

The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD

Trending in honeymoons are mini moons, when couples alter their post-altar plans, opting for a quickie to a nearby romantic inn or resort, rather than indulging right away in a long vacay in a far-flung destination. A mini moon is especially appealing to busy brides and grooms and exhausted newlyweds because it doesn't require a lot of planning (and can be planned late in the game) and is typically drivable or a short plane ride away. But that doesn't mean these couples don't take that once-in-a-lifetime honeymoon, too — they do, but often postpone it for months or even longer for when it's more convenient, time or budget wise. But they take that mini moon right away.

Lauren Raps, Leisure Travel Planner at Travel Prospect, an affiliate of Travel Experts, a Virtuoso Agency in Southport, Conn., says she has seen an uptick in requests for mini moons. "There is always a new trend, but I think with couples having dual incomes and dual demanding careers, and so long as the economy allows people to take two honeymoons, we don't see it going away anytime soon," says Raps. "It's a very practical way to have a celebration of your marriage and then your dream trip."

These five spots in New England are especially engaging for an off-season mini moon — they are mostly adults-only, and feature romantic amenities like couples' massages, rose petal turndowns, in-room champy, fireplaces, and gourmet meals for culinary-focused newlyweds. Note: There are some weeks when they might be closed briefly.

"While New England is gorgeous all year round, nothing can top a cozy fall or winter New England getaway," says Raps.

Rabbit Hill Inn

Mountain-loving couples will want to hole up at Rabbit Hill Inn — an adult spot (no kids under 15) that's off-the-beaten-path in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, but on the map as one of Vermont's most romantic intimate inns, seducing with candlelight breakfasts, turn-down candle-glow service, afternoon pastries, and an intimate Irish pub. Outdoor-loving newlyweds will also embrace the mountain biking, snowmobiling, and Nordic skiing in this neck of the woods. Room rates begin at \$189 per night (breakfast, afternoon sweets, and gratuities included). Add on the one- or two-night Romantic Getaway Package for \$190 and you'll get bubbly, Vermont chocolates, and a three-course couples' dinner at the inn's gourmet-yet-unpretentious farm-to-table restaurant. www.rabbithillinn.com

Castle Hill Inn

This Relais & Châteaux property in Newport, R.I., features the adult-oriented Agassiz Mansion (kids under 13 years old not allowed), and it is a charmer. Book the second-floor Mrs. Agassiz's Room for its panoramic views of Narragansett Bay, a loveseat and gas fireplace, as well as a second fireplace and two-person soaking tub in the bathroom. The two-night Retreat to Romance package pours it on with a bottle of Rosé Champagne, fresh flowers, and chocolate-dipped strawberries upon arrival; a Massage à deux in The Retreat at Castle Hill spa; and a three-course dinner for two in the Dining Room — as well as the complimentary breakfast and afternoon tea offered daily to all guests. The two-



JUMPING ROCKS PHOTOGRAPHY

SHORT AND SWEET: 5 GREAT SPOTS FOR A MINI MOON

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CASTLE HILL INN



TWIN FARMS

Left: Rabbit Hill Inn in Vermont. Below: Mrs. Agassiz Room at Castle Hill Inn (left) in Newport, R.I., and Aviary Cottage at Twin Farms in Barnard, Vt.

night package rate begins at \$1,510 per couple. www.castlehillinn.com

Twin Farms

This five-star, all-inclusive, adults-only hideaway tucked in the woods in Barnard, Vt., will cost you, but it's that bucket-list kind of escape. There are 20 spacious cottages spread over 300 acres; book the romantic two-story Aviary, with its floor to ceiling windows and enormous stone hot tub in front of the fireplace. Foodie couples will love that there is no set menu, you design your meals — prior to your arrival you'll fill out a form with your food likes. Meals are paired with wine, there are cooking classes, and mini-mooners will get a mini cake: Newlyweds are greeted with a miniature replica of their wedding cake (48-hour notice required). In winter, there are private, groomed trails for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, and pond bonfires to warm up with hot cocoa and s'mores after a skate. There is also a spa, or you can succumb to in-cottage couples' massages, with a rose petal bath and bottle of champagne. Aviary all-inclusive rates begin at \$2,950 per couple per night. www.twinfarms.com

Chatham Bars Inn

Sea and spa: Check into one of the 12 Spa Suites in the spa wing of this sprawling historic Cape Cod resort and you'll never leave ("adult-only," must be 16 or older). Your suite will feature a huge hydrotherapy tub, a sauna, a steam shower, built-in massage table (for side-by-side massage), and a gas fireplace — flirt with the idea of ordering champagne and chocolate-covered strawberries for your in-room rub. And you can also relax in the elegant spa — botanicals used in the treatments are sourced from the inn's farm, as well as honey from on-site beehives and salt from the sea. You'll want to surface from your suite eventually to indulge in tableside lobster flambé for two at the inn's Stars restaurant, and for strolls to the beach and darling town of Chatham. Spa room rates begin at \$595 per night. www.chathambarsinn.com

