



## **Babymoons: Non-Caribbean destinations**

It's become a rite of passage for expecting couples everywhere: the babymoon, a relaxing last-hurrah vacation taken at that lovely point in a woman's pregnancy when she's feeling good and still able to travel. While New Yorkers once flocked straight to the Caribbean, Mexico or Central America, these popular destinations are now affected by the Zika virus, which the World Health Organization declared a public health emergency in February.

Because Zika, which is primarily contracted by being bitten by infected mosquitoes, can be transmitted from a pregnant woman to her developing child — and may be linked to serious birth defects — the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently recommended that pregnant women and their partners avoid traveling to any Zika-affected area.

But that's no reason to call off your trip, says travel adviser Stephen Scott, founder and CEO of Manhattan-based Travel Hub 365. "There are still beautiful beaches, luxurious spas and interesting cities, both in the United States and outside of the country, where couples can find romance and relaxation, without worrying about the Zika virus," Scott says.

With that in mind, here are some safe and relaxing babymoon destinations, each with good food and rejuvenating spa services.

## Exuma, Bahamas



The Exuma Cays are a 365-island archipelago, some of them the private property of A-list celebrities and high-powered CEOs. The Grand Isle Resort & Spa on Great Exuma Island has 78 villas that used to function as private residences, so they're big — about 1,400 square feet for a one-bedroom unit — and each has a king bed, huge Jacuzzi tub and full kitchen. Guests get a golf cart upon arrival and can take advantage of the infinity pool and mile-long private beach.



**FOOD:** The poolside Palapa Grill serves drinks and food throughout the day and hosts a beach bonfire on Thursday nights. Nearby Santanna's Bar and Grill is a favorite for fresh lobster and grouper, while Mama's Bakery offers rum cakes and other baked goods.

**SPA:** The SeaStar Spa has three treatment rooms, including one big enough for couples, and can customize a spa package for a mom-to-be.

**INFO:** From \$300 a night in winter to about \$600 in peak season, 844-443-9862, [grandisleresort.com](http://grandisleresort.com)