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ROMANCE, WEDDINGS & HONEYMOONS

Year after year, countless couples retreat to the One happy island and discover plenty of opportunities to tell their sweetie, “Mi ta stima bo!” – “I Love You” in Papiamentu. Adored for its 82-degree, year-round temperature, refreshing east trade wind breezes, diverse land and sea activities, historical attractions, authentic and flavor-rich island cuisine, and of course, world-famous sun-kissed sandy beaches, Aruba, One happy island, is an ideal destination for romance, weddings and honeymoons.

Romance Activities

Couples explore their wild sides by off-roading on an exciting ATV, UTV, horseback riding or Jeep Safari tour through the rugged and wild Arikok National Park, plunging headfirst into the Natural Pool (Conchi), SNUBA diving with exotic marine life or venturing through the ancient Ayo Rock Formations and Guadirikiri Caves. Active pairs often take up a new sport together – learning how to harness Aruba’s steady breezes with windsurfing and kite surfing or hitting the sand for a rousing game of beach tennis. Partners looking to party Carnival-style dance down the streets of San Nicolas and enjoy live entertainment and local cuisine at the weekly Carubbian Festival, while others test their luck at one of the many high-stakes casinos. Of course, many couples choose to bask in the sun on the island’s white sandy beaches, or relax with a heavenly indoor or open-air spa treatment.

Dining

Aruba’s unique repertoire of restaurants caters to those with simple, adventurous and refined tastes. Top-quality imported ingredients, fine wines, charismatic ambiance and the expertise of brilliant and creative chefs and restaurateurs are the perfect recipe for culinary magic. Few destinations offer so many gastronomic choices within such a small geographical area. Casual sidewalk cafes and city-chic eateries hobnob with all kinds of trendy and traditional ethnic and international restaurants. Venues include moonlight al fresco dining on a sandy beach or quiet pier, a recreated villa, old cunucu house, sprawling manor house, catamaran, chalet and clubhouse.

French, Belgian, Chinese, Italian, Caribbean, Japanese, Cuban, Thai, Mexican, Indian and other specialty restaurants offer menus filled with tasty authentically prepared selections. Churrasco, prime rib and Black Angus steak are popular choices at American, Brazilian and Argentine steak houses. Fresh local catch joins shellfish from northern waters as seafood favorites. A subtle Caribbean touch adds flavor and color to every dish.

The high-rise hotel strip is peppered with establishments that serve everything from jerk ribs, bagels, ravioli, loempia and tapas, to sushi, brick-oven pizza, burgers, wahoo, lobster and filet mignon. While some resorts are all-inclusive, others offer elegant and al fresco dining options, as well as theme nights with sumptuous buffets. Couples are encouraged to take a bus, taxi or car downtown and off the beaten path for many more dining options. Modest local hideaways and exceptional eateries serve an eclectic range of mouthwatering delicacies that are well worth the ride.

Accommodations

Options are endless from all-inclusive resorts and boutique-style hotels in charming Eagle Beach to the high-rise branded hotels in Palm Beach. Couples in search for an adults-only sanctuary can book a room at the intimate and friendly Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts, overlooking one of TripAdvisor's "Top 10 Beaches in the World." Pairs aiming for bright lights and the big city feel should set their sights on the Renaissance Resort Spa & Casino in downtown Oranjestad, where they can enjoy a VIP water taxi ride to the resort's remote nature sanctuary, Renaissance Island, home to a dozen delicate, bright pink flamingos and pristine waters. This exclusive and quaint slice of paradise allows lovebirds to feel they have the entire island to themselves.

Weddings

An Ideal Wedding Destination

With constant sunshine and warm weather year-round, Aruba gives brides the opportunity to have their dream beach wedding in July, December or any month in between. While the majority of couples opt for a barefoot-on-the-beach ceremony, lovebirds can dare to go beyond the beaten path to discover the island's hidden gems, including secluded coves and natural bridges, brilliant underwater reefs, hilltop panoramas and jagged rock formations.

Brides and grooms appreciate the diverse array of hotel accommodations, dining establishments and land/sea activities available for the wedding party to enjoy leading up to the special day – including everything from a sunset catamaran sail rehearsal dinner and an off-road ATV bachelor party, to a golf course hilltop reception and more.

Aruba's Celebration Registry allows families and friends to think outside the box when choosing presents for the happy couple. Spa indulgences, Jeep Safari adventures, romantic dinners on the beach and many other island-specific gifts are just a click away.

Wedding Planning

Certified and attentive hotel and independent wedding planners are available to help plan every detail of the couple's dream destination wedding – from legal ceremony documentation and coordination to the ceremony officiator, flowers, limousine service, photography and more.

The Aruba Weddings Association will soon be introduced as "Your Wedding Authority" resource. This association boasts Aruba's prized professionals in the wedding field with years of experience and good working relationships with the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association (AHATA). Visit www.auawed.com to learn more.

Honeymoons

One Happy Honeymoon

After one happy wedding day, newlyweds escape to One happy island for an intimate honeymoon retreat. The Aruba Tourism Authority has partnered with resorts, hotels, restaurants and outfitters all over the island to offer specials for honeymooners, including room upgrades, champagne, massages, dinners and more.

When booking, couples should let participating hotels know the trip is a honeymoon to receive:

- Preferred check-in service
- A bottle of champagne upon arrival
- Special gifts
- A free night when returning for one year anniversary (With a 5-night stay)
- Discounts and special offers on activities and attractions.

One Happy Honeymoon Participating Hotels and Resorts

Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort
Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino
Brickell Bay Beach Club
Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts
Divi Aruba All Inclusive
Divi Dutch Village
Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort
Holiday Inn Aruba Beach
Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort & Casino
Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa
MVC Eagle Beach
Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa
Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino
Talk of the Town Hotel & Beach Club
Tamarijn Aruba All Inclusive
The Mill Resort
Tierra del Sol Spa & Country Club

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