



A beach-front tight rope walker entertains a crowd in Key West

As far as where to stay, you can't go wrong with the **Inn on Bourbon**. Right in the center of the action in the French Quarter with balconies overlooking Bourbon Street, the inn is built on the site of America's first opera house (dating to 1859). The original historic building burned down in 1919, but the inn still captures the history and charm of the era – with all the modern amenities any honeymooners would want, including a tropical courtyard and pool, fitness center, WiFi, flatscreen TVs and more.

If you are looking for a more tropical flavor for your honeymoon, how about **Key West**? The quirky “Conch Republic” offers a laid-back, anything-goes atmosphere with a distinctive Spanish/Caribbean flair. Located at the southernmost tip of the continental U.S. (less than 90 miles from Cuba), Key West is well worth the journey (whether by plane, boat, or a leisurely 3-4 hour drive from Miami). Aside from the usual “beachy” pursuits, it offers beautiful palm-lined streets with gingerbread mansions, lavishly blooming gardens and historical treasures like the 1860 African Burial Ground and the Hemingway House and Museum. Hot, sunny days can be spent swimming with the dolphins, playing a round of golf, or enjoying a catamaran sail to the Dry Tortugas. For a break from the sun, pop into the Pirate Museum, visit some of the many art galleries and boutiques, or enjoy the Conch Train (a narrated trolley tour that hits all the Key West Highlights). It's in the evenings, though, that Key West really shines. The nighttime revelry kicks off with the Sunset Celebration at Mallory Square and moves from there to the restaurants and bars lining Duval Street and its environs. For couples lucky enough to be in town during one of Key West's many festivals and celebrations, the streets will

be filled with revelers. If not, you can join like-minded visitors on a Key West Pub Crawl.

When it comes to accommodations, the options include well-known resort chains, boutique hotels and lovely little inns and B&Bs. Historic Key West Inns is a collection of five small inns in Old Town within walking distance of the shopping and nightlife. All are historic buildings with traditional Key West architecture (open porches, picket fences, tin roofs), but each property is unique and there's a range to fit any budget. Of the five properties, honeymooners might gravitate towards the **Lighthouse Court** (one block off Duval Street, with a tropical courtyard and pool bar) or the **Albury Court** (near the harbor, with romantic fireplaces, Jacuzzi tubs and a honeymoon suite), but any of the inns would make a great home base from which to explore the Keys.

Or, for a dose of 19th century history and Americana along with beaches galore, can we suggest **Nantucket**? This tiny island thirty miles off the coast of Cape Cod was once the whaling capital of the world and has always been a popular vacation spot for wealthy East Coast families, but it has lots to offer honeymooners as well. It starts with the scenery, which includes rolling hills dotted with windmills and lighthouses, and miles and miles of pristine beaches. If that's not enough, Nantucket offers cobblestone streets, rose-covered cottages and a beautiful harbor filled with gently bobbing boats. You can pack a picnic lunch and explore the island by bicycle, pick a secluded beach to call your own, or stroll through town window shopping at art galleries and high-end boutiques. And if you are “foodies,” this is the spot for you! You can dine at a different gourmet restaurant every night and never run out of options. One of our favorites is **American Seasons**, with its locally-sourced menu created by award-winning chef Michael LaScola and a wine list of all-American selections put together by wife and sommelier Orla Murphy-LaScola.

Wondering where to stay? How about an historic 1770 whaling captain's home that has been turned into a boutique-style inn? The **Union Street Inn** is a romantic B&B just off Main Street with twelve guest rooms that combine historic charm with modern amenities (Frette linens, free WiFi, flat-screen TVs). They also are the only Nantucket B&B to serve a full made-to-order breakfast, with signature dishes like Challah French toast with fresh local berries. Ahhh, what a delicious way to start your married life together! **LB**