



Great Budget Honeymoon Ideas

Honeymoons mark the finale of the wedding celebrations and signal the start of a life together as a married couple. With this, honeymoons should be moments of togetherness spent in a unique environment, whether it is on a private island resort, sightseeing in a romantic city or an experience of pure adrenalin on an adventure holiday.

Although honeymoons will definitely cost money, it is good to know that you can be in control of the amount that you want to spend. Of course, there will definitely be trade-offs in terms of the standard of the hotels that you will be staying in as well as the type of seats that you will be getting for your flights. If you are willing to settle for a little less in terms of luxury and convenience, you will be thrilled to know it is possible to cut your costs by half.

The first section of this guide will show you smart ways in which you can obtain better prices for almost everything in your honeymoon. The second part of this guide will highlight some interesting destination ideas that are perfect for honeymooners on a budget.

Ways to pay and spend less for your honeymoon

Book Early

Perhaps one of the best ways to get cheaper rates is to book everything as early as you can. Hotels and airlines charge lower rates when dates are still far ahead, as they need to fill up the extra volume that they have. During these times, rates are lower and you may be surprised at the discounts that you can get just by being an early bird.

Compare prices over the Internet

With the mushrooming of travel portals all over the internet, it is often easy and convenient to cross-check hotel and flight rates in vacation websites such as Lastminute.com, Travelocity.com, Priceline.com and CheapTickets.com. Different portals offer different prices and if you do your homework right, you will be able to obtain the lowest prices at the click of a button. If you are driving, you can also compare car rental rates within these portals.

Alternatively, it is also a good idea to check with your local travel agents for hotel and ticket prices or travel deals, as there may be special promotions going on that they can offer you.

Develop a honeymoon budget worksheet

One of the benefits of budgeting is the ability to plan and analyze the costs of your trip before actually spending it. By having a worksheet detailing your estimation of the total expenses of your trip, you will have full view of your spending limitations. With this, you will be sure that you won't go over board with spending extra during your trip and keep to spending only what you have planned for.

Travel during off-season

Hotel costs and flight tickets usually cost less during off season as less people are on holiday during these periods. Therefore, if you can arrange your honeymoon during an off-season period, it will also be easier for you to get the flights and rooms that you want without paying a premium for them.

Opt for stop-overs

Some flights cost less if a stop-over is required, and spending a few hours at an airport is not a bad idea if you are traveling on a budget. Apart from that, if your stop-over is for an extended period, some airlines may even offer a local city tour, which is great for sightseeing while waiting to embark on your next destination.

Check budget travel magazines

Another alternative when shopping for travel deals is to go through budget travel magazines for the latest offers that may be offered by travel agencies especially during off season. You may be surprised at the great discounts that are being offered for flight tickets, hotels and even travel packages.

Consider travel packages

Purchasing a travel package may ultimately cost less than purchasing your flight tickets, local tours and hotel rooms separately. However, you probably need to do a cost comparison to determine the actual price difference between a travel package and individual prices. This is as travel packages can also sometimes cost higher especially during peak holiday periods. Apart from that, some travel packages follow tour itineraries which may pose to be too restrictive for some couples.

Plan your land tours or sightseeing trips

Sound planning is always a good idea especially when you are traveling, so that you know exactly what you are going to do when you reach your destination. It is also good to read up on travel guides and probably surf the internet to find out in more detail on the local attractions of your destination, as well as the estimated prices for local tours. In fact, you may even choose to book your land tours before you go, so as not to waste precious travel time shopping for one. Furthermore, you can also opt for half-day tours instead of full day tours which will help to keep you to your budget and save the rest of the day for other activities.

Eat like the locals

Food will contribute to a considerable chunk of your budget and therefore picking the right food and right locations to eat is important. Try not to eat in the hotel restaurant as prices in hotels are always higher than a comparable meal outside. Check with the locals on a good place to eat or surf the internet to check in message boards for food recommendations from other tourists who had previously visited the place. If you wish to dine in a restaurant, go for lunch instead of dinner as some restaurants offer lunch sets that are comparatively cheaper than dinner sets.

Shop like the locals

It is often a good idea to shop for souvenirs at locations that are frequented mostly by the locals. Shops that sell items specifically catered for tourists usually price their items at a premium. Apart from that, it is a good idea to compare prices between a few shops and even bargain for the lowest price. You'll have fun doing it too!

Buy snacks and groceries for in-between meals

Buying your own snacks at local grocery stores helps you save on ordering room service or rummaging through the mini-bar if you are hungry at night. This way, you don't have to pay premium for hotel food and still be able to fill your stomach.

