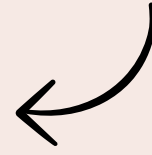


THE DESTINATION WEDDING
HANDBOOK



YOUR GUIDE TO PLANNING THE PERFECT
DESTINATION WEDDING

Throw back to my own dream destination wedding!



WELCOME!

Congratulations on taking the first step toward your dream destination wedding with Evyssa Vacations! We're thrilled to welcome you to our exclusive Destination Wedding Handbook—a comprehensive guide designed to help you navigate the details and turn your wedding dreams into a beautiful reality.

At Evyssa Vacations, we understand the challenges of destination wedding planning. Our wedding specialists have a unique perspective on the enchantment of destination weddings, having experienced both the personal journey of being a wedding couple and the intricacies of orchestrating these events from the viewpoint of a Travel Advisor. We've crafted this planning guide just for you as your roadmap to untangle all those destination wedding-related queries.

With 15 years of experience in destination wedding and dreamy vacation planning, we've fine-tuned the process to make it as seamless and as stress-free as possible. We're your partners every step of the way. We're here to make sure your big day, one of the most significant moments of your life, goes off without a hitch, leaving you with beautiful memories to cherish for years to come.

Take your time exploring this handbook, and if you have any questions along the way, don't hesitate to reach out.

Here's to the journey ahead!

Let the adventure Begin!

IN YOUR GUIDE



Planning Process

First up, we'll guide you through the process of planning your dream wedding

Wedding Checklist

We'll give you an idea of your timeline and help you get organized.



FAQ's & Helpful Info

I'm sure you've got questions, and we're here to help!

About Us

Everything you need to know about what we do and how we help.



DESTINATION WEDDING PLANNING PROCESS

Step 1 : The Discovery Process

Planning such a special event involves unique considerations, and we're here to guide you every step of the way. Here are three crucial things to ponder before embarking on your destination wedding journey:

1. **Budgeting Wisely:** While destination weddings often offer cost savings, it's crucial to plan your budget carefully. Consider travel expenses, accommodation, and flights for both you and your guests. Additionally, brainstorm an all-in wedding budget, outlining services ideally included within this budget.



2. **Crafting Your Guest List:** A destination wedding tends to result in a more intimate gathering due to travel constraints. Consider who you genuinely want present, as not everyone may be able to attend. Communicate your plans early to gauge interest and ensure those closest to you can be part of your special day. Consider making a total invited guest list and a separate list for those who you know will definitely attend.

3. **Choosing Ideal Destinations:** Having a few dream destinations in mind is great but keep in mind the ease of travel for your guests, for example

- Well-connected international airport with direct flights from major cities will be a destination that is common and easily accessible destination for many.
- More exotic destinations require more extensive travel, often involving connecting flights or ferry rides but their unique beauty makes it a memorable experience for guests, worth the longer journey.

When working with your dedicated Destination Wedding travel agent, you'll delve into these considerations during the discovery call. We'll walk you through each point, helping you narrow down options that align with your vision. You'll feel more prepared and ready to commence your dream wedding journey.

DESTINATION WEDDING PLANNING PROCESS

Step 2 : Confirm and Book

This part can be especially tricky on your own, lucky for you, we've got your back on this guiding you through each step!

Making it Official

- First you'll make your choice of which destination and venue is perfect for you, which will be even easier after your travel agent has carefully vetted the options that truly reflect your vision for you to choose from.
- Your dedicated Travel Agent will then work directly with the resort to confirm your wedding date and time availability and negotiate a wedding contract to make sure you receive what you want for your wedding.
- Next on the list is to reserve your room block contract (this is another step that we take care of for you!). We negotiate with the resort or a tour operator to secure the best rates and lock in the rooms for your group and view the perks that are offered from your resort. *More information on what a room block is in our Q&A section*

Onto the Fun Stuff! →



DESTINATION WEDDING PLANNING PROCESS

Step 3 : The Details

Contracts signed, the stress is behind us! Now, onto the fun: spreading the joy. As your dedicated destination wedding travel agent, I'm here to make it seamless. Save the Dates, Invitations, Wedding Website, and Registry—let's dive in together.



