

BRIDES OF '85

Today's honeymooners are traveling farther and spending more money

Modern honeymooners travel farther — an average of 1,817 miles — and spend more money than their predecessors, says Marcia Vickery, Bride's magazine travel editor.

According to a recent Bride's survey, the average couple stay away eight days, but 12 percent take a trip that is two weeks or more in length. About two-thirds stay within the United States.

When it comes to budgeting for a honeymoon, Modern Bride magazine says the average planned expenditure in 1983 was \$1,596. Couples who chose locations outside the United States planned to spend \$2,421, on average, while those who stayed here planned to spend \$1,180.

Most couples started planning as early as four months before the trip. Popular destinations include Florida (the choice of 15.3 percent), California (8.3 percent) and Pennsylvania (7.7 percent). Outside the continental United States, Hawaii, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands and Mexico were popular choices.

The idea of a honeymoon as a time to get to know each other in a remote

setting is changing. New social trends such as living together before marriage have brought a different emphasis.

Today, couples are more likely to plan an active vacation at a resort that includes sports and entertainment or at a location where there are plenty of sights to see, say authorities.

Are honeymoons really necessary in today's world? Yes, says psychologist Dr. Joyce Brothers. "Research shows that this is a special time to build closeness. It's like putting money in the bank, which you can draw on later when you need it," she says.

For some couples, exaggerated expectations may lead to a honeymoon trip that is less than was hoped for. But even when it is a disappointment, the honeymoon still serves the function of cementing a couple's bonds, she says.

To maximize the chances for a good time for both partners, Bride's suggests that couples be honest about what they would like to do, rather than deferring immediately to the partner's ideas. Make plans early enough to get what you want, the magazine suggests.



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Do your homework early, before pre-

wedding stress sets in. The best place to seek advice on travel to Alaska is the state's Division of Tourism.

The 1985 Alaska Vacation Planner, which includes information on travel throughout Canada's Yukon, is free, and can be ordered by writing to the Alaska Division of Tourism, Pouch E-603, Juneau, AK, 99811.



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