The Honeymoon

ROMANTIC INSPIRATION FOR YOUR TRIP OF A LIFETIME

BAREFOOT LUXURY

Gili Lankanfushi in the Maldives is every honeymooner's fantasy... Overwater villas, your very own butler and dining under the stars are must-tries. Book the dream with Turquoise Holidays. turquoiseholidays.co.uk
ARIZONA
The wild west ‘moon

Why here? If being outdoors is the main draw for you both and you’ve got a hankering for a US honeymoon, then Arizona should comfortably tick all the boxes. Think horseback riding coupled with incredible desert sunsets, hiking in epic forests, canoeing down creeks and pottering around towns such as Prescott that will make you feel like you’re on a Hollywood movie set. Oh, and there’s the Grand Canyon, too, of course – which means you get to tick off something iconic.

Give me a classic ‘moon-worthy hotel... Want to kick back in a resort where gourmet restaurants come as standard and you can get spa treatments on tap? Check into Boulders Resort & Spa in Scottsdale and you’ll get just that – plus a few extra-special activities such as a Grand Canyon air tour or star-gazing with a professional astronomer. It’s not far from the city centre, but once you’re ensconced within its walls the sense of seclusion is wonderful. Next up, head to Sedona where the extraordinary red rocks are just waiting to be explored. Stay at luxury resort L’Auberge and you can expect more of the same pampering while enjoying a true ‘unplugged’ feeling – fine dining outdoors with the whoosh of Oak Creek by your feet is something you won’t forget in a hurry.

And now a wildcard stay... Why not get stuck in and truly ‘wild’ at a dude ranch? White Stallion Ranch is one of the best in the state and with the family having raised nearly three generations on the farm and trading as a guest ranch for over 50 years, they know a thing or two about hosting and making people feel welcome. The casitas are large with beds decked out in colourful Western-style throws and horseshoes hanging next to the door. The food is homemade and plentiful, served at family style long tables – try the pancakes for breakfast. As the ranch is slap-bang in the middle of the Sonoran Desert, the trail riding is magnificent, the rock-climbing classes worthwhile and the no-frills but all-the-thrills vibe is perfect for anyone looking for an authentic experience.

Wow factor Take a hot-air balloon flight over the Sonoran desert (Boulders resort can arrange this for you). Your heart will be in your mouth as you rise up through the clouds, but you’ll quickly forget about the height when the jaw-dropping landscape is revealed beneath you...

Play like cowboys at a dude ranch before kicking back and relaxing at Boulders Resort & Spa.