

ask Q&A

Planning the perfect honeymoon is an art form. Hajar Ali, founder of 'travel mixologists' Urbane Nomads, lends her expertise to our readers.



IMAGE BY LOISABA LODGE, KENYA

QUESTION

My fiancé is really into adventure travel, but I dream of just lounging around on the beach for our honeymoon. Is it possible to incorporate both?

ANSWER

The incorporation of both elements can be reconciled within a larger trip or simultaneously in a singular destination. For the first, I'd recommend East Africa, where you can combine walking safaris with warriors in Kenya with a few days on the beach in Mozambique or Mnemba. Vamizi, a remote island off Mozambique that can be reached only via private charter, offers the opportunity of lounging on the beach as well as excellent diving. Djibouti, another East African destination, also offers the possibility of both – where lounging by the beach can be combined with whale shark diving. Urbane Nomads offers Djibouti as part of a larger East African itinerary but will be offering a shark diving expedition as a stand-alone trip.

QUESTION

My fiancé and I travel quite a bit for work, so for our honeymoon, we want somewhere really unique and off the beaten track. What are the most exotic and unusual honeymoon locations?

ANSWER

The Burmese Himalayas – a remote and unique part of the Himalayas in the way that tropical forests are combined with the cool climes and mountainscapes of the Himalayas – is an interesting place for a honeymoon. Some parts of the Indian Himalayas offer such opportunities as well. Due to the remoteness of these locations though, getting there can be a bit of an adventure, with multiple connections and hour-long hikes. You will be rewarded with enchanting scenery and natural surroundings amidst total isolation and luxury once you're there, however. Gentle rafting with a picnic ready for you on an isolated strip of beach is one such activity in Burma, with gentle village hikes being possible in India.

Mongolia is increasingly becoming a place for honeymooners looking for something out-of-the-way. Urbane Nomads offers trips that combine horse riding with the very quaint activity of reindeer riding in Northern Mongolia, or cultural trips in Ulan Bator and the Gobi desert.

QUESTION

After having just spent a bomb on our wedding, we probably won't have a lot left to expend on our honeymoon. Is it still possible to indulge in 'luxury' travel on a tighter budget?

ANSWER

Sri Lanka offers excellent value for money – excellent food, impeccable service and stunning locations for very reasonable rates. Nepal offers up such culture and history in a location that is still very affordable. During off-peak seasons, it's sometimes possible to have the entire resort to yourself, especially for intimate boutique properties in Sri Lanka. Travelling in China is still relatively cheap, even at the luxury end.

Need honeymoon advice? Is your wedding after December 2010? Send your home and travel questions to blissfulbridesmag@gmail.com and you may just have them answered in our January – June 2011 issue!