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Go Off the Grid with an Unplugged Honeymoon

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Drop out of the tech zone for a carefree honeymoon at one of these blissfully unplugged resorts.

By: Becca Hensley

What if you escaped to an exotic location for a day or two — and had the courage to turn it all off? No more texting a friend while having dinner with your sweetheart. No more mindlessly checking emails while the sun sets in kaleidoscopic hues across a cobalt horizon. No more Skyping with your boss when this is supposed to be your vacation.

Unplug and hook up — but not with the outside world — with each other. Do it at a picnic on a beach, in a sailboat or during a couple's massage, and marvel at the beauty around you sans Instagram filters. These Caribbean dazzlers make it easy to leave those chargers behind.

Jamaica Inn

A family-owned hotel since 1950, the **Jamaica Inn** has hosted the likes of Marilyn Monroe and Katharine Hepburn, and the Hollywood heyday vibe infiltrates the ambience of this 47-suite, five-cottage hotel like a seductive phantom. But it isn't all glitz and glamour. At this hideaway, simplicity rules. And you'll find yourselves realizing that at Jamaica Inn — on a sliver-moon-shaped beach near Ocho Rios — time hardly matters.



Photo courtesy of Jamaica Inn

Here, you'll find ways to tell time that have nothing to do with train schedules, meeting times and the incessant reminders that bleat from your phone all day long back home. Here, there are no clocks in the room (or radios or televisions). Which means you'll measure the hours differently — like when the sun sets on the resort's ocean side and the sky bursts into fuchsia. And you'll relax into a day without boundaries and appointments (except, perhaps, at the spa).



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Photo courtesy of Jamaica Inn

Here, guests eat when they're hungry (al fresco is best), sleep at unthinkable times in unusual places (was that you under the palapa?) and dance until the Inner Groove's reggae tunes end for the evening. One night you'll want to indulge in a couple's moonlight massage, a candlelit ritual beneath the stars (room rates start at \$310 a night; jamaicainn.com).

Petit St. Vincent

Raise the flag! That's not a pirate's call to arms. Instead, that's how guests communicate with staff at **Petit St. Vincent**, a remote, 115-acre private island set in the Grenadines on the Caribbean's southeastern side and one of the region's marquee unplugged resorts. At this iconic retreat, 22 unpretentious accommodations dot the atoll. They're scattered along a two-mile-long, bonewhite beach and tucked atop a crested bluff. Though a Balinese-run spa beckons and two restaurants conjure culinary magic, you may find it more thrilling to stay in — despite the fact your cottage has no television, Internet or even keys.



Photo Credit: Mike Toy Photography; Matthew Semark

To convey your needs, hoist a yellow flag and let it fly from the driftwood flagpole outside your villa. Staff who come running will check the box attached to the pole, where you've placed a note with your requests for dinner, activities or books. Want to be left in peace to channel the complete tranquility of this far-flung island? Elevate the red flag, and you won't be disturbed by a soul (room rates start at \$1,100 a night and include meals and non-alcoholic beverages; petitstvincent.com).

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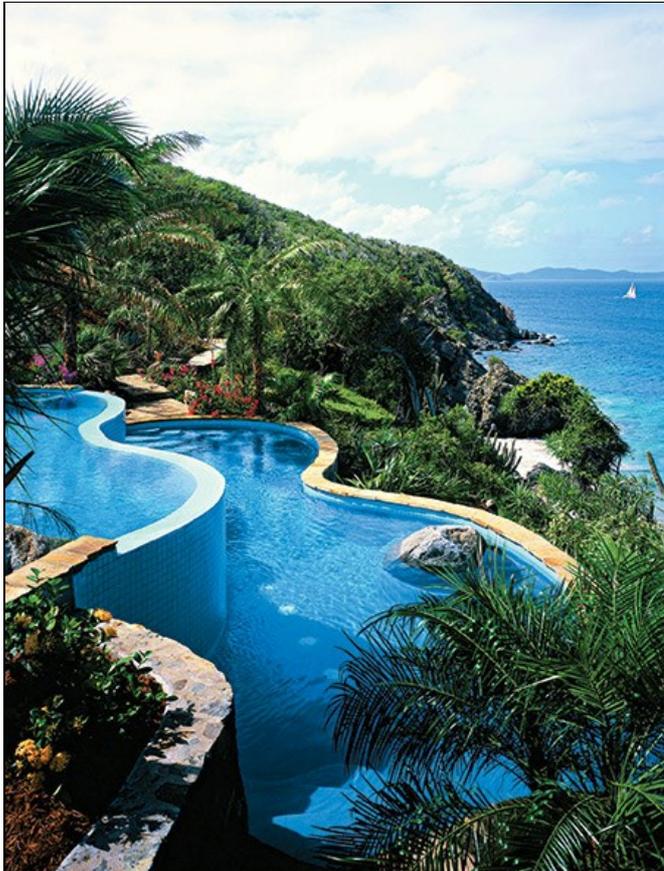
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Photo Credit: Mark Hartman Photography

Rosewood Little Dix Bay

This hideaway is totally old school — in a good way. People have been falling in love and unraveling the urban knots here since before the Internet was a twinkle in its inventor's eye. Founded by ahead-of-his-time eco-conscious Laurance Rockefeller in 1964, **Little Dix Bay** occupies verdant terrain on Virgin Gorda in the British Virgin Islands. Its half-mile boomerang of sugary sand borders crystalline waters mottled with myriad shades of blue. The other edge of the property is where bottle-green mountains rise. Capping one, you'll find the cliff-top spa, which sports awesome vistas. Without televisions or locks, rustic chichi rooms have stone walls and high ceilings that evoke Caribbean Colonial motifs.



