



HONEYMOON HOTSPOT

CYPRUS



If you don't fancy the idea of a long-haul honeymoon, this hip destination makes a gorgeous getaway

Why go?

Also known as 'The island of Aphrodite' – the goddess of love – Cyprus has long been linked with romance. It's only around four-and-a-half hours from London and boasts something to suit all tastes. Night owls will adore the party vibe in Ayia Napa, culture vultures can discover historical delights in Paphos, and beach lovers will find stunning spots along the coastline. After this year's dismal summer back in Blighty, you may also be glad to hear the average daily sunshine in Cyprus ranges from around six hours in December to 12.5 hours in July (so pack that sunscreen!).

Where to stay

For a little slice of honeymoon paradise, head to the Azia Resort and Spa (www.aziaresort.com) in Paphos. Combining three hotels within its gorgeous grounds – The Azia Blue, The Azia Club and Spa, and The Residence (closed for a revamp at time of press) – this is the perfect place to ease

into wedded bliss. The resort epitomises barefoot glamour with tastefully decorated rooms, but for the ultimate in indulgence, book a suite with your very own Jacuzzi. Further pampering treats can be found in the Asphodel Spa (an Elemis spa). Our writer tried the Stress-a-Way massage, from CYP45 (around £52) for 60 minutes, which would soothe away any remaining traces of pre-wedding tension.

Continue the relaxation by the picturesque outdoor pool area, complete with funky swim-up bar.

There's also an indoor pool, gym, tennis and table tennis, as well as a small sandy area just across from the main pool with extra loungers. (However, true beach babes may want to take the short drive up to Coral Bay, where you'll find a longer stretch of sand). Azia also offers some romantic restaurants to whet your appetite and there are lots of great places to eat in Paphos itself.

Finally, if you want to enjoy your big day and honeymoon in the same location, Azia can cater for weddings – tie the knot in the

pretty chapel or at various other idyllic spots around the resort. See the website for more info on wedding packages.

The bottom line

Expressions Holidays (www.spaexpressions.co.uk, 020 7433 2615) offers seven nights at the Azia Resort and Spa from £1088 per person, including scheduled flights, transfers, bed and breakfast and three spa treatments per person. Price based on two people sharing a double or twin room. ♥

Top 5 essentials

- 1 Straw hat, £20, Charming by Tracey Boyd at Debenhams
- 2 Necklace, £16, Accessorize
- 3 Sunglasses, £15, Marks & Spencer
- 4 Bangle, £6, Accessorize
- 5 Weekender bag, £35, Marks & Spencer

See stockists page for details