

A smiling wedding couple stands in front of a stone building with greenery. The groom is wearing a dark teal suit and a light orange tie, holding a large bouquet of white and blue flowers. The bride is wearing a white lace wedding dress and has her arm around the groom's shoulder. The background features a stone wall and lush green plants.

DESTINATION

# BLISS

Weddings & Honeymoons

**Real Couples**  
Dish on Their  
Events

**12 Months of**  
***Honeymoon***  
***Hot Spots***

**Look Book**  
Style Ideas for  
Your Big Day

PRESENTED BY YOUR TRAVEL PROFESSIONAL



Our travel-planning expertise can make your destination wedding and honeymoon perfect.

Dear Engaged Travelers,

There are things in life that are certain: the love you share with your partner, the vision you both have of your special day, the loved ones who will surround you and the celebrations you will have before, during and after your ceremony.

I’m happy to report that there is another certainty you can count on to make the most of this exciting time in your life: travel. The world of travel is back and stronger than ever. All-inclusive resorts, decadent hotels, innovative cruise lines and more have not only survived the past couple of years, but also returned with numerous new ways to impress you and help make your wedding and honeymoon absolutely fabulous.

With all that’s new in travel, along with the tried-and-true choices you’ve always had, it helps to have a travel professional on your team. Our Honeymoon & Destination Wedding Specialists will gladly walk you through all your options, explain the pros and cons of each and help you craft a ceremony or vacation that will be as flawless as your love for one another. They’re also ready to incorporate anything you find in this magazine and simply must include in your event.

Cheers,  
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©Stephanie Dee Photography

**Pleasant  
Holidays®**

# Become One

## IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS



### Destination Weddings and Honeymoons on Grand Cayman

Join hands with your significant other in a place purpose-made for the occasion. Exchange vows in paradise and tie the knot with the comfort and knowledge that an opportunity to begin your new life together in a more picturesque setting would not be possible. The Cayman Islands offer all the amenities and scenic surroundings to make your special day an event that you will never forget.

Make it official with a destination wedding and honeymoon at these select Cayman Island resorts.

- ✧ Grand Cayman Marriott Beach Resort
- ✧ Kimpton Seafire Resort + Spa
- ✧ Sunshine Suites Resort
- ✧ The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman
- ✧ The Westin Grand Cayman Seven Mile Beach Resort & Spa

Pleasant Holidays’ complete wedding and honeymoon travel options feature everything you need in one convenient location, including flights on major airlines, hotel stays, transfers, in-destination activities and excursions.

**Ask about Air-Inclusive Rates**



TO BOOK OR LEARN MORE, CONTACT OUR AGENCY TODAY

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©Arturo Aguilar



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# 15 Wedding Features & Trends

By Amy Mutscher

Make your wedding stand out by integrating your personal touch into every part of the day. We've put together a list of the top trends, details and accents that you can include to create a one-of-a-kind experience that your guests will remember for years to come. Read on for a collection of unique activities and ideas to include in your wedding weekend.



1 Choose sustainable flowers

**1 Sustainable Choices**  
Couples are more conscious than ever when it comes to the environmental impact of their wedding, leading to fewer paper mailings, reusing heirloom jewelry and choosing flowers that are VeriFlora-certified, which aren't grown with chemicals or under harsh working conditions.

**2 Travel Tales**  
Frequent travelers might create a passport for their guests that includes the wedding program, tables named for their favorite international destinations, the menu and a personal note from the bride and groom.

**3 Make It Personal**  
Craft a thoughtful menu: The entrée could reflect your first-date dinner or an array of dishes that reprise the culinary highlights from your love story. Your signature drink(s) offers an opportunity to showcase your shared history with clever names tying in your wedding location, pet names or a city you love.

**4 Sports Themes**  
Baseball fans and former players might use their favorite pastime as the theme for a late-night snack station. Décor can include memorabilia and ball caps from beloved teams. Snacks can be stadium favorites like buttered popcorn, hot dogs and oversized cookies.

**5 Pressed Flower Cakes**  
The vintage dried flower look is now being applied to layer cakes for a retro artistic element. This delicate arrangement can be a romantic touch combining the hues of nature and plenty of greenery.

**6 Landmark Locales**  
Find a standout address in your preferred location that delivers the "wow" factor. Scout an outdoor terrace lined with lighted trees, an open grassy lawn or a lush garden at peak bloom for a glamorous occasion that you'll treasure forever.



3 Make it personal with a signature cocktail

## Signature Cocktail Names

- Main-Squeeze Margarita
- Marry Me Mule
- Something Blue
- Call Me Old Fashioned
- Mint-to-Be Mojito
- Marital Bliss
- Matrimony Martini
- Blushing Bride
- Tall & Handsome
- Two Fewer Fish in the Sea



7

Upcycle Family Heirlooms

Raid a relative’s cupboard for sentimental service items like a silver cake knife, embroidered napkins or a pair of crystal flutes for a champagne toast. Celebrate family heritage by highlighting beloved keepsakes and blend new traditions with the old.

8

Replace the Flower Girl

Instead of young children flinging flowers down the aisle, reimagine your personnel choices. Grandma would love to be your flower girl. Give her a basket of rose petals and a place of honor in your wedding party.



9 Add a sand ceremony to your beach wedding

14

Invite your bridesmaids with a special gift



12

1-2-3 Turn Around!

Brides are giving their bridesmaids their own “reveal” just minutes before the ceremony. As hard as it is to keep your wedding day look a secret from your best pals, some brides do it for the delighted reaction that can buoy the mood just when nerves are starting to creep in.

13

Local Flavor

Welcome your guests to a destination wedding with a gift bag representing the local culture. A couple in Jamaica gave their attendees a box with Red Stripe beer, mini-Tortuga rum cakes, handmade shortbread cookies from The Shortbread Shop and organic Hibiscus Petal cold brew tea.

14

Pop the Question

Proposals aren’t just for the bride or groom. The bridal party gets a special ask, which usually comes with a token of appreciation for their participation. Small gifts like an initial necklace, a pair of cozy PJs or a crossbody bag are meaningful ways to celebrate your friendship.

9

Sand Ceremony

Perfect for your destination wedding, a sand ceremony blends colored sand into a vase signifying the couple’s unity. The technique works well for blended families, allowing each member to have their own color of sand and be represented in the final display.

10

Dress for Less

Your squad will be thrilled that you’re aware of today’s dress prices. Stylish and affordable bridesmaids’ dresses are available in the hundred-dollar range from brands like Birdy Grey, AW Bridal and Morilee.

11

Personalized Favors

Add your name to a sweet treat for a customized wedding favor. Select from a menu of designs, add your moniker or image and make it all yours. You can personalize tins of M&Ms, Hershey’s Kisses and mini-jars of Nutella.

15

Go Farther

Destination weddings are more popular than ever for couples who want to incorporate adventure into their celebration. Sandy beaches in Mexico and the Caribbean are perennial favorites, but some are venturing to distinctive locations like Italy’s scenic Lake Como, South Africa’s formidable wine regions and Hawaii’s dramatic oceanfront cliffs. ♦



Mt. Rainier, Washington  
©Adventure and Vow



11

Personalized keepsakes  
©Brittany Hamann  
Photography



# Say “I Do” at Sea

By Amy Mutscher

©Lightyear Studio

## Nautical Nuptials on a Luxury Cruise

Create an unforgettable event for your family and friends aboard a luxury cruise for the ultimate stress-free, all-inclusive wedding. Take advantage of a cruise ship’s grand onboard spaces, impeccable service and gourmet cuisine to design a dream wedding that also allows you to spend several days traveling with your favorite people. Cruise wedding packages typically come with a pre-event coordinator as well as dedicated onboard staff who will carry out your plans, handle the paperwork and make your commitment ceremony extraordinary. Find out what your options are for a wedding on the high seas.

### Onboard Services

**Photography** - A team of cruise photographers can be booked to cover your entire event. From pre-wedding moments to your final farewell with the whole group, they can document your festivities as well as provide prints to take home.

**Spa** - Pamper yourselves with a hot stone massage, mani-pedi, a warm shave or a professional make-up application as you prepare for your special day. The onboard spa and salon is equipped with everything necessary to relax and beautify the entire wedding party.

**Entertainment** - Some cruise lines may let you borrow their talented performers for your event. Your steps toward the altar could be accompanied by a soloist or an orchestral ensemble. Then, dance the night away at your reception with a full band, jazzy pianist or rocking DJ.

### Distinctive Details

**Cake** - Your celebratory dessert will be made fresh, especially for you by the ship’s bakers.

**Dining** - Customize your rehearsal dinner, menu and snack station from any of the ship's world-class venues to reflect your style.

**Flowers** - Personalize your cruise wedding with distinctive floral touches selected the from top-quality vendors that the cruise lines employ.



©Lightyear Studio

### Ceremony at Sea

Walk down the aisle in the fresh sea air, surrounded by stunning views of open water, to join your intended at the altar, where the ship's captain will officiate your ceremony. Weddings on board a luxury ocean liner give you so many options. Select from several packages that include elegant flowers, a decadent cake, food and beverages, musical accompaniment and professional photography that might just cost less than a conventional ceremony. Cruising gives you something new every day that you can share with your friends and relatives, from upscale dining, wine tastings and group bonding activities to award-winning shows and lively entertainment. Contact our agency to walk you through every wonderful possibility.

### Exotic Locales

If you’ve dreamed of a romantic destination wedding in a far-flung locale like Hawaii or even Alaska, a cruise can take you there. Travel with your wedding party and guests and hold your ceremony on an idyllic island, breathtaking mountaintop, rocky bluff or scenic glacier. Our agency can help you choose an itinerary that stops in your ideal setting and arrange your onshore marriage before bringing the party back to the ship to continue the festivities! Elevate your day with the heartfelt details and special touches that complete an elegant destination wedding, at a value you’ll love. An on-site cruise coordinator will handle transportation to and from the port venue and top off the occasion with a bottle of chilled bubbly to toast with your new spouse.

### Dockside Celebration

Another option is to hold the ceremony in the origination port so that you can include a larger number of guests and invite them to experience the grandeur of your chosen ship. Pick your wedding venue from onboard options like an intimate chapel, dramatic ballroom, spectacular restaurant or other private location. If you’re exchanging vows on embarkation day, many cruise lines will allow wedding parties priority boarding to get you and your guests in place before the majority of passengers arrive. Prior to departure, non-sailing guests exit the ship, leaving the happy couple to enjoy their first honeymoon dinner in a specialty restaurant getting the VIP treatment or ordering a delectable room service delivery to the suite. ♦



©Lightyear Studio



# ROMANCE ON DECK

As deep, enduring and awe-inspiring as true love, the ocean has long served as a symbol of unity, hope and commitment — and the perfect setting for tying the knot. Discover the breathtaking possibilities of a wedding with Royal Caribbean®. From large-scale formal affairs to fun and intimate festivities, your unique vision comes to life with the help of a personal wedding planner committed to taking care of every last detail, while a dedicated day-of coordinator ensures a flawless event. From the vows to the reception to the honeymoon, the possibilities onboard — and across the world — are as vast as the sea itself.



Wedding reception



Custom packages

## SO MANY WAYS TO SAY 'I DO'

With so many details involved in creating a spectacular event, it's natural to feel overwhelmed during the planning process — except with Royal Caribbean. Offering experiences that are effortless, exciting, and above all, enjoyable, Royal Weddings take the stress out of saying “yes” with three customizable packages, each specially crafted to offer you a range of options and a happy ending as unique as your love story.