Save the Dates & Invitations: I recommend sending Save the Dates once both contracts are signed, allowing your guests ample time to adjust their schedules. You can include booking information directly on the Save the Date, encouraging guests to secure their stay promptly. Whether you opt for Save the Dates only or both Save the Dates and formal invitations, the choice is yours.



Wedding Website & Registry: Now that travel details are sorted, let's create a wedding website. While many couples enjoy designing their own, I can take care of the travel section content, booking directions, and provide the booking link for your guests. If crafting a website isn't your thing, no worries I can create a charming website for you.



Working with your Wedding Coordinator:

Congratulations! Your dream destination wedding is set, and now it's time to meet the on-site wedding planner. They are the superheroes who bring your ceremony and reception to life. Their expertise ensures every detail is flawlessly executed, and your collaborative planning journey with them starts either as soon as the contracts are signed or about 3-6 months before your big day. In the meantime, indulge in some Pinterest pinning and save inspiration photos to share with your coordinator so they can understand your vision even better!

Now It's time to embark on the journey of a lifetime, a week filled with love, laughter, and the promise of forever. As the day approaches for your ultimate romantic celebration, the anticipation builds for the week of festivities that will lead to your dream wedding. The good news? Your travel agent has meticulously handled every detail to ensure your seamless journey – leaving you with just one task: pack your bags!

Ready to begin? [Start your unforgettable journey here!](#)

DESTINATION WEDDING TIPS & Q&A'S



Why do you want a travel advisor for your Destination wedding?

Let us count the ways!

ON OUR "TO DO" LIST

- Research and recommend ideal wedding destinations based on the couple's preferences.
- Provide detailed insights into the culture, legal requirements, and weather conditions of potential wedding locations.
- Identify and recommend suitable venues for ceremonies and receptions.
- Coordinate with resorts or venues to secure wedding dates, ensuring availability.
- Manage group bookings for guests, ensuring seamless travel arrangements.
- Provide detailed travel itineraries and information for guests.
- Guide the couple through the legal requirements for getting married in their chosen destination.
- Provide cost-saving tips and negotiate pricing with vendors.
- Offer guidance on travel insurance options, ensuring comprehensive coverage for the couple and their guests.
- Act as the main point of contact for guest inquiries and concerns.
- Communicate important details about the wedding, travel, and accommodations to guests.
- Handle logistics, including transportation from the airport to the venue and other on-site arrangements.
- Provide information on local activities and attractions for guests.
- Offer 24/7 support for any travel emergencies or unforeseen circumstances.
- Provide solutions for unexpected challenges during the wedding trip.
- Personally visit and inspect potential wedding venues and resorts.
- Stay informed about changes or developments in the chosen destination.

AND MORE!

ON YOUR "TO DO" LIST

- Choose wedding colors, themes, and personal touches
- Make decisions on wedding attire and accessories.
- Write vows and plan any specific ceremonial elements.
- Decide on the structure and order of the ceremony.
- Create a guest list and decide on the number of attendees.
- Design and send out wedding invitations.
- Pack personal belongings and necessities for the trip.
- Choose specific vendors for flowers and other elements with your onsite wedding coordinator.
- Focus on spending quality time with loved ones during the wedding trip.
- Enjoy pre-wedding festivities without worrying about logistical details.
- Say "I do"

Q & A'S

HANDBOOK



Q: How do I figure out how many rooms I need?

A: I recommend making a full invite list, then making a separate list of guests you know will for sure come like, family members, wedding party etc. and adding about 30% of your original total guest count. SO generally about 50-60% of invitees attend. Consider sending out a SurveyMonkey form or creating a Facebook group with polls to get straightforward insights into your guests' preferences. BTW your dedicated travel agent will work with you to find the right number.

Q: How do I know who books?

A: We will provide you with a link that shows your guest list in live format. You can see who has booked, deposited and paid in full. This way you don't have to worry about contacting your guests about making payments.

What is a room block contract?

A: This is the perfect booking option for travelers on the same itinerary who need flexible payment options and availability for the entire group. This locks in rates and availability making the experience seamless. Plus, you have the opportunity to earn cash back and free room upgrades!

Q: Why should I book with a destination wedding Specialist and not the resort directly?

