

GETTING STARTED

Weddings away are the new way to wed! A seven-day celebration in a picture-perfect destination is just one of the reasons why destination weddings are the growing trend.

Remember to look for a Destination Wedding Specialist who's specialized and knows all the ins and outs. Search for testimonials and don't hesitate to ask for credentials.

Make sure your Destination Wedding Specialist not only takes charge of the travel arrangements, but the wedding planning as well.

The moments you'll cherish the most are the promises made with your toes in the sand.

Marsha Steeves

www.marshasteevesdestinationweddings.com

12-15 months before

- Find a Destination Wedding Specialist.
- Check out their credentials and feel free to ask for testimonials.
- Prepare for your consultation:
 - Start by choosing the date.
 - Make an informal headcount and take note of where each guest resides.
 - Consider potential destinations and resorts: do you have a more intimate experience in mind, or will you be a large group looking for lots of activities?

12 months before

- Send your electronic or paper invitations, or create your own wedding website.
- Leave a deposit in order to benefit from applicable early booking savings and advantages.
- Venues should always be booked first: if you have your heart set on that gleaming white gazebo overlooking the ocean, have your Destination Wedding Specialist book it before someone else does!
- Decide on a civil, religious or symbolic wedding and book a priest or minister accordingly. Keep in mind that wedding requirements vary by destination. (see pp. 12-13)

8-12 months before

- Work with your Destination Wedding Specialist to find the right photographer and book them – the best ones can get booked quickly!
- Choose the wedding gown as well as the attire for the groom and the wedding party.

6 months before

- Decide on the flowers, decor, music, lighting and menu.
- Follow up with guests who have not yet RSVP'd.
- Buy your rings.

2-4 months before

- Schedule fittings and alterations for the bride, the groom and wedding party.
- Decide on any other activities on or off site that you may want to include during the week, like bachelor and bachelorette parties, excursions, rehearsals, etc.
- Have hair and makeup appointments scheduled for the day of the wedding.

1 month before

- Final dress fitting for the bride and bridesmaids.
- Review and confirm your wedding contract.

1-3 days after arrival

- Meet with your on-site wedding planner to see the venues in person and go over what was booked.
- Meet with the photographer to review your preferences and requirements, and get a feel for working together.
- Rehearsals are always recommended, preferably in the same venue as your ceremony.

Wedding day

**It's finally here!
Relax and enjoy your day!**

Day before departure

- Throw a farewell party: any excuse is a good excuse to spend more time with loved ones before heading home or beginning your honeymoon!



Testimonial

ALY & ADAM

Moon Palace Golf & Spa Resort ★★★★★

RIVIERA MAYA
MEXICO
100 GUESTS

We started planning about nine months before our wedding, and it required lots of online research. We could not have done it without the assistance of, Marsha Steeves, and her team! It involved more than just picking a wedding package from a brochure, and we couldn't have done it alone. The on-site wedding planner was also extremely helpful. She met with us at the start of the week to go over all the details like our colour scheme (white and gold with hints of purple and light coral) and schedule for the big day. She was also extremely helpful the day of, from start to finish.



Testimonial

NICK & VANESSA

Luxury Bahia Principe Sian Ka'an Don Pablo Collection ★★★★★

RIVIERA MAYA
MEXICO
50 GUESTS

We planned about nine months ahead – which is less than most, but it worked for us – setting our budget according to what each of us wanted most in the wedding, and adding from there. The hotel provided a wedding planner who was helpful and able to answer our many questions. My advice to any destination wedding couple would be not to worry too much; just relax and trust the planners. When you get there, you can go over everything during the meeting and discuss any last-minute adjustments.

