

## Get The Most From Your Travel Agent

Whatever your combination of honeymoon travel needs may be, chances are you'll be able to arrange a tailor-made trip.

The best way to do this is through a travel agent. While you're busy planning your wedding, you'll appreciate the expert advice of someone who has all the information needed to pinpoint the perfect destination and then make the reservations. The travel industry today is highly specialized; some agencies employ honeymoon travel consultants, and some offer bridal registries that allow your wedding guests to put money toward the cost of your honeymoon as a shower or wedding gift.

Choose your travel agent carefully, perhaps first networking with friends and colleagues to get recommendations. You want someone who will find that special place, get that seemingly elusive room or flight, and find a bargain or two as well. He or she should be able to make interesting and/or economical suggestions based on up-to-the-minute information not usually available to the general public. This could include unusual accommodations, a great discount or upgrade, or the most streamlined itinerary if you have to make several connections during your trip.

Don't feel you have to walk

into a travel agency knowing where you want to honeymoon. If you're in need of inspiration, your agent can help enormously from just a few clues provided by you. For instance, by telling him/her that you're both tennis buffs and want plenty of sunshine and a beach, you can be supplied with a variety of suggestions in your price range.

Here is a list of questions to help you get the most from a travel agent

Is there a fee for your services? It's likely there will be no charge for your agent's services, but if long-distance calls or telegrams are necessary to confirm your reservations, these will be charged to you. However, some agencies may charge a fee for particularly complicated travel arrangements—a small investment for peace of mind.

What is included in this travel package? No matter which package you are considering, always get the details and ask your agent for a brief translation of the fine print. For instance, the definition of "all-inclusive" can vary in several significant areas that may be of importance to you. Get the bottom line on all costs before you book.

How can you make our trip extra special? Most travel agents are masters of the little

details that make a trip memorable. If you're planning to spend a week in New York City, chances are your travel agent can reserve theatre tickets for you. If you're bound for the British Virgin Islands, then reservations for a day's sail on a skippered yacht are in order. And if you want to surprise your new spouse, your agent can secretly organize to have a special bouquet of roses delivered to your room.

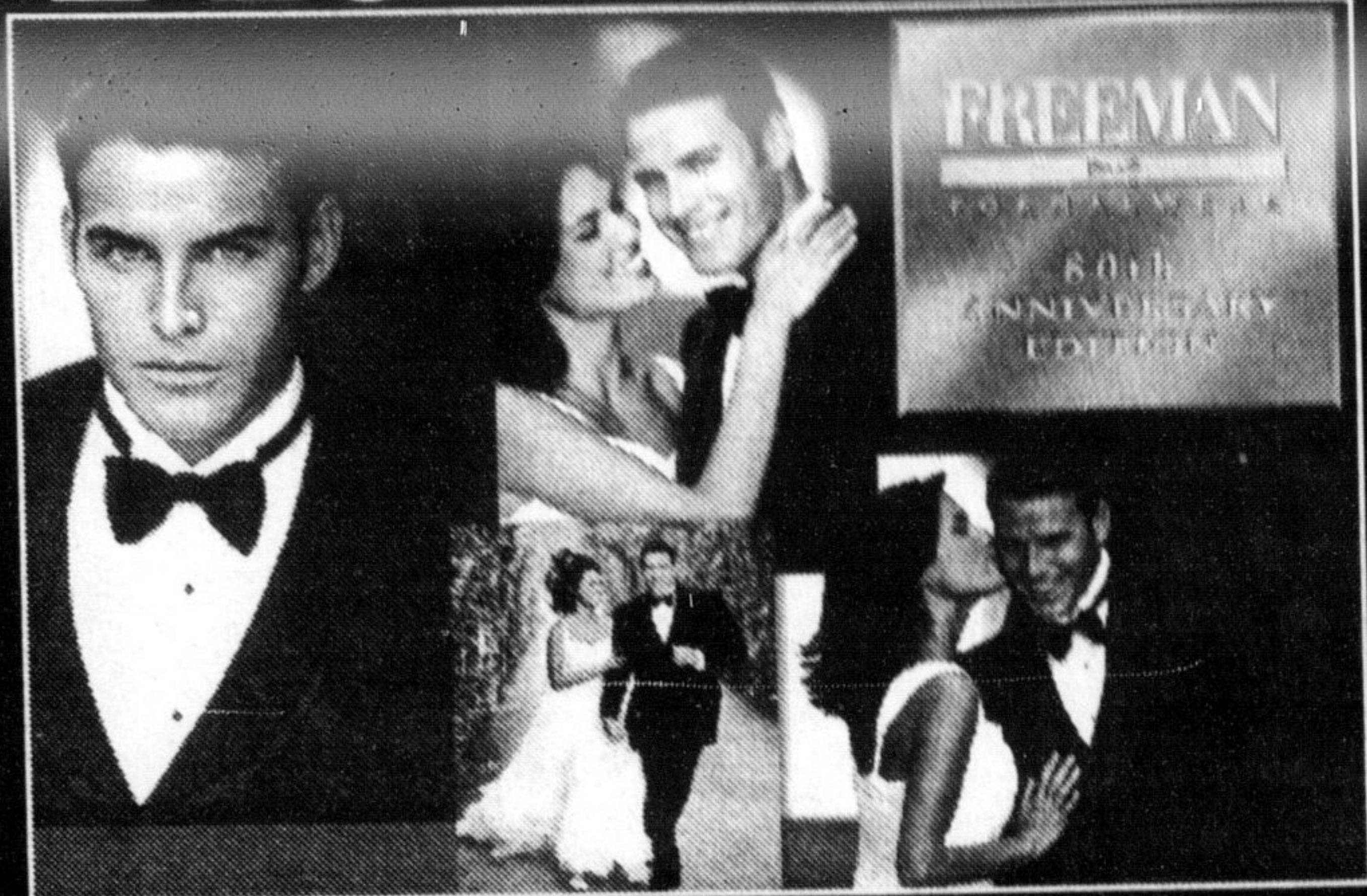
What sort of documentation is necessary? (Will we need passports, visas or international driver's licenses?) Immigration officials at some non-domestic destinations are relaxed, demanding only legal identification, such as a birth certificate, but a passport is the most dependably acceptable document. If you don't already have a passport, you should apply for one at least three to six weeks before your trip. It may also be wise to carry a copy of your birth certificate—particularly if your airplane tickets bear your new married name and your passport has your maiden name.

How does the local currency compare with the Canadian and/or American dollar?

Which brand of traveler's cheques is best for the destination?

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