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8 Romantic Mini Honeymoon Destinations in New England

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Most weddings and post-nuptial getaways were put on hold last year, but this summer promises open doors for newlyweds itching to escape their social bubbles and *finally* toast to tying the knot. While it might still be a bit risky to plan a weeks-long sojourn across the pond, New England offers more than enough romance for a beautiful mini-moon – no matter how short the weekend. From a classic island escape to a sophisticated wellness retreat in rural Connecticut, here are eight reasons why honeymooning closer to home is still a pretty sweet deal.





1. Nantucket, Massachusetts

Martha's Vineyard has long been the summer stomping ground of choice for America's presidential royalty. Its sister island, Nantucket, has a far different feel – think cobbled streets, shingled cottages, and pristine beaches where sunset might find that it's just you and the waves. That sense of seclusion is exactly what makes the 'Gray Lady' a shoo-in for mini-mooners: this island is a true escape. The restaurants are stellar in town – sophisticated Proprietors Bar & Table delivers Nantucket vibes with its modern art and seasonal cuisine, while The Ships Inn remains a perpetual date spot thanks to its cozy dining room and Frenchified

American classics. However, it may be the isle's undeveloped corners, which come alive during the spring and summer with daffodils and hydrangeas, that'll have you planning a yearly trip back.

Where to stay: When you want to feel like you've escaped it all yet still want to be within reach of town, few places deliver as well as The Wauwinet. Set on a remote corner of the island, this sophisticated retreat has perfected the art of low-key luxury, with its private beach attendants and harbor boat service. The four standalone cottages, complete with gas fireplaces and sundecks, are perfect for those who want even more privacy.

Check Availability

2. Washington, Connecticut

Finding cell phone service in Washington can be a little touch and go, and that's just the way its residents like it. You'll feel like you've stumbled upon a rural oasis in this forested town, with its clapboard colonials and barn homes and local farmer's market. It's a perfect spot for setting up a picnic with fixings from The Pantry or taking a relaxing hike through Mount Tom State Park. When it's civilization you crave, you can head downtown and browse tony shops and restaurants like the Hickory Stick Bookshop and G.W. Tavern that overlooks a brook.

Where to stay: For a total reset, book yourselves a room at The Mayflower Inn & Spa, whose farm-to-table restaurant and bright, traditional rooms are now joined by The Well – a holistic wellness experience where you can recharge whatever it is that fell behind during all that wedding planning. The daily roster includes nutrition, mindfulness, and fitness rolled into one. There's also plenty of outdoor adventure for growing even closer.

Check Availability

3. Bretton Woods, New Hampshire

Outdoorsy types will love the roster of activities on offer in Bretton Woods, a four-season mountain town that never seems to sleep. In the winter, you've got skiing, snowmobiling, and dog sledding. In the warmer months, there's fly fishing, golfing, mountain biking, and river tubing. In any season, hikers take to the slopes of Mount Washington – New England's highest peak – for views of the White Mountains. Of course, fall has its own allure with the rainbow of changing foliage that sets the valley aglow. In nearby Jackson, Honeymoon Bridge is a popular spot for photos, with the winding bends and scenic pull-offs of Kancamagus Highway not far behind.

Where to stay: You can't mention Bretton Woods without bringing up Omni Mount Washington Resort, a historic hotel that has been luring city dwellers with its luxurious rooms and healthy mountain air since 1902. While interiors have been given a modern update, they haven't lost their luster – think classic décor, discreet service, and stunning mountain views throughout the year. Take things up a notch by booking one of the tower suites, which come with their own fireplaces.

Check Availability

4. Newport, Rhode Island

Gilded Age mansions, sailing events, and charming inns are just three of the reasons why couples flock to this colonial seaport, whose townhouses once hosted ship captains and crew during the 17th century. Even JFK and Jackie O. tied the knot here at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Today, the historic downtown and stylish waterfront are as enchanting as ever, with no end to ocean views and fresh seafood. No visit is complete without a stroll down Bellevue Avenue to see The Breakers – the Vanderbilt family's opulent summer home – or digging into a hearty bowl of clam chowder at the Black Pearl. Stunning bay views can also be taken in along the Cliff Walk, which winds its way along the coast, where you can catch the sunrise.

