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The best romantic hotels in the US for COVID-19 era newlyweds

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Due to the ongoing pandemic, many newlyweds are looking for safe domestic honeymoon options.

The ideal honeymoon spot is romantic and secluded, with elevated options for couples to relax, bond, and celebrate.

While privacy has always been prized for honeymoon getaways, with COVID-19, it's more important than ever.

We rounded up romantic and idyllic hotels around the US at a variety of price points, from \$160 to \$690 per night.

For brides and grooms, 2020 has required immense flexibility and patience, with many couples not knowing if they'd be able to continue with their wedding as planned or need to pivot or postpone last minute. However, despite the ongoing pandemic, many couples have still tied the knot, or have plans to do so, in smaller, distanced, or private ceremonies. The next step is finding an appropriate and safe honeymoon destination to celebrate the momentous occasion.

Honeymoon hotels and resorts already have myriad requirements: they should have a noteworthy, romantic atmosphere, as well as elevated amenities for newlyweds, plus options for excursions, memorable dinners, and time to relax, connect, and celebrate. In the age of COVID-19, however, requirements multiply.

While experts say that the safest vacation option is [renting a private vacation home](#), honeymooners typically gravitate toward memorable resorts and hotels that befit such a once-in-a-lifetime occasion. However, not only do hotels need to be special enough to warrant a honeymoon trip, they also should have strict safety protocols in place, ideally with ample social distancing and — better yet — privacy. After all, while honeymoons are supposed to

be remote and romantic by design — just the two of you temporarily escaping to world to start your new life together — pandemic celebrations require even more distancing and seclusion for peace of mind.

It's important to note that until a vaccine is available, it's impossible to [guarantee safe travel](#), with many variables constantly shifting the landscape. As a result, following guidelines from health organizations such as the CDC and the WHO is paramount, as is practicing social distancing, wearing a mask, hand washing, and other established safety measures. Travelers should also heed their personal risk level, as well as factors like whether they currently live in a state with elevated cases or are traveling to a state with increased restrictions or quarantine protocols for incoming travelers.

Keeping that in mind, we've selected top-rated hotels around the US based on the following criteria:

1. All hotels have exceptional offerings for honeymooners from Jacuzzi suites and wine tours to specific honeymoon packages.
2. Every hotel is highly rated. Many properties have been personally vetted, while others are buzzed about and recommended by

travelers we know and trust. We've also turned to reviews from trusted traveler sites such as [Trip Advisor](#), [Hotels.com](#), and [Booking.com](#).

3. While honeymoons are often thought of as a splurge, we considered a range of budgets so that price wouldn't be a barrier to an unforgettable stay. We have wallet-friendly options, as well as splurge stays, with rates between \$160 and \$608 per night to start.
4. Each hotel has updated COVID-19 policies for safety, which i ~~W~~ noted below.

These are the best romantic hotels in the US for honeymooners, sorted by price from low to high.

The Grand Hotel – Mackinac Island, Michigan



TripAdvisor

Book The Grand Hotel starting at \$429 per night

Famous as the uber-romantic hotel from the classic film "Somewhere in Time," Mackinac Island's Victorian resort The Grand Hotel calls to mind days gone by. That's largely due to the fact that it dates back to 1887. The grand dame resort holds court on Michigan's Mackinac Island, a timeless place where cars are banned and bicycles and horse-drawn carriages abound. The Grand is the type of hotel where guests lounge with drinks on rockers dotting the iconic

front porch (the world's longest), which features stunning views of the Straits of Mackinac.

With 397 rooms, incredibly, no two are alike. Each is uniquely decorated by Carleton Varney of Dorothy Draper & Co, who has also styled the White House. Many rooms have lake views, while others overlook the Straits of Mackinac or the 18-hole golf course.

Bathrooms are equally eclectic, with an undeniably original character of their own, and some even feature deep soaking tubs.

Newlyweds can book a 3-night Honeymoon and Anniversary Package complete with fresh-cut flowers from the hotel's Margaret's Garden, a champagne basket, and the resort's beloved freshly-made fudge. Other package highlights include a private hourlong horse-drawn carriage ride, fine dining, and afternoon tea in the hotel's parlor. Returning guests receive 10% off of their next stay in case you want to make it an annual anniversary stay.

Bikes are popular because of the island's lack of cars, while other activities include lawn games like bocce and croquet. Couples have no shortage of dining options with 14 on-site bars and restaurants, including a Victorian ice cream parlor and a restaurant housed in a Tudor mansion.

The elegant hotel has made a tradition of dressing up for dinner. The Main Dining Room, there's a dress code after 6:30 p.m. including coat, tie, and slacks for men and dress, skirt, or pantsuit for women. And in keeping with the hotel's historic feel, the 220-foot pool is named after old Hollywood star Esther Williams.

TripAdvisor Ranking: 7 out of 12 hotels in Mackinac Island

Kayak Rating: 9.4 out of 10

Pros: Couples who seek a sense of place and occasion will adore The Grand Hotel's tradition of dressing up for dinner and the resort's

Cons: As an older resort, walls can be thin and some rooms are slightly dated. The hotel is only open half of the year and is closed for most of the winter and spring.

COVID status and policies: This hotel is currently accepting reservations for next season. New policies include:

- The Main Dining Room and other restaurants will observe new maximum capacities, as well as utilizing disposable menus. Mandatory face masks for bartenders and servers will be required.

- All on-property hotel staff are undergoing COVID-19 training and will be screened daily with a temperature check and a short questionnaire.
- There is a Michigan state-mandated order that requires all to wear face coverings in indoor public spaces and crowded outdoor spaces.
- The hotel implemented enhanced sanitization protocols across the hotel, developed with guidance provided by local health authorities, the CDC, AHLA Safe Stay guidelines, and other governmental agencies.
- Some activities and amenities have been suspended including carriages, in-room movies, sauna, and children's programs.