



DESTINATION WEDDING GUIDE

Planning | Budget Requirements | The Perfect Resorts & More!



Congratulations on Your Engagement!



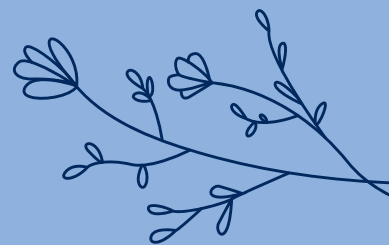
A destination wedding at a beautiful beach resort surrounded by family and friends can be an amazing beginning to your life together.

At Bliss Honeymoons, we know that planning a destination wedding can be a little overwhelming! So we've created this handy guide to help get a handle on some of the most frequently asked questions about destination wedding packages, group contracts and more.

We're looking forward to assisting you with an amazing destination wedding!

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Destination Wedding 101

CHOOSING THE RIGHT DESTINATION

Choosing the right destination for your destination wedding is no small undertaking! There are a million factors to consider when deciding on a resort and destination for your big day.

At Bliss Honeymoons we help you find the perfect location based on the following factors:



YOUR GUEST LIST

Do you have a lot of people attending your destination wedding? Do you have any children under the age of 18 attending?



YOUR WISH LIST

Do you want to get married on a beach? In a beautiful indoor venue in a tropical destination? What is your idea of the perfect destination wedding?



YOUR BUDGET

We recommend that you have two budgets-one for your travel, and the other for your wedding and reception.

Least expensive months to have a destination wedding

Late April to December, except for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Rates tend to be more affordable in October, November, and early December.

Most expensive months to get married

December 20 through Easter. (December, January, February, March, and April, dependent upon when Easter occurs)

Never been to an all-inclusive resort? [Here's what to expect.](#)

Destination Wedding 101



CHOOSING THE RIGHT DESTINATION

Having a destination wedding at an all-inclusive resort will save both you and your guests a lot of time and money! We recommend the following destinations for an affordable, stress free event.

These 4 islands are not only affordable, but typically offer single connection flights from many US cities.



MEXICO

Mexico offers a wide variety of both adult only and family friendly all-inclusive resorts.

JAMAICA

Jamaica offers beautiful beaches, and a multitude of both family friendly and adult only resorts

PUNTA CANA

Punta Cana offers endless beautiful beaches, and tons of family friendly and adult only resorts to choose from.

COSTA RICA

Costa Rica is an amazing, eco friendly destination. While they don't have the variety of resorts that you find in some of the other islands, it can be a very affordable option, with a couple of fantastic all-inclusive resorts.

If you're seeking an [upscale](#) destination with lots of luxury inclusions, we recommend the following:

ST. LUCIA

Frequently referred to as the South Pacific of the Caribbean, St Lucia is one of the most striking islands in the Caribbean. St Lucia has several beautiful adult only, all-inclusive hotels to choose from.

ANTIGUA

Famous for its 365 beaches, Antigua offers a limited number of adult only all-inclusive resorts.

Want to visit the resort before you commit?

[Ask us about our preview trips.](#)

*Please note that we don't offer any domestic destination weddings.

Destination Wedding



FAQS

Can I take my dress on the plane?

Most airlines do allow you to bring your dress on-board in addition to your carry-on bag. But policies vary by airline. We recommend calling the airline's toll-free number a couple of days before departure to confirm. We don't recommend shipping your dress in advance, or putting it with checked luggage.

Can I pre-book a golf outing or excursion for my wedding guests?

Absolutely! We usually plan this at around 60 days before check-in.

Can I pre-book spa appointments for the bridal party for our wedding day?

The wedding coordinator can help make spa reservations for your wedding party for your wedding day.

Can I bring my own photographer?

Yes, but many hotels charge an outside vendor fee of anywhere from \$300.00 to \$800.00. Some hotels waive the fee if the photographer stays for 3 nights or more. But this policy varies greatly by hotel.

I have guests that want to stay at other hotels to save money. Can they just come to our hotel for the wedding?

Hotel day passes can cost as much as \$150.00 per person, and are sold on a first come, first served basis. Some hotels stop selling day passes if the hotel is at 90% occupancy. So if your guests are not staying at your hotel, there is no guarantee that they will be able to get in for your wedding.

Will all of our guests' rooms be close together?

