

The Ultimate Destination Wedding Checklist

9-12 Months Before

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

6-9 Months Before

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

4-6 Months Before

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

2-3 Months Before

- Order favors and welcome bag items**
- Confirm details with all your vendors**
Including Floral arrangements, photography package, DJ song list, menus. And get everything in writing!
- Mail out invitations**
Give your guests plenty of time to put in vacation time at work, arrange babysitting and save money for the trip.
- Book a hairstylist and make-up artist**
Your local wedding planner or resort can offer suggestions.
- Buy a wedding gift for your fiancé**
- Purchase gifts for your bridesmaids**
Consider a spa treatment at your wedding destination

1 Month Before

- Assemble welcome bags**
- Prepare welcome letter**
- Arrange how your welcome bag items, favors and decorations will be delivered to your hotel.**
- Have your final gown fitting**
Make sure to bring your shoes and accessories
- Make arrangements to pick up your dress or have it delivered.**
- Write your vows and choose the readings for your ceremony.**
- Ensure hotel reservations for your guests have been completed**

2 Weeks Before

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

1 Week Before

- Start packing and make arrangements to have family members take some of the items such as favors/welcome bag in their luggage.

This may seem early, but with so many important items to take you don't want to leave it for the last minute.

When you arrive at your destination

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

Wedding Day

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