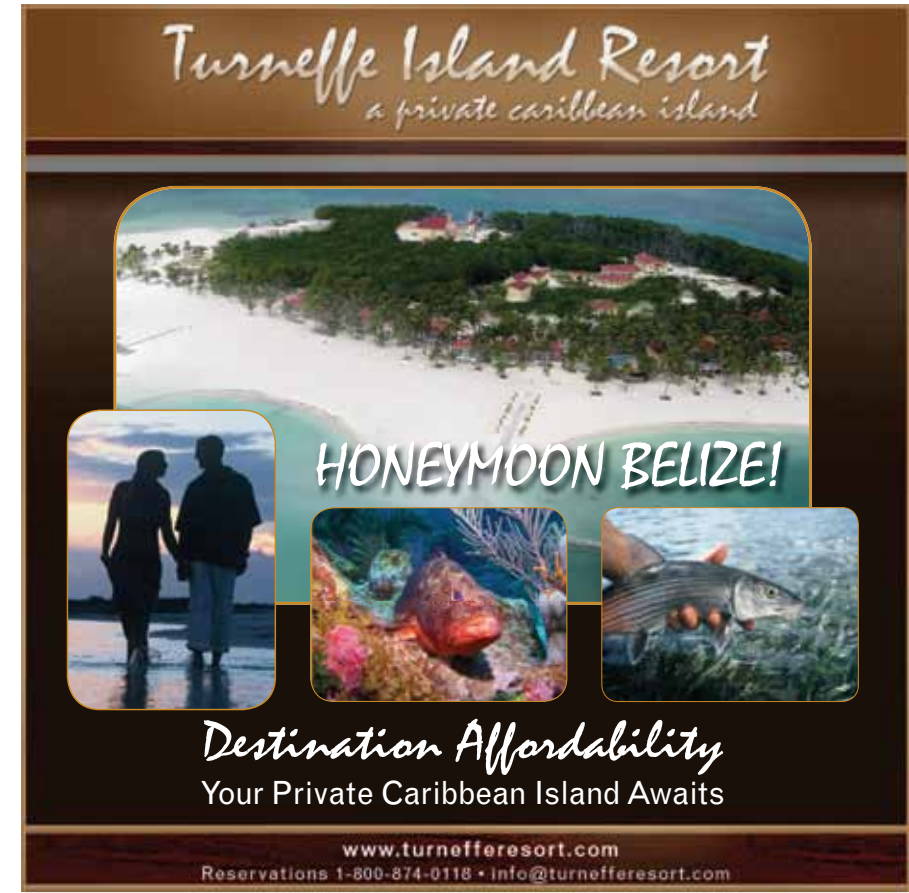


hamanasi
ADVENTURE & DIVE RESORT, BELIZE

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