Get a local phone card to call home

Phone calls cost much less when you use a local phone card to call home. With this, your hotel will only charge you for a local call when you call the access number on your phone card. This will help you save on international call surcharges imposed by the hotel.

Get a honeymoon gift

It may also be a good idea to get your guests to contribute to your honeymoon as part of your wedding registry. With this, instead of giving you home items, your guests could probably purchase some of your tours for your honeymoon trip. For example, they can purchase a local cruise or a city tour as their gift to you. In fact, honeymoon registries have lately become more popular and even websites that cater just for this purpose is now available. Sites like theBigDay.com and theHoneymoon.com are two of the more popular websites found on the internet.

Great Budget Honeymoon Destination Ideas

A Romantic Cruise

A romantic honeymoon on board a cruise ship had been previously viewed as expensive and luxurious. However, this fact has recently been changed when discount portals such as Wal-Mart, Priceline, Travelocity and eBay, have stepped in to work with cruise companies to market their cruise packages. Stiff competition has driven prices down and consumers are able to grab great cruise bargains at low prices. For example, a 3-day cruise to the Bahamas costs only \$249 per person while a 7-day Tahiti cruise starts at \$1295 per person. Now, honeymooners on a budget can still have their romantic cruise without having to pay an exclusive price for it.

Camping Trip

Especially for couples who do not mind roughing it a little, camping trips are great for honeymooners with a sense of adventure. Nothing can be more romantic than spending the night snuggling under the stars in the privacy of

your own tent. Each night will probably just cost you \$10 - \$20, plus you can cook your own food and set up your own bon fire. Additionally, if you prefer, you can mix your trip with a few days at a regular hotel, or even rent a honeymoon cabin!

Island Hopping

You may be one of the romantics who dream of an island honeymoon, but who may be concerned about the costs that come with it. Although vacationing in many islands may be expensive, there are other islands off the coast of the U.S. which are pretty affordable. For instance, bed and breakfast cottages located at the Outer Banks of North Carolina are great destinations. Apart from that you can also visit Catalina Island in California on the west coast, with its unique hotels and romantic harbor, making it a great honeymoon destination. Alternatively, you can also check out the barrier reef islands off the coast of Alabama and Georgia, which are just great for snorkeling and scuba diving.

National Park Honeymoons

If you are a nature lover, then you will definitely look forward to spending your honeymoon in one of the 48 national parks within the United States. It's fun to go camping with no one for miles around, enjoy the scenic view and get a chance to watch wild animals in their natural surroundings. Check out details of the various parks on the website of The National Park Service, www.nps.com.

Niagara Falls Honeymoon

The Niagara Falls is one of the best places to honeymoons, with the charm of the crashing water and just the uniqueness of this destination itself. There are many hotels available at the Niagara Falls with many of them offering honeymoon packages just for newlyweds. It is a great experience to visit the numerous attractions around the falls, or even to take the Maid of the Mist boat ride together for the first time. In fact, being a tourist area, there are just loads of activities available, all of which promises an enjoyable time for everyone.

Exotic Island Destinations

If you are open to flying to another country, it may be a good idea to choose a destination with a currency that is of a much lower value as compared to the dollar. This means that you can purchase more for much less at these destinations as it will definitely cost you less to pay for hotels, food, tours and even souvenirs. The only thing that you pay for in dollars would probably just be your flight tickets.

Some great exotic island destinations would be Los Cabos in Mexico, Bali in Indonesia, Lamu in Kenya or Negril in Jamaica. You can sample the local cuisine at a fraction of the price that you would pay for in the U.S. and even opt to stay for a longer period of time with the cheaper hotel rates.

Local tours will cost much less and you can even opt to spend your time at a spa or even a massage. Bargaining is a norm in these countries and you can practically buy in bulk and ask for volume discounts. In fact, many of the flea markets within these destinations expect you to bargain with them. Many times the prices quoted to you could be twice the price that they are expecting you to pay!

Casino Honeymoons

Casino destinations offer great all-inclusive deals with clean and new hotel rooms and 24 hour room service in order to attract seasoned gamblers. Honeymooning couples can also utilize these deals and spend their nights in a casino hotel. Whether or not the couple will be spending their time in the casino is another matter, as there is much to see and do within the city itself. Couples can go for music performances by the country's top superstars, most of which will not miss out casino cities such as Las Vegas and Atlantic City. Apart from that, there are also wide selections of great cuisine, all of which are great for romantic dinners or lunches. Furthermore, the finest shopping areas with the latest designs in clothes and jewelry are also located within casino cities. All in all, honeymooners will definitely not be bored in a casino honeymoon.