

Wedding Day: If you're leaving right after your reception, give your travel information and tickets to a trusted Bridal party member. Have your luggage packed and loaded into the vehicle which will be taking you to the hotel or airport.

To Do List

Keeping track of all of the things to do with each part of your wedding experience is demanding... Here's a "To Do List" for your honeymoon planning...

- Choose Destination
- Finalize Hotel Reservations
- Finalize Airline Reservations
- Finalize Train Reservations
- Finalize Cruise Ship Reservations
- Finalize Rental Car Reservations
- Get Passports
- Get Visas
- Get Inoculations/Immunizations
- Finalize Travel Reservations

Papers/Documents to Bring Along

- Driver's License
- Marriage License
- Passports
- Visas
- Copy of Birth Certificate
- Inoculations Needed
- Copies of Prescriptions
- Airline Tickets
- Other

Traveler's Checks Info to Bring Along

- Bank Name
- Numbers

Credit Cards Info to Bring Along

- Card Name
- Company/Bank
- Account Number
- Toll-free Phone Number

Checking Account Info to Bring Along

- Name on Account
- Bank
- Account Number
- Phone Number
- Last Check Number

Doctor's Info to Bring Along

- Bride's Doctor's Name and Phone Number
- Bride's Allergies and/or Medical Conditions
- Groom's Doctor's Name and Phone Number
- Groom's Allergies and/or Medical Conditions

Honeymoon Styles

Understanding and identifying the various styles associated with weddings is important...Here is a look at Honeymoon styles...

No matter what your interests are, there are a variety of honeymoon vacation styles to choose from:

Urban: Destinations like New York City, Chicago, San Francisco, Las Vegas and Paris.

Beach: Destinations like Hawaii, Florida, California, the Caribbean, and Mexico.

Eco-Adventure: Activities like hiking, camping, rock climbing, kayaking, bicycling, and surfing.

Cruise Ship: Popular cruises include Mexico, the Caribbean, and the Bahamas.

Exotic: Activities like African safaris, Rain Forest tours, dude ranches, sailing ships, and touring Europe.

What to Look For

It is sometimes difficult to know what makes a quality wedding vendor...we've provided a guide to help you identify the key things to look for when choosing your travel agent...

When finding a travel agent for your honeymoon it is vital to work with an agent who specializes in leisure travel instead of business travel. We recommend they have three or more years experience in booking honeymoon packages.

Determining your honeymoon destination is a challenging task for some. You need to take into close consideration the personality and interests of the two of you. Find a honeymoon location that is appealing to the both of you, even if for much different reasons.

Most major destinations offer special "honeymoon packages". These can range from complimentary champagne to special pricing rates to special suites.

Find ways to increase your frequent flier miles before you purchase your airline tickets. A popular option is to charge wedding ceremony and reception costs to a credit card that awards frequent flier miles on each purchase. This can lead to flight upgrades or even free airline tickets.

If you are going to an international location, check with the United States State Department for any travel advisories. Their online advisories are located at
www.travel.state.gov/travel_warnings.html.

Check the weather patterns and reports of your destination before packing, and especially, the last couple of weeks before your honeymoon, in case you need to make any changes in what to bring.

New Trends

Wedding trends change and evolve with each New Year...we've provided a run-down of the newest, hottest trends in honeymoons...

Eco-adventure vacations are growing in popularity around the globe.

Exotic destinations like New Zealand, Costa Rica, and Africa are host to a variety of options like kayaking, surfing, climbing, and hiking.

All-inclusive honeymoon packages are becoming standard in the industry. By purchasing a package, you don't have to worry about paying for individual drinks, food, and sometimes recreational sports, and tours. This is common for the cruise ship industry.

Getting married at your honeymoon destination is an option chosen by many brides and grooms who want to minimize their wedding stress and maximize their honeymoon vacation. If your destination is in a foreign country, check with your travel agent about any rules, laws, and regulations you may need to observe before getting married overseas.

The honeymoon has traditionally been paid for by the groom and his family but, today, most couples pay for it themselves or their relatives cover the cost.

Thematic honeymoons like wine-tasting, motorcycle touring, and baseball spring training offer memorable ways to share your passions with your spouse.

Package/Options

Understanding the typical wedding honeymoon packages and options is important...Here is a look at what is usually available for weddings...

