

Destination Wedding Checklist

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Now

- Write a shortlist of your favourite potential wedding destinations. Visit www.destinationweddingdirectory.co/featured-destinations for inspiration and find your dream featured wedding destination in our detailed Destination Wedding Country Guides.
- Research the legal requirements for marrying in each of your potential destinations.
- Discuss your ideal wedding date or time of year. Research the weather, major holidays and festivals and peak seasons in your chosen destinations. Or check out your horoscope to choose [compatible wedding dates!](#)
- Set a budget.
- Compile a preliminary guest list.
- Make a list of potential wedding venues at each destination. Contact them to request brochures and confirm prices during your chosen time of year. Use <http://tinyurl.com/wedding-directory-venue> to help you. You're able to save your favourite venues and suppliers to refer back to later. Many have already uploaded brochures and the listings include contact details for every venue and supplier.
- Decide on whether you'll opt for a wedding package which will include everything you need, or whether you'll plan your own wedding with or without the help of a wedding planner/coordinator.

- Try to estimate the cost of your wedding to confirm it fits within your budget. You don't need to be too precise at this stage, but you need to know whether it's possible. You can use our [Wedding Cost Spreadsheet](#) to help you cover overseas prices to your home currency, very easy to use and save and make additional changes to.

Things to consider include:

- o Transport to destination, e.g. flights
 - o Wedding Venue (for ceremony and reception)
 - o Accommodation
 - o Rings
 - o Bridalwear and groomsware
 - o Cake
 - o Flowers
 - o Wedding Car/Carriage
 - o Caterers
 - o Entertainment
 - o Hair & Makeup
 - o Invitations/Stationery
 - o Photographers/Videographers
 - o Wedding Planner
 - o Honeymoon
 - o Cost of you at home reception if you're having one.
- Discuss your plan with your closest friends and family and try to estimate how many people will come. If this is something that you really want to do, don't be put off by other people's opinions.

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12 Months Before

- Decide on your destination and set a date.
- Confirm your venue or venues (if you're having your wedding ceremony and wedding reception at different places).

Use [wedding-directory-venue](#) to help you. The listings include contact details for every venue and supplier.

- Confirm your accommodation. Remember to reserve an extra room if you're planning on spending the night before the wedding apart. If possible, you may also want to reserve accommodation for some of your guests, especially your closest family members. You may be able to negotiate group room rates and reserve blocks of rooms for your wedding party and guests.

- [Decide on a wedding planner](#) if you're using one and confirm they are available for your chosen date. Inform them of your chosen venue or venues and start discussing your other requirements (they should be experienced at this and be able to guide you).

- Choose and book the [Wedding Officiant](#).

- Finalise your guest list and collect email and mailing addresses.

- Research and confirm your [photographer and videographer](#). Some venues insist that you use their in-house ones so check before you book your own.

- Begin researching [local wedding vendors](#).

Your wedding planner may be able to recommend quality suppliers they've worked with before. Use [wedding-directory-planner](#) to find independent reviews to verify their recommendations.

- Research flights and other travel options. Your guests will appreciate a couple of options to accommodate their budget.

- Research childcare options for any of your guests who have children and let them know what you've found out.

- Research the possibility of having a wedding website to share details of your destination and venue, travel options, accommodation, directions and of course the story of how you two met. Many wedding websites also allow your guests to RSVP online.

- Get some inspiration for your wedding dress, your bridesmaid's dresses and what your groomsmen will wear. Remember to consider the climate at that time of year as well as your location.

Find some great inspiration at www.pinterest.com/destweddingdir/

- Send 'Save the Date' cards to your guests. With the extra expense and organisation required for them to attend a destination wedding it's best to send them as early as possible.

- If you're planning on having a wedding reception at home for the guests that can't make it to your destination wedding, start thinking about potential dates and venues. Now is a good time to visit your favourite venues.

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9 Months Before

[Book your travel tickets](#) and [accommodation](#). Prices often get more expensive the closer you get to the date, or even worse, sell out. Don't forget to book your onward travel to your honeymoon if it's in a different place.

Purchase [wedding and travel insurance](#).

Confirm your wedding suppliers, e.g. cake maker, caterer, car / carriage hire, entertainment, florist, hair stylist and makeup artist, photographer, videographer, etc.

Visit destinationweddingdirectory.co for a complete list and to make sure you haven't forgotten anything.

