

BRIDAL CORNER

Honeymoon timeline: Plan well in advance

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Special to The IFP

You are nearly done planning your wedding, but wait, haven't you forgotten something? The honeymoon. By setting up everything in advance, you won't find yourself stuck out in the middle of nowhere in the most unromantic spot in the world.

As with planning a wedding, there is a timeline for planning a honeymoon. It generally goes like this:

Six to eight months in advance

- Determine the type of honeymoon you would like to have.
- Begin investigating possible destinations.
- Set a budget. Figure in different expenses such as plane tickets, meals, car rental, taxes and gifts.
- Find a travel agent who specializes in the type of honeymoon you want to take.
- Check out your frequent flyer miles.

Four to six months in advance

- Book your tickets. Ask about special honeymoon discounts or packages. Get confirmation numbers.
- Reserve your hotel room. Be specific about your requirements, such as a non-smoking room with an ocean view. Ask about any honeymoon specials or discounts. Get a confirmation number.
- Book your car rental, if needed. Once again, get a confirmation number.
- Make a list of all confirmation numbers. Take the originals with you and leave the list with a friend or relative.
- Find out what vaccinations and health certificates are needed. Unless you are going to certain third-world countries, you do not need to be vaccinated this far in advance. Your doctor will know when your vaccinations will need to be administered.
- Start learning the language if you are going to a non-English speaking country.

Three months in advance

- Make sure you have valid passports and the names match

those on your tickets.

- Make sure you have applied for all needed visas.
- Confirm your reservations with the airline.
- Consider getting travel insurance.
- Finish up any needed reservations.

One to two months in advance

• Buy your luggage and all other travel accessories you will need (camera, film, electrical adaptor).

Stop at the bank and get currency of the country you are going to.

- Make sure all of your credit cards are valid.
- Book any tours, theater tickets or activities that need advance reservations. This especially true during peak travel seasons.
- Confirm all reservations.
- Make arrangements for the boarding of pets.
- Give someone a copy of your itinerary. Be sure to include the phone numbers of where you will be staying.

One to two weeks in advance

- Stop newspaper deliveries.
- Make arrangements to have your mail held.
- Pick up tickets from your travel agent.
- Make copies of your passports, credit cards, insurance, traveler's check numbers and will. Keep one in your luggage and give one to a friend or relative.
- Make sure you have enough medication to last you while you are gone. Keep all medication in their original bottles.

• Confirm that the house or pet-sitter has keys and knows when to come over. In the case of a pet sitter, make sure they have the vet's phone number.

- Set out clothing to be packed. Pack your carry-ons.

Three days in advance

- Reconfirm any overseas flights.
- Buy any reading material for the trip.
- Make arrangements for transportation to and from the airport.
- Check the weather forecasts.
- Prepare a list of people to send postcards to.
- Get your home ready for departure. Eat or throw out perishable food. Water the plants. Set any timers.

Day of departure

- Confirm domestic flights.
 - Make sure all luggage is labeled with your names and the phone number of where you will be staying. Do not put your home address on your luggage.
 - Get to the airport early.
 - Let the ticket agent know you are on your honeymoon. Sometimes, you may get an upgrade or special V.I.P. treatment.
- Now there is nothing left to do but sit back, relax and enjoy your honeymoon. Bon voyage!



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