Package

Package prices and styles are as diverse as the people getting married. Each location usually has a variety of lodging and dining options and it is ultimately up to you to decide which elements will comprise your "honeymoon package".

The most basic decision you usually face for determining the cost of your honeymoon is whether to go with an all-inclusive package or a pay-as-you-go option.

Airline tickets are sometimes included in quoted package prices, sometimes not. If you're not certain, ask your travel agent.

An all-inclusive package usually covers the cost of drinks and food along with recreational activities. Tips are not included in these plans so plan to bring cash for tipping.

Options

The options for honeymoons are as diverse as the types of honeymoons available for booking. When you've decided on a particular theme, destination, or activity for your honeymoon, your travel agent should provide you with the options available to you at the time of your stay.

Options on cruises include certain island tours and shopping excursions.

Keys to Success

Here are some expert tips to make sure your honeymoon experience is the best it possibly can be...

- ✓ Pick a travel agent who specializes in leisure travel, not business travel. We recommend choosing an agent who has three or more years experience in booking honeymoon packages.
- ✓ Choose a honeymoon style that reflects your interests. If you like the energy of a big city, then an urban destination might be good.
- ✓ If you enjoy the great outdoors, then choosing an exotic or nature destination may be better.
- ✓ When you book your honeymoon, purchase some travel insurance to cover any unexpected changes, delays, or cancellations.
- ✓ Instead of leaving right after your reception, consider spending your first night as husband and wife in a hotel suite near the airport so you can get a night's rest before you fly.
- ✓ Verify that credit cards are readily accepted at your destination or take most of your money in the form of traveler's checks. It is generally a better idea to use credit cards since traveler's checks can be hard to exchange and can be expensive to use.
- ✓ Make two copies of a list that includes all traveler's check numbers and amounts, credit card numbers, and checking account numbers. Keep one on your person and the other keep in your hotel room.
- ✓ Birth Certificates are a widely accepted form of identification. Make sure to take a certified copy of each of your certificates with you. These "official" copies will have County Registrar stamps on them. You can bring your original certificates but this is not usually as wise as bringing the certified copies.
- ✓ If you are planning to travel internationally, make certain to have your maiden name on your airline ticket, passport, and all other identification. If there are different names, you could run into customs' problems.
- ✓ Either before you depart or upon your arrival in your foreign destination, it is a smart idea to convert some of your U.S. dollars into small foreign currency for cab fare, tips, and incidentals.
- ✓ Put luggage identification tags on not only the outside but also the inside of each of your pieces of luggage.

9. Is the agent as willing to work for us whether we are planning an extravagant honeymoon or if we just need good pricing on airline tickets and hotels?

Things to Avoid

Knowing the pitfalls and traps ahead of time can help save you money, time, and your sanity...Here's a list of things to avoid when planning your honeymoon...

- ✓ Consider your interests and those of your partner before deciding on the theme of your honeymoon. If one of you is a “city” person and the other, a “country” kind of person, find a happy medium like visiting a major city but finding outdoors activities to try during the day.
- ✓ Don't take too many credit cards with you on your honeymoon. Just take one or two that you plan to use for the trip. Otherwise you may run the risk of having all of them stolen or lost.
- ✓ Avoid carrying only cash, especially if you are planning to travel outside the United States. Depending on the destination, however, you will want to keep some U.S. cash for incidentals like cab rides and meals on the run.
- ✓ Certain international destinations require immunizations for things like Hepatitis A and B. Check with your travel agent for any medical preparations you will need before departure. It is not wise to leave those immunizations until near your departure date.
- ✓ If you are traveling abroad ask your travel agent about the quality of the water at your destination. Usually, it is a good idea to stick to drinking bottled water and avoid eating ice cubes in drinks.
- ✓ Sometimes a “post-wedding blues” sets in after all the craziness of planning and fulfilling your special wedding day plans has faded. Confront these feelings by talking about them with each other.

References

Checking the reputation, credentials, and service record of a prospective honeymoon travel agent is important before you use them...

Resources

There are several resources available to check the references of a particular honeymoon travel agent:

- ✓ Family and friends who have recently been married.
- ✓ Better Business Bureau (B.B.B.).
- ✓ Local Resorts/Country Clubs.
- ✓ Other local wedding vendors.