Hotels make every effort to get your guests as close together as possible. Some hotels do offer a guaranteed section just for your guests for an additional fee.

How far in advance can we book our wedding date?

Most resorts allow us to book your wedding date up to 18 months in advance.

How far in advance can we book our travel?

While we can start booking travel for you and your guests about a year in advance, we find that most guests book about 6 to 10 months before departure, dependent upon your wedding date.



What it Really Costs



A destination wedding can be very affordable! Many of the costs of getting married at home, such as venue charges, catering, and a wedding planner are eliminated by having a destination wedding!

Basic Wedding

Avg Cost: Average Cost: \$1500 to \$3500 Included:

On-Site Coordinator Bouquet & Boutonniere Wedding Cake for 10 Guests Honeymoon Amenity Spa Discount Sparkling Wine

Mid-Range Wedding

Avg Cost: Average Cost: \$3500 to \$6000 Included:

On-Site Coordinator Bouquet & Boutonniere Wedding Cake for 10 Guests Honeymoon Amenity Spa Discount Sparkling Wine Photographer

Judge or Minister Semi-Private Cocktail Party 20-40 Guests Semi-Private Dinner 20-40 Guests Late Checkout for Bride and Groom

Ultimate Wedding

Avg Cost: Average Cost: \$6000 and up Included:

On-Site Coordinator Bouquet & Boutonniere Wedding Cake for 10 Guests Honeymoon Amenity Spa Discount Sparkling Wine Photographer

Judge or Minister Semi-Private Cocktail Party 20-40 Guests Semi-Private Dinner 20-40 Guests Late Checkout for Bride and Groom Live Mariachi Band Dance Floor DJ Videographer

Free Wedding

Many resorts offer a free wedding packages. What's really included in the free wedding packages? Includes:

On-Site Coordinator Ceremony Location & Decor Non-Denominational Minister Music/Speakers Ipod Music



Legal vs Symbolic

When planning your destination wedding, one of the decisions you'll have to make is whether or not to get legally married here at home before heading to your destination for your ceremony.

While it may seem strange to get legally married before your wedding ceremony, there are a lot of advantages to hitting the Justice of the Peace before you head out of town.

1. It will save you money

While many resorts promote free wedding packages, the legal fees for getting married are never waived. Getting married at home can save you anywhere from \$250.00 to \$1000.00 in legal fees, dependent upon the destination.

2. It will save you time

Most destinations have a residency requirement. This means you may have to be in the destination for 2 to 4 business days before you can get legally married there. Most resorts only require that you arrive 48 hours before your ceremony if you're not getting legally married there.

3. It will save you a ton of paperwork

If you're divorced, many countries require that you have your divorce decree translated by an official translator to the native language of their country. This can take several weeks, and cost several hundred dollars. This is not a requirement with a symbolic ceremony. Your secret is safe with us! None of your guests will be aware that your destination wedding ceremony is not your legal ceremony unless you tell them.



