

ELLEUK.COM/WEDDING

ELLE WEDDING

WIN
A £24K
LUXURY
HONEYMOON

THE BRIDAL
TREND REPORT

190

NEW GOWNS *for*
EVERY STYLE

THE
DRESS
ISSUE

styled by the ELLE team

PLUS SHOES
RINGS
LINGERIE
& FLOWERS

BIANNUAL
S/S 2015 £7.00

The
15
HIGH STREET
LOOKS
WE LOVE

ULTIMATE
REAL
WEDDINGS

*Be
beautiful*

THE
PRETTIEST
BIG DAY
MAKE-UP
TRICKS

NEW NAIL
TRENDS

HOW TO GET
THE HAIR
YOU WANT

HEARST *magazines* | UK



THE HONEYMOON EQUATION

Can't decide between hotels or hiking, city or beach? Here are three ways to have it all



WORLD HERITAGE SITES + HEAVENLY COAST x EXOTIC METROPOLIS

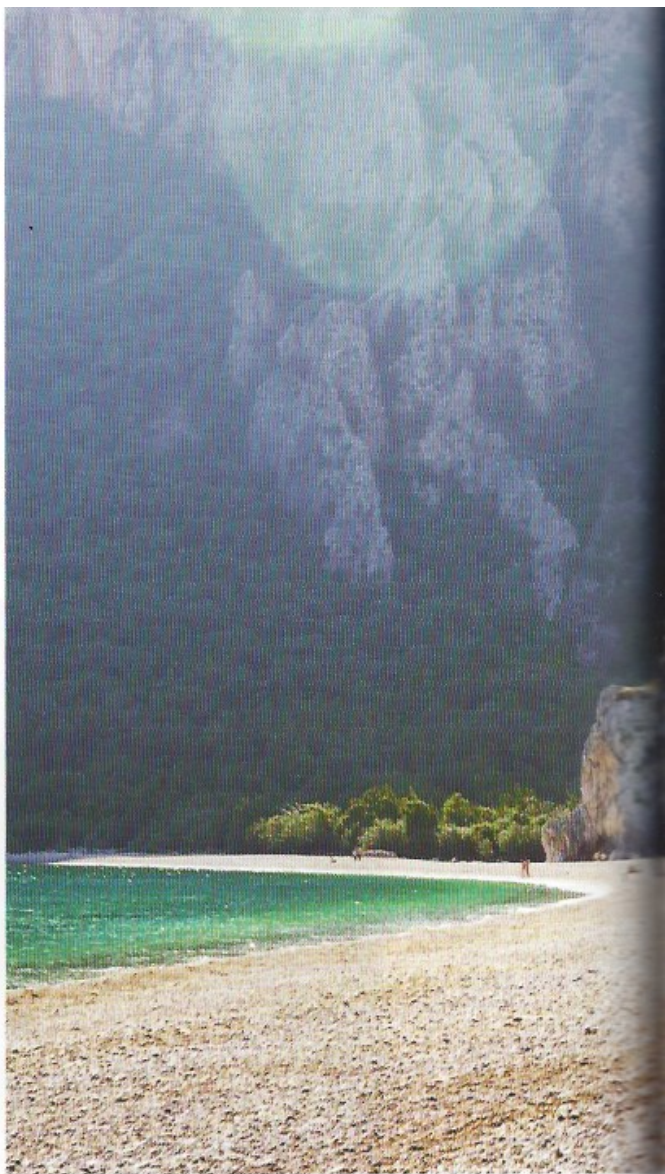
TURKEY

Go for the beautiful landscapes, rich culture and history, amazing beaches and excellent cuisine. It's fair to say that this vast and varied country has it all.

PART I ANCIENT LYCIA

The coast between Fethiye and Antalya is an awesome succession of pine-clad mountains and deep-blue bays. Think classical ruins, sublime beaches at Patara, Kabak and Çirali, world-class meze-based cuisine, and a culture that's more Med than Middle East, with even the scent of patchouli lingering from the region's counter-cultural days on the hippy trail.

With your own wheels - the roads are good, if occasionally precipitous - explore the temples and tombs of World Heritage sites such as Xanthos or seek out little-visited ancient cities like Pınara for its perfect Greek theatre. Take in Kayaköy and wander its abandoned 'ghost village' before refuelling in pretty cafes such as the Blue Butterfly or dining on the terrace at Izela (gunaysgarden.com). Hire kayaks (bougainville-turkey.com) to paddle the pristine waters of Kekova, with its sunken ruins and half-submerged sarcophagi.

