

Now that you've booked

your romantic escape, run away without worry. Read and tuck in this Inside Scoop with your travel documents to help make this very special trip worry free and carefree.

travel: delighting in the spirit of adventure • a vacation from home to explore places that are not your home • knowing life is different, knowing this is a joy of travel • enjoying the journey, not just the destination • a privilege best used with patience, humour and curiosity • fun • coming

Don't Need A Blender?

If you registered for our free Wedding & Honeymoon Gift Registry, remember that we supply registry gift cards for you to mail thanking your guests for contributions. We can even create custom invitations. Create your account www.maritimetravelregistry.ca. Want to plan something special (a helicopter ride?) to surprise your partner and/or guests? Ask your counsellor for help—we've heard almost everything!

Your Counsellor

Our knowledge and experience help turn dreams into first-rate getaways. Ask your counsellor about any details, including:

- advance seats & upgrades
- why you should let people know it's a special trip
- transfers on arrival
- anything about travelling together (almost).

Maritime Travel

We Know Travel Best.™

Maritime Travel

Inside Scoop: Wedding & Honeymoon

Know before you go: travel isn't just your destination, it's also the journey

A destination wedding is ideal—with great weather (more than in Canada, statistically) and gorgeous backgrounds, a honeymoon or vow renewal is the one trip to splurge on. If you get married at home, you might want to plan transition days before and after: you'll benefit by slowing down from the excitement (use extra time to write thank you notes...).

- Destination weddings work with any budget: we know you want value for money and to balance choices and amenities. No matter what, relax and enjoy. Requests are requests only; oceanview suites are premium (why upgrade fees apply). If your events include kids, ensure you're not at an adults only resort.
- Check the features offered by your hotel—many supply satin sheets, cakes (cupcakes!), ironing of wedding attire, a signature cocktail, flowers and of course, champagne.
- Ask your bank about debit card withdrawal fees if going outside Canada. Log the dates you'll be away with credit card companies.
- For cell phones, check roaming packages.
- Internet access is increasing everywhere, usually available at hotels. **Tip:** Although laptop computers are allowed, taking it on your honeymoon might be grounds for an annulment.
- We strongly recommend LeGrow's Travel medical and cancellation/interruption insurance; it also gives you peace of mind.
- At some point, you'll leave your room—check official tourism websites for local events and weather.

As with any trip, even a honeymoon can have challenges. Whether you've booked a castle wedding in Europe, a beach wedding down south or a luxury Hawaiian package, travel with a positive attitude. In having a person to share it with, patience and a spirit of adventure will carry you through any experience!

Pack Strategically

The world is overrun with black luggage so put coloured tape or ribbon on your bag to spot it quickly. Put your name outside and inside and remove old tags. In your carry-on pack all travel documents: of course it's fine to have different names, just ensure *all* your own documents have the same name—don't switch back and forth. Each person must have their own valid passport www.cicgc.ca/english/passport. Keep a photocopy of its ID page or snap a cell photo.

In your carry-on, pack valuables such as jewellery; over-the-counter and prescription drugs in original containers. Pack most liquids/lotions/gels in checked bags (inside plastic bags)—due to carry-on restrictions, the maximum size container is 100ml(3.4oz). All must fit in 1 clear/resealable plastic bag of no more than 1 litre (often available at airport screening), then place the bag in the tray provided. Formula, milk and food can be taken for those 2 years and under (0-24 months) who are travelling with you.

Other handy items: pen/notebook, disinfectant hand wipes, munchies (no fruit, meat or veg over borders). Permitted in carry-on: cell phones, portable music players, disposable razors, umbrellas, canes and nail clippers.

Items you can't take on include corkscrews and sports gear such as golf clubs, baseball bats, racquets and pool cues. If you snorkel,



bring your gear as some resorts limit equipment time (sometimes gear is not as clean or new as you might like). Most hotels provide hair dryers. Airlines prohibit any item considered a security risk so check with them in advance.

Just What You Need...More Advice

If you don't have your dress yet, consider a simple frock—in hot weather, yards of material can get very hot • Pack well in advance and use a checklist—you don't want to be packing at the last minute or forget that special item • The world loves a couple in love so tell people you're on your honeymoon—you might get extra special treatment • Pack disposable cameras and hand them out to onlookers with instructions to snap away, then develop the film at home: you'll get unique candid shots • If you're divorced, bring documentation • Resorts and hotels increasingly welcome dogs in wedding parties with special food, dog-friendly accommodations and onsite dog hosts.

Your Airline

As your plane might be coming in from elsewhere and delayed, confirm your flight prior to departure. CATSA can prohibit items as security risks www.catsa.gc.ca/home and note: "Travellers should arrive at the airport earlier than usual, exercise patience and **contact their airline for further information on their flight(s).**"

Staff are on duty some 3hrs prior: due to staffing and security, check-in (and baggage check) closes 1hr before departure. If late, you're not entitled to board (or a refund). Unless booked ahead, seats are first-come first-served. Many airlines have reciprocal "code-shares," you have tickets for one airline and travel on another.

Baggage: Size/weight restrictions for checked and carry-on varies: check with the airline. **Entry & Departure:** ask your counsellor for advisories on passports, tourist cards and required documentation.



