

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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The Caribbean

Barefoot luxury? Family fun? Bargain beauty?
There's an island for *everyone* in our Total Guide

FOUR MORE ISLANDS TO SET YOUR HEART A-FLUTTER

For a passionate getaway, slink off with your paramour to one of these seductive destinations

BEQUIA

Why it's made for you: Bequia, an hour's ferry south of St Vincent, is an island that's perfect for two. The lack of direct flights keeps the crowds away, so you can expect sleepy Caribbean charm. Stroll hand-in-hand through the charismatic main town of Port Elizabeth, have a cosy candlelit dinner at a cafe, and lounge on near-deserted forest-backed, sandy coves and bays. In the late afternoon stop by the Frangipani Hotel in Admiralty Bay (00 1 784 458 3255, www.frangipanibequia.com) for a Banana Cow (rum milkshake) by the water's edge, then try dinner at the Devil's Table (00 1 784 458 3900) across the harbour. Or sail to the Tobago Cays for snorkelling and lunch on the lovingly restored *Friendship Rose* (www.friendshiprose.com; £85pp), a classic 100-year-old schooner.

Get me there: Tropical Locations (0845 277 3310, www.wandotravel.com) offers seven nights at Bequia Beach Hotel from £1,146pp, B&B, with flights from Gatwick.



ST BARTS

Why it's made for you: Want to shout your love from the champagne-bottle-strewn table of a rowdy beach bar? St Barts fits the bill. Or would you rather keep it 'twixt the two of you on a deserted cove? Again, St Barts will do it for you. Or does your love bloom best on the deck of a yacht? You get the idea... The tiny Gallic island suits any kind of romantic. For a start, you can only get there by ferry (known to veer off-route to ogle migrating whales) or minuscule plane. The best beaches are windswept Salines and rugged Colombier for utter privacy; Gustavia harbour and St Jean Bay for exhibitionists; and Gouverneurs for picnics.

Get me there: Air France (0871 663 3777, www.airfrance.co.uk) flies from Heathrow to St Martin, via Paris, from £674, then Winair (00 1 866 466 0410, www.flywinair.com) goes to St Barts, from £109 return. A week in a cottage in St Jean with Wimco (0870 850 1144, www.wimco.com) costs from £909, self-catering.



TURKS & CAICOS

Why it's made for you: With the requisite gin-clear waters and secluded bays, this archipelago could get even the most bashful of couples in the mood. Coo over salmon-hued flamingos on North Caicos, ride horses on Long Bay Beach in Providenciales, and feed each other conch fritters, purported to be an aphrodisiac, at a seaside shack. Lovebirds shouldn't miss a glow-worm cruise: the water turns fluorescent green as millions of the creatures engage in a mating ritual. Decadent duos should plump for Amanyara's romance package: couple's massage, candlelit feast, cocktails and private movie screening.

Get me there: ITC Classics (01244 355527, www.itcclassics.co.uk) has a week at Amanyara from £4,109pp, room only, including flights from Heathrow. Amanyara's one-week romance package (00 1 649 941 8133, www.amanyara.com) costs from £7,325 per couple, excluding flights.



MUSTIQUE

Why it's made for you: You won't need a 'Do Not Disturb' sign on Mustique – seclusion, privacy and the utmost discretion come guaranteed on this, the world's most exclusive island. This is where the (very) rich and (very) famous come to play and hide (Mick Jagger spends several months a year here) – so, too, can you. Spend your days exploring the island, strolling along the nine silky-soft beaches – and your evenings enjoying private dinners by the water's edge or moonlit champagne picnics on deserted, wild Macaroni Beach. Stay at the rustic-chic Cotton House Hotel – celebs love it for its friendly, discreet service with all mod-cons. Party at Basil's Bar if you must. But why would you? Love is the sweetest thing...

Get me there: Carrier (0161 491 7620, www.carrier.co.uk) has a week at The Cotton House Hotel, from £1,775pp, B&B, including flights from Gatwick and island transfers.