

# Caribbean cruises offer value and romance

By Julie Naughton  
Senior Reporter

For value and romance, Caribbean cruises are the most popular honeymoon choice this year, according to spokeswomen for four local travel agencies.

Valerie Vogel, manager of Via Van Bloom Tour and Travel Service Inc., 237 S. 70th, said that cruises are popular because they give a couple good value for dollars spent. Cruise prices start at about \$995 per person and most couples choose a seven-day cruise, she said.

"The cost of a cruise includes meals and entertainment," Vogel said. "And the ship is your hotel room. You can do anything or everything that the ship offers."

Velma Lassen, manager of the Gateway branch of Lincoln Tour and Travel, said she also thinks cruises are a top choice for honeymooners.

"The cost of cruises vary, but in general cruises are a good value; everything is included," Lassen said.

Lynne Meier, supervisor of the AAA Travel Agency, 2900 O St.,

said cruises sell as well in the summer as in the winter. However, she said, southern destinations such as the Caribbean and Mexico are preferred in the winter.

Pam Ellis, manager of Good Life Tour and Travel, 5030 Rent-Worth Ct., said cruises to the Virgin Islands are especially popular. She said a couple could make a honeymoon cruise an event to remember by spending a little more.

"For a nice cruise, not the cheapest you'll get, but for a nice cruise, expect to pay about \$2200 per couple," Ellis said.

For a couple without \$2200 to spend, Vogel suggested other alternatives.

"It depends on how much the couple wants to spend," Vogel said. For \$1,000, a couple could opt for a California or Arizona resort or a ski weekend in Colorado, while a couple with \$300 to spend could select a trip to Kansas City or Omaha, Vogel said.

Other popular spots for honeymooners include Hawaii -- "our second most-popular destination after cruises," Vogel said -- Mexico and Canada.

Meier said that Orlando, Fla., has taken off as a honeymoon spot. This is, in part, because there are so many tourist attractions there, Meier said.

"The couple has Epcot Center,



Tom Gallagher/Daily Nebraskan

DisneyWorld, MGM Studios and Cape Canaveral right there when they visit Orlando," Meier said.

The average cost of a seven-day trip to Orlando is about \$500 per person, she said.

Vogel thinks the wave of the future in honeymooning will be

Club Med vacations.

"They're more inclusive," Vogel said. "People are starting to want that. At Club Med, everything is paid for -- drinks, water sports, everything. Once a couple gets there they don't have to spend a dime, unless they want to buy

souvenirs."

Meier predicted South Pacific destinations as the next biggest attraction.

"Australia and New Zealand will become very popular honeymoon destinations in the future," she said.

## Music

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a traditional ceremony in a chapel or church, most couples have to abide by the wishes of the minister.

Most people have four central parts of the ceremony in which they must decide what music they will use: The prelude music is played while the guests are being seated before the ceremony. The processional includes the entrance of the bridesmaids, attendants and the bride and groom and can involve up to four songs. The recessional is played when the bride

and groom leave the ceremony and the postlude is played when the guests are leaving the ceremony.

According to Lippett, the biggest problem with organizing and selecting music is the time element.

"If they're (a couple) going to be married in a chapel or church they usually need to get permission from another minister..." she said.

Liggett offered these other suggestions for organizing wedding-ceremony music:

- Choose the music months in advance of the wedding.
- If the couple is looking for live

music, ask the local music store or call the Musicians Union.

- When lining up church music, find out what is allowed as far as church music.

- Keep the vocalist in mind. Remember that many songs are available in different keys. Check with the vocalist or, better yet, have the vocalist and accompanist choose what key they would like to sing the music in.

- Remember to keep spare copies of the sheet music.

People usually take a lot of time and energy to be creative and choose the right music, Liggett said.

Music is a very important part of the wedding ceremony because it expresses some very strong sentiments.

"Music is an emotional thing that brings people together," she said.

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