

# THE START OF YOUR HAPPY-EVER-AFTER

Planning your perfect honeymoon





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“As for booking our honeymoon with you, I’m so glad we did. It took the stress out of it (and you know I was stressing) and your advice/guidance really helped in picking the right honeymoon for us. Will definitely be in contact for any upcoming holidays ...”

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## CONGRATULATIONS!

So you’re getting married! It’s going to be one of the most exciting moments in your life, but it also means there are a million things to think about and lots of organising ahead. From planning the date to finding venues, arranging the wedding ceremony and reception and deciding who you’ll invite, there is much to be done. And then there’s the honeymoon to plan as well!

This guide, brought to you by Inside Outside Marquee Hire and Sue Carne of Not Just Travel, is designed to provide both inspiration and useful advice to make sure that organising your honeymoon is a pleasure, not simply one more thing to tick off a very long to-do list. Sit back and relax, have a read and start imagining your perfect honeymoon.

## MAKING PLANS

Planning any kind of holiday is exciting but your honeymoon is something else altogether. You've shared your wedding day with family and friends, now it's time to enjoy the start of your married life – just the two of you. Your honeymoon may be the perfect opportunity to discover an exotic location or to take the trip of a lifetime. Whatever you choose, it's important to remember that it's a holiday for both of you. Discuss your ideas and make sure you're both happy about what's being planned – even if it means a few compromises along the way.

### Set your budget

Despite talking dream destinations it's essential that you are realistic about what you can afford. Agree a budget and stick to it. You want to enjoy your time away not fret about what it's costing.

### What type of holiday do you want?

If you both want to simply laze on an idyllic beach, sipping cocktails and cultivating your tan, your holiday plans will be relatively straightforward. However, even the most perfectly matched couple may have to strike a balance between relaxation and more active pursuits. So talk through the options.

Do you want to be based by a beach? Are you looking for adventure? Do you want to experience the local culture and go for a twin-centre holiday? How about a safari?

### When are you travelling?

Traditionally, couples go on honeymoon as soon as the wedding is over – but you don't have to. Depending on where you're going you may want to delay for a few months. For instance, if you're getting married in October and planning to honeymoon in Sri Lanka you'll be going in the rainy season. Wait until December and the weather will be glorious. Some hotels are happy to offer honeymoon packages for up to three months – or even as much as a year – after the wedding date.

### How long will you be away?

If you're planning a long-haul journey you're probably looking at a 10-day or 14-day holiday. If it's a trip you've always wanted to do together you may be looking at longer in order to pack in everything you want to see and do. Make sure you can negotiate the appropriate time off from work to avoid disappointment.



### Where will you stay?

Your accommodation has a big influence on the overall experience. It also has an impact on price. When you're looking at what's available take account of the star rating, room type and board basis. And once you've made a shortlist, check recent traveller reviews on sites such as TripAdvisor to see if experiences match with the hotels' promises.

### Book as early as possible

Even a year ahead isn't too soon! Some places – safari lodges are a prime example – are often booked well ahead. However, flights are generally available no earlier than 11 months in advance, so the sooner you start planning the more chance you'll have of everything falling into place – from the flight times to your first choice hotel and the best room. And the earlier you book the better the bargain. Demand drives prices upwards, so low availability means less choice for more money.

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“My husband and I have just returned from an absolutely fantastic trip to Bali. Sue took care of the entire thing – from designing our holiday package to booking flights, accommodation and transfers, sending us our travel documentation – and answering last minute questions on the day we left!”

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# WHERE IN THE WORLD WILL YOU GO?

With the world your oyster, there are so many wonderful places to discover together. If you're struggling to choose between several ideal destinations, why not make a long-term plan for how you'll mark milestone anniversaries – that way you'll eventually visit all the places that have captured your imagination!

