



Before You Go.....

Benefits of combining your honeymoon & wedding

Did you know that honeymoons typically account for 14% of the total wedding budget? By combining your wedding and honeymoon you can save money!

A destination wedding/honeymoon eliminates the need to scout and research two separate locations.

No need to hire both a wedding consultant and a travel agent. Your travel agent can arrange all of your details and put you in touch with the hotel's wedding coordinator to plan all of your requests for the big day.

2 in 1 options allow you to have your wedding in one destination and your honeymoon in another. So not only do you save money, but you see two wonderful destinations.

Choosing a destination and resort

It can be overwhelming trying to pick which country you would like to get married in. Try to narrow your list down to the top 3 countries and then take a look at what they require to get married. Make sure you can meet all of these requirements it can sometimes make the process of elimination a little easier.

Choose a resort that fits your style but also suits your guests. You want to make sure that everyone attending your wedding is comfortable at the resort.

Look at what the hotel offers in the way of wedding packages as it could be what seals your decision. Check and see if they offer a FREE wedding if you take a certain room category, like a Honeymoon Suite. The difference in price from a regular room to a special room might be less than paying for the wedding package.

Once you have picked your resort, establish contact with the hotel's wedding coordinator. Similar to arranging a wedding in Canada you need to start making plans early. Some hotels take reservations almost one year in advance, so keep this in mind when planning.

If taking a group with you, try staying a second week at a different property. This way you have special memories of just the two of you on your honeymoon...plus it is less expensive than taking another trip!

Make sure your wedding party has the required documentation to act as your witnesses.

Wedding attire

Make sure to pick an outfit that is comfortable for your climate and setting. Keep in mind that many of today's up and coming wedding gown designers are creating lines meant for the Caribbean. Make sure to inquire at your local bridal boutique for more information.

Grooms should plan to match your outfit to the type and style of dress that your bride is choosing to wear. Caribbean weddings are typically less formal, so a tie and vest might not be necessary.

Check with your airline to see their policy on transporting wedding attire. Find out if they have somewhere for you to hang your garment bag and whether you need to arrive earlier because you have an extra piece of carry-on luggage.

Always pack your wedding gown in a garment bag to take it onto the plane with you as a carry-on.

Choose a fabric and style that travels well and will not wrinkle easily. A number of hotels provide ironing/steaming services but do not depend on this. Consider picking up a small travel steamer to take any creases out of your outfit on the day of the ceremony.

Wedding party and guests

Give guests plenty of notice about your destination wedding as they will need to do some planning. Be understanding of people who are unable to attend as it might not be easy for everyone to get the time off.

If children are a part of your special day make sure to choose a resort that offers evening babysitting services. You will want everyone to be able to attend your reception.

When you send out your wedding invitations include some information about the hotel. Let your guests know what type of attire is expected for the wedding ceremony and reception and whether or not the hotel has a dress code for dinner. It will help to keep last minute calls about packing questions to a minimum.

Make sure to let guests know how you would like the wedding gifts to be handled. As the airlines have baggage restrictions it is best to have any gifts sent to a central location in your home town and not brought with you to destination.

If you have invited a group of family and friends to come with you try to pre-book a one day tour as a "get to know you" day. It is a great way for everyone involved in the wedding to mingle and get to know each other a bit better before the big day! You can also cover part of the cost as a thank you gift! Make sure to ask if the company running your tour offers discounts for groups.

Find out if anyone attending your reception dinner has allergies and make a note of this to tell the wedding coordinator. Usually you will have a few choices for the dinner location so try and decide on a restaurant that has a variety of options.

When you return plan a reception or dinner for all your guests, including the ones who were not able to attend. Set-up your photos to show everyone how beautiful your day was. Ask the guests who traveled with you to bring their photos and share them with everyone too.