

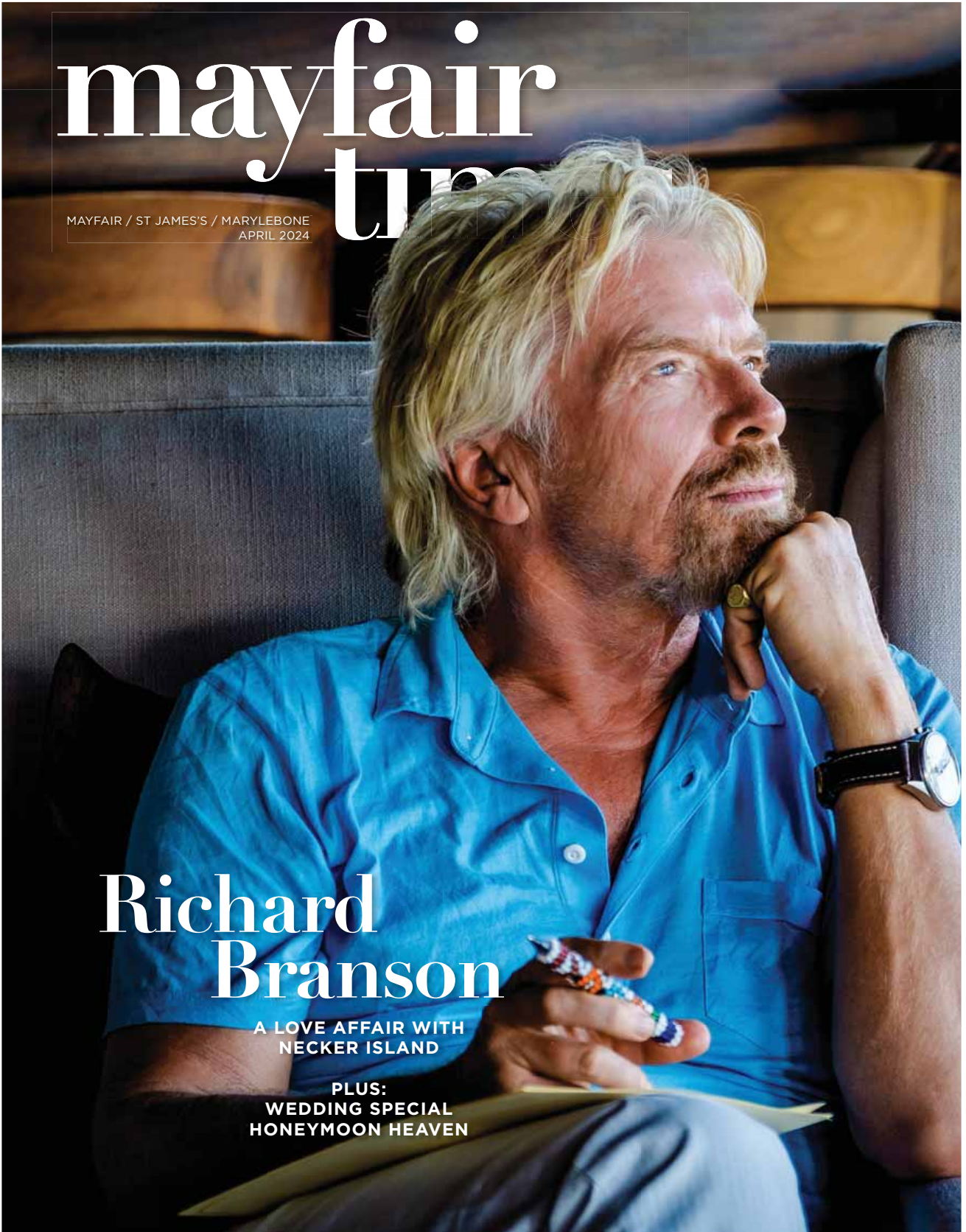
# mayfair time

MAYFAIR / ST JAMES'S / MARYLEBONE  
APRIL 2024

## Richard Branson

A LOVE AFFAIR WITH  
NECKER ISLAND

PLUS:  
WEDDING SPECIAL  
HONEYMOON HEAVEN



## TRAVEL

### ► ISLAND LIFE

An abundance of 115 tropical islands awaits in the Seychelles, long dubbed the “islands of love”. This Indian Ocean favourite has more than just breathtaking beaches, with plenty to offer couples seeking a romantic yet active honeymoon. In addition to spectacular hiking (don’t miss Port Launay waterfall on Mahé) and cycling (the island of La Digue is particularly popular), there is sensational snorkelling and a diverse range of diving experiences available.

