

THE *WONDER* YEAR

WHY DO IT IN 86 DAYS WHEN YOU CAN GO AROUND THE WORLD
IN A LEISURELY 365? WE TALK TO COUPLES WHO SPENT A YEAR—OR MORE—
ON HONEYMOONS THAT SPANNED THE GLOBE.

By ANDREW SESSA





LIFE'S A TRIP

Newlyweds Sara and Jamie Anthony spent a year and a half traveling around Europe after their February 2009 wedding in New York City. By September they had made their way to Dubrovnik, Croatia. *Opposite:* A view of a verdant country road in Devon, England. (All Polaroids are from the Anthonys' honeymoon.)



T&CW

FOR THE GADABOUTS

Indagare plots an
extravagant trip for two.

KICK OFF A ROMANTIC HONEYMOON in Italy in August at the Amalfi Coast's legendary Le Sirenuse, and spend a week exploring Pompeii. In France, move from the Hotel du Cap-Eden-Roc, on the Côte d'Azur; to antiquing in Provence to a behind-the-scenes tour at Chanel in Paris. Get an exotic fix in India, sleeping in historic palaces and at tented tiger camps. Spend a month in South Africa's winelands and game preserves. Cross the South Atlantic in December, in time to see Buenos Aires veiled in violet jacaranda blooms. Zip over to Uruguay to catch the southern sun. Ring in the new year in Australia, and hop a chartered flight to utter seclusion on Lizard Island on the Great Barrier Reef. Repair to a private Amanpuri villa in Phuket, and cross into Myanmar. Play golf at Kauri Cliffs in New Zealand and hike glaciers outside Queenstown. Next stop: Fiji, and then a private villa on a Bali beach. End your journey with a cruise along Turkey's coast and a week in Istanbul, crossroads of East and West, old and new: a perfect place to go from honeymoon days to marriage. *Melissa Biggs Bradley, of Indagare, indagare.com*

OF ALL THE DECISIONS A COUPLE WILL make about their honeymoon—when and where to go, what to do, where to stay—the trip's length is often the easiest, as it's mandated by how long they can be away from home and work, family and friends. But what if that weren't the case? What if time were no object? A certain set of creative couples wondered just that—and turned their honeymoons into multimonth marathons of exploration and once-in-a-lifetime experiences. Putting aside fears of too much romance-killing togetherness, these couples seized the opportunity, before they dealt with kids and other epic responsibilities, to travel the world together.

"It's simultaneously a very modern and a very antiquated way of honeymooning," says Tom Marchant, of the New York- and London-based trip outfitter Black Tomato, which recently planned a yearlong honeymoon to Australia, New Zealand, and Southeast Asia for a Los Angeles couple. "Newlyweds traditionally went on extended journeys to explore distant countries." Indeed, 19th-century honeymoons were grand tours of a sort, opportunities to not only travel the world but introduce new spouses to relations in far-flung corners of the globe. Family members sometimes came along for the ride.

Letting one's mother-in-law join in the fun isn't *de rigueur* anymore, thank goodness, but there are other hurdles to get over when it comes to planning a mega-moon. The biggest? That pesky matter of time. To take such a big trip, couples have to be in a position to leave it all behind. Jamie Anthony, a New York real estate developer who traveled for 18 months with his new wife Sara a few years ago, was about to start his own company. Sara, a Madrid-born lawyer, was also at a transitional point in her career. "We realized two weeks wouldn't be

SIGHTS UNSEEN

Budapest's Széchenyi Chain Bridge. Opposite, clockwise from top left: Sara rides the Ferris wheel in Paris's Tuileries Garden; a canal that divides Bruges, Belgium; and Sluis, Holland; Cesky Krumlov, Egon Schiele's former home, in the Czech Republic; Jamie biking near the Bruges canal in June 2009.

T&CW

FOR THE ADVENTURERS

Energetic exploration from Gray & Co.

A MONTH IN SPAIN SEES YOU WALKING Barcelona, biking medieval towns in Catalonia and Andalusia, and eating in San Sebastian. In Morocco a few nights in Fez precede a camel trek in Ouarzazate, souking in Marrakech, and biking around the Kasbah du Toubkal mountain retreat and Essaouira's coast. Five weeks in Africa bring hikes on Cape Town's Table Mountain and wine country rides, plus an opportunity to see gorillas in Rwanda. Then on to South America for two months—from Buenos Aires's grand Alvear Palace, Salta's cloud forests, and Cafayate's epic rock canyons to the highs of Chile and Peru and then the Galápagos. Three months in Asia follow, beginning with India's Golden Triangle (Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur) and trekking among Bhutan's five Aman lodges. Kayak in Vietnam and explore its temples and then those of Cambodia's Siem Reap. China and Japan mix quick-paced mega-metropolises with more pastoral pleasures, while a final two months in a private Pacific-side home in Hawaii and then some cooling off in western Canada give you a chance to really slow things down. *Cari Gray, of Gray & Co., grayandco.ca*

enough," Jamie says. "Then we thought about a month. It snowballed very quickly from there." Others have sold start-ups, or taken sabbaticals, or simply left one position with the confidence they'd be able to find another when they got back.

