

# *The Ultimate Honeymoon on Any Budget*



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## Welcome to Your Honeymoon Planner

Welcome to your guide to planning the honeymoon of your dreams. We congratulate you on your engagement and feel privileged to have the chance to share our expertise to help you plan a blissful honeymoon while revealing some key strategies that will certainly save you a lot of money to make your honeymoon affordable.

### *Meet Your Honeymoon Guides*



Tim Spooner is an author, teacher, and world traveler.

He has traveled the world extensively and has already enjoyed more than his fair share of tropical islands and exotic locations.

Tim and his wife, Lisa, wrote [Wedding Planning on a Budget](#). Tim also wrote [The Newlyweds' Guide to a Happy Marriage](#).

At the time of this writing, he is teaching in South Korea.

David C. Reynolds is a travel industry insider and author. He has been in the travel industry since 1972 and has a wealth of travel tips and strategies to share.



His books [Book Hotels Cheaper](#), [Travel Tips and Advice](#) as well as [Hotel Reviews: Finding and Understanding](#) have revealed the secrets to getting the best travel deals while enjoying the most successful traveling experience possible.

At the time of this writing, he is working at an airport hotel in San Francisco.

### ***Getting the Most Out of This Planner***

To get the most out of this honeymoon planner, we encourage you to interact with the contents of this planner.

Since this is a digital book, you can click on hyperlinked text to visit websites and planning tools that we are making available to you.

We also encourage you to use a notebook with this honeymoon planner to write down ideas.

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Finally, before you book your honeymoon or take any other serious steps, we ask you to read through this book. You see, we don't want you to discover any of our strategies after it is too late for you to apply the strategy.

We try to present this information in a step-by-step format to make it easy for you to process. In doing so, we sometimes had to put off telling you about something until later than we would have liked to.

We, for example, will tell you how to set up your honeymoon budget before we tell you some key strategies to make your money go further and how to expand your financial resources.

By reading all of this step-by-step information together, you will be able to use the collective knowledge and resources we are providing you to ultimate advantage as you plan your ultimate honeymoon at a price you can afford.

## The Art of a Honeymoon

Have you ever seen the Hollywood hit *Just Married* (2003) starring Brittany Murphy and Ashton Kutcher? This romantic comedy tells the story of Sarah and Tom who marry despite the protests of family members and travel to Europe for a dream honeymoon complete with a stay at a castle.

This couple that had just married with the highest ideals of love and commitment run into a string of bad luck throughout their honeymoon. By the time their honeymoon is over, they are beyond annoyed with one another and cannot stand being together. We are happy to report that although their young love is severely tested by their bad honeymoon experiences they do finally get back together again once they realize that life's obstacles cannot stop their love.

The reason we tell you about this movie is that Sarah and Tom's story is a great reminder of just how important your honeymoon really is.

Your honeymoon is the start of your married life together. We want to help you get started on the right foot.

Your honeymoon is supposed to be the representation of your new life together. You will always remember your honeymoon. The happiness and love you experience during your honeymoon is an indication of the kind of happiness and love that is possible as long as you are spending your lives together.

Just like successful marriages, successful honeymoons don't happen by accident.

Your honeymoon is the first step among many that will add up to become your married life together. In the following pages, we will help you start your marriage with a perfect honeymoon.

### *Defining Your Goals*

The key to your perfect honeymoon comes in knowing what would be a perfect honeymoon for *you*.

My perfect honeymoon may be entirely different from yours. In fact, often a bride's idea of a perfect honeymoon is different from the expectations of the groom.

You should both plan your honeymoon together. The first step to planning your dream honeymoon is envisioning what it would be like.

What do you really want from your honeymoon?

Will your focus be on intimacy?

Will your focus be on exploring a new place?

Will your focus be on relaxing and de-stressing after your wedding?

Will your focus be on candle-lit dinners and dancing?

Will your honeymoon double as your vacation and you want to get the very most out of it that you can?

Do you want to return exuberant and exhausted or refreshed and relaxed?

Think about what you want. What is your goal for your honeymoon? What would make your honeymoon a success?

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Without worrying about details yet, just write down your honeymoon goal. This will help focus all of your planning for a truly successful honeymoon.

Our honeymoon's focus will be...

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### *Personalizing Your Honeymoon*

You know, we all have our hobbies and special interests. The same is true of you.

Now the honeymoon is all about spending time together and enjoying that time.

If he likes to go golfing but she isn't that interested in golfing, then you need to spend your time doing something else. What are some things that you both enjoy doing together?