Where to stay: Gurney's Newport Resort & Marina makes a particularly romantic post-wedding retreat, thanks to its modernist guest rooms, seasonal pool, airy spa, and three-level patio overlooking Narragansett Bay, complete with fire pits you can cozy up to on chillier nights. There's even a fleet of bicycles on site for roaming the neighborhood and an 1800s lighthouse on the property that still points the way for passing ships.

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5. Kennebunkport, Maine

Whether it's a 'best of' list for charming New England towns or honeymoon destinations in the Northeast, you'd be hard-pressed to read one that excludes Kennebunkport. This storybook destination on Maine's southern coast has it all: think picture-perfect waterfront views, bright beaches, sailboat-filled marinas, a pretty village, and seaside resorts galore. After some much-deserved R&R onshore, there are memories to be made on the water – from kayaking and sailing to whale-watching cruises. At the end of the day, enjoy a candlelit dinner at Earth at Hidden Pond before a live musical performance at Vinegar Hill Music Theatre.

Where to stay: You'll find charm and intimacy in spades when you stay at the Breakwater Inn & Spa, a 35-room bed and breakfast whose breezy back patio is lined with Adirondack chairs overlooking the Kennebunk River.

[Check Availability](#)

6. Woodstock, Vermont

Like New Hampshire, the forests and mountains of Vermont make for an unforgettable trip away. The Green Mountains range encompasses one of the state's most beautiful regions, home to rivers, iconic covered bridges, and trees as far as the eye can see. The area booms come winter, when its highest mountain peaks open for the ski season, but even the warm months bring with them a kind of romance you can feel as you explore. Take it all in from the scenic viewpoints and carriage roads of Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, or during a stroll through the historic downtown, whose main square is lined with local businesses that have been run by the same families for generations.

Where to stay: The Woodstock Inn and Resort is as classic New England as it gets. There's an award-winning spa, turndown service, seasonal farm-to-table cuisine (The Red Rooster delivers those sought-after romantic vibes), and plenty of outdoor activities to fill any remaining daylight hours.

[Check Availability](#)

7. Lenox, Massachusetts

It's difficult not to fall head over heels for the Berkshires – an idyllic region in western Massachusetts famous for its lush scenery, farm-to-table restaurants, and rural towns whose residents and slow pace of life were a source of inspiration for resident painter Norman Rockwell. Whether you come to hike the trails, take in art at Mass MoCA, go wine and cider tasting at local orchards, or soak in the music scene during a champagne picnic at Tanglewood, this region is a mini-moon itinerary in the making.

Where to stay: You can escape real life for a little longer at Wheatleigh – an Italianate-style Gilded Age estate built on 22 verdant acres. Just 19 rooms and suites mean you'll never feel crowded while enjoying the property's heated outdoor pool, sculpture garden, or tennis court. At night,

you'll have your pick of three bars and restaurants. For added romance, book one of the eight tables at The Portico by Jeffrey Thompson for a multi-course dinner you won't soon forget.

Check Availability

8. Cape Neddick, Maine

The waves that lap over Cape Neddick's rocky outcrops are a mesmerizing sight. Situated on Maine's far southern coastline, just north of Portsmouth, this spot has captivated scores of vacationers and honeymooners due to its get-away-from-it-all vibes. In fact, there's not much you'll find here other than windswept meadows, rocky bluffs that plunge into the Atlantic, and the historic Cliff House hotel. However, that's exactly why so many return again and again – the tranquility you'll find in this little corner of Maine is something else.

Where to stay: There are ocean views aplenty at Cliff House – an 1866 nautical retreat where every room has its own balcony and there are multiple indoor and outdoor hot tubs and saltwater pools for more opportunities to take in the sea. Couples will hardly tire from spending multiple nights here thanks to its many bars and restaurants (including a casual lobster shack and formal Tiller Restaurant) and on-site activities. Get a massage at the 9,000-square-foot spa or take a kayak out on the Ogunquit River – the choice is yours.

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Lindsey Olander

Lindsey Olander is a writer, editor, and insatiable traveler based in New York whose words have been published by *Condé Nast Traveler*, *Travel + Leisure*, *Departures*, Tripadvisor, and others. Read more of her work at lindseytravels.com or say hi on Instagram [@lindseytravels](https://www.instagram.com/lindseytravels).

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