"If you're taking a year off, the world is your oyster, so the best philosophy is that diversity will keep things exciting," Marchant says. "Honeymoon suites are all very well and good, but after a few months even they can seem tired. Try luxury camping; meet people along the way, and allow yourself time in each place to explore." In Thailand his Los Angeles couple stayed in people's homes in villages in the northern part of the country. In Siem Reap, Cambodia, they stayed at the five-star Hôtel de la Paix, and in New Zealand they chartered a yacht.

The Anthonys, meanwhile, bought a Land Rover in the U.S., shipped it to England, and then used it to explore Europe with absolute freedom, picking places as they went along. "Flexibility really mattered to us," Jamie says.

The couple's itinerary included six weeks in Palma, Mallorca, where Sara's sister had just had a baby, and five months in a flat in Paris, where they took art and cooking classes. Renting an apartment, he says, "gives you the opportunity to live your life, go to the markets, and it ends up being much, much cheaper."

Marchant says that a yearlong trip with Black Tomato begins at around \$275,000, and he recommends prepaid credit cards such as FairFX or Cash Passport to deal with incidentals on the road.

Green energy entrepreneur David Anderson wed Toronto ad executive Hilary Drennan at



BERLIN / AUGUST



VIEW FROM THE TOP

Pienza, in the Tuscan countryside, seen en route to the hilltop villa at La Bandita. Below: A scenic view of Prague.



PIENZA / APRIL



T&CW

FOR THE GOURMETS

Brown + Hudson
creates a delicious journey.

BEGIN IN THE FALL WITH FIVE WEEKS in a private Marrakech riad, where a celebrated chef introduces you to the local cuisine. Then it's a four-day yacht voyage to Spain's Rioja region for grape-based spa treatments at the Marques de Riscal hotel, designed by Frank Gehry. Next it's a month studying cheesemaking on a Basque farm and a flight to the Sultan Suite at Istanbul's Ciragan Palace and some royal Ottoman desserts. In Mumbai enjoy cuisine both high and low, and then on to Cochin and Chittoor Kottaram (a spiritual sanctuary accessible via a private canal), and a month with an Ayurvedic guru/chef. In Hanoi volunteer at a local school devoted to teaching street children the culinary arts, and board a luxurious wooden boat for a 21-day sail along the China Sea's spice routes to Tokyo, where a sushi syllabus leaves you a pro. In Buenos Aires, Alejandro Frango, the father of Argentine gastro-philosophy, takes you into kitchens around the city and beyond. Finally, the perfect postmeal accompaniment—coffee in Colombia—and a stay at a working plantation to develop your own private blend. *Philippe Brown, of Brown + Hudson, brownandhudson.com*

Jackson Hole's Amangani resort this past March, and they set off in May on a year of active adventures, including biking in China, and trekking in South America from a base in Buenos Aires. They planned only the first several months. "Our goal was to be more travelers than tourists," says David, who built "buffer weeks" into the schedule to allow for flexibility. "We didn't want to replace the hustle and bustle of our daily lives with a definitive schedule that could be confining." They were also conscious of staying in touch with close friends and family while on the road—but not too often. They're Skyping, posting images on Instagram, and maintaining a blog. "We want to share, but we also want to be in the moment and enjoy it as it's happening," Hilary says.

Dirk Barnett, creative director at the Newsweek Daily Beast Company, and his wife, designer Gaffney Peglar Barnett, purchased around-the-world tickets for their nine-month honeymoon, but there were also spur-of-the-moment puddle-jumping plane rides and public transportation of all stripes, plus a camper van in Australia and New Zealand and a private driver in Rajasthan. They packed very light (something every couple did) and shipped home whatever they bought along the way. (Others ship things ahead, sending skis, say, to St. Moritz.)

Setting the proper pace is key, Dirk says. "We were like, 'Gotta see Laos. Gotta go to this country, that country. Ultimately, I wish we had gone to six countries instead of 13, to really soak each up more. That's why you do a trip like this.'" You also take a trip like this to get off the beaten path, and for that reason some couples warn against guidebooks like the Lonely Planet series, which send everyone to the same places (although those who backpack swear by Rolf Potts's *Vagabonding: An Uncommon Guide to the Art of Long-Term World Travel*).

Regardless of where they went and how, most couples agree that the honeymoon is a relationship-enhancing way to begin a marriage. "You learn a lot about each other navigating by car in a strange place, with a foreign language," Jamie says. Dirk agrees. "You discover things about your partner," he says. "It gave us this chunk of memories we talk about all the time, even five years later."

COURTESY JAMIE AND SARA ANTHONY

“OUR GOAL IS TO BE MORE TRAVELERS THAN TOURISTS,”
SAYS DAVID ANDERSON, WHO
BUILT “BUFFER WEEKS” INTO THE SCHEDULE.

**COAST TO
COAST**

While driving
on the Amalfi
Coast, Sara and
Jamie pulled over
to capture this
breathtaking view,
two months before
they returned
home to the States.



ANTWERP/AUGUST