



# FIVE ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

TO HELP YOU AND YOUR PARTNER  
ENJOY FUN, STRESS-FREE  
HONEYMOON PLANNING



I've found that almost all couples struggle to get started planning their honeymoon. It's totally understandable- the process can seem overwhelming, especially since it's happening at the same time as the biggest event in your life.

They begin with a destination, or a few possible destinations. They look at resorts, hotels, and activities... but the process is similar to throwing spaghetti on a wall to see if it's done (let's see what sticks). Planning often stalls.

I've noticed that when couples get stuck, there are a few common issues. I needed to come up with a way to lower the stress level of honeymoon planning for my clients. I wanted it to be fun, full of dreams and excitement.

For many couples, their honeymoon is the first big trip they plan together. They come into the process with different experiences and expectations. I knew that in order to smooth things out, my couples needed to start before I walked in. They needed to talk about what "honeymoon" means to them without pressure, and to have the opportunity to find their shared travel value system.

Over time, I've found that the following five questions help my couples sketch out what they really want their honeymoon to look like. These questions create a guided brainstorming session. Discussing these elements has put my honeymoon couples on the same page and makes it simpler for them to evaluate their choices.



The best part is that most of the questions are about the two of you and your dreams, so they are a fun way to unplug from all the crazy and reconnect as a couple.

Before we get started with the five questions, I want you to remove a couple of honeymoon planning myths from your mind so you can stay open to the possibilities:

### *Myth #1*

*You have to leave for your honeymoon on the day  
after your wedding*

If you have your heart set on a September wedding and a Caribbean cruise, there is nothing wrong with taking your honeymoon in November to avoid hurricane season. Even if you will go right away, consider waiting until Monday or Tuesday if your wedding is on Saturday- you'll be glad for the opportunity to catch your breath (and sleep in!).



## Myth #2

*You should go to whatever honeymoon resort everyone is talking about*

The resort your friend loved? Or the one that's featured in all of the bridal magazines this year? I'm sure it's awesome and you would probably enjoy it, but if you and your partner have both secretly been dreaming of Paris for years, than that's a trip that would be more special for the two of you.

## Myth #3

*You have to spend every moment of your honeymoon (waking or otherwise) together*

Do you crave a beach lounge and a cocktail, but he wants to go zip-lining? Great! Split up for the day and share your experiences over a candle light dinner. If you wouldn't do exactly the same activities at home, don't pressure yourselves to do that on your honeymoon. Besides, if you don't ever disconnect, you can't REconnect.



So, let's dig into the five essential questions...

### *Question #1*

#### *What is our budget?*

I know, this is no one's favorite, but it is super duper important and it is NOT the monster under the bed...

Where will the funds come from?

Would it be wise to open a joint savings account specifically for this purpose?

Have either of your families offered to contribute?

Would the two of you consider a destination wedding?

Pooling the wedding and honeymoon resources into one event may be a great option for you if you love a spendy destination but are snug on funds.

Many couples scrimp on the honeymoon to be able to put more money into the wedding, but let's look at another perspective: the wedding, while a HUGE event in your life, will only last about six hours. Your honeymoon is typically 1-2 weeks with much more opportunity for memory-making.





## *Question #2*

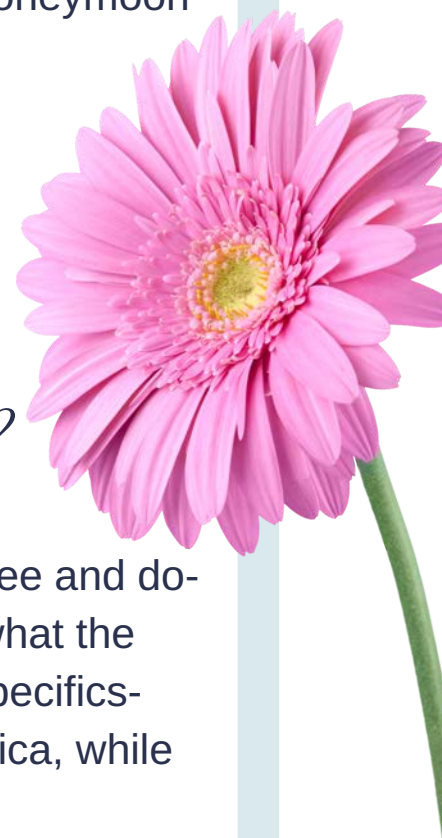
### *What do we love to do together?*

This doesn't necessarily mean that you should go skiing on your honeymoon because that's your favorite vacation together so far. But if you love skiing, hiking, horseback riding, etc., then you might talk about other sports or active experiences you'd like to try- you might both be dying to go parasailing! If your favorite date night is checking out the newest restaurant in town or you've spent a week on a "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives" inspired road trip, then a food, wine or beer themed adventure might be a great honeymoon for you.

## *Question #3*

### *What's on your travel bucket list?*

Find out what your partner has always wanted to see and do- even the REALLY random stuff. You never know what the "hey, me too!" moment will be. Make sure to talk specifics- "exotic" for one person may be a beach in Costa Rica, while another might envision a week in Thailand.





## *Question #4*

### *Should we work with a travel agent?*

This may be the first trip you've planned with your fiancée, but we do this all the time. Even if you are a hardcore DIY'er, take a moment to consider bringing in some help.

Your agent's job is to keep the planning on track, help you identify your desires, comb through options, and track payment dates and check-in requirements. When you are neck-deep in wedding planning, you'll be able to relax a little knowing someone else has your back and you won't find that your honeymoon has suddenly been cancelled because you missed a payment.

Your agent will also feed you information such as travel documentation, the number of formal nights on your cruise, which restaurants at your resort require reservations, or how to get skip-the-line tickets at Versailles. If something goes wrong during the trip, she's the only call you need to make.

Find out how your partner feels about working with a travel planner. Seek out recommendations from friends and family, and check their websites. Find an agent who concentrates on the type of trip you are interested in, and who you feel a connection with.

## *Question #5*

### *How much time can we take?*

Maybe your dream destination is Bora Bora, but you would lose half of your honeymoon time flying there and back.

It's important to know how much time each of you can reasonably take from work and other obligations. You might even consider an immediate "mini-moon" to a romantic location close by, with the bigger honeymoon planned at a more convenient time.

One word of warning about this strategy- have the "real" honeymoon on the books before the wedding. Too many couples intend to take their honeymoon a little later, and years down the road it's never happened (It took my husband and I five years to get around to it!). Plus, having it booked and deposited will give you something to look forward to when you hit wedding let-down.







Using these questions to inspire conversations has made my honeymoon couples more excited than ever about planning their post-wedding getaway.

They approach the process as a couple, and with similar expectations.

When we meet, they are ready with the information I need to find the perfect escape for them.

I'd love to help you too! Now that you've talked through the five essentials, let's schedule a complimentary telephone consultation. I'll walk you through the honeymoon time line and make sure you're ready to keep your planning on track.

Please visit my website at  
[www.savvytraveldesign.com](http://www.savvytraveldesign.com)  
to schedule your consultation today.

