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Insider tips

The Royal Honeymoon

ENGLAND Prince William and Kate Middleton have yet to let on where they'll be head off to on honeymoon after their [29th April wedding](#) - and it's a good bet that the location will not be revealed until the newlyweds return to British shores. But that hasn't stopped rampant speculation from the British media - which is why we decided to get an expert opinion: where are the royal couple likely to spend the first days of their marriage?

Who better to turn to with this question than Philippe Brown, of bespoke travel company [Brown & Hudson](#).

While he has no inside knowledge of where the royal couple will be heading off into the sunset together, more than a decade of arranging top-flight trips for VIPs, he has a few good ideas...

So, how do you arrange the right honeymoon for a very important couple? "We take time to get to know our clients intimately as individuals and then take the time research and create a unique experience just for them," Brown explains. Questions asked may range from "What have you read?" and "What have your friends told you?" to "What is your definition of exotic: [Bethnal Green](#) or Papua New Guinea?" In the case of William and Kate, Brown would consider questions about their story as a couple, and their lives before they got together. "What had Kate done in terms of her own travel?" he says. "What are her interests? What are his interests? We start at the ground up and with a blank sheet of paper."

Keeping in mind the knowledge that he does have about the couple and their interests and experience, Brown offers a few suggestions for appropriate escapes. Importantly, he notes, any destination would require "a natural filter of privacy and security, and it would be connected to what kind of travel they've done in the past." With that in mind, he suggests three kinds of escapes: safari, island or "credit crunch" - "where their personal interest and the national interest merges," he explains.

The Royal Safari Honeymoon

"We know that Prince William's described Africa as his second home," Brown says, suggesting that a trip to stay at the Mkomazi Reserve in [Tanzania](#) - linked to the Tusk Trust, which the Prince supports - would be one option. A more unique choice, Brown suggests, might be a safari in [Botswana](#) - for example, staying in the Selinda Reserve, at the "intensely private" but luxurious Zarafa camp, which is part of the Great Plains Conservation project, would offer ideal privacy, and a new experience for the couple.

The Royal Island Honeymoon

If William and Kate preferred to take the island route, Brown suggests that [Necker Island](#), owned by Richard Branson, might be ideal. "We know they love [Mustique](#) and have spent time there, but it is VIP and it is super-rich," Brown says, noting that William and Kate will want to be conscious to avoid giving an impression of excess. "[Necker is] decadent, it's sumptuous, but Branson is also a modern British icon. He's street enough for it to be luxurious, but not too much," Brown says. Alternatively, Brown suggests that the couple could pursue their interests in conservation with a visit to North Island in the [Seychelles](#).

The Royal Budget Honeymoon

Finally, Brown suggests, demonstrating that theirs is truly a 'people's wedding', William and Kate might want to forgo a foreign jaunt in favour of a UK-based holiday - which might go down better with a public that is living in relative austerity. "One would imagine," Brown says, "that any of the [UK-based] ideas would be connected to...a stay at Balmoral, to start things off." That Kate is a keen sailor is something that Brown and his colleagues would take in to account. "[The Scilly Isles](#) are being talked about," Brown says. "Because it's a place to escape to, its stunning natural beauty, [and]it allows the connection to sailing." A return to Scotland, where the couple met, might inspire a trip to the Alladale Wilderness Reserve. "[A] remote and beautiful setting in the Scottish Highlands, just one hour's drive from Inverness," Brown says, noting that it was voted one of Tatler magazine's top 101 hotels worldwide.