Residency Requirements

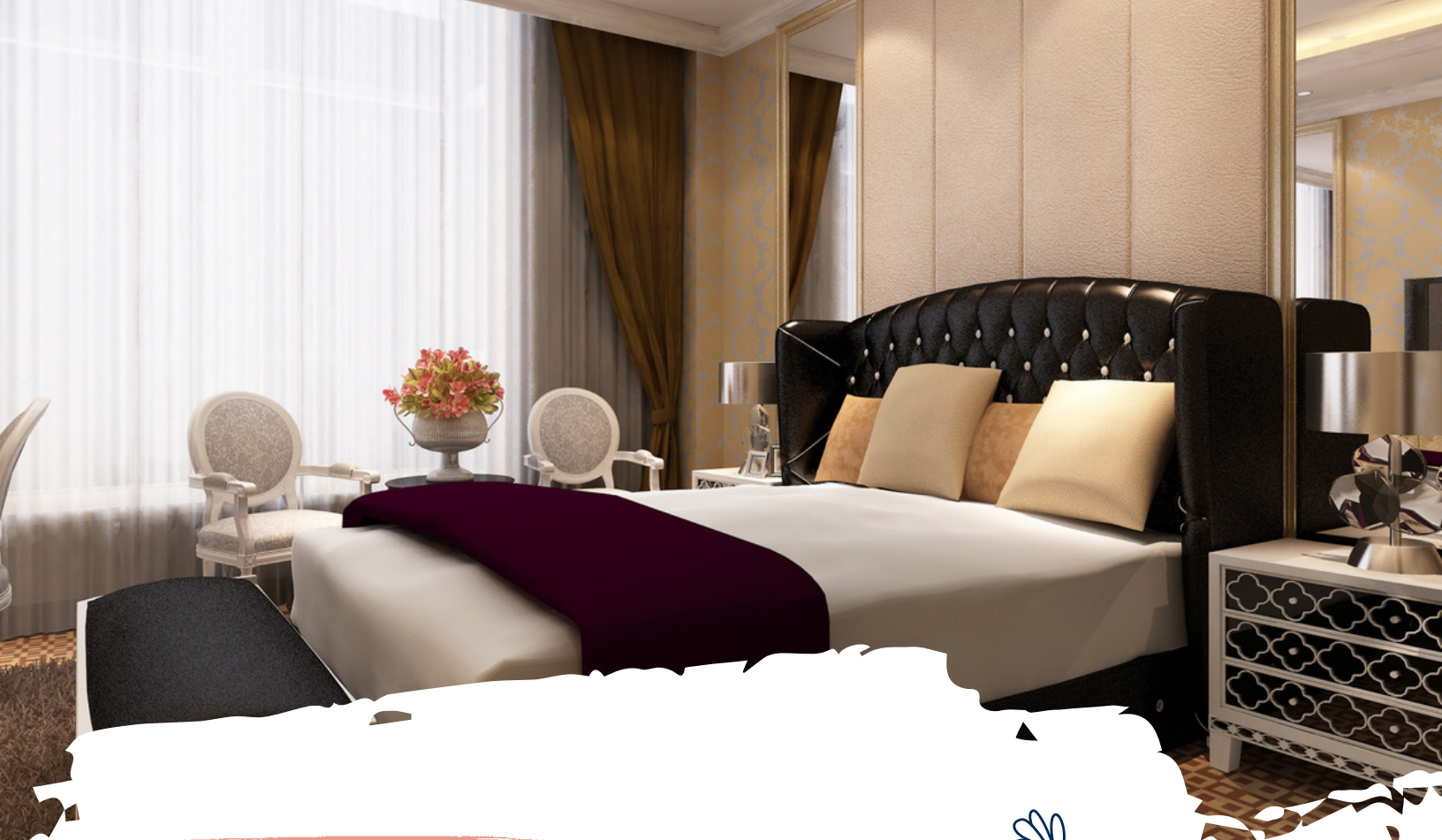
If you're planning to get legally married abroad rather than at home, this is how long you will need to be in the destination prior to your ceremony.

Costa Rica	2 Days
Dominican Republic	3 Days
Jamaica	1 Day
Mexico	3 Days

Anguilla	2 Days
Antigua	2 Days
Aruba	2 Days
Bahamas	1 Day
Barbados	None
Bermuda	None

Puerto Rico	None
St. Lucia	2 Days
St. Maarten	30 Days
Turks & Caicos	3 Days
U.S. Virgin Islands	None





Free Rooms

HOW DO THEY WORK?

Many resorts offer free rooms if you meet a minimum number of rooms based on your group contract.

Free rooms can represent significant savings. Here is how the free rooms really work:

- ▶ All booked rooms must be paid for in full
- ▶ The room comp is calculated after everyone has checked in at the hotel.
- ▶ The bride and groom will see a credit on their credit card for the amount of the comp, typically within 30 days of their wedding date.
- ▶ Room comps do not include taxes, transfers, or insurance.
- ▶ Group contract ins and outs
- ▶ Group contracts typically require a minimum of 10 rooms.
- ▶ Groups typically require a deposit of \$100.00 per room to create the contract.
- ▶ Group deposits for your guest are typically \$200.00 per person plus airfare and trip insurance.
- ▶ Final payments for groups are usually due 70 days or so before check-in.

Ready to get started?
[Click here!](#)

5 Valuable Tips

FOR PLANNING AN UNFORGETTABLE DESTINATION WEDDING

Courtesy of Karisma Hotels & Resorts

1. Savor Your Celebration Throughout the Course of Your Stay

One of the unique attributes of a destination wedding is that it is a celebration that can span over days. Take advantage of that and plan activities for your guests throughout your stay. At Karisma Hotels & Resorts, we believe there is no better way to enjoy the company of your loved ones than over an incredible meal complete with premium drink pairings and top-notch service. With our award-winning Gourmet Inclusive® Experience, you can plan any number of events, then add delicious menus, paired beverages and unique entertainment.

