



Serenity

Weddings, Honeymoons
& Special Occasions

The
Gambia
Experience

Cape
Verde
Experience

Goa
Experience


corsican
PLACES


sardinian
PLACES


sicilian
PLACES

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Weddings & Honeymoons

Congratulations on your forthcoming wedding and thank you for considering us to help arrange your special day or honeymoon. Whatever your budget and party size we can find a location that will make your occasion truly special.

In The Gambia you could take your vows overlooking the Atlantic Ocean at the luxurious Coco Ocean Resort & Spa, hire the boutique Ngala Lodge exclusively for your wedding party, or honeymoon in a floating lodge at Mandina or a unique tree house in a baobab tree in neighbouring Senegal. The Cape Verde islands and Goa are perfect for a relaxed beach holiday with many hotels in Goa offering spa treatments. In summer, the Mediterranean islands of Corsica, Sardinia & Sicily offer a wide range of hotels and self-catering properties in stunning locations, ideal for honeymoons.



Wedding List

We will give you a booking reference which you can pass on to friends and family to enable them to pay money into your account as their wedding gift to you. This can be used to pay off your honeymoon or put towards excursions, spa treatments and other extras.

Special Occasions

Are you looking to book a special holiday for yourself or a loved one to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion? Whatever the celebration, we have selected the best hotels in the best locations to make the event truly special. You will find brief details of what we believe to be the most luxurious and unique properties to ensure your celebration is memorable and will be happy to discuss your ideas to ensure your holiday is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.



The Gambia

The Gambia is a fantastic choice for a relaxed wedding and offers excellent value for money, enabling you and your guests to experience an unforgettable day without the expense of a wedding in the UK or other destinations abroad. That said, there are some incredible luxurious hotels and excellent facilities so if you do have a large budget it will go a long way in The Gambia.

From November right through to June the average temperature is in the low 30s, with 8-10 hours of sunshine a day and virtually no rainfall. Travel is easy too with flights around 6 hours, and as there is no time difference, you won't have any jet lag to contend with on your wedding day. There is a good choice of locations depending on your budget, party size and idea of a dream wedding: on the beach, in tropical gardens or on a clifftop overlooking the ocean.

Read more about the hotels and options available and speak with your travel agent to help you choose the ideal venue. To make your day truly unique we can arrange African dancers and musicians to entertain you and your guests, tropical flowers to decorate the venue and many other little touches (*additional charges apply*).





Coco Ocean

Resort & Spa *Luxury Boutique*

One of the most luxurious hotels in The Gambia with a stunning beachfront location, sumptuous surroundings and an excellent spa facility.

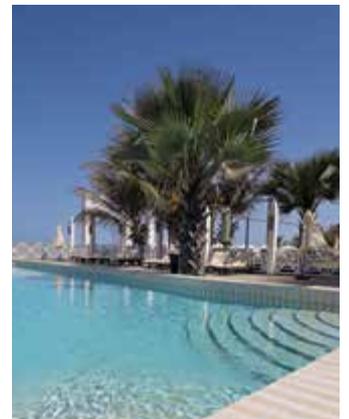
This hotel has arranged a number of weddings from simple ceremonies for just the wedding couple to large parties for over 300 people. The hotel's wedding co-ordinator will discuss your ideas and tailor the day to suit you. There is a wide range of suites to choose from; possibly the most romantic accommodation for a honeymoon couple would be one of the three beach houses which sit directly on the beachfront.

Each wedding/honeymoon couple receives a complimentary 30 minute treatment in the hotel's luxurious spa.

Ask your travel agent for more information.

“With its acres of exquisite gardens, striking Moorish domes and arches, and spacious, cool and contemporary rooms, the Coco Ocean is the only place to stay on The Gambia's Atlantic coast.”

OLIVER SMITH, Daily Telegraph





Ngala Lodge

Luxury Boutique

A small, luxurious boutique hotel with just 24 suites situated on a clifftop overlooking the Atlantic Ocean.