Confirm your [Wedding Officiant](#) and arrange when and where to meet them if you need to before your ceremony. If you're planning on writing your own vows this is also a good time to discuss this. Check whether you'll need a translator.

Think about a colour scheme or theme for your wedding. Take into account the destination and venue and any local traditions or

customs you'd like to include. Your wedding planner may be able to help and it's worth talking to your florist to make sure the type of flowers you like are available at your destination at that time of year. Discuss your menu options with the caterer.

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Begin to narrow down your choice of [wedding dress](#) and try some on if possible.

Meet with your bridesmaids to discuss their dresses and narrow down some styles that everyone is happy with. Alternatively, you could agree on a colour scheme and let each bridesmaid choose a dress in that colour that they feel comfortable wearing. After all, one dress definitely does not fit all.

Confirm the [venue for your wedding reception](#) at home.

Research suppliers for your at home reception.

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6 Months Before

- If you're having your wedding dress made to order, confirm your style and order it now.
- Order your [bridesmaids dresses](#).
- Start shopping for [groom and groomsmen attire](#) – again, consider the destination and climate when choosing.
- Buy your [wedding rings](#).
- Confirm the legal requirements for marrying in your destination country. It's best to check with the country's embassy in your home country or your embassy in your destination country. If you're using a wedding planner or booking through a tour operator, they may also be able to advise you.
- Make sure you have all of the documents required to obtain a legal marriage certificate. If you don't have anything that is required now is the time to start the process of obtaining them. Get more information around legalising your marriage in your preferred destination wedding country in our featured country destinations under sub heading - legal requirements. (feature country destinations make clickable to <https://www.destinationweddingdirectory.co/featured-destinations>)
- Research any immunisations or visas that are required for your destination country. Book an appointment with your doctor or healthcare provider for the immunisations and submit your visa applications now.
- Get some inspiration for your [wedding stationery](#), e.g. invitations, RSVP cards. menus. program of events. seating plans. etc.

Find some great ideas at www.pinterest.com/destweddingdir/

- If your wedding and honeymoon are taking place in the opposite hemisphere, now is the time to shop for your wardrobe. The seasons are opposite so summer at home now is winter there and vice versa. In 6 months the season there will be the same as at home now.
- Decide on whether you'll be doing your hair yourself or using a [stylist](#) for your big day. If you have a stylist friend or family member try out some looks now. If you're going it alone, arrange a time to meet with your regular stylist so they can offer some advice on styles that are easy to do yourself and you can have a practice. Six months should be enough time to grow your hair or change colour if necessary.
- Find out about any dietary requirements your guests may have.
- Decide on the menu for your reception and confirm with your caterers.
- Confirm your wedding suppliers for your at home reception.

Destination Wedding Checklist

4 Months Before

- Confirm the [design of your wedding stationery](#) and order. Order 20% additional invitations, place cards, etc. to allow for errors and last minute additions. Also consider ordering your thank you cards now, along with your at home reception invitations if you're having these printed.
- If you're planning on having welcome bags for your guests at your wedding destination, start researching what you might include.
- Research [wedding favours](#) and decorations for your venue.
- If you're planning to have one, research options for your [wedding gift list](#). Many couples choose not to have one as they feel the expense and time to attend the wedding is as much as they can ask of their guests.
- Begin thinking about [music options for your ceremony and reception](#).

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3 Months Before

- Setup your wedding website including all the relevant information your guests will need.
- Confirm your [wedding gift list](#) details. You may want to provide the details to your guests with your wedding invitations or post them on your wedding website.
- Post your [wedding invitations](#). 4 weeks before the wedding is the ideal RSVP date.
- Make sure your passports are up to date and apply for any necessary visas.
- Gather all of the documents you'll need to be married in your destination country.
- Order your [wedding rings](#).
- Agree on and order your [groom and groomsmen's outfits](#).
- Buy your accessories, jewellery, shoes, garter and lingerie for your wedding outfit.
- Think about the best way of transporting your gown. Ask your dressmaker for advice.
- Whether you're planning on doing your makeup yourself or using a professional, have a trial run. Even if you're planning on doing it yourself, it's worth making an appointment with a professional as they'll be able to provide some great advice about what kind of makeup to use and how to apply it.
- If you're planning to have one, research options for a welcome event for your guests.
- Research some options for [activities you can enjoy with your guests](#) at your destination. Write an itinerary of events to include your welcome, pre-wedding meal, wedding ceremony and reception, as well as a mixture of optional activities and free time.
- Confirm your suppliers, including caterers, cake maker, florist, car hire, photographer, etc.
- Order the items for your welcome bags. Check with your venue, accommodation or wedding planner to see if it's possible to have them sent to your destination rather than having to carry them yourself.
- Order your [wedding favours and venue decorations](#). Again, it may be easier to have them delivered directly to your venue.

