

Destination Wedding



Helpful Beginners Guide

Thinking about a destination wedding? It can be *overwhelming*. There's a lot to consider, and that's why we decided to create this guide for you! A destination wedding can allow you to have a more affordable wedding, a wedding in an exotic location, and even the chance to get married on the beach.





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Once you understand the key questions, you're ready to enjoy the wedding of your dreams!

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[Free printable spreadsheet of Vendors & Services – Destination cost converted to home currency \(with currency conversion\)](#)

1. Deciding if a Destination wedding is for you?

Pros of a destination wedding

- Destination weddings are *wonderful* if you love adventure and travel. Whether you love the beach, mountains, or natural rainforests – you'll find a destination wedding to match!



We didn't want a conventional wedding. Instead, we decided to get married on the most beautiful Dalmatian island in Croatia. We invited 70 friends, including close friends and family, and had the wedding of our dreams."

- Wedding on the island of Vis, Croatia: Dada & Igor



- When you have a wedding at home they are often just one special day. However, destination weddings can last an entire week or more!
- Weddings at home can be expensive. Alternatively, a destination wedding can cost a fraction of a home wedding.
- You'll have the option of a local wedding planner. Yes, there's a cost, but brides and grooms love the help.



We always wanted a wedding abroad instead of in the United Kingdom. Lefkada – a stunning Greek island – was the perfect opportunity. We got married on a beach, with a traditional Greek dinner and Greek dancers. We did use a wedding planner to organize the wedding, and because we went abroad, we were able to enjoy an entire wedding week. In addition, we also opted for two photoshoots, including a wedding shoot.

- Wedding in Lefkada, Greece: Jenny & Alex



- You can get married in a particular location. You'll experience the beauty of getting married while enjoying a relaxing holiday feeling.

Cons of a destination wedding

- Destination weddings can be challenging if you love to have direct control and involvement in everything.
- Destination weddings can be costly when you add up accommodation costs, flight costs, and wedding costs on top.
- Not every family member will be able to attend, a massive drawback for many!
- Marrying overseas can be stressful; you may have to fill out a lot of paperwork and deal with local customs.

However, you can avoid many of these cons by conducting extensive research and having an excellent vendor. You should look for vendors with positive feedback and great reviews. For example, what is their online and direct engagement like with you? Don't be afraid to pick up the phone and call them.



We always wanted a relaxed summer wedding on the island of Kefalonia (*where Amalia grew up*). And we thoroughly enjoyed the wedding and relaxed on the beach with friends and family. After marrying at sunset in a chapel in a small pine forest by the sea, we had a superb celebration with all our guests on the beach. The destination wedding was a truly unforgettable experience for us.

- Wedding in Kefalonia, Greece:
Kostas & Amalia



2. How to find your destination wedding location?

Your wedding needs to be in the perfect location for YOU. You want an unforgettable location to make your dream wedding one to remember. Here are our top tips:

- Choose somewhere where you and your partner grew up, which can be *extremely* sentimental!
- Choose somewhere that's very special. For example, did you have a special vacation anywhere?



“ We decided to get married in Koh Lanta, Thailand because we wanted to return to the same place we got engaged. Then, we married on a beach with an excellent sunset and enjoyed delicious Thai seafood BBQ. We also had a buffet with drinks, which came with a larger package. In addition, the wedding was half price of a Sydney wedding!”

- Wedding in Koh Lanta, Thailand: Roshan & Steve

- Choose somewhere where your family is from. It's an excellent way to go back to your roots!
- If you're planning your honeymoon location, why not have the wedding there too?
- Where have you dreamt of visiting? Bring that into reality and have your wedding in your dream holiday destination!
- Where have your friends married before? Of course, you could always choose the same place and talk about the experience with them.
- Always consider your budget. Which destinations match your budget?

The best affordable places to get married in the Caribbean are Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Barbados, and St. Lucia.



If you're looking for affordable places to get married in Europe – you'll love Hungary, Croatia, and Slovenia. With that said, you can find great destination weddings in many countries worldwide.



3. Making the most of your destination wedding

So, you've made it to your dream destination? Now to make the most of this arrangement.

- Have your honeymoon and wedding in the same special location, why not double up?
- Why not invite all guests a week before the wedding? That way, they can all enjoy the destination.
- Alternatively, you could always spend time relaxing with your family after the wedding.
- If you're looking for an excellent deal – and we all love a great deal – you can book in the off-season.

- You should be patient!
Remember, it's a foreign country with a different culture, and things don't always work the same. Once you realize that, you'll begin to enjoy your time more.