Book into one of the hexagonal tree-house cottages that seem to hover amongst the branches of the tallest trees. Built on stilts just steps from the beach, the airy lodgings feature individual gardens and hammocks. Romance packages include massages, a sunset cruise, a day trip to a neighboring island and a picnic at Spring Bay (room rates start at \$825 a night; rosewoodhotels.com).

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By: **Becca Hensley**

Natura Cabana Boutique Hotel & Spa

Natura Cabana is distilled soulfulness crafted for the yogi in everyone. First built as a family home, hewed out of wilderness on the Dominican Republic's less touristed northern shore, this boutique property has evolved over time. It's when friends refused to leave that the owners realized they had created a magical place.

So in response they built 10 modern cabins and breezy bungalows one by one, composing them from locally derived, found materials — stone, palm fronds, bamboo, shells, seeds — using feng shui principles as their guide. Secreted at the end of a dirt road, with its own herb and vegetable garden, Natura Cabana doesn't have televisions, phones or air conditioning. Needless to say, kicking back becomes second nature the moment you arrive thanks to the property's earthiness and hippie, surfer vibe. Here, nobody expects you to dress up or show up. Your well-being and vacation time is up to you.



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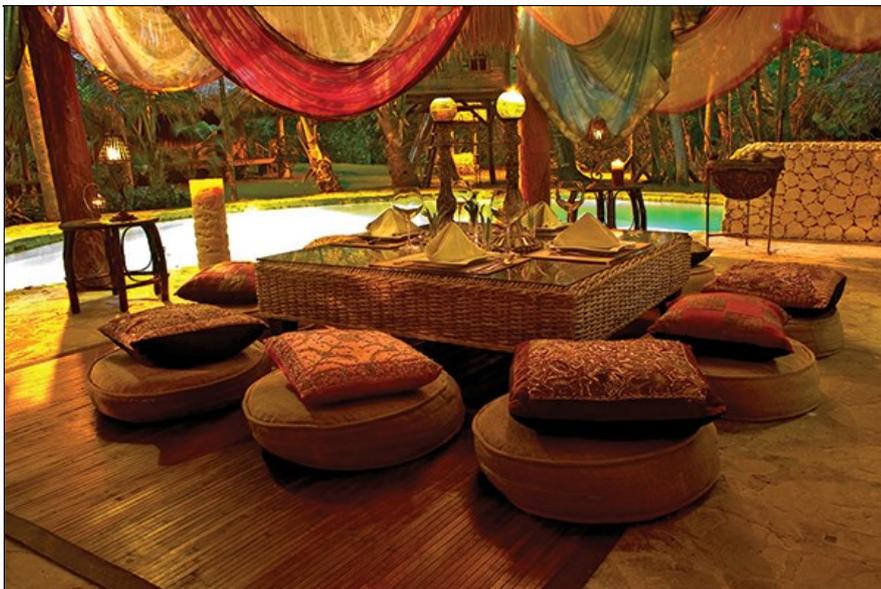


Photo Credit: Bianca Garimani

Walk the tranquil beach, go for a swim, ride horses on nature trails, practice beachside yoga in the open-air pavilion and linger over farm-to-table meals in the two Lilliputian, gourmet restaurants. Indulge at the spa, where tinctures and potions hail from indigenous traditions. Feeling amorous? The staff has your back: You may return from body surfing to find your room artfully blanketed with fresh rose petals (room rates start at \$130 a night; naturacabana.com).

Rendezvous, St. Lucia

The 100-room **Rendezvous** pulls off the lovey-dovey thing without being trite and treacly. This all-inclusive resort, which hugs St. Lucia's prettiest beach, advocates amour like no other. With cocktails bearing sexy names, and a spa that caters to couples, the property seems intent on ensuring paramours eschew the hustle and bustle of everyday life to nourish their relationship. Rendezvous sometimes spells it out for you.



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Photo Credit: Rendezvous Resort

Case in point, the fine dining restaurant called The Trysting Place. The cupid of Caribbean resorts, this hibiscus-and-orchid studded secret garden of a destination, would have pool boys bearing quivers packed with love-fever-soaked arrows — if there were such things. Instead, they act as romance enablers, always setting the stage for courtship and flirtation with bespoke adjustments to their offerings meant to spark your à deux fires. You can dine privately by the pool, on the beach or wherever else your whims take you. A stellar scuba program and the nightly serenade by tree frogs and crickets up the heart-pumping ante (room rates start at \$739 a night and are all inclusive; theromanticholiday.com).

Bonus: Four Seasons Costa Rica At Peninsula Papagayo

Costa Rica is that tricky country that some folks call the Caribbean (since its east coast is lapped by the sparkling sea's waves), but others consider a Pacific surf destination because, well, it's also framed by that mighty ocean. And although this pampering resort is located on the Central American country's Pacific side, we'd be remiss not to mention its fabulously unplugged package for couples.

The Disconnect to Connect program ensures ultimate relaxation in nature the old fashioned way — free from electronics. If you choose to enjoy the complimentary service, the resort will safeguard your phone for 24 hours (or throughout your stay) at the front desk, and return it with a stylish phone cover that features scenes from the posh resort.

Located on two jungle-framed beaches on Costa Rica's Pacific Coast, hewed into the hills of the Papagayo Peninsula, **Four Seasons Costa Rica at Papagayo Peninsula** will also provide a handy guide that features things to do at the resort that don't require technology, including: stand-up paddle boarding, hiking, yoga, an art program and classes in the craft of chocolate making (room rates start at \$425 a night; fourseasons.com).

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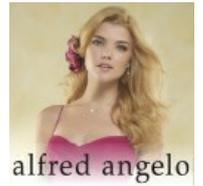
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