

# ASTAnetwork

Winter 2008/09  
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ancient sites and cultural treasures

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from tango to adventure travel

## honeymoon hot spots

vacations to suit all newlyweds

# cities of europe

discover the continent's top  
city break destinations

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Dedicated to the Business of Selling Travel

## Kenya

For some couples, going on safari is the definitive honeymoon experience. And for first timers to sub-Saharan Africa, Kenya is a good choice. It's safe and has more than 50 national parks and reserves as well as beach resorts on the Indian Ocean. And while the economy is tough, it's a great opportunity for honeymooners — East Africa is definitely more affordable than South.

■ **SOMETHING TO REMEMBER:** A hot-air balloon tour will provide photo opportunities. On the coast, book diving excursions and fishing.

■ **HONEYMOON SUITES:** Elsa's Kopje is one of Kenya's many stunning wilderness lodges. This one is in Meru, the national park made famous by Joy Adamson and the *Born Free* story.

■ **WHEN TO GO:** The dry season from June–October and December–March is best for viewing wildlife. The coastal climate is a 85F year round.

■ **SAMPLE: AFRICAN MECCA** offers a 10-night break including two nights each at Elsa's Kopje in Meru, Loldia House in the Great Rift Valley region and Governors Il Moran Camp in the Masai Mara and four nights at the Funzi Keys Lodge on Funzi Island from \$7,950. Flights not included. [www.africanmeccasafaris.com](http://www.africanmeccasafaris.com)



Huvafen Fushi, Maldives.  
Above: Bull elephant, Kenya

## European tour

What better way to start your traveling life together than with a European road trip? There are dozens of choices — from earnest cultural investigations of Renaissance Italy or classical Greece to maxing out the credit card in London or Paris, Europe will keep any traveler busy.

■ **SOMETHING TO REMEMBER:** For something different, book a walking tour with Context Travel. It operates in seven European cities, as well as New York.

■ **HONEYMOON SUITES:** It's hard to top the classics; historic hotels such as the Ritz in London, Paris and Madrid are expensive but worth it, if only just once.

■ **WHEN TO GO:** August can be too hot, and a lot of places shut down as the locals go for their vacation (in Paris or Rome especially). Spring is perfect for the great European cities.

■ **SAMPLE: TRAFALGAR TOURS'** nine-day Italian Dream escorted tour leads in at \$1,465 in May, and includes sightseeing and two nights each in Rome, Florence and Venice, plus a day in Assisi. Flights not included. [www.trafalgartours.com](http://www.trafalgartours.com)

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## Maldives

These tiny specks in the Indian Ocean, sandwiched between the Equator and the sub-continent, are the home of the barefoot luxury concept — no shoes, no news. They're ideal for busy couples who just want to relax after their big day.

■ **SOMETHING TO REMEMBER:** Take the plunge with a diving excursion — the visibility is up to 150ft and the marine life sensational: over 700 species at the last count.

■ **HONEYMOON SUITES:** Per Aquum's Huvafen Fushi is the classic, chilled out Maldives hotel, with bungalows on the beach and underwater spa. New for 2008 is Iru Fushi — no relation — also offering luxury in the middle of nowhere.

■ **WHEN TO GO:** The weather is impossible to predict, with each island enjoying its own microclimate. The wet season is January–March; dry from April–November; December anybody's guess. But the temperature is an average 89F.

■ **SAMPLE: INDUS TRAVELS** offers six nights B&B in a beach bungalow at Huvafen Fushi from \$5,890 per person this May, including flights from LA on Singapore Airlines and return speedboat transfers. [www.industravels.com](http://www.industravels.com)



IMAGES: ISTOCKPHOTO; HUVAFEN FUSHI

# AFRICAN MECCA



## DESTINATION



## MANAGEMENT

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