The spacious tropical gardens provide a romantic setting for a wedding of any size and if booked far enough in advance, it is possible to book the whole property for you and your guests. The clifftop restaurant serves excellent international cuisine and the emphasis throughout this property is on personal service. There is a 'no children' policy at Ngala Lodge (unless you hire the whole property), ensuring peace and tranquillity throughout the extensive grounds. For somewhere extra special for your wedding night, we recommend the Atlantic Suites with their private Jacuzzis or the Macondo suites with stunning sea views (some with plunge pool).

Ask your travel agent for more information.

“Ngala Lodge is simply one of the most charming places I've ever visited. Intimate and private, it feels like a secret only a handful of travellers have been lucky enough to discover.”

JAMES ROBINSON, *The Guardian*





The Kairaba



The Kairaba is one of the most popular hotels in The Gambia, long established with spacious, tranquil grounds and a prime location in the country's largest resort, Kololi, with many restaurants, bars and shops close by.

The pretty bougainvillea-filled gardens provide an exotic setting for your wedding service. Deluxe and upgraded rooms enjoy tranquil surroundings overlooking the garden and there is a beauty salon for any last-minute pampering.

Each couple celebrating their wedding or honeymoon receives a fruit basket and flowers.

Ask your travel agent for more information.

“A delightful hotel, wonderful ambience, excellent restaurants and great staff.”

MR WILLIS, West Midlands





Kombo Beach Hotel ❁❁❁

A popular, lively hotel in a beachfront setting which provides inexpensive accommodation for wedding couples and their guests.

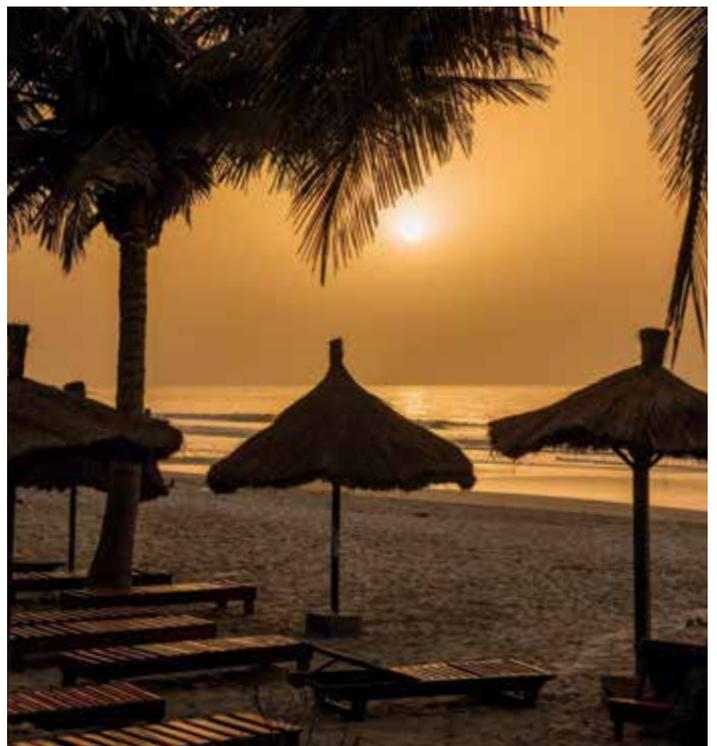
The hotel's terrace, directly on Kotu beach, provides a romantic setting for the service and the hotel's restaurants can cater to any party's needs. This is a good choice for couples travelling with children as there is a children's play area, organised pool games and studio accommodation with kitchen facilities. The beachside wine bar is one of the best locations in The Gambia to watch the sun set over the ocean.

Each couple celebrating their wedding or honeymoon receives a complimentary bottle of wine and flowers.

Ask your travel agent for more information.

“ I love the ambience of Kombo Beach – comfortable air-conditioned rooms, beautifully manicured gardens, great food and plenty to do. The relaxing beachside location and genuine warmth of the welcome keeps me coming back for more. ”

TONY KNIGHT, Compass Magazine





Senegambia Hotel 🌸🌸🌸🌸

The Gambia's largest hotel is set in twenty acres of tropical gardens in the popular resort of Kololi.