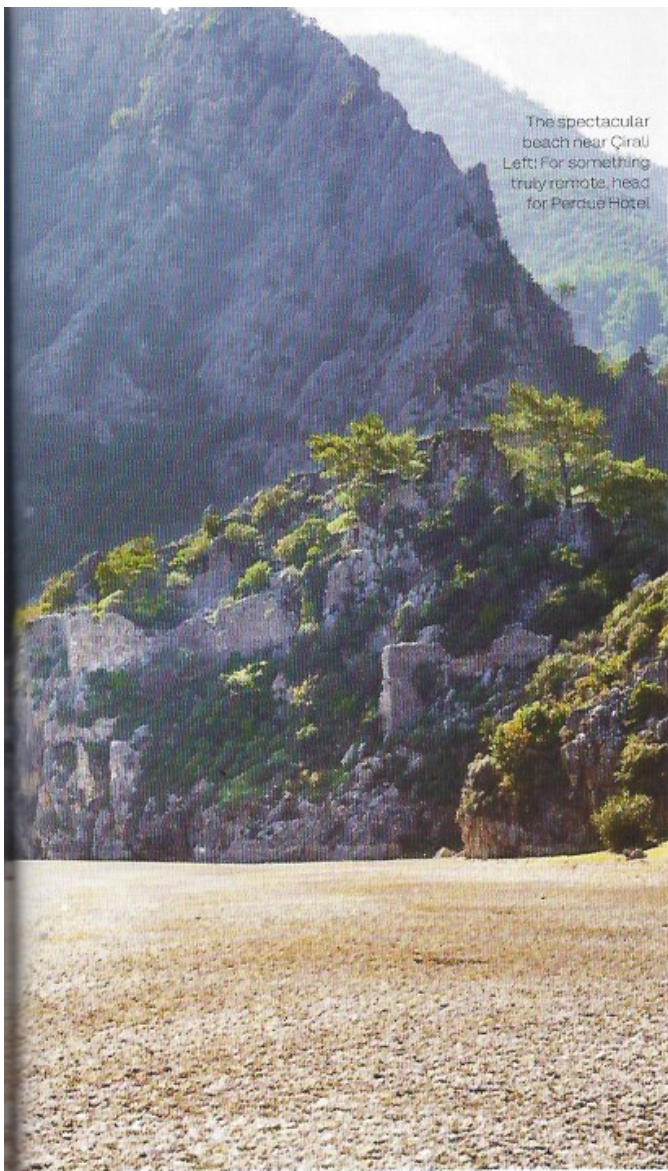


Stay The Villa Mahal (exclusiveescapes.co.uk; doubles from £260, B&B) in Kalkan is made up of 13 stylish cabins with timber terraces overlooking the sea. Paths through the citrus groves lead to the rocky shore, a beach club by day and lantern-lit restaurant by night. Rouse yourself to catch the hotel's regular boat shuttle to Kalkan's pretty waterfront and enjoy tasty meze starters and mains such as fresh *levrek* (seabass) at Korsan Meze (korsankalkan.com) before checking out the Friday market.

For something truly remote, head for Perdue Hotel (perduhotel.com; doubles from £190, B&B) near Faralya. This is superior glamping, with luxe canvas tents beneath safari-style thatches set in avocado groves on a virgin shore. There's also a pool, plus a Jacuzzi outside each tent. Move on east to Çirali, one of Turkey's loveliest beaches, where you'll find hammocks slung in the beach-front gardens of Olympos Lodge (olymposlodge.com.tr; doubles from £150, B&B).

TIP

For a truly unique trip, book with a specialist such as Exclusive Escapes (www.exclusiveescapes.co.uk), Simpson Travel (simpsontravel.com), or Travel Atelier (travelatelier.com), a knowledgeable honeymoon specialist based in Turkey.



The spectacular beach near Çıralı. Left: For something truly remote, head for Perde Hotel.

PART III CAPPADOCIA

Central Turkey's water-sculpted valleys, with their simple frescoed chapels, cave interiors and endlessly surreal rock formations, are some of the world's prime fantasy landscapes. Highlights such as Göreme Open Air Museum (muze.gov.tr/goreme-en) are busy; get away from the coach scrum by hiring a car to enjoy idyllic walks in outlying valleys such as Ihlara or to have remote churches such as Pancarlık to yourselves. Take to a hot-air balloon (royalballoon.com; £160pp) for a 90-minute dawn flight over the valleys.

