



Unique honeymoons

The popular image of a honeymoon is of a special time when a just-married couple goes off for a "getting to know you" period of privacy. While privacy and romance are still on the list of honeymooners' desires, new social trends such as living together before marriage have brought out a different emphasis.

The honeymoon takes on greater proportions as a new and fresh experience for the couple with plans being made for a unique place that will provide some very special memories for the beginning of a life together.

With that in mind, local travel agents have come up with some suggestions for honeymoons with a bit more adventure involved. Plans should be made early to not only guarantee space, but to get the best price possible on travel costs.

The main consideration in choosing the romantic trip is honesty between bride and groom. Personal interests should be discussed and activities planned that please each partner.

Two hearts will beat as one when viewing the breathtaking scenery along the California coastline around San Francisco Bay for the couple enjoying their honeymoon on the West Coast.

"Take advantage of special air fares to get to San Francisco from the Metro Detroit area," says Helen Butler of Russell's Travel in Livonia. "Fisherman's Wharf is an ideal area to stay to enjoy the local color and casual atmosphere. It's a perfect spot for a short honeymoon with a different flavor."

Butler notes that side trips such as a wine tour of the Napa Valley and a drive along the Monterey Peninsula are fun day trips that are easy on the budget. "This is a medium budget getaway for a newly married couple interested in windowshopping and enjoying local arts and crafts," she says.

For a couple who really likes to walk, consider a honeymoon in the British Isles with bed and breakfast stops in the country. It's a chance to get to know local people, tour quaint villages and sample country tastes at local pubs. Rent a car or use the railways to make it a medium-priced trip; plan ahead to get the best airfare deal.

The British Isles are steeped in history and there are plenty of opportunities for side trips to castles, churches and scenic areas. Remember to take a good pair of walking shoes to get the most out of your visit.

Marge Clements of Adventure Travel Service in Belleville suggests May through September as the best season although one should be sure to pack a rain poncho!

If the happy couple wants to be on the move without having to do the walking, then a WINDJAMMER CRUISE in the Caribbean might be just to their liking.

Cheryl Fernitz of Venture Out Travel in Westland suggests a five-day honeymoon cruise in a private cabin aboard the 282-foot Phantom, the largest four-master in the world. The crew of 45 caters to the guests, but also encourages them to take a turn at the wheel or help hoist a sail. Dress code is bathing suits and cutoff jeans with relaxation on the deck followed by a cool dip at a beautiful island anchorage.

The sailing adventures are available practically year-round and qualify as a medium-priced romantic interlude.

Like the water but prefer the view from land? Gaze together into the clear blue-green sea from beneath your private palm tree on COZUMEL, MEXICO, on the Yucatan Peninsula.

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