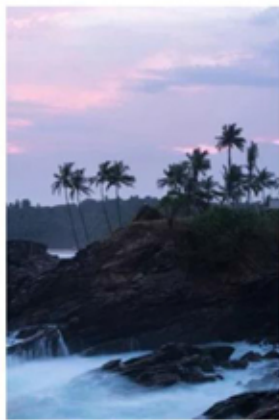


5 of the most romantic island getaways from Dubai



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GUEST WRITER
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Whether you're planning your honeymoon or simply booking a relaxing break with your significant other, these five iconic destinations offer romance in spades...

Seychelles



TRAVEL TIME: Just under five hours from Dubai to Mahe, then additional charter flights or boats to the other islands.

The Seychelles is fit for royalty - literally. It's here that Prince William and Duchess Kate came to honeymoon, basking in the sun on one of the area's 115 different islands. Brad Pitt and Jennifer did the same, honeymooning on Fregate Island Private back in 2000. Even George Clooney and Amal Alamuddin travelled to the Seychelles' North Island after their Venetian wedding.

It's easy to understand the appeal of this tropical area. White beaches, crisp blue waters and clear skies make up paradise in these Indian Ocean islands. Located off the edge of Africa, the Seychelles lures travellers with its promise of endless beaches. They come accented with vibrant hills and numerous high-end hotels.

Animal spotting is a big attraction here, but wildlife varies by the island. On Blue Island, you can stroll along the sand searching for nesting sea turtles. In Curieuse, there are giant Aldabra tortoises. Cousin, Aride and the aptly-named Bird Island are filled with colourful bird sanctuaries.

When watching critters fly or crawl gets old, you can always go for a swim; the Seychelles is fringed with amazing coral reefs perfect for snorkelling. There are even shipwrecks for divers and sailing for would-be skippers. After a long day, be prepared for seafood steamed in banana leaves, desserts made from sweet potatoes and plantains, and plenty of rice.

The best times to visit are April, May, October and November, when it's less windy. But temperatures here are warm and mild year-round.