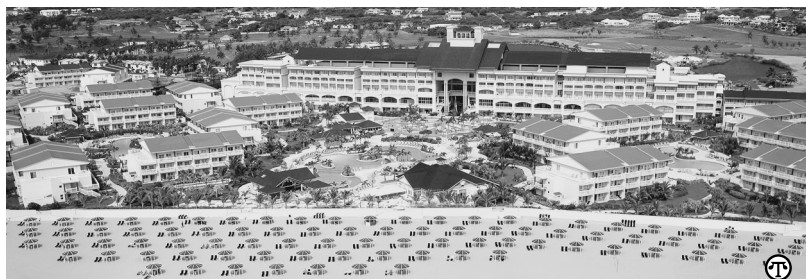


Wedding Trends

Planning A Destination Wedding



Vow To Relax—Fifteen percent of couples have destination weddings.

(NAPSA)—A growing number of engaged couples are saying “I do” to destination weddings.

In fact, research shows that at least 15 percent of all weddings are now destination weddings, with stunning island and beach backdrops acting as the ideal wedding escape.

Of course, planning a wedding from afar can seem like a daunting task. That’s why many couples turn to experts for planning advice. For instance, Marriott International has expert Certified Wedding Planners on hand to assist at their hotels and resorts worldwide. Below are the top 10 tips for planning a destination wedding from Simon Bell, the director of marketing, at the St. Kitts Marriott Resort & The Royal Beach Casino on the Caribbean island of St. Kitts in the British West Indies, a popular site for destination weddings.

1. Research Locations.

Choose a fun destination, but be sure to understand each location’s marriage requirements. After all, you want to be certain your marriage will be legal.

2. Plan Ahead. Allow yourself to enjoy the planning process by giving yourself an adequate amount of time to plan the details of your ceremony and reception.

3. Prepare Guests. Consider sending a “Save the Date” notification well ahead of time. Destination wedding guests often need

more time to purchase plane tickets and organize travel itineraries.

4. Arrive Early. Try to arrive at your location at least two days before the wedding so you have time to relax before the big day and cover any last-minute details.

5. Carry Your Gown. The bride should always carry her wedding gown and other items she’ll need for the wedding aboard the airplane. Hang up the gown as soon as you get to the hotel to avoid wrinkles.

6. Stock Up. The bride should always bring extra panty hose and nail polish.

7. Coordinate Your Clothes. The groom should bring a tuxedo from home, since most rental companies charge the same for a weekend or a week. The proper fit is crucial. Ask your dressmaker or bridal shop owner how best to pack your gown for travel.

8. Take Time Out For Guests. Make yourself aware of any special needs of your guests.

9. Avoid Excess Sun. Don’t lie in the sun before the wedding. Sunburn and tan lines don’t look good in wedding pictures, not to mention the pain you may be in!

10. Relax. Let your Marriott Certified Wedding Planner worry about the cake being perfect, the champagne being chilled, the grass being cut and all the other details.

For more information, visit www.marriott.com.