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# Honeymoon a time to relax — in Denver, Niagara, wherever

By JUDI NYGREN

The months of planning and replanning have paid off. The florist delivered the fresh flowers, the groom arrived at the church on time, the flower girl walked down the aisle without slugging the ringbearer, and the clergyman finally uttered the words "man and wife."

Now, after the last guest has said goodbye, the newlyweds can escape to their long awaited Niagara Falls honeymoon.

According to Susan Metro, director of tourism development in Niagara Falls, more and more couples are honeymooning in Niagara Falls.

After the tourist boom of the 1950s, she said, the number of honeymooners visiting the falls dropped 50 percent, but, since 1981, has risen 25 percent.

Couples are rediscovering the falls' aura of tranquility and solitude, she said.

The drop in Niagara Falls' honeymooners from the 1960s to the early 1980s occurred "because people weren't into traditional weddings and wedding trips. Now they're going back to them," she said.

With the resurgence in wedding trips, Metro said she notices many Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York couples visiting the falls.

**Plenty of sightseeing**

The Maid of the Mist, a boat ride near the base of the falls, the Cave of the Winds, an Indian culture museum, the Festival of Lights, which attracted more than half a million tourists between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, the nearness to Canada and the falls themselves give honeymooners two weeks of sightseeing, Metro said.

Of the many attractions, Metro said, honeymooners usually favor the falls.

"I hear anything from, 'The sound (of the falls) has a relaxing, romantic effect,' to 'The night view is spectacular,'" Metro said.

Along with the falls, Metro said, the economic advantages of the area attract many honeymooners. A two-night, three-day trip (not including transportation) costs less than \$300, she said.

Chris Rogers, a travel consultant at Allied Tours in Omaha, said Niagara Falls is not economical.

**Flights expensive**

Few Nebraskans honeymoon in Niagara Falls, she said, because of the cost of flying. According to United Airlines, a flight from Omaha to Buffalo, N.Y., which is the closest destination to Niagara Falls from Omaha, costs about \$300 per person.

Instead of honeymooning in Niagara Falls, Rogers said, Nebraskans usually travel to Hawaii, Florida, California, or, if they are on a low budget, to Kansas City or Denver for one weekend. A one-week trip for two to Hawaii, including airfare, costs about \$1,900, she said.

When planning a honeymoon, she said, most couples look for a place they never have visited or have heard good comments about.

Jon VanBloom, vice president of Travel Unlimited in Lincoln, said he believes honeymooners should take a weekend trip after the wedding and take a "real" honeymoon a year later.

The couples who take a weekend trip usually travel to Kansas City, VanBloom said. Often, those honeymooners are students on a low budget, he said.

A two-night, three-day trip to Kansas City, excluding transportation, costs about \$200, he said. The honeymoon package includes breakfast in bed, a dinner and hotel accommodations.

**Cruise a good deal**

For couples planning a longer trip, VanBloom said, a Caribbean cruise is the best deal.

Cruises usually leave on Sunday, he said, giving couples who are married on the weekend time to get to the ship. Cruises also are economical for couples traveling on a budget because the \$900 to \$1,500 per person is a set fee that includes airfare, accommodations and meals, he said.

While the cruise is economical, he said, some honeymoon packages offer extra touches that the cruise does not. In Hawaii, VanBloom said, one resort marries couples dressed in the Hawaiian shirts supplied by the resort.

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