## DOWN THE AISLE — OR THE ISLE

Imagine exchanging vows onboard a magnificent ship bathed in golden light as the sun slips beneath the horizon. In every direction, tranquil blue waves stretch as far as the eye can see — a panorama as vast and infinite as the love you share for one another. Or perhaps the perfect setting is a secluded island cove framed by palm trees, with powder white sand underfoot and the sound of turquoise waves crashing gently in the distance. Whether you dream of tying the knot in an exotic tropical setting on land or an onboard wedding set against a stunning destination on port day, you can celebrate your seaside romance with up to 50 guests. You'll also enjoy a bottle of Moët & Chandon to top off the occasion. And for off-ship celebrations, complimentary transportation to and from the port venue makes for a seamless and stress-free experience.



Wonder of the Seas<sup>SM</sup>

**CONTACT OUR TRAVEL AGENCY  
TO EMBARK ON YOUR DREAM  
WEDDING WITH ROYAL CARIBBEAN.**





# Girls Just Wanna Have Fun

## Top 4 Cities to Make Your Bachelorette Party an Absolute Rager

By Amy Mutscher

According to The Knot, over 90% of women surveyed say they've attended a bachelorette party. Traditionally, the maid of honor coordinates a long weekend trip to encourage the bride to take a break from wedding planning and have a last "fling before the ring." Where to gather for the girlfriends' getaway? Check out our wanderlust-inducing list to select the perfect locale for your bach party.

### 1 Las Vegas

Sin City is a frequent choice for a three-day weekend packed with vibrant nightlife and appetizing restaurants. Plunge into total Vegas indulgence at one of the many pool parties with headliner DJs, private cabanas and open-air party decks overlooking all the craziness. There's something for every taste, style and price range in Vegas. Stay in one of the spectacular suites like Circa's Bunk Pad room with bunk beds, a massive hangout area, full dining table and in-room bar. Check out the art installation masquerading as a supermarket - Omega Mart, in Area 15, an entertainment complex near the Strip. A joint bachelor/bachelorette party is a great way to assemble the entire wedding party to spend more time together.

### 2 Orlando

Add Disney magic to your girls' weekend in Orlando and feel like a kid again. Your team of party princesses will have a blast in the *Magic Kingdom*® Park and savor the global flavors at the *EPCOT*® World Showcase. Feel the rush on super-fast roller coasters and journey through mythical worlds of beloved characters. Beyond the theme parks, you can find endless activities among the restaurants, dance clubs, concert venues, world-class shopping centers and so much more. *Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa* is the indulgent hotel of choice for girls' trips while *Disney's Yacht Club Resort* near EPCOT gives guests that beach vibe. Check out Etsy's vast collection of customized bridal party T-shirts to outfit the whole crew for your visit to the Most Magical Place on Earth.

#### Take the Trip

There's a Disney Resort hotel to fit every budget! As a Disney Resort hotel guest, you get extra time in the parks, complimentary resort transportation, on-site entertainment and world-renowned service.





Wedding  
Inspo

Mexico  
Coast to Coast

One of the reasons Mexico is so popular for bachelorette parties is the variety of stunning, all-inclusive resorts that meet any budget. You get a lot for your dollar in Mexico, making a stay at a beautiful 5-star resort a surprisingly economical option. The best part is that with one flat rate, there are no pricey bills to pay at the end of your trip.

Your pals will appreciate all the extras included in the cost such as food, beverages, non-motorized watersports and a variety of other fun activities. An experienced travel advisor can help you choose the perfect resort that suits your spending and style preferences.



©Secrets Resorts

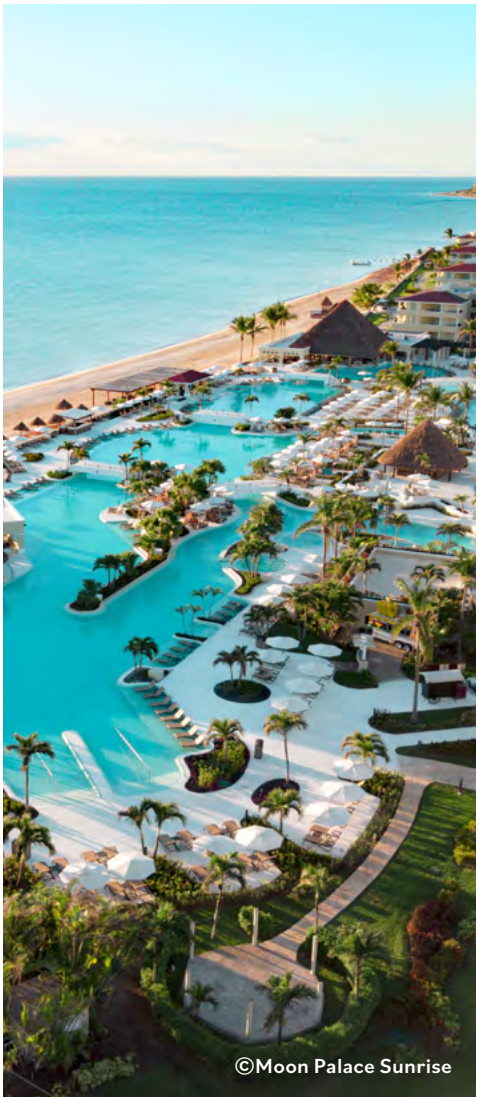
3 Cabo San Lucas

You'll want to stay near the action in Cabo San Lucas for an easy walk to acclaimed restaurants, fabulous shopping, hip nightspots and access to ocean tours. Browse through art galleries and clothing and jewelry stores stocked with locally handcrafted items. Large resorts with their own pools, restaurants and bars in a scenic courtyard are common here. Book a suite at one of the many all-inclusive, beachfront resorts that offer spectacular balcony views of the Pacific Ocean. Remove all traces of wedding stress with a spa day where you can relax with traditional treatments made from local, natural ingredients.



4 Cancun

Spend a long weekend having fun in the sun paddleboarding, kayaking and slipping down waterslides in an enormous pool complex with perfect views of the Caribbean Sea. Experience Cancun in a luxury resort featuring gourmet dining and unlimited premium drinks while relaxing on white sand beaches with crystal blue waters. Celebrate the cultural



©Moon Palace Sunrise

Take the Trip

Savor the beachfront scenery at the all-inclusive Moon Palace Cancun with nine refreshing pools! Go for the opulent swim-up suite with private patio, 24-hour room service, stocked minibar and personal whirlpool. Contact our agency for added-value amenities and VIP extras available at no extra cost.



heritage of Mexico with vibrant, flavorful dishes like carnitas tamales and fresh fish tacos complemented by the world's best margaritas. After sunset, keep the party going with live music, dancing and amazing performances. Save time for a daytrip to Chichén Itzá, one of the most visited archaeological sites in Mexico located just outside of Cancun. ✦





# Trendy or Timeless?

GET BOTH WITH  
AMR™ COLLECTION

With over 45 years of travel expertise behind them, Funjet Vacations knows a thing or two about destination weddings. A big part of that, of course, is knowing which resorts make for the perfect venue. Matching the right resort with the right nuptial couple doesn't end there, though. As your travel advisor can tell you, saying "I do" to a property comes down to finding one that fits your style and vibe.

Thankfully, AMR™ Collection really does have something for every nearlywed. Mastering the "relaxed luxury" mood that's been popping up all over Instagram and Pinterest, these beachfront all-inclusive resorts balance classic with unexpected and low-key with high-touch for weddings personalized to each couple. Every detail is accounted for, courtesy of dedicated wedding planners ready to take your big day from vision board to social feed.







Dreams® Dominicus Las Mareas

## If you want to marry in front of the whole family ...

Newly opened as of May 15, the all-ages Dreams® Karibana Cartagena Golf & Spa Resort certainly makes for a fashionable choice. The first AMR™ Collection resort in South America, tucked away in a gated community outside historic Cartagena, is a fresh take on the tropical beach scene, but with the comfort and familiarity of a trusted brand. Kids and adults alike can embrace *Unlimited-Luxury*® in all its glory: stunning suites, poolside snacks, fun and games at the Explorer's Club for Kids and Core Zone Teens Club.

Of course, it's the main event that takes the cake, through trendy touches like carved-wood charger plates, hexagonal archways and pearl-studded corsages. Packages that let you Elope in Luxury, have a Wedding in Paradise, or make your Dreams come true with an array of upgraded amenities that give a nod to tradition while still feeling timely.

## If you want to celebrate with just the adults ...

Sophisticated and exclusive to adults, another new hotel, Secrets® Moxché Playa del Carmen, simply screams romance. Sunsets over the ocean are the ideal lighting for photos — no filter needed — and boho doesn't get any more beautiful than pampas grass centerpieces that'll have you trending faster than you can say #ShorelyPerfect. But if you want to be a trendsetter, think outside the box and inside the lines with a reception on the resort's pickleball court.

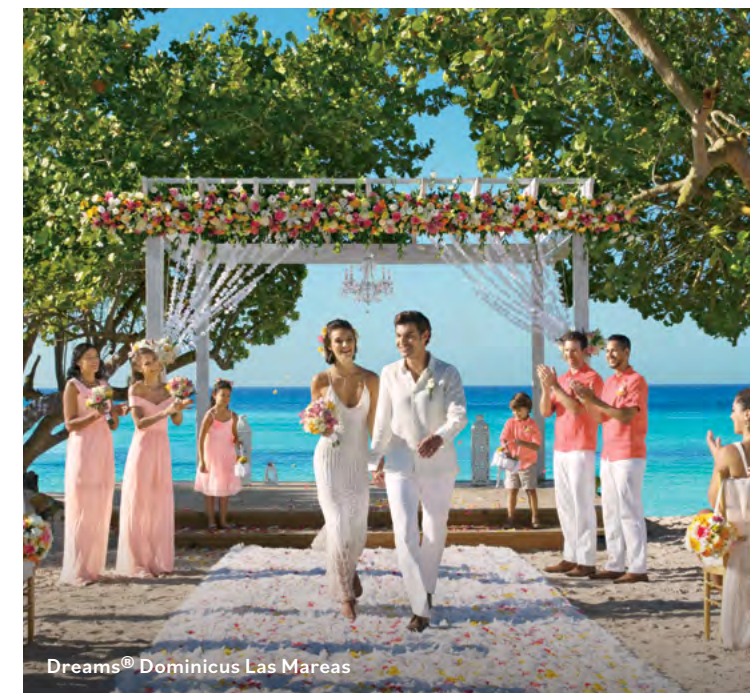
For a more timeless affair, opt for minimalist chic with white linen on the beach ... or just let your guests indulge in the perks of unhurried, *Unlimited-Luxury*®. A full schedule of entertainment takes the weight of planning activities off your shoulders; gourmet dining aplenty means they'll all be talking about the food.

When it comes to the most memorable day of your life, don't settle for anything less than a wedding that feels thoroughly your own. Funjet Vacations' destination wedding specialists work tirelessly with your travel advisor to ensure, from the flight there to the last honeymoon amenity at your AMR™ Collection resort, your wedding unfolds exactly the way you want it to.

Contact our agency to start planning  
your dream wedding.



Dreams® Sapphire Riviera Cancun



Dreams® Dominicus Las Mareas



## Destination Wedding

# Look Book

### Style Ideas for Your Big Day

**N**eed some inspiration for your wedding style? Infuse your personality and story into the wedding day with design details that authentically express your essence. Have a look at some stunning wedding venues, distinctive features and fashion choices that can help you vision board your ceremony and customize your celebration.