2. Do a Site Inspection for Priceless Peace of Mind

Taking the time to visit the site of your destination wedding celebration will do wonders for putting your mind at ease. With events you can attend like the Wedding Dress Rehearsal at Karisma Hotels & Resorts, it is easy and affordable to visit your ceremony location, taste cakes and menu items, meet your on-site wedding team and more.

3. Enlist the Help of an Expert

You don't have to do it all yourself. When it comes to making travel arrangements for you and your guests, booking your wedding group at the hotel, arranging excursions guest activities and more, the helping hand of an expert, like a Karisma Hotels & Resorts Gourmet Inclusive® Vacation Consultant, can relieve a lot of stress.



4. Get Free Stuff

Create a little wiggle room in your budget by making yourself familiar with your hotel or resort destination wedding promotions. Offers like the Always & Forever FREE Wedding Package or the Bride & Groom Stay Free promotion at Karisma Hotels & Resorts can save you thousands of dollars.

5. Don't Forget the Honeymoon!

The best part of a destination wedding is that you are already in paradise for your honeymoon! Be sure to amp up the romance after your "I Do's" so that you can bask in newly wedded bliss. Upgrade to a more luxurious room and plan romantic activities for just the two of you. Some hotels offer packages such as the Memorable Moments Honeymoon & Anniversary Package at Karisma Hotels & Resorts that make reveling in the romance after your destination wedding a sure thing.





Planning an LGBTQ

DESTINATION WEDDING

5 TIPS FOR AN INCLUSIVE AND MEMORABLE CELEBRATION

It's important to ensure that your special day reflects your unique love story and identity. Here are five tips to help you plan an inclusive and memorable celebration of love:

1. Choose a Destination that is LGBTQ+ Friendly

Selecting a destination that is LGBTQ+ friendly is crucial to ensure that you and your partner feel welcomed and respected. Research the local laws and social attitudes towards same-sex marriage in the destination you choose. Look for destinations that have legalized same-sex marriage and have a history of being inclusive and accepting of LGBTQ+ couples. Consider factors such as LGBTQ+ rights and protections, local customs, and social attitudes towards the LGBTQ+ community. Choose a destination where you and your partner feel comfortable expressing your love and celebrating your commitment.

2. Work with a Wedding Planner Experienced with Same-Sex Weddings

Hiring a wedding planner who has experience planning same-sex weddings can be a valuable resource. Look for a wedding planner who is familiar with LGBTQ+ weddings and understands the unique challenges and considerations that may arise. A knowledgeable wedding planner can help you navigate any potential hurdles, ensure that your wedding is inclusive and respectful of your preferences, and provide recommendations for LGBTQ+-inclusive vendors. Having a wedding planner who understands your needs can help you relax & enjoy the planning process without additional stress.



3. Communicate Your Preferences to Your Vendors

When working with vendors such as florists, photographers, caterers, and other wedding professionals, it's essential to communicate your preferences clearly. Let them know about your vision for your wedding and any specific LGBTQ+ elements you want to include. Discuss your desired pronouns and any other details that are important to you and your partner. Make sure that your vendors understand and respect your preferences, and that they are committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for your wedding. Don't be afraid to ask questions and advocate for your needs to ensure that your wedding reflects your personal style and identity.

4. Plan Activities for Your Guests

Since your guests will be traveling to your wedding destination, it's important to plan some fun activities for them to enjoy. This can help create a memorable experience for everyone involved and foster a sense of camaraderie among your guests. Consider organizing group activities such as sightseeing tours, cultural experiences, or adventure excursions. Host pre-wedding events, such as welcome parties or group dinners, to help guests connect and build lasting memories. These activities can also help break the ice and create a warm and inclusive atmosphere for your wedding celebration.

