

Honeymoon Timeline

Use this guide to help you pull off a glitch-free getaway

SIX TO EIGHT MONTHS IN ADVANCE

- ✦ Decide on the type of honeymoon you want – a tropical beach, a relaxing cruise, a romantic all-inclusive resort, a fun-filled theme park, an exotic adventure or a little of everything.
- ✦ Begin investigating possible destinations.
- ✦ Set a budget. Figure in different expenses such as plane tickets, meals, car rental, taxes and gifts.
- ✦ Find a travel agent who specializes in the type of honeymoon you want to take.
- ✦ Check out your frequent flyer miles.

FOUR TO SIX MONTHS IN ADVANCE

- ✦ Book your tickets. Ask about special honeymoon discounts or packages. Get confirmation numbers.
- ✦ Reserve your hotel room. Be specific about your requirements, such as a non-smoking room with an ocean view. Ask about any honeymoon specials or discounts. Get a confirmation number.
- ✦ Book your car rental, if needed. Once again, get a confirmation number.
- ✦ Make a list of all confirmation numbers. Take the originals with you and leave the list with a friend or relative.
- ✦ Find out what vaccinations and health certificates are needed. Unless you are going to certain third-world countries, you do not need to be vaccinated this far in advance. Your doctor will know when your vaccinations will need to be administered.

- ✦ Start learning the language if you are going to a non-English speaking country.

THREE MONTHS IN ADVANCE

- ✦ Make sure you have valid passports and the names match those on your tickets.
- ✦ Make sure you have applied for all needed visas.
- ✦ Confirm your reservations with the airline.
- ✦ Consider getting travel insurance.
- ✦ Finish up any needed reservations.

ONE TO TWO MONTHS IN ADVANCE

- ✦ Buy your luggage and all other travel accessories you will need (camera, film, electrical adaptor).
- ✦ Stop at the bank and get currency of the country you are going to.
- ✦ Make sure all of your credit cards are valid.
- ✦ Book any tours, theater tickets or activities that need advance reservations. This is especially true during peak travel seasons.
- ✦ Confirm all reservations.
- ✦ Make arrangements for the boarding of pets.
- ✦ Give someone a copy of your itinerary. Be sure to include the phone numbers of where you will be staying.

ONE TO TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE

- ✦ Stop newspaper deliveries.
- ✦ Make arrangements to have your mail held.

- ✦ Pick up tickets from your travel agent.
- ✦ Make copies of your passports, credit cards, insurance, traveler's check numbers and will. Keep one in your luggage and give one to a friend or relative.
- ✦ Make sure you have enough medication to last you while you are gone.
- ✦ Confirm that the house or petsitter has keys and knows when to come over. In the case of a pet sitter, make sure they have the vet's phone number.
- ✦ Set out clothing to be packed. Pack your carry-ons.

THREE DAYS IN ADVANCE

- ✦ Reconfirm any overseas flights.
- ✦ Buy any reading material for the trip.
- ✦ Make arrangements for transportation to and from the airport.
- ✦ Check the weather forecasts.
- ✦ Prepare a list of people to send postcards to.

DAY OF DEPARTURE

- ✦ Confirm domestic flights.
- ✦ Make sure all luggage is labeled with your names and the phone number of where you will be staying. Do not put your home address on your luggage.
- ✦ Get to the airport early.
- ✦ Let the ticket agent know you are on your honeymoon. Sometimes, you may get an upgrade or special VIP treatment.

Relax and have a wonderful, romantic honeymoon. ✦