

50 STEPS TO THE PERFECT HONEYMOON

1. Be sure to check the climate based on the time of the year you are traveling. For example, the Bahamas can be cool in January/February and Bermuda's warm season is short – only May thru September.
2. If you already have all the towels, dishes, and toasters you need, consider using a honeymoon registry. Go to www.honeymoon-hideaways.com to see an example. This is a great way to get a little extra money to pay for the upgraded room, tour or spa treatments you'd like
3. When travelling outside of the United States by air, a passport is required. Even though passports may not be required for cruises which originate and end in the United States, we still recommend getting a passport in case an emergency occurs while on ship and you have to travel home early by air.
4. Don't stress out over the decision of where to honeymoon. There is no one perfect resort – there are many excellent resorts. Besides, the most important ingredient for a fantastic honeymoon is your spouse!
5. Ask your travel agent if you need to purchase foreign currency. If so, make sure you do so at least a couple of weeks before departure. Some currency takes several days to be delivered.
6. Even if you plan on paying for incidentals by credit card, make sure that you also take some cash with you in case of an emergency.
7. Ask your travel agent if it is safe to drink the water or if you should only drink bottled water. Also ask if you should be careful with uncooked fruits and vegetables.
8. If you decide to honeymoon in the Caribbean or Mexico from July thru October, consider purchasing travel insurance in case of a hurricane. Policies start as low as \$44 per person.
9. When traveling internationally, make 2 copies of your passport: one to leave with a family member and one to take with you and keep in a separate place from your original passport. Should you lose your passport while traveling, contact the Embassy. The ability to provide a copy will assist you in getting you back home.
10. If you purchased travel insurance, make a copy of the 1st page of your policy to leave with a family member back home.
11. Ask your travel agent if they have a 24/7 telephone number in case you need assistance when the travel agency is closed.
12. Consider booking a hotel by the airport the night before you leave. Not only will you be able to sleep a little longer, but you can take advantage of the park'n fly program which will include up to 7 days of free parking.
13. Check with the airline regarding their luggage allowance. Most airlines are limiting passengers to one checked bag and one carry-on (not including a purse). Some airlines are charging at least \$15 for an additional bag, and some are charging for the first bag.
14. Leave your expensive jewelry at home. There have been instances of items being stolen at the airport after the luggage is checked or while it is being transferred from the airport to your hotel.
15. Take valuables, such as camera equipment, ipods, or medication in your carry on.
16. Put the name of your hotel on your luggage tag. If your luggage is misplaced, the airlines will know where to contact you
16. Tie some yarn onto your suitcase so you can easily spot it at baggage claim.
17. Take a change of clothing and beachwear in your carry on. Especially at larger resorts, it may be awhile before your luggage is delivered to your room. Don't let their delays keep you from starting your vacation when you arrive.
18. Take Airborne or similar medication when traveling by plane to help you resist colds and flus. Don't forget to take aspirin, an antacid and Neosporin.
19. Log on to the airline's website 24 hours before departure to print boarding passes which will save you time at the airport. You can also change seats or pay extra for premium seats at this time. If available, Exit rows usually cost \$15 per flight.
20. Arrive at the airport early. When traveling internationally, luggage must be checked at least 45 minutes before departure or boarding will be denied. Check with the airlines to see when then suggest arriving – usually 3 hours for an international flight and 2 hours for a domestic flight.
21. When you check in for your flight, let the airline personnel know that it is your honeymoon. You may get upgraded to first class.
22. Take your cell phone with you to the airport and have both the airline and hotel phone numbers available. If your flight is delayed or cancelled causing you to miss your connection, call the airline's 800 number. You may be able to change your flight by calling the reservations number before you even reach the airline counter to reprint your boarding pass.
23. Check out www.tsa.gov for the latest regulations on items to be checked versus carried on. As of the current publication, liquid toiletries cannot be more than 3 ounces and must be contained in a quart-size, ziplocked bag if you are going to carry them on.
24. Check out what amenities are included in your hotel room. Most resorts furnish bath gel, soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, sewing kits and shower caps which are replenished daily. For those items not available at your hotel, buy travel size toiletries to save room in your luggage.
25. Buy items at home that you will need, such as waterproof cameras, sunblock, books, snacks, and magazines which are more expensive if purchased in a tourist area.
26. Take earplugs with you in case you are seated by crying infants or loud passengers on the plane.
27. If traveling to a different part of the world, try to adjust to their time zone before you leave the U.S. by eating and sleeping on their schedule.
28. Take non-liquid snacks with you on the plane. Since most flights are connecting flights, meals are usually not included and snacks are minimal. Trail mix is a good choice. Snacks become increasingly important if you are delayed for take off or landing.
29. On long flights, drink plenty of water. Be sure to get up and walk around every two hours. Limit caffeine and alcohol.
30. If your luggage doesn't arrive with you, report it to the airport and hotel personnel. Most airlines have 24 hours to deliver it to you before you can be reimbursed for purchases. Make sure you keep receipts in order to file a claim with the airline or your travel insurance provider.

31. When you arrive at your resort, let them know you are honeymooners. Take a copy of your marriage certificate with you. Some resorts will give you a complimentary upgrade, free bottle of champagne or a preferred location.

32. If you arrive before check-in time, ask the concierge to store your luggage until your room is ready.

33. Take a scented candle with you. They are easy to pack and will add ambiance to your room.

34. Take your favorite CD or DVD along in case of a rainy day. Some resorts have a DVD library but the selection is usually limited.

35. Does your spouse have a favorite snack? Don't forget to pack it and surprise them.

36. In addition to taking sunscreen, take lip balm with SPF.

37. Don't forget insect repellent! This is especially important if you are going hiking, biking, on canopy tours or horseback riding. Depending on the time of year you are traveling, mosquitoes can be a nuisance, so be prepared.

38. Try the local specialties for both food and drink. Part of the fun of traveling is in trying new things!

39. Some resorts provide free internet service if you bring your laptop. Your laptop can also come in handy for emailing home or sharing photos of your trip. If you are not bringing a laptop, most resorts have a business center where internet is available for a nominal fee.

40. If you are going to take your cell phone with you, make sure that your cell phone company provides service at your destination and that you have international dialing activated before you leave.

41. Don't forget your digital camera TV adaptor so you can hook up to the television and delete any pictures that are not quite perfect.

42. If you are going to a foreign country where English is not the primary language, try to learn a few words. Locals appreciate the effort and won't mind if your pronunciation is less than perfect.

43. If you have a safe in your room, lock up your watch so you are on nobody's time but your own.

44. Have a massage the day after you arrive. It will help you relax, and what is more romantic than a couples massage.

45. Visit what is unique to your destination – Mayan ruins in Mexico, a luau in Hawaii, Dunn's River Waterfall in Jamaica, or Stingray City in the Cayman Islands.

46. Ask your travel agent to schedule a private dinner on the beach if available. Sometimes this is included as part of a honeymoon package. If not, some resorts offer white-glove service under the stars at an additional cost.

47. Surprise your spouse by bringing artificial rose petals and bubble bath from home and ask your maid to decorate your bed or Jacuzzi.

48. If transfers are included in your package, you should receive your departure time the night prior to departure. If not, call the concierge.

49. Check out is usually at 11am or noon. If you have a late flight, ask the concierge to store your bags and continue enjoying your trip.

50. After months of planning for your wedding, just RELAX and have fun!

Created by **Vicki Hedberg, Honeymoon-Hideaways**