A: We are accountable for you, not the hotel or a tour operator. We have your back and will be here every step of the way. Our small team will be the ones working with your guests and it won't be someone different every time you or your guests reach out.

Q: How far in advance should we start planning a destination wedding?

A: It's advisable to start planning your destination wedding at least 12 to 18 months in advance. This timeframe allows for ample preparation, including choosing the perfect location, securing travel arrangements, and giving your guests enough notice to make travel plans.

Q & A'S

HANDBOOK



Q: Why does the majority of wedding planning take place so close to the wedding?

A: Most resort's onsite wedding coordinators will not start the planning process until about 3 months before the wedding. Then the process goes by very quickly and beautifully, as the wedding coordinators are experts at what they do! In the mean time you'll be able to get a head start by making Pinterest boards and searching for inspiration to share with your coordinator when it is time to make the magic happen.

Q: How does the cost of a destination wedding compare to a traditional wedding?

A: Destination weddings can often be more cost-effective than traditional weddings. While costs vary depending on the destination and specific choices, there are so many options to create a custom wedding design from scratch, or select pre designed wedding packages and adjust and customize to your liking!

Q: Do we, the wedding couple, receive any perks when booking a destination wedding?

A: Yes! One of the best things about destination weddings at all-inclusive resorts are the perks! Depending on the resort, the perks are based on how many room nights are booked. Those perks range from free room upgrades, free room nights (you receive the monetary value back), free wedding events like a cocktail hour, 3-hour reception, and even a \$1,000 credit for the bride and groom!

*Perks and concessions are based on a certain number of room nights booked.

Q: How can we ensure our guests can afford to attend the destination wedding?

A: Consider your guest's financial situations when choosing a destination. Provide ample notice, consider off-peak travel times, to help make the trip more affordable for your loved ones.

Q: What are outside vendor fees?

A: While most resorts offer a good selection of preferred vendors (photographers, florists, DJ's) they do usually charge a fee ranging for outside vendors ranging from \$250-\$1000+, There are some work arounds depending on the resort like having your vendors stay on site for the minimum night stay.

DESTINATION WEDDING PLANNING TIMELINE

12 MONTHS or at the time of engagement

- Choose a wedding date or time of year
- Work out your budget that includes wedding expenses and travel expenses – We can help with this!
- Create your guest list: Make a separate list of guests who you know for sure would attend.
- Set up a Discovery Call with a Destination Wedding Specialized Travel Advisor.
- Start a Pinterest board with your vision.
- Think about the destination you have in mind
- If desired, plan a pre-wedding site visit to view venues in person– check with your advisor for special promotions.
- Check that your passport is not due to expire.

10-12 MONTHS

- Work with your travel advisor to secure your wedding date with the resort and secure rooms with a room block for you and your guests.
- Create a wedding website and registry if desired. We do create a wedding website with our booking form for your guests to make things easier for you.
- Send out save the dates earlier than normal to give guests enough time to plan.
- Decide on a Symbolic vs Legal Ceremony and gather required forms if having a legal or religious wedding.
- Secure DJ, band, photographers and videographer (be sure to speak to your coordinator when booking outside vendors and their fees)
- Start wedding attire shopping.

6-10 MONTHS

- Confirm ceremony and reception locations, Select décor options, choose flowers and menus, and other wedding details with your wedding coordinator
- Decide on additional wedding events (e.g., welcome cocktail party, rehearsal dinner and day-after brunch)

6-10 MONTHS CONTINUED...

- Start planning outside resort activities like Bachelor/bachelorette parties, golf, tours, etc
- Decide on a honeymoon destination. We can design this for you too!
- Book your flights for the best pricing
- Start planning an at home wedding shower if desired.

3-6 MONTHS

- Order wedding favors and welcome bags for guests
- Finalize guest list
- Create a DJ wishlist and pick your special songs

1 MONTH

- Create an itinerary for your wedding party and guests and share with your travel advisor.
- Do any last minute shopping for vacation or honeymoon attire.
- pre- pack to make sure everything you need will fit.
- set some cash aside for tipping resort staff and wedding staff.

1 WEEK

- Arrive at the resort
- Meet with wedding coordinator to go over all event details and set up a time for a rehearsal.
- Have a trial hair and make-up run through at the salon
- Set-up a pre wedding spa day
- Arrange for welcome bag room drop

WORKING WITH EVYSSA VACATIONS

OUR PROCESS...

