

BRIDAL GUIDE



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018

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ISLES OF DELIGHT

THE PERFECT ESCAPE DOESN'T NEED TO BE A FAR-FLUNG DESTINATION—
HERE ARE SOME AMAZING ISLANDS RIGHT IN THE U.S.A.

BY SANDRA RAMANI



Dreaming of a gorgeous island getaway for your honeymoon? Some of the best options may be closer than you think—and don't require a passport to get there. From the Eastern Seaboard to the scenic Pacific coast, and even to the Great Lakes in between, the U.S. is dotted with homegrown islands of all shapes, sizes and styles. Whether you want to go breezy with palm trees and beachy weather or are up for a spot with history, culinary traditions or New England charm, these four distinct hideaways can make your island dreams come true.

MACKINAC ISLAND, MICHIGAN

Set where Lake Huron meets Lake Michigan, this ferry- and prop plane-accessible island has been a popular resort destination since the late 1800s. It still feels a bit suspended in time—especially since a ban on cars has made walking, biking and horse-led buggies the main modes of transportation.

WHAT TO DO: Get the lay of the land with a guided tour that goes beyond the typical. Via Mackinac Revealed, you can join a native Islander for a forest bike ride to some of the top nature sites or a walk along the bluffs and through the historic Victo-



Quaint Mackinac Island is set between the Upper and Lower Peninsulas of Michigan.

rian neighborhood. Horse-drawn carriage rides from Mackinac Island Carriage Tours take you through downtown and out to Fort Mackinac and Arch Rock. You can learn how to drive your own buggy along the shore—or saddle up for a horseback ride—at Jack's Livery Stable. Hike through the state park, which covers nearly 80 percent of the island. And visit Fort Mackinac and Fort Holmes, both captured by the British in the War of 1812. In warmer months, go sailing, kayaking or fishing in the Straits of Mackinac. Fudge is a big thing here (tourists are even called “fudgies” in local slang), so make a stop—or several—at one of

the island's legendary sweet shops. Murdick's, open since 1887, and Ryba's are favorites.

WHERE TO STAY: Open from May to October (the island's main season), the **Mission Point Resort** stretches over 18 acres overlooking Lake Huron. Settle into one of the recently upgraded rooms or suites (pick one in the Main Lodge for easy access to the library and fireplace lounge), then head out to enjoy some bocce ball, a bike ride and eats at one of the five restaurants (rates for the Island Romance Package start at \$275 a night and include some activities and dinner; missionpoint.com). →



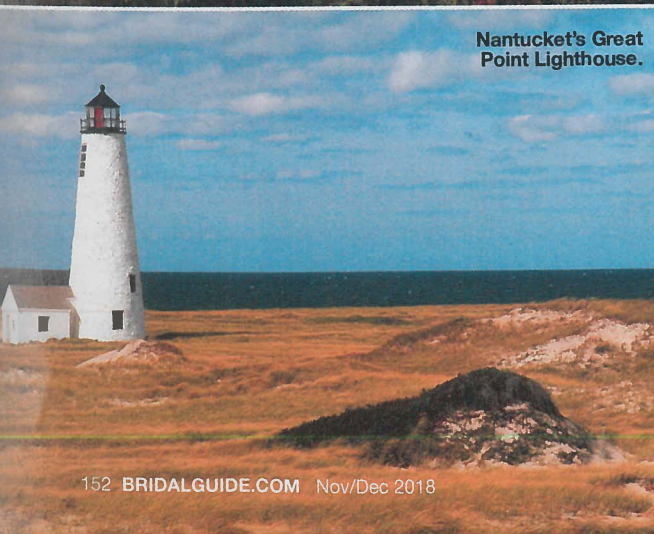
Georgia's Sea Island.

The chic new Hotel Pippa on Nantucket.



Tropical Delight—The Four Seasons Lanai.

Nantucket's Great Point Lighthouse.



SEA ISLAND, GEORGIA

Celebrating its 90th anniversary in 2018, this spot has been the go-to getaway for generations thanks to its one-stop-shop set-up. Set off the southeastern coast of Georgia, the private resort-and-residential island offers a range of hotel, activity, restaurants and relaxation options all bordered by five miles of private beach—and kept humming with excellent service and plenty of Southern charm.

WHAT TO DO: Where to start? Grab a bike or kayak and explore the island, taking in the spectacular setting of dunes, salt marshes and sandy coastline. For deeper insight into the environment, ride along with a staff naturalist. Activities like birding, horseback riding and rounds of tennis—topped off with s'mores around the bonfire—recall vintage fun. On-island facilities like a Shooting School, Yacht Club and three championship golf courses kick things up a level. Relax at the beach club, around the pool or at the super-sized spa, which features a water circuit and treatments that use natural ingredients from the region. Choose something different to eat for each meal, from wood-fired pizzas at Tavola and seafood favorites at Southern Tide to fine dining in the Georgian Room.

WHERE TO STAY: Residential rentals offer the utmost privacy, plus access to all resort facilities; while most homes are designed for families or groups, the one-bedroom cottages make idyllic couple's hideaways. Over by the golf course, the 43-room, English manor-style **The Lodge** pampers with butler service, deep soaking tubs

SMALL BUT MIGHTY—FOR CENTURIES, NANTUCKET, WHICH IS JUST 14 MILES LONG, WAS THE HUB OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING INDUSTRY.

and traditions like an evening bagpiper salute. **The Cloister** offers rooms in the beautiful main building, by the beach club or fronting the ocean (room rates start at \$185 a night; seaisland.com).

NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS

Eighty-two-miles of Atlantic Ocean coastline, backed by dramatic cliffs and dotted with historic lighthouses and Cape Cod sea captain mansions, make up this idyllic New England haven. Born of the 19th-century whaling industry, the island's Colonial-era heritage, excellent food scene and array of upscale shopping and accommodations draw a sophisticated city crowd. Yet the place is far from fussy, with untouched natural wonders, a hearty island spirit and locals working to preserve a small-town feel.

WHAT TO DO: Explore the island's history at the Nantucket Whaling Museum and with visits to photo-worthy lighthouses like Brant Point Light (opened in 1746 and still in operation) and Sankaty Head Light (built in 1850). Seek out your favorite beach (Madaket is best for sunset views and long walks in the sand), head out on a sailing trip in the Harbor or bike to Cisco Brewery and Nantucket Winery for a tour, tasting, and live music. There are also plenty of festivals to enjoy year-round, including ones highlighting the seafaring heritage, or the cranberry and seafood seasons. Whatever you do, just be sure to work up an appetite: With farming roots that go back to the 1800s and a slew of signature seafood dishes, Nantucket's food scene is drawing a new generation of chefs and foodies.



A shot of Lanai's Sweetheart Rock.

NIIHUA, A PRIVATE HAWAIIAN ISLAND OFF THE COAST OF **KAUAI**, HAS BEEN OWNED BY THE SAME FAMILY SINCE 1864 AND IS ONLY ACCESSIBLE VIA EXCLUSIVE HELICOPTER TOURS.

WHERE TO STAY: Speaking of food, the charming 32-room, four-cottage **The Wauwinet Hotel** is home to the popular Topper's restaurant, where the marquee ocean-to-table seafood experience features oysters cultivated just 300 yards from where you can savor them. In the fall, the hotel offers classes in lobstering (room rates start at \$195 a night; wauwinet.com). One of the newer additions, **Hotel Pippa** marries contemporary flair, mid-century modern style and luxe amenities in its 17 rooms and suites, which are adorned with works by local artists. Start your day with a complimentary continental breakfast; end it with a drink at the lobby Petrichor Wine Bar (room rates start at \$299 a night; hotelpippa.com).

LANAI, HAWAII

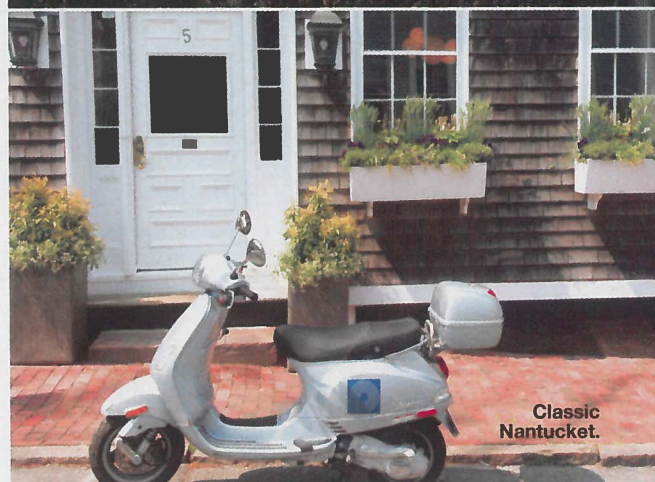
Visiting the smallest inhabited island in Hawaii is like stepping back in time. Just nine miles from Maui, this former pineapple plantation island (where the 18th-century King Kamehameha spent his summers) recalls vintage Hawaii—thanks in large part to the fact that there's just one main town. In the past few years, tech billionaire Larry Ellison (owner of nearly the entirety of Lanai) has upgraded the island's facilities and two main resorts, resulting in a luxe hideaway.

WHAT TO DO: Lanai's topography is wildly diverse. There are beautiful beaches and dazzling bays, rugged red rock terrain, lush plains, valleys and forests. Hike through eucalyptus- and pine-tree-lined Munro Trail or go horseback riding through ironwood forests. With only 30 miles of paved road, North Lanai's raw terrain is best explored by 4-by-4. Off-road to the lunar-looking Garden of the Gods, to Shipwreck Beach to see a stranded vessel or to secluded Polihua Beach for some sandy alone time. Snorkeling and swimming is tops off the southern Hulope and Manele Bays.

WHERE TO STAY: The island's two hotels are operated by Four Seasons—though they couldn't be more different. The coastal **Four Seasons Resort Lanai** houses 213 redesigned guest rooms, each with a contemporary decor and high-tech touches (like wristband keys). Dining options include the award-winning Nobu Lanai, organic, locally sourced fare at Malibu Farm and steaks and seafood at One Forty. Play a round at the Jack Nicklaus Signature Manele Golf Course, try aerial yoga, indulge in side-by-side Hawaiian rituals in the spa or just relax on the private white sand beach or around the lagoon-style pools. In the highlands, sister property The Lodge at Koele is undergoing a total transformation, and is set to open in 2019 (room rates start at \$1,150 a night; fourseasons.com). ■



A pretty pool on Sea Island.



Classic Nantucket.



Mission Point Resort on Mackinac.