



The Coco Palm Dhuni
Khoi resort and
(below) Bohu Hithi



from-it-all-on-a-tropical-island-paradise fantasy, Hollywood-style, with cocktail and canapé in hand.

Just when I thought I'd forgotten what a horizon looks like, our three nights at Dohni Kolhu were up, and it was time to board the seaplane for a half-hour flight back to the capital, Male, to be picked up by speedboat and taken to Coco Palm's newer property, Bohu Hithi. This island can only be described as 'omigod', closely followed by, 'it's amaaaazing'. Only hyperboles will do for the sheer luxury of it all.

We saw about four different jaw-droppers: turquoise water (sunbathing, sitting up on lounger); blue sky (sunbathing, lying on back); white sand (sunbathing, lying on stomach); Bounty-ad palm trees (sunbathed-out, heading to bar for a cocktail). Eventually, I got hold of a couple of masks and snorkels, waded in to my waist and suddenly I was in *Finding Nemo*. Snorkelling became our mutual obsession, drifting in the waters in front of our beach-front villa in-between visits to the restaurant or spa treatments with incredible Balinese therapists.

On the plane home, I asked Will what he thought was the highlight

of our honeymoon: 'No social interaction required and there was Sky Sports in the room... er, oh, and the fact that it was unadulterated you-and-me time'. Told you it was paradise.

WAY TO GO

Kuoni offers seven nights in the Maldives, from £1,582 per person. This includes three nights at Coco Palm Dhuni Kolhu and four at Coco Palm Bodu Hithi, both on a b&b basis, including flights and transfers. Call 01306 747 004, or visit kuoniworldclass.co.uk.

NEED TO KNOW

When to go: August to April.

Don't miss: Getting under the water. If you want to scuba dive and are a beginner, book a course in a local pool before you go, to get the boring classroom stuff out of the way. Go for a picnic for two on the sands, or strand yourselves for the afternoon on a deserted island – there are literally hundreds to choose from, and hotel staff will happily arrange it all, including parasols. Don't bring alcohol into the Maldives – it's a Muslim country, and your booze will be confiscated at the airport.

Romancing the globe

Honeymoon hot spots for perfect getaways

Best for LUXURIOUS

WINTER SUN: You can speedboat or paraglide into Oman's Six Senses Hideaway Zighy Bay (sixsenses.com). Set on the dramatic Musandam Peninsula, this is a villa-only resort. And what villas. Each gets a butler, infinity pool and a wine cellar. Seasons in Style offers seven nights, from £1,810 b&b, including flights and transfers. Visit seasonsinstyle.com.

Best for PARED-DOWN

CARIBBEAN CHIC: You'll have to wait for its October opening, but book now if you're a fan of enormous white-on-white rooms and private infinity pools. Antigua's Hodges Bay Club (hodgesbayclub.com) sits on one of the north shore's best beaches. There's also a fabulous spa. Rooms start at around £170 per night.

Best for PLAYING AT

ADAM & EVE: Not just unspoilt, but almost completely unexplored. Madagascar is like an enormous zoo, with over 200,000 plant and animal species, three quarters of which only exist here.

Accommodation tends towards eco-chic, and you'll need to be fairly active. Black Tomato offers a 12-day tour from £2,599 per person, including flights and all transfers. Call 020 7610 9008; blacktomato.co.uk.

Best for LIVING LIKE AN

A-LISTER: Parrot Cay is a private island comprised of little more than perfect beaches, an infinity pool surrounded by double sunloungers and a spa, where you may well see Demi Moore finessing a yoga asana. Don't miss the innovative facials at the Como Shambhala spa. Visit comoshambhala.bz.

Best for A STYLISH,

GREAT-VALUE SHORT HOP:

Cyprus' Almyra hotel is a funky boutique establishment in Paphos. The look is floor-to-ceiling windows to maximise sea views (though the beach isn't one of the island's best) and funky furniture. The newly opened Just Pure spa concentrates on organic products. ITC Classics offers one week, from £509 b&b, including flights. Call 01244 355 340, or visit itcclassics.co.uk.

CALL IN THE EXPERTS

● Weddings Abroad (weddingsabroad.com) has an international directory that puts you in touch with specialists, including tour operators in Australia and private air charter companies in Italy.

● Take Us To Thailand is run by two British girls, who know Koh Samui and Koh Tao backwards, and can organise everything, from the hen party to a reception on the beach. Visit takeustothailand.com.

● Tropical Sky (0870 9079 605; tropicalsky.co.uk) offers great-value options to white-sand destinations, like Barbados and Bali, plus beach-and-safari in South Africa and Kenya.

● Climb every mountain (or get hitched on a Ferris wheel in Vienna) with viennaweddings.co.uk.

● For legal advice (you don't want to end up like Jerry Hall and discover your Bali 'wedding' isn't legally binding in the UK), visit weddingchaos.co.uk.