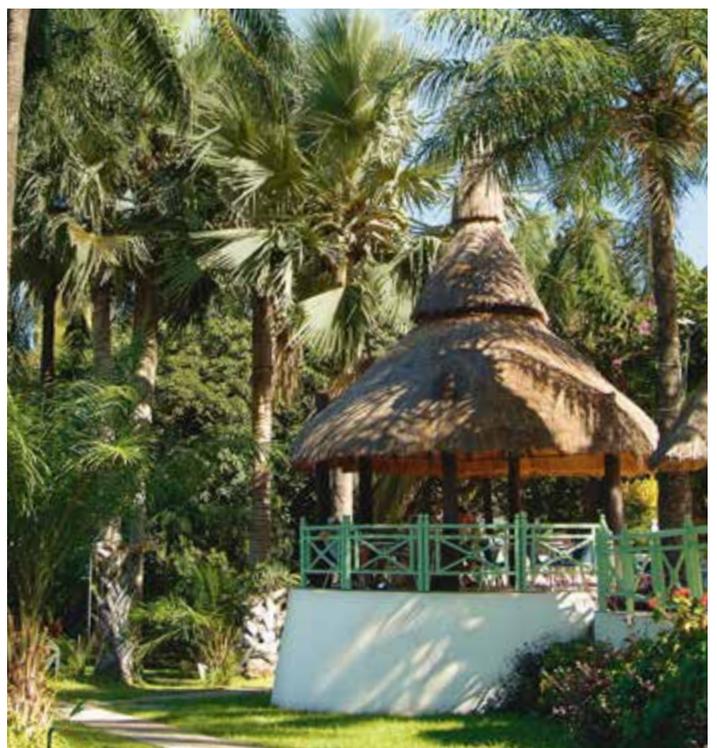
The colourful gardens, which attract a variety of birdlife, provide the ideal location for a wedding ceremony and the accompanying birdsong could be the perfect backdrop to your vows. The Senegambia is another good choice for couples travelling with children or in larger groups as this is a lively hotel with many activities aimed at adults, teenagers and children alike. There is a choice of bars and restaurants within the hotel and there are many more bars, restaurants and shops right on the hotel's doorstep.

Each couple celebrating their wedding or honeymoon receives a complimentary bottle of sparkling wine and flowers.

Ask your travel agent for more information.

“ We had our wedding at the Senegambia and couldn't have had a more memorable, special day anywhere. Many thanks to all concerned – hotel staff and The Gambia Experience. ”

