

HONEYMOONERS

THE HONEYMOON IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE WEDDING PLAN, IN THE PAST, ORGANISING THE TRIP AND FOOTING THE BILL WAS ON THE GROOM'S DO-LIST. THESE DAYS THE PRESSURE IS OFF HIM.

Financing the honeymoon is more often a shared cost these days between the bride and groom and even a wider circle.

Parents of the couple often contribute and wedding guests may make monetary gifts that go towards the holiday.

The budget is an important starting point. Dreaming about Paris when the finances only allow Parramatta can lead to disappointment. Negotiation about the destination may be involved so as both bride and groom have their expectations met. Some brides-to-be prefer the groom to tackle the arrangements so she can concentrate on the wedding.

A secret honeymoon organised by the groom is a romantic gesture for the bride. The surprise destination should be thoughtful though. She might enjoy trekking as a hobby but might hate the idea of spending her honeymoon in frumpy boots. The bride will need to know what to pack for the destination's climate and levels of formality.

Remember, the honeymoon doesn't have to be taken directly after the wedding. Delaying the trip can reduce the stress of two major back to back events, and the important trip can be pleasantly anticipated in its own time.

CHECKLIST:

Valid passports

Vaccinations

Credit card (check expiry date and fees)

Accommodation

Transfers

Flights

Car Hire

Luggage

Photocopy all documents in case of loss or theft

Check driver's licence for international driving

International roaming set up on mobile phone