

THE ULTIMATE DESTINATION WEDDING CHECKLIST

9 - 12 Months Before

- Think about the type of wedding you want**
Do you want a formal or informal affair? Big or small and intimate? Also think about the time of year you want it to take place.
- Create a budget**
Think about how much money you have now, what you will save in the next few months and anything your parents are contributing.
- Choose a destination or hire a destination wedding travel agent to help**
Don't forget to research marriage requirements for your chosen destination
- Request proposals and photos from resorts and/or venues that interest you**
You can request proposals via the venue's/resort's website or by calling the wedding department
- Go for a site visit**
If time and budget allows it, this would be a great time to go for a site visit. You can scout venues/resorts in person before making a decision, meet with vendors, do food tastings and hair/makeup trials
- Choose a wedding date**
Avoid holidays, which can make airfare and hotels more expensive. Also keep in mind your destination's rainy and/or hurricane season.
- Settle on a venue, reserve your wedding date with them and put down a deposit**
- Start a binder to house all your paperwork, ideas and inspiration in one place**
For example, contracts, and magazine pages or print outs of photos that inspire you (flowers, attire, favors, decorations)
- Sit down with your fiancé and compile a guest list**
The rule of thumb is that about 20% of invited guests will not attend a traditional wedding, but this number goes up slightly for a destination wedding.
- Collect guest's email and mailing addresses**
- Select the members of your wedding party**
- Shop for your attire**
Keep in mind the destination's climate when choosing the style and fabric

6 - 9 Months Before

- Choose an officiate**
Discuss options with your local wedding planner
- Book a photographer**
The good ones are booked quickly so do this sooner than later
- Book a block of hotel rooms for your guests**
Make sure you negotiate a group discount or work with a travel agent to assist you.
- Create a wedding website/app**
Include photos of the destination and resort, links to make reservations, a list of wedding events, travel requirements. Use this website to keep your guests updated and collect RSVP's. This is also a great way to get your guests excited about the trip, so have fun with it!
- Send out save the dates**
Include your website address
- Hire a florist (if not provided by your venue)**
- Choose your menu and cake**
- Book the DJ or band**
If you can't meet them in person, ask them to email you a demo of their music
- Buy your shoes, headpiece, jewelry, garter, lingerie**
- Select your bridesmaid's/groomsmen's attire style and color**
- Create your gift registry**
Consider a honeymoon registry where guests can give you parts of your weddingmoon experience such as spa treatments, excursions or romantic dinners

4 - 6 Months Before

- Obtain your passports**
- If required by your destination, get blood tests or vaccines**
- Purchase your wedding rings**
- Order your wedding invitations**
- Book your flight and accommodations**
Encourage your guests to do the same
- Shop for resort/honeymoon wear**
- Book wedding day transportation, if necessary**
- Arrange transportation/transfer from airport to hotel for you and your guests**
- Buy any goods or accessories you need such as décor, guest book, cake topper, etc..**
- Make arrangements for pre-wedding events/activities**
Consider group excursions, welcome reception or a rehearsal dinner
- Make sure your bridesmaids/groomsmen order their attire**
- Start a list of must play (and must NOT play) songs for the DJ**
Continue to update it throughout the next few months

2 - 3 Months Before

- Mail out invitations**
Give your guests plenty of time to put in vacation time at work, arrange babysitting and save money for the trip.
- Order favors and welcome bag items**
- Book a hairstylist and/or make-up artist**
Your local wedding planner or resort can offer suggestions.
- Buy a wedding gift for your fiancé**
- Purchase gifts for your bridesmaid/groomsmen**
Consider a spa treatment at your wedding destination

1 Month Before

- Assemble welcome bags**
- Prepare welcome letter**
- Arrange how your welcome bag items, favors and decorations will be delivered to your hotel.**
- Have your final gown fitting**
Make sure to bring your shoes and accessories
- Make or order wedding programs**
- Make arrangements to pick up your dress/attire or have it delivered.**
- Write your vows and choose the readings for your ceremony.**
- Ensure hotel reservations for your guests have been completed**
- Confirm details with all your vendors**
Including Floral arrangements, photography package, DJ song list, menus. And get everything in writing!

2 Weeks Before

- Confirm your flight and hotel bookings**
- Enter RSVP's into a guest list spreadsheet along with their arrival date, hotel, phone, etc...**
- Create a seating chart and place cards**
- Review and re-confirm all details with all vendors to make sure you are on the same page and nothing falls through the cracks**

1 Week Before

- Start packing and make arrangements to have family members take some of the items such as favors/welcome bag in their luggage.**
This may seem early, but with so many important items to take you don't want to leave it for the last minute.
- If you're having a legal ceremony at the destination, apply for your marriage license**

When you arrive at your destination

- Do a walk through/rehearsal at the ceremony site**
- Inspect ceremony and reception sites**
- Confirm details with your ceremony officiate and planner**
- If your destination requires on-site blood test, make arrangements to have them done**
- Assemble your welcome bags and make arrangements to have them delivered to guests rooms or given to guests by the front desk at check-in.**
- Arrange a time to have your bouquets/boutonnieres delivered to you on the wedding day.**
- Have a hair and/or make-up trial prior to the wedding to make sure it's exactly what you'll want on your big day.**
- If you didn't do a site visit, this is a good time to do food tastings and change any menu item you don't like.**
- Have your wedding attire pressed/steamed to smooth out any wrinkles it encountered while traveling.**
- Book a manicure/pedicure for the day before the wedding.**

Wedding Day

- Make sure you have your rings before heading to the ceremony**
- Have someone deliver your wedding day gift to your fiancé while he/she gets ready.**
- Give yourself a pat in the back for checking off all the items on this massive list...then RELAX and have fun!!**