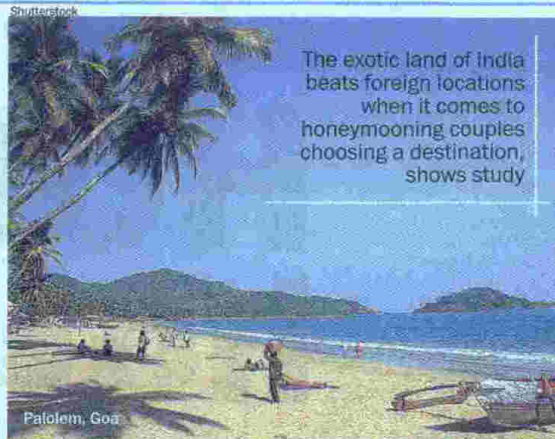


Clip: 1 of 1



Palolem, Goa

The exotic land of India beats foreign locations when it comes to honeymooning couples choosing a destination, shows study

India, now on honeymooners' list

Jayeeta Mazumder

Lovebirds are giving that much-hyped romantic Switzerland a miss for the white sands of Goa, backwaters of Kerala, and the palatial splendour of Rajasthan. Foreign locations are evidently taking a backseat for just-married honeymooners, whether they are Indians, NRIs or foreigners. According to a survey by *Shaadi.com*, about 56 per cent couples preferred to enjoy their honeymoon in India. In India, Goa emerged as the clear winner amongst honeymoon destinations. Some of the other favourites are the backwaters of Kerala and Srinagar. Among hill stations Shimla, Ooty, Darjeeling and Mussoorie remain the lovers' hotspots.

The study, which is a part of a research, is an attempt to stay connected with prefer-



Jaipur, Rajasthan

ences of travellers. Gourav Rakshit, Business Head of the matrimonial website, said, "While honeymooning abroad is on the rise, India, with its scenic beauty, remains the preferred destination for honeymooning couples. In fact today, many NRIs opt to travel within India for their honeymoon."

Manvendra Singh, vice president of Vacation Exotica, had admitted, "Indeed, one of the most popular destinations seems to be Switzerland. But for the domestic tourist, Rajasthan, Kerala and Goa are surely the most popular places."

Himanshu Singh,

Managing Director of Travelocity, had said that there is a quite a lot of traffic to destinations like Goa and Kerala during summer. "You can expect the regular suspects like Coorg, Ooty, Kodaikanal, Munnar, Srinagar, Shimla, and Manali to be the most popular destinations. Goa and Kerala attract tourists with attractive off-season packages, which could sometimes be up to 75 per cent less than the season rates!" He added that looking at round-the-year top leisure destinations, Goa does consistently top the charts, followed by Rajasthan and Kerala.

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