©MeewMeew Studios

### Island Vibe

Capture the relaxing spirit of Hawaii for your event. Blend soft colors into your wardrobe and floral selections to make it feel beachy. Finishing touches might include greeting guests with leis, a chilled white towel or a refreshing island mocktail at the conclusion of the ceremony.



©MeewMeew Studios



©Samantha Dahabi Photo



©Samantha Dahabi Photo

### Laid-Back Natural

For a fresh aesthetic, book an outdoor venue with a woodsy ambiance that displays a muted color palette of green, auburn, champagne and bronze. Bring in the natural beauty of your surroundings whether it's snow-capped mountains, rolling hills, verdant forests or a lush lawn centered within a historic property. Add earthy elements like dried flowers to your altar or an arch made of dried branches.



# Fairytale Romance

Bring your vision of a romantic ceremony to fruition with the perfect garden venue and an assembly of white blooms, fairy lights and long tapered candles. A beautiful white tent draped in flowers and greens, featured in a park setting, will allow your decor to blend in effortlessly with the stunning landscape. A unity candle ceremony is a visually captivating ritual that fits perfectly with this mood.



©H & L Lovely Creations

# Pink Passion

Move fun to the forefront with a party atmosphere in a sleek setting. Playful couples might compose their heartfelt vows punctuated with jokes and silly stories. Energetic music is a must, capped off with an inspired recessional song like "Signed, Sealed, Delivered" by Stevie Wonder or "Get Lucky" by Daft Punk. This Miami wedding embraced bold, tropical colors like fuschia and orange and carried the theme through the table settings, floral accents and bridesmaids' attire.



©Domino Arts Photography



©MJ Wedding Photography



©MJ Wedding Photography

# Wedding Wear for the Whole Family

A marriage ceremony isn't always just for couples, it's often a union of families. Elevate your kiddos' look with special wedding wear that makes them feel confident and confirms that they're part of the unity ceremony. Little ones can fill the classic roles of flower girl and ring bearer by wearing simpler versions of their parents' ensembles. Older children can serve as junior bridesmaids and groomsmen or even walk Mom down the aisle, wearing the same outfits as the rest of the wedding party.



# Bridal Silhouettes

Arguably the most important decision of the wedding, right after the spouse, “The Dress” is meant to express your true self as you make your grand entrance. From traditional to contemporary, or a blend of the two, there will be a dress that says “yes” to you.



## Classic Gown

An elegant floor-length dress crafted of fine silk with traditional lace accents is a perennially popular selection.



## Beach Ready

Fabrics like satin and silk photograph beautifully in a breezy oceanfront locale as they flutter and float around the bride. A sleek bun keeps hair in place and allows the dress to take center stage.



## Pop of Color

Colorful hues are making their way into gowns meant for the fashion-forward bride with designers like Monique Lhuillier incorporating floral elements into their collections.

# Suits: The Spectrum of Formality

Ensure that you’re dressed appropriately for the occasion with these guidelines that cover a range of looks. Consider the season, time of day and the venue before making your selections. And there’s always room to play with pattern and color within the dress code.



## Formal: Black Tie

- Tuxedos in a smooth wool fabric with silk or satin lapels
- Black is the default, but midnight blue, hunter green and burgundy also appear
- Silk or satin stripe down the outer seams of the pants
- Bowtie is customary, in black or colorful satin or silk
- White dress shirt with vertical pleats, wing collar and studs instead of buttons
- French cuffs fastened with cufflinks and cummerbund in lieu of a belt
- Black shoes in patent or highly shined leather, with black socks



## Semi-Formal: Cocktail Attire

- Suits in dark fabrics in wool or cotton blend, depending on the season
- Notched lapel is standard on a single-breasted suit
- Dress shirts may be white or pastel with a spread collar
- Long necktie that ends at the belt is typical
- Pocket square of a complementary color in silk or cotton
- Leather belt matches shoe color
- Lace-up leather shoes with coordinating socks



## Resort Formal: Beachfront Best

- Casual, light-colored suit in breathable fabrics like linen or cotton
- Long-sleeve buttoned shirts with classic barrel cuffs
- No tie, open collar
- Stylish sunglasses
- Cotton belt and pocket square
- Footwear: loafers, boat shoes, sandals or barefoot ♦





# Luxury & Love Intertwined

Sandals® Resorts holds the dreamiest destinations with the perfect backdrops for the perfect romance. One step above the rest, Sandals understands that your love is special, and we honor that by making your getaway unique to you. Whether it's your honeymoon or you're ready to retie the knot, there's no need to worry when everything is covered and included. Here are just some of the amazing destinations you can look into when you book your next romantic getaway.



Martha Brae River, Jamaica



# Sandals Royal Bahamian

Paradise Redefined

Enter a utopia when you arrive at the renewed Sandals Royal Bahamian Nassau, Bahamas. Experience a lavish Caribbean getaway when you stay in the new Crystal Lagoon swim-up suites. Complete with access to a zero-entry swim-up pool, these suites are perfect for honeymooners looking for a tropical escape. Have a pastel romance in your own secluded suite at the all-new Island Village. Dine at one of 13 Global Gourmet™ restaurants featuring three new food trucks.

Feel the groove at Coconut Grove with countless ways to have fun. Grab a bite at a food truck, enjoy a day drink poolside and party all night with live music. Want something more intimate? The discreet, seemingly untouched piece of paradise known as Sandals Barefoot Cay is an unspoiled haven. Board the Love Runner and sail to a place where your cares are carried away by the waves. With their two private beaches, you can enjoy a leisurely swim, discover the Bahamas’ best snorkeling, or savor the Caribbean at Aralia House.



Swim-Up Suite, Sandals Royal Bahamian



Sandals Dunn's River, Jamaica

# Sandals Royal Curaçao

Welcome to the Dutch Caribbean

Sandals Royal Curaçao has romance and adventure etched into its landscape as well as its culture. From sugar white-sand beaches to the vibrant capital city of Willemstad, you can start your romantic rendezvous anywhere. Indulge your culinary curiosity with the new and exclusive Island Dining program. With a \$250 dine-out credit for select rooms, you can enjoy a collection of eight distinct restaurants while you explore the capital city.

Experience unconventional luxury at the Awa Seaside Bungalows sitting on the crystal-clear shoreline, or the Kurason Island Suites overlooking a glittering heart-shaped pool. When you stay at either of these new accommodations, you can go into the city in a stylish convertible MINI Cooper. Dine on delicious meals from 11 unique dining options, eight of which are new concepts to the brand including three diverse food trucks.



Sandals Royal Curaçao

# Sandals Dunn's River

Where Life Flows Naturally

Sandals Dunn's River is making its iconic return in the heart of Ocho Rios. Fusing into the verdant surroundings, this earthly resort has native trees and foliage peppering the grounds, as well as natural spring water running throughout. The beaches, personally chosen by their founder, are perfect for lounging on to catch some rays. New accommodations have been crafted for love and luxury with Jamaica's first Tufa beachfront SkyPool Suites and our first open-terrace Rondovals, the Coyaba Sky Rondoval.

Enjoy unmatched Global Gourmet™ dining at 12 restaurants, 9 unique bars serving unlimited premium spirits and wines, land and water sports, unforgettable scuba diving and more at the spectacular, reimagined Sandals Dunn's River.

Contact our agency  
to start planning  
your dream wedding.





# Destination Wedding Checklist

©Studio 27 Photography

## 12 Months Out

- ☐ Choose a destination. Look to your travel advisor for guidance and inspiration in selecting a destination that excites both you and your partner.
- ☐ Establish a budget. Allow flexibility for travel costs, especially if you're bundling your honeymoon and destination wedding in one trip.
- ☐ Stay organized. A binder is a good idea for storing all physical paperwork in one place, while a Pinterest board is perfect for organizing online inspiration.
- ☐ Finalize guest list. Send save-the-dates as soon as possible so your guests have enough time to plan too!

## 10 Months Out

- ☐ Go for a site visit. Many of the questions you have about your wedding can be answered by visiting the resort in person. Getting these things out of the way early will help you be more relaxed and excited about the rest of the planning process, too.
- ☐ Find your vendors. Most resorts offer on-site photographers, florists and caterers to choose from. If you plan to book elsewhere, this is the time to start making alternate plans.
- ☐ Create a wedding website. A website is great for communicating the details of your big day. Make sure to include a link to your wedding registry.

## 8 Months Out

- ☐ Buy your gown and/or suit. Whether you order from a traditional bridal shop or a smaller boutique, it can sometimes take months to receive your gown. Plus, you'll need extra time for alterations.
- ☐ Start thinking about wedding party attire. Keep the climate of your destination in mind and ensure that everything is set to arrive with plenty of time before departure.
- ☐ Check your passports. Make sure they won't expire for at least six months before you're set to return home.

## 6 Months Out

- ☐ Research excursions. Consult your travel advisor about planning a special activity for you and your wedding party at your wedding destination.
- ☐ Schedule any dance classes. Formal dance lessons are a great way to gain confidence (and learn some new moves!) before you hit the dance floor as a married couple for the first time.

## 3 Months Out

- ☐ Send invitations. Be sure to include your travel advisor's contact information if your guests need assistance booking their air, hotel and excursions.
- ☐ Practice beforehand. Plan a rehearsal dinner or welcome cocktail reception to make sure everyone in the wedding party knows the drill before the big day.
- ☐ Confirm appointments. Double-check the times for hair/makeup appointments to avoid any mishaps.

## 1 Month Out

- ☐ Write your vows. Also remember to choose the readings and music for your ceremony, plus music for important moments during the reception, such as the first dance.
- ☐ Finalize the playlist. Make sure your DJ or band knows the vibe of your wedding. If there are certain songs you definitely don't want to hear (the chicken dance, perhaps?) consider making a music blacklist.
- ☐ The finishing touches. This is the time to select a signature drink, design a wedding sign, purchase welcome-bag goodies and finish up all the final details. ♦



©Daniela Ortiz Photography



©Domino Arts Photography



# More Love for Less Money

## How to Save in Some Areas So You Can Splurge in Others

By Jonathan Hermann

Nothing beats Pinterest, Instagram and TikTok for wedding-planning inspiration, but if you find yourself being sucked into a vortex of ideas that is way out of your price range, step away from your computer and let us help you edit your plethora of ideas into an affordable (and realistic) vision. After helping many couples plan and organize their ideal ceremonies, we have discovered that there is always a budget-friendly option to all aspects of destination weddings. Here are our top seven ideas to help you save while still enjoying the best wedding ever.

### Focus on Local Flowers

Chances are you picked your wedding destination because of its spectacular beauty, so forgo expensive over-the-top floral arrangements and let the natural surroundings shine. If fresh flowers are a must, save money with simple, local arrangements or add a splash of color with garlands or centerpieces made only from greenery. These vibrant, on-trend arrangements can be made with anything from ferns to rosemary and add major bang for the buck. You can also reuse your bridesmaids' bouquets as centerpieces at the reception.



### Lean on the Expertise of a Travel Advisor

If your dream wedding includes a big smiling group of family and friends, you need a travel advisor. We can handle everything from coordinating airline reservations to arranging preferred room types. We'll not only help ensure your guests arrive in a celebratory mood, but also we'll take a load of stress off your shoulders. And thanks to group discounts and longstanding relationships with resorts and cruise lines, we can save you a lot of money in the process.