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Here is a mini-list of some things you might both enjoy to help you start brainstorming how you want to spend your honeymoon:

- Scuba diving
- Gambling
- Beach activities
- Parasailing
- Golfing
- Fine dining (Culinary Variety / Foreign Delights)
- Dancing
- Exploring ancient ruins
- Visiting foreign cultures
- Engaging foreign cultures
- Native American (caves, ruins, artifacts, jewelry) Southwest US.
- Backpacking / Car Camping

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Which of the above activities pique your interest?

What fun activities could you add to this list?

Activities we would be interested in...

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The kinds of activities that you are interested in can help you narrow down your honeymoon destination.

While we are on the topic of activities, remember that weddings can be very tiring and stressful. Your honeymoon can be a great chance for rest and relaxation. So, even if you are an outgoing, energetic couple, you should build in some time to kickback and take it easy.

Consider adding some of these R&R activities to your list:

- Spa
- Massage
- Evening Walk Along the Beach
- Hot Springs
- Watching the Stars
- Watching the Sunrise or Sunset

Whatever activities you choose, make sure you both feel comfortable with them. The honeymoon is a time to de-stress and enjoy being together in settings that give you a chance to relax and have fun.

Now you should have a pretty good idea of what your honeymoon goal is and what activities you would be interested in. That puts you ahead of most brides and grooms already!

Now, we are going to help you consider all your honeymoon options. We all have the stereotypical picture of a honeymoon in our minds. But, guess what? You are not the same as all the other brides and grooms. You don't want a second-hand honeymoon passed down from generations of honeymooners. You want to know all your options so you can enjoy the perfect honeymoon for you.

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Here is an overview of some of your honeymoon options:

■ All-Inclusive Resort

Enjoy a relaxing and fun time at a beach-side resort. “All-inclusive” means that nearly all your costs are covered by one payment.

■ All-Inclusive Cruise

Board a ship for a romantic cruise. Everything you need for a great honeymoon is right on the ship and you can even visit some interesting locations along the way.

■ Tropical Paradise

For the ultimate in romance with fresh sea breezes, shells, and coconuts honeymoon on a sub-tropical island.

■ Countryside Bed & Breakfast

Waves of wheat can be just as romantic as waves of water. A great way to get away from it all and enjoy the peace and natural beauty offered by the countryside.

■ Visit Another Continent

A magical world is available to you on another continent. Experience something new together for a memorable time.

■ Castle

Perfect accommodations for the Princess and her Prince Charming.

■ Blending Families

For the bride and groom who have their own children from before and want to jumpstart family unity, consider bringing the children along to a family-friendly destination.

■ Your Own Personal Island

Just you and your soul mate together on your own personal island paradise is available at Necker Island, Cayo Espanto, and others.

■ Get Lost in the Crowd

Urban getaways can be a great alternative if you want plenty of fun, interesting attractions. Casablanca Hotel, New York, NY for instance has become a popular destination for honeymooners who want the energy of the city but don't want to see anyone they know during their honeymoon.

■ Camping Trip to a National Park

Let your love blossom in the beautiful natural surroundings of a national park.

■ Festival

Make your honeymoon coincide with a popular festival that you would enjoy such as Oktoberfest or Carnival.

■ Adventure Honeymoon

Do something inspiring! Start out your new life together as you climb a mountain, go on a safari, or a kayak trip.

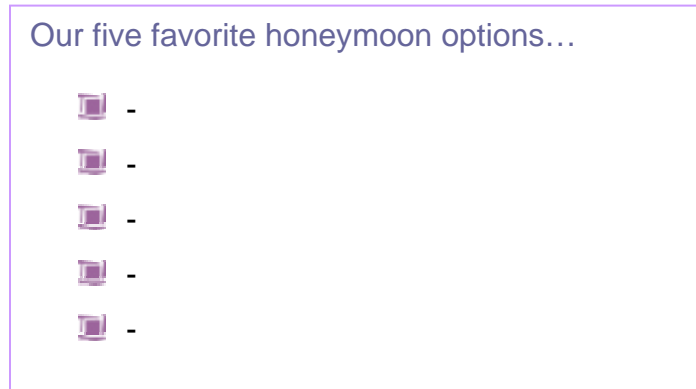
■ Service-Oriented Honeymoon

Bring more meaning into your start at life together as you volunteer at an organic farm in France, at an elephant and rhino preserve in Zimbabwe, or some other interesting place where you can have a unique experience serving together.

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Some of these honeymoon options will naturally be more attractive to you than others. By making your selection of favorites, you will be a big step closer to the honeymoon that will make you the most happy.



You don't need to get any more specific than this yet. While reading through the rest of this book, one of these options will start standing out from the crowd and you will be better equipped to make your dream honeymoon come into being at an affordable cost.

Which leads to one of the more difficult aspects of love and marriage – money.

