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# SUN, SEA & SHHH!

**South-East Asia is famed for its blissful beaches, but if you want to escape the crowds, this island-hop honeymoon full of secret sandy stretches is for you. From picture-postcard views to surfing and wildlife, it's all here (just don't tell anyone!)**

**The urban one**  
*Long Ke Wan beach*  
HONG KONG  
**The inside track:** With its towering skyscrapers and posh boutiques, Hong Kong isn't somewhere you'd necessarily associate with natural beauty, but some 40% of the country is actually parkland, and there are gorgeous sandy spots – if you know where to look. Take a guided hike (arranged by travel company **Black Tomato**) to Sai Kung's Global Geopark, in the east of the mainland: it's home

to 140-million-year-old rock formations and adjacent to Long Ke Wan, an oft-deserted crescent of blinding-white sand that's ideal for afternoon swims and whispered sweet nothings. **Bed down at:** The Fleming, in Wan Chai on Hong Kong Island. As Sai Kung is off the beaten track (and private transfers can be arranged), it makes sense to stay somewhere buzzy, and nowhere beats this revamped boutique bolthole. Rooms nail nautical glamour with dark wood floors, navy and white throws and gleaming brass sinks in bottle-green tiled bathrooms. A door with a 'do not disturb' porthole sign ramps up the ship-shape charm, while terrariums add a modern twist. Design inspo comes courtesy of the city's Star Ferries, which have been running since the 1880s; a night-time ride from Wan Chai Pier to Tsim Sha Tsui, for views of Victoria Harbour's glittering lights, is a must. **Don't miss:** Doing some serious dining; Hong Kong isn't known as Asia's culinary capital for nothing. **Black Tomato** will organise a tour with foodie Olivia Tang, stopping at hole-in-the-wall joints and Kowloon's untouristy markets for delicious dim sum and egg custard tarts. For contemporary cool, book New Punjab Club in Central: the smashed samosa *chaat* and carrot sticky toffee pudding are both heavenly. Finish with a nightcap at Dr Fern's Gin Parlour, a chic hidden speakeasy with vintage armchairs to loll in and over 300 varieties of gin – a Sacred Heart G&T feels like an appropriate choice.





# Travel

**The hip one**  
**Echo Beach** BALI  
**The inside track:** Where better to start in Indonesia than its beach capital, boho Bali – a five-hour flight from Hong Kong. Less crowded than popular Seminyak is new 'it' spot Echo Beach, a striking black volcanic sand stretch further north in Canggu. Just an hour from the airport, it's a surefire hit for couples who want to join surfers in the swell or beach club-hop and laze in infinity pools while DJs spin sunny tunes. **Bed down at:** COMO Uma Canggu; wellness gurus COMO have just thrown open the doors of a new beachfront affair on Echo Beach. Views of a curving pool add Zen to rooms with calming colour palettes, deep tubs in mother-of-pearl-flecked bathrooms and foliage-lined balconies. Our favourite digs are set back in the main building, near the dinky spa (a Shambhala massage will

unknot post-wedding tension in a flash), with white furnishings, suntrap gardens and *al-fresco* rainforest showers. If you want to go next-level, the penthouse suites have rooftop pools just made for sunset skinny dips. **Don't miss:** Cuddling on suspended daybeds at the surf-shack-feel COMO Beach Club, enjoying green juices and mezze by day, and red snapper and coconut mojitos at its tiki bar by night. Tropicsurf's on-site guru, CJ, will raise adventurous couples' heart rates with private lessons on the shore, but it's worth getting out and exploring, too. Canggu's streets are lined with parakeet-green paddy fields, incense-filled temples and hippie-chic boutiques. Find jazzy cushions at InteriorTonic, all-natural beachwear at Yöli & Otis, and edgy art exhibitions at motorbike concept store Deus Ex Machina. For *Robinson Crusoe* feels at sunset, head to La Brisa to sip passionfruit sangria under twinkly lights in a treehouse-style *palapa* by the beach.

