

Destination Wedding Calendar



12 to 18 months prior to your desired date:

1. Prepare a budget. This should include the funds you will have for the actual wedding, photography, possible reception, additional wedding items AND then start factoring what you anticipate a nightly hotel rate and airfare expenses would be suitable to fit your financial needs. You should also consider the maximum amount you anticipate that your guests will feel comfortable spending.
2. After your budget is put in place and before you even begin to search for a resort or destination, advise family or friends of your intentions and ask for any dates that would prevent them from attending. Pricing at hotels fluctuate based on the time of year you are traveling and your budget could be completely off if you found out that the only possible travel week without schedule conflicts is the very pricey peak Christmas week.
3. Create a list of destinations that you are interested in. Select a few dates that would be ideal for you to have your wedding. Estimate how many potential "rooms" you may require.
4. Contact a destination wedding planner /destination wedding travel agent. Even if you feel comfortable doing your own reservations for your vacations, remember that this is not just another vacation. Make sure the planner you are using makes you feel comfortable and "meshes" with your personality. Begin to price out destinations and resorts. Make sure you are aware of the requirements in each destination for a "legal" wedding.
5. Select your destination and resort. Hold group accommodations and block the "early" booking rate.
6. Review required paperwork needed for the "legalities" of the wedding and make note of the deadline dates.

12 months prior to your desired date

1. Create a wedding page/website detailing your wedding location and how your guests are to reserve their stay.
2. Mail out Save the Dates
3. Begin looking for your wedding dress and your bridal party attire.

10-11 months prior to your desired date

1. Most major airlines load their airfare 330 days out. Start reviewing flight prices.
2. Establish a "wish list" of items that include your color preferences, flowers, ceremony set up, reception entertainment, photography, and videography. You may already have a better idea of approximately how many guests will be attending and can now begin to calculate the budget required to fulfill your vision.

9 months prior to your desired date

1. Block group airfare space if your group fits the requirements and parameters for group airfare.
2. Start a "must" do photography file with favorite photos and poses.
3. Create a list items needed for your OOT bags (Out of Town bags, Welcome Bags).
4. If you are planning a honeymoon at a different resort or a completely different destination, reserve flights, and accommodations.
5. Order passports or verify your passport expiration date.

7-8 months prior to your desired date

1. Create your ceremony program
2. Investigate options that tie the destination into your ceremony. (Sand Ceremony or South Pacific Coconut Water Ceremony)
3. Price optional tours and excursions offered at your destination.
4. Based on your guest's RSVP's thus far, reevaluate your wish list

5-6 months prior to your desired date

1. Purchase flights (if group airfare is not available or not the best option).
2. If you are sending invitations, make sure you have them designed and ordered.
3. Submit legal paperwork.
4. Purchase your wedding rings.

4- months prior to your desired date

1. Send out invitations 110-100 days prior as many resorts request that you let go of extra rooms 90 days prior.
2. Send out an email or note to your confirmed guests with information about optional tours and excursions.

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3- months prior to your desired date

1. Release unused rooms.
2. Request an updated pricing of items listed on your wish list based on your final guest count.
3. Now that you have firm numbers of attendees, establish a backup location if weather doesn't cooperate.

2- months prior to your desired date

1. Final payment on your hotel portion is due.
2. Request dining selections for your reception and create table assignments/place cards
3. Purchase items for your OOT bags.
4. Create a must play DJ list, processional/recessional music.
5. Arrange /order optional tours and excursions.
6. Confirm that all necessary paperwork for the legalities are in order and inquire if original documents are required to be brought with you.

1- month prior to your desired date

1. Submit room requests to your wedding planner/travel agent.
2. Create packing list.
3. Finalize a guest welcome letter.
4. Prepay all wedding optional items.
5. Confirm all payments of optional items with vendors and place the receipts and contracts in a folder or a 3-ring binder and make sure you bring it with you

2- weeks prior to your desired date

1. Receive your travel paperwork. Check that your names are spelled correctly and your flight times have not changed.
2. Finalize the wedding day timeline with your wedding planner. (Detail the times on paper and make a few copies to hand out to the planner when you arrive)
3. Ensure all flights for your entire group are coordinated with transportation at destination.
4. Assemble your wedding favors and put together your welcome bags.

1 -week prior to your desired date

1. Pack your bags, weigh them (make sure each bag is under 50lbs) and confirm additional baggage prices with your airline.
2. Keep all vital wedding items in your carry on and pack your wedding dress so that you can carry it on the plane.
3. Alert your credit card company of your travel plans to a foreign country so that purchases there will be authorized.
4. Contact your cell phone carrier and add international service (ask about 'prorating' the costs).

24 hours prior to your desired date

1. Reconfirm flights and seat assignments.