Just like life itself, there is a cost to everything. The honeymoon will be no different. It may not surprise you to know that a considerable number of newlyweds don't even TAKE a honeymoon immediately after the wedding – over 15%.

More often than not, it is because there was nothing left in the kitty. This is where we can be of considerable help. But first, consider this:

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The honeymoon is very similar to the wedding ring. It represents love, reciprocal commitment and is an investment into your future. It is a special time and trying to celebrate your joyous union with a trip to Hawaii next year is like trying to celebrate your March 4<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 17<sup>th</sup>. That is not to suggest you can't delay the honeymoon for necessary reasons, such as cruise availability, weather, pre-planned activities (like a brother's wedding), etc. We simply suggest you TAKE a honeymoon instead of combining next year's vacation with a honeymoon.

This memory will linger for eternity yet it is not necessary to spend more than you can handle and go into deep debt just to make a point. If gambling is a passion and an enjoyment for both, you can go to Atlantic City or Las Vegas for a week and not spend \$1,000. Heck, you might win it back!

If camping is an activity you both are passionate about, you can camp for as little as \$50 per night including campsite, food, wood, supplies, etc.

Naturally, if you have the good fortune of being able to afford quite a bit more, you can go on safari's, travel anywhere overseas you haven't been or return to a favorite (for BOTH of you) place, or ski in Colorado or Utah.

The point is this is an event that has repercussions on several fronts. The lasting memory, the financial commitment, the willingness to compromise as well as share and the thought put into the planning. These will all factor in to your new life together and it is important you respect the honeymoon as the opportunity to set the tone for that life.

Don't skimp and use the week or two volunteering at a local food bank. You have eons of weekends and vacations ahead of you to do that, even if it is a passion.

And don't take a \$25,000 honeymoon when all you can afford is \$3,000. Be realistic because part of the aforementioned legacy of a honeymoon will be

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paying the bills. Strapping yourself in for payments of \$240/month for a 10 year honeymoon loan is foolish – especially if it rained almost every day. Your memory of the ‘honeymoon’ will be forever tarnished if you have to wrestle with your checkbook every month after you return home.

So make the most of what you can financially handle. Consider the options we have outlined in the coming pages and if your budget is \$6,000 make sure you get the most for your 6k. The same for a \$1k honeymoon or a \$100k getaway. There will be four categories to our Budget Honeymoon book. The extreme budget honeymoon, the low budget honeymoon, the average budget honeymoon and the luxury budget honeymoon. Within each category you can perhaps find each of the activities mentioned earlier. You can visit the Southwest for a week, camp and stay in motels within the budget or average category. Beach honeymoons fit into all four as do culinary tours / honeymoons.

For the sake of argument, we are going to work within these figures. In 2006, the average honeymoon cost \$5,111. We imagine it has gone up a tad or two so we are going to call the Average Budget Honeymoon around \$6,000. Therefore, a low budget honeymoon should be in the \$2,000 - \$4,000 range and an extreme budget honeymoon under \$2,000.

Common sense takes over now. If you have only \$2,000, you are going to be hard pressed to take a European castle honeymoon. Even if the castle only costs \$1,000 to \$1,500, you can't get there and eat for under \$1000 too. So this type of honeymoon is not within your good sense.

You can go on cruises nowadays for \$800 a ticket but you better expect to pay for airfare as well, so again, a \$2,000 budget won't help here. Unless, of course, you live in Miami or Bermuda or the Bahamas where the ships depart.

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But you can easily honeymoon on the beach in Hawaii or Puerto Rico for \$2,000 and we'll show you where and how.

You can rent a houseboat on Lake Shasta, CA or a home in Lake Tahoe for a week and not exceed the average honeymoon figure. (Gambling expenditures not considered). You can even go to Europe now for that price. The question is whether you backpack through it, maybe stay in hostels or want to visit Paris and London and shop while there.

So before we get there, you should set up your budget.

### HERE ARE SOME ADDITIONAL TIPS, STRATEGIES, & GOODIES YOU'LL DISCOVER...

- Detailed coverage of each major honeymoon destination from cities in the U.S. and fanning out to Canada, Alaska, Hawaii, Mexico, Caribbean destinations, Cruises, Costa Rica, Panama, European destinations, South American destinations, Australia, New Zealand, South Pacific / French Polynesia, African destinations, and Asian destinations
- Each destination is covered in its respective budget category according to how much you should plan to spend on a honeymoon to that particular destination
- How to get all or part of your honeymoon paid for by organizations and others
- Critical advice to help you avoid being in the wrong place at the wrong time
- How to honeymoon in Hawaii for as little as \$2,000
- Yacht rental tips and advice with helpful resources
- A honeymoon planning timeline and checklist
- Numerous practical Travel Tips to make sure your honeymoon is the best experience possible
- Sample flight and hotel pricing for each destination covered so that you will know if you are getting a good deal or not
- Why we think it would be foolish to fly from the Midwest states to Honolulu and our solution
- 24 budget-friendly European airlines
- Three unique “mobile honeymoons” for a truly special memory
- Guidance to your luxury honeymoon options throughout the world
- 326 web links to invaluable information and resources to help you plan your dream honeymoon

