

# romantic relaxation

Even after you've returned from your vacation — when squabbles over who will cook dinner and pick up the dry cleaning resume — one glance at the snapshots will take you back to that ocean breeze and snap of the canopy. Here are a few secluded locales to consider when planning a romantic rendezvous.

By Julie Andrews

## BERMUDA

9 Beaches

Opened in 2005 on the western tip of Bermuda, this paradise is composed of 84 secluded cabanas with French doors, all hoisted on stilts and constructed of aluminum frames covered by soft-sided fabric. Some of the airy, tent-like cabanas are perched right on the water, linked by a wooden planked boardwalk, while others poke out from the hillside of the peninsula. There is no telephone connection in the rooms, although guests do receive a Bermuda-only cell phone to order Dark and Stormies (*Goslings* Rum and ginger beer) from roving sundries carts. At check-in, ask for an iPod shuffle to rock the night away.

The property spans 18 waterfront acres across nine champagne-pink swaths of sand, ideal for romantic ambling. If you decide to leave your room, lounge about the outdoor pool, play tennis, use the fitness room, ride bikes, or rent scooters to flit about the area. Horseback riding along the sun-drenched coast is also an option. When you've worked up an appetite, choose from three dining areas or grab dinner entrées in the main building. For a prime spot on the property, request one of cabanas 24 through 84.

### The Nitty Gritty

**When:** Available Nov. 1 to Jan 2.

**Cost:** Room rates from \$170 after Nov. 1st (includes breakfast buffet)

\*Plus additional 7.25 tax and 15% gratuity tax

**Where:** 4 Daniels Head Road, Sandys Parish, Bermuda

**Contact:** [9beaches.com](http://9beaches.com); 441.239.2999  
Through the holidays, you can book a six day, five night romance package that includes:

Choice of Top Banana, Aqua Vista, Sea Forever, or Coco Coral cabanas; roundtrip transfers to and from the airport; daily breakfast; bottle of champagne; dinner for two at Hi Tide restaurant; 30-minute, in-room massage; a picnic lunch to take to any romantic spot at 9 Beaches; matching 9 Beaches robes and flip-flops.

All-inclusive romance package:

**Where:** Cambridge Beaches, 30 Kings Point Road, Sandys, Bermuda  
Deluxe Suite for five nights from \$2,149 per person; private dinner for two on the beach; One Ocean Spa Couples candlelight massage; daily breakfast in room; champagne upon arrival; use of fitness center and spa  
**Contact:** Call 800.635.1333

## CANCUN

*Secrets Capri Riviera*

This tropical locale is made for those who love a little adventure. The barrier reef adjacent to the resort grounds — the second largest in the world — offers a bevy of mysterious caves, lush jungles, and hidden rivers. If you're in search of a bit of his and hers time before nightfall, enjoy some free putting at the Cancun Golf Club, a splash in the

pool, or a visit to the full-service spa offering over 30 restorative treatments to wash away any and all stresses harbored within. When the trekking is done, you can relax your muscles by ordering a bottle of champagne from 24-hour room service to sip on as you float in the bubbling whirlpool jacuzzi on your balcony. After the soak, fall asleep in the four poster inside.

**TIP:** Ready to tie the knot? Ask about the complimentary wedding package.

### The Nitty Gritty

**When:** The Unlimited Luxury package is always available, but the prices vary by season.

**Cost:** High season runs from the end of Nov. through the end of April with room rates for the luxury suites at approximately \$1,332 per night, including airport transfers, all meals, drinks, and snacks. Expect room rates of about \$834 per night during low season.

**Where:** Quintana Roo, Mexico C.P.

**Contact:** [secretsresorts.com](http://secretsresorts.com);  
1.866.gosecrets (467.32.7387)

All-inclusive romance package:

Paradisus Hotel: Playa de Bávaro, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic  
Royal Service promotion starts at \$400 per night for two; garden view and oceanfront suites; personal butlers throughout your stay; breakfast and lunch in one exclusive Royal Service restaurant; access to a private beach and pool; personalized mini-bar; delivery of pillow from pillow menu.  
**Contact:** 866.43.MELIA ■