



Year-round rays

I CAN SEE THE SEA! Sip champagne and drink in the stunning view in a luxe Tara Beach Suite

Chase THE SUN

Don't let the sun go down on your honeymoon – somewhere in the world it's always shining

January, Aruba

A small island in the southern Caribbean, Aruba packs a lot into its 70 square miles. With an average temperature of around 28°C, the sun is always shining on its seven miles of pristine white sandy beaches, plus it's only a four-hour flight from New York if you fancy combining pavement-stomping shopping and sightseeing with some seriously laid-back beach time.

SUN IN THE SEA Aruba's motto 'one happy island' together with those idyllic beaches makes it the destination for chilled-out beach cruising. The constant breeze means you never get too hot sunbathing, and if you or your new husband is a windsurfing fan, visit in June or July when

the Hi-Winds windsurfing competition draws professionals from around the world. There are other good reasons to get up from the sunlounger and do something more active, too. You can go wild exploring underground caves or drive off-road along the rugged north coast, discover the ruins of gold mines or hike in the Arikok National Park (with its very own 'Tunnel of Love!'), tour the island by horseback or enjoy some of the best diving in the Caribbean. **LAY DOWN NIGHTS** After all that action and activity, head to Pinchos Bar and Grill for open-air cocktails and dinner by the water's edge, and don't miss Papiamento, a romantic restaurant in an old Aruban house and plantation. Eat

alfresco at a table by the pool and order one of the delicious specialities served on a hot stone. Be sure to try the local fish, wahoo – we love the name and it tastes good too! And the bar at the Pure Beach Lounge does the best Cosmopolitan in town. **HOT HOTEL** The Bucuti Beach Resort is not only one of the best beaches in the Caribbean but it's a Green Globe resort, so it's kind to the environment, too. Its idyllic location on Eagle Beach means there's no fighting over sunloungers here: you can have your own beach hut to sink cheeky sundowners or indulge in a couple's massage. Stay in a Tara Beach Suite, which look directly out onto Eagle Beach so you can admire the oceanfront view while you

knock back the champers. For an awesome sight, keep your eyes peeled between June and August and you might catch a glimpse of baby turtles hatching underneath the sand and scampering towards the sea!

ALSO HOT TO TROT...

Jamaica, Barbados, St Lucia.

GETTING THERE

Thomson's seven-night package to Aruba, staying at the Bucuti Beach Resort (bucuti.com) on a B&B basis, from £1085pp based on two sharing, leaving from London Gatwick from May 2011 (thomson.co.uk). Thomson Airways flies direct to Aruba from London Gatwick, from £689 including taxes and charges (thomson.co.uk/flights). >