

Checklist - Honeymoons & Destination Weddings

honeymoons and weddings abroad checklists

Whether you're travelling for your happily-ever-after honeymoon or you're actually getting married abroad, travel arrangements should not be left to the last minute! Be sure to pick a reputable, bonded travel agent or tour operator. Have them mention the occasion and you might get preferential treatment: champagne, baskets of fruit and free meals are fairly common. It is the groom's job to book and pay for the honeymoon but many couples make the decision together. If you're marrying abroad, make sure you are crystal clear about the legal requirements of the country you're are marrying in - it can be quite impossible to arrange certified documents so far away from home. It is also worth deciding whether you will have changed your passport into your married name before you book as tickets and passport have to be in the same name.

Think carefully about where you want to go, how long you'd like to be away, what kind of climate or special features you're looking for and how much you want to spend.

Can your travel agent make recommendations? Have they been to your destination before?

Will you be travelling in-season? What will the weather be like? Are there discounts for travelling off-season?

Can the airline guarantee you'll be sitting together on the plane?

How much luggage are you allowed to take?

Do you have the required travel visas and vaccinations?

Do you have an adequate supply of regular medication?

Are your passports up to date?

Have you allowed for extra travel costs?

How will you get to the airport? Is there an extra port or departure tax?

Charges for travellers cheques?

Renewal of passport?

Extra cash for gratuities?

Arrange for someone to look after your home while you're away.

How far in advance are bookings required?

What is the cancellation/postponement policy?

How much is the deposit to secure the booking and when is it due?

When is the balance due?

Is VAT included in the final price?

Confirm dates, times and details with a written itinerary.

specifically for weddings abroad

Enquire with the country's consulate or tourist office about: residency requirements, necessary documentation, medical tests/vaccinations, proofs of divorce, witnesses and requirements for religious versus civil ceremony. Do documents have to be translated? Notarised? How long will it take to process any paperwork?

Is your wedding date available?

Are you comfortable making all the arrangements yourself or will you need the services of a wedding coordinator? Does the venue have an in-house wedding co-ordinator?

Can you arrange for safe transport of your wedding dress?

Are there discounts when booking blocks of hotel rooms for guests travelling with you?

How many weddings will take place that day?

Are you able to meet your officiant before the ceremony?

Will the ceremony be in English? Can you write your own vows?

Are you able to have your ceremony and reception at the same venue?

Will the venue be decorated? How?

How many guests can attend the ceremony? The reception? Are children allowed?

What reception packages are available? Are the menus flexible? Can they provide music/entertainment?

Are there discounts when booking blocks of hotel rooms for guests travelling with you?

What is the contingency plan in the event of bad weather?

Will the marriage certificate be given to you on the day of the ceremony or will it be sent to you later?

Can you take out extra wedding insurance on top of your standard travel/honeymoon insurance?