

# 10 Key Destination Wedding Questions



## **How far ahead should you plan?**

Following the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic, many resorts now fill up quickly with destination wedding requests. So, we recommend that you make the most important decisions about your wedding - the destination and the resort, the dates, the budget, and the estimated guest count - at least 12 months in advance (though we can always help with short-notice elopements!).



## **Who pays for the destination wedding?**

These days, there are no hard-and-fast rules about who pays for the expenses. It can be the bride's family, the groom's family, the couple themselves, family friends and relatives, or any mix of these.

What's important is deciding - very early in the planning process - who'll be responsible for the major expenses such as the ceremony package.



## How should you pick the dates?

Start with the desired ceremony date of course, and then add extra days to the trip for travel, the rehearsal dinner, and guest activities.

Check the work schedules for wedding party members and key relatives (as well as your own).

And, check a source such as [TimeAndDate.com/Calendar](https://www.timeanddate.com/calendar/) to avoid holidays in your chosen destination



# Where should you go?

The sky's the limit! Popular regions include Mexico, the Caribbean, and Hawaii and the South Pacific. Many U.S. and Canadian domestic destinations will work as well. Pick your favorite travel spot or a "bucket list" destination that appeals to both of you. And, beyond the destination, think about off-site ceremony venues as well as on-site locations.



## What's in the ceremony package?

Many resorts will offer pre-assembled ceremony packages that include the basic components for a set price - from the officiant, seating, and decor to flowers, music, photography, and the reception. Check the fine print in each package option to confirm that it includes the services you want.

And, the pricing depends in some cases on guest count.



## What type of ceremony will work?

You should decide upfront what type of ceremony you wish to have: legal (you'll actually get married officially when you say your vows in the destination), symbolic (you'll get married officially before you leave home but say your vows symbolically in the destination), or religious (your ceremony will be conducted following specific religious traditions such as Jewish or Roman Catholic).



## What photos should you get?

Give the photographer a written list of key shots you really want. Five key times for "must have" shots include the pre-wedding preparations, the arrival of key relatives and wedding party members at the ceremony, the critical parts of the ceremony, official family and wedding party photos, and shots at the reception.



## What about the reception?

Your wedding guests will usually pay all-inclusive rates for their resort stays, but typically those rates do not include the reception costs (since that's a special, private event).

Generally, your parents or you will pay for the reception for everyone as part of the ceremony package.

You can add extras such as an upgraded wedding cake or an open bar as you wish.



## What else happens on the trip?

Your wedding ceremony and reception will dominate the schedule on one day - but your guests will arrive at least a day or two in advance. So, you can help them plan (or you can coordinate in some cases) activities such as spa visits, golf rounds, off-site excursions, special meals (e.g., the rehearsal dinner) and other fun things to do before your big day happens!



## **What if some people can't attend?**

Not everyone who's special to you will be able to make the trip to see your ceremony in person (e.g., they may have trouble getting off work, or they can't afford the expense). You can offer a reception at home (after you've returned from your honeymoon) where these guests can see you and wish you well (and even bring presents if you decide to set up a registry).



## Why work with Us?

Planning a destination wedding can be both exciting and overwhelming. That's where our expert team of destination wedding travel advisors comes in to ensure your special day is everything you've dreamed of—without the stress or hassle.

We understand that every couple's vision is unique, which is why we handle all the details of your wedding planning, from start to finish. With personalized planning, guest coordination, hotel and vendor contracts, and local expertise, our experienced advisors manage every detail, so you can focus on what matters most—celebrating your love.



**Let's talk about your  
destination wedding!**

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