### Spend Less on the Dress

Wedding dresses by famous designers can really cut into your budget. Instead, opt for a gown you love, versus the name on the tag. Another tip is to avoid heavy and expensive fabrics like silk shantung. Fabrics such as chiffon are usually more affordable, and their breathability is perfect for tropical climates. It will also be easier to travel with your gown if it has less fabric. When you've got some extra cash to spare and you're as cool as a cucumber, you'll be a much happier bride.

### Reconsider Party Favors

Thoughtful, customized favors are fun to give away, but they often come at an exorbitant price. Instead, think about what's unique to your location and how you can incorporate that into your favors. If your destination wedding is in Hawaii, give out Kona coffee beans. Do you and your significant other have a charity that's near and dear to your heart? Make a donation in your guests' names in lieu of a tangible gift. Thinking local and personal will not only save you money, it will also fit right in with your wedding theme.





Widen Your  
Destination Search

Couples often fantasize about getting married on a tropical beach, so they narrow their search down to the Caribbean. And while there are numerous locales across the Caribbean where you can get hitched for less, also consider widening your search to other areas of the world. Luxe resorts on picturesque beaches can be found across Central America and Southeast Asia — our agency will gladly give you many options.

Take Advantage of  
Wedding Packages

Many all-inclusive resorts provide wedding packages that are not only affordable, but also they make hosting your wedding a tropical breeze. Some resorts even include free wedding packages if you stay a certain number of nights. By allowing the resort to take care of the flowers, reception venue, ceremony setup and more, you save both cash and stress.

Save with  
Package Deals

Many travel suppliers create packages that cost a lot less than booking individual components. Our agency uses several partners quite often that specialize in resort packages that also include flights, excursions, ground transportation and bonus amenities. ♦



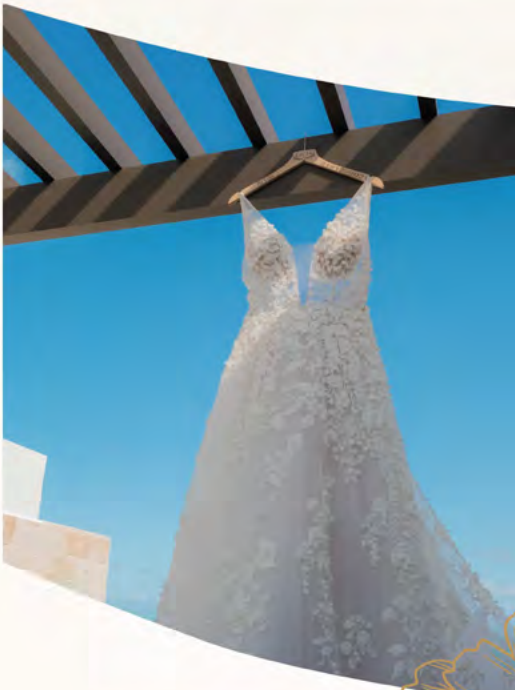
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- Room upgrade, plus early check-in and late check-out\*\*
- Romantic candlelit dinner with sparkling wine for the wedding couple
- Romantic breakfast in suite for the wedding couple
- Services of a Civil Judge
- Wedding cake and tropical bouquet/boutonniere
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- Dinner for up to 60 wedding guests
- Basket of fruit in your room during your stay
- Bottle of sparkling wine in the room
- Special bride and groom bracelet
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For bookings, please contact our travel agency.

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\*When you book 15 or more rooms for 7 nights or 105 room nights for up to \$1750 in savings. Additional services are available. The offer is subject to validation at time of arrival. Valid for travel until December 31, 2023. \*\*Subject to availability.



What’s the Difference?  
Wedding Planner vs.  
Travel Advisor

Your wedding planner and your travel advisor are two key players dedicated to making sure your big day goes exactly as planned, but their roles are very different.

Wedding Planners

Travel Advisors

The Big-Day Directors

Who They Are

- They help you organize and plan all your wedding events by referring trusted vendors
- Destination wedding packages likely include an on-site wedding specialist

What They’re Good At

- Knowing exactly what questions to ask to make sure your expectations are met and you aren’t taken by surprise
- Keeping day-of details organized and working with you to make your day as memorable as possible

What They Won’t Do

- Help arrange excursions, make itinerary upgrades or compare wedding packages for different resorts
- Field questions from your guests or make bookings for friends and family

*Wedding Planners are there to plan wedding events only.*

The Big-Picture Champions

Who They Are

- Specialists in specific areas, such as destination weddings and honeymoons
- Unbiased experts who aren’t affiliated with any one resort
- Advisors who organize the entire event and are there to help in the case of any travel issues

What They’re Good At

- Organizing groups, from booking travel to handling payments — they take care of all the details
- Developing relationships with travel suppliers, which gives them access to secret discounts and exclusive VIP perks that you can’t get on your own

What They Won’t Do

- Book your vendors or monitor your wedding-day timeline

*Travel advisors are there to handle all your travel-based wedding needs.*

# Shoulda, Coulda, Woulda

## Avoid Wedding Day Woes with These Tips from the Experts

By Dayna Engberg

It’s true, travel advisors have planned a lot of destination weddings and honeymoons. With that experience comes a wealth of knowledge they’ve gained over time. Keep reading to get their best advice. Plus, find out what couples wish they would have done differently on their big day.

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# What the Advisors Said ...

### Avoid Analysis Paralysis

As you begin the research process, you'll find that there are seemingly endless destination wedding and honeymoon options. Don't stress yourself out comparing them all. Instead, talk to your travel advisor. They can save you a ton of time by providing a customized list of filtered options based on factors such as your personality, timeline and budget.

### Don't Sweat the Details

When it comes to wedding planning, it doesn't get much easier than a destination wedding booked through a travel specialist. Not only will all your travel details be taken care of for you, but you'll also have just one vendor for the wedding day. The resort provides an event planner to keep everything organized and you'll be able to work with them on your selections for flowers, photography, hair and makeup, food, music and more. Easy!

### Don't Go It Alone

There are many moving parts that go along with planning a destination wedding that you could only know through experience. When in doubt, turn to those who do this for a living. Travel advisors are essential for negotiating the best rates, organizing all the booking details and protecting your trip with travel insurance.



# What the Couples Said ...

### Plan Ahead

- “I wish I would have used an online wedding website or printed checklist to stay organized, since there is so much to keep track of.”
- “Don't be that couple who plans every second of the wedding day. Have some downtime built into your schedule to relax and connect with your wedding party and guests. Those are the things you will remember most.”
- “We should have listened to our travel advisor and booked our excursions before we left, as we didn't get to do some of the activities we wanted because they were sold out when we arrived.”

### Visit the Resort

- “I should have visited the location in advance. The weather was warmer than I expected and our groomsmen were miserable sweating it out in their full suits. After seeing the vibe

of the resort, I would have opted for something that was still wedding-appropriate but not as formal.”

- “Our family was skeptical about a destination wedding, but once they arrived and saw what we saw, their hesitations quickly faded. Go see the resort yourself, then give them as much information upfront as possible to help calm their worries.”

### Photography

- “Make sure to have your photographer access the venue early to take pictures of all the details before you and your guests arrive.”
- “Ask your photographer to take pictures of the guests and everyone enjoying the wedding. We had so many pictures of us and the wedding party and hardly any of our friends and family.”

- “Our photos were amazing, but I wish we would have also paid for a videographer to really capture the emotion of the day. It wasn't that much more for an upgraded package.”

### Budget

- “We saved so much money opting for a destination wedding, I wish we would have taken more time off after the wedding to have a longer honeymoon. We were already in a really beautiful location.”
- “Party favors at your reception are nice, but they can also be a big hassle. We had to ship everything to the resort and some of the guests didn't even end up taking their gifts. I would have rather spent the money on something else instead.”
- “I would have created a honeymoon registry with our travel advisor to help cover the costs of our trip, which would have also allowed us to upgrade our flights and our room to a suite.” ♦





## TAKE YOUR VOWS ON THE ROAD

### Enjoy a Destination Wedding in Paradise

Many couples dream of a destination wedding. Palace Resorts can make it happen. Choose one of our all-inclusive resorts in Cancun, the Riviera Maya, or Jamaica and we'll design a day you'll never forget. Our in-house Palace Productions studio will also help you plan every aspect of your nuptials, whether you want something intimate or over-the-top, traditional or totally unique.

#### A Palace Resorts destination wedding includes:

- Complimentary private events\*
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- Personal Wedding Specialist
- Venues for party, ceremony & reception
- Luxurious accommodations
- Unlimited gourmet dining & top-shelf sips
- 24-hour room service
- And much more

*\*Based on a minimum number of rooms booked*



## WEDDINGS BY LE BLANC

### Say “I’ll Love You Forever” in Paradise

Choose our ultra-luxe adults-only brand Le Blanc Spa Resorts for your destination wedding. Whether in Cancun or Los Cabos, our in-house wedding specialists will plan every detail, from cocktail receptions to ceremonies on the beach. No matter your dream, we can make your special day happen.

#### Blanc Weddings include:

- Complimentary private functions\*
- Complimentary room & upgrade for the Bride and Groom\*
- Complimentary Wedding Amenities\*
- Personal Wedding Specialist
- Venues for parties, ceremony & reception
- Ultra-luxurious accommodations
- Unlimited fine dining & top-shelf sips
- Butler service
- 24-hour in-room dining
- Complimentary hydrotherapy
- And much more

*\*Based on a minimum number of rooms booked*



# Know Before You Go

## Why You Should Test-Drive Your Destination Wedding

By Dayna Engberg

If you thought touring wedding venues was exciting, you'll love what that means for a destination wedding.

What's better than a mini trip before the big day? Although it's true that we love any excuse for a vacation, there are also some very important practical reasons to visit your resort well before the wedding day.

### Tour the Venues

Most resorts have several venue options for both the ceremony and reception. Would you rather recite your vows on a sandy beach or in an overwater cathedral? Will the party happen in a tropical garden beneath romantic string lights or in a grand ballroom with sweeping ocean views? Such decisions are easier — and a lot more fun — to make in person.

### BONUS: The Freebies!

There's another reason to test-drive your wedding destination on a separate trip — the perks!

Resorts may offer huge savings on your wedding when you visit in advance.

Many others offer free upgrades for you or your guests, resort credits, free excursions, special amenities and more.

### Taste the Menu and Choose Décor

Tasting should be a time to connect with your partner and get excited about the entrées, wine and cake you'll be sharing with your guests. You'll also be able to preview flower arrangements, feel linens, refine your aesthetic and see how everything works together in the setting.

### Talk to the Experts

Chat one-on-one with a wedding coordinator who will walk you through exactly how your wedding will go. The pace will be relaxed since it's happening well in advance. This will give you plenty of time to get all your questions answered and be confident in your decisions so you can return home reassured that your big day will go exactly as planned. ♦

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### The Honeymoon Collection

Honeymoons were meant to be epic.

Which is why we have curated five experiences to ensure your adventure is nothing short of spectacular.



Putting Together Your  
 Wedding Day Emergency Kit

Whether it’s a spilled glass of wine, an embarrassing rip in trousers or a flight delay — life’s curveballs can come at you fast. Even the best laid plans can go awry, which is why contingency plans are the name of the game when it comes to your big day. Here are a couple of easy essentials to consider for a wedding day emergency kit.

Pro Tip

Add your travel advisor to your favorites in your call list. In case of travel emergencies, such as canceled flights, you'll have a professional on speed dial to handle the logistics.