MR & MRS WHITE, Bristol





Our favourite
Honeymoon
locations

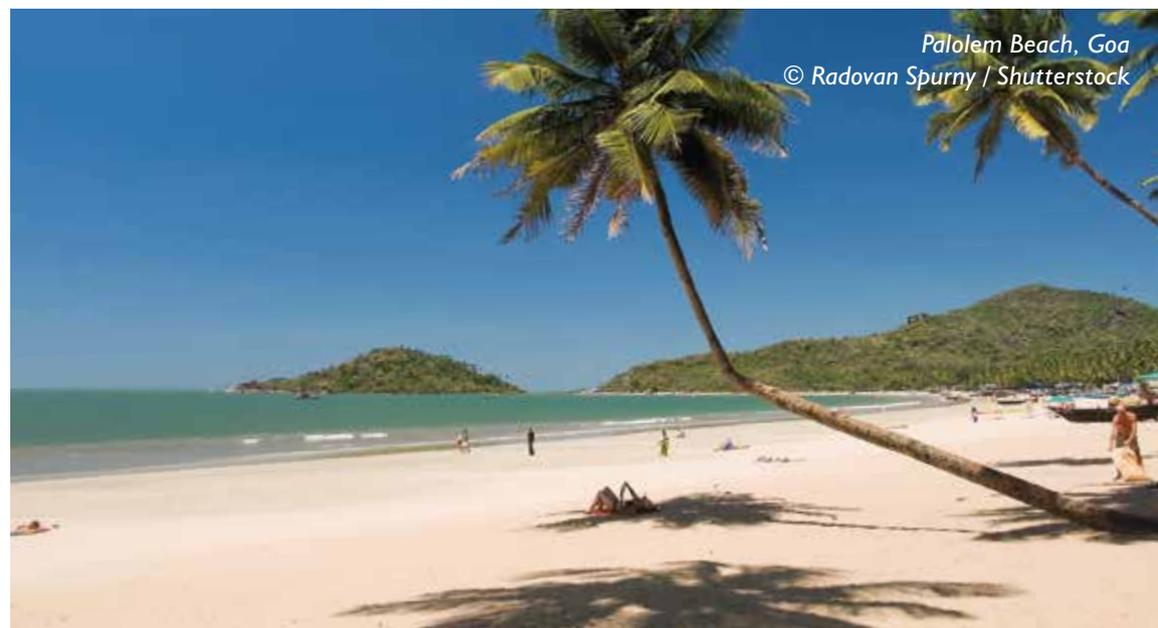
L'Île Rousse, Corsica



North East Sardinia



Mandina Lodges, The Gambia



Palolem Beach, Goa
© Radovan Spurny / Shutterstock



Mandina Lodges



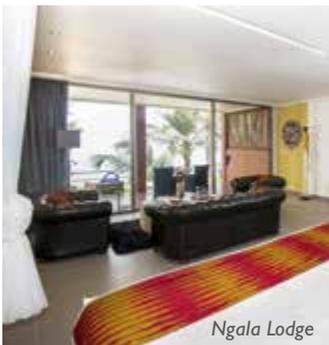
The Gambia

As a honeymoon destination, The Gambia offers a wide range of accommodation to suit all tastes – whether you’re looking for complete relaxation and luxury, or a unique cultural experience you won’t forget.

Our favourite locations for a honeymoon are:

- **Macondo Pool Suite at Ngala Lodge**
LUXURY BOUTIQUE – with your own private plunge pool on the terrace overlooking the gardens and ocean.
- **Floating lodge at Mandina Lodge in Makasutu Forest**
LUXURY UNIQUE – sleep in a four-poster bed in a unique lodge floating on the river in the heart of the African bush. Wake up to the sound of the dawn chorus, the baboons playing in the forest and in the evening dine under the breathtaking, uninterrupted night sky. We particularly recommend this as a twin centre option.
- **Beach House at Coco Ocean Resort & Spa**
LUXURY – relaxing spa treatments, à la carte cuisine and luxurious surroundings beside the beach.
- **Leo’s Beach Hotel**
LUXURY BOUTIQUE – a boutique hotel with only six suites in an elevated position just 200m from the beach. The restaurant here serves wonderful à la carte cuisine.
- **White Horse Residence**
LUXURY BOUTIQUE – a small hotel to the south of the resort areas, very tranquil with personal service.

Ask your travel agent for more information.



Ngala Lodge



Coco Ocean Resort & Spa



Leo’s Beach Hotel



White Horse Residence

Simply call 0800 083 3098 or email message@sapphireadventures.com | |



Cape Verde

An excellent year-round climate makes the islands of Cape Verde a good honeymoon choice at any time of year. The stunning sandy beaches, water sports, diving, breathtaking scenery and charm of the islands attract honeymooners looking for either complete relaxation or an active holiday; plus there's the opportunity for a once in a lifetime experience of whale watching or visiting turtle nesting beaches. Each island has its own unique character and attractions and our experts will be able to help you choose the ideal holiday for you, however to experience the diversity of the archipelago we recommend an island-hopping or multi-centre itinerary.

Our favourite honeymoon options are:

- **Mountains & Beaches Island Hopping** – stay on the islands of Santiago, São Vicente, Sal and maybe add a day trip to the rugged island of Santo Antão, arguably the most beautiful in the archipelago.

- **Iberostar Club Boa Vista**
 – this all-inclusive resort offers an excellent standard of accommodation overlooking one of the finest beaches in Cape Verde. There is a wide range of facilities including swimming pool, restaurants, four bars, spa and evening entertainment.