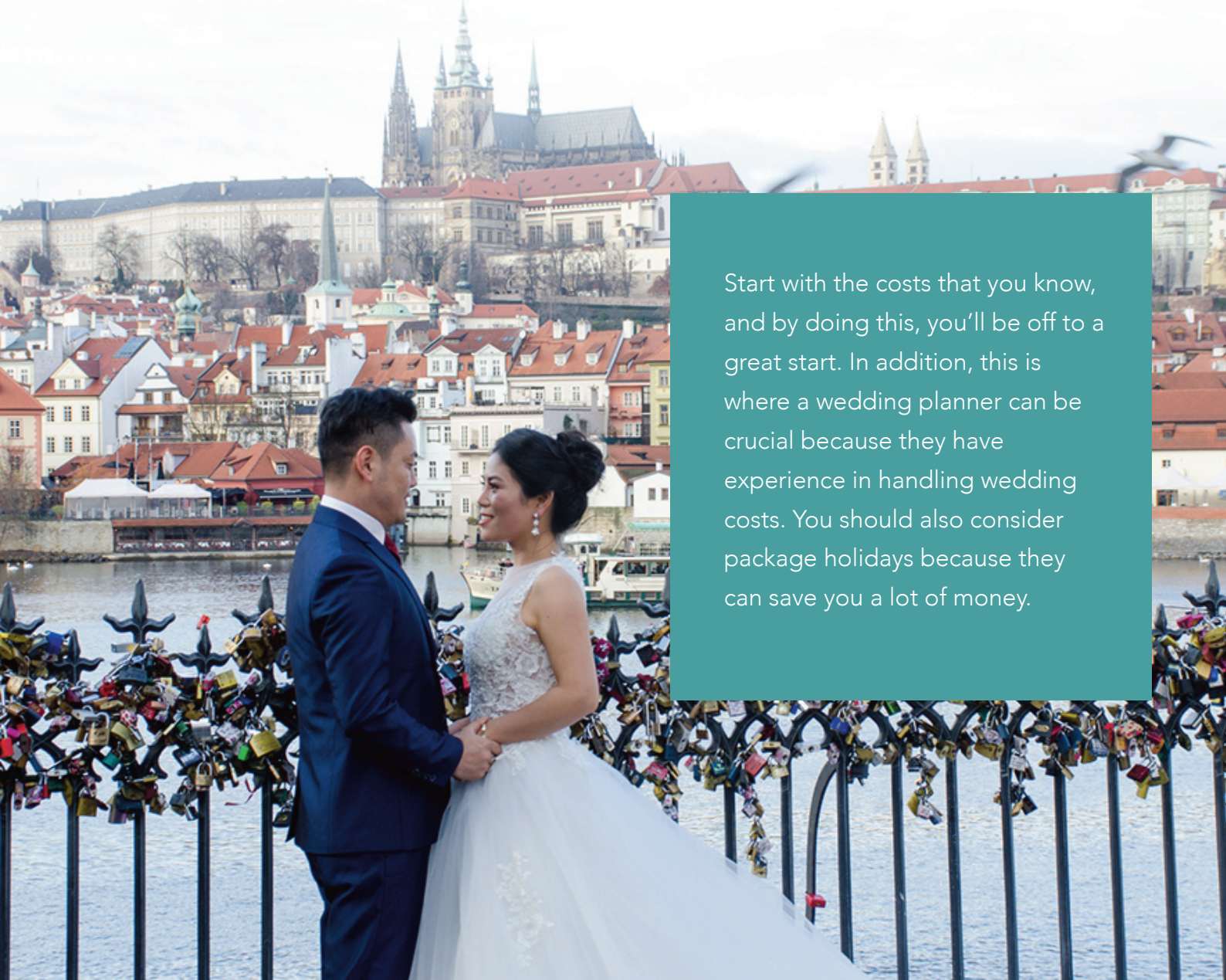
4. Your destination wedding – big-ticket items to start your plan



Once you've decided to have a destination wedding, there are some key things that you need to plan. Here are some of the best ways to ensure your destination wedding is one to remember!

- 1) What wedding setting do you want? Would you like it to be inside or outside?
- 2) Wedding rituals are *important* when you plan a wedding. Will you have a traditional, religious, or civil wedding?
- 3) Which country will you choose? Depending on where you go, you'll have to check all the legal aspects, documentation, and apply for a wedding license.
- 4) Decide the time of the day; would you prefer an afternoon wedding or a sunset marriage on a tropical beach?
- 5) What type of reception would you like? For example, would you prefer formal dining or a buffet?

- 6) Package wedding? Would you like a package holiday, including food, drink, and live entertainment?
- 7) You could always use the services of a wedding planner! Wedding planners are excellent at providing you the best possible day, but make sure you ask plenty of questions.
- 8) Who do you want to invite? Who will you be obligated to invite? Your guest list is obviously crucial, so make sure you start writing down the names of people that you want to invite on a potential invite list. This makes it much more helpful to define your final guest list.
- 9) What is your budget? As you'd expect, some places are more expensive than others, so you should plan to get the best deal!



Start with the costs that you know, and by doing this, you'll be off to a great start. In addition, this is where a wedding planner can be crucial because they have experience in handling wedding costs. You should also consider package holidays because they can save you a lot of money.

5. Checklist of Vendors to engage for your destination wedding

We think one of the **biggest hurdles with a destination wedding is the calculation of costs to marry there**, so we've created a [printable checklist of Vendors with room for the related costs](#). This includes the vendor name, local cost at destination and cost for you at home.



[Free printable spreadsheet of Vendors & Services – Destination cost converted to home currency \(with currency conversion\).](#)



Before you leave to fly out:

1. Airfares & transport to the airport.
2. Visas for the country of entry (check how long in advance you need to apply for any visa, some countries application process is longer than others and you may need time to order certain documents yourself for the application).
3. Marriage licence cost – make sure you get the legalities right (check how long the process is and again, you may need time to order and collate documents for the application. Check any start and finish date for the licence).

Abroad – essential for your wedding:

4. Transport costs - airport to wedding venue.
5. Venue - must have for both your wedding ceremony and your reception (could be the same location - think inside or outside, or even themed venue?).
6. Accommodation - as you need somewhere to stay as do your guests!
7. Wedding Planner or Organizer (if you don't have anybody on the ground locally or taking up a Package wedding).
8. Reception - Caterers/Food/ Wine - do you have a budget per head?
9. Music & Entertainment.
10. Cars & Carriages - could be needed to get you to your wedding venue and also reception.
11. Ceremony Officiate - you need to have somebody to officially marry you!





Conclusion

You might be wondering, is a destination wedding stressful and too much to organize? In reality, it's absolutely not. Any wedding takes some planning but with the right help and connections, this becomes a lot easier, even when it's based overseas. A destination wedding could be the best decision that you ever make, so what are you waiting for?

We would love to hear and connect with you, to see what your experience has been like – Drop us a line at destinationweddingdirectory.co/contact.html