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This Way to Nowhere

No Internet, no TV, no phone, no nothing: a dozen dream destinations for a truly off-the-radar honeymoon.

BY FIORELLA VALDESOLO

five acres share one impressive feature: a mind-blowing view of the postcard-perfect ocean and surrounding jungle. Spend your days hopping from one watery retreat to another: the swimming hole at **Quimixto**, the rushing waterfalls at **Tecumata**, or the nearby **Marietas Islands**, where you may spot sea turtles, giant manta rays, and the elusive blue-footed booby.

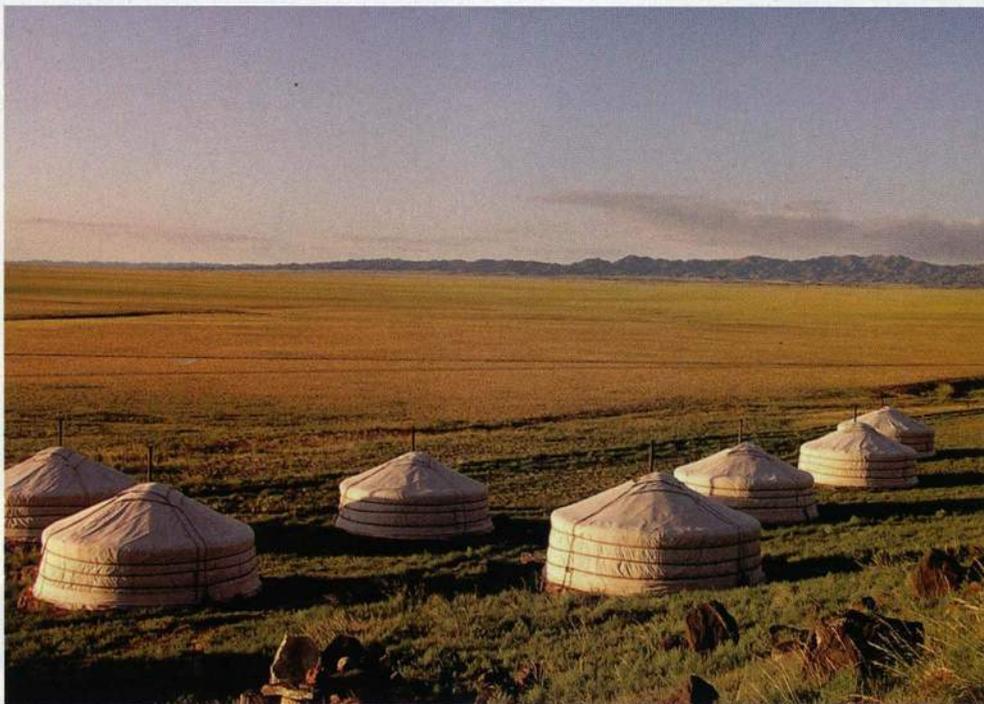
📶 **Verana** has intermittent cell service, but no TV. For a Wi-Fi fix, the property's restaurant and bar offers a connection.



🇻🇨 Petit St. Vincent

➡ Those with fantasies of escaping to a private isle adore **Petit St. Vincent**, which is as far from the mega-resorts of the Caribbean as you can get (both literally and figuratively). To reach the 115-acre island cum resort (from \$1,100; petitstvincent.com) in the **Grenadines archipelago**, fly to Barbados, take a 50-minute flight to Union Island, and then a 20-minute boat ride. The island has strict policies to keep the ambience idyllic: that means no TVs, Wi-Fi, or even room keys. The 22 cottages are plush and airy, some with outdoor daybeds overlooking the water, perfect for sunbathing or enjoying a private yoga session. Even the communication here is old-school. Raise the yellow flag up your cottage's bamboo flagpole, and a staff member suddenly materializes; raise the red one, and no one will dare disrupt your alone time. Book a tropics-inspired *Island Haze* massage at the tiny spa; have a sailboat carry you to the nearby islands of **Mayreau**, **Cariacou**, and the **Tobago Cays** for lunch and snorkeling; or just park it beachside and revel in your seclusion.

📶 For those desperate for a tech fix, there is a Balinese carved-wood daybed near the main office where you can pick up a wireless signal.



Three Camel Lodge, Mongolia



🇹🇶 Fafá Island, Tonga

➡ This unspoiled archipelago (170-odd islets in total) in the South Pacific is isolation embodied—its coral atolls, palm forests, and cerulean waters are the stuff of dreams. Start your *Blue Lagoon* fantasy on Tonga's **Fafá Island**, which takes

three flights, plus a 30-minute sailboat ride, to access. Just north of **Nuku'alofa**, Tonga's capital, awaits the Instagram-perfect **Fafá Island Resort** (from \$235; fafaislandresort.com)—and nothing else. Check into one of the thirteen traditional *fales*

(thatched-roof huts), each with its own outdoor shower and private flower garden. Paddleboard around the perimeter, snorkel close to shore or at one of the neighboring uninhabited islands, or arrange a fishing tour, after which the resort's chef will prepare your catch.

