

at a glance

spirited central america

A pullout guide to adventure-filled shindigs BY MELANIE HAIKEN

REGION	WHO SHOULD GO	SAFE-BET RESORT	UNEXPECTED DIGS
costa rica	<p>A pioneer of sustainable tourism, Costa Rica is for eco-minded travelers who want access to ample wedding resources.</p> 	<p>What's a more dramatic ceremony backdrop than an active volcano? At the 180-room Springs Resort & Spa, choose from several formal garden settings, all with Arenal views.</p> 	<p>Wed on one of CR's best beaches at the 24-room Harmony Hotel, in Nosara. For fun, take lessons at the nearby Safari Surf School.</p> 
nicaragua	<p>Surf and yoga trendsetters nostalgic for Costa Rica in the 1970s will welcome Nicaragua's uncrowded waves and wellness meccas like San Juan del Sur, on the Pacific coast.</p> 	<p>Lush vistas from the 65 villa rooms at Pelican Eyes Hotel & Resort make this hilltop sanctuary in San Juan del Sur a landmark. Enjoy a prewedding sunset cruise on the property's yacht.</p> 	<p>Rent all nine casitas at the new Jicaro Island Ecolodge, in the Granada Islands, and exchange I do's with the Mombacho Volcano reflected in the lake.</p> 
honduras	<p>Budget-minded globe-trotters will appreciate Honduras' exotic beaches, world-class diving and rainforest attractions — at half the cost of better-known destinations in the surrounding region.</p> 	<p>At Roatan's Palmetto Bay Plantation, an island resort with 23 overwater bungalows, celebrate your happiness in an open-air poolside lodge.</p> 	<p>Say your vows in Hacienda San Lucas' yoga pavilion, with views of the Copan Valley. Then hold your reception on the lawn of this eight-room inn.</p> 
panama	<p>Panama attracts wildlife die-hards who want to do what none of their friends have done. Who knows — you might come home with a close-up shot of a margay or a capuchin monkey.</p> 	<p>At the elegant 122-room Bristol Buenaventura, even big weddings (the ballroom seats 300) feel intimate, thanks to romantic details like a grand arrival via horse and carriage.</p> 	<p>Commune with nature in the 11 treehouse-like cabanas at the Cotton Tree Lodge, on the Moho River. The owner offers chocolate-making workshops, using local cacao.</p> 
belize	<p>Boasting adventure both by land (Maya temples, cave tubing) and by sea, Belize is for snorkeling and diving fanatics who want a side of rainforest excitement.</p> 	<p>Choose from a beach or garden setting at Hamanasi Adventure & Dive Resort, which offers 21 rooms, suites and treehouses.</p> 	<p>Exchange vows amid lush foliage at the 15-room Ka'ana Boutique Resort & Spa. Your reception dinner features produce from the onsite organic garden.</p> 



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