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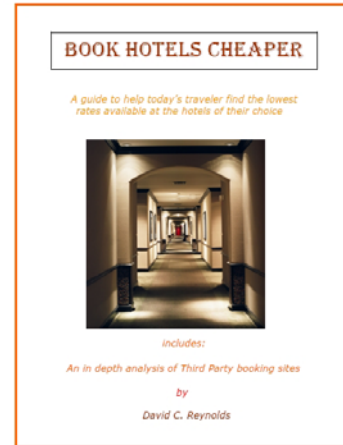
To order your copy now of *The Ultimate Honeymoon on Any Budget*, [click here](#)

Or go back and check [what we're offering](#)

## Other Books By the Authors

A resource that will end up saving you hundreds of dollars on your future hotel bookings. This 60+ page resource will show you why discount internet sites CANNOT find you a hotel room at the lowest cost possible and yet may be the best way to book your trip when combined with airfare. It will show you why hotels change rates so often, why they have different rate structures for different venues and will show you strategies to employ if you like to book early or prefer to always wait until the last minute.

[Learn more about how to book hotels cheaper...](#)



A fantastic resource designed to save you from making costly mistakes when traveling. This 50+ page e-book includes dozens of valuable tips and pieces of advice. I recently added many pages of traveling etiquette advice (including resource websites) when traveling in foreign countries. This book will not only prevent you from making costly monetary mistakes but will save you valuable time when traveling.

[Get David's invaluable travel tips and advice...](#)



It is estimated that 82% of all travelers research their trips and over 60% read reviews - but do you know WHAT you are reading? What do you do when four reviews say great things about your chosen hotel and four say DON'T STAY! A great rating on many sites is 5 out of 5 but is that valid if only 3 reviews are written? Do you know how to 'read between the lines' and try to get into the head of the reviewers to decipher whether their comments are valid or just a rant?

David examines specific reviews and analyzes them for you from a professionals' vantage point, since he examines reviews on a daily basis and has read thousands of them over the years. He will tell you which are the best sites to use and what sites are not worth examining.

[Learn how to decipher hotel reviews like a pro...](#)

### **Hotel Reviews**

*Finding and Understanding*



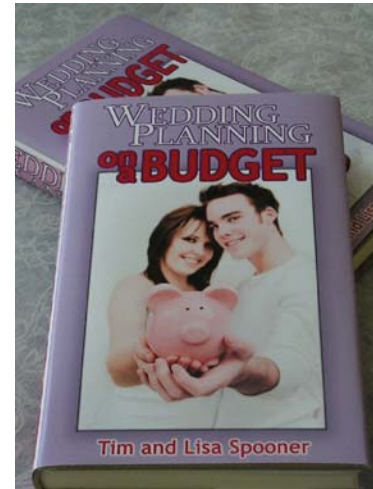
by

**David Reynolds**

After planning their dream wedding on a budget of just \$2,000 (saving over \$22,000 in the process), Tim and Lisa began sharing their wedding planning strategies with other brides and grooms through their blog and book.

Their articles and book reveal the strategies that can help any couple plan the wedding of their dreams on whatever wedding budget they can afford.

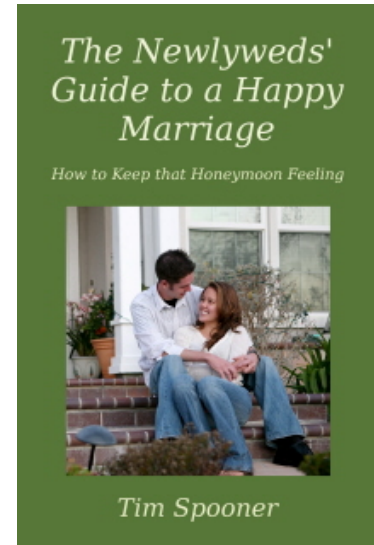
[Learn how to achieve your dream wedding no matter how little you can afford to spend...](#)



This guide reveals how newlyweds can build a truly happy life together. You will discover:

- The Six Values critical to building an unshakable foundation to your happy marriage
- Your marriage's competitors and how to prevent them from overwhelming your marriage
- How to be truly free and happy together
- Your romance toolbox
- How you can be overjoyed together even when things aren't going your way
- And much, much more!

[Discover how to build a happy marriage...](#)



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