Preferred Hair Products

If there are specific tools you use to do your hair — bobby pins, hairspray, dry shampoo — pack them in triplicate. Resorts may not have hair tools on hand, and scrambling to find them the morning of the ceremony isn’t ideal!

Allergy Meds

Regardless of whether this is a spring wedding, fresh flowers are likely to be in attendance. Fresh flowers’ plus one? Pollen. Allergy meds are a must, even if you don’t typically have allergies.



First Aid Kit

People trip, nick and bruise themselves all the time — your wedding day won’t be the exception. Having a first-aid kit at the ready will guarantee no one has to sit the wedding out because of a small “whoops.”



Eyedrops

Just in case the allergy meds are slow to kick in — or you had less-than-stellar sleep the night before — eye drops will save you the headache of looking haggard on a happy day.

Straws

There’s bound to be bubbly; don’t let well-deserved toasts ruin your lipstick (and all the subsequent photos).



Sewing Kit

Whether your dress caught on the one thing it shouldn’t have, or you were too confident in your suit pants, a simple sewing kit can keep your look immaculate. Have a stain-remover pen on hand for the same reason!



YOUR PERFECT GETAWAY AWAITS

When it comes to romance, there’s no better place to celebrate than at sea. From honeymoons to anniversaries, set sail on a cruise for two and leave the details to us. From intimate candlelit dinners to relaxing couple’s massages, everything you need for your special occasion is waiting for you. Revel in luxury in our exclusive MSC Yacht Club, or stroll the tranquil beaches at Ocean Cay, our private island marine reserve in The Bahamas. No matter how you spend your time together, you’ll soon discover that romantic moments at sea are more than just a fantastic idea.

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# A Toast with the Most

## How to Write the Perfect Wedding Speech

By Dayna Engberg

So you're planning to take the mic at an upcoming wedding. Congratulations! Speaking at one of life's most important events is a huge honor. It can also come with a side of anxiety. But don't worry, we've got you covered with these essential tips for writing the perfect wedding speech.



**Not sure where to start?** Reflect on these prompts to get the creative juices flowing.

- When you first met the bride or groom, what bonded you as friends?
- Have you shared any moments together where things didn't go as planned?
- What was the most fun or interesting thing that you've done together?
- Do the newlyweds have any strange hobbies or quirks that they share?
- What inspires you about their relationship?
- How did the newlyweds meet? What was your first impression?
- What does each partner bring out in the other?

## Do

### Prepare in Advance

If there's one piece of advice you must follow when giving a wedding speech, it's this: Don't wing it. Avoid making a speech that's memorable for all the wrong reasons by preparing in advance. Record yourself practicing, rehearse in front of a friend and keep it concise. A good speech should be around two to five minutes.

### Be Authentic

If you're sharing a story or anecdote, don't try too hard to be funny. There's nothing more awkward than a joke that lands flat. Instead, connect with the audience by speaking from the heart. If you choose a topic you genuinely want to share, you'll feel more relaxed speaking about it and come off more confident.

### Keep It Clean

It's a toast, not a roast! Remember that your audience may include older relatives, plus-ones and colleagues. Don't embarrass the newlyweds with crude jokes or stories they wouldn't want grandma hearing. If you're not sure if it's appropriate, err on the side of caution and save the juicy stuff for the rehearsal dinner.



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## Don't

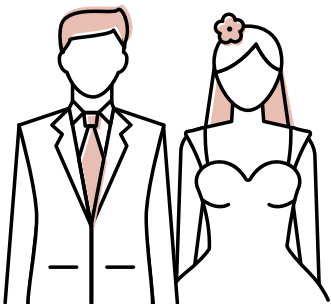
### Use Inside Jokes

Inside jokes might get a laugh or two out of the wedding party, but they'll probably go over everyone else's heads. Avoid the confused looks and blank stares by writing your speech with the larger audience in mind, or include the backstory so that everyone can follow along.

### Drink Too Much

It might be tempting to hit the open bar for a little liquid courage before your speech, but save the celebrating for after. You don't want to be up there slurring your words or worse, forgetting your lines. Order a glass of champagne, but hold off on drinking it so you have a full glass to raise at the end of your toast. ♦





## Destination Weddings

### Fast Facts on Destination Weddings & Honeymoons

An estimated 350,000 couples opt for destination weddings each year, accounting for about \$16 billion in annual spending. October is the most popular month to get married, followed by June, September and May. The most popular domestic destinations for weddings are Nevada, Florida and California. Mexico and the Caribbean are among the top international destinations, thanks to their wide variety of all-inclusive resorts offering wedding packages at all price points and on-site coordinators who make planning your event a breeze.

#### Destination Wedding Fast Facts

- Destination weddings tend to have a guest list of 48 people.
- On average, the age of brides choosing a destination wedding is 33.

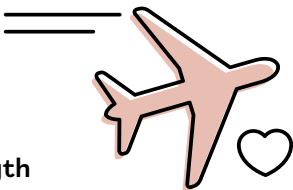
Source: Ampersand Travel Destination Weddings and Honeymoon Report

#### Cost and Time Commitment

- 19% of couples chose a destination wedding at an average cost of \$32,000.
- Couples spend an average of six hours a week planning their nuptials.

Source: The Knot

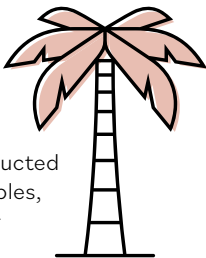
## Honeymoons



#### Average Length

On average, couples book their honeymoons two months after becoming engaged and spend seven days on the trip.

Source: Brides



#### Top Destination

According to a study conducted with hundreds of U.S. couples, Hawaii is the most popular honeymoon destination.

Source: Honeymoon Goals



#### Average Cost

The average cost of a honeymoon for American couples is \$4,800 and usually represents about 15% of the total wedding budget.

Source: Statista

#### Latest Trend

## Sustainability



Buying secondhand décor and attire



Donating leftover food



Avoiding single-use paper and plastic



Purchasing eco-friendly flowers and decorations



Staying at an eco-friendly resort



Free

Classic

Royal

Caprice

Indulgence

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# REAL COUPLES

## Weddings & Honeymoons

## LATOYA & TYRON

*Married in Negril, Jamaica*

**Q. Why did you choose this location?**

**A.** We were looking for something that was family-friendly, and food selection played a major role. Also, we were looking for the most beautiful venue to have our wedding ceremony, finally deciding on Karisma by Azul.

**Q. What was your favorite part of your wedding?**

**A.** Having our families witness us saying, “I do!”

**Q. Favorite part of the destination?**

**A.** It feels like you’re in a whole other world. I loved that we — and when I say “we” I mean everyone — were treated like royalty!

**Q. What advice do you have for other couples planning a destination wedding?**

**A.** If you don’t want to be stressed, get a destination wedding travel advisor. They can let you know all the ins and outs that Google will not tell you.

**Q. How did using a travel advisor make planning your wedding easier?**

**A.** I was so relaxed, so I had the pleasure of not being a bridezilla. Anything I asked — if I needed to add or change something — my travel advisor had no problem doing. They made wedding planning such a breeze.





## CHRIS & SARAH

*Honeymooned in St. Lucia  
at Sandals Halcyon*

**Q. Why did you choose this location?**

A. We wanted something that would provide us with a good mix of adventure and relaxation. We also wanted somewhere out of the country with a beautiful beach. Our travel advisor recommended St. Lucia as a location that would address all our wishes. We also wanted a resort with plenty of relaxation after planning our wedding. Sandals Halcyon could not have been more perfect! It was quiet and relaxing, but we also had the option of traveling to the other Sandals Resorts on St. Lucia for different food and entertainment options.

**Q. What were your favorite parts of your honeymoon?**

A. Our day on the catamaran cruise. We toured the island, made stops at waterfalls, swam in the mud baths and ate fresh coconut. On the way back, we enjoyed too many delicious rum punches! We also enjoyed a couples' massage in the beautiful garden beside the beach. It was so relaxing to free the stresses of wedding planning together and was one priority on our honeymoon bucket list. We could not have been happier with our experience.

**Q. What is one unique tip you have for couples taking a honeymoon?**

A. Do not be afraid to go over your initially planned budget, because it is something you and your significant other will remember forever. Even though it may be a bit more expensive,

if it is something you really want to do, do it. The memories will last you a lifetime, and in 10 years, you won't remember the cost of that extra excursion that really made your trip.

**Q. How did using a travel advisor make honeymoon planning better?**

A. Our travel advisor was incredible to work with. In fact, we had such an amazing experience that we used her to help us plan our trip to Italy for our two-year anniversary. When planning your trip, tell them everything you are looking for. She helped us pick the perfect honeymoon destination and made our experience completely stress-free. We did not have to worry about transportation or accommodations. It was a wonderful trip, and we will continue to use a travel advisor in the future because our honeymoon experience was so flawless.



## SAM & SARAH

*Honeymooned in Athens & Mykonos, Greece*

**Q. Why did you choose this location?**

A. We wanted a scenic location that was also focused on relaxation.

**Q. What were your favorite parts of your honeymoon?**

A. The scenery, people and atmosphere were so beautiful and romantic.

**Q. What your favorite thing about your destination, Greece?**

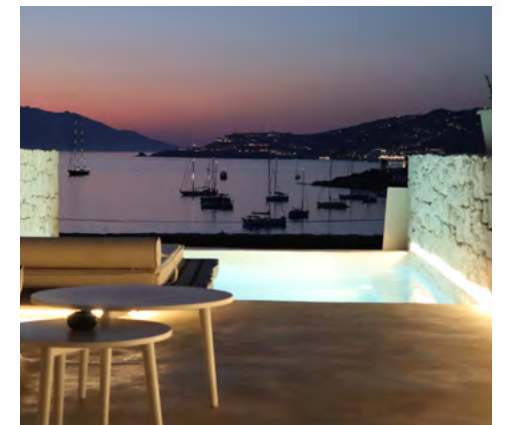
A. Enjoying the evening sunsets from our amazing suite. We had a stunning view of the Aegean Sea and loved watching the beautiful sunsets and boats out on the water every night.

**Q. What is one unique tip you have for couples taking a honeymoon?**

A. If you're booking excursions, don't forget to leave a few days with nothing booked to really enjoy and relax with your partner.

**Q. How did using a travel advisor make honeymoon planning better?**

A. Having our travel advisor book and plan everything for us was so easy and convenient. She had everything ready and sent to us before we took off on our honeymoon. Even during our trip, she would send us messages with updates on our flights. She made it easy and relaxing for us and was a huge help through all of it. ♦





## ALI & JACOB

*Married in Cancun, Mexico, at  
Dreams Playa Mujeres Golf  
& Spa Resort*

Minnesota natives Ali and Jacob have known each other since high school, although they didn't seriously connect until years later. A chance meeting while out with friends in their hometown prompted their reconnection, and the pair has been inseparable ever since. After two years of travel restrictions, the couple thought it was time for a family vacation and decided on a destination wedding with a more intimate setting with close friends and family. They knew that using the resort's wedding planner to source many of the local vendors would alleviate the stress of having to find and book them all separately.

The sweethearts were married at Dreams Playa Mujeres Golf & Spa Resort, in Mexico, on February 25, 2022. When asked for her advice for couples thinking about having a destination wedding, Ali said, "Just do it. Trust the process. These are professionals who have all available wedding resources at their fingertips, and they will do anything possible to make sure you have the absolute best experience. I wouldn't trade our experience for the world!"