There are 14 dive sites, the most famous of which is the Ennerdale, a British oil tanker that sank in 1970 off the coast of Mahé and is now a favourite among advanced divers.

[seychelles.com](http://seychelles.com)



# LET'S GO

*As honeymooners increasingly seek out luxury “active” honeymoons, we round up some of the best – from hiking in the Himalayas to surfing in the Philippines*

*By Jonathan Whiley*



### ▲ TREKKING IN NEPAL

Forget petals in bath tubs and cocktails on the beach; True Summit Adventures’ Wild Nepal trip sees guests climb Mera Peak in 12 days, accompanied by top guides. Running from October 29 to November 9, it’s ideal for anyone seeking their first high mountain experience in the Himalayas (entirely suitable for non-climbers) and offers epic views of Mount Everest.

The “express” edition takes expedition guests to the summit of Mera Peak (the highest of Nepal’s so-called “trekking” peaks at 6,457 metres) and includes helicopter flights from Kathmandu to Lukla and from Khare to Kathmandu. It allows guests to complete the trek in under two weeks, without compromising on acclimatisation or safety. To extend your trip, enjoy a memorable tiger safari in Bardiya National Park with Tiger Tops.

[truesummitadventures.com](http://truesummitadventures.com), [tigertops.com](http://tigertops.com)

### ▼ THAI WELLNESS

For a honeymoon with a wellness focus, the award-winning resort of Kamalaya offers transformation amid tropical surroundings. Located on the southern coast of Koh Samui in the Gulf of Thailand, it is set on a hillside

where monks have been seeking enlightenment for

hundreds of years. Each stay begins with a consultation, with 17 in-depth programmes on offer including Detox and Reset, Stress and Burnout and Emotional Wellbeing and Nutrition. At the newly opened Longevity House, guests can choose from treatments such as IV therapy, ozone therapy and hyperbaric oxygen therapy, while facilities include infrared saunas, a steam cavern, yoga pavilion and an alchemy tea lounge.

[kamalaya.com](http://kamalaya.com)





► **EXPLORING INDONESIA**

Safari and adventure specialist Explorations Company has announced a new journey in Indonesia – travelling through the spectacular Banda Islands with the explorer Dr Lawrence Blair. From October this year, set sail from Ambon before spending seven nights along a historic spice route on a traditional phinisi boat. Expect crumbling fortresses, volcanoes and kaleidoscopic coral reefs, with Banda home to some of the best diving spots in the world. Located approximately 2,000km east of Java in the Banda Sea, the archipelago is made up of 10 small volcanic islands. Dr Lawrence is an author, explorer and filmmaker and has led marine expeditions across the archipelago since 1978. [explorationscompany.com](http://explorationscompany.com)



▲ **SURF'S UP**

This year sees The Ritz-Carlton Maldives, Fari Islands introduce two retreats, partnering with championship surf heroes Nic von Rupp and Victor Bernardo. Both take place during June and July – the Maldives' optimum surf season – and allow guests to surf four of the most popular waves in the North Malé Atoll. Von Rupp, one of the top "big wave" surfers in the world, will lead the surf from June 4 to 13, while Brazilian big wave master Bernardo will lead a retreat from July 1 to 7. Rest up in style by kicking back in one of the resort's luxurious modern villas. [ritzcarlton.com](http://ritzcarlton.com)



◀ **STARGAZING IN TURKEY**

Leave your honeymoon plans in the hands of an astronomer at Perdue, a glamping escape in a verdant corner of Faralya, Turkey. Couples can meet with Perdue's astronomer, who will design their ideal honeymoon based on the desires seen in their star chart, as well as hosting stargazing sessions. Will you take on an itinerary of adventurous activities from hiking and boat trips to paragliding, or kick back with yoga and mindful art classes? Adults-only, each tented room comes with a Jacuzzi on the terrace. [perdue.com.tr](http://perdue.com.tr)

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*[perdue.com.tr](http://perdue.com.tr)*