

# Destination Wedding Planning Checklist



## **12 to 11 Months**

- Set a budget.
- Discuss legal and religious matters.
- Decide on destination wedding musts and expendables.
- Set the guest number limit/create a rough draft of guest list.
- Decide on the wedding party.

## **11 to 10 Months**

- Decide on the location and date.
- Consider taking a scouting trip.
- Narrow down your venue options to about 3 to 5 and begin enquiries.
- Enquire about legalities of getting married at your destination of choice at your local registrar, consular offices if applicable, and at registrar authorities in destination.
- Enquire about the religious aspect of your ceremony with your local religious authorities.

## **10 to 9 Months**

- Choose the venue.
- Hire wedding services and/or packages with venue or hire a local wedding planner.
- Set up a wedding website and app for your destination wedding.
- Send out save the dates with website and app data.
- Start negotiating group discounts for hotel accommodations and activities at the venue.
- Ask wedding party to join you for your big day.
- Start getting your paperwork ready for getting:
  - Legally married at the destination and/or
  - Married by your church or temple at the destination and/or
  - Married by a local officiant.

## **9 to 6 Months**

- Choose the formality of the celebration, theme, and color scheme.
- Start shopping around for the wedding dress and attires wedding party.
- Consider purchasing wedding insurance.
- Dream up possible honeymoon getaways with your fiance.
- Set up your gift registry and share it via your wedding website.
- Narrow down what services you will need to hire at the destination and what you will source from home; consider local regulations at destination.
- Secure the services for: banquet, wedding cake, music, DJ, florist, photographer, videographer, officiant and/or church. Start the creative process with your service providers.

## **6 to 4 Months**

- Start shopping for the couple's attire, his/her side of the wedding party attire, and all parents' attire.
- Order your wedding rings.
- Acquire gifts for the wedding party, the parents, and for each other.
- Finalize guest list and order invites.
- Define banquet menu, wedding cake flavor and design, music services, flower design and style, photography and videography services, and, if booking the ceremony through the venue, also define type of officiant and type of ceremony.

## **4 to 3 Months**

- Send out the wedding invitations. Make sure to change RSVP time to at least 1 month.
- Buy wedding favors.
- Book airfare for you and your fiance. Encourage all family and close friends to do the same. Post an invite to book airfare on wedding website as well.
- Book your honeymoon.
- Reserve a block of rooms for guests.
- Have all your paperwork ready and make sure all processes and steps are being carried out in due time and order for getting:
  - Legally married at the destination and/or
  - Married by your church or temple at the destination and/or
  - Married by a local officiant.

## **3 to 2 Months**

- Acquire shoes, veil, accessories, undergarments, and complete your wedding attire.
- Trial makeup and hairdressing.
- Purchase additional wedding decor. Keep it light and easy to transport.
- Place orders and get contracts for banquet, wedding cake, music, DJ, florist, photographer, videographer, officiant and/or church.
- Book makeup and hair stylist at destination.
- Book group activities.
- Personalize the ceremony. Consider including local customs as well as personal vows and special readings.

## **1 Month**

- Finalize bridal attire, makeup and hairstyle.
- Confirm all bridal party attendants and parents have their attire ready.
- Start writing thank you notes as needed.
- Plan rehearsal dinner at destination and book accordingly.
- Write toasts.
- Confirm pending RSVPs.
- Prepare welcome bags, personalized welcome notes, and destination event program.
- Finish writing personal vows.
- Prepare ceremony program.
- Confirm you have all the necessary paperwork and appointments ready to have a binding ceremony.

## **2 Weeks**

- Confirm your and your fiancé's flights and lodgings for both the wedding and honeymoon.
- Create seating chart and place cards.
- Confirm accommodations for guests lodging in rooms reserved by you.
- Update headcount for all group activities as per last RSVP count.
- Finalize contracts for banquet, wedding cake, music, DJ, florist, photographer, videographer, officiant and/or church.

## **1 Week**

- Pack:
  - Decorations, gifts, welcome bags, and other items
  - Honeymoon bag
  - Official wedding bag for you and fiancé (remember the paperwork!)
- Confirm appointments and meetings.
- Travel to your destination a day or two ahead of the day.

## **Upon Arrival**

- Meet with venue wedding coordinator/wedding planner, service providers, legal offices, church authorities, makeup and hair stylists, and all other vendors.

## **1 to 2 Days Prior to Wedding**

- Run through and finalize all details of the big day.
- Have makeup and hair styling trial.
- Have attire steamed to get rid of any wrinkles.
- Meet and greet guests.
- Relax!