Cape Arundel Inn & Resort

For uber romance at this "adult only" Kennebunkport mansion resort, retreat to one of the six, 400-square-foot Rockbound Bungalows next to the inn's Main House — each bungalow features front-porch views of the Atlantic, gas fireplaces, velvet headboards, and a breakfast bar. Book the two- or three-night romance package and you'll get bungalow accommodations; a four-course meal for two at apt-named Ocean, which overlooks the Atlantic and specializes in locally sourced ocean and farm dishes; chilled bottle of French Champagne; petit fours; and gourmet breakfast for two. Package rate begins at \$469 per night; add on chocolate fondue for two in the lounge for added flame. www.capearundelinn.com

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HERE

SPOOKY AND INSPIRING HALLOWEEN DISPLAY

The spooky spirit of Halloween comes to life as the annual Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular returns to the Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence. Open now through Nov. 3, the 31st festive celebration features more than 5,000 hand-carved and illuminated jack-o'-lanterns arrayed along the zoo's scenic Wetlands Trail. This year's pumpkin carving theme, Travel Through a Seasonal Wonderland, offers creative interpretations on autumn's beauty, winter's snow, spring's first blossoms, and summer's ocean breezes. Kids will especially love the Superhero Nights with music and costumed characters (6-8 p.m.; Oct. 23 and 24). On the Soaring Eagle Zip Ride, an add-on experience, guests can view the artistic display from 115 feet above ground, as well as sweeping views of Providence and Narragansett Bay. www.rwpzoo.org/jols

CULINARY FESTIVAL IN SEAPORT

Bring your appetite and curiosity to the third annual ATK Boston EATS, a three-day cooking, food, and wine festival celebrating the region's best chefs, bartenders, and restaurants presented by America's Test Kitchen (Oct. 24-26). Saturday's main event will feature all-you-can-eat food and craft cocktails from more than 30 of the region's top dining destinations including Blue Ribbon BBQ, El Pelon Taqueria, La Morra, Pabu, Shoyo, and the Gallows, as well as live cooking demos by culinary stars, their own TV hosts



BILL GALLERY/GO PROVIDENCE

and test cooks. The festival includes three additional ticketed events: Chef's Table, America's Test Kitchen: Cheers to 20 Years, and the Backstage Experience. All events will take place at the Innovation and Design Building in Boston's Seaport, home to America's Test Kitchen's headquarters. Tickets \$100-\$350. boston.atkeats.com

THERE

CYCLE THROUGH THE AZORES

Bike through the lush and varied landscapes of São Miguel Island on DuVine's new Azores Bike Tour. This six-day itinerary includes cycling the volcanic crater in Furnas; riding along the island's eastern coastline (with lunch of grilled octopus and sea snails); touring a family-run tea plantation; and enjoying an authentic dinner in the home of a local family. Guests will also join a



GWEN KIDERA

LOWCOUNTRY FOOD AND MUSIC FEST

Each November, the South's top chefs, winemakers, artisans, and musicians flock to Palmetto Bluff for Music to Your Mouth, a weeklong food and music extravaganza in the heart of South Carolina Lowcountry — less than 30 minutes from the Savannah airport (Nov. 18-24). Taste everything from bacon and biscuits to smoked pork and oysters at special themed dinners and events with live entertainment provided by country, bluegrass, and rock 'n' roll bands. Need a place to sleep? Palmetto Bluff's 20,000-acre residential and recreational preserve is also home to the AAA Five Diamond Montage Palmetto Bluff resort and spa. The haven for outdoor enthusiasts gives guests year-round access to 32 miles of riverfront; extensive nature trails; a vibrant Village center with river access, boat storage, and canoe club; Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course; equestrian center; shooting club; racquet club; croquet and bocce courts; inland waterways for boating, kayaking, canoeing, and more. Rates from \$289. www.palmettobluff.com

SINNERS WELCOME AT PARIS HOTEL

Who doesn't love a sinner? In Paris, you can sleep in style at Sinner, the newest offering by the burgeoning French hospitality group Evok Hotels. The 43-key boutique hotel features a blend of religious heritage and opulent interiors, inspired by the surrounding Le Marais neighborhood, a vibrant hub of creativity in the city. Architectural highlights include vaulted archways, Gothic-inspired candelabras and stained-glass windows designed to evoke a monastic aesthetic. The hotel's

spa, Ablutio, is hidden behind an underground nail-studded door, with facilities that include a hammam and an indoor pool inspired by Greek and Roman baths. The onsite restaurant and bar offer an upscale take on street food culture from around the globe, and bespoke cocktails inspired by Latin mysticism. Winter rates from \$470. sinerparis.com

EVERYWHERE

STYLISH WOOL FOOTWEAR FOR GLOBAL TRAVELERS

Baabuk USA's new collection of sneakers is made with wool from Valais Blacknose Sheep, a breed born in Switzerland in the 15th century. Inspired by traditional felted footwear favored for centuries by both laborers and Russians czars, the contemporary sneakers are designed in Switzerland and crafted in Portugal using mulesing-free sheep's wool; soft inner lining made of Portuguese merino wool; durable rubber sole; and genuine top-grain Nubuck cattle leather. A line of colorful slippers — easy to slip into your suitcase — are handmade in Nepal with natural wool from New Zealand and 100 percent natural crepe rubber sole. The wool's natural wicking and breathable properties keep your feet at a comfortable temperature, whether it's hot or cold, inside or out. Slippers from \$65; sneakers \$135. us.baabuk.com NECEE REGIS