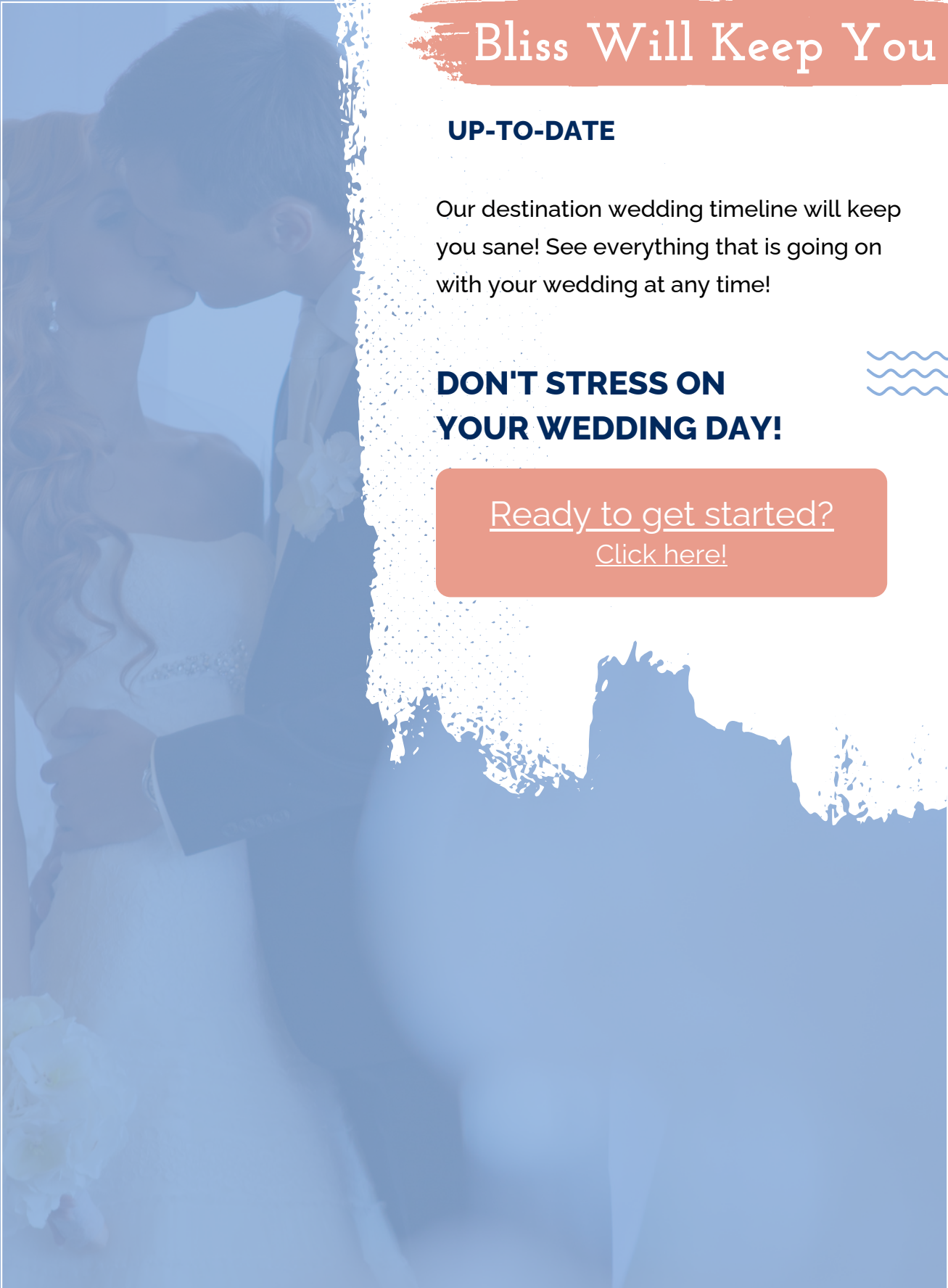
5. Enjoy the Moment

Last but not least, remember that this is your special day, and it's important to enjoy every moment of it. Don't let any outside factors or stressors get in the way of celebrating your love and commitment to your partner. Take time to be present, soak in the joy and happiness of the day, and create cherished memories with your loved ones. Surround yourself with supportive and affirming people who celebrate your love without judgment. This is a day to honor your love and the journey you and your partner have taken together.

In conclusion, planning a same-sex destination wedding requires careful consideration and attention to detail to ensure an inclusive and memorable celebration. By choosing an LGBTQ+ friendly destination, working with an experienced wedding planner, communicating your preferences to vendors, planning activities for your guests, and enjoying the moment, you can create a wedding that truly reflects your love story and creates cherished memories for years to come.