Contract/Payment

Knowing what to include in a contract with a honeymoon travel agent is important...we've created a list of important points to consider...

Contract

- Name and contact information for you and the vendor.
- Departure date of your honeymoon.
- Return date of your honeymoon.
- Name(s) of specific hotels, cruise ships, airlines.
- Type of arrangements—all-inclusive vs. pay-as-you-go.
- Total cost, itemized.
- Deposit amount due.
- Balance and balance due date.
- Cancellation and refund policy.
- Travel Agent's signature.
- Your signatures.

Payment

A non-refundable deposit is due with the contract when reserving your honeymoon plans.

The remaining balance is due typically two weeks prior to the wedding. If the wedding is canceled or postponed, some honeymoon destinations like a resort or cruise ship may allow you to transfer the amount to another date, if the venue is able to re-book your original date.

Backup Plans

Having a "Plan B" is always a good idea when it comes to planning your wedding...Here's a look at some ways to cover your bases...

- ✓ It is important to have contingency plans in place for backup wedding travel specialists and location.
- ✓ Backup Travel Specialist: Keep the contact information of your second choice for wedding travel specialist nearby in case of emergency.
- ✓ Backup Travel Itinerary: In case of weather, natural disaster, or personal reasons, it is wise to have a second "B-plan" for your Honeymoon. Generally, this option may be closer to your home and shorter in length.

Honeymoon Packing List

Knowing what to bring on your honeymoon has everything to do with where you're going...Are you going some place hot? Or some place cold? Here's a handy packing list for where ever your destination may be...Remember to modify this general list for your honeymoon destination, activities, and season.

Important Items

- Airline tickets or e-ticket confirmation
- Passport/
- Visas
- Driver's license
- International driver's license
- Credit cards
- Hotel contact information
- Hotel/theater reservation fax confirmations
- Traveler's checks
- Two sets of photocopies of each of the above items, plus, medical insurance information, trip insurance coverage, and prescriptions information. One to carry with you, plus one set to leave at in the hotel room.
- Contact numbers for your doctor, house/cat sitter, and credit card companies
- Prescription medicine in the original bottle
- Contraception
- Combination travel locks
- I.D. tags for both the inside and outside of each piece of luggage

His & Her Items

- Pants like khakis or jeans
- Pullover or light jacket(s)
- Sundress (es)
- Cocktail dress (es)
- Cardigan sweater(s) for cool evenings and restaurants
- Active shirts like tank tops, T-shirts, and short-sleeve button-downs
- Shorts
- Bikini for lying out by the pool or beach
- One-piece bathing suit for water sports
- Swimsuit cover-up
- Walking shoes
- Sandals
- Evening shoes/sandals
- Evening purse
- Extra socks
- Extra underwear
- Regular, strapless, and sport bras
- Scarves
- Jewelry
- Pants like khakis or jeans
- Nice slacks
- Pullover or light jacket(s)
- Active shirts like tank tops and T-shirts
- Shorts
- Polo or button-down short-sleeve shirts
- Sport jacket (for nicer restaurants)
- Swimsuit

- Walking shoes
- Sandals
- Lace-up shoes

Items That Are Cheaper To Bring Than Buy On-site

Bathroom Items:

- Extra socks
- Extra underwear
- Camera
- Film
- Videotapes
- Extra camera
- Extra videotape battery
- Insect repellent
- Anti-itch cream
- Sunscreen/Sun block
- Lip balm
- Sunglasses
- Sun hat
- Baseball cap
- Plastic Bandages
- Aspirin or Pain Reliever
- Antihistamine
- Antacid
- Aloe Vera
- Diarrhea medicine
- Motion sickness medicine
- Tampons/feminine pads
- Paperback books
- Deck of playing cards
- Canvas tote bag for pool or beach
- Guidebook
- International electrical converter/adapter
- Travel-size toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Antiperspirant/Deodorant

Optional Items That the Hotel May Provide

- Comb
- Brush
- Hair gel
- Hair spray
- Hair mousse
- Cosmetics
- Make-up remover
- Cotton balls and swabs
- Nail file