Stay Üçhisar's Kale Konak (kalekonak.com; doubles from £120, B&B) is a brilliant boutique hotel that is half cave, half castle, with stylish stone rooms, its own little hamam and outstanding views over the legendary Pigeon Valley; be sure to ask for directions at the hotel before tackling the spectacular 90-minute walking trail down to Göreme. For more facilities - rooms with private cave pools, a fully serviced restaurant and an extensive cellar stocked with fast-improving Anatolian wines such as Cappadocia's Turasan and the Aegean region's Sevilen - try the adjacent Argos in Cappadocia (argosincappadocia.com; doubles from £160, B&B).

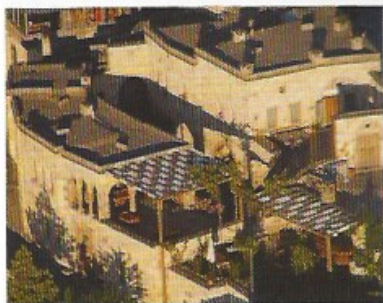


THE LOGISTICS

May-June and September-October are the ideal months for visiting Turkey.

Direct flights go from Bristol, Edinburgh, Gatwick, Stansted and Manchester to Dalaman with EasyJet (easyjet.com) and from Stansted with Pegasus (flypgs.com). Internal Turkish flights (Antalya-Istanbul, Istanbul-Nevşehir for Cappadocia) with Turkish Airlines (turkishairlines.com) or Pegasus. Istanbul-London with Turkish Airlines, Pegasus or EasyJet, around £70 one-way international, £30 one-way internal.

Online visas cost £12.50 through evisa.gov.tr.



Left, from top: Kale Konak hotel (outside and inside) is half cave, half castle; a suite at the Sumahan

PART II ISTANBUL

Take the one-hour flight from Antalya to Istanbul, metropolis of the moment, to combine must-sees, including the magnificent Ayasofya Basilica, with the city's buzzing arts, dining and club scenes. Check out the cutting-edge gallery Salt Galata (saltonline.org) in Karaköy, the dock area that was once red light but is now red hot; ferry it to Kadıköy on the Asian side to discover foodie mecca Güneşli Bahçe Sokak where the superb Ciya (ciya.com.tr) comprises three adjacent eateries serving revived Anatolian recipes such as *kirazli kofte* (meatballs with cherries). Then party in the shadow of the Bosphorus Bridge at Ortaköy's anything-goes Supperclub (supperclub.com).

Stay For classic style in the grandeur of a former bank building near the central Galata Bridge, choose the newly opened Vaults Karaköy (thehousehotel.com; doubles from £150, B&B). Or retreat to the banks of the Bosphorus and villagey Çengelköy, where the delightful Sumahan (sumahan.com; doubles from £135, B&B), a converted spirit factory, sits alongside acclaimed meze restaurant Tapasuma (tapasuma.com).



COLONIAL ELEGANCE + HILL WALKING
X BEACHSIDE BLISS + URBAN COOL

SRI LANKA

This small tropical island boasts romantic, colonial-era tea estates, beautiful lakes and hills, fabulous beaches and a thriving capital with cool restaurants, galleries and shops.

PART I THE HILL COUNTRY

The Central Highlands of Sri Lanka's Hill Country must be one of the most beautiful places on earth, an area of vast lakes, towering peaks, deep ravines and dramatic waterfalls. Quiet country roads wind between rolling hills carpeted with neat rows of tea bushes, shaded by mango trees and banana leaves. Early morning mists are burnt off by the sun to reveal a sweeping landscape dotted with ancient Anglican churches and tea planters' bungalows.

This is just the place to hole up with a good book on the verandah of a colonial cottage, or to trek through a tea estate, where women in bright saris pluck the required bud and two leaves from every tea bush to make your cuppa.

Stay Ceylon Tea Trails arrange stays in four pretty, converted tea planter's bungalows scattered around the Bogawantalawa

Valley (teatrails.com; doubles from £400, full-board). Two of them, Summerville and Castlereagh, are on the shore of a peaceful lake, the other two, Norwood and Tientsin, are on working tea plantations. All have swimming pools, lovely rooms with log fires and antique furniture, ornate gardens and in-room spa treatments. Days begin with 'bed tea' delivered to your room by your butler, followed by a full English or traditional Sri Lankan breakfast on the verandah. Between then and your four-course, candlelit, gourmet dinner, you have to fit in a three-course lunch, afternoon cream tea and pre-dinner cocktails.