According to Ali and Jacob, enlisting the help of a travel advisor was a lifesaver. "Our travel advisor, Ann, allowed us to feel confident in negotiations with the resort on discounts, amenities and timelines. She served as a point of contact for all our guests to book and adjust their travel plans and provided us with detailed resort and transfer options. She worked directly with the wedding department to help get all of our questions answered ahead of time to better communicate with our guests on what they could expect."

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## Real Couples



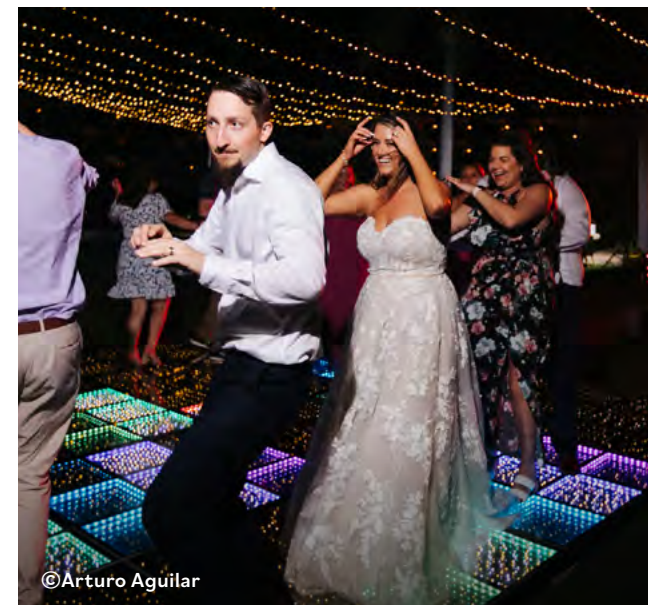
After evaluating many options with their travel advisor, the couple chose Dreams Playa Mujeres Golf & Spa Resort for its affordability, family-friendly amenities and extensive wedding-planning department. Ten months prior to the wedding, Ali and Jacob paid a visit to the resort to meet with the on-site coordinator, tour the facilities, taste test menu options and check out the amenities. Ali noted, “We found it extremely worthwhile as we were putting together details for our guests and it was helpful to be able to meet with our coordinator so early in the process.”

The amenities offered at the resort were a big consideration in selecting their venue. The most enticing ones for Ali and Jacob include themed beach parties, spa treatments, extended hours for room service and an on-site Dolphin habitat. Dreams Playa Mujeres offers a Preferred Club option, which included

exclusive access to certain restaurants, pool palapas, the lazy river and discounts on spa treatments.

The couple was pleasantly surprised when they arrived in Mexico to find that their travel advisor had arranged for their room to be upgraded to a gorgeous ocean-view, private pool Master Suite. Ali recalled, “It was the most elegant accommodation we’ve ever experienced on a vacation and was such a blessing to have a large room as a meeting space for our friends and family for happy hours and after-dinner gatherings. And we used it as the ‘getting-ready’ room for my bridal party.”

Ali and Jacob kicked off the wedding festivities by hosting a Mexican fiesta to welcome their guests. The party included a live mariachi trio band, delicious appetizers and festive drinks along with custom lighting and Mexican-themed decor.



On their wedding day, the resort setting was enhanced with a stunning floral arch as the backdrop to the ceremony and flower arrangements lining the over-water catwalk. “We were able to repurpose the ceremony arch to put behind us at our sweetheart table during the reception and the flowers lining the ceremony walkway ended up as our centerpieces at our tables,” remembered Ali. Their big splurge was adding thousands of twinkling lights above the dance floor for a dreamy atmosphere. A life-sized LOVE sign gave guests a fun background for their photos. The dance floor was lit with LED lights that changed colors and kept up with the beat of the music, making the reception a truly awesome spectacle.

After the picture-perfect wedding, the couple spent their first day as a married couple on a relaxing private catamaran excursion snorkeling and swimming with their guests in the blue Caribbean Sea. Ali marveled, “We were continuously reminded of how extremely fortunate we were to have our family and friends together for multiple days in such a beautiful setting. The resort’s service staff went above and beyond in making everyone’s stay magical. It makes us smile just thinking about the entire week even today!”

*Contact our agency to start planning  
your dream wedding.*

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# LGBTQIA+ Friendly Destinations



Bora Bora

The options for safe and welcoming choices for travel for the LGBTQIA+ continue to grow, and here are a host of dream-come-true honeymoon possibilities to choose from. With the trusted guidance of an LGBTQIA+ travel specialist, planning a safe and exciting honeymoon is a cinch. From remote getaways seemingly at the edge of the world to modern metropolises serving as bastions of art and culture, here are a few where newlyweds can go celebrate their matrimony while feeling safe and welcome to be themselves.

## Bora Bora

Tried and true as a honeymoon destination for a reason, Bora Bora is potentially unmatched when it comes to being a dreamy tropical paradise. This island is remote — and so at the other end of your flight is an oasis you’ll have nearly all to yourself. Whether you spend your days lounging in your overwater bungalow with your new spouse or take up exploring any of the many tropical reefs, you’ll likely feel like you landed in your own private Eden.

## Napa Valley, California

Closer to home, Napa is the getaway for any foodie or wine aficionado. Gently rolling hills carpeted with vineyards make for an idyllic scene as you cruise on a bicycle between wineries. Peppered in between is a slew of luxury resorts and chic boutique hotels that can act as home base for your culinary escapades. If you could use a rest from world-class cuisine, Calistoga is a neighboring town known for its volcanic hot springs, mud baths and decadent spas.

## Portland, Maine

Over on the other coast, Portland proves to be the hidden-in-plain-sight gem of a destination you should consider — especially if you’re an “outdoorsy” couple. Sailing and hiking are mainstays of summer, while winter brings plenty of opportunity to try skiing or snowmobiling. A walkable downtown filled year-round with friendly locals, delectable seafood and quaint shopping round out what is likely to be a locale you will dream about revisiting.



Reykjavik, Iceland

## Reykjavik, Iceland

The capital of the island nation, Reykjavik exudes quirky charm and has become a beacon of rainbow pride, thanks to its robust LGBTQIA+ community. Beyond the spectacular Pride festivities, it also boasts stunning modern architecture and a vibrant art scene. Chances for romance dot the destination like pointillism — consider savoring a soak in the world-famous Blue Lagoon or taking a scenic drive an hour north to catch a glimpse of the Northern Lights.



Sitges, Spain

## Sitges, Spain

You say, “dreamy European honeymoon,” and everyone thinks Greece or Italy. While they’re not wrong, they are overlooking the sun-kissed shores of Spain at their own peril. Specifically, Sitges, sitting just south of Barcelona, serves as the unofficial go-to beach vacay for much of Europe’s gay community. Stretches of pristine beach border cobblestone streets lined with scores of gay-friendly bars, restaurants and clubs — all just a casual stroll away from charming boutique hotels.

## Buenos Aires, Argentina

If you see life as an adventure to experience, then you’ll likely see Buenos Aires as the right choice for a honeymoon destination. Buenos Aires is a party, through and through, making it the prime place to celebrate your nuptials in South America. This frenetic city has it all: clubs that rage through the night, a world-class culinary scene, breathtakingly gorgeous parks and tango halls that hum with romantic tension. If you’re particularly close with your wedding party, consider inviting them along for an LGBTQIA+-friendly group vacation.

## Punta Mita, Mexico

While Puerto Vallarta is famed as the gay mecca party scene, a mere hour south is the charmingly sleepy town of Punta Mita. Serenaded by gentle surf, you could spend your entire honeymoon lounging beachside at a luxury resort — or if the urge for adventure strikes you, charter a yacht out to the uninhabited Marieta Islands for a day spent exploring the underwater ecosystems teeming with sea life. Like the ceviche you’ll sample, this getaway has different flavors; variety is the spice of life, after all.

## Lisbon, Portugal

If there was any destination in the world that could give Napa a run for its money wine-wise, it’s likely Lisbon. While Portugal has some of the most progressive gay rights legislation in the world, the Portuguese capital also boasts an impressive cadre of world-class wines, strikingly cinematic scenes, enchantingly historic castles, perfect surf swells, prestigious art museums ... and roaring nightlife. ♦



Lisbon, Portugal



# 12 Months

## OF HONEYMOON HOT SPOTS

**N**ear or far? Relaxing or adventurous? Natural paradise or cultural hot spot? Here, we give you options for amazing destinations to spend your first moments of marital bliss, depending on your honeymoon month. Of course, talk to a travel advisor before making any major destination decisions, because we know these places inside and out.



South Water Caye Placencia, Belize

## JANUARY

DOMESTIC

### San Antonio, Texas

Not only is this historic city home to the Alamo and the always-romantic River Walk, but also it's the gateway to Texas Hill Country — home to dozens of wineries and amazing hikes.

ABROAD

### Placencia, Belize

This charming seaside village on the southern tip of a peninsula is a romantic dream come true, complete with luxury beach resorts, world-class restaurants, snorkeling and scuba diving sites for all skill levels and a laid-back atmosphere.



Get an authentic slice of key lime pie in Key West



Taste bold wines near Valparaíso, Chile

## FEBRUARY

DOMESTIC

### Key West, Florida

This quirky city at the tip of the Florida Keys — best known for its nightlife, literary locals and a certain famous pie — is a haven for free spirits who like to celebrate long into the night.

ABROAD

### Nassua, Bahamas

Fabulous shopping, engaging pirate history, epic water parks, colonial architecture, hidden coves and 700 islands to explore — what's not to love about this tropical destination?

*Try kayaking  
or scuba  
diving in  
crystal-clear  
waters*

DOMESTIC

### Savannah, Georgia

Cozy inns, flavorful food, charming horse-drawn carriages through historic city squares, dolphin encounters near Tybee Island — Savannah is a romantic dream come true.

ABROAD

### Valparaíso, Chile

Historic, inspiring and close to Santiago and wine country, Chile's oldest city is a World Heritage Site that sits along a beautiful natural harbor surrounded by rolling hills.





Honeymoon  
Inspo

APRIL

DOMESTIC

Nashville, Tennessee

Nashville in April means pleasant weather and ample space to sit outdoors and enjoy the rollicking music scene. It's also when they hold the Nashville Rosé Festival, where you can try over 70 wines, craft beers and more.

ABROAD

St. John's, Antigua

Said to have a beach for each day of the year, the island is ideal for those who wish to lounge all day in the sun before venturing into the city for inspiring local cuisine.



Cuddle up in a seaside hotel suite in Italy



Take in some music in Nashville



Get up close and personal with wildlife in Alaska

MAY

DOMESTIC

Charleston, S. Carolina

This is the ideal time to explore this historic city, indulge at its trendy eateries and visit the nearby beaches before the summer crowds arrive.

DOMESTIC

Alaskan Cruise

The Alaskan coastline enjoys moderate temperatures year-round, but longer daylight hours mean more time explore ports, hike glaciers, drink local brews and meet sled dogs.

ABROAD

Amalfi Coast, Italy

With luxe hotels, Michelin-starred restaurants and spectacular scenery along its famed five villages, the Amalfi Coast will keep you in a romantic frame of mind.

ABROAD

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Enjoy the city's European flair, spicy culinary scene, award-winning wines and spacious boulevards, and return home knowing how to dance the tango.