**Plan your dream destination wedding today!
Schedule a free consultation with one of our
destination wedding agents today!**



Bliss Will Keep You

UP-TO-DATE

Our destination wedding timeline will keep you sane! See everything that is going on with your wedding at any time!

DON'T STRESS ON YOUR WEDDING DAY!



Ready to get started?
[Click here!](#)

The Bliss Honeymoon

DESTINATION WEDDING TEAM



LAURA FRAZIER

Destination Wedding Planner

Bliss-ism

Relax, explore, enjoy the view, and live in the moment. Don't sweat the small stuff. A day on the beach with a little bit of seaweed still beats an ok day at the office, doesn't it?

Schedule a Free Consultation

[Click here!](#)



LINDSAY BARRIE

Destination Wedding Planner

Bliss-ism

Choose a vacation that will make you feel special, especially if it's a special occasion! Staying in a truly amazing place will turn a great vacation into an amazing one.

Schedule a Free Consultation

[Click here!](#)



Destination Wedding



TIMELINES

Creating a Wedding Week Schedule:

The key to a great event is planning! We recommend a great mix of social events with your guests, along with some time that allows everyone to relax. Most wedding guests will stay at the resort for 4 nights. So we have created this sample schedule to make the most of your time together:

Day 1

Guest arrival. Welcome cocktail party at 7:00 pm.

Day 2

Enjoy lunch, do a golf outing, catch some rays on the beach, or hang out at the swim-up bar!.

Day 3

Day at leisure! Enjoy the spa, or head out to explore local culture. Rehearsal dinner at 6:00.

Day 4

The big day! Ladies meet up in the spa at 12:00 to get ready!

Day 5

Brunch with departing guests.

Day 6

Remaining guests depart.



Wedding Preview Trips

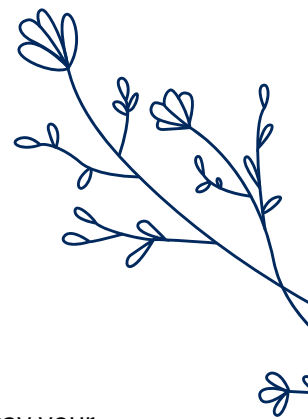
Uncover the Mystery!

Many of the hotels and resorts we work with offer destination wedding preview trips which allow you to see the venue before the big day!

Just ask us and we can help you get a peek at what you can expect.



Wedding Venue Options



A beach wedding isn't your only option. Most resorts have many venue options available. Karisma is no exception!

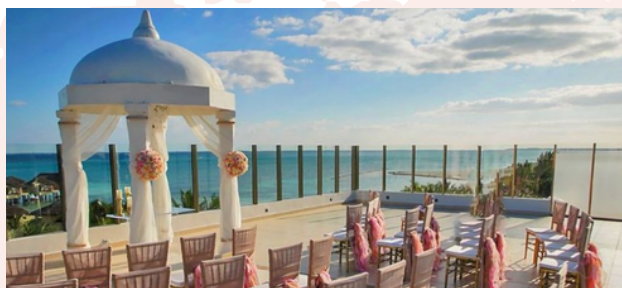


Sand, Say "I Do" Seaside

Enjoy all the Caribbean has to offer and say your vows under an altar on the beach. Available at: El Dorado Royale, El Dorado Casitas Royale, El Dorado Maroma, El Dorado Seaside Suites, Azul Beach Jamaica, Generations Riviera Maya, Villa Maroma, Villa Esmeralda, Villa Carolla, Nickelodeon Hotels & Resorts Punta Cana.

Sky, Elevate Your Experience

Take your destination wedding ceremony or private event to the next level - literally! With a Sky Wedding, you will enjoy stunning 360-degree views from the private rooftop terrace that makes you feel on top of the world. Additional surcharges apply. Available at: Azul Beach Jamaica, Generations Riviera Maya, Nickelodeon Hotels & Resorts Punta Cana.