**The jungle one**  
**Moyo Beach** MOYO ISLAND OFF SUMBAWA  
**The inside track:** Even getting to this remote, silvery beach – skirted by wild tamarind trees, turquoise waters teeming with firework-like explosions of fish, and hermit crabs wandering along the shore – is an adventure. A thrilling, hour-long seaplane journey from Bali takes you west, passing astonishing landscapes including Bali's Mount Agung, Lombok's Mount Rinjani and lush Sumbawa island, before you touch down at this speck-in-the-ocean private island. **Bed down at:** Amanwana, for once-in-a-lifetime-style camping. Just 20 wood-and-glass tents are sprinkled through grassy forest and at the shingly shoreline. What's most special here is how truly

wild it feels; come morning, draw up oatmeal blinds to be greeted by curious rusa deer; and at dusk, watch macaques pull each other's tails as they gambol on the sand. Centred around a vast bounce-on-me bed and squishy sofas for afternoon siestas, tent interiors are more like those in an elegant lodge. Shelves are lined with carved oxen sculptures →

**From left** Kick back at Long Ke Wan Beach, then go city-slick at The Fleming and its Osteria Marzia restaurant

**Jet into Moyo Island**, where paradise views meet fascinating wildlife

**From left** Get a room with a serious view in a penthouse or patio room at COMO Uma Canggu; the beautifully rugged Echo Beach

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**Travel**

**Left and below** Tropical glamping in an Ocean Front Tent at Amanwana; the resort's Jungle Cove Spa

**From top** Dine like chic castaways at Nihi Sumba, on the beach or in a sunken area by the plunge pools

**The surf one**  
**Nihiwatu Beach**  
 SUMBA

**The inside track:** After a touchdown back in Bali, take an hour-long flight west to Sumba, a rugged wilderness island that's home to empty golden beaches. A 90-minute drive later, through charming rural countryside, is the best of the bunch – the idyllic arc of Nihiwatu Beach. Known for its famous surf break, Occy's Left, it attracts surf junkies from all over the globe. Lessons at Tropicsurf's school will help beginners take to the waters too, but just strolling barefoot or trotting through the waves together on horseback is an utterly enchanting experience.

**Bed down at:** The ultra-exclusive Nihi Sumba, which looks over Nihiwatu and offers unrivalled edge-of-the-world escapism. Sleeping choices range from fairytale peaked-roof digs modelled on Sumbanese houses to cliffside mansions with outdoor bales for under-the-stars snoozes and smart two-storey villas with gilded bathtubs on balconies above sapphire-blue infinity pools. Each is an eco-friendly haven set in sprawling frangipani-filled grounds, with lofty canopied beds. Interiors dressed with bright Indonesian wall hangings, feather-and-shell necklaces and tropical-hued furnishings create a rustic-meets-refined-barefoot-beach-ball atmosphere. Staff are wonderfully hospitable, and each residence has its own butler, available via WhatsApp (and in person) to help with every need – be it more mixers for your favourite tippie, or booking a trip to see the work of the Sumba Foundation, a charity set up by the hotel to provide wells and malaria clinics for the local community.

**Don't miss:** Sandy-toed dinner parties at Nio Beach Club, sharing wood-fired pizzas and Indonesian fare under hibiscus arrangements that seem to rain from the sky. Also, Nihi's 'spa safari' is genius: a trek through fields and villages to the lush surroundings of NihiOka, with its private beach and villa. Here, in an airy *palapa* with sea views, comes a full day's pampering: hydrating hair treatments, Sumbanese Lulur exfoliation and deep-tissue massage. The ultimate wave, the ultimate beach and the ultimate bliss-out spa; Nihi is *the* place to end an unforgettable honeymoon.

**BOOK IT**  
 Black Tomato (blacktomato.com; 020 7426 9888) can arrange a 15-night luxury honeymoon to Hong Kong and Indonesia from £5,953pp based on two travelling. Includes international flights to Hong Kong with Virgin Atlantic, two nights at The Fleming hotel (B&B), three nights at COMO Uma Canggu (B&B), three nights at Amanwana (all inclusive, plus three activities) and four nights at Nihi Sumba (all inclusive), private transfers and seaplane to Amanwana, internal flights and some experiences. B

**From left** Take a boat trip in Amanwana Bay; watch the sunset in style at Nihi Sumba

220 BRIDES

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