

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/resort website, or by calling the wedding department
- Start a binder to file all your paperwork, ideas and inspiration in one place**
For example, contracts, 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 officiant**
Discuss options with your local wedding planner
- Book a photographer**
The good ones are booked quickly so do this sooner than later
- Block 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
- 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**
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 or 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 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 officiant 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!!**