- Nail clippers
- Shaving cream
- Razors
- Contact lens
- Contact lens solution
- Lens storage case
- Hair accessories
- Shampoo
- Hair Conditioner
- Body and hand lotion
- Hair dryer
- Shower cap
- Alarm clock
- Watches
- Extra pair of sunglasses
- Extra pair of eyeglasses
- Extra contacts
- Extra asthma inhaler
- Resealable plastic bags (multiple sizes for wet clothes, cameras and film when it rains)
- Earplugs
- Sewing kit
- Laundry stain treated towelettes

Extra Items

- Anti-bacterial liquid or lotion
- Eye Drops
- Waist pack
- Small backpack(s) for day trips
- Sneakers that can get wet or ruined
- Workout athletic shoes
- Workout outfits for the resort's gym or jogging on the beach
- Swiss Army knife
- Compact umbrella
- Rain ponchos

Information to Leave with Family or Friends

- Your travel itinerary
- Hotel(s) contact information
- Photocopies of your passport, credit cards, and traveler's check receipts
- A sealed copy of your wills, life insurance policy numbers, and important financial info

Checklists

- Use Credit Card with Frequent Flyer Miles
- Select Travel Agent
- Determine Destination
- Reserve Lodging Reservations

- Reserve Rental Car
- Book Airline Tickets
- Get Immunizations
- Get Passports
- Obtain Travel Insurance
- Reserve Destination Tours and Theater
- Purchase New Luggage
- Get Scuba Certified
- Create Honeymoon Packing List
- Purchase Traveler's Checks
- Keep 2 Lists of Traveler's Check Numbers
- Pickup Airline Tickets
- Get Travel Cash
- Exchange Money to Foreign Currency of Destination
- Stop Mail & Newspaper
- Set Up Transportation To and From Airport
- Make Copies of Important Documents Info
- Give Itinerary + Important Documents Info to Trusted Family/Friend
- Change Outgoing Voicemail at Work & Home
- Water Plants
- Remove Perishables from Refrigerator
- Confirm Airline Flights
- Confirm Lodging Reservations
- Pack & Label Luggage
- Load Luggage into Car

Timeline

- Urban Style
- Beach Style
- Eco-Adventure Style
- Cruise Ship
- Exotic Style

Honeymoon Styles

- Find Leisure Travel Specialist
- Determine Destination
- Check into "Honeymoon Packages"
- Increase Frequent Flier Miles
- Check State Department Travel Advisories
- Check Weather Reports

What to Look For

- Eco-adventure Style
- All-inclusive Package
- Pay-as-you-go Package
- Overseas Wedding Ceremony

- Honeymoon Cost
- Thematic Honeymoon

New Trends

- Determine Honeymoon Style
- Pick Honeymoon Options
- All-inclusive Package
- Pay-as-you-go Package

Package/Options

- Determine Agent's Specialty
- Determine Honeymoon Style
- Purchase Travel Insurance
- Overnight Accommodations
- Credit Cards
- Traveler's Checks
- Photocopy Important Documents
- Certified Birth Certificate Copy
- Bride's Maiden Name on Ticket/Passport/ID
- Convert U.S. Dollars to Foreign Currency
- Luggage Tags
- Scuba Certification
- Underwater Cameras
- Extra Bag
- Pet Care/Kennel Reservations

Keys to Success

- Determine Honeymoon Style
- Select Credit Cards for Trip
- Traveler's Checks
- Get Immunizations
- Check Water Quality

Worksheet

Deciding on the themes and styles of your wedding is a complex task...Here's a worksheet to help you plan out your ideal honeymoon experience...

- Beach
- Big City
- Adventure
- Combination
- Style
- Nature
- Urban
- Seaside
- Combination

Location Quality

- Historical Tour
- Action
- Lounging

- Combination

Activities

- Single
- Multiple Locations

Destinations

- Foreign
- Domestic

Locations

- Deluxe Resort
- Intimate Hotel
- Rustic
- Camping
- Other

Accommodations

- All-inclusive
- Pay-As-You-Go

Amenities

- Directly from Reception
- Next Day
- Later Date

Departure

Honeymoon Budget = _____

This guide is provided by Spirit Unlimited Professional DJ Entertainment to assist new couples as they navigate their way through the year leading up to their wedding day. Included are only suggestions and ultimate decisions need to be made by the couple. Spirit Unlimited Professional DJ Entertainment is not responsible for negative outcomes as a result of following guidelines.