

CONTENTS



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PLANNING



Lonely Planet's honeymoon planning guide	6
Budgeting for a honeymoon	12
The art of compromise	18
Minimoons	22
Getting married abroad	26
Honeymoon calendar: when to go where?	30
The honeymoon quiz	32
Choosing your perfect safari	36
Top 10 budget honeymoons	40
Top five off-the-beaten-track honeymoons	44
Top five luxury honeymoons	45
Top five wildlife-lovers' honeymoons	46
Top five familymoons	46
Top 10 honeymoon islands	48
Top five foodie honeymoons	52
Top five romantic road trips	54
Top five Instagram-worthy honeymoons	54

Budget breakdown

\$\$ = LESS THAN US\$4500
 \$\$\$ = US\$4500-6500
 \$\$\$\$ = MORE THAN US\$6500

INSPIRATION



Mauritius	58
Zambia & Malawi	62
Bali & Lombok, Indonesia	66
Myanmar	70
Bhutan	74
Maldives & Sri Lanka	78
Tokyo & Mt Fuji, Japan	82
Australia	86
South Island, New Zealand	90
Caribbean islands	94
Tobago	98
Cuba	102
Nicaragua	106
Yucatán Peninsula, Mexico	110
Miami & South Florida, USA	114
Las Vegas & Southwest USA	118
Hawaii	122
Rockies, Canada	126
Argentina	130
Galápagos, Ecuador	134
Paris & the Loire Valley, France	138
Florence, Tuscany & Cinque Terre, Italy	142
Andalucía, Spain	146
Croatia	150
Lapland, Finland	154
About the authors	166
Acknowledgements	168

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LGBT-friendliness indicator

LONELY PLANET WRITERS HAVE RATED DESTINATIONS FROM 1 TO 5 BASED ON THEIR FRIENDLINESS TOWARDS SAME-SEX COUPLES. 1 INDICATES THE LEAST LGBT-FRIENDLY PLACES, AND 5 REPRESENTS THE DESTINATIONS THAT ARE MOST WELCOMING.

PLANNING





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LONELY PLANET'S HONEYMOON PLANNING GUIDE

Getting hitched is the most socially accepted reason on the planet to ditch work and undertake your longest, most splurge-iest trip ever. But before you dive head first into checking off the items on your travel bucket list, take a few minutes to consider the practical stuff, because the trip of your dreams won't just magically appear by itself.

ABOVE Before heading for the beach, make sure you have your honeymoon planned to perfection; nobody wants to end up marooned abroad.

In fact, lousy hotels, missed flights, lacklustre meals and inhospitable weather can significantly hamper a happy holiday, essentially flushing your hard-earned money down the toilet. And while we can't read crystal balls or do rain dances, we can assure you that proper planning will undoubtedly put the odds in your favour of enjoying the getaway of your dreams.

TIMING IS EVERYTHING

You've dutifully set aside your collection of vacation days – now it's time to work out how to spend them on your honeymoon. It's important to weigh the time you've allotted for your adventure against your destination of choice, and make sure that your trip is spent travelling, not transiting.

With two or three weeks, you'll have a more generous amount of time to take a crack at a faraway destination and overcome the exhaustion of a long-haul journey and/or jet lag. But a week-long holiday, say, is never well served by spending two full days hoofing it from one continent to another,

only to stop a few days later and repeat the gruelling trek back.

The other major timing consideration has to do with seasonality. Tacking your honeymoon on at the end of your already-set wedding date might preclude travel to certain destinations simply due to the time of year. Large areas of the Caribbean, for example, are prone to hurricanes during the months of September and October.

Other destinations have annual monsoons – like Thailand, which has two different curtains of rains that sweep across the kingdom during the latter half of the year.

It's best to educate yourself on the high and low seasons of your preferred honeymooning locales. Prices, of course, increase with a rise in demand during the months with the most favourable climate and during busy periods such as school holidays (when desirable hotels can also become scarce). Low seasons, on the other hand – or better yet, 'shoulder' or 'green' seasons – can be a worthy option if you want to see more bang for your buck at the expense of rolling the dice weather-wise.



DIAMOND TIP
 PRE-ORDER A FLOWER-LEI GREETING FOR BOTH OF YOU UPON ARRIVAL AT THE AIRPORT FROM GREETERS OF HAWAII (WWW.GREETERSOFHAWAII.COM).



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Practicalities

A compact, waterproof or underwater camera lets you capture fun at the beach and snorkelling with tropical fish.

Honolulu International Airport, O'ahu

LGBT-friendly ★★★★★
 (Hawaii's biggest LGBT scene revolves around Waikiki Beach on O'ahu. Maui, Kaua'i and the Big Island have low-key local communities.)

You can visit Hawaii year-round, though the driest months with the calmest ocean conditions are May to October.

\$ \$ - \$ \$ \$



- Beach
- Relaxation
- Outdoors

HAWAII

The Hawaiian Islands are a classic honeymoon destination, where you could happily laze on the beach all day, every day. But if you're an adventurous couple, Hawaii's volcanoes, rain forests, protected parks and spectacular coral reefs should also tempt you.