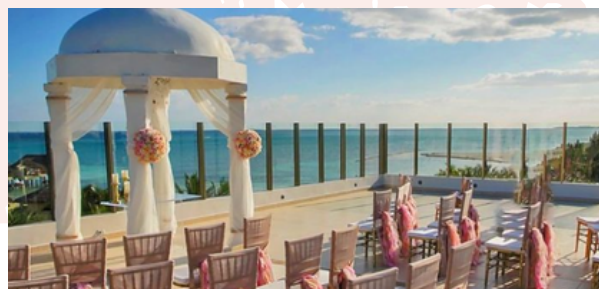


Sea, Tie the Knot Atop the Waves

Celebrate your love under a tropical thatched-roof gazebo surrounded by your better half, your loved ones and the peaceful ocean. Available at: Generations Riviera Maya, Azul Villa Carolla

Garden, Celebrate in a Lush Tropical Atmosphere

It's a botanical paradise with gazebos that range from natural wood to charming stone. Your love and your décor will be enhanced by the tropical greenery. Available at: El Dorado Royale, El Dorado Casitas Royale, Azul Sensatori Mexico, Azul Fives, Generations Riviera Maya.



Chapel, A Charming Setting for Your Ceremony

Find some of the loveliest chapels in all of the Caribbean right here at Karisma Hotels & Resorts. Discover romantic offerings for all religious ceremonies. Available at: El Dorado Royale, El Dorado Casitas Royale, El Dorado Maroma, Generations Riviera Maya



For the Love of Food

At Bliss Honeymoons we understand that being a foodie doesn't mean that you're looking for a stuffy, white table cloth restaurant. Foodies today are looking for fresh experiences, locally grown produce, creative, healthy dishes paired with great wines and innovative cocktails.

Local Flavor

One of the best things about travel is trying the local cuisine. You'll find many of the resorts offer local flavors in their restaurants, along with some of your favorites from back home. At Bliss Honeymoons we look for resorts with lots of dining options. So if you want ceviche for lunch, and a burger for dinner, you can find both!

Specialty Diets

Just because you're gluten free, vegan, or have every food allergy imaginable, doesn't mean that you can't have an amazing honeymoon. Any other special food needs – we have you covered. Our experts will find you the all-inclusive resorts where your preference is not just accommodated –but celebrated.



Expert Chefs

The resorts in our Foodiemoons Collection seek out chefs that really understand what it takes to make an exceptional meal that reflects the cuisine of the region. So if you're dining at the resort's Peruvian restaurant, chances are they've brought on a Peruvian chef to ensure the meals have those authentic flavors you're looking for.

Food & Wine Classes

Have you always wondered what wine to serve with fish? Do you want to learn how to cook that amazing dish you enjoyed over dinner when you get back home? The resorts in our Foodiemoons collection offer wine tasting classes, cooking classes, food festivals, and more.

Romantic Beach BBQs & Private Dinners

There's nothing better than dining by the ocean. You'll find fun beach BBQ nights that let you mingle with other guests, or a private, romantic candlelight dinner on the beach for just the two of you.

Check out our Foodie Moons!

6 Ways Bliss Honeymoons



WILL SAVE YOUR SANITY

1. We negotiate the group contracts

You could spend days requesting information and never get a response from half the hotels you contact. We take care of negotiating the group rates and benefits for your wedding party.

2. We manage the time-line

When are the deposits due? When will my guests receive their booking information? You'll be able to log-in and see your guest-list, time-lines, and more, anytime you'd like!

3. We manage your guest list

We take your guests through the booking process from start to finish. You'll be able to see who has booked, declined, or is still deciding in real time. And your guests will feel completely at ease with the booking process.

4. We manage your guests' wishes

One guest demands a room location with tons of privacy. Your mom and uncle are sharing a room, and must have two beds. We manage all of these requests, and communicate them to the person at the resort that can make sure that your guests' needs are met.

5. We manage payments

Can you imagine the awkwardness that would come with having to tell one of your wedding guests that their credit card declined? We manage all deposits and final payments, and tactfully follow up with anyone who may need a little reminder about when their payments are due.

6. We manage flight schedule changes

5 of your wedding guest couples are departing from Detroit, and Delta just decided to discontinue the non-stop flights they booked 2 months ago. Would you know what to do? Managing flight schedule changes probably isn't something you have time to tackle, but it's something we do every day.



Ready to Get Started?

We would love to help you plan the destination wedding of your dreams! Bliss Honeymoons takes care of all of the planning, prepping, communicating and organizing so that you can enjoy your big day!

[Schedule a Free Consultation](#)
[Today!](#)