TRY

Let the hotel arrange for you to join Hindu, Buddhist and Christian pilgrims on a climb to the summit of nearby Adam's Peak accompanied by a Tea Trails guide. Set off at midnight to reach the top at dawn and see the rising sun cast a pyramid shadow of the mountain over the misty valleys below. The trail is well lit at night and there are tea and snack stalls all the way up.



Top: Tientsin Estate, part of Ceylon Tea Trails. Above left: The exterior of the recently renovated Amangalla in Galle. Above right: Check into the Grand Ocean Residence at Cape Weligama



Clockwise from left:
The garden of Cape Weligama; the Gallery Café in Colombo; the 10-suite Tintagel Hotel; a converted Dutch villa houses The Wallawwa hotel



PART II THE TROPICAL COAST

With miles of white sand, coconut palms and the warm clear waters of the Indian Ocean, Sri Lanka's south coast is hard to beat. The ancient sea fort of Galle is the island's oldest living city, inland from which there are cinnamon plantations, and jungles with wild elephants and leopards. As a port trading in spices and gems, with origins dating back to King Solomon, Galle was expanded by the Portuguese, then captured by the Dutch and embellished with ornate public buildings and churches. Today it is a living museum of spice godowns (warehouses), narrow cobbled streets of merchants' houses and grand municipal buildings in among the trendy cafes, cutting-edge boutiques and antiques dealers. To the south, the wild beaches of Weligama are lined with stilt fishermen balancing on flimsy poles out at sea.

Stay The most stylish option on this coast is the brand new Cape Weligama (capeweligama.com; doubles from £500, half-board). On a rocky promontory flanked by arcs of wild Indian Ocean beach, the resort's centrepiece is a stunning, clifftop, crescent-shaped infinity pool. The seriously luxurious villa suites all have sea views, in-room saunas and butler service. If relaxing is on the agenda - and it should be - the contemporary designed indoor/outdoor living areas have plenty of space for lounging. At night, turn off the AC and enjoy the cooling sea breeze wafting through the shuttered windows. In-room treatment therapies use home-grown, tea-based natural products renowned for their antioxidant and anti-ageing properties. A daily fish, spice and vegetable market, held outside the open-plan clifftop restaurant, shows off the raw ingredients found on the menu.

For a night in Galle, Aman Resorts has converted the beautiful New Oriental Hotel and renamed it Amangalla. A wonderful blend of white linen and arched verandahs, all of the building's antique charm has been retained (amanresorts.com; doubles from £380, B&B).

TIP

The deep Indian Ocean trench, 25 kilometers off shore from Weligama, is home to the Blue Whale, the largest animal on the planet, as well as several other whales and dolphins. Group trips to see them can be booked through Raja & The Whales (rajaandthewhales.com £30pp) but even better are the inclusive private, small boat excursions offered by Cape Weligama.

PART III URBAN COOL

Colombo is the perfect place to end your trip. The whole city is buzzing with exciting new restaurants, cool gallery spaces and designer shops - many of them in beautifully restored Dutch and British-era colonial buildings. Don't miss the atmospheric Gallery Café (paradiseroad.lk/gallery_cafe). It's housed in the elegantly faded old haunt of renowned Sri Lankan architect, Geoffrey Bawa, and transforms into a cool, clubby place by night. For breakfast, try an egg hopper (fried eggs in a rice flour pancake) on the seafront terrace of the grand Galle Face Hotel** (gallefacehotel.com). For supper, feast on freshly caught lagoon crabs at the funky Ministry Of Crab (ministryofcrab.com).

Stay The central Tintagel Colombo (paradiseroadhotels.com; doubles from £170, room only) is unbeatable in the style stakes. A small mansion built in classical style in 1930, its 10 suites get top marks for comfort and design. For a quieter location out of town, The Wallawwa (thewallawwa.com; doubles from £150, room only) is a gorgeous old colonial manor house. Now a 17-room boutique hotel set in tropical grounds, it features shuttered windows, whirring ceiling fans and vintage furniture mixed with modern design.



THE LOGISTICS

For the Hill Country and the south-west coast, the best time is November-April, as these are the driest and coolest months.

There are daily direct flights between London-Colombo with Sri Lankan Airlines (srilankan.com); both Qatar (qatarairways.com) and Emirates (emirates.com) offer a daily service via Doha or Dubai. Sri Lankan Airlines, flies from Heathrow to Colombo from £520 return.

Ampersand (ampersandtravel.com), offers three-nights half-board at Cape Weligama, three-nights full-board at Tea Trails and two nights B&B at Jingle from £2,770pp, including return flights and transfers.

Buy visas in advance for £19 at eta.gov.lk.