

Wedding Groups



Benefits of a Combined Wedding and Honeymoon

- ☞ Did you know that honeymoons typically account for 14% of the total wedding budget? By combining your wedding and honeymoon you can save money!
- ☞ A destination wedding/honeymoon eliminates the need to scout and research two separate locations.
- ☞ No need to hire both a wedding consultant and a travel agent. Your travel agent can arrange all of your details and put you in touch with the hotel's wedding coordinator to plan all of your requests for the big day.

Choosing a Destination and Resort

- ☞ It can be overwhelming trying to pick which country you would like to get married in. Try to narrow your list down to the top 3 countries and then take a look at what they require to get married. Make sure you can meet all of these requirements it can sometimes make the process of elimination a little easier.
- ☞ Choose a resort that fits your style but also suits your guests. Remember to consider not only your budget, but the budget of the guests you want to have with you for the occasion. You want to make sure that everyone attending your wedding is comfortable at the resort.
- ☞ Look at what the hotel offers in the way of wedding packages as it could be what seals your decision. Check and see if they offer a FREE wedding if you take a certain room category, like a Honeymoon Suite. The difference in price from a regular room to a special room might be less than paying for the wedding package.
- ☞ Once you have picked your resort, establish contact with the hotel's wedding coordinator. Similar to arranging a wedding in Canada you need to start making plans early. Some hotels take reservations almost one year in advance, so keep this in mind when planning.
- ☞ If taking a group with you, try staying a second week at a different property. This way you have special memories of just the two of you on your honeymoon...plus it is less expensive than taking another trip!
- ☞ Make sure your wedding party has the required documentation to act as your witnesses.

Wedding Attire

- ☞ Make sure to pick an outfit that is comfortable for your climate and setting. Keep in mind that many of today's up and coming wedding gown designers are creating lines meant for the Caribbean. Make sure to inquire at your local bridal boutique for more information.
- ☞ Grooms should plan to match your outfit to the type and style of dress that your bride is choosing to wear. Caribbean weddings are typically less formal, so a tie and vest might not be necessary.
- ☞ Check with your airline to see their policy on transporting wedding attire. Find out if they have somewhere for you to hang your garment bag and whether you need to arrive earlier because you have an extra piece of carry-on luggage.
- ☞ Always pack your wedding gown in a garment bag to take it onto the plane with you as a carry-on.
- ☞ Choose a fabric and style that travels well and will not wrinkle easily. A number of hotels provide ironing/steaming services but do not depend on this. Consider picking up a small travel steamer to take any creases out of your outfit on the day of the ceremony.

Wedding Party & Guests

- ☞ Give guests plenty of notice about your destination wedding as they will need to do some planning. Be understanding of people who are unable to attend as it might not be easy for everyone to get the time off.
- ☞ If children are a part of your special day make sure to choose a resort that offers evening babysitting services. You will want everyone to be able to attend your reception.
- ☞ When you send out your wedding invitations include some information about the hotel. Let your guests know what type of attire is expected for the wedding ceremony and reception and whether or not the hotel has a dress code for dinner. It will help to keep last minute calls about packing questions to a minimum.
- ☞ Make sure to let guests know how you would like the wedding gifts to be handled. As the airlines have baggage restrictions it is best to have any gifts sent to a central location in your home town and not brought with you to destination.
- ☞ If you have invited a group of family and friends to come with you try to pre-book a one day tour as a “get to know you” day. It is a great way for everyone involved in the wedding to mingle and get to know each other a bit better before the big day! You can also cover part of the cost as a thank you gift! Make sure to ask if the company running your tour offers discounts for groups.
- ☞ Find out if anyone attending your reception dinner has allergies and make a note of this to tell the wedding coordinator. Usually you will have a few choices for the dinner location so try and decide on a restaurant that has a variety of options.
- ☞ When you return plan a reception or dinner for all your guests, including the ones who were not able to attend. Set-up your photos to show everyone how beautiful your day was. Ask the guests who traveled with you to bring their photos and share them with everyone too.

Having a reception on return? And require a DJ Service visit

www.JumpUpDJ.com



Planning a Successful Group Vacation

- ☞ If you have a core group of friends or family that you spend a lot of time with, you may want to consider taking a group vacation. For most companies, group consists of 10 or more people travelling to the same place. With the help of a travel agent, you can put together a group vacation that will be filled with good memories of fun times had by all – and your friendship will still be intact after the vacation is over.
- ☞ If you decide to take a group vacation, first get the parties together discuss some of the parameters of the trip – such as time of year, destination and budget. We then suggest a main contact person; this person will need to collect all information needed for booking a trip, such as full names of all travelers, dates of birth, full address, passport numbers and expiry dates.; Also payment method, Other valuable information that the travel agent will like to know is what types of activities your group would like to participate in. This person also should be the one in contact with the travel agent, and forward all questions, and or set of a Q & A

- Once you have narrowed your destination down to two or three, call your travel agent and find out if there is group pricing available
- In some cases when booking a group, a deposit will be requested for each person to hold (guarantee) space; the travel agent will also inform you of when all monies are due for final payment
- This is a great time now to do some research on the area and learn a little about the customs of the country
- One important thing to remember when planning is to make sure there is a variety of activities and tour available, not to have everyone spend all of his or her time together as a group. All couples and families go on vacation to spend time together as a unit, so they should be allowed to do so. Do allocate plenty of free time for people to go out and explore their surroundings on their own, but plan a group dinner for one of the nights and maybe an activity or two during the course of your stay. This works out well for multi-generational group trips as well as for groups that include children.