- **Executive Rooms at Hotel Morabeza**
 – possibly the best rooms in Cape Verde in a family-run hotel next to Santa Maria beach.

- **Hilton**
 – add a touch of luxury and style to your romantic escape, making use of the hotel's remarkable range of facilities as you relax beside the sands of Santa Maria Beach.

[Ask your travel agent for more information.](#)





Domaine les Paletuviers

Senegal

Although we don't currently offer weddings in Senegal, it is an unforgettable destination for a honeymoon or other special occasion. The Sine Saloum Delta is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and an area of natural beauty and great diversity where you will discover beautiful birdlife and picturesque beaches, mangrove swamps and sand islands, great baobab trees and a labyrinth of waterways.

Our favourite honeymoon options are:

- **Fathala Wildlife Reserve**

LUXURY UNIQUE – Luxurious safari tents and excellent service are among the treats at this unique property just two and a half hours from Banjul. Large animals including rhino, giraffes, giant derby eland, buffalo, wathogs and monkeys roam free within the reserve. The restaurant serves quality cuisine and there is also a plunge pool to cool off at the end of the day.

All prices for holidays in Senegal include flights to Banjul and resort transfers

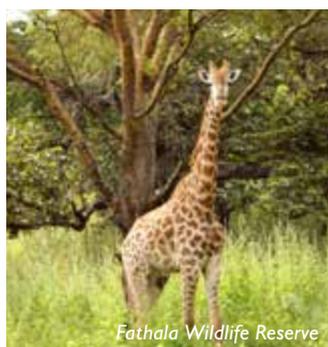
- **Baobab Suite at Domaine les Paletuviers**

🌿🌿🌿 – Enjoying a quiet and tranquil environment, perfect for relaxing and up the stunning sights and sounds of the sea, consider experiencing 7 nights in the Baobab Suite at Domaine les Paletuviers, a stunning treehouse allowing you to sleep amongst the branches of a baobab tree.

Ask your travel agent for more information.



Domaine les Paletuviers



Fathala Wildlife Reserve



Domaine les Paletuviers



Fathala Wildlife Reserve



Goa

Imagine an evening candlelit dinner for two in an exclusive beach cabana, relaxing with some time-honoured Indian therapies, strolling along a near deserted beach, unwinding in a luxurious 5 🌿 Deluxe hotel, hiding away in a boutique retreat in the Goan jungle or overnight on a house boat... This could be your honeymoon in Goa.

Our favourite honeymoon options are:

- **Ahilya by the Sea**

LUXURY BOUTIQUE – Opt for 7 nights Bed & Breakfast in a luxury room at Ahilya by the Sea, and benefit from a beautiful, private and serene escape in an authentic hotel that boasts everything from infinity pools to spa facilities.

- **Nilaya Hermitage**

LUXURY BOUTIQUE – 13 individual guest rooms make up this enchanting getaway, set on a hillside deep in the Goan jungle. Enjoy treatments at the Ayurvedic spa or make use of the meditation room to totally escape from the stresses of everyday life.

- **Park Hyatt Goa Resort & Spa**

🌿🌿🌿🌿🌿 **DELUXE** – the elegant sea view rooms overlook the manicured lawns and out towards the Arabian sea. With 45 acres of landscaped gardens, one of the largest free-form pools in India and a long stretch of empty beach, guests can always find a slice of paradise all on their own.

- **The Leela**

🌿🌿🌿🌿🌿 **DELUXE** – the exclusive Club suites in the Club wing offer guests their own private hideaway with exclusive use of a separate swimming pool, plus service from The Club's butler.

Ask your travel agent for more information.





L'Île Rousse beach



Corsica

Corsica is also known as the 'Island of Beauty' and for good reason; it is a stunning island which is largely untouched and unspoilt with a green mountainous interior and pretty sandy beaches. If you choose to honeymoon on the island you'll be in good company; it has long been the choice of the rich and famous. Prince Rainier of Monaco brought his bride Princess Grace to Calvi for their honeymoon, as did Richard Burton when he married Elizabeth Taylor and in 2010 Alicia Keys chose Corsica as the location for her wedding to Swizz Beatz.

