

## Honeymoon Destinations: Aruba

Contributed by Diana Kelly

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Nineteen resorts also now participate in Aruba's One Cool Honeymoon promotion. Just identify yourself as a honeymooner when booking the resort [<http://www.aruba.com/specializedvacations/honeymoon.php>] and you'll receive a bottle of champagne in your room upon arrival, a souvenir gift from the resort, as well as a free night on a return anniversary visit—all free of charge.

### Where to Stay

There are no shortages of romantic places to stay on this "One Happy Island."

For sky-high rooms, check out these high-rise hotels: the newly-opened Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino (Palm Beach)

[<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/auaar-aruba-marriott-resort-and-stellaris-casino/>], Divi Aruba Phoenix Resorts (Palm Beach) [<http://www.diviarubaphoenix.com/DiviAruba/>], Occidental Grand Aruba (Palm Beach) [<http://www.occidentalhotels.com/grand/Aruba.asp>], or the Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino (Oranjestad) [<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/auabr-renaissance-aruba-resort-and-casino/>].

For a more intimate setting, stay in one of the recently-renovated rooms at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa (Eagle Beach—Aruba's largest beach) [<http://www.manchebo.com/start.shtml>] or the quite and elegant Bucuti Beach Resort featuring Tara Beach Suites & Spa (Eagle Beach) [<http://www.bucuti.com/>].

### Spa

Enjoy ultimate post-wedding relaxation, with a spa service at the popular Larimar Spa in the Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa (Palm Beach) [<http://www.larimarspaaruba.com/>]. Choose one of eight massages available in the spa, or pay a little extra and have their services delivered right to your room in the Radisson Resort. Aruban hotels and resorts are continually updating and improving their spa facilities, check out the hotels and spas mentioned above for more luxurious experiences.

### Feasting

Aruba is well-known for its excellent restaurants with delicious, fresh dishes and great service. Here are few locales you have to visit while on the island:

Sink your teeth into juicy, charcoal-grilled fresh Argentinean beef. El Gaucho (Oranjestad) [<http://www.elgaucho-aruba.com/>] is an absolute must on the island and gets booked quickly with returning customers. Call at least one day ahead of when

you want to dine there. And when you can't eat another bite, chill out across the street at Garufa [<http://www.garufa-aruba.com/>], a cigar and cocktail lounge with live entertainment.

Dip your toes in the sand and surf while you dine on delectable seafood at The Flying Fishbone (Savaneta). It's one of the most romantic restaurants on the island with a view of the sunset. Surprise your bride with this dining experience and reserve online ahead of time. Request preferred seating—in the water. [<http://www.flyingfishbone.com/>]

Bring a big appetite to Texas de Brazil (Palm Beach) [<http://www.texasdebrazil.com/>], a Brazilian steakhouse that showcases a herd of waiters offering savory Angus beef, chicken, lamb, pork and sausage on skewers. The salad bar is enticing but save room for the real stars of the show. And if you can manage to leave room for dessert you'll be satisfied with the selection.

#### Nightlife and Entertainment

Aruba vibrates with nightly entertainment. Try your luck—and some of that wedding cash—at some of their finest casinos, located in major resorts like The Hyatt (Palm Beach) [<http://aruba.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/index.jsp>] and Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino (Oranjestad) [<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/auabr-renaissance-aruba-resort-and-casino/>].

Whether your game is black jack, craps, poker or nickel slots, you'll have a blast wheeling and dealing with other vacationers. For those newlyweds looking to have a night of crazy fun with like-minded vacationers, reserve seats on the Kukoo Kunuku Bus [<http://www.kukookunuku.com/>—you'll receive dinner, plenty of drinks (on the bus and in at least three bars), and have plenty of opportunities to shake your money maker. Try to go on one of most popular nights, Thursday or Friday.

And between all of that pampering, eating and entertainment, don't forget to unwind with your new wife on one, or all, of Aruba's five gorgeous beaches.