

Planning Your Honeymoon Adventure

The wedding is just the beginning. There's plenty of excitement planning the honeymoon as well, from choosing a travel adventure to deciding on what to bring along on the journey. And for many, planning this great "escape" is just as important as planning the actual wedding. Regardless of where you decide to go, there are some things you should know to make it the kind of experience you want it to be.

First, you must decide on a budget. If money is not an issue, bon-voyage! However, if you're like most engaged couples, you're already paying more than you anticipated. Establish a budget and use it as a guide.

You'll also need to decide whether you want an all-inclusive, one-price-does-it-all, leave-the-wallet-at-home type of trip, or a more do-it-yourself package with car rental, lodging, food, and activities on an a la carte basis. Cruises technically fall under the all-inclusive category, as do resorts.

Of course, honeymoon budgeting takes on a new meaning if you decide to do a "destination wedding". These are becoming very popular as more and more couples decide to forego the traditional wedding costs in addition to the honeymoon expense. They are especially popular with second marriages. It's easier to get married in some countries than others, so be sure to check with a reliable source, like a country's consulate or the U.S. Department of State, before making any arrangements.

Now you need to book and pay for this trip. Many honeymoon suppliers offer special rates for early booking, which may or may not include airfare. Packages that include airfare can offer significant savings because retailers buy airline seats in at a discount, then package hotel, and sometimes car rentals as well.

You may also want to consider using a honeymoon gift registry to help with expenses. Check with your local travel agent to see if they offer this kind of service or you can investigate more on the internet. A good place to start is an online honeymoon registry

website. These registries allow guests, friends and family to contribute toward specific elements of your honeymoon, like shore excursions, parasailing, spa services, and tours.

Wedding Night & Honeymoon Worksheet

<p>Wedding Night</p> <p>Hotel: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Phone: _____</p> <p>Cost/Includes: _____</p> <p>Features of room/suite: _____ _____</p> <p>Reservations made: _____</p> <p>Confirmation #: _____</p> <p>Honeymoon</p> <p>Destination: _____</p> <p>Departure date: _____</p> <p>Return date: _____</p> <p>Travel Agency</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Contact person: _____</p> <p>Telephone #: _____</p> <p>Airline: _____</p> <p>Depart. flight: _____</p> <p>Return flight: _____</p>	<p>Car Rental</p> <p>Agency: _____</p> <p>Location: _____</p> <p>Phone #: _____</p> <p>Date of pickup: _____</p> <p>Return date: _____</p> <p>Insurance: _____</p> <p>Hotel/Resort</p> <p>Location: _____</p> <p>Phone #: _____</p> <p>Confirmation #: _____</p> <p>Check-in time: _____</p> <p>Check-out time: _____</p> <p>NOTES:</p> <p>_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____</p>
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Your Honeymoon Budget

<p>Before You Go...</p> <p>Wardrobe necessities: _____</p> <p>Luggage: _____</p> <p>Passport/passport photos: _____</p> <p>Inoculations/medicines: _____</p> <p>Sundries (suntan lotion): _____</p> <p>Extra pair of sun/glasses: _____</p> <p>Child care/pet care: _____</p> <p>Camera & film: _____</p> <p>Transportation To Your Honeymoon</p> <p>IF FLYING...</p> <p>Airfare for two: _____</p> <p>Transportation to/from airport: _____</p> <p>Long-term parking: _____</p> <p>IF DRIVING...</p> <p>Rental car: _____</p> <p>Gasoline: _____</p>	<p>Travel Package <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Total Cost: _____</p> <p>Expenses while at destination</p> <p>Lodging (rate x nights): _____</p> <p>Transfers form airport: _____</p> <p>Breakfast for ___ days: _____</p> <p>Lunch for ___ days: _____</p> <p>Dinner for ___ nights: _____</p> <p>Snack for ___ days: _____</p> <p>Tips for ___ days: _____</p> <p>Entertainment (such as shows, tours, local sights, museums, etc.): _____</p> <p>Mementos from trip: _____</p> <p>Other: _____</p> <p>Transportation while at destination</p> <p>Rental car: _____</p> <p>Gas: _____</p> <p>Public transportation: _____</p> <p>Taxi: _____</p> <p>Rail express (Europe): _____</p>
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<p>Tolls: _____</p> <p>Snacks/meals on the road:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Other:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Inter-island transfers: _____</p> <p>Other:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
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After The Honeymoon Checklist

- Write thank-you notes for your gifts. Every gift-giver should receive a handwritten note within a month of the wedding.

- Preserve your wedding dress. Have your gown, veil and headpiece professionally dry-cleaned. Inquire about various storage methods.

- Deposit wedding gift checks, bonds, stock certificates. Pay outstanding wedding bills.

- Develop pictures, choose photographs & review the videos. Develop any pictures taken at the wedding and on the honeymoon. Review photographer's proofs; review wedding video to determine edited length and special editing techniques. Choose photos for wedding album and order wedding prints for yourselves, relatives and friends. Put other photos in albums.

- Get together with family and friends. Invite attendants, friends and family members to your home to view the honeymoon photos and video.

- Discuss a home budget and financial goals.

- Evaluate your insurance needs. Consult your agent on health, car and life insurance, which may have to be adjusted to reflect married status. Have wedding gifts appraised and insured.

Tips For Thank-You Notes

- Keep careful records of each gift. As they arrive, write down the sender, address, and a brief description.
- Name the gift in your note: "Thank you for the beautiful candle holders."
- Describe how you'll use the gift. "Richard, and I love how elegant the make our table look!"
- Add a personal thought or two about your wedding and/or your relationship with the giver: "It meant a lot to us to have such dear friends share in our wedding day."

Resources:

- [Click Here To See a great selection of Wedding Planners & Organizers on Amazon](#)
- [Free Wedding Checklists](#)
- [5 Wedding Planning Tips That Can Reduce Stress](#)
- [5 Advantages Of Hiring A Wedding Planner](#)
- [Tips For Giving A Wedding Toast](#)
- [7 Tips For Giving A Wedding Speech](#)
- [How To Plan Your Wedding On A Budget](#)
- [10 Wedding Speeches For The Bride](#)