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Selecting A Family Travel Destination: No Need To Forgo Hip Or Charm

By Ann LoCicero

Small hotels are adapting to family needs, and becoming an attractive alternative to resorts and large hotel chains.

Out of guilt or a need to maximize the amount of time we spend with our children, we have convinced ourselves for years that a family vacation requires sacrificing the interests of the parents to satisfy the needs of the kids. Thus whether traveling half way around the world or driving a mere two hours from home many of us are heading to the same location: a child-friendly resort.

This need not to be the rule. Many independent hotels and lodges have discovered how to make an adult environment work for kids and may be more child welcoming than those that bill themselves as child-friendly.

Not surprisingly, smaller hotels, inns and lodges – many of them luxurious – are leading the pack. The atmosphere is cozy and the service, more personalized. In addition, your family will probably get more exposure to the local culture – not to mention cuisine – in a smaller hotel than is possible in a big international resort.

Children profit the most. Many cultures embrace kids. Thus a large part of the experience in countries such as Argentina and Turkey is the interaction with the locals. Exploring other cultures provides children with a unique education; it broadens their horizon and helps them to learn more about life.

Things to keep in mind

- Some smaller hotels may not offer round-the-clock service or traditional in-room services, such as minibar, tv and video games but are likely to be more spontaneous, warm your baby's bottle with a smile or offer your child a dish that is not on the menu.
- Children's meals may mean that kids are not allowed in the dining room. Aside from providing parents with a reprieve, kids-only meals usually offer food they like and give them a chance to make new friends.

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- No kids clubs. Relax. While it may take a day or two and a bit parental encouragement, kids will rediscover how easy it is to make friends and create fun, on their own.
- If the environment is relaxed, children will be relaxed as well.
- In a smaller hotel, you are likely to feel comfortable allowing your kids to explore on their own.

Rules of thumb

- Review the hotel's website. Find out if it belongs to a local or an international association. Is it recommended by your travel agent or a leading tour operator? Has it been rated?
- If the website does not mention children, they may not be welcome. A telephone call or email will

avoid unwanted surprises.

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How To Plan A Romantic, Yet Affordable Honeymoon

By Frank Johnson

Getting married is one of the biggest moments in anyone's life. It's the harmonious union of two people in love. However, that love can quickly start to fizzle if the honeymoon is too costly and turns into a travel nightmare. Anytime you travel or attempt to book travel plans, there is the possibility of something going wrong. And when you're traveling for the first time as a married couple, you want your getaway to be as enjoyable and trouble-free as possible.

If you're getting married soon and want to book a romantic AND trouble-free honeymoon to an international destination without leaving you broke, you need to think ahead and establish your travel budget, choose your destination carefully, and find international travel deals.

Establish Your Honeymoon Travel Budget

One thing that many couples don't do before they start planning their honeymoon is establish what they can afford to spend on the trip. When dealing with international travel, travel expenses such as

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international airfare, car rentals, hotel rooms, and other items can add up very quickly. And since it's a honeymoon rather than a student travel trip, you don't want to end up staying in a hostel because you ran out of money. So, before you even select a destination, establish exactly how much you have to spend on all items involved in your honeymoon. This includes meals, travel expenses, souvenirs, and any other high-priced items. Remember, traveling internationally can be costly; so if you don't want to end up sleeping on a park bench on your honeymoon, establish your travel budget before you choose a destination.

Choose Your Honeymoon Destination Wisely

Once you have established your honeymoon travel budget, the next step is to choose your destination. When selecting a honeymoon destination, it's a good idea to first list what activities you'd like to do. Are you interested in scuba diving? Do you want to visit museums? If so, what types of museums? After you've created your list, compare it to your spouse's list; see what activities you both have in common, and create a final list.

After your list is finalized, decide when you're going to go. The time of year you travel will dictate what countries/cities you can visit to complete as many items on your list as possible. For example, if you want to layout on the beach every day during your honeymoon, but you're getting married in February, you want to find a honeymoon destination that is sunny and warm in February. The key to choosing the ideal honeymoon destination is selecting a location that satisfies your travel activities, offers the optimal climate to complete those activities, and is within your travel budget.

Find International Travel Deals

Most newly wed couples don't have a fortune to spend on their honeymoon. However, many couples still want to have a honeymoon that's exotic, international, and romantic. So the solution to having the most romantic, yet affordable honeymoon possible is to find international travel deals. The Internet is a great place to look for international travel deals and discounts on airfare. Discounted travel rates and cheap airfare deals can be found online on travel web sites and through online travel consolidators, like

cFares. These travel sites contract with the different airlines and use airfare search engine technology to get the best international travel deals on flights around the world. So if you're looking for a way to save a bundle on your honeymoon, search the Internet for international travel deals.

Top International Travel Deals and Destinations for Your Honeymoon

Discount Travel to Milan There are few places in the world where shopping and eating could be considered religious experiences. Milan's boutique-lined streets offer some of the world's most exquisite and exclusive styles, dominating the cutting-edge of design. Travel to Milan to pamper yourself, but keep a keen eye for how you might redecorate your outdated (by Milan standards) living room. Brera is the most sophisticated and elite shopping area, centrally located and also home to the Pinacoteca de Brera, one of the most coveted museum collections in Europe. Read more about travel to Milan and find international travel deals to Milan at

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<http://www.cfares.com/milan/>

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Discount Travel to Brazil Brazil is the largest and most dynamic South American country, bordering all but two of the continent's other nations. In Brazil, wild Amazon adventures can be coupled with stimulating city sights and leisurely beach escapades. Read more about travel to Brazil and find international travel deals to Brazil at

<http://www.cfares.com/brazil/>

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cFares is the first choice thousands of knowledgeable travelers are using right now to save hundreds of dollars on low airfares. For more information on international travel deals, visit

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