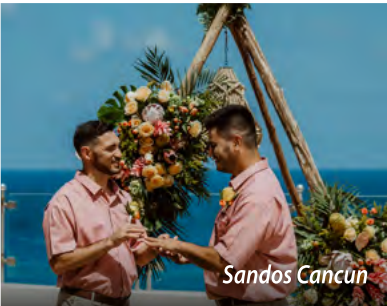
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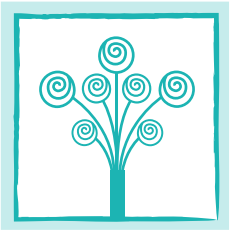
Sandos Playacar



Sandos Cancun



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SANDOS  
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Honeymoon  
Inspo

JULY

DOMESTIC

Portland, Oregon

Natural beauty meets a friendly hipster vibe in Portland, where every stroll can take you past expansive parks, live music and trendy microbreweries ready to impress you both.

ABROAD

Provence, France

Provence's fragrant lavender fields, best viewed from the Senanque Abbey in Gordes, are on full display in July. Add that to Bastille Day festivities across the nation, and this will be a trip you never forget.

*Book a private  
adventure  
for two like  
horseback riding  
in the rainforest  
or chocolate  
tasting in a  
cacao field*



Sipping wine in Sonoma



Take an extended honeymoon in Australia

SEPTEMBER

DOMESTIC

Asheville, N. Carolina

The cool mountain air makes it enjoyable to explore the historic Biltmore Estate, check out the buskers and boutiques downtown and feast on some of the best vegan food in the country.

ABROAD

Gold Coast, Australia

While Sydney and Melbourne could also be on this list, Gold Coast is quintessential Aussie, a town filled with gorgeous beaches, rooftop bars, chill neighborhoods and a booming culinary scene.

OCTOBER

DOMESTIC

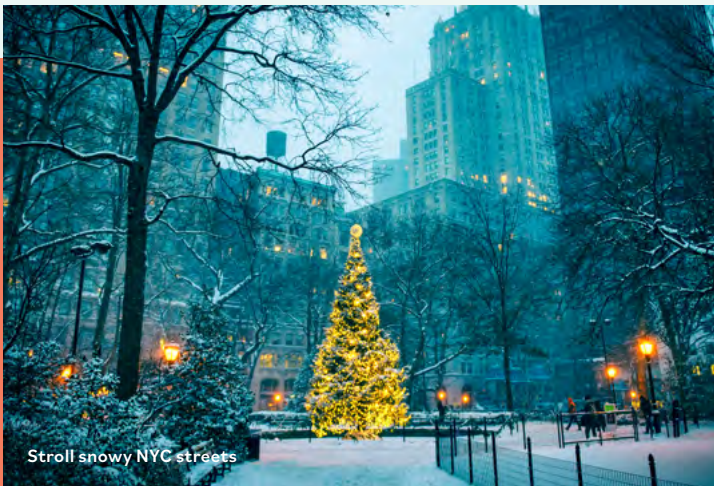
Hawaiian Islands

Dry sunny days and warm temperatures make this an ideal time to hike Diamond Head, take a helicopter tour of the Napali Coast or try your hand at surfing.

ABROAD

Tahiti

The temperatures are balmy here year-round, so it's easy to enjoy a relaxing cruise on a small ship designed to glide through the shallow seas and find intimate islands and secluded beaches.



Stroll snowy NYC streets



The Napali Coast of Hawaii is spectacular by air

AUGUST

DOMESTIC

Sonoma, California

With lush hills strewn with grapevines, endless expanses of rugged coastline, towering redwoods and picturesque sleepy towns, Sonoma County is painted in the landscapes of fairy tales.

ABROAD

Montréal, Canada

This cozy, historic city on the St. Lawrence River will wow you with Bohemian flair, Michelin star-worthy restaurants, massive museums and a storied jazz scene.

NOVEMBER

DOMESTIC

New York, New York

There's nothing like visiting New York during the holiday season when the city is dressed in colorful lights and the seasonal shows open on Broadway.

ABROAD

Cabo San Lucas, Mexico

Lose yourself in a world of all-inclusive resorts and championship golf courses, top-shelf entertainment and legendary cuisine, and a beach named for Lovers right next to the Arch.

DECEMBER

DOMESTIC

Las Vegas, Nevada

Spend your days lounging at upscale resort pools or driving to Zion National Park, and your nights hitting the epic shows, comedy clubs and chandelier bars.

ABROAD

European River Cruise

Cruise leisurely down the Danube and visit festive Christmas markets filled with colorful crafts, spiced mulled wines, white-robed choirs and massive trees decked out in their finest ornaments. ✦

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your wedding  
with a wellness  
day including  
sunrise yoga &  
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# 5 Resorts with Honeymoon-Worthy Pools

By Justin Gibson



There’s just something to vibing out at a sumptuous, meticulously crafted oasis that seems quintessential to beginning this chapter in your life. It doesn’t matter if you and your partner spend your time sampling all-inclusive margaritas, having a cannonball contest, engrossing yourselves in good books or meditating to the distant lull of ocean waves — this is a high-water mark in existence. This is bliss.

Now, when it comes to where you plan on soaking up the good times, no two pools are the same. That’s why we’ve compiled five of the best options for you to consider. They’re in no particular order — they’re all just different flavors of perfection.

## Le Blanc Spa Resort

Located square in the middle of Cancun’s iconic “Hotel Zone,” Le Blanc Spa Resort is the quintessential “treat yourself” getaway. Pampering reaches its apex here; you’ll be greeted with cold towels and coconut milk on arrival. You can expect a professional butler to unpack your clothes, leaving you free to explore the chic, serene grounds.

Though Le Blanc only offers three pools onsite, each is constructed to perfection. The main pool is a beachfront infinity style, providing the illusion that you could swim off into the horizon. Equally enchanting is the swim-up bar, where the drinks flow as endlessly as the horizon.

Next is the second infinity pool, located on the third floor. While there is no swim-up bar here, its ambiance offers unparalleled tranquility, as if you were swimming through a cloud. The final pool is the lagoon. The swim-up bar makes a return here, but the real draws are the scheduled activities. Aqua spinning, water aerobics and water polo are all regular staples, providing an aquatic workout should you have the inclination to be a little active on your honeymoon.



## Sandals Grenada

Tucked into the heart of Pink Gin Peach on the pristine shores of the “Spice Isle,” Sandals Grenada is an opulent adults-only resort somehow summoned from the pages of a romance novel — romantic flourishes adorn the resort.

While it might seem like there are endless pools, the reality is there are five, each somehow more stunning than the last. The main one serves as the primary social hub for the resort, with lively music often playing at the swim-up bar and in-pool volleyball area.

The pool at Pink Gin Village offers the quiet refuge perfect for meditative moments. Its V-shape faces the beach,

with plenty of shaded lounge chairs to choose from in addition to a medium-sized whirlpool. You could camp out here with your beach read and forget the rest of the world existed.

Beyond these two are more niche options. There are two waterfall river pools on site, in addition to a small quiet pool at the South Seas Village. Swim-up rooms line the sides, meaning you could literally start your days by rolling out of bed and immediately into a refreshing dip.

## Iberostar Paraiso Beach

Surrounded by iconic tropical flora and fauna native to Mexico, Iberostar Paraiso Beach was designed to immerse you in a taste of the authentic Mayan culture of the Riviera Maya. Their blending of modern resort charm and colonial Mexico translates to a getaway experience few could hope to match. While there are technically several pools, there’s one undisputed star: in the middle of the property is a vast lagoon pool, winding throughout the resort like a river. Whichever way you decide to float, you’ll find new renditions of the same masterfully composed scene: soft-swaying palms waving hello, Balinese beds and palm-thatched gazebos awaiting your post-swim siesta, and wild peacocks and flamingos strolling the beautifully kept grounds. It might be hard to imagine a more luxurious scene ... except we hadn’t mentioned the swim-up bar yet. All of the above transcends definitions of serenity with a cold margarita in hand.





## Honeymoon Inspo

### Riu Palace Las Americas

Also nestled in the heart of Cancun's famed "Hotel Zone," Riu Palace Las Americas is uniquely positioned to satisfy extroverts, night owls and party animals alike. This adults-only all-inclusive resort offers unique charm with its high-spirited atmosphere and proximity to world-class clubs. It's for these reasons that Riu Palace certainly puts the party in "pool party."

The hotel boasts three pools, each seeming to satisfy a different mood. There's the main pool, which is your typically impressive showstopper with jaw-dropping views of the ocean. Then, there's the party pool, equipped with a swim-up bar, that as you can guess is the place to be for a pool party. Finally, there's a small infinity pool that proves to be the perfect haven for recharging if/when you'd like a break from festivities.



Riu Palace Las Americas  
Party Pool with Swim-up Bar



Sandos Caracol  
Eco Resort Main Pool

### Sandos Caracol Eco Resort

The only eco-resort on our list, Sandos Caracol is a fresh take on the all-inclusive getaway. While you could easily spend your whole trip exploring the local lush ecosystems through their daily activities, we recommend you break up the adventures and explorations with some refreshing plunges into their pools.

Their main pool checks all the boxes: swim-up bar, plenty of games and is ultimately located just steps from the beach. Likewise, the Chill Out Pool has all the amenities its name implies: seclusion, solace and relaxation for a peacefully good time (also, the poolside bar elevates the experience from mere tranquility to utter bliss).

The Aquapark, equipped with 29 waterslides, is not just for kids — adult-sized thrills are ready for all classes of daredevil and thrill-seeker. The fact that all the resort is blanketed in a natural mangrove forest also helps instill the ambiance of surrealness; your time here might seem like a dream. ✦

## Your Romantic Getaway

Thailand can turn any special moment into a romantic getaway. Whether you hope to turn your wedding dreams into a reality, immerse yourself in your honeymoon bliss, or seek a memorable escape, Thailand awaits you.



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# Destination Battle Royale

## Budget vs. Luxe

In this corner, we have a fabulous destination that will not break the bank, giving you everything you need to celebrate your beautiful union. In the other corner, we have its luxurious cousin, a destination with a similar vibe that allows you to amp up the experiences with luxurious add-ons. Read on to see how they compare side by side.

