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Source: Wedding (Supplement)
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PEROWNE CHARLES COMMUNICATIONS

The experts

Our industry insiders share their tips on making your honeymoon the holiday of a lifetime



Look for new openings



"Look out for new hotels, many will offer special deals in the months after their launch so there's a chance you could bag a bargain. If you love pampering and spa treatments, find packages with treatments included, you'll particularly find these in the Far East."

Gemma Wilson, Far East programme manager, Western & Oriental Travel (www.westernoriental.com/honeymoons)

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Book out of season



"Spring or autumn honeymoons are often the best value, with more offers and flexibility. You might find your resort will offer little extras to secure your booking, like a private beach dinner or couples massage. Also, don't dismiss complimentary half board or full board deals because they can offer great savings. The cost of importing food has increased, making island dining more expensive so knowing you've booked and pre-paid your meals will avoid any shocks upon check-out!" **Sandra Harrison, product manager, Indian Ocean, Africa, Asia & Australasia, Elegant Resorts** (www.elegant-resorts.co.uk)

Go for a package deal



"Booking a package holiday is usually less expensive than booking your flight and hotel separately and also offers financial protection. Plan your excursions in advance because, although you don't want your diary to be too full on honeymoon, it's nice to have some activities to look forward to on your trip." **Tiffany Cope, marketing assistant, Trailfinders** (www.trailfinders.com)

Make time for relaxation



"Pack half of your items in each other's suitcase – just in case one gets lost! A nice touch is to create romantic honeymoon music playlists to listen to while you're away. Finally, remember moving around between hotels means a lot of packing and unpacking, checking in and out and waiting for transportation. So try to sit back, relax and enjoy your sweetheart!" **Kerrie-Anne Ford, UK weddings supervisor, Sandals Resorts** (www.sandals.co.uk)

Get organised



"Make sure all of your travel documents are in the same name and be prepared to show your wedding certificate to some resorts, many now require proof that it really is your honeymoon. Finally, this is probably the most expensive holiday you will ever book so make sure you organise travel insurance which covers you for all eventualities, as well as your engagement and wedding rings!" **Jessica Lee, personal travel expert, Kuoni Travel** (www.kuoni.co.uk)

Think outside the box



"Why not try a honeymoon with an element of surprise? Song Saa, a private island resort which launched last year in Cambodia, provides honeymooners with a unique experience. Every detail of the holiday is kept a surprise, with the staff only telling the couple something very special has been planned. The couple walk out on to a jetty where monks from the Pagoda temple, on the neighbouring island of Koh Rong, give them a blessing. It can become quite emotional!" **James Jayasundera, owner, Ampersand Travel** (www.ampersand.co.uk)

Choose multi-destination



"We've seen an increase in couples choosing not one but two or three destinations for their honeymoon. It's a great way to experience the holiday of your collective dreams: beach and safari, city lights and off the beaten track. Think about what you want and plan a city stopover to break up the journey, we'd suggest a couple of nights in Los Angeles before flying on to Bora Bora or Tahiti. Or maybe stop off in Hong Kong or Bangkok before heading to Fiji or Australia."

James Bell, sales and marketing director, Turquoise Holidays (www.turquoiseholidays.co.uk/honeymoon)

Try a new activity



"Arrange something out of the ordinary, such as a helicopter sightseeing flight, or try a new activity together such as diving, water sports or a cookery class – after all, it will be a trip of a lifetime and these activities will give you amazing memories. Keep a little of your budget for special extras such as private starlit dinners on the sand, a spa treatment, or to upgrade your room to a suite or villa. If you are staying at the exclusive Royal Palm in Mauritius you can start your honeymoon in style and arrive by Rolls Royce Phantom!" **Jackie Llewelyn-Bowen, wedding ambassador, Beachcomber Hotels** (www.beachcombertours.co.uk)

Let them know you're honeymooners



"Don't be afraid to tell your tour operator it's your honeymoon. After months of paying a premium for the term 'wedding', when it comes to your honeymoon there are a lot of special extras that can be arranged on your behalf to make your trip even more memorable. When staying at one of our Beachcomber Hotels in Mauritius and the Seychelles, honeymooners receive champagne and gifts on arrival, as well as complimentary spa treatments." **Mark Boule, marketing manager, Beachcomber Tours** (www.beachcombertours.co.uk)