📶 There are no TVs or cell service, but there is an Internet connection (albeit a very slow one) available in the bar.

🇲🇳 Mongolia

➡ Tourism has never been a big industry in Mongolia, but the government aims to attract one million visitors annually by 2015. And while the capital of **Ulaanbaatar** has seen some new fashionable hotels—a Shangri-La will break ground this year—it's the remote grasslands of the countryside and vast **Gobi Desert** that are the real draws for those seeking sublime detachment. The **Three Camel Lodge** (from \$180 per person; threecamellodge.com) is a cluster of 50 rustic *gers* (traditional felt-and-canvas nomad tents; spring for a deluxe version to get a private bath-



Far Meadow, Yosemite

room), nestled beside the Gobi Altai Mountains in the desert's **Gurvan Saikhan National Park**. Each has a south-facing door (a Mongolian practice) and wood-burning stove. Spend daylight hours taking in the Gobi's natural marvels—examine ancient petroglyphs or dinosaur fossils at **Flaming Cliffs**, hike the mountain's peaks and valleys, go on a trek by horse or camel, or get schooled in Mongolian cooking techniques at the lodge's **Bulagtai restaurant**, which uses produce grown in the on-site greenhouse. Evenings are reserved for quiet stargazing: The solar-powered property's lights are turned out at 11 P.M. sharp.

📶 This is as off-the-grid as you can get—no TVs, Wi-Fi, cell service, or even phones (only satellite). The closest place to reconnect is at the **Dalanzadgad Hotel**, which is 90 minutes away by car.

🇮🇱 Negev Desert

➡➡ This massive Israeli dust bowl contains little more than the odd military base, camel, Bedouin village, and ... a burgeoning wine country? Retreat amid the grapevines and olive trees at the **Boker Valley Vineyard Farm** (from \$150; bokerfarm.com). Built fifteen years ago along an old incense-trade route, the B&B (which serves a traditional Israeli breakfast) comprises four simple honeymooner cabins, each with views of the surrounding valley and hammock-strewn patios. Hike or bike the desert, take a dip in the

nearby **Zin Valley springs**, and contemplate the staggering natural wonder that is **Makhtesh Ramon**, one of the world's largest erosion craters. The on-site wine shop offers ample opportunity to pick up local varietals.

📶 There are no TVs, and cell service is spotty at **Boker Valley**, but there's Wi-Fi in the wine shop. Cabins have iPod docking stations for in-room music.

🇺🇸 Yosemite, California

➡➡ About three-and-a-half hours and a world apart from San Francisco are the majestic mountains, lush valleys, and crystalline lakes of Yosemite National Park. Long a destination for family road-trippers, California's exalted **High Sierras** also offer many options for nature-bound seclusion. On twenty acres of private land are the four houses that make up **Far Meadow** (from \$220; far-meadow.com/california-cabin-rentals). Choose from a cozy tree-house-style one-bedroom cottage with a large deck; an old-school log cabin with a wood-burning stove and a deck with built-in barbecue; or two sunny A-frames, one with a Japanese soaking tub and both with outdoor fire pits. Rock climb, take advantage of the complimentary mountain bikes, go for a dip in one of the many lakes, hike the myriad surrounding trails, or just kick back and relax *chez vous*.

📶 There are no TVs, and cell service is patchy, but satellite Internet allows for very basic web usage.



🇸🇩 Okavango Delta, Botswana

➡➡ In this less-traversed part of southern Africa, safarigoers set their sights on the iconic "big five," particularly elephants. Northern Botswana happens to have more of these long-trunked mammals per square mile than any other place on the continent. There is no shortage of them at **Abu Camp** (from \$1,916 per person, all-inclusive; abucamp.com), a 450,000-acre private game reserve located in the dewy western **Okavango Delta**. The six tented suites each have luxe outdoor copper tubs for soaking en plein air; plus decks overlooking a lagoon where

hippos can be spotted at play. Days here are full: Walk alongside or ride Abu's beloved elephants; embark on game drives to see impalas, zebras, buffalos, giraffes, spotted hyenas, and leopards; laze around the pool; and enjoy quiet sundowners by the campfire. One evening, make sure to reserve the "star bed," an elevated mosquito-netted platform where you can doze off with the stars flickering above and an elephant herd grazing below.

📶 There are no TVs or phone service at this solar-powered property, but a limited Wi-Fi signal is available in its library.