**Honeymoons more luxurious in the ‘90s**

**By Tara Marion**

Twenty-five to 30 years ago, newlyweds couldn’t afford extravagant honeymoons because the couple usually shared one income—the husband’s. But today, most women are working as well, so the newlywed couple has more disposable income and can splurge on a honeymoon.

Instead of just driving to a nearby scenic attraction as honeymoon couples have done in the past, today’s couples can be found flying to Jamaica, Mexico and Florida or they might be found lounging, eating and dancing their nights away on a cruise ship in celebration of their new marriage.

**Jamaica**
Jamaica is the third largest island in the Caribbean. With its humid and tropical climate, the temperature ranges from 70 to 90 degrees. In addition to beautiful weather, the island offers a few cities particularly popular with newlyweds.

In Ocho Rios, where the cruise ships docks, newlyweds will find great shopping. In this town, there are a couple of big, outdoor shopping malls known for their silver and diamond jewelry. On the outskirts of town, vendors at marketplaces sell T-shirts, hand-crafted jewelry, bags and baskets. Montego Bay is popular simply because it’s the city you fly into when coming to Jamaica by air.

The No. 1 tourist attracting in Jamaica is Dunn’s River Falls. Once there, said Kalynn Brautigam, a travel consultant at Bartelt Travel Consultants, 5600 Portage Road, tourists form a human chain and walk through and up the sides of the waterfall, with guides explaining where to step.

Says Brautigam, “You get soaked because you’re in the water, but it’s a lot of fun.”

As an added bonus, the adventure is recorded on videotape, which serves as a memorable keepsake for years to come.

**Mexico**
With tropical jungles, beaches and archeological sites, Cancun is both a scenic and historical honeymoon destination.

Like Jamaica, Cancun has beautiful beaches with clear, turquoise water and white sand. For newlyweds, said Carol Kirlin, travel consultant at Portage Travel Service, 200 Mall Drive, “If they’re beach people, they really enjoy Mexico. At the beach, they can sunbathe or swim and scuba dive all day long.

While Cancun has traditionally been the most popular place to honeymoon in Mexico, Los Cabos has been gaining in popularity. This fishing town is unique among Mexican tourist locales because of its arid climate. While many Mexican destinations are known for their humid temperature, Los Cabos is dry because the city is located at the tip of the peninsula.

**Florida**
Many couples want to go to Disney World for their honeymoon. Kirlin said this choice always surprises her because it is not an inexpensive choice, it is not a leisurely destination, and she does not think that it is a particularly romantic vacation.

“You’ve got to be on the move, on the go all the time to take advantage of everything,” she said. “It’s for people who are more active, more fun loving,” she explained.

Newlyweds who choose to go to Florida for their honeymoon, she said, may do so because they have fond memories of the resort and want to return.

**Cruises**
Both Kirlin and Brautigam agreed that cruises are always popular among newlyweds. Explained Brautigam, “A cruise sells itself because you’re not only in one destination, but you go to several destinations.” A sample itinerary for a six-day cruise could include stops in Cozumel, Grand Cayman or Jamaica.

You’ll spend each night on the ship, but during the day—depending on the length of the cruise—you’ll dock at one to six destinations. The days the ship is not in port, guests are still well entertained. They can gamble in the ship’s casinos, watch a film at the movie theater, swim in one of the pools or sunbathe on the multi-layer deck. Most cruise ships also feature a gym where guests can work out and a spa where they can relax.

If you’re wondering about the cost of these luxurious honeymoons, your travel agent can usually find a package that suits your needs and doesn’t compromise your budget.