

Destination Wedding Checklist

Congratulations on your engagement!

Everything on this list 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** - especially 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, be patient
- **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.
- **Get a couple of date nights in** - it's always good to get some 1-1 time with each other

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!**