## Indian Ocean

With its tropical waters, palm trees and white sands, the Indian Ocean boasts some of the most beautiful destinations in the world. The tiny islands that make up the Maldives are a honeymoon haven where you can enjoy diving and snorkelling, spa treatments, amazing cuisine and chic beach

villas. Mauritius is often teamed with a safari in South Africa, the perfect combination of adventure and relaxation. If you're looking for a cultural experience, take a tour of Sri Lanka's ancient landmarks and then unwind in luxury at a beachfront hotel. Or head for a castaway island and explore the natural beauty of the Seychelles.

## Caribbean

The Caribbean islands offer something for everyone – the difficulty is choosing which to visit! From Cuba to Barbados, each island has its own distinctive personality, which means you can create a totally bespoke honeymoon tailored around your interests.



## Far East

Thailand, Bali, Vietnam, Malaysia – the names alone conjure up exotic and inspiring images. Whether you want to enjoy tranquil beaches or to explore ancient cultures and architecture, the Far East offers an exceptional and unforgettable experience.

## South Pacific

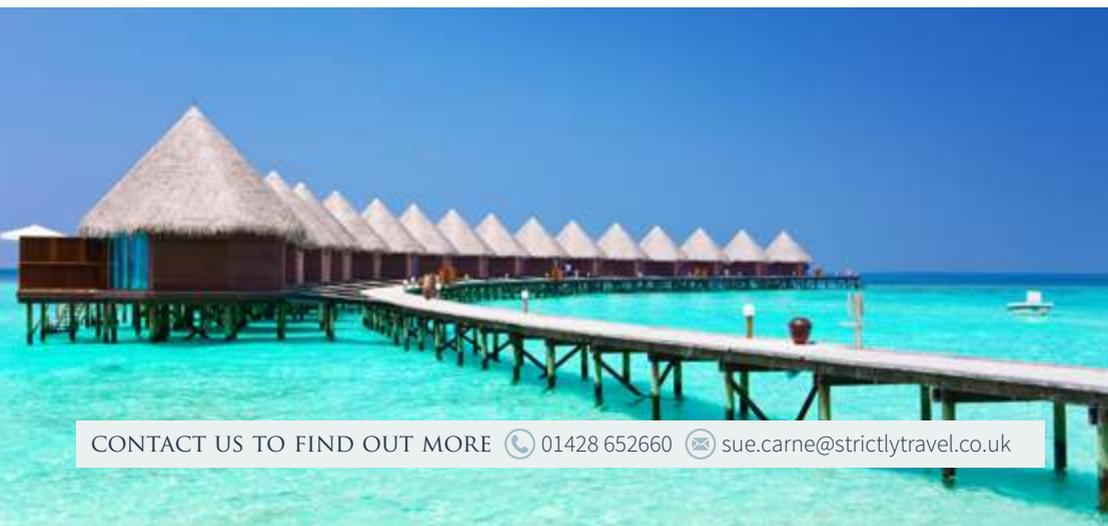
Where better to lie in a hammock and enjoy stunning views than Bora Bora, Tahiti, Fiji or The Cook Islands. Each is a true island paradise on the other side of the world – why not visit two or three and discover the unique qualities of each island.

## Europe

Europe has plenty of idyllic honeymoon destinations. The Greek island of Santorini, with some fabulous boutique hotels, is a truly romantic and breathtaking setting. Or stop over for a few days in one of Europe's iconic cities, such as Paris, Barcelona, Rome or Venice, to soak up the culture before getting away from it all on the coast or deep in the countryside.

## Fancy an adventure?

Honeymoons don't have to be all about beautiful beaches. It could be the perfect opportunity to have a once in a lifetime experience. Now is the time to think about going on safari, trekking and canoeing your way around Madagascar, exploring Australia or New Zealand, experiencing the vibrancy of Brazil, or taking an epic road trip across America. Just think of all the memories you'll be making along the way, the incredible experiences you'll share with the love of your life. It will be amazing!



