

Destination Wedding Checklist

Destination weddings are often some of the most beautiful and elegant weddings that take the wedding couple out of their normal lives. Destination weddings bring their own set of challenges, and therefore need their own timeline for planning. Without a plan, it's easy to miss a step, and the destination wedding may require additional time. Following this destination wedding checklist will help.

12 Months+

- Create a Wedding Planning binder. Keep all important documents in one spot for easy location.
- Set a budget for the wedding and honeymoon.
- Begin your guest list. Be respectful, but reasonable. You'd be surprised how many people will come, even though it's a destination wedding.
- If traveling out of the country, start your passport process. This can take as much as six months to complete.
- Begin choosing a destination.

10 to 11 Months

- Pick a general location for the wedding.
- Begin looking at specific venues for the wedding. Note local hotels for guests, distance from airports, weather, amenities, etc.
- Set a date.
- Send out Save-the-Date cards.
- Verify local marriage license requirements and transfers.
- Consider visiting your location to verify that it is the place that you want to get married.
- Meet with a wedding planner, if you want one, to begin coordinating details of the wedding.

6 to 9 Months

- Begin collecting legal documents required for marriage certificate.
- Make travel arrangements for yourselves and guests. Coordinate with your travel agent, Family Vacations, to assure that group rates will be taken.
- Check Food specifications.
- Purchase travel insurance.
- Book honeymoon reservations. Check cruises, resorts, and hotels.
- Purchase rental car if necessary.
- Research destination for vaccination and medical requirements.
- Register for gifts.
- Determine style, colors, and formality of the wedding.
- Select and purchase wedding dress.
- Select bridesmaid dresses.
- Select groom and groomsman attire.
- Shop for wedding bands.

3 to 6 months

- Make final decisions on wedding cake.
- Make final decisions on flowers.
- Make final decisions on decorations.
- Make final transportation arrangements.
- Finalize menu and wedding cake décor.
- Order favors.
- Finish addressing invitations and mail them out.
- Update your budget.
- Familiarize yourself with arrival times and adjust for time change delays.
- Set seating charts if applicable.

2 months

- Contact guests that have do not respond.
- Confirm hotels for guests.

1 month

- Free any unnecessary hotel/resort and flight group space.
- Finalize wedding day plans.
- Confirm travel arrangements with travel agent and hotels/resorts.
- Confirm all honeymoon itineraries and excursions.

2 weeks

- Send email to wedding providers confirming details.
- Arrange details for pet sitters and house sitters while you're gone.

Week of

- Bride and groom arrive at destination (try to arrive at least 4 days in advance).
- Meet with coordinators to complete any final details.
- Make sure arrangements for guests are complete.
- Make sure all guests arrive (at least by the day before).
- Relax. Get a spa treatment and enjoy the time before your big day.

Your Big Day

- Again... relax! It's your big day!! Say "I DO" and live happily ever after.

After the Honeymoon

- Call your travel agent (at Family Vacations – (317) 770-2211) to plan your first anniversary trip. It's never too early!