Made up of the most geographically remote islands on the planet, the Hawaiian archipelago belongs as much to Polynesia as it does to the USA. In Hawaii, honeymooners will find wide sweeps of white, black and golden sands, famous surf breaks and aquamarine bays perfect for snorkelling and diving. Take a romantic sunset cruise off Waikiki Beach or an all-day catamaran sail along Kaua'i's Na Pali Coast, where you can peer up at towering sea cliffs as dolphins and sea turtles swim nearby. In winter, whale-watching boat trips to spot migratory humpbacks in the national marine sanctuary are a must-do on Maui.

Even if you're more of a landlubber than a water baby, Hawaii's main islands offer fantastic scenic drives, such as Maui's jungly road to Hana, Chain of Craters Rd through the Big Island's Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, and epic sea-to-summit drives to the top of Haleakala and Mauna Kea volcanoes. Hawaii also preserves its *paniolo* (cowboy) heritage at historic ranches on the main islands, where you can go horseback riding, ride a zip line or take a guided tour of sites where Hollywood TV and movie blockbusters including *Jurassic Park* and *Lost* were filmed.

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LEFT The Na Pali Coast (top) and Waikiki Beach.

NOTES

NOTES

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Sarah Baxter

Travel writer and author Sarah hasn't been on a honeymoon herself, but loves planning other people's: she was editor of Unique Honeymoons magazine, and strives to seek out offbeat romantic spots.

Greg Benchwick

Greg first travelled to Nicaragua in 1995. Since then, Greg's written dozens of Lonely Planet books, interviewed heads-of-state and Grammy-award winners, and sought romance in some of the planet's most remote corners.

Sara Benson

Sara is a travel and outdoor adventure writer who spent her own honeymoon hopping between Hawaiian Islands, from volcanic peaks to soft, sandy beaches.

Heather Carswell

Heather is a London-based writer and PR. Her travels have taken

her across the globe, but her heart remains in Southeast Asia.

Duncan Garwood

Since moving to Italy and getting married in Taranto, Duncan has travelled extensively in his adopted homeland and worked on a raft of Lonely Planet Italy titles.

John Hecht

Mexico-based John has authored more than a dozen Lonely Planet books, including two editions of Cancún, Cozumel & the Yucatán.

Carolyn B. Heller

Vancouver-based travel writer Carolyn honeymooned by the ocean but loves the mountains, too. A contributor to more than 50 travel guides, she's explored 40+ countries on six continents.

adam karlin

Adam has worked on over 50 Lonely Planet guidebooks, including Florida, Botswana, Kenya and India. He spent his honeymoon in Nashville, and it was pretty amazing.

Olivia Knight

Olivia is the founder of honeymoon fund patchworkit.com. She travels regularly with her husband and two children and writes about honeymoons for Wedding Ideas and

You and Your Wedding.

Anja Mutic

Travel writer Anja splits time between New York and Croatia. She has written for publications including National Geographic Traveler, The Wall Street Journal and BBC Travel. everthenomad.com.

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Isabella is a Spain specialist travel journalist for Lonely Planet and Telegraph Travel, in love with Andalucía, where she grew up. She also covers India, Southeast Asia, Britain and beyond.

Etain O'Carroll

Travel writer Etain has authored over 30 Lonely Planet books as well as writing for magazines and newspapers while indulging a love of travel off the beaten track.

Lorna Parkes

A former Lonely Planet destination editor for the Caribbean, Central America and Iberia in Europe, in a past life Lorna also used to edit Bride Destination magazine in Australia. Honeymoon planning is one of her callings.

Matt Phillips

With 15 years of extensive travel across Africa – some of it luxurious,

all of it adventurous – Matt has been called on by many a bride and groom for honeymoon safari advice.

Brandon Presser

Brandon has visited over 100 countries and has contributed to over 50 travel books. He hosts the American travel TV show, *Tour Group*, on Bravo, and contributes to a variety of publications, including Condé Nast Brides.

Charles Rawlings-Way

Charles has lived in Australia for 40-odd years and has visited New Zealand more often than necessary – perfect writerly qualifications! His own honeymoon involved South Australian wine...but that's another story.

Simon Richmond

Writer and photographer Simon (www.simonrichmond.com) is an ex-resident of Tokyo and author of guides to that city and to Myanmar for Lonely Planet.

Daniel Robinson

Daniel has worked on 11 of the 12 editions of Lonely Planet's France guide and co-authored (with Tony Wheeler) LP's first Paris city guide. He last covered the Loire Valley in 2016.

PRAISE FOR THE HONEYMOON HANDBOOK

'An essential toolkit for all honeymooners. The honeymoon quiz and destination calendar are worth their weight in gold. No matter your style, timeline or budget – you'll discover your perfect honeymoon in this book!'

**Sara & Josh Margulis,
Honeyfund founders**

'Having honeymooned across all seven continents, we couldn't agree more with this selection of epic destinations and savvy advice. These itineraries strike that perfect balance of romance, adventure, and unforgettable experiences. Follow this handbook and start your new life together with a bang!'

**Mike & Anne Howard,
'The World's Longest Honeymooners'
& founders of HoneyTrek.com**