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2 Months Before

- Start putting together the [wedding play list for your DJ or band](#). Open this up to your guests as they'll love to tell you what tracks get them out of their seats. It's also worth listing any tracks you don't like.
- Inform your guests of the itinerary you've planned. You could post it to your wedding website, email it, or include it in your guests' welcome bags.
- If you've planned your at home reception for shortly after you return from your honeymoon, now is a good time to send the invitations. Allowing 6 weeks to RSVP will give you time to finalise numbers and make any necessary arrangements before you leave.
- Purchase gifts for your parents, wedding party and each other.
- Begin writing your wedding vows.

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1 Month Before

- Confirm attendance for any outstanding RSVPs.
- Write a list of everything you need to pack. Keep the list handy so you can add to it as you think of things between now and when it's time to pack.
- Now's the time for any last minute shopping, including clothes for your honeymoon.
- Ask family and friends if they have any space to transport items for you, such as welcome bags, favours or decorations.
- Assemble your welcome bags (including itineraries) and pack them ready for transportation. Also pack your favours and decorations. To save space and avoid damage, you may want to leave them flat.
- Have your final dress fitting. Arrange for any alterations as soon as possible.
- Check in with your bridesmaids and ensure their final alterations are also in progress.
- Provide your photographer and videographer with a schedule of events and arrange to meet them at your destination prior to the wedding.
- Contact your ceremony and reception musicians and provide your playlist, including what you definitely do not want them to play.
- Research [local transfer](#) options between the airport and your accommodation and inform your guests via your website or email. If you have room in your budget, it's a nice touch to arrange transfers for your guests.

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2 Weeks Before

- Confirm with your wedding venue the number of guests attending.
- Prepare your reception seating chart

1 Week Before

- Now's the time for your beauty treatments, including facials, waxing, manicure and pedicure and of course hair. You may also want to fit in a [spa day to help you relax](#) after all the planning you've done.
- Print out confirmation of all of your travel arrangements, including flights bookings, accommodation and transfers.
- Create and print a list of all your vendors, including contact details and any outstanding balances to be paid. It's also wise to print a copy of any contracts.
- Prepare all the legal documents required for your wedding, including originals and copies of passports, birth certificates, etc.
- You'll have much more baggage than when you usually travel. If you're flying, contact your airline now to increase your baggage allowance. It's usually much cheaper to do this in advance than paying at the airport.
- Contact your mobile phone network provider to discuss the cheapest plan to suit you while you're away. You'll need to be easily contactable by your guests and vendors leading up to the wedding.
- Buy and pack the correct electricity adaptor plugs for your destination.
- Start packing.

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When You Arrive at Your Destination

- Unpack and hang-up your wedding dress. You may want to have it pressed or steamed if necessary and possible.
- Keep your rings in a safe place.
- Give your welcome bags to your wedding coordinator or hotel to arrange for them to be left in your guests' bedrooms.
- Meet with your wedding coordinator to hand over any decorations or favours. Visit your ceremony and reception venues, run through your schedule and confirm any last minute details.
- Meet with local officials to obtain your marriage license.
- If you don't have a wedding coordinator, contact each of your vendors to confirm all the arrangements.
- Meet with your [photographer and videographer](#) at the venues to discuss the schedule, best locations for photos and the style of photos/video you'd like to have taken.
- Meet with your [Wedding Officiant](#) to talk through the ceremony.
- Have a trial run with your hair stylist and makeup artist.
- Organise for a close friend or family member to pay your suppliers on your wedding day and let your wedding planner / coordinator know who it is so you don't get disturbed on the day.
- Find a nice location where you can sit down together to relax, have a nice drink and take it all in. You're finally at your destination, the planning is done and soon you'll be married!

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Congratulations, your wedding day has arrived!

- Have a nice breakfast.
- Ask a bridesmaid and/or the best man to deliver your gift to your fiancé.
- Hair and makeup.
- Don't forget your rings when you head off to the venue.
- Take a deep breath, relax and enjoy your special day!