Get Packing Checklist and General Planning & Packing Tips at www.maritimetravel.ca/inside-scoops

☐ Your sense of adventure & humour!

The Language of Courtesy

Although you don't want either, especially on your honeymoon, cancellations and delays are now part of travelling. Indeed a slower pace of life is guaranteed in most other countries: enjoy it! Most staff work long hours—a smile, tips, patience and a kind word are always welcome.

Learn a few words in the language you'll be visiting. Besides our destination Inside Scoops and or languages, Inside Scoops for Spanish, and European Phrases (Spanish, Italian, French and German) www.legrowstravel.ca/inside-scoops.

When Leaving

Do a room sweep for belongings. Although there's usually a noon check-out, ask as your hotel may offer late checkout for honeymooners. Although you'll want to bring home special gifts, do not buy (or accept anything) suspect or that may be taken from you at customs such as plants, narcotics, meat/animal products, wood with work holes or endangered species parts. Know your limits and exemptions, www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/travel-voyage/bgb-rmf-eng.html such as on duty free alcohol.

 **Websites and emails in blue are hyperlinked; just click!**

Canadian citizens: Emergency? See <https://travel.gc.ca/assistance/emergency-assistance>. Contact Global Affairs 1-800-387-3124 in Canada/US or 1-613-996-8885 (collect if needed), sos@international.gc.ca.

When You Arrive

Depending on your package (your counsellor will confirm) after clearing customs, meet your rep outside the baggage area; s/he will show you to the bus for your hotel. Others might say they can drive you and you'll be reimbursed—this is not true. Locals might expect cash for helping with your bag—if you don't want help, just refuse politely. Before you get on the bus, check bags to ensure they're secure and loaded. The bus may drop tourists at other resorts—it's a great way to see other properties for a return visit.

You'll be advised of any orientation meeting—don't miss it. The rep works part-time at your hotel (and other resorts) during posted hours. Since others are leaving, rooms are often not ready when you arrive, but start on the fun. If you've packed a swimsuit in your carry-on or can shed some clothes, head to the pool or beach. Your hotel's front desk will hold your luggage. If something is not working in your room, notify the hotel's front desk.

Many banks and stores close in the afternoon but most hotels exchange funds and rent in-room safes. Keep a copy of your passport's ID page in your in-room safe or hotel's safety deposit box, snap pictures of important documents on your cell phone (keep it locked).

When There

Enjoy local food and drink in moderation—sun and alcohol don't mix. Ice at the resorts is safe; confirm with your tour rep. In town, drink bottled/purified water and wash your hands often. Avoid uncooked food, food from street vendors and local animals (possible rabies).

Many travellers go to the beach early to "reserve" beach chairs with towels: don't leave valuables or swap chairs already taken. Beach towels are at the hotels; to reduce loss, sometimes you're charged a deposit that's returned on your departure.

Some merchants need to see photo ID with credit cards. If you're approached by a vendor such as on the street or beach and you're not interested in buying goods or services, be firm but polite. Do avoid timeshare sales: there's no "free" lunch.

Sundays are observed in many places: don't wear beach attire around town and take off hats in restaurants to show respect. If you check out local nightlife: stick together and return to your resort. Book tours or excursions in advance with your counsellor and our suggested suppliers; you'll have guaranteed spots, can budget in advance and know that we've checked them out. If you book tours, make sure you can handle them: don't book Advanced Scuba diving if you can't swim.

Tips for Your VERY Special Event

Although you likely made arrangements in advance, check in early with the wedding planner or resort's contact to go over your package and plans—this ensures there's time for any extra details to be taken care of and you can relax! While you've likely booked the venue, confirm if you're the only wedding that day and if there's any time constraints for the facilities you and your guests use. (Photo bombing might be fun with kids making faces or a celebrity, maybe not so much by another wedding in the background). Whether a low-key reception to welcome everyone before the wedding day or day after wedding brunch, your counsellor and onsite wedding host can arrange all types of events.

- Don't spend all your free time with your guests. Make sure the two of you go on a few special tours (a sunset sail?), unique experiences (a local specialties cooking class?) and can relax together (couples massage at a spa or on the beach?).
- Depending on your resort, you may be able to upgrade or make reservations at special restaurants.
- Plan group excursions in advance by discussing options and ideas with your counsellor: you might prefer to be the only group members on those tour.
- Hand your camera/device to other travellers often so you'll have great candid shots of the two of you.
- If you like to read by the pool and your wife or husband (how does that sound?) likes to sail, go for it...try what each other wants to do, but don't feel you have to spend every single minute together (enough said).

Our 24/7 Emergency Service

We constantly survey airlines, local tour companies and hotels to ensure they meet our customer service standards, so don't let a problem ruin your holiday. Nearly all issues can be handled quickly on site—first seek help from the venue's local staff. Otherwise, call our Emergency Travel Service at **1-888-551-1181**. Deposits are non-refundable and non-transferrable. Schedule changes can occur and airlines and tour operators have the right to change flight and/or tour times, alter, combine services or substitute accommodations. Your counsellor will work with you to ensure you receive information as soon as possible and ensure satisfaction. See your brochure and ticket terms and conditions.

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