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# TAKING CARE OF THE BORING DETAILS

Like any holiday your honeymoon requires planning and organisation ahead of the departure date. This checklist will ensure sure you don't overlook any important details.

## Passports, visas and other formal documents

- Check the expiry date of your passports – renewals can take time. Some countries require passports to be valid for a minimum period, so if yours has less than six months at the time of travel do double check your honeymoon destination.
- Changing your name? If you'll be travelling under your married name you'll need to apply for a new passport. This can be done up to three months before your wedding or civil partnership ceremony.
- Some countries require a visa for entry, which may need to be organised ahead or payable locally when you arrive at the destination airport.
- Remember your driving licence if you're planning to hire a car.
- For advice and information specific to your honeymoon destination visit [www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice](http://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice).

## Vaccinations

No matter where you're going on honeymoon you should check that you are up to date with standard immunisations.

Visit [fitfortravel.nhs.uk](http://fitfortravel.nhs.uk) for advice on any other vaccinations recommended for your destination and get them organised at least two months before you're due to travel.

## Travel insurance

Don't go without it and make sure you have cover as soon as you've booked your honeymoon! Travel insurance will cover you for a multitude of things that might go wrong – from lost baggage to a medical emergency. If you're travelling to a European destination make sure you have an EHIC card as well. Available via [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk), it's absolutely free and will give you access to state-provided healthcare if you fall ill or have an accident.

## Travel money

A prepaid card set up for the local currency is a good idea. You don't have to worry about fluctuating exchange rates while you're away and it can be used exactly like a debit card. A small amount of cash is useful for tips and small purchases.

## Luggage allowance

Check the weight allowance per person and buy or borrow a digital luggage scales to check you're within the limit – it will avoid hasty repacking at the airport or additional charges.



## Reserve your plane seats

If you have the option to book your seats online and in advance, do take advantage of this – starting your honeymoon in separate seats rows apart would not be much fun.

## Stress-free departure

- If you're driving to the airport do book your parking space in advance, you'll get a much better price than booking last minute.
- Depending on your flight time you might want to book into a nearby hotel overnight for a more relaxing experience.
- And why not treat yourself to an upgrade and chill out in a VIP lounge once you're airside!

## Transfers

There is nothing worse than arriving at an airport late at night and wondering how you'll get to your hotel. Drivers touting for business will take full advantage of stranded travellers and charge inflated rates, so remember to organise your transfer – to and from your hotel – before you leave home.

## And finally ...

- Make sure your home is secure, cancel the milk and other deliveries! Ask a friend or neighbour to check for mail left poking through the letterbox.
- If you have a pet don't leave it to the last minute to make arrangements for their care – kennels and catteries can be hard to find.

# LEAVE IT TO US TO ORGANISE YOUR HONEYMOON

You could spend days and weeks researching where you want to go and making all the arrangements for your honeymoon. But you've also got a wedding to plan, a job to do, a social life to enjoy – so why not hand it over to the experts.

Not Just Travel provides a personal travel consultancy service. We'll work closely with you to create your ideal honeymoon, giving you the holiday you want not the holiday we want to sell. It's all about getting to know you, understanding your likes and dislikes, your dreams and desires for your honeymoon. We'll work within your budget, use our knowledge and expertise to find the best deals, negotiate prices, plan every last detail of your travel itinerary, book everything and deliver your perfect honeymoon.

Our holidays are ABTA and ATOL protected. Yes, you may find cheaper deals on the internet but if they seem unbelievable they may turn out to be not what they seemed. With Not Just Travel you have the absolute reassurance that the honeymoon we create for you is the one you'll experience when you arrive at your chosen destination.

Leave your honeymoon to Not Just Travel. There will be no need to stress and worry that you may have forgotten an important detail – you can simply look forward to an incredible honeymoon.



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“Sue clearly takes real pride in her work and shows great care for the customer. She was on the ball at all times and I cannot recommend using her highly enough! We will certainly be using her in future. Is it possible to give six stars?!”

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