Our favourite honeymoon options are:

- **Deluxe Sea View Room at Hôtel la Villa 5*** – this is the most stylish hotel in the north of Corsica with a reserved section of Calvi beach for guests.
- **Superior Room with Sea View at Hôtel U Capu Biancu 4*** – you'll be able to completely unwind at this hotel which is in a secluded spot with spectacular views across the Gulf of Santa Manza.
- **La Petite Citaj** – enjoy a tranquil and romantic escape to la Petite Citaj, a beautifully renovated townhouse in the heart of St Florent, promising a serene escape.
- **Casa Acciani** – A stunning contemporary villa for two, enjoy a 7-night stay at Casa Acciani, blessed by breathtaking sea views and a wonderfully inviting private pool.

Ask your travel agent for more information.





Santa Giusta beach



Sardinia

The Italian island of Sardinia attracts many of the world's rich and famous each year and once you've been you'll understand why. There are some fabulous white sandy beaches lapped by clear turquoise waters with impressive yachts in the marinas; the mountainous interior is beautiful and you can dine on excellent cuisine in the many restaurants and 'agriturismi' (farm-based restaurants). There is a good choice of luxurious hotels as well as villas and apartments if you would prefer greater independence.

Here are our favourite honeymoon locations:

- **Classic Room at Hotel Capo d'Orso Thalasso & Spa 5*** – honeymooners receive 3 free entrances to the wellness centre, a boat excursion and a typical Sardinian silver wedding ring for the bride.
- **Casa Angelica** – a country retreat with a large pool and only a short drive from Alghero.
- **Classic Room at Hotel Stella Maris 4*** – a romantic choice with direct access to the dazzling beach of Campulongu.
- **Standard room at Hotel Villa Las Tronas 5*** – a unique hotel standing on its own promontory and offering breathtaking sea views.

Ask your travel agent for more information.



Hotel Capo d'Orso



Casa Angelica



Hotel Stella Maris



Hotel Villa Las Tronas



sicilian
PLACES

Giardini-Naxos © K.Roy Zerloch / Shutterstock

Sicily

Nowhere is quite like Sicily! With its long hot summers and a tantalising mix of historic cities, medieval towns, superb food, archaeological sites, Mount Etna, golden sandy beaches and clear aquamarine waters, the stunning natural beauty of Sicily will surprise and delight you. There is a fantastic choice of large luxurious and smaller boutique hotels to choose from.

Our favourite honeymoon options are:

- **The Ashbee 5*** – A beautifully designed hotel in Taormina set in luxurious surroundings, with truly stunning views along the coast.
- **Grand Hotel Villa Igiea 5*** – Offering incredible waterfront luxury amid beautiful, historic gardens and Art Nouveau architecture, book a memorable 7-night stay at Grand Hotel Villa Igiea, with its superb culinary scene, endless list of facilities and superb location for exploring the romantic coast of Northern Sicily.
- **Grand Hotel Minareto 5*** – A luxury hotel with stunning views toward the fabled island of Ortigia. The hotel is stylish and contemporary and the service second to none.
- **Verdura Resort 5*** – The Rocco Forte Verdura Resort is a prestigious and well-established gem offering fabulous facilities and excellent service on the southern coast of Sicily.

Ask your travel agent for more information.



The Ashbee



Villa Igiea



Grand Hotel Minareto



Verdura Resort



© infinity21 / Shutterstock



Wedding requirements in The Gambia

After arrival at your hotel, one of our resort staff will make arrangements to meet with you and talk through the arrangements for your wedding day.

Wedding Prices

The basic costs for any wedding in The Gambia are £250* for the arrangement fee plus £345 for the registrar which should be paid at the time of booking – this includes a UK based wedding co-ordinator to plan your day, the ceremony and wedding license and a member of staff in The Gambia to assist you with arrangements. There are additional costs for an air-conditioned taxi to Banjul to swear your oaths: £25 plus the Registrar's call out fee of £35 – both of which should be paid locally in The Gambia.

