

# Destination Wedding Checklist

## ***Congratulations on your engagement!***

Everything may not apply to your destination wedding, but take what you need to design and organize your dream wedding!

### WHEN YOU GET ENGAGED

- **Create a vision board** - what theme, colors, time of year, destination, ceremony venue, ambience, and how many guests?
- **Begin thinking about wedding destinations** - where would you like to get married, and how far will your guests be willing to travel?
- **Think about possible wedding dates** - what times of the year would work best for you and your guests?
- **Get clear about the budget** - what travel and ceremony expenses will you be responsible for, and how much can your guests afford to spend to join you on this trip?
- **Gather your guest list** - whom do you want to invite?
- **Create wedding email** - let everything associated with the wedding come to one place!
- ***Schedule your consultation with us as your destination wedding specialist!***

### 9-12 MONTHS BEFORE

- **Lock in your wedding date, time, and ceremony venue** - and identify "plan B" options.
- **Think about taking a "preview" trip** - see the resort/ship and destination firsthand
- ***We'll be booking your travel as a couple during this time.***
- **Consider your travel and wedding insurance options.**
- **Finalize your guest list** - including addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers.
- **Set up your wedding web site and your wedding/honeymoon registry site.**
- **Choose, and invite, your wedding party members.**
- **Begin dress shopping** - and set the attire for the group and the wedding party members.
- **Create and mail your invitations** - your guests will need the advanced notice so they can put down a deposit and have time to make payments.
- **Add travel information to your wedding site** and encourage guests to book their trips.
- **Allow us to introduce you to the on-site wedding coordinator** who will work with you during your trip.
- **Set up a Facebook group for your guests, do Zoom calls, or send regular emails** to stay in touch with your guests.
- **Review with your destination wedding specialist the on-site ceremony packages** that are available. Choose the package that you want and decide if the included elements fit your wishes (or if you'll need to hire outside vendors to supplement the package.)
- **Confirm** the color scheme, photography and videography, music, wedding decor, officiant, and other elements.
- **Confirm** the reception decor and menu - including the wedding cake.

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### **6-9 MONTHS BEFORE**

- **Talk to us about planning the honeymoon** - if you're planning on spending your honeymoon in a separate destination than the wedding.
- **Do an engagement photo shoot** - because why not? You'll want the pictures!
- **Ask wedding party members to plan the bachelor/bachelorette parties**
- **Don't forget to purchase items for the wedding** if you are planning on using them - guest book, ring bearer's pillow, flower girls' basket
- **Select readings and lock in other parts of the wedding ceremony** - vows, unity candle lighting
- **Purchase your wedding rings/bands**

### **THE FINAL 90 DAYS BEFORE THE WEDDING**

- **Finalize ceremony and reception plans with the on-site coordinator** - this may not happen until a month before the wedding
- **Make any final payments to the resort company/cruise line.**
- **Prepare any welcome gifts and/or wedding favors you will offer guests.**
- **Prepare to pack and transport your wedding dress and other special attire.**
- **Confirm on-site beauty/hair/spa/makeup appointments** - especially "day of" arrangements.
- **Review the "day of" schedule.**
- **Go through a civil ceremony locally at home** - (e.g. the courthouse wedding) if you want a symbolic ceremony on-site in the destination.
- **Confirm on-site beauty/hair/spa/makeup appointments** - especially "day of"

### **AFTER YOUR RETURN HOME**

- **Begin writing your thank you notes!**
- **Track any marriage licenses/certificates** being sent to you.
- **Preserve your wedding gown and other keepsakes.**
- **Change your legal name.**

### **3-6 MONTHS AFTER THE WEDDING**

- **Let's talk about where you want to go on your 1-year anniversary trip!**