Bora Bora  
©Helene Havard Photography

### Round 1

Budget:

Cancun

- Stay in trendy beachfront hotels for every budget
- Find authentic Mexican fare away from tourist-friendly areas
- Discover shopping and nightlife options for all tastes
- Visit local Maya ruins that cost less than major sites hours away

Luxe:

The Maldives

- Stay in an underwater villa 16 feet below the surface of the ocean
- Explore the Maldives’ UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in a personal submarine
- Go deep-sea fishing in a private yacht
- Take a scenic flight over the islands



Cancun



The Maldives



Alaska



Maui, Hawaii

### Round 2

Budget:

Alaska

- Take a cruise where everything you need is included in the ticket price
- Fly off on a flightseeing tour — they’re more affordable than you might think
- Hike on public trails that take you over glaciers
- Explore Alaska’s National Parks, most of which don’t charge an entrance fee

Luxe:

Hawaii

- Cruise around the scenic highways of Maui in a 1957 Porsche Speedster
- Go whale watching on a private boat
- Take a thrilling helicopter tour over the jagged cliffs of the Napali Coast
- Feed, train and create close bonds with dolphins with an actual trainer

### Round 3

Budget:

The Bahamas

- Take a free tour and sample local rum at John Watling’s Distillery
- Feast on inexpensive fresh fish at Arawak Cay, aka the Fish Fry
- Visit the Queen’s Staircase and pay a local for a history lesson
- Enjoy a free visit to Fort Fincastle, a limestone fortress built in 1793

Luxe:

St. Lucia

- Stay in a luxury resort without a wall, giving you endless views
- Enjoy a romantic dinner while stargazing on the rooftop Celestial Terrace
- Explore the Pitons with a private guide
- Tour a volcano’s caldera and then finish with a mud bath in the sulfur springs ♦



The Bahamas



St. Lucia







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- & more

[Contact our travel agency to plan your destination wedding.](#)

\*Conditions Apply: Special promotions valid on new group bookings only. Each room must stay a minimum of 3 nights to qualify towards group benefits. Complimentary wedding requirements are as follow: 90+ rooms or 270+ room nights receives two (2) private functions for five (5) hours, must be held on different days; 50 - 89 rooms or 150 - 269 room nights receive two (2) private functions for four (4) hours, must be held on different days; 30 - 49 rooms or 90 - 149 room nights receive two (2) private functions for three (3) hours, must be held on different days; 5 - 9 rooms or 15 - 29 room nights receives one (1) cocktail reception for one (1) hour; 10 - 19 rooms or 30 - 59 room nights receives one (1) private function for two (2) hours; 20 - 29 rooms or 60 - 89 room nights receives one (1) cocktail reception for one (1) hour and one (1) private function for three (3) hours. Cake and sparkling wine provided for up to 32 people. Certain locations are subject to an additional set up charge for private functions and details may differ depending on property. Promotion available at Hard Rock All-Inclusive Hotels in Punta Cana, Vallarta, Cancun, Riviera Maya and Los Cabos. Valid for travel through 12/31/23. Blackout dates apply and other restrictions may apply. Any legal and/or admin fees as required by destinations are not included as part of the complimentary wedding package; additional charges may apply. GOGO Vacations does not assume responsibility for any errors or omissions in the content of the offers displayed.

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# Honeymoon Showdown

By Land or By Sea

By Jonathan Hermann

Some couples treat their honeymoon like a normal vacation, one they spend primarily to experience new destinations and cultures. Other couples though, after spending months and months planning their wedding, just want to relax and be pampered on their honeymoon. Sure, they still like to get a taste of new parts of the world, but they want it to be easy — they want their rooms to be luxe, the service outstanding and the food choices accessible and divine. All those honeymoon goals can be achieved by going on a cruise or staying at an all-inclusive resort. But how do you choose one over the other? Luckily, as with all travel-related questions, we're here to help you.

## You'll Love a Cruise if You ...

### Crave Variety

Sushi and a Broadway show? How about the steakhouse followed by the piano bar? On cruise ships, your options are nearly as endless as the views from your balcony stateroom, thanks to an unbelievable variety of restaurants, cabins, entertainment, pools, nightclubs, casinos, activities and spa treatments. In essence, the ship is a destination itself, a place you can thoroughly enjoy during days at sea or after port explorations.

### Want to Explore the World

Cruise itineraries tend to cover multiple destinations, exposing you to a wider variety of cultures across countries and continents. An eastern Mediterranean voyage can stop in Italy, Greece, Croatia, Turkey, Israel and Egypt in just 12 days, giving you a range of experiences to collect and appreciate together. Plus, shore excursions run the gamut nowadays, so you can choose a private cooking lesson in one port and a dolphin encounter in another.

### Love the Allure of the Islands

In the eyes of many, paradise is found among the islands. From the tropical wonders of Hawaii to the white-sand masterpieces of the Caribbean, the call of the islands is powerful and can best be satiated by an island-hopping ocean cruise. In the Caribbean, each island has its own vibe and cultural appeal, so even though the weather doesn't change, each day will bring you a new country to explore.

### Upgrade to a Spacious Suite

Onboard a cruise ship, suites can “wow” you with up to 5,750 square feet of space. Not only can these suites include grand pianos, multiple stories and private decks (Jacuzzi included), but they also come with a bevy of exclusive services and amenities, like a private butler and access to exclusive restaurants. You only have one honeymoon, so you might as well make the most of it.

## You'll Love a Resort if You ...

### Want to Feel Like a VIP

Who doesn't want to receive special treatment while on their honeymoon? All-inclusive resorts can offer butler service, in-room refrigerators stocked with all your favorite beverages and snacks, nightly turn-down service, a personal concierge and 24-hour room service. There's no better way to blissfully bond over your newly minted marriage than to have all your wishes granted.

### Love to Eat and Drink

At an all-inclusive resort, everything really is included. From Italian restaurants and Japanese hibachi grills to Brazilian steakhouses, every resort has an array of specialty restaurants. All-inclusive does not mean buffet only! And while the quality of the liquor is always top shelf, so are the ingredients in their smoothies and premium coffee drinks. Toasting your love will be easy and frequent.

### Want Everything Included

While you can spend an entire cruise without spending an extra dime, you often do spend that dime (and many more) on drinks, shore excursions and more. All-inclusive resorts, on the other hand, provide pretty much everything — lavish accommodations, 24-hour room service, world-class dining, wireless Internet, even bottles of top-shelf spirits in your room — all included in the price of your stay. The only things you may pay extra for are spa treatments or extra-special dining experiences.

### Wish to Explore One Place

With cruising, you typically get one afternoon to explore a port. When you stay at an all-inclusive resort, you have more time to venture outside the resort grounds to visit ancient ruins, shop at local markets, sample the festive nightlife and truly immerse yourself in the destination. ♦





# Your Honeymoon Checklist, Simplified

By Justin Gibson



## 9 Months Out

A honeymoon checklist, while not as heavy of a lift as a wedding checklist, is just as pivotal for ensuring “happily ever after” starts flawlessly. Consider the following and be sure to consult with a travel advisor to help make it a reality.

Brainstorm your travel inspiration. Maybe it’s a movie you both love or maybe it’s a type of cuisine. Compile a list of could-be locales and meet with your trusted travel advisor. Some things to consider before that conversation:

- ☐ The destinations that you daydream about
- ☐ Your budget
- ☐ The amenities you’re most excited for
- ☐ Your passport’s expiration date

## 6 Months Out

Confirm your travel plans with a deposit and create a honeymoon registry. A key purchase at this stage is travel insurance. In that same line of thinking, also consider what your backup-plan destination might be — you never know when unexpected circumstances might strike.

## 3 Months Out

Around this point, it’s a good idea to get your travel documents in order. Plan to have both paper and electronic copies of all your documents — boarding passes, travel visas, passports and itineraries.

## 1–2 Months Out

If there are any special excursions or amenities you’d like, now’s the time to book them. And when it comes to picking activities — the sky is the limit. Depending on your locale, hot air balloon rides, scuba certification, salsa classes and cooking lessons are all on the table.

## 1 Week From Honeymoon

You’re in the homestretch — it’s time to start packing. Make sure you’ve got all the “must-haves”:

- ☐ Travel itinerary
- ☐ Prescriptions
- ☐ Chargers & converters for your electronics
- ☐ A wardrobe appropriate for your destination’s climate and planned activities
- ☐ Sunscreen, hat and sunglasses
- ☐ A carry-on with a quick change of comfortable clothes
- ☐ Check our list of carry-on essentials on the next page

## 1 Week After Honeymoon

Sure, the urge to livestream an incredible vacation is overwhelming, but consider waiting until a week after you get home to post. By then, the anticipation from your friends, family and followers to like your photos will be reaching a fever pitch. Don’t forget to give a shout-out (or glowing review) to your travel advisor! ♦





# Honeymoon Planning

## Packing: Carry-On Essentials

By Justin Gibson

When it comes time to pack for your honeymoon, you may find yourself in a “Goldilocks conundrum.” Packing too much will likely be your first instinct and will lead to you to hauling far too many bags through airports and connecting flights. Alternatively, packing too little will leave you spending better parts of your honeymoon saying, “Huh, I wish we packed that.”

There is a third option — let’s call it the “just-right” option. Within this sweet spot, you’re well prepared for any what-ifs or curveballs that you might encounter, but (thankfully) you’re not resorting to carrying around a doomsday-prepper backpack. Consider the following when gathering the essentials for your carry-on.



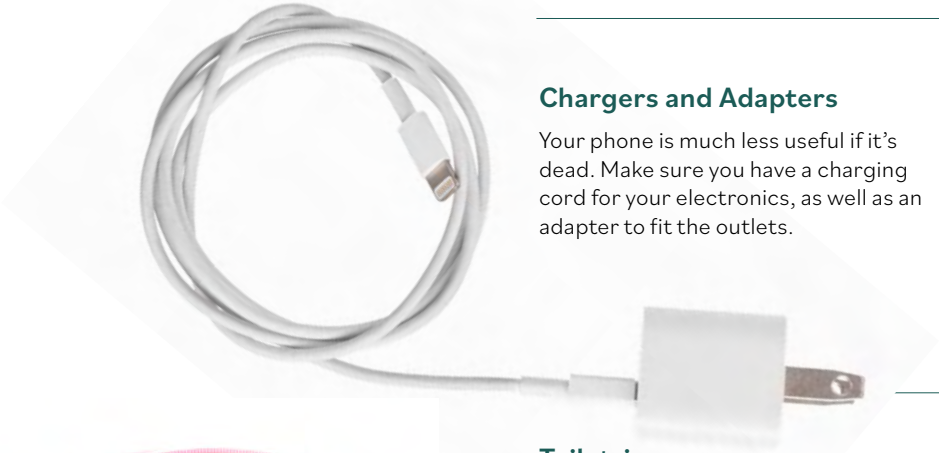
### Change of Clothes

Whether you’re stuck with a long travel delay, or you arrive at your destination only to find the airline misplaced your luggage, a second set of clothes will keep you feeling fresh ... and a little saner.

**Pro Tip:** Pack your swimsuit in your carry-on if you’re heading somewhere warm. That way, if you arrive before check-in, you can slip on your suit and get poolside with a drink ASAP!

### Essential Documents

This is the no-brainer of the list, and yet there’s always one couple who gets to the airport before realizing they forgot their passports. Be sure to ask your travel advisor what documents are required for your destination, as you may need visas, birth certificates, proof of vaccination and more!



### Chargers and Adapters

Your phone is much less useful if it’s dead. Make sure you have a charging cord for your electronics, as well as an adapter to fit the outlets.



### Toiletries

Keep your toiletry bag in your carry on instead of in your checked luggage. Make sure to stock up on all the essentials before you leave: prescriptions, aspirin, toothbrush and toothpaste, contact lenses and solution, sunscreen, antacid and anti-itch ointment (just to name a few).

### Cash

Cash is king for a reason! Make sure you have cash in the local currency and if you’re the “just-in-case” type, keep an extra stash of emergency cash separate from your wallet (and potentially hidden).

**Pro Tip:** In case you're shopping somewhere that only takes credit cards, consider having at least one international credit card on hand.



### The Right Shoe for the Job

Whether it’s strolling on a beach, hiking up a mountain trail, dining at a Michelin-starred restaurant or strolling city blocks to window-shop, there is a specific choice of footwear that is the actual correct choice for the moment. Make sure you pack as many pairs of shoes as you think you will need!



### Stain-Removal Pen

You will most definitely want to document your honeymoon — likely from the second you step out your front door. For that reason, Murphy’s Law states that one of you will spill something and stain your clothes. A stain-removal pen guarantees no blemishes on your picture-perfect memories.

### Airplane Essentials

Plane rides don’t have to be an exercise in patience; they can be part of the fun! Stock up on your favorite snacks, download in-flight entertainment to your phone, pack a fun card game to play or snag a new book to read to help time fly while you’re in the air.



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# Weddings

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