Optional Extras

Your travel agent will tailor the wedding to suit your desires, budget and party size, however here are some approximate prices of optional extras to help you.

Wedding cake: £80 - £150 (depending on size and type)

Bouquet: £55 - £70 (depending on size)

Button holes: £15 each

Photographs: DVD of photos £100, prints £1 each

DVD: £110 for filming of the ceremony, per DVD

Music: approximately £200 for a band – 3 hours

African dancers: £85

All prices are valid in August 2017, but are subject to change. *Based on 6+ party size

Further Information

Your wedding will be a civil ceremony similar to one in a registry office and is recognised under British law. You do not need to register your marriage again in the UK. Please bear in mind that The Gambian culture is a very laid-back one, wedding ceremonies are not elaborate and will be a simple ceremony arranged by the Minister of Justice. You will need two witnesses for the ceremony (two of our resort staff will be happy to be there for you if required) and you will need to be in the country for at least three days before the ceremony can take place.

Please don't forget to take the following original documents with you to the Registrar's Office:

- Passports
- Birth Certificates
- Passport photographs (1 per person) and if appropriate
- Decrees Absolute
- Death certificates

We do advise that you dress appropriately for this visit (long trousers rather than shorts and perhaps a dress for the bride-to-be), as it is likely that there will be other couples waiting to get married.

AITO Charter

Exclusive membership

AITO sets criteria regarding ownership, finance and quality which must be satisfied before new companies are admitted to membership. All members are required to adhere to a Code of Business Practice which encourages high operational standards and conduct.

Financial security

An AITO member is required to arrange financial protection for all holidays and other arrangements (including accommodation only) booked by customers with the member under the AITO logo. This financial protection applies to customers who are resident in the UK at the time of booking and to most overseas customers who have booked directly with the member. In doing so, the member must comply with UK government regulations. Members are required to submit details of their financial protection arrangements to AITO on a regular basis

Accurate brochure & websites

All members do their utmost to ensure that all their brochures and other publications, print or electronic, clearly and accurately describe the holidays and services offered.

Professional service & continual improvements

All members are committed to high standards of service and believe in regular and thorough training of employees. Members continually seek to review and improve their holidays. They listen to their customers and always welcome suggestions for improving standards.

Monitoring standards

AITO endeavours to monitor quality standards regularly.

All customers should receive a post-holiday questionnaire the results of which are scrutinised by the Association.

Sustainable tourism

All members acknowledge the importance of AITO's Sustainable Tourism guidelines, which recognise the social, economic and environmental responsibilities of tour operating.

Customer relations

All members endeavour to deal swiftly and fairly with any issues their customers may raise. In the unlikely event that a dispute between an AITO member and a customer cannot be settled amicably, AITO's low-cost Independent Dispute Settlement Service may be called upon by either side to bring the matter to a speedy and acceptable conclusion.

Serenity Holidays is a member of the Association of Independent Tour Operators.

To contact the Association, visit www.aito.com or call 020 8744 9280.



How to Book

To find out more or to book:

telephone 0800 083 3098

email message@sapphireadventures.com

This wedding guide should be read in conjunction with one or more of Serenity Holiday's brochures: The Gambia & Senegal Experience, The Cape Verde Experience, The Goa Experience, Corsican Places, Sardinian Places & Sicilian Places. Please refer to the terms and conditions in the relevant brochure or website. The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is 1866. Please see our Fair Trading Charter for more information. We are also members of ABTA and AITO.

ABTOT Charter

As a member of the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT), Serenity Holidays has provided a bond to meet the requirements of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992. In the event of Serenity Holidays insolvency, protection is provided for non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK and other non-flight packages excluding pre-arranged travel to and from your destination. Please note that packages booked outside the UK are only protected when purchased directly with Serenity Holidays.

In the above circumstances, if you have not yet travelled you may claim a refund, or if you have already travelled, you may claim repatriation to the starting point of your non-flight package.



Simply call 0800 083 3098 or email message@sapphireadventures.com 19