Start your unforgettable journey here!

REACH OUT TO US
TO START THE
PROCESS

WE PRESENT THE
VENUE/RESORT
OPTIONS FOR YOU
TO APPROVE AND
DISCUSS THROUGH
A CALL

WE NEGOTIATE
THE ROOM BLOCK
TO SECURE ROOMS
FOR YOUR GUESTS

YOU ARE
INTRODUCED TO
YOUR WEDDING
COORDINATOR &
START THE PLANNING
PROCESS

CUE THE FIREWORKS!
YOU SAY "I DO "
SURROUNDED BY THE
PEOPLE YOU LOVE!

WE GET TO
KNOW EACH
OTHER
DURING OUR
DISCOVERY
CALL

WE SECURE
YOUR WEDDING
DATE WITH THE
VENUE/RESORT

WE CREATE A
WEBSITE AND
BOOKING SITE FOR
YOUR GUESTS TO
BOOK

WE MAKE ANY
CHANGES NEEDED
AND ANSWER YOUR
GUEST'S INQUIRIES
AND SUPPORT YOU
AND YOUR GUESTS
DURING TRAVEL

OUR SERVICES AND INCLUSIONS

Collaborating with a seasoned travel advisor means entrusting the intricate details and logistics to an expert, freeing you, the wedding couple, to fully immerse yourselves in the personal and joyful aspects of your celebration. Let us handle the complexities, so you can savor every moment of this extraordinary journey toward your dream destination wedding!

- Complimentary 1-hour consultation with a destination wedding planner
- Options to add on onsite coordination for a fee
- Follow-up consultations & check-in calls as needed
- Destination, resort, and wedding package research
- Helpful travel tip emails for your guests
- Securing of wedding date & package with selected resort
- All of the destination wedding planning tips & tricks for you
- Negotiate group rates & perks such as free rooms, upgrades, & events
- Customized wedding website
- Coordination of all guest travel, including secure booking & payments
- Travel app for you and your guest's travel documents
- Prepare rooming list for the resort wedding coordinator
- Introduce you and the group to the resort prior to arrival
- Custom curated proposal with vetted resorts that will WOW your guests
- Coordination of VIP arrival services
- One friendly point of contact for you and your guests-no call centers!
- Optional travel Insurance plans
- Secure competitive group rates with transportation included
- During-travel emergency assistance & advocacy
- Assist with group excursion, if elected
- Interest-free payment plan options for your guests
- RSVP Tracker

Wondering what the investment looks like?

After our initial complimentary consultation is complete and you decide that you would like to move forward in the process with us, we have service packages that start at \$500.00 which secures the time on our calendar to ensure that you are getting unparalleled personalized service dedicated only to you.



ABOUT ANN MARIE...

It is so good to have you here, and I am SO looking forward to getting to know you!

I am the head of the Destination Weddings Department at Evyssa Vacations and the Lead Destination Wedding Travel Advisor. So, your journey will start with a discovery call with me!

Destination Weddings are the epitome of romance and I'm thankful to have a unique perspective on the enchantment of them, having experienced both the personal journey of being a wedding couple and the intricacies of orchestrating these events from the viewpoint of a Travel Advisor.

I've walked in your shoes and managed the behind-the-scenes logistics and I'm grateful for the opportunity to offer you my invaluable insights and expertise and to ensure that every detail of your dream destination wedding is meticulously taken care of, promising a seamless and stress-free experience.

Whether it's an intimate affair or a grand celebration, I'm committed to making your event a true reflection of your love, filled with cherished memories.

When I'm not planning travel, you'll find me spending time with my husband and two toddlers who keep me laughing and always on my toes. After the kids go to bed you'll find me sipping a margarita or red wine snacking on popcorn or chocolates while catching up on the latest Bravo TV shows!



READY TO CREATE THE WEDDING OF YOUR DREAMS TOGETHER?

Connect with us, and let the excitement of your destination wedding unfold effortlessly. Your dream celebration awaits, and we're thrilled to be a part of this